Indonesia rejects claims of U.S. airspace deal

Indonesia's defence minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin has clarified that Jakarta does not have any commitment with the United States to provide overflight clearance for its military

- **May 19, 2026:** Sjamsoeddin *(right)* says letter signed in April with U.S. Defence Secretary ***Pete Hegseth*** *(far right)* created no binding deal on airspace access
- Clarification follows growing controversy in Indonesia over plan to give U.S. military unrestricted overflight permission
- Indonesia's foreign ministry has warned that proposal could risk entangling Jakarta in potential South China Sea conflicts





- Even limited U.S. military overflight access via Indonesia would enhance Washington's ability to move forces quickly, across key corridor linking Pacific with other theatres



Sources: Antara, Bloomberg, OpsGroup, Reuters, X Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS