

Palestine Upgrade

On November 29th 2012, Palestine was upgraded by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to 'Non-Member State'.

"The case of the Palestinians Authority and the Oslo Accords will be closed....Once we become a recognised state, we will go to all UN agencies to force the international community to take legal action against Israel".

Abbas Zaki, member of Fatah Central Committee, Al-Quds Al-Arabiya, 6/11/2012 (Jerusalem Post, 8/11/2012)

"If Palestine receives status of a non-member state in the General Assembly, there will be positive effects on all levels in the future... Israel will no longer be able to define the occupied territories as disputed lands. They will become lands of a separate, occupied state".

Riad Al-Malik, PA Foreign Minister [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, July 24, 2012]

"We are here for a final serious attempt to achieve peace, not to end the negotiation process, rather to breathe new life into the negotiation process."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, to General Assembly delegates before the vote. 29/11/2012

"Israel's hand is always extended in peace, but a Palestinian state will not be established without recognition of the state of Israel as the state of the Jewish people, without an end-of-conflict declaration, and without true security arrangements that will protect Israel and its citizens".

Benjamin Netanyahu, 29/11/2012

"The fact that the Palestinians tore to shreds their commitments under the Oslo Accords and went to the UN unilaterally is somehow dismissed....The Palestinians want a Palestinian state without peace. Many of these European governments voted for this thinking it may advance peace but in fact this pushes peace backwards because it tells the Palestinians you can get international recognition and international legitimacy without making the necessary compromises for peace."

Benyamin Netanyahu, Israel's PM (Die Welt, Germany, 10/12/2012)

"When we have a state accepted as a member by the UN, this is not the end of the conflict. This is not a solution to the conflict. This is only a new framework that will change the rules of the game".

Abdullah Abdullah, P.A Ambassador to Lebanon, Daily Star, 15/9/2011 (Dailystar.com)