



[Palestinian President Abbas: Accords Signed with Israel and the U.S. are Void](#)

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has stated that agreements signed with Israel and the United States are void, in light of the newly sworn-in Israeli government contemplating annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank. Abbas made the announcement during an emergency leadership meeting in Ramallah. In his address, which was broadcast on Palestinian television, Abbas also said that he was still ready to negotiate with Israel and remains committed to a two-state solution. The annexation plans being considered by the new Israeli government are in accordance with U.S. President Donald Trump's heavily criticized Mideast Peace Plan and have received widespread international opposition, including most recently from former U.S. Vice President and 2020 presidential candidate Joe Biden.

The remarks by President Abbas come following the formation and swearing-in of a new Israeli government on Sunday, with embattled and criminally-indicted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promising to call for a vote in the Knesset sometime this summer regarding potential annexation of areas in the occupied West Bank. The Jewish settlements there that Netanyahu has expressed a desire to annex are illegal under international law. During his speech in Ramallah, Abbas said in part that "The Palestine Liberation Organization and the State of Palestine are absolved, as of today, of all the agreements and understandings with the American and Israeli governments and of all the obligations based on these understandings and agreements, including the security ones." He also added that the promises by Netanyahu to annex territory constituted Israel's abandonment of the Oslo Accords. Furthermore, Abbas stated that he remains committed to achieving a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the two-state solution.

The Palestinian Authority (PA), led by President Abbas, cut off ties with the White House back in December 2017 after the Trump administration declared that it would move the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Due to that and other biased actions against Palestinians since Trump took office in early 2017, the PA rejects the current American administration as an impartial mediator in its peace talks with Israel. In his comments during the announcement earlier this week, Abbas reiterated that he rejects working with the Trump administration but is open to speaking with other U.S. politicians who do not share the current president's viewpoints on the issue: "We hold the American administration fully responsible for the oppression befalling the Palestinian people and we consider it a primary partner with the Israeli occupation government in all its aggressive and unfair decisions and measures against our people. Yet we welcome all the positions of the other American parties that rejected the policies of this administration that our hostile to our people and their legitimate rights."

The practical implications of Abbas' announcement remain unclear, particularly as we have yet to see whether the new Israeli government decides to move forward with the controversial action of annexation. However, one thing that is certain is that such a move would undoubtedly draw international outrage and condemnation.