

Chad Becomes Latest Muslim Nation to Open Embassy in Israel

Chad President Mahamat Deby is in Israel to inaugurate his country's embassy in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan, scheduled to take place on Thursday.

The central African country is the latest predominantly Muslim nation to strengthen ties with Israel. The two countries re-established relations five years ago, and Deby continued the warming relations in response to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's African outreach begun by his father, Idriss Deby, who was assassinated in 2021.

Israel's leadership stressed the importance of Deby's visit, as he met Wednesday in Jerusalem with Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog, Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and the head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency.

 The African leader hailed the moment, telling Netanyahu, "Chad and Israel are today at a decisive turning point in their relationship." It was the president's first official visit to Israel.

Netanyahu responded, noting the ties with Chad represented a "tremendously important relationship with a major country in the heart of Africa. It is something that we want to carry to new levels, new heights, and your visit here in Israel and the opening of the embassy is a reflection of that."

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