

Morocco rejects normalization with Israel ahead of Kushner's visit



Moroccans take part in a protest in the capital, Rabat, against US President Donald Trump's so-called deal of the century on February 9, 2020. (Photo by AFP)

Rabat, August 24 (RHC)-- Morocco's prime minister has stressed his country's opposition to any normalization of relations with Israel ahead of a visit by the U.S. president's senior advisor Jared Kushner to the Arab country.

"We refuse any normalization with the Zionist entity because this emboldens it to go further in breaching the rights of the Palestinian people," Saad Dine El Otmani told his Islamist PJD party on Sunday.

His remarks come as U.S. President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in law is expected to fly to Morocco in the coming days as part of a his "multiple-nation visit" to the Middle East that aims to "push Arab-Israeli rapprochement" after Israel and the UAE reached a much-condemned normalization deal.

Morocco has categorically rejected any rumors of normalization, insisting that it will not accept any compromise that undermines the "just Palestinian cause."

Morocco and Israel began low-level ties in 1993 after an accord that purportedly sought to enable "peace" between Israelis and Palestinians was reached. But Rabat suspended ties with the Israeli regime after the outbreak of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

The Associated Press quoted three diplomats as saying that Kushner will also visit Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Israel. According to the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will make a separate regional tour.

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