



1.2. International relations

At UN Security Council level, there was reportedly broad agreement that the Syrian transitional government needs international support to rebuild the country and its weakened economy, including through easing unilateral sanctions.[42](#) In 2025, the European Union (EU)[43](#) and U.S.[44](#) lifted economic sanctions on Syria. In November 2025, Syria also gained access to the international banking system SWIFT after 14 years.[45](#)

In a November 2025 vote, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2799, removing interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa and interim interior minister Anas Khattab from the UN's Islamic State and Al Qaeda sanctions list.[46](#) Syria subsequently joined the US-led Global Coalition against Daesh (ISIL)[47](#) and participated with forces in operations against the group.[48](#)

The US completed its withdrawal of forces from Syria in April 2026 after more than a decade of presence in the country[49](#), handing over its bases to the transitional government.[50](#)

Since 8 December 2024, Israel has significantly intensified military operations in Syria through extensive airstrikes and ground incursions in southern governorates, actions criticised by the UN Secretary General as violations of the 1974 agreement.[51](#) These operations, including hundreds of incursions into Quneitra governorate,[52](#) have reportedly caused civilian casualties,[53](#) displacement, property destruction, arbitrary detentions,[54](#) transfers of detainees, and restrictions on fundamental freedoms.[55](#) Israel has also carried out strikes against transitional government forces in the context of the conflict between government forces and Druze factions, stating that the attacks were intended to protect the Druze community.[56](#) US-mediated negotiations between the transitional government and Israel took place during the reporting period although no formal agreement was reached.[57](#) The transitional government continued to demand the full withdrawal of Israel forces from southern Syria.[58](#)

Since 28 February 2026, the regional escalation in the Middle East has also affected Syria, where falling debris from intercepted Iranian missiles and drones caused civilian casualties,[59](#) while intensified hostilities in Lebanon prompted more than 440 000 Syrians living in the country to cross into Syria.[60](#)

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