

# *Jordanian foreign minister says Palestinians cannot be transferred from Gaza*

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Amman, February 13 (RHC)-- Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi has told Al Jazeera that the kingdom will not budge in its opposition to U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal of relocating Palestinians in Gaza to other countries, such as Jordan and Egypt.

His comments come after Jordan's King Abdullah II met Trump in the White House on Tuesday, where the latter reiterated at a news briefing that the US would be taking over the besieged Gaza Strip emptied of its residents, a proposal critics say is effectively ethnic cleansing, the forcible expulsion of people from their homeland.

"There are fixed and steadfast Jordanian positions that will not change ... the Palestinians cannot be transferred to Egypt, Jordan, or any Arab state," Safadi said in an interview with Al Jazeera.

"We will work for a just peace, which cannot take place without the implementation of the two-state solution that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right for freedom and for an independent sovereign state on their Palestinian homeland."

Both Jordan and Egypt have refused to accept forcibly displaced Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Arab nations have all been united in their unyielding opposition to Trump's plan. China has also firmly stated, "Gaza belongs to Palestinians."

During the meeting with Trump, Abdullah avoided directly contradicting Trump, alluding instead to an alternative plan soon to be revealed by Egypt.

When asked whether Jordan would take in Palestinians displaced from Gaza, the Jordanian leader said he would do what was "best" for his country. He added that Jordan would take 2,000 sick Palestinian children who need medical treatment.

Jordan is currently home to more than 2 million Palestinian refugees in its population of 11 million people.

[ SOURCE: AL JAZEERA ]

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