

‘We Have to Make Syria Work’: Trump Welcomes Al-Sharaa; Syrian President Balks at Abraham Accords

JERUSALEM, Israel – Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa made history as the first Syrian leader to visit the White House. President Trump indicated it was a good meeting and that the former jihadi is willing to join forces to fight ISIS, advancing peace in the Middle East.

President Trump called Al-Sharaa a “tough guy” from a “tough place” and a “very strong leader.”

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“I like him. I get along with him, the president, the new president in Syria,” Trump stated, “And we’ll do everything we can to make Syria successful because that’s part of the Middle East. We have peace now in the Middle East, the first time that anyone can remember that ever happening.”

Trump lifted sanctions imposed on Syria for decades after Al-Sharaa, the former Al Qaeda terrorist, toppled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad last year, ending the decades-long reign of the Assad regime.

The U.S. leader would like to see Syria become a successful nation, and he thinks al-Sharaa can do it.

"We have to make Syria work. Syria is a big part of the Middle East," Trump said. "And I will tell you, I think it's working really well. We're working also with Israel on, you know, getting along with Syria, getting along with everybody. And that's working amazingly."

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In an interview with Fox News, al-Sharaa mentioned that he doesn't see Syria entering the Abraham Accords with Israel now because the situation in his country is different from conditions in other countries.

"Syria has borders with Israel, and Israel occupies the Golan Heights since 1967. We are not going to enter into a negotiation directly, right now. Maybe the United States administration, with President Trump, will help us reach this kind of negotiation," the Syrian leader said.

Known in the Bible as Bashan, the Golan Heights was given to the Israelite half-tribe of Manasseh. Israel regained control of the Golan Heights in the 1967 Six-Day War. During his first term, Trump recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

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Al-Sharaa and Trump discussed the future of Syria and changing how the country is viewed.

"We talked about the investment opportunities in the future in Syria, so that Syria is no longer looked at as a security threat; it is now looked at as a geopolitical ally, and it's a place where the United States can have great investments, especially extracting gas," al-Sharaa said.

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