

## Aide: Palestinian Abbas not threatens to resign

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An aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday denied reports that Abbas has threatened to quit if the Palestinians reach no peace deal with Israel

"These claims have no basis of reality," said Tayeb Abdel Rahim, Secretary General of the Palestinian Presidency.

Israeli media reported that Abbas has threatened to resign during a recent phone conversation with U.S. President Barack Obama because Washington has failed to press Israel to abide by the peace process.

"The talk between Abbas and Obama was friendly and frank and the President (Abbas) did not talk about resignation," Abdel Rahim said.

Abbas stressed the Palestinian demands that Israel should stop settlements, endorse the two-state solution and return to the negotiating table, he said.

Israeli media "seeks to make troubles and confusion in the Palestinian arena in a bid to evade Israel's commitments and obligations," Abdel Rahim said.

He disclosed that U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will visit the region "soon" in a bid to help restart peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Palestinians refuse to resume peace negotiations as Israeli settlement activities bite into lands supposed to be part of the future Palestinian statehood.

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