

ISTANBUL (Anadolu) -- Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu said on Tuesday that Moscow's contacts with Iraq are becoming more intense, with talks covering business, economic, transportation, military, and military-technical cooperation during his visit to Baghdad.

"Contacts are becoming more intense, and they are multidirectional. This concerns business, economics, and transport. Military and military-technical cooperation," Shoigu said during a brief conversation at Baghdad airport with Ali Nasser, deputy adviser to the Iraqi prime minister for national security.

Those are the fortunate people who adopt piety as the principle of their lives and are fully attentive to their welfare for the Hereafter. They accept bare earth as the most comfortable bed and water as the most pleasant drink.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hudaydah Civilian Infrastructure Targeted in New Aerial Aggression

Yemen Bids Farewell to 31 Journalists Killed in Israeli Airstrikes

SANA'A (Dispatches) -- Tens of thousands gathered in Yemen on Tuesday to mourn 31 local journalists killed in recent Israeli airstrikes targeting the capital, Sana'a.

The devastating strikes last Wednesday followed a retaliatory Yemeni drone attack that breached Israel's air defenses and struck Ramon Airport in southern Israeli occupied territories, causing damage and injuring one person.

The Israeli aerial aggression targeted multiple locations across Sana'a, including residential neighborhoods and a fuel station, according to the health ministry in northern Yemen. Among those killed were the journalists, highlighting the severe human toll of Israel's aggression on Yemeni civilians.

In addition to the tragic loss of life, cultural heritage suffered damage, with the National Museum of Yemen in Sana'a reported to have been struck, causing damage to its facade. A government facility in



Yemenis carry the coffins of 31 journalists martyred in Israeli airstrikes, out of the Shaab Mosque in Sana'a, Sept. 16, 2025

Hazm, the capital of northern Jawf province, also sustained damage during the strikes.

Funeral services broadcast by Al-Masirah TV showed large gatherings at mosques where the caskets were carried ahead of burial, reflecting the community's mourning and solidarity. Though turnout was

reportedly impacted by heavy rain, the funerals underscored the profound grief caused by the attacks.

The Israeli military also issued a warning to civilians in the strategic port city of Hudaydah, demanding immediate evacuation before launching further airstrikes. The port, a vital lifeline for Yemen's

humanitarian needs, has repeatedly been targeted in Israel's air raids.

Since the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023, Ansarullah and its allied Yemeni forces have maintained their stance of solidarity with the Palestinian people, conducting drone and missile attacks against Israeli targets in response to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza.

Israel has escalated its military aggression against Yemen, focusing on infrastructure such as ports, power stations, and the airport in Sana'a, worsening the humanitarian crisis in the country.

Amid this turmoil, Ansarullah continues to defend Yemen's sovereignty and its people, standing resilient against external aggression. The ongoing Israeli attacks highlight the urgent need for international attention to Yemen's suffering and support for the Yemeni people and their legitimate resistance forces.

Israel Marks 43rd Sabra Anniversary With Gaza Genocide

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- On the 43rd anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre, Israel has launched one of its deadliest ground invasions in Gaza, drawing immediate parallels to the 1982 atrocities in Lebanon.

What was once remembered as a dark chapter in Palestinian history has found a chilling echo in today's Gaza—a stark reminder that for Palestinians, history continues to repeat with blood and fire.

On September 16, 1982, Israeli-backed Lebanese Phalangist militias, under the watch of the Israeli army, entered the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut and carried out a massacre that lasted three days.

Official figures reported 800

deaths, while eyewitnesses and journalists at the scene described a death toll exceeding 3,000—most of them women, children, and elderly civilians. Israel's then-war minister Ariel Sharon was later found "indirectly responsible" by Israel's own Kahan Commission. He resigned—only to become prime minister two decades later. No one was ever held accountable.

Now, on September 16, 2025, Israeli tanks and warplanes once again rain death upon a defenseless population—this time in Gaza. More than 1 million civilians in northern Gaza have been ordered to flee under bombardment. Hospitals are collapsing, infrastructure is in ruins, and mass starvation looms. The United Nations has de-

clared the situation genocidal.

In a landmark report released the same day the offensive began, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry concluded: "Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip."

The commission called on the international community to halt the genocide and hold Israeli leaders accountable under international law.

Palestinian officials have described the invasion as a "catastrophic continuation of colonial violence." Hamas likened Israel's actions to "surpassing Nazi brutality," and international law experts have warned that the forced displacement, collective punishment,

and systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure constitute clear violations of the Geneva Conventions.

The onslaught has triggered a global diplomatic backlash. With 147 countries now recognizing Palestine, even traditional Western allies such as France, the UK, and Canada are reconsidering their positions. Israel's once unshakable support from the U.S. is facing renewed scrutiny amid mounting pressure for accountability.

From Beirut in 1982 to Gaza in 2025, the aggressor remains the same. For Palestinians, this is not just memory—it is lived, relentless, and unpunished history. And for the world, it is a test: to stand against genocide, or be complicit in silence.

U.S. Pushes Syria-Israel Pact as Israeli Troops Occupy Syrian Territory

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- Under intense U.S. pressure, Syria is hastening talks with Israel over a security pact purportedly aimed at reversing Israeli territorial gains, though far from a full peace treaty, sources familiar with the discussions say.

Washington wants enough progress before the UN General Assembly later this month for President Donald Trump to announce a diplomatic breakthrough.

Syria's regime, now dominated by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)—a militant group affiliated with Al-Qaeda and Daesh—faces dire insecurity after the fall of the Assad government.

HTS, led by Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, a former commander of both Al-Qaeda and Daesh factions, has unleashed brutal violence on minority groups including Shias, Druze, and Alawites. The resulting sectarian bloodshed has fragmented Syria and complicated any diplomatic initiatives.

Despite HTS's harsh campaign of massacres and torture, Israel has intensified its military aggression in Syria, targeting infrastructure and expanding its occupation of southern territories. Israeli airstrikes and ground raids

continue unabated, with troops now stationed perilously close to Damascus. This aggression fuels deep resentment among Syrians.

Sources say Syria's current proposal seeks the withdrawal of Israeli forces from lands seized in recent months and the reinstatement of a demilitarized buffer zone established in a 1974 truce. However, the talks avoid discussing the politically sensitive Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in 1967.

Jolani reportedly insists that any compromise on the Golan would spell the end of his rule and demands security arrangements based strictly on the 1974 lines.

The ongoing conflict between Israel and HTS-affiliated Syria remains technically a state of war. Israeli reluctance to relinquish territory and its growing military footprint complicate the talks. The U.S., eager to add Syria to the list of countries normalizing relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords, is personally invested in pressuring HTS and its leadership to accelerate the pact.

However, deep mistrust persists. HTS militants continue to wage sectarian violence in the south, particularly against Druze and other minorities.

Meanwhile, HTS's brutal crackdown has strengthened Israel's hand. The Druze community in southern Syria, victimized by HTS massacres, is reportedly receiving covert Israeli support, including arms and salaries for militia fighters seeking autonomy or even independence. This further fractures Syrian unity and complicates any prospects for peace.

A ceasefire brokered by the U.S. briefly calmed violence, allowing direct talks in Paris—the first public acknowledgment of Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Yet tensions remain high.

Analysts suggest Jolani might consider pragmatic concessions, including regional autonomy for Kurds and Druze, and demilitarization near Israeli and Jordanian borders, but trust deficits and ongoing violence severely limit progress.

As Israel continues to consolidate control over occupied territories, including strategic points like Jabal al-Sheikh (Mount Hermon), the prospects for a comprehensive peace remain bleak. The complex web of sectarian violence, militant extremism under HTS, and Israeli military expansion keeps Syria locked in a fragile and volatile stalemate.

Egypt Deploys Chinese Missiles in Sinai Amid Israeli Expansionism

CAIRO (Dispatches) -- Egypt has reportedly deployed Chinese-made HQ-9B long-range air defense systems at key strategic sites in the Sinai Peninsula, in what observers see as a measured but significant response to rising instability in the region—much of it driven by Israel's increasingly aggressive military behavior.

As reported by multiple outlets and defense analysts, including Middle East Eye, the move comes in the wake of Israel's widening military aggression, including a controversial strike inside Qatar—once considered far beyond traditional zones of conflict. This shift toward "borderless warfare" by Israel has raised alarm in Cairo and other regional capitals.

Israel's war on Gaza, now widely condemned for its disproportionate use of force and humanitarian devastation, has increasingly spilled into regional diplomacy and military posture.

Egypt's decision to bolster its air defense in Sinai, rather than being escalatory, reflects growing unease that Israel's actions may provoke a broader regional crisis.

Egyptian officials are especially concerned that Israeli operations could expand to target Palestinian leaders during their visits to Cairo, under the guise of "security" operations.

The HQ-9B, with a range of up to 300 kilometers, significantly enhances Egypt's surveillance and interception capabilities over critical regions—including Gaza, southern

Israel, and the Red Sea corridor. This sends a clear message: Egypt is not willing to allow its airspace or borders to be violated under the pretext of "counter-terrorism" or "pre-emptive defense" by any foreign power.

Despite attempts to frame its own military build-up as defensive, Israel has a track record of operating with impunity, often ignoring the sovereignty of neighboring states. From strikes in Syria and Lebanon to targeted assassinations abroad, Israel's growing willingness to act unilaterally threatens regional stability.

Cairo's choice to partner with China on this deployment is also notable. It signals Egypt's intent to diversify away from dependence on Western—and particularly U.S.—military systems, whose political strings have historically constrained Egypt's ability to act independently in its own security interests.

This is a rebuke not only of Western hegemony but also of Israel's assumption that the neighboring countries will continue tolerating its expanding regional footprint unchecked.

While Egypt's posture remains one of deterrence, not provocation, the deployment of the HQ-9B serves as a firm reminder: Israel's actions have consequences beyond Gaza.

Regional powers are now recalibrating—quietly, but firmly—to ensure they are not caught unprepared should Tel Aviv's warpath expand any further.

Specter of War With Turkey as Israel Arms Cyprus

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Last week, Israel delivered advanced Barak MX air defense systems to Cyprus, marking the third shipment since December amid escalating tensions with Turkey, Middle East Eye reports.

A video from Limassol port showed components of the Barak MX system being transported. The interceptor system can strike threats up to 150km away and includes powerful 3D radar capable of surveilling much of southern Turkey's airspace. The Cypriot news outlet Reporter confirmed the system's full delivery and expects it to become operational within the year.

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the system's manufacturer, has pushed for a more aggressive stance toward Cyprus. Shay Gal, IAI's vice president for external relations, openly called for Israel to coordinate with Greece and Cyprus to "liberate" northern Cyprus from Turkish control. Gal's proposal goes beyond defense, advocating for a military operation to forcibly remove Turkish forces—an inflammatory plan that risks igniting wider conflict.

Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 after a coup attempt aiming to unite the island with Greece, leading to the ongoing division

between the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish-controlled north. Israel's recent arms shipments seem designed not for deterrence but for expanding its military footprint in a region already fraught with competing claims and ethnic tensions.

While Ankara has remained publicly silent, Turkish analysts warn the Barak MX system far exceeds the threat posed by the Russian S-300 missiles Cyprus attempted to acquire in the late 1990s—a crisis nearly pushing Turkey and Cyprus to war.

With a range up to 460km and radar capable of detecting artillery and rocket fire, the system dramatically shifts the regional military balance, serving Israel's intelligence and strategic ambitions in the eastern Mediterranean.

Critics within Turkey condemn Israel's actions as illegal provocations destabilizing the fragile status quo and directly threatening Turkey's national security.

Israeli shipments continue under the radar, with Turkish security sources reporting ongoing tests and close monitoring. By fueling militarization in Cyprus, Israel risks inflaming regional tensions, undermining peace efforts, and entrenching divisions rather than fostering stability.