

Press Release

## The Visit of the Extremist American Rabbi Asher Lopatin to Syria is a Prelude to a Great Evil Whose Fire Can Only be Extinguished by a Principled, Ideological Stance Against the Jewish Entity and its Occupation of Palestine

(Translated)

On 19 February 2025, a delegation from the Syrian Jewish community in the United States arrived in Damascus, including the community's Chief Rabbi Youssef Hamra, and the extremist American Rabbi Asher Lopatin, along with a number of Syrian Jews residing there. The delegation visited historical and cultural sites, such as the Syrian Jewish cemeteries, the Frankish and Raki synagogues, the Ibn Maimon Jewish School, and the Jobar Synagogue, in a move that observers described as reflecting the delegation's interest in reviving the Jewish presence in the country. The Jewish delegation also held meetings with the Syrian government for the transitional period, including a meeting with the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister, who stressed that "all sects in Syria will play a role in the country's future." Henry Hamra, the son of Rabbi Youssef Hamra, said that the Syrian Foreign Ministry pledged to protect the Jewish heritage in Syria. The director of the Emergency Response Team in Syria, Moaz Mustafa, said that this is the first Jewish delegation to return to Syria in 33 years, adding: "We aim to rebuild synagogues and rally the international community to lift the sanctions." In a message addressed to Syrian Jews around the world, the director of the Emergency Response Team at the Syrian Emergency Organization said that "your homeland is safe, and you can return." Ahmad Badriya, the representative of the head of the stage administration, Ahmad al-Sharaa, sent a message welcoming Syrian Jews to return and participate in building the country within the framework of the new Syria.

Reactions to the visit varied. Activists considered the delegation's visit to have social and cultural dimensions, and that it comes within the efforts to explore the new Syrian government's policies towards minorities, while others considered it an openness towards the Jewish community through several messages, which some considered an attempt to gain international support and reassure the Jewish entity about its future intentions, while others believed that this visit could constitute a prelude to a breakthrough under bright slogans to make Syria permissible as it was during the time of the defunct regime, where agents and conspirators ran rampant.

The issue is not the right of the Syrians to return to their country, but the issue that must be warned against is the Zionist extremists with agendas who are exploiting the circumstances of the stage to start implementing their plans and weaving the threads of their deceit. Anyone who looks at the history of the "extremist" American Zionist Rabbi Asher Lopatin, who was at the forefront of the delegation, sees him as nothing but an

extremist Zionist who is hostile to Islam and Muslims and calls for their eradication and the occupation of their land and holy places. His brazen support for the occupation of Palestine and the Golan Heights and the war of extermination in Gaza is known, and he is one of the godfathers of normalization with the occupation. His support for the naturalization and recruitment of Syrian Druze into the occupation army to kill Arabs and Muslims and steal their lands is also known.

It is also known that the ambitions of the Jewish entity and its expansionist tendencies, with the support of the new pharaoh Trump, who openly declares the right of the Jewish entity to expand its area, and even went with all political scandals and impudence to call for the displacement of the people of Gaza outside Palestine. The malicious efforts of individuals, organizations and countries, within a malicious Zionist Western plan, to penetrate Muslim countries through soft power to create a base for the expansion of the occupation and the expansion of its influence and relations by every possible means, are not hidden.

The position on the occupation of Palestine by the Jews, their usurpation of the sanctities of Muslims, and their shedding of the blood of its people, and on the expansionist plans of the Jewish entity, is a legitimate and principled position imposed by the doctrine of Islam. A usurping entity that does not respect Palestine, its Muslims, or its sanctities, and with which positions of leniency, appeasement, appeasement, or peacemaking and the presentation of credentials are of no use, because they will only bring us more shame and destruction and will embolden our enemies against us. The positions of the honest ones in the Al-Aqsa Flood are well-known, and they have humiliated Netanyahu, the entity, and their soldiers.

For all of this, it was necessary to return the issue to its origin and root, a purely Islamic issue, not specific to a specific country, but rather to all Muslim countries and their people, who have come to fill the squares to push the loyalists in the armies of the Ummah to overthrow the thrones of the conspiring regimes and mobilize the armies after breaking the imaginary borders drawn by the infidel colonizer with his own hands, to liberate the first of the two Qiblahs and the third of the two Holy Sanctuaries, so that all of Palestine may return to being a purely Islamic land, and in that alone is the only radical solution to fulfilling the promise of Allah Almighty to eradicate an entity like the Jews and eliminate their ambitions, and we ask Allah that this will be soon.

Allah Almighty says: **﴿فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ لِيَسُوءُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَلِيُتَبِّرُوا مَا عَلَوْا تَتْبِيرًا﴾** **“And when the second warning would come to pass, your enemies would `be left to` totally disgrace you and enter that place of worship as they entered it the first time, and utterly destroy whatever would fall into their hands.”** [Al-Isra 17:7].

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