THE JETHRO PROPOSITION

JETHRO the Midianite is an ancestor of the Druze people. An advisor to Moses, Jethro was revered for his wise counsel and led his people into the desert to meet Moses and the Israelites after the Exodus. That decency and strength live on in the Druze of southern Syria who have sheltered innocents while laying the foundations of self-governance. As Moses defended Jethro’s daughters in an oasis, the United States and Israel can create a new oasis for the Druze and revive an ancient partnership: a Druze state alongside the State of Israel.

It is in the interest of the United States and the State of Israel to signal their support for a Druze state in the Middle East, one anchored in the territory referred to as “Suwayda” that is adjacent to the Golan Heights and defended by valiant Druze forces.

The Christian population in Syria—one of the oldest in history—has declined by over one million since the start of the Syrian civil war. There are only 300,000 Christians left in Syria[1], and they are in desperate need of protection from HTS[2], ISIS, and the SNA. In the shadow of recent mass killings[3], forced conversions[4], and human trafficking[5], the Druze and Christians[6] communities in Syria are in dire straits but are not past saving.

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[1] "Report: Number of Christians in Syria Dropped from 1.5 Million to 300,000." Syria TV 11-18-22
[2] "Hundreds of Minorities, Including Christians, Killed in Syria—Reports." 3-8-25
[3] "Islamic State persecution of Yazidi minority amounts to genocide, UN says." Arraf 8-8-14
[4] "Isil's Yazidi 'mass conversion' video fails to hide brutal duress." Blair 8-21-14
[5] "When Isis rounded up Yazidi women and girls in Iraq to use as slaves…." Otten 7-25-17
[6] "The abominable massacre of Christians and Alawites in Syria and the urgent need for an immediate and decisive EU response," Mar 11 2025

Syrian Druze and Christians[7] can enjoy freedom in the shadow of the Golan, under Israel's Iron Dome, and with the United States of America at its back. By protecting vulnerable Christians and Druze and dislodging IRGC[8] interests, the Trump administration would add to its momentum toward peace in the Middle East, and President Trump himself could be a hero to oppressed communities like the Druze and Christians across the Middle East. The American–Israeli–Druze partnership that will launch this project is to be rooted in the following:

- An Israel-Druze security partnership backed by the US with aid for Israel as it extends the range of its defenses
- Protection of Christians, Yazidis, and other groups targeted by HTS and ISIS
- Security collaboration with Kurdish allies to the north against IRGC, Erdogan, and ISIS-related threats
- Identifying areas for phosphate extraction[9] (with sales restricted to US and Israel ONLY[10] for security)
- A search for the Apostle Paul's Road to Damascus and protection of other sites

We look forward to a Druze State working side by side with Israel and America, as Jethro and Moses did more than 3,000 years ago.

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[7] "The abominable massacre of Christians and Alawites in Syria and the urgent need for an immediate and decisive EU response," Mar 11 2025

[8] Uranium Recovery from Phosphates. Steiner, Geissler, and Haneklaus. Environmental Science & Technology 2020 *54* (3), 1287-1289

[9] Phosphate Rock, USGS 2021

[10] "Exclusive: Iran Importing Phosphates From Syria To Extract Uranium" in Iran International. May 3, 2023.

Phosphate is one of Syria's most valuable natural resources, and phosphate itself is of concern as a to several members of Congress[11] as a "critical mineral." Already being imported to Iran, Syria's phosphate cannot be ceded to the IRGC or to anti-Western influence.

Minerals in Syria, US Geological Survey 2019

Phosphate Data, US Geological Survey 2021

IRGC importing Syrian phosphate

TOI on Syrian phosphate

PHOSPHATE ROCK

World consumption of P_2O_5 contained in fertilizer and industrial uses was projected to increase to 49 million tons in 2024 from 47 million tons in 2020. Asia and South America are projected to be the leading regions of growth. U.S. consumption of contained P_2O_5 has remained steady at about 4 million tons per year over the past decade.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Reserves for Australia, Brazil, Israel, and Jordan were revised based on company or Government reports. Reserves for Egypt were revised based on information from an independent research organization.

	Mine production 2019	Mine production 2020e	Reserves[4]
United States	23,300	24,000	1,000,000
Algeria	1,300	1,300	2,200,000 *
Australia	2,700	2,700	[5]1,100,000
Brazil	4,700	5,500	1,600,000
China[6]	95,000	90,000	3,200,000
Egypt	5,000	5,000	2,800,000 *
Finland	995	1,000	1,000,000
India	1,480	1,500	46,000
Israel	2,810	2,800	57,000
Jordan	9,220	9,200	800,000
Kazakhstan	1,500	1,500	260,000
Mexico	558	600	30,000
Morocco and Western Sahara	35,500	37,000	50,000,000
Peru	4,000	4,000	210,000
Russia	13,100	13,000	600,000
Saudi Arabia	6,500	6,500	1,400,000
Senegal	3,420	3,500	50,000
South Africa	2,100	2,100	1,400,000 *
Syria	2,000	360	1,800,000
Togo	800	800	30,000
Tunisia	4,110	4,000	100,000
Uzbekistan	900	900	100,000
Vietnam	4,650	4,700	30,000
Other countries	1,140	1,100	840,000
World total (rounded)	227,000	223,000	71,000,000

**Data from USGS 2021*

[11] 4-3-25 Letter regarding Phosphate to Sec Burgum

TABLE 1
SYRIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES[1]

(Thousand metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Commodity[2]		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
METALS						
Iron and steel, raw steel[e]		5	5	5	5	5
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic		1,850	2,450 r	2,120 r	2,150 r	2,200 e
Gypsum[e]		150	150	150	150	150
Nitrogen, N content:						
Ammonia		--	--	20 e	270	270 e
Urea		--	--	20 e	140	150 e
Phosphates:						
Phosphate rock:						
Gross weight		538 r	--	100 e	2,000 r, e	2,000 e
P_2O_5 content, 30% P_2O_5		167	--	30 e	600 r, e	600 e
Products:						
Fertilizers		--	--	30 e	150	150 e
Phosphoric acid		--	--	-- e	20 e	25 e
Pumice and related minerals, volcanic tuff[e]		200	200	200	200	200
Salt[e]		20	25	25	25	40
Stone sand, and gravel, construction:						
Sand and gravel, unspecified[e]		600	600	500	500	500
Stone:						
Crushed:						
Dolomite, refractory grade[e]		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Gravel, including crushed rock[e]		150	150	150	150	150
Marble, materials[e]		90	80	100	100	100
Dimension, marble, block		7	7	8	10 e	10 e
Sulfur:						
Byproduct, natural gas and petroleum, S c	metric tons	NA	NA	NA	44	50 e
Compounds, sulfuric acid:						
Gross weight[e]		21	--	40	50	50
S content		7 e	--	13 e	16 e	20 e
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Natural gas:						
Dry basis	million cubic meters	4,100	3,500	3,400	3,600	3,700
Gross	do.	4,500 e	6,500	8,000 e	10,000	10,000 e
Petroleum:						
Crude, including condensate	thousand 42-gallon barrels	9,855 r	9,125 r	9,125 r	8,760 r	8,760
Natural gas liquids	do.	2,920	2,920	2,920	2,920	2,920

[e]Estimated. [r]Revised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

[1]Table includes data available through August 6, 2020. All data are reported unless otherwise noted. Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

[2]In addition to the commodities listed, clay, natural crude asphalt, and refined petroleum products may have been produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

*Data from USGS 2019