



Jerusalem Post / Middle East

Mossad chief, Syria FM hold positive de-escalation talks after Israeli airbase strike, source says

Meeting comes after Shaibani told Reuters Israel has 'historic opportunity' for diplomacy • IDF struck Syrian airbase last week intended to prevent Turkish military presence, sources told the Post





(L-R): Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani; Mossad Director Roman Gofman
(photo credit: CHAIM GOLDBERG/FLASH90, REUTERS/YVES HERMAN)

By AMICHAH STEIN, IDAN KWELLER, JERUSALEM POST STAFF

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A meeting held on Sunday between Israeli and Syrian officials “went well” amid ongoing efforts to lower [tensions between the two countries](#), a source familiar with the meeting told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Those in attendance included Mossad chief Roman Gofman and Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani, as well as the heads of the country's General and Military intelligence services, according to N12 News.

Shaibani said the meeting dealt with halting Israeli attacks and renewing negotiations for a security agreement between the countries, N12 also reported.

He added that the Syrian side emphasized the need to reduce tensions between Israel and Turkey, N12 reported, saying that Syria fears tensions between the two countries will continue to spill over into Syrian territory.

The Syrian delegation stressed its opposition to an agreement which would prohibit it from building up its military and forging alliances, the report said, adding that the Syrians wanted discussions regarding the Golan Heights to be conducted separately and that the focus of the current talks should remain on the subject of Israel's withdrawal to pre-2024 lines.

The meeting came after comments from [Shaibani to Reuters](#) on Saturday, in which he urged Israel to seize a "historic opportunity" for diplomacy.



View of the Israeli border with Syria, in the Golan Heights, on August 20, 2026. (credit: AYAL MARGOLIN/FLASH90)

"We believe there should be contact, especially with a party that constantly threatens the security of Syria. But if this contact doesn't bring results, then we don't need it," he said. "We do not trust Israel currently."

Shaibani's comments follow Israel's strike against Syria's Abu al-Duhur military airfield on Tuesday.

Israel, Syria disagree on threat of Turkish military presence

Two sources told the *Post* on Saturday that the strike was intended to prevent the placement of a Turkish radar and air defense system.

Shabaini emphasized to *Reuters* that the Abu al-Duhur was not at risk of becoming a [Turkish base](#) and said he believed Israel carried out the strike even after that message was conveyed.

A spokesperson from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, in a [statement released on Friday](#), said Israeli intelligence had identified that Turkish troops were going to be deployed to the base.

The spokesperson claimed that Syria "chose to ignore" warnings from Israel regarding the base prior to the strike.

Corinne Baum, Jerusalem Post Staff, and Reuters contributed to this report.

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