

Official: Israel, Bahrain to establish diplomatic relations today

Israeli, Bahraini delegations to Manama to sign joint communique officially establishing diplomatic relations tonight.



Israel, Bahrain

Israel and Bahrain will officially establish diplomatic relations on Sunday at a ceremony in Manama, an Israeli official said, after the two states reached a US-brokered normalization deal last month.

A visiting delegation from Israel and officials in Bahrain will sign a “joint communique [that] is the establishment of full diplomatic relations,” an Israel official in Manama told reporters.

Once the text is signed at a ceremony scheduled for Sunday evening, Israel and Bahrain will be free to open embassies in each other’s countries, the official said.

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain became the third and fourth Arab states to agree to normalize ties with Israel, following Egypt's peace deal with Israel in 1979 and a 1994 pact with Jordan.

The Palestinian Authority has condemned the Gulf deals with Israel as "a stab in the back" for their aspirations to establish an independent state of their own.

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