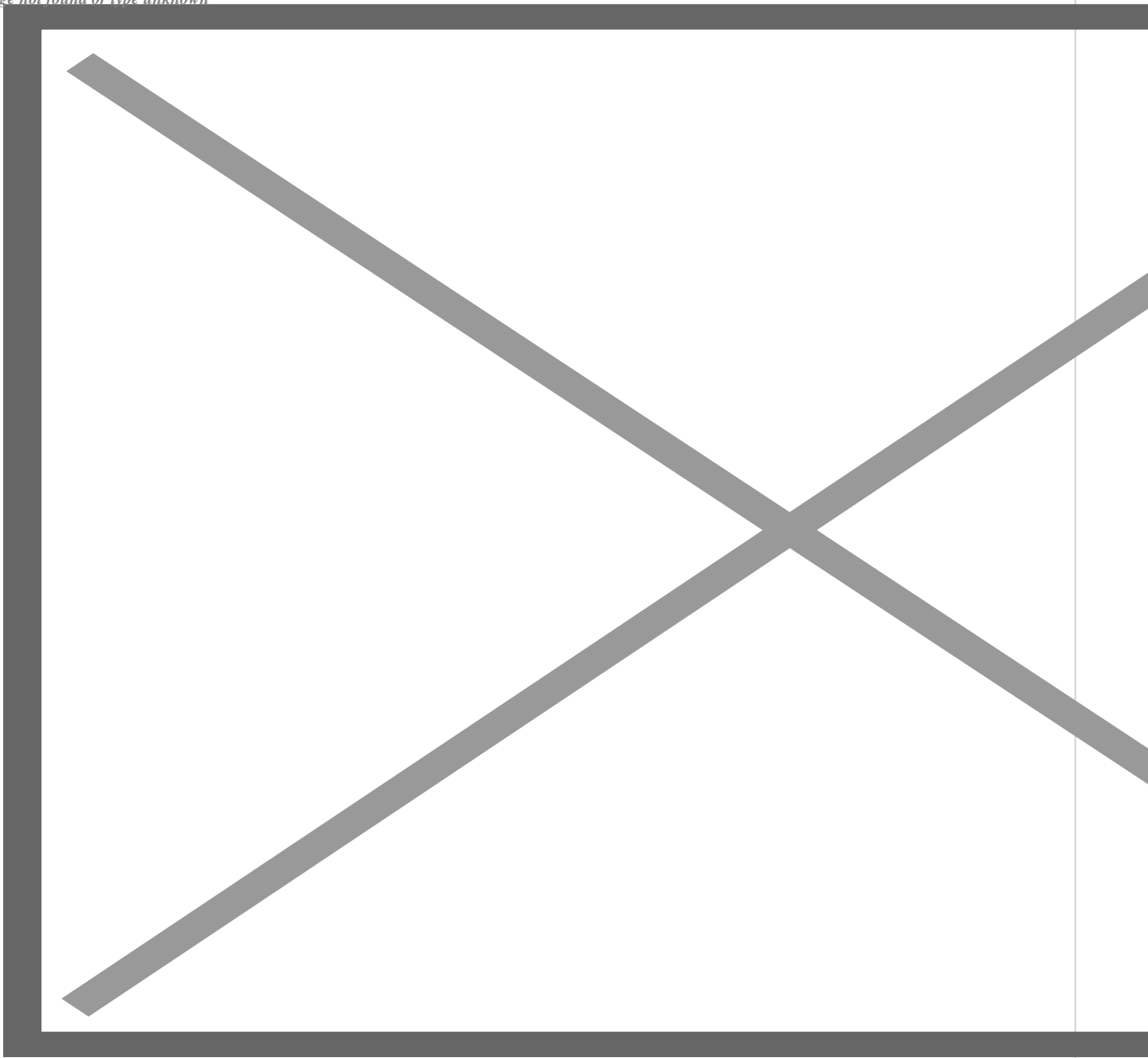


Tunisia rules out normalization with Israel

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Tunisian protest against the the normalization deals with Israel in Tunis [FETHI BELAID/AFP/Getty Images]

Tunis, June 10 (RHC)-- The Tunisian foreign ministry has in a statement refuted reports about back-channel diplomatic talks between the North African country and Israel, describing them as false.

UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia hold animosity toward anyone opposed to Israel, Ansarullah chief say UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia hold animosity toward anyone opposed to Israel, Ansarullah chief says

The leader of Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement says the UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia hold animosity toward anyone hostile to Israel. The ministry in a statement on Thursday said some websites affiliated with the Israeli regime have been spreading these rumors in an attempt to harm the image of Tunisia and its unyielding pro-Palestine position.

The statement declared that Tunisia was not interested in establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, stressing that the country -- on the official and popular level and as stated by President Kais Saied -- will always support the Palestinian people in their struggle until their legitimate rights are restored, foremost of which is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with al-Quds as its capital.

Back in April, dozens of Tunisian lawyers had denounced the Tel Aviv regime's aggression against Palestinian people across the occupied West Bank and the Old City of al-Quds, calling on the North African country's authorities to criminalize the normalization of ties with Israel through a clear and transparent ruling.

In December 2020, the Tunisian foreign ministry reiterated that the country will not follow in Morocco's footsteps to normalize diplomatic ties with Israel and that its position on the Palestinians' legitimate rights will not be affected by any international developments.

The ministry, in a statement published on its Facebook page, dismissed media reports that Tunisia intended to establish ties with the Tel Aviv regime as unfounded and contrary to its principled and official position vis-à-vis the Palestinian issue.

"Tunisia reiterates the firm stance of the President of the Republic, Kais Saied, who has emphasized on several occasions that the rights of the Palestinian people are inalienable, foremost among which is their right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state with al-Quds as its capital," the statement read.

Tunisians feel solidarity with the Palestinian people and strongly support their rights, which have been recognized by numerous United Nations resolutions and various international bodies, especially the UN Security Council and the General Assembly, it added.

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