
Putin discusses Syria ceasefire with world leaders by phone

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Vladimir Putin and Bashar Assad held a phone conversation on Wednesday and “discussed various aspects of the Syrian crisis in the light of realization of the Russian-American declaration on cessation of hostilities in Syria beginning February 27,” the Kremlin’s press service said in a [statement](#).

Assad told Putin that his government was ready to help implement a cessation of hostilities. The two leaders also stressed the need to continue fighting Islamic State and the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front, as well as “other terrorist groups,” according to the official Twitter account of the Syrian president.

A ceasefire in Syria was announced Monday by the Russian and US presidents aimed at seeking an armistice in the country, which has been devastated by a five-year-long civil war.

[@RT_com #syrianceasefire](#) to begin on February 27, chance to end bloodshed – [#Putin](#) [FULL STATEMENT]
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The plan implies that the warring sides are obliged to fulfill declared ceasefire obligations. Russia and the US come as guarantors of the deal, assuming a commitment to assert influence on those political forces in Syria they have close ties with, notably Moscow on President Bashar Assad's government and Washington on the Syrian rebel groups.

The Syrian leader confirmed his readiness to promote the ceasefire.

[@RT.com](http://on.rt.com/7522) Syria truce deal must guarantee terrorists don't regroup or receive intl support – Assad
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Both presidents stressed the importance of the continuation of an “uncompromising” fight against Islamic State, Jabhat al-Nusra and other terrorist organizations blacklisted by the UN Security Council.

“ISIS, Jabhat Al-Nursa, and other terrorist organizations designated by the United Nations Security Council, are excluded from the cessation of hostilities. Strikes against them will continue,” Vladimir Putin stressed in a statement on Monday.

The main objective of the Syrian truce is *“to stop the bloodshed and create the ground to move to a political settlement,”* Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday.

While Moscow and Damascus remain in constant contact with each other, and share common ground on the political settlement in Syria, their positions do not coincide completely, Peskov noted.

“Certainly there are differences,” Peskov said.

Moscow and Washington are going to use their influence to bring the sides of the conflict closer to a settlement.

“Bashar Assad remains the only legitimate president of Syria. It goes without saying that he has his own views regarding the different modalities of the Syrian peace settlement,” Peskov said.

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The positions of the sides involved differ greatly, noted the Kremlin spokesman, adding that *“extremely delicate work lies ahead.”* Yet despite all the differences, if political will is applied, Moscow and Washington can reach *“important results”* – as in the case of Syrian chemical weapons – the presidential spokesman said. Vladimir Putin has also held phone talks with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, clarifying in detail the essence of the Syrian peace truce statement of Moscow and Washington.

The Saudi monarch welcomed the agreements and *“expressed readiness to cooperate with Russia to implement them,”* Kremlin said.

On Wednesday, Putin also held phone talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu.
