



[President of Syria Visits the U.S. for a Meeting with Trump](#)

On Monday of this week, Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa met with his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump at the White House in what represented a landmark gathering between the two leaders. Analysts noted that the meeting – the first such visit by a Syrian president to the White House – signified another key step in the bolstering of U.S.-Syrian relations since the ousting of the Assad regime late last year. Some of the notable takeaways from the meeting included a Syrian commitment to join the U.S.-led global coalition to combat ISIS, a U.S. announcement of a fresh 180-day waiver of the Caesar Act sanctions, the resumption of formal diplomatic operations, and the agreement to move forward with plans to integrate the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) into the Syrian army, among other outcomes. Trump and Al-Sharaa had previously met in Saudi Arabia back in mid-May of this year, but the gathering this week was particularly significant as it formally established Syria as a new U.S. geopolitical partner and illustrated a major recalibration of U.S.-Syria relations following years of isolation.

One of the most noteworthy developments to come out of the White House meeting this week was a U.S. renewal of the 180-day waiver for the Caesar Act sanctions on Syria. The U.S. Treasury Department announced a new order to replace its previous May 23rd of 2025 waiver, and by doing so extended the suspension of the Caesar Act sanctions by another six months. Human rights advocates, Syrian officials, and others have long stressed the importance of sanctions removal in order to help facilitate the country's reconstruction efforts, address severe humanitarian and economic hardships, and promote stability after decades of repressive rule under the previous Assad regime. While the sanctions were designed to isolate and pressure the Assad regime for its array of human rights abuses, they also contributed to widespread economic hardship among ordinary citizens. Thus, with the fall of the former government, the sanctions are seen as a harmful barrier to the prospects of Syria's post-conflict recovery. Over the years, the sanctions have left 90% of the population living below the poverty line with major shortages of essential goods like food, water, fuel, and medicine. The lifting and freezing of sanctions have been welcomed as it will allow urgent humanitarian aid to enter more easily, while also paving the way for Syria to attain the billions of dollars it needs to rebuild its conflict-battered infrastructure by helping its economy reconnect with international commerce and the global financial system. Additionally, the moves – particularly as they come from a key entity on the world stage like the United States – signal that Syria is no longer a pariah state as it was under Assad and encourages countries to engage with the new Syrian government. While the U.S. has issued waivers to suspend the Caesar Act sanctions, many are still ultimately seeking a

permanent repeal – which requires an act of U.S. Congress – something that Al-Sharaa and other new Syrian officials spent time advocating for during their visit to Washington.

Another substantial outcome from the meeting this week between Trump and Al-Sharaa was the announcement that Syria had officially joined the U.S.-led global coalition to combat ISIS. Syrian officials confirmed Damascus' signing of what was labeled as a "political cooperation declaration," which for now contains no military components and establishes their role in countering terrorism and supporting regional stability as a part of the initiative. With the agreement, Syria becomes the 90th country to join the coalition and will seek to contribute to the coordinated efforts to prevent the flow of ISIS fighters and cut off funding and financing for the group. Overall, experts have highlighted how the move is viewed as a significant step towards a new regional order which will continue to enhance already-growing intelligence sharing between the United States and Syria since the ousting of the Assad regime back in December of 2024.

For many observers, the Syrian government's biggest diplomatic achievement as a result of the White House meeting this week is increased legitimacy in the eyes of the world. As analysts have pointed out, Al-Sharaa and the new regime have dedicated a great amount of time, effort, and resources into securing additional international recognition, and a landmark meeting with the American president is certain to bolster that. The visit to the White House indicates that the new Syrian government has garnered a striking level of global legitimacy that peace advocates hope will improve the prospects of stability in Syria.