

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani Warns Against U.S. Embassy Relocation to Jerusalem



Tehran, December 7 (RHC)-- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has warned the U.S. against relocating its Israel embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem al-Quds, saying the "illegal" move would further destabilize Palestine and the region. During a phone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday, Rouhani called on Islamic states to join hands in opposing the "dangerous" move by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

"We believe, given the current conditions, all Islamic nations must become united and take a serious step in countering this wrong, illegal, provocative and gravely dangerous move by the US," Rouhani said. "There is no doubt that Israel is responsible for all the insecurity and instability [in the region]," he added.

Israel lays claim to the entirety of Jerusalem al-Quds as its "capital" while Palestinians want its eastern part as the capital of a future state for themselves. Palestinian leaders have warned that the potential relocation would fuel strong reaction in the region and deliver a death blow to any prospect of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Describing the issue of Palestine and countering Israeli plots as "priorities" for the Islamic world, the

Iranian head of state invited all "peace-loving" nations to "resist" the Tel Aviv regime's "wrongful measures." Hassan Rouhani also thanked Erdogan for making the phone call and accepted his invitation for an emergency summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul.

Erdogan, in response, expressed concern over Trump's announcement and said the American head of state's "insolence" was due to the "internal discord" between the Islamic nations. Warning that Washington's move would "ratchet up tensions and lead to bad incidents," the Turkish leader added that "the Islamic world needs to express its unity and integrity on this issue."

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