

LONDON (Dispatches) -- The Gaza plan proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump's so-called "Board of Peace" has been reduced from an "ambitious" effort to reconstruct the strip to a small "pilot project" to build a concentration camp for Palestinians, The Guardian reported Saturday.

"Even the envisaged pilot scheme -- involving a temporary camp for a tiny fraction of Gaza's 2 million displaced people," is not expected to be completed before the end of the year, The Guardian wrote. The pilot camp would consist of prefabricated structures for tens of thousands of displaced people in Gaza. However, preparatory work on the pilot camp has not begun, nor has construction of a camp to host the International Security Force (ISF).

U.S., UK Secure \$60bn Oil Deals in Growing Stranglehold on Iraq

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- U.S. and British energy firms signed multiple agreements with the Iraqi government on Saturday for oil and gas projects worth a staggering \$60 billion, cementing Washington's domination over Iraq's energy sector.

The deals, finalized at a U.S.-Iraq business summit at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, represent the most significant expansion of American control over Iraqi oil since the 2003 invasion.

Iraqi officials signed dozens of non-binding agreements and memorandums of understanding with U.S. energy, healthcare, and technology companies during the summit.

On July 13, Iraq reached a deal with Syria's takfiri regime to build a 500-mile pipeline from the oil-rich city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq to the port city of Baniyas on Syria's Mediterranean coast.

U.S. President Donald Trump's regional envoy, Tom Barrack, said the war on Iran, while creating "chaos and confusion," has simultaneously thrust Iraq "at the forefront of a new strategic security alliance" with Washington and its allies.



U.S. President Donald Trump receives Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi at the Oval Office.

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for his part, has urged Persian Gulf states to build pipelines moving their oil west through Israeli occupied territories.

Among the agreements signed Friday, Chevron secured a deal to export oil from Iraq's West Qurna 2 and Nassiriya oilfields. Jake Spiering, a Chevron president, said the Houston-based major will also invest in the Kirkuk-Baniyas pipeline.

ConocoPhillips officials announced they will purchase a 42

percent stake in Energy of Kirkuk Ltd, a subsidiary of British energy major BP, to redevelop four producing oilfields in northern Iraq.

The business summit followed Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's visit to the White House, where Trump praised the new Iraqi premier, calling him "young" and "handsome."

Since taking office in May, Zaidi has committed to disarming resistance groups, including the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU). The U.S. bombed numerous PMU bases as part of the broader war on

Iran in its early weeks.

The PMU, formed in response to the Daesh takeover of large parts of Iraq in 2014, has long exposed Washington's covert support for the terrorist group to justify renewed military occupation.

Iraqi resistance factions have warned that the energy bonanza is a disguised theft of the country's resources, pointing to the long-standing U.S. practice of holding Iraqi oil revenues in New York Federal Reserve accounts.

This mechanism gives Washington direct leverage over Baghdad's finances, allowing it to pressure the Iraqi government and meddle in its internal affairs at will.

Resistance leaders say the U.S. has systematically used this financial stranglehold to force favorable contracts with Western firms, effectively siphoning Iraqi wealth through economic colonization.

The PMU and other factions have condemned the deals as a surrender of national sovereignty, warning that U.S. domination over Iraqi oil -- from production and export to revenue control -- entrenches a neocolonial relationship that leaves Baghdad little more than a vassal state.

Israel Destroys More Schools in Lebanon as President Aoun Heads to U.S.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- The Israeli military has looted and destroyed three schools in southern Lebanon, according to Education Minister Rima Karami, who said the institutions were rigged with explosives and reduced to "piles of ashes".

Two schools in Khiam and one in Bint Jbeil were targeted, adding to a growing list of educational institutions destroyed during the conflict.

UNESCO reported in June that 17 schools had been destroyed and over 100 damaged in Lebanon; the latest demolitions bring the number to at least 20.

Karami condemned the destruction as taking place "before the eyes of the entire world," despite international commitments to protect schools during armed conflict, and called on major powers to pressure Israel to halt attacks on educational institutions.

The latest demolitions come as Lebanese President Joseph Aoun departed Beirut for Washington on Saturday for talks with President Donald Trump, expected to focus on implementing a U.S.-mediated framework agreement signed on June 26.

The agreement provides for a phased Israeli withdrawal from occupied Lebanese territory but sets no timetable, linking withdrawal to

the disarmament of Hezbollah--condition analysts describe as unattainable.

Critics have sharply condemned the deal as an "imposed settlement" that places "all the burden on Lebanon" while granting Israel indefinite justification for maintaining a military presence in the south.

Fawaz Gerges of the London School of Economics called the agreement "born dead," structurally flawed because it hinges on Hezbollah's disarmament, "something that would never happen".

The deal has been described by critics as enabling Israel to decide about Lebanese Army deployment while obligating Lebanon to further concessions.

Particularly controversial is Clause 13, which critics say effectively prevents Lebanon from pursuing accountability for Israeli war crimes in international legal forums--an aspect the International Federation of Journalists denounced as a betrayal of victims' rights.

Since March, Israeli attacks have killed at least 4,324 people, injured 12,223, and displaced over one million. Over 11,000 buildings have been destroyed, and approximately 500,000 Lebanese children remain out of school.

Syria Removed From Terror Blacklist After 47 Years as U.S. Embraces Jolani

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The United States has formally initiated the removal of Syria from its State Sponsor of Terrorism list, a designation that had been in place since 1979.

The announcement, made by President Donald Trump following a meeting with Syria's de facto leader Abu Muhamamd al-Jolani on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Ankara, paves the way for American investment in a country whose economy has been devastated by over a decade of conflict stirred by the West and Israel.

The move comes as Washington officially embraces a leader who once headed Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), an Al-Qaeda affiliate, and was previously design-

nated a global terrorist with a \$10 million U.S. bounty on his head.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed that Congress has been notified of the decision, which will take effect after a 45-day review period, stating it would "unlock international trade and investment" and "open up a new chapter for the Syrian people".

The decision marks a striking reversal of the rationale the U.S. used to justify its military intervention in Syria. For years, Washington cited the fight against Al-Qaeda and Daesh as the primary pretext for its military presence and the occupation of Syrian territory, particularly in the resource-rich northeast.

The U.S. led a coalition that

conducted thousands of airstrikes, ostensibly targeting terrorist groups, while simultaneously backing the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on the ground.

Critics have long argued that the U.S. intervention was less about counterterrorism and more about resource plunder and geopolitical domination.

Reports documented the systematic theft of Syrian oil and wheat from areas under U.S. control, with officials in Damascus repeatedly complaining to the UN Security Council that the actions amounted to "naked resource theft".

The U.S. military presence effectively cut off the central government's economic lifelines,

deepening the fiscal crisis caused by the war and unilateral sanctions.

The sanctions that Washington has now chosen to lift were originally imposed against the government of Bashar al-Assad, which was actively fighting a takfiri terrorist invasion backed by the West and its regional allies.

Syria's economy, which was once considered middle-income among Arab states, has been decimated by the Western-backed war and the ensuing Daesh caliphate.

The lifting of the terrorism designation is expected to gradually restore correspondent banking relations, ease financial transfers, and encourage international investment.

UN Official Confirms Al-Qaeda Presence in Afghanistan

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Alexander Zuev, the acting under-secretary-general of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, has stated that Al-Qaeda continues to maintain a presence in Afghanistan despite a significant decline in its operational activity.

In an interview with Russia's state-run TASS news agency, Zuev noted that Afghanistan remains host to several militant groups.

"Al-Qaeda is not currently engaged in extensive activity in Afghanistan, but it continues to maintain a presence in the country," he said, adding that the group maintains what he described as "complex relations" with the Taliban.

Zuev identified the Daesh-K and the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as the most active terrorist groups currently operating in Afghanistan.

The Taliban have consistently denied the presence of foreign militant groups and assert they do not permit Afghan territory to be used to threaten other nations, a claim contradicted by periodic UN security assessments expressing concern over extremist groups like Al-Qaeda and Daesh-K.

The evolving militant landscape in Afghanistan is also influenced by recent geopolitical shifts in Syria. Following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government to takfiri forces led by Abu Mu-

hammad al-Jolani, the regional dynamics have undergone significant reconfiguration. Jolani, a figure who has historically had adversarial relations with both Al-Qaeda and Daesh, has been characterized by Daesh-K as a traitor and a Western proxy.

This complex situation has raised concerns about the transfer or redeployment of terrorists. Reports have surfaced regarding the potential relocation of Daesh elements from Syria's Hasakah province into Iraq and possibly further east, coinciding with discussions about the U.S. reconfiguring its strategic footprint in Syria.

Some regional observers and analysts have suggested that such movements, coupled with U.S. troop redeployments, could reflect a broader military reorganization rather than a retreat, potentially involving the shifting of militants to areas like Afghanistan.

The concern over terrorist movements is compounded by the history of U.S. involvement with local proxies in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

The transfer of takfiri terrorists or their relocation is part of complex proxy dynamics, where the West, having reconsidered its position on Syria as a new field for influence, is facilitating the removal of these elements from the Syrian theater to Afghanistan as part of a new strategic agenda.

AIPAC Cuts Off Democrats Over Israel Vote as TIME Details Israeli PR Operation

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The notorious American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) cut off online fundraising support for more than two dozen House Democrats after they voted against a \$3.3 billion military aid package to Israel, while a TIME investigation found that Israel has been financing a multimillion-dollar influence campaign aimed at shaping conservative opinion in the United States.

The two developments have intensified scrutiny of pro-Israel lobbying efforts and influence campaigns as criticism of Israel gains traction across both Democratic and Republican constituencies.

AIPAC removed contribution buttons from its donation portal for Democratic incumbents who voted in favor of an amendment introduced by Republican Representative Thomas Massie on July 15 to eliminate roughly \$3.3 billion in annual U.S. military assistance to Israel under the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program. The amendment would also have barred any funds in the fiscal 2027 State De-

partment appropriations bill from supporting Israel.

Although the proposal was defeated by a 314-104 vote, nearly half of House Democrats backed the measure, highlighting growing divisions within the party over continued military support for Israel.

The vote followed a period of mounting criticism of Israel among U.S. voters and progressive activists. According to the original text, candidates critical of Israel have gained support in recent elections, while accepting AIPAC funding has become increasingly controversial among a growing segment of the electorate.

Meanwhile, a TIME investigation published on 14 July reported that Israel has been paying former Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale's political communications firm, Clock Tower X, \$1.5 million per month to run a digital influence campaign targeting Gen Z audiences and supporters of President Donald Trump's Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement.

According to the report, the campaign was launched

under a contract arranged through global advertising agency Havas in September 2025. Parscale's firm reportedly pledged to generate at least 50 million digital impressions each month and sought to influence how artificial intelligence platforms, including OpenAI's ChatGPT, Anthropic's Claude, and Google's Gemini, characterized Israel and the Gaza war.

An Israeli foreign ministry official familiar with the effort told TIME that "there was another strategic aim: preventing young conservatives from turning against Israel."

The report said the campaign intensified after the announcement of the June Iran-U.S. memorandum of understanding, as MAGA influencers criticized the agreement for failing to dismantle Iran's nuclear program and objected to provisions concerning Lebanon and Hezbollah.

The revelations come amid widening debate over Israel's influence in U.S. politics as criticism of Washington's support for Tel Aviv expands across the American political spectrum.