

Ynet-News, November 08, 2020 – Sunday

11.08.20 – Su - - - News Placed in Nov 08 spot – Sunday

PA leader Abbas congratulated Joe Biden & Kamala Harris win to change course

11.08.20 – Su - - - News

Protesters inspired by Biden changing Israel with banner: Trump Down, Bibi to go

11.06.20 – Fr - - - News

EU & UN opposed tent demolition, Biden expected to discard the Trump plan

11.08.20

PA leader Abbas congratulated Joe Biden & Kamala Harris win to change course

11.08.20

Palestinian leader congratulates Joe Biden on election win

Abbas says looks forward to working with the President-elect and his administration to strengthen the Palestinian-American relations and to achieve freedom, independence, justice and dignity for his people

Reuters| Published: 11.08.20 , 11:15

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday congratulated U.S. President-elect Joe Biden in a statement that indicated the Palestinian leadership would drop its three-year political boycott of the White House.

"I congratulate President-elect Joe Biden on his victory as President of the United States of America for the coming period, and I congratulate his elected Vice President Kamala Harris," Abbas said in a statement issued from his office in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

It added: "I look forward to working with the President-elect and his administration to strengthen the Palestinian-American relations and to achieve freedom, independence, justice and dignity for our people, as well as to work for peace, stability and security for all in our region and the world."

The Palestinians have been holding out for a change of U.S. president for three years, hoping for a chance to hit the reset button on relations with Washington.

"We don't expect miraculous transformation, but at least we expect the dangerous destructive policies of Trump to totally stop," said Hanan Ashrawi, a veteran negotiator and member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee.

"It is time to change course," she added. "They should change course and deal with the Palestinian question on the bases of legality, equality and justice and not on the basis of responding to special interests of pro-Israeli lobbies or whatever."

Three years ago Abbas cut off contact with President Donald Trump's White House, accusing it of pro-Israel bias over Trump's decisions to break with decades of U.S. policy by recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moving the U.S. Embassy to the city.

11.08.20

Protesters inspired by Biden changing Israel with banner: Trump Down, Bibi to go

11.08.20

Anti-Netanyahu protesters look for inspiration in Biden victory

Weekly demonstrations calling for PM's ousting over handling of pandemic and corruption charges continue, with many hoping that Trump, who the premier is a close and vocal supporter of, losing the U.S. election could bring change to Israel as well
Associated Press| Published: 11.08.20 , 09:12

Several thousand protestors on Saturday attended the weekly demonstration against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, with some participants expressing hope that Joe Biden's victory in the U.S. presidential race would bring changes in Israel as well.

The protesters have been gathering outside Netanyahu's official residence for over four months, calling on him to resign for his handling of the coronavirus crisis and his ongoing trial on corruption charges.

Netanyahu is one of Trump's closest allies on the international stage, and some protesters hoped that Trump's defeat would spell trouble for the Israeli leader as well. "Trump Down, Bibi to go," read one banner, using Netanyahu's nickname. "Netanyahu, You're Next," read another.

Despite his stated commitment to bipartisan ties with the U.S., Israel's closest and most important ally, Netanyahu has frequently been seen as siding with the Republicans. After taking office, Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, winning praise from Netanyahu.

Trump also delivered a series of additional diplomatic gifts to Netanyahu, including his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. That step, along with moving the U.S. Embassy to the holy city, led the Palestinians to sever ties with the U.S.

Biden has said he will not move the embassy back to Tel Aviv, but has signaled he will take a more even-handed approach toward Iran and the Palestinians.

“I feel that to truly make progress with the peace and negotiation with the Palestinians, which is the most important path of peace, we need a United States that’s more neutral, that’s more a bridge between us and the Palestinians,” said protester Shani Weissman.

In the West Bank, senior Palestine Liberation Organization official Hanan Ashrawi tweeted "America Detrumped! The world also needs to be able to breathe."

In Tel Aviv's Rabin Square, meanwhile, thousands of people attended a memorial service marking the 25th anniversary of the assassination of late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was gunned down at the central plaza in 1995 by Jewish ultranationalist Yigal Amir - who opposed his peacemaking with the Palestinians.

11.06.20

EU & UN opposed tent demolition, Biden expected to discard the Trump plan

11.06.20

Israel criticized over West Bank home demolitions

EU representative says demolition of Bedouin village in the northern Jordan Valley, housing 74 people, including 41 minors, is a violation of international law

Associated Press| Published: 11.06.20 , 20:44

Israel has come under heavy criticism after the military demolished several homes and other structures in a Bedouin community in the West Bank this week as much of the world’s attention was focused on the U.S. election.

On Friday, a group of European diplomats visited the community of Khirbet Humsu in the northern Jordan Valley in a show of support for the Palestinian community against what an EU representative said was a violation of international law.

Israeli troops with bulldozers and heavy equipment on Tuesday — U.S. Election Day — demolished 18 tents and other structures that housed 74 people, including 41 minors, according to the Israeli rights group B’Tselem. The Israeli military said the structures were built without permission.

B’Tselem said the troops also demolished livestock enclosures, storage sheds, cooking tents, solar panels, water containers and feeding troughs, and that they confiscated 30 tons of livestock feed, a vehicle and two tractors.

Abed al Ghani Awad, a resident of the impoverished Bedouin community, said life was already difficult before the demolitions.

“We suffer from all different kinds of weather, heat and cold and water scarcity,” he said, adding that the closest source of water is 14 kilometers (9 miles) away.

European Union Representative Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff, who led the delegation, said it was “very clear” that the demolition of the structures “is contrary to international law.”

Yvonne Helle, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories, said in a statement earlier this week that it was the single largest demolition of its kind in the past decade.

“Their vulnerability is further compounded by the onset of winter and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” she said of the Bedouins of Khirbet Humsu. “Some of the demolished structures had been donated as humanitarian assistance.”

The IDF body in charge of civilian affairs in the West Bank says an “enforcement activity” was carried out against seven tents and eight pens that were illegally constructed in a firing range. It declined to respond to questions about the broader policy of home demolitions.

Israel seized the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War and has established Jewish settlements there that are now home to nearly 500,000 people. The West Bank is home to more than 2.5 million Palestinians and is seen as the main component of a future Palestinian state.

The Jordan Valley is home to around 60,000 Palestinians, according to the U.N., but nearly 90% of the land is part of what is known as Area C, the three-fifths of the West Bank under complete Israeli control. In the Jordan Valley, it includes closed military areas and around 50 agricultural settlements housing some 12,000 Israelis.

Palestinians are barred from those areas, and even on the lands they own, they are forbidden from digging wells or building any kind of infrastructure without hard-to-get military permits. From 2009 until 2016, less than 2% of more than 3,300 permit applications in Area C were successful, according to Peace Now, an Israeli anti-settlement group, citing official statistics.

Palestinians who build without authorization are at risk of having their homes and other structures destroyed at any time, even years after they have been erected.

Even before the demolitions in Khirbet Humsu, B’Tselem said 111 homes have been destroyed in the West Bank so far this year — the highest annual number since 2016 — leaving 458 people homeless, including 228 minors.

The demolitions underscore Israel’s total control of the Jordan Valley despite its decision to pause its intentions to extend its sovereignty over the area as part of a U.S.-brokered agreement reached earlier this year to normalize relations with the United Arab Emirates. U.S. President Donald Trump’s Mideast plan, which overwhelmingly favors Israel and was rejected by the Palestinians, would allow Israel to extend its sovereignty over up to a third of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley. Israel insists the move has only been paused temporarily.

Former Vice President Joe Biden is opposed to the plan. He is expected to discard the Trump plan if he becomes president and press Israel and the Palestinians to resume peace talks.