

CERTIFICATION OF RESCISSION OF SYRIA'S
DESIGNATION AS A STATE
SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A CERTIFICATION OF RESCISSION OF SYRIA'S DESIGNATION AS
A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM



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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, July 8, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with section 1754(c)(4) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Public Law 115–232 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(4)), I transmit herewith a report certifying that: (1) the Government of Syria has not provided any support for acts of international terrorism during the preceding 6-month period; and (2) the Government of Syria has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future. After review of Syria’s record on terrorism since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, including intelligence reporting, as well as assurances received from the Government of Syria, the Secretary of State has advised that Syria has met these conditions.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP.

CERTIFICATION OF RESCISSION OF SYRIA'S DESIGNATION AS A STATE
SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

Pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the United States, and consistent with section 1754(c)(4) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Public Law 115–232 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(4)), I hereby certify, with respect to the proposed rescission of the determination of December 29, 1979, regarding Syria, that:

(i) the Government of Syria has not provided any support for acts of international terrorism during the preceding 6-month period; and

(ii) the Government of Syria has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future.

This certification shall also satisfy the provisions of section 620A(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Public Law 87–195, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2371(c)), and section 40(f)(1)(B) of the Arms Export Control Act, Public Law 90–629, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2780(f)).

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 8, 2026*.

MEMORANDUM OF JUSTIFICATION FOR RESCISSION OF SYRIA'S STATE
SPONSOR OF TERRORISM DESIGNATION

Syria was designated as a State Sponsor of Terrorism on December 29, 1979, due to its support for international terrorist organizations, including knowingly harboring and facilitating terrorist organizations and activities. After careful review and as described herein, the President has determined that the record supports the statutorily required certification that the Government of Syria has not provided any support for acts of international terrorism during the preceding 6-month period and has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future.

The President's certification to permit rescission of Syria's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism represents the culmination of diplomatic effort and monitoring of Syria's behavior by the United States.

Syria has taken steps to fully distance itself from international terrorism and has taken action against terrorist organizations and activities operating in Syria. On January 29, 2025, the Government of Syria announced Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and its allied groups had disbanded, and HTS leader Ahmed al-Sharaa was appointed president of Syria. On July 8, 2025, the Department of State delisted HTS as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. On November 7, 2025, President Ahmed al-Sharaa was delisted as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.

On November 10, 2025, Syria joined the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and has on several occasions cooperated on counterterrorism efforts with the U.S. military to counter specific ISIS threats. Since January 29, 2025, the Government of Syria, under President al-Sharaa's instruction, has also ended prior cooperation with Iran and affiliated militias, taking steps in May 2026 to interdict smuggling networks and limit the re-entry of groups such as Hizballah. Since the onset of Operation Epic Fury, Syria has actively targeted Hizballah cells and disrupted Hizballah plots in Syria. Syrian authorities have arrested ISIS-linked militants following the June 22, 2025 Mar Elias Church attack, foiled Hizballah smuggling attempts, and increased pressure on Palestinian terrorist organizations, reportedly closing all Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command (PFLP—GC) offices.

Direct engagement with the Government of Syria has permitted the United States to secure assurances, signed June 12, 2026, of Syria's commitment to renounce international terrorism. In the assurances, Syria reiterated its commitment to cooperate in combating terrorism, condemned all terrorist acts in all forms and manifestations, and any action to encourage, support, finance, or cover up any terrorist act, method, or practice. The Government of Syria also committed that it will not support any acts of international terrorism in the future, and that it will prevent its terri-

tory from being used to organize, finance, or execute terrorist acts in any other country, including the United States. The Government of Syria further committed to abide by its nonproliferation and disarmament obligations, continue working with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to identify and destroy any remaining chemical weapons and related materials in Syria, and to take measures to prevent the development or proliferation of biological weapons in Syria. Additionally, the Government of Syria committed that it will not help plan, finance, or support in any way the activities of any terrorist organization, regardless of such activity. The June 12, 2026, assurances stated, in part:

“The Government of Syria condemns all acts of terrorism in all forms and manifestations. The Government of Syria reiterates and confirms that it does not support acts of international terrorism and will not support acts of international terrorism in the future. It likewise condemns any action to encourage, support, finance, or cover up any terrorist act, method, or practice.”

“The Government of Syria assures that it will take all practicable measures to prevent Syrian territory from being used to organize, finance, support, or carry out terrorist acts against any country. The Government of Syria will deny safe haven to all terrorists. The Government of Syria will monitor and investigate and take action to prevent and disrupt use by terrorists or their supporters of Syrian territory for training, weapons smuggling, travel, and financial facilitation.”

“The Government of Syria will not help plan, finance, or support in any way the activities of al-Qa’ida, ISIS, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or any affiliate of these groups, or any other terrorist organization, regardless of the purpose of such activity. The Government of Syria will collaborate with the United States to disrupt the activities of any of these organizations or their affiliates in Syria.”

“The Government of Syria will not provide any support to terrorist organizations to carry out attacks against the United States, including by providing terrorist organizations with non-public information regarding the locations and movements of U.S. property, equipment, or personnel.”

“The Government of Syria will abide by its nonproliferation and disarmament obligations and take necessary steps to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to or by terrorist groups. The Government of Syria will take measures to prevent the development or proliferation of chemical weapons by any actors in Syria and will continue working with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to identify and destroy any remaining chemical weapons and related materials in Syria, including by securing sites and materials to prevent proliferation to terrorist groups. The Government of Syria will take measures to prevent the development or proliferation of biological weapons by any actors in Syria, including by ratifying the Biological Weapons Convention. The Government

of Syria will take all practicable measures to prevent nuclear proliferation in Syria, including by taking steps to comply with its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.”

In the same assurances signed June 12, 2026, the Government of Syria also provided assurances that it will fully enforce its counterterrorism laws and regulations and monitor, investigate, and prosecute government officials, employees, contractors, and military personnel engaging in or providing support to terrorists:

“The Government of Syria will adhere to international standards, conventions, any obligations related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. The Government of Syria will implement all Financial Action Task Force standards and UN obligations related to countering the financing of terrorism. The Government of Syria will also cooperate on the enforcement of U.S. counterterrorism sanctions and take appropriate measures to implement corresponding sanctions domestically.”

“The Government of Syria will prohibit all Syrian government officials, employees, contractors, and military personnel from participating in, planning, conducting terrorist activities and related acts of violence, or providing support to terrorist actors and entities, and enforce adequate penalties for violations of such directives. The Government of Syria will monitor government officials, employees, contractors, and military personnel for compliance with such prohibitions, investigate all potential violations, and take timely and appropriate action, including prevention, disruption, and prosecution, in a manner that is consistent with human rights obligations and commitments, against those government officials, employees, contractors, and military personnel found to be providing support to terrorist actors or entities.”

Following a review of all available information, there is no credible evidence at this time of ongoing support by Syria for international terrorism, and there is a sufficient basis for certification by the President to Congress that Syria has not provided any support for acts of international terrorism during the preceding 6-month period.

While the Government of Syria has attempted to, and sometimes succeeded at, integrating designated terrorists and terrorist organizations into its governmental institutions and military, the Department of State assesses that this does not constitute support for acts of international terrorism as the intentions of the Government of Syria were to dismantle, rehabilitate, and prevent such designated terrorists from conducting acts of international terrorism. There is no credible evidence that the Government of Syria has otherwise, within the preceding 6 months, provided material support, services, non-public information, or resources to al-Qa’ida, ISIS, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or any affiliate of these groups, or any other terrorist organization. As evidenced above, Syria has provided specific assurances that it will not do so in the future.

Should we obtain credible evidence at any time of Syrian support in the future for acts of international terrorism, the Secretary of State could again designate Syria as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.

The President's report to Congress certifying that Syria has not provided any support for acts of international terrorism during the preceding 6-month period and has provided assurances that it will not provide support for acts of international terrorism in the future will permit the Secretary of State to rescind Syria's State Sponsor of Terrorism designation following the 45-day Congressional review period. Rescission in this case will strongly support the objectives of the SST legislation and will demonstrate to Syria the benefits of cooperation with the international community, including the United States, to counter international terrorism.

