

Egypt and Jordan urge unity on Gaza, rebuilding without relocation

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Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (R) shakes hands with Jordan's King Abdullah II. (File

photo)

Cairo, February 13 (RHC)-- Egypt and Jordan have underscored unity on the issue of the Gaza Strip, calling for rebuilding the Palestinian territory without relocating Gazans.

U.S. President Donald Trump has proposed to relocate Gaza's entire population before taking over the territory.

In a statement on Wednesday, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II emphasized the "unity" of Cairo and Amman on their position on the fate of Gaza, just a day after the Jordanian leader and Trump held talks in Washington.

"The two leaders affirmed the unity of the Egyptian and Jordanian positions," on the reconstruction of the war-torn territory, "without displacing the Palestinian people from their land," read a statement from the Egyptian presidency.

Separately, the Jordanian royal court said in a statement that Sisi and King Abdullah stressed their "shared position" in rejecting the forced displacement of Gazans.

According to both statements, the two leaders also referred to their willingness to "cooperate" with the U.S. president to achieve "just and lasting peace" in West Asia.

Last week, Trump said the US was seeking Gaza's "ownership" as part of a plan that he wheeled out under the guise of "rebuilding" the war-wrecked Palestinian territory, proposing the relocation of some 2.4 million Gazans to Egypt and Jordan.

Cairo and Amman had earlier strongly rejected the highly provocative plan by Trump, who has threatened he might halt aid to both nations if they refuse to take in Palestinian refugees.

"This is the unified Arab position," King Abdullah wrote on social media following his meeting with Trump on Tuesday, stressing that Jordan remains "steadfast" in its position against the forced relocation of Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Trump's proposal to relocate Palestinians came as a ceasefire agreement has been in place in Gaza since January 19th. His proposal was met with condemnations from the Palestinians, Arab countries, and many other nations across the world, including US allies Canada, France, Germany, and Britain.

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