

# *Palestinians Call on Abbas Not to Surrender to Obama's Pressure*

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Gaza, March 17 (RHC-WAFA) -- Palestinian political and popular powers and factions on Sunday called on Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas not to surrender to any pressure exerted on him during his Monday's meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama scheduled for the White House.

Representatives and spokesmen of various opposition factions to the Middle East peace process, including Gaza-ruling Islamic Hamas movement said that the continuation of the U.S. sponsored peace talks "are very dangerous on our cause and on our people."

Sami Abu Zuhri, Hamas spokesman in Gaza said that his movement wishes that Abbas would inform President Obama that the Palestinians are withdrawing from this absurd peace negotiations. He accused the United States of being completely biased to Israel.

Abbas, who arrived in Washington on Sunday, was scheduled to hold talks with U.S. President Barack Obama in the White House to discuss the fate of the Middle East direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Abbas was to discuss the issue of Israel's demand to recognize the state of Israel as a Jewish state -- a pre-condition by Tel Aviv for accepting the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The issue is completely rejected by the Palestinians.

Other issues are related to the expansion of Israel settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and the borders of the future Palestinian state, in addition to the question of the Palestinian refugees' right of return and the question of Palestinians imprisoned in Israeli jails.

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