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### US warns of possible terror attacks in Israel amid Eurovision frenzy

Ahead of the anniversary of US Embassy opening in Jerusalem, which coincides with Eurovision in Tel Aviv and Nakba Day, the Americans warn their citizens currently in Israel to exercise extra caution

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The US embassy in Israel issued a security alert late Monday evening, urging all American citizens in Israel to exercise caution and avoid traveling to areas affected by rocket fire in the latest deadly flare-up between Hamas and Israel. The warning comes ahead of the anniversary of US Embassy opening in Jerusalem - which coincides with the week-long Eurovision festivities.

"Terrorist groups may choose the anniversary, which coincides with the Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv and Nakba Day, to conduct violent protests or an attack," said the statement posted on US Embassy's official site.

On Sunday, Israel officially kicked off the Eurovision week in Tel Aviv, with thousands of police, Magen David Adom medics and stewards being deployed to the Eurovision village as some 300,000 tourists expected to visit the city during the week-long event.

"Security incidents can occur well beyond Gaza ... and at any time, as demonstrated by the May 3-5 rocket attacks in southern Israel, including the cities of Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Be'er Sheva, and the March 14 and March 25 rocket attacks in central Israel," it said.

In last week's round of cross-border fighting, which erupted last weekend, Palestinian militants fired more than 700 rockets into Israel, killing four Israeli civilians, the first Israeli fatalities from rocket fire since the 50-day war in 2014, known in Israel as Operation Protective Edge. Israel Defense Forces retaliated with massive airstrikes on Gaza, killing 25 Palestinians, most of whom are believed to be militants.

"As security incidents, including rocket fire, often take place without warning, US citizens are strongly encouraged to remain vigilant and take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness," the statement added. "In the event of mortar and/or rocket fire, a Red Alert siren may be activated. Treat all such alerts as real; follow the instructions from local authorities and seek shelter immediately.

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US Mideast envoy says 'deal of the century' to be delayed once more

Jason D. Greenblat says the Trump administration's long-delayed proposal will not be unveiled after the holy month of Ramadan as was reported earlier but rather after the Jewish holiday of Shavuot on June 10

Ynet|Published: 05.12.19 , 09:22

US Special Mideast Envoy Jason D. Greenblatt said Saturday the Trump administration's long-delayed peace proposal, dubbed "the deal of the century" will not be unveiled until mid-June after the Jewish holiday of Shavuot.

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Last month, reports suggested White House senior adviser Jared Kushner - the plan's architect - planned to unveil the proposal after Israel forms a governing coalition in the wake of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's election victory and after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ends in early June.

"One thing we won't do, the Trump administration won't compromise on Israel's security," he said in an interview with Fox News.

Greenblatt also spoke Thursday at a UN meeting meant to condemn Israeli military's action during the latest round of cross-border fighting in Gaza, which left four Israeli civilians dead. The meeting - during which Palestinian foreign minister also gave a speech - was held on Israel's 71st Independence Day, making it deliberately antagonistic, according to Greenblatt.

"I'm not a believer in boycotts but in engagement ... It's outrageous to hold a meeting like this without addressing the attacks on Israel. This from a body who would not condemn Hamas several months ago," Greenblatt said in the interview.

Greenblatt also lamented the Palestinian Authority's dismissive attitude toward the peace plan, saying the rejection of the proposal only harms the ordinary citizens. "It's terribly frustrating for ordinary Palestinians," he said. "I meet with them frequently, and this is the message they tell me. They understand they may not like aspects of the plan but are upset that their leaders are saying they won't even take a look at it. I feel terrible for the Palestinian people."

The 53-year-old emphasized the plan encompasses "all the core issues" and includes both political and economic proposals. "It's both political and economic plan," he said. "Once everyone has read and given their thoughts on it, there is still a long way to go before a final signing agreement, and that will be up to the parties themselves to negotiate."

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### Abbas aide: U.S. peace plan will fail without Palestinian statehood

Comment comes after White House announces June summit to unveil first stage of Mideast peace plan; PA says wasn't consulted about conference, which will not discuss final borders, Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees or Israeli security demands

Associated Press|Published: 05.20.19 , 12:24

Any American peace plan that ignores the Palestinian people's political aspirations for an independent state is doomed to fail, a senior Palestinian official said Monday -- boding poorly for a Mideast peace conference in Bahrain, planned next month.

The comments by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' spokesman immediately cast a cloud over the conference, which is expected to take place in late June in the tiny Gulf Arab state of Bahrain.

"Any plan without a political horizon will not lead to peace," Nabil Abu Rudeineh said.

The White House announced Sunday it will unveil the first phase of its long-awaited Mideast peace plan at the conference, to be held in Bahrain saying it will focus on economic benefits that could be reaped if the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is resolved.

The plan envisions large-scale investment and infrastructure work, much of it funded by wealthy Arab countries, in the Palestinian territories.

But officials said the June 25-26 conference will not include the core political issues at the center of the conflict: final borders, the status of Jerusalem, the fate of Palestinian refugees or Israeli security demands.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said Monday that the PA has not been consulted about the conference.

"The cabinet wasn't consulted about the reported workshop, neither over the content, nor the outcome nor timing," Shtayyed told Palestinian ministers in Ramallah in the presence of reporters.

He did not immediately say whether Palestinians would attend the event in Manama, which U.S. officials have predicted will include representatives and business executives from Europe, the Middle East and Asia, as well as some finance ministers.

"The financial crisis the Palestinian Authority is living through today is a result of the financial war that is being launched against us in order to win political concessions," Shtayyeh told the cabinet.

"We do not submit to blackmail and we don't trade our political rights for money."

The prime minister reiterated core Palestinian demands for a two-state peace deal with Israel, which include gaining full control of the West Bank and Hamas-ruled Gaza, as well as East Jerusalem.

But breaking from the policies of its predecessors, the Trump administration has refused to endorse a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Palestinians, who severed ties with the U.S. over a year ago, after the US moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, have repeatedly expressed fears that the White House will try to buy them off with large sums of investment in exchange for freezing their demands for an independent state.

They believe the U.S. is trying to rally support from other Arab countries to bully them into accepting a plan they see as unacceptable.

In a joint statement with Bahrain, the White House said the gathering will give government, civil and business leaders a chance to rally support for economic initiatives that could be possible with a peace agreement.

"The Palestinian people, along with all people in the Middle East, deserve a future with dignity and the opportunity to better their lives," President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, said in a statement Sunday. "Economic progress can only be achieved with a solid economic vision and if the core political issues are resolved."

Kushner and Trump's Mideast envoy, Jason Greenblatt, have been leading efforts to draft the plan, but after more than two years of work, they have not released any details.

A senior administration official in Washington told reporters Sunday that invitations to the conference are being sent to individuals in the United States, Europe, the Gulf, the wider Arab world and "some" Palestinian business leaders. The official spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal announcement.

It was not known if Abbas' Palestinian Authority was being invited. There also was no immediate comment from Israel.

In the absence of direct talks with Palestinian leaders, U.S. officials often talk of engaging private Palestinians and "civil society" groups. It remains unclear who these contacts are or whom they represent.

Trump's ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, has embraced a group led by West Bank settlers that is seeking to promote business ties with Palestinian partners. Avi Zimmerman, the head of the Judea and Samaria Chamber of Commerce, said he had not received an invitation to Bahrain, but believes the group's programs will be presented.

Without a formal address on the Palestinian side, it is also unclear how any large-scale projects would be carried out. It also was not known how any projects would be carried out in the Gaza Strip. The U.S. and Israel consider Gaza's Hamas rulers to be a terrorist group and have no direct contacts with them.

The Palestinians have already said they would reject any peace plan offered by the U.S., saying Trump is unfairly biased toward Israel.

Kushner said it has been disheartening that the Palestinian leadership has attacked the plan before it's unveiled.

Earlier this month, Kushner insisted that the plan he's helped craft is a very detailed, fresh approach that he hopes will stimulate discussion and lead to a breakthrough in solving the decades-old conflict.

At a think tank in Washington, Kushner described it as an "in-depth operational document" not anchored to previous, failed negotiations, high-level political concepts or stale arguments.

in 'no rush' to restart trade talks

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KEY POINTS

Beijing is in "no rush" to resume trade talks between the U.S. and China, according to the South China Morning Post.

Chinese analysts say China is prepared to suspend talks if President Trump isn't "prepared to be realistic," the newspaper says.

China invited Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to Beijing for continued talks but an international relations expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences says "there is no need to get into frantic calculations about when he will come if the US continues to lack sincerity."

GP: Donald Trump Xi Jinping US China trader

China's President Xi Jinping (L) and US President Donald Trump review Chinese honour guards during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on

Beijing is in “no rush” to resume trade talks between the U.S. and China, the according to the South China Morning Post.

After CNBC’s Kayla Tausche reported on Friday that trade talks between the U.S. and China have stalled, Chinese analysts said China is prepared to suspend meeting if President Donald Trump wasn’t “prepared to be realistic,” the Chinese newspaper said Saturday.

I would caution investors from trading against the headlines, says market pro China invited the U.S. delegation to Beijing, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin appeared open to the offer, but no schedule was set, and CNBC reported the negotiations were “in flux.” The South China Morning Post said the Chinese state media have now “gone on the offensive.”

“There is no need to get into frantic calculations about when he will come if the US continues to lack sincerity. After all, enough has been said by both sides in so many rounds of discussions,” Tao Wenzhao, an international relations expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the newspaper.

Peking University international relations professor Jia Qingguo told the newspaper: “The standoff should last for a while because the US has refused to make even the slightest compromise – to a point that is somewhat unreasonable.”

The trade war has heightened since China put retaliatory tariffs on \$60 billion of American goods in response to Trump hiking tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese products. Investors are bracing for potential new tariffs to go into place by the U.S.

Futures prices were pointing to a 170-point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average at Monday’s opening.

— Read the full South China Morning Post article here.

WATCH: Missed best chance to do something about China by pulling out of TPP

White House Counsel and Assistant to the President for U.S. President Donald Trump, Donald McGahn, as Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh testifies before the US Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, September 27, 2018. Trump directs former White House counsel Don McGahn not to testify after Democrats issue subpoena

Chipmaker stocks plunge on report that companies are dropping business with big customer Huawei  
Yun Li42 MIN AGO