

African Union denounces Trump's so-called Deal of the Century



Addis Ababa, February 10 (RHC)-- The African Union (AU) has condemned as “illegitimate” U.S. President Donald Trump's so-called Deal of the Century on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, stressing that the plan is in total violation of the United Nations and the African body’s resolutions.

AU Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat said the remarks during the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and the Government of the AU held in the African body’s headquarters in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Sunday.

The so-called plan represented the “umpteenth violation of multiple United Nations and African Union resolutions,” he said, expressing solidarity with “the Palestinian cause.” Mahamat noted that Trump’s plan was prepared without international coordination, stressing that it “trampled on the rights of the Palestinian people”, a line that drew applause in the main hall of the AU’s headquarters.

Trump unveiled his much-delayed and self-proclaimed “Deal of the Century” during an event at the White House alongside Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in Washington on January 28th.

All Palestinian groups have unanimously rejected the U.S. president's highly-provocative initiative that largely meets Israel's demands in the decades-old conflict while creating a Palestinian state with limited control over its own security and borders.

It enshrines Jerusalem al-Quds as "Israel's undivided capital" and allows the regime to annex settlements in the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley. The plan also denies the right of return of Palestinian refugees into their homeland, among other controversial terms.

Palestinian leaders had severed almost all ties with Washington in late 2017 after Trump controversially recognized Jerusalem al-Quds as the so-called "capital" of the Israeli regime.

Also at the AU summit on Sunday, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the outgoing AU chair, said that "the Palestinian cause will always be in the hearts and minds of the people of Africa." Sisi's successor in the African Union, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, for his part, compared the American president's plan to regulations in place during his country's apartheid period.

"As I listened to it and as I read everything that's written about it, it brought to mind the horrible history that we in South Africa have gone through," he said.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the head of the Palestinian Authority (PA), regularly attends the AU summits, but on Sunday he was represented by Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, who reiterated that the position held by Palestinian leaders is that the so-called plan "has no legitimacy whatsoever."

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