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Syria Terminates Russian Naval Base Deal – Reports

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The port at Tartus. **Taras Kalapun (CC BY 2.0)**

Syria's new government terminated a treaty granting Russia a long-term military presence in the Mediterranean, a deal brokered under ousted leader Bashar al-Assad, Syrian media reported Tuesday.

The agreement, signed in 2017, extended the Russian Navy's lease on the port of Tartus for 49 years. However, its future became uncertain after Assad was overthrown by Islamist rebels last month.

The de facto authorities in Tartus reportedly annulled the agreement and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces, the Syrian opposition news outlet Shaam reported Monday, citing the regime's ministry of information.

Authorities also said that revenue from the port would "now benefit the Syrian state," reversing the previous agreement under which Russia received 65% of Tartus' profits. The

report added that Syria's new leadership may investigate the treaty's economic impact on the country.

Moscow has not yet issued a statement regarding the reported termination of the Tartus lease.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who ordered military intervention in Syria in 2015 to bolster Assad's regime during the civil war, has sought to downplay the fall of Assad. Putin claimed that Russia had achieved its objectives in Syria despite the regime change.

On Sunday, the new Syrian government reportedly imposed bans on imports from Russia, Iran and Israel.

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