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## Russia prioritizes safety of its facilities in Syria amidst ongoing turmoil



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MOSCOW – Russia emphasized the inviolability of its facilities and missions in Syria, including the embassy in Damascus, amidst the country's evolving situation following the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, during a news conference, underscored Moscow's commitment to protecting its citizens and diplomatic, military, and other facilities in Syria. "There is no alternative to compliance with international legal norms governing the status and activities of Russian institutions in Syria," Zakharova stated.

She noted that the Russian Embassy continues operations under "extremely high security threats." Highlighting Syria's entry into a "transition period," she expressed hope for the country's successful navigation of emerging challenges through an inclusive political process. Russian citizens in Syria were advised to exercise caution and avoid crowded areas.

Addressing Israeli airstrikes on Syrian territory, Zakharova criticized these actions as violations of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, further destabilizing the war-torn country.

Syria witnessed a dramatic shift as anti-regime groups seized Damascus, ending the Baath Party's 60-year rule. Bashar al-Assad fled to Russia, marking the conclusion of his 25-year leadership.

In response, Israel launched extensive airstrikes on military sites, including ports at Al-Beida and Latakia, dismantling Syria's naval fleet. The Israeli army also announced temporary control of the Golan Heights buffer zone, citing the agreement's collapse.

Russia's call for adherence to international norms reflects its strategic focus on maintaining stability amid Syria's volatile transition.