

Syria Peace Conference Possible in Early June

By [The Moscow Times](#)

May 14, 2013

The  Moscow Times

The date of a proposed international conference to end Syria's civil war will likely "slip" back from late May to early June, a U.S. State Department spokeswoman said.

"As you know, there are many different players, many different countries involved here. It looks like it will slip past that to possibly early June. I don't have an exact date at this point," spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters Monday in Washington, according to an online [transcript](#).

The U.S. and Russia announced last week that they would try to arrange an international conference, including anti-government rebels and President Bashar Assad, to end the two-year civil war that is estimated to have killed more than 70,000 people.

But the proposal has reportedly already hit snags, with a senior Kremlin official saying that there is disagreement over who should represent the Syrian opposition, Reuters reported

Saturday.

Sixty-five years ago today, on May 14, 1948, Israel was declared an independent state when David Ben-Gurion, who was born in the Russian Empire and became Israel's first prime minister, read a declaration of independence at a ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum. Israel's current prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was [expected in Russia](#) on Tuesday for urgent talks with President Vladimir Putin on Syria.

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