

Palestinians in Gaza protest against Trump's Jerusalem move



Gaza City, Feb 24 (RHC)-- Hundreds of Palestinians have held a fresh rally in the besieged Gaza Strip to express their protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The demonstration was held in Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip after protesters took to the streets following the Friday prayers and chanted slogans. According to the Palestine Red Crescent Society, at least 60 Palestinians were injured during the clashes with Israeli forces.

Tensions have risen in the Palestinian territories since the US president announced Washington's new policy on Jerusalem last December. Trump on December 6 defied global warnings and said Washington formally recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and would begin the process of moving its embassy to the occupied city, breaking with decades of American policy.

His decision infuriated the Palestinians, who declared that Washington could no longer play a role as lead mediator in the Middle East peace process. The move also sparked outrage across the Muslim world, where it was seen as the United States is taking Israel's side on the most contentious issue of the decades-old conflict.

The United Nations General Assembly on December 21 overwhelmingly voted in favor of a resolution that calls on the US to withdraw its controversial recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. The 193-nation assembly adopted the resolution by a decisive vote of 128 to 9, with 35 abstentions.

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Palestinians want the resolution of the conflict with Tel Aviv based on the so-called two-state solution along the pre-1967 boundaries.

Several rounds of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians have collapsed mainly due to Israel's refusal to end the occupation and its continued settlement expansion on occupied lands. Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said in January that the U.S. president's so-called Middle East peace efforts are the "slap of the century" after Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

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