

Palestine Seeks Resolution against Israeli Settlements



United Nations, April 8 (RHC-ALARABIYA) --The Palestinians have given Arab nations a proposed UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements as an obstacle to peace, the Palestinian UN Mission said Thursday.

The draft resolution was immediately condemned by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who said Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas "is taking a step that will push negotiations further away" to end the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Palestinians refused to provide any details of the text, but said the Security Council has unanimously agreed that Israeli settlements are illegal and it is their responsibility to act on this assessment and adopt a resolution on settlements.

They recalled the Security Council's 14-1 vote on a resolution on settlements in February 2011. It was defeated by a US veto. That resolution would have condemned "illegal" Israeli settlements and demanded an immediate halt to all settlement building.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast War and built settlements there. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, but nearly 600,000 Israeli settlers remain in east Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Peace Now, a dovish Israeli group that tracks settlement construction, said Israel began building 1,800 new settlement homes in the West Bank in 2015.

The Palestinians claim the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem as parts of a future state, a position that has wide global support.

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