

After Israel-UAE Deal, Kushner Presses Other Arab States Toward Peace

White House adviser Jared Kushner visited Bahrain and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday in a bid to convince Israel's Arab neighbors to make peace with the Jewish state.

Kushner flew to the Gulf capitals after wrapping up historic talks with Israeli and Emirati leaders in Abu Dhabi centered on finalizing Israel's peace deal with the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain appeared to show hesitation about following the UAE in establishing diplomatic ties with Israel without an official Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

Kushner met Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, who "praised the steadfast, historic stances of the United Arab Emirates" in ensuring Palestinian rights, the state-run BNA news agency said. Kushner expressed optimism that other Arab countries will soon establish formal ties with Israel, even in the absence of an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Bahrain's King also said regional stability rests on Saudi Arabia, suggesting that his country will not make a deal with Israel until the Saudi kingdom acts first.

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