

# Russia Sets Date For Syria Peace Talks in Moscow

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Civilians walk near goods displayed for sale in Aleppo's rebel-controlled Bustan al-Qasr neighbourhood.

The next round of talks in Moscow between the rival sides in the Syrian conflict will take place on April 6-9, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

The first round of Moscow talks did not involve the main insurgents in Syria and were shunned by key Western-backed political opposition groups distrustful of Russia, a long-standing ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

But Washington has since said that a transition in Syria must be negotiated with Damascus, comments that could signal efforts to reignite peace talks over the conflict in which radical Islamists have steadily gained the upper hand.

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