

Palestinians in Gaza rally against Israel-UAE deal



Gaza City, August 20 (RHC)-- Hundreds of Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip rallied against a United States-brokered deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates to normalize ties.

Protesters on Wednesday burned Israeli and U.S. flags, trampled on posters of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Donald Trump, and chanted "Normalization is betrayal to Jerusalem and Palestine."

The demonstrators in Gaza City also voiced support for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas for his rejection of President Trump's Middle East plan, which the Palestinians say unfairly favors Israel. The protest was organized by the Hamas movement, which rules the Gaza Strip, and other factions.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, denounced the deal, and said: "Normalization with the occupation harms us and doesn't serve us. Instead, it serves and promotes the occupation in its projects that target Palestine and the region."

The protests come as Israeli fighter jets bombed the enclave for the eighth consecutive night. Israel warned Hamas it was risking "war" by failing to stop incendiary balloons being launched across the fence with Israel.

Hamas security sources said Israeli fighter jets and drones struck several facilities that belong to the Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the movement.

Last week, Israel banned fuel imports into Gaza as part of punitive measures over the launch of incendiary balloons from the Strip.

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