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## GERMANY'S BAERBOCK CAUTIONS ON SYRIA AS EU SIGNALS SANCTIONS RELIEF

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By Gordon Repinski and Seb Starcevic

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock warned that regional actors such as Turkey and Israel could threaten Syrias fragile peace, as European and Middle Eastern envoys met in Riyadh on Sunday to discuss lifting EU sanctions.

Turkey is pursuing its own security policy. Im in intensive talks with Israel to convince them to stop their military actions there, Baerbock told POLITICO in an interview. And then, as I said, there are still all these other militias on the ground that have brutally exploited the past years of civil war.

Baerbock, who visited Damascus on Jan. 3, said there were positive signals from Syrias new rulers, saying their pledge to include all actors in the countrys political transition sounds good so far □ but it still remained to be seen if they would follow through.

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