

Peace Accord Signed by Israel, UAE & Bahrain



Bottom: On Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, a historic peace accord has been signed on the White House lawn, between Israel and two Arab states, the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu said, "This day heralds a new dawn of peace ... for decades, the Jewish state has prayed for peace ... to all of Israel's friends and those who will join us tomorrow, I say As-salamu alaykum, peace be unto you. Shalom." From left: Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullahtif al-Zayani; Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; US President Donald Trump; UAE Foreign Minister Crown Prince Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Photo: TV generated

Remarks by President Trump Announcing the Normalization of Relations Between Israel & UAE

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much. This is very important. This is a big event. And I want to just congratulate all of the people standing behind me because they have done an incredible job. This is something that hasn't been done in more than 25 years.

Just a few moments ago, I hosted a very special call with two friends - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates - where they agreed to finalize a historic peace agreement. Everybody said this would be impossible. And, as you know, Mohammed is one of the great leaders of the Middle East.

After 49 years, Israel and the United Arab Emirates will fully normalize their diplomatic relations. They will exchange embassies and ambassadors, and begin cooperation across the board and on a broad range of areas, including tourism, education, healthcare, trade, and security.

This is a truly historic moment. Not since the Israel-Jordan peace treaty was signed more than 25 years ago has so much progress been made towards peace in the Middle East.

By uniting two of America's closest and most capable partners in the region - something which said could not be done - this deal is a significant step towards building a more peaceful, secure, and prosperous Middle East.

Now that the ice has been broken, I expect more Arab and Muslim countries will follow the United Arab Emirates' lead. And I want to just thank them for being - it's not surprising, knowing Mohammed so well. It's not surprising. They are in that lead position. And normalize relations with Israel. We are already discussing this with other nations - with very powerful, very good nations and people that want to see peace in the Middle East. So you will probably see others of these, but this is the first one in more than 25 years.

This deal will allow much greater access to Muslims from throughout the world to visit the many historic sites in Israel - which the Muslims want to see very badly and have wanted to see for many, many decades - and to peacefully pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is a very special place for them.

My first trip as President was to Saudi Arabia in May of 2017. In my speech to the assembled leaders of 54 Muslim countries - every single one was by their leader, their number-one leader. It was an amazing - really, an incredible event. A very important event. I made clear that the problems of the Middle East can only be solved when people of all faiths come together to fight Islamic extremism and pursue economic opportunity for people of all faiths.

And when you look at what's happening, you're seeing a lot of progress is being made that nobody thought could possibly be made. And things are happening that I can't talk about, but they're extremely positive.

I want to thank the leaders of Israel and the UAE for their courage and for their leadership to forge this tremendous agreement. It will be known as the "Abraham Accord." And I'd like to ask our ambassador, David Friedman, to please explain why we're doing and calling it the "Abraham Accord."

Ambassador Friedman: Thank you, Mr. President, and congratulations to you on brokering this historic peace agreement.

Abraham, as many of you know, was the father of all three great faiths. He is referred to as "Abraham" in the Christian faith, "Ibrahim" in the Muslim faith, and "Avraham" in the Jewish faith.

And no person better symbolizes the potential for unity among all these three great faiths than Abraham, and that's why this accord has been given that name.

The President: It's a great - great thing. I wanted it to be called the "Donald J. Trump Accord." (Laughter.) But I didn't think the press would understand that. I didn't do that.

MR. KUSHNER: Thank you, Mr. President. And I would like to say that - I want to thank the President for his leadership on this historic peace effort.

The President, like with all things, urged us to take an untraditional approach. You can't solve problems that have gone unsolved by doing it the same way that people before you have tried and failed.

The President takes untraditional approaches. He does things in different ways, using common sense and he tries to unite people by focusing on common interests, as opposed to allowing them to

focus on their common grievances.

And what happened was, here - is we were able to achieve results that others were not able to achieve, and this will advance the region, and this will advance the whole world.

I would like to say to the people of the region - Muslims, Jews, Christians - that this does give hope that the problems of the past do not condemn you to a future with conflict. There is a lot of hope and a lot of potential, and this will benefit you and this will also benefit people here in America. Because in America, we used to have a big dependency on the Middle East for gas and for oil. Thanks to your leadership, America is now energy independent. We no longer have that.

But a lot of American soldiers have fought for securing our allies in that region. And making more peace there lessens our need, as a country, to have as many soldiers in that region and lessens our need to have as many conflicts in that region.

And obviously, radical extremism, which we see as a cancer that has infected so many areas in the world - a lot of the extremists have used these conflicts to - to recruit people and to say that the mosque is under attack and that Muslims don't have access to the mosque.

And now this will enable people to take flights from Dubai and Abu Dhabi directly to Tel Aviv. Muslims will be welcome in Israel, and this will create better interfaith exchange.

So this is a tremendous step forward for peace in the world, for - for America, for - for Israel, for Abu Dhabi. And all would not have been possible without your leadership. So I just want to thank you.

The President: Thank you, Jared. What a great job. And what Jared said is so, though - we don't have to be there anymore. We don't need oil. We don't need anything there except friendship. We have some great friends. These are two countries that have been great friends, and we've been great friends to them. But we no longer have to be there.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. President, thank you. The point I want to make, Mr. President: You inherited a Middle East that was a mess when you came to office, and this is one more historic step in bringing peace to the Middle East.

First of all, there was a caliphate that was raging - an ISIS caliphate. And that physical caliphate was destroyed, and you brought justice to al-Baghdadi. You reassured our friends in Israel, who had suffered at the end of the last administration, with a U.N. resolution. You moved the capital to Jerusalem. You recognized the Golan Heights.

In the broader region, you had a very difficult situation in Afghanistan, where we were soldiers were American soldiers were coming home injured; wounded; sadly, in some cases, dead. You brought a - you've got a peace agreement now with the Taliban, and we're going to have less than half the number of troops in Afghanistan that were there when you started your term of office.

And now you've brought about this historic peace deal between the UAE and Israel. This is the first time in 25 years that Israel and an Arab country have normalized diplomatic relations and entered into a peace deal. And they're the two most capable countries in the Middle East - two very capable, very skilled, very innovative allies of the United States. So, it's great for Israel, it's great for the UAE, but it's also great for the American - the American people.

Mr. Hook: Peace between Israel and the Arabs has been Iran's worst nightmare. And no one has done more to intensify the conflict between Arabs and Israelis than Iran.

And what we see today is a new Middle East. The trend lines are very different today. And we see the future is very much in the Gulf and with Israel, and the past is with the Iranian regime. It clings to power on the basis of brute force that has lost the - it is facing a crisis of legitimacy and credibility with its own people. And the President's maximum pressure campaign has achieved historic results.

Major General Correa: Yes, sir. As a soldier who has been in every war since Desert Storm, it is an honor and a privilege for your leadership, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, and Prime Minister Netanyahu to get to peace.

So, your vision and those leaders' vision on what we can do in the future is just incredible. So, I would thank you, as a soldier.

And the blessings of the peace we make today will be enormous. First, because this peace will eventually expand to include other Arab states, and ultimately it can end the Arab-Israeli conflict once and for all. Second, because the great economic benefits of our partnership will be felt throughout our region, and they will reach every one of our citizens. And third, because this is not only a peace between leaders, it's a peace between peoples - Israelis, Emiratis and Bahrainis are already embracing one another. We are eager to invest in a future of partnership, prosperity and peace. We've already begun to cooperate on combating Coronavirus, and I am sure that together we can find solutions to many of the problems that afflict our region and beyond.

So despite the many challenges and hardships that we all face - despite all that - let us pause for a moment to appreciate this remarkable day. Let us rise above any political divide. Let us put all cynicism aside. Let us feel on this day the pulse of history. For long after the pandemic is gone, the peace we make today will endure.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have devoted my life to securing Israel's place among the nations, to ensure the future of the one and only Jewish state. To accomplish that goal, I have worked to make Israel strong, very strong, for history has taught us that strength brings security, strength brings allies and ultimately - and this is something President Trump has said again and again - ultimately strength brings peace.

King David expressed this basic truth thousands of years ago in our eternal capital, Jerusalem. His prayer, immortalized in the Book of Psalms in the Bible, echoes from our glorious past and guides us towards a brilliant future:

"ה' עוז לעמנו יתן" בדרך ארץ ושלום
"May God give strength to his people, may God bless his people with peace."

Mr. President, Distinguished guests, This week is Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, and what a blessing we bring to this new year, a blessing of friendship, a blessing of hope, a blessing of peace.

PM Netanyahu's Speech at the Historic Peace Treaty Signing



From left: Bahrain Foreign Minister Abdullahtif Al-Zayani; Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu; UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed; and US President, Donald Trump; stepping down from the White House to the Peace Treaties signing ceremony. Tues., Sept. 15, 2020. Photo: TV Generated

This day is a pivot of history. It heralds a new dawn of peace. For thousands of years, the Jewish people have prayed for peace. For decades, the Jewish state has prayed for peace. And this is why today we're filled with such profound gratitude. I am grateful to you, President Trump, for your decisive leadership. You have unequivocally stood by Israel's side. You have boldly confronted the tyrants of Tehran. You've proposed a realistic vision for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. And you have successfully brokered the historic peace that we are signing today, a peace that has broad support in Israel, in America, in the Middle East - indeed in the entire world.

I am grateful to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (sic) of the United Arab Emirates and to you, Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed (sic). I thank you both for your wise leadership and for working with the United States and Israel to expand the circle of peace.

I am grateful to King Hamad of Bahrain and to you, Foreign Minister Abdullahtif Al-Zayani, for joining us in bringing hope to all the children of Abraham.

To all of Israel's friends in the Middle East, those who are with us today and those who will join us tomorrow, I say As-salamu alaykum, peace unto you. Shalom.

And you have heard from the president that he is already listening up more and more countries. This was unimaginable a few years ago, but with resolve, determination, a fresh look at the way peace is done, this is being achieved. Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen,

The people of Israel well know the price of war. I know the price of war. I was wounded in battle. A fellow soldier, a very close friend of mine, died in my arms. My brother Yoni lost his life while leading his soldiers to rescue hostages held by terrorists at Entebbe. My parents' grief over the loss of Yoni was unrelieved until their dying day. And over the years, when I have come to console the families of Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror, I have seen that same grief countless times. And this is why I am so deeply moved to be here today. For those who bear the wounds of war cherish the

blessings of peace.

And the blessings of the peace we make today will be enormous. First, because this peace will eventually expand to include other Arab states, and ultimately it can end the Arab-Israeli conflict once and for all. Second, because the great economic benefits of our partnership will be felt throughout our region, and they will reach every one of our citizens. And third, because this is not only a peace between leaders, it's a peace between peoples - Israelis, Emiratis and Bahrainis are already embracing one another. We are eager to invest in a future of partnership, prosperity and peace. We've already begun to cooperate on combating Coronavirus, and I am sure that together we can find solutions to many of the problems that afflict our region and beyond.

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UAE Foreign Minister's Speech at the Abraham Accords Signing Ceremony



US President, Donald Trump (left), watches as UAE Foreign Minister, Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, speaks from the White House during the signing ceremony of the Abraham Accords. Photo: Saul Loeb/AFP

President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Ladies and Gentlemen. Peace be upon you.

I am pleased to convey to you the greetings of the leadership and people of the United Arab Emirates, and notably, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

In our faith, we say, "O God, you are peace and from you is peace." The search for peace is an innate principle, yet principles are effectively realized when they are transformed into action. I stand here today to extend a hand of peace and receive a hand of peace.

Today, we are already witnessing a change in the heart of the Middle East, a change that will send hope around the world.

This initiative would not have been possible without the efforts of President Donald Trump and his team who worked hard and sincerely for us all to reach here, most notably my counterpart, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Jared Kushner, Senior Adviser to the President of the United States, and all those who are genuine about the principle of peace in the United States, who have strived to realize this major achievement: thank you.

I also thank the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, for halting the annexation of the Palestinian territories, a decision that reinforces our shared will to achieve a better future for generations to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are witnessing today a new trend that will create a better path for the Middle East. This Peace Accord, which is a historic achievement for the United States of America, the State of Israel, and the United Arab Emirates, will continue to have a positive impact, as we believe that its reverberations will be reflected on the entire region.

Every option other than peace would signify destruction, poverty, and human suffering.

This new vision, which is beginning to take shape as we meet today for the future of a region full of youthful energy, is not a slogan that we raise for political gain, as everyone looks forward to creating a more stable, prosperous, and secure future. At a time when science is prevailing, the region's youth are looking forward to taking part in this great humanitarian movement.

We are pleased that the United Arab Emirates will be part of the momentum towards stability and the growth of human

potential, in a new civilized approach that opens wide the doors of opportunity for those who look towards peace, prosperity, and the future.

Our societies today possess the foundations of modern human development, such as infrastructure, a solid economy, and scientific achievements that will enable them to advance the future of the Middle East.

Mr. President, the United Arab Emirates believes that the role of the United States in the Middle East is positive, and this belief is evidenced by the Accord that we are signing today at the White House, for which you have taken the lead, and will remain a beacon in human history for all peace-loving people around the world.

And, as for us in the United Arab Emirates, this Accord will enable us to continue to stand by the Palestinian people, and realize their hopes for an independent state within a stable and prosperous region.

This Accord builds upon previous peace agreements signed by Arab nations with the State of Israel. The aim of all of these treaties is to work towards stability and sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in this difficult year when the world is suffering from the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Arab Emirates has reinforced its humanitarian commitments, established by our nation's founding father Sheikh Zayed, who taught us that standing with others, regardless of religious or ethnic affiliation, is a humanitarian duty and a firm principle.

During this difficult time, the United Arab Emirates was able to launch a probe to Mars. The 'Hope Probe' indeed represents hope that our region is capable of advancement and progress, if governments and people embrace science. After the United Arab Emirates sent astronaut Hazza Al Mansouri last year as the first Arab astronaut to reach the International Space Station, and launch a peaceful nuclear power plant, this Accord opened up prospects for a comprehensive peace in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, peace requires courage, and shaping the future requires knowledge. The advancement of nations requires sincerity and persistence.

We have come today to tell the world that this is our approach, and that peace is our guiding principle.

Those who begin things in the right way, will reap bright achievements, with the grace of God. Thank you.

Bahrain Foreign Minister's Speech at Abraham Accords Signing Ceremony

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a truly historic occasion. A moment of hope and opportunity for all the peoples of the Middle East, and in particular for the millions in our younger generations.

The declaration supporting peace between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Israel is an historic step on the road to genuine and lasting peace, security and prosperity across the region, and for all who live there, regardless of religion, sect, ethnicity, or ideology.

For too long, the Middle East has been set back by conflict and mistrust, causing untold destruction and thwarting the potential of generations of our best and brightest young people. Now, I am convinced, we have the opportunity to change that.

Today's declaration was made possible by the vision, courage and commitment of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, who - supported by the people of Bahrain - has protected, institutionalized, and enhanced Bahrain's centuries-old spirit of coexistence and harmony, and has the wisdom to recognize that genuine co-operation is the most effective means to achieve peace and to safeguard the legitimate rights.

Thank you, Your Majesty, for this vision of peace for the region based on trust, respect and understanding between all faiths, races and nations.

To our brothers in the United Arab Emirates, I congratulate you on your own momentous peace accord being signed today with Israel. His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed has shown great leadership and foresight to make peace possible and secure a brighter future for our region.

To the State of Israel and to Prime Minister Netanyahu, we welcome and appreciate these steps from you and your government, recognizing that enduring peace and security is only possible through a genuine engagement that protects the rights and interests of countries and peoples



Bahrain Foreign Minister, Abdullahtif al-Zayani, speaks from the White House during the signing ceremony of the Abraham Accords. Photo: Saul Loeb/AFP

in the region.

In particular, I want to express my deep appreciation to President Donald Trump and his Administration, Mr. President - your statesmanship and tireless efforts have brought us here today and made peace a reality. And to Secretary Pompeo, Senior Adviser Jared Kushner, and Special Representative Avi Berkowitz and others who have all carried out their mandates with dedication and skill.

Today's agreement is an important first step, and it is now incumbent on us to work urgently and actively to bring about the lasting peace and security our peoples deserve. A just, comprehensive and enduring two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will be the foundation - the bedrock - of such peace.

We have shown today that such a path is possible, even realistic. What was only dreamed of a few years ago is now achievable, and we can see before us a golden opportunity for peace, security and prosperity for our region.

Let us - together, and with our international partners - waste no time in seizing it. Thank you.