Netanyahu's Visit to UAE Amid Iran–Israel War Controversy



Netanyahu. Photo: BBC

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reportedly made a secret visit to the United Arab Emirates amid the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel, according to his office.

In a statement released on Wednesday (May 13), it was claimed that during the visit he held a meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and that the talks marked significant progress in bilateral relations.

However, the United Arab Emirates has rejected Netanyahu's claim. The country's foreign ministry stated that there is no truth to the reported visit. It emphasized that relations with Israel are conducted through formal and open diplomatic channels, not through secret contacts.

The UAE also reiterated that ties with Israel were normalized in 2020 under the Abraham Accords, brokered by the United States, which were also joined by Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan.

Meanwhile, tensions surrounding the UAE have increased amid the ongoing war. Iran has accused Abu Dhabi of maintaining close ties with Israel and the United States, calling it a threat to its national security, and has also claimed attacks on various locations in the UAE during the conflict.

On the other hand, after the conflict began on February 28, Israel reportedly deployed Iron Dome air defense systems in the UAE. Israeli military personnel were also sent to operate these systems, according to reports.