



[Egypt Plans to Host an Emergency Arab Summit After Widespread Backlash to Trump's Gaza Takeover Proposal](#)

Egypt announced earlier this week that it is convening an emergency Arab summit in Cairo on Thursday, February 27th to discuss developments in light of U.S. President Donald Trump's widely condemned recent Gaza takeover proposal. Trump's suggestion that the United States take ownership over the territory while also forcibly displacing Palestinians from Gaza into nearby countries such as Jordan and Egypt was met with sharp disapproval and backlash. The two aforementioned nations rejected the plan outright, with their foreign ministers and senior officials expressing steadfast opposition. Additionally, others in the region like Saudi Arabia have relayed their denunciation as well. As a result, Egypt is planning on hosting the summit to try and find possible solutions to push back against the outlandish proposal.

In the lead-up to the unveiling of the planned summit, Egypt's foreign minister had communicated with several counterparts in the Arab world to mobilize regional efforts opposed to Trump's plan and alternatives. One of the ideas believed to be discussed involves a major reconstruction initiative in Gaza and elsewhere across the region that would not displace residents of the Palestinian enclave. Egypt itself has voiced its intention to present a viable and comprehensive alternative. Although rebuke of the Gaza takeover proposal has been almost universal, government officials and diplomats are still taking Trump's words very seriously and thus seeking to address them with the utmost urgency. In fact, the remarks have caused such a stir that it was [reported](#) last week Jordan was prepared to declare war on Israel in the event that Israeli officials attempted to forcibly expel Palestinians into its territory. Sources added that Jordan is eager for a peaceful solution, but that it is adamant borders will be closed if refugees begin to cross over.

Countries like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates are also in unison regarding rejection of the Trump proposal, and even Turkey has joined in as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan commented at a recent conference that ["No one has the power to remove the people of Gaza from their eternal homeland that has been around for thousands of years,"](#) and that "Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem belong to the Palestinians." From a human rights perspective as well, the United Nations has warned that the displacement of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip would be illegal under international law and ["tantamount to ethnic cleansing."](#) Furthermore, UN experts have stated that such a blatant violation would break the global taboo on military aggression and embolden other entities to seize foreign territories – something that would have devastating consequences for peace and human rights globally. They also point out that because the UN's top court has ruled that Israel is an illegal occupier of the Palestinian territories, authorities would have no right to hand over control of Gaza to a foreign power or forcibly displace its citizens.

Regarding the elements of Trump's widely criticized Gaza takeover proposal, the U.S. president and administration officials do not seem to be on the same page about what exactly it entails. It appears as though some have tried to mitigate Trump's remarks, particularly those that have been condemned the most. Last week, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt was questioned on certain aspects of the proposal, and [argued that](#) Trump's plans for Gaza would be contrary to his "America First" policy, and thus tried to walk back some of the president's comments by saying that the relocation of Palestinians would only be "temporary." Her statements do not align with those of Trump who proposed "owning and rebuilding Gaza" and when questioned regarding allowing them

to return to Gaza, he expressed that ["No, they wouldn't because they're going to have much better housing, much better."](#) U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio made comments similar to those of Leavitt about displacing Palestinians and rebuilding Gaza stating ["In the interim, obviously, people are going to have to live somewhere while you're rebuilding it. It is akin to a natural disaster. What he \(Trump\) very generously has offered is the ability of the United States to go in and help with debris removal, help with munitions removal, help with reconstruction — the rebuilding of homes and businesses and things of this nature, so that then people can move back in."](#) Despite all of this, Trump continues to refer to permanent displacement, and therefore the mixed messaging between him and his administration officials gives off the vibe that even the president himself does not know the specifics of what his proposal would consist of.

This week, President Trump met with Jordan's King Abdullah II in which the latter avoided directly contradicting Trump's remarks on his Gaza takeover proposal, but instead alluded to an alternative plan soon to be revealed by Egypt. Meanwhile, reports have suggested that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is unlikely to attend White House talks if Gaza displacement is on the agenda.