

# Israel and Syria confirm peace talks

Israel and Syria say they are holding indirect peace talks mediated by Turkey in Istanbul, the first confirmation of negotiations between the long-time enemies in eight years



## ISRAEL-SYRIA RELATIONS SINCE 1947

■ **1947:** Syria rejects UN partition plan for Jewish and Arab states side by side

■ **1948:** State of Israel proclaimed following end of British mandate – Syria and other Arab armies invade

■ **1949:** Israel and Syria sign armistice deal but sporadic hostilities continue

■ **1967:** Israel captures strategic Golan Heights during Six-Day War

■ **1973:** Syria attacks Israel in Middle East War. Syrian attempt to regain Golan Heights repelled

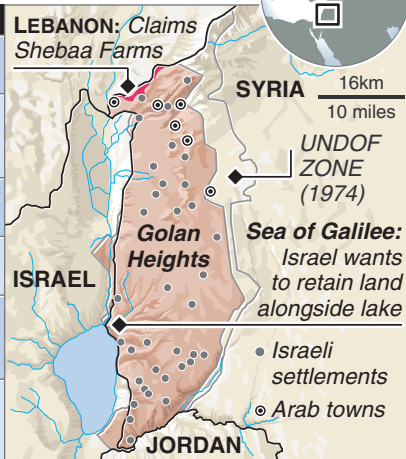
■ **1974:** After postwar clashes on Golan Heights, Syria and Israel sign disengagement of forces agreement

■ **1981:** Israel annexes Golan Heights – move not recognized internationally

■ **1999:** Israeli Prime Minister **Ehud Barak** and Syrian Foreign Minister **Farouk al-Sharaa** meet for highest-level talks between both countries

■ **2000:** Israeli-Syrian talks on return of most of Golan Heights to Syria collapse over disagreements about whether Israel should hand back tiny parcel of land by Sea of Galilee

**LEBANON:** *Claims Shebaa Farms*



**SYRIA** 16km  
10 miles

**UNDOF  
ZONE  
(1974)**

**Sea of Galilee:**  
*Israel wants to retain land alongside lake*

● *Israeli settlements*  
○ *Arab towns*

■ **Jun 2007:** Israel says it is willing to trade land for peace with Syria if President **Bashar al-Assad** cuts ties with Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas

■ **Sep:** Israeli warplanes carry out air strike inside Syria. U.S. alleges attack targeted nuclear reactor Syria was building with North Korean help

■ **May 21, 2008:** Israel and Syria confirm indirect talks aimed at reaching "comprehensive peace agreement"