

# World reacts to Jerusalem move

Arabs, Europe and UN reject Trump's decision to move US embassy in Israel

LONDON — Arabs and Muslims across the Middle East on Wednesday condemned the US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as an incendiary move in a volatile region and Palestinians said Washington was abandoning its leading role as a peace mediator.

The European Union and United Nations also voiced alarm at US President Donald Trump's decision to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and its repercussions for any chances of reviving Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Major US allies came out against Trump's reversal of decades of US and broad international policy on Jerusalem.

France rejected the "unilateral" decision while appealing for calm in the region. Britain said the move would not help peace efforts and Jerusalem should ultimately be shared by Israel and a future Palestinian state. Germany said Jerusalem's status could only be resolved on the basis of a two-state solution.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Wednesday that he is "against any unilateral measures that would jeopardize the prospect of peace for Israelis and Palestinians."

"Jerusalem is a final status issue that must be resolved through direct negotiations between the two parties on the basis of the relevant Security



**The destiny of Jerusalem is not determined by the US president."**

**Saeb Erekat,**  
secretary-general of Palestine Liberation Organization

Council and General Assembly

resolutions," the UN chief said.

The status of Jerusalem is home to sites holy to the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths. Its eastern sector was captured by Israel in a 1967 war and annexed in a move not recognized internationally. Palestinians claim East Jerusalem for the capital of an independent state they seek.

Israel, by contrast, applauded Trump's move. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a prerecorded video message that it was "an important step toward peace" and it was "our goal from Israel's first day."

Shortly after Trump's announcement, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rejected the US decision, saying it will not give any legitimacy to Israel in this matter.

He said the US is ignoring and contradicting "the inter-



**Ismail Haniyeh (third from right),** chief of Hamas movement, joins a protest against US President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, in Gaza, on Wednesday. PROVIDED BY XINHUA

national consensus expressed by the positions of various countries of the world".

Palestine Liberation Organization Secretary-General Saeb Erekat also slammed the move, saying "the destiny of Jerusalem is not determined by the US president".

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang on Wednesday said that the status of Jerusalem is sensitive and complicated, urging all parties concerned to exercise caution for peace and tranquillity in the Middle East.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday that the US move is leading to a split in the international community. The Saudi Royal Court

issued a statement saying that the kingdom followed "with deep sorrow" Trump's decision and warned of "dangerous consequences of moving the US embassy to Jerusalem".

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani slammed the move as "illegal" and would further destabilize the Middle East, holding Israel "responsible for all the insecurity and instability" in the region.

Protests broke out in parts of Jordan's capital Amman inhabited by Palestinian refugees, with youths chanting anti-American slogans. In the Baqaa refugee camp on Amman's outskirts, hundreds roamed the streets denouncing Trump and urging Jordan

to scrap its 1994 peace treaty with Israel. "Down with America. ... America is the mother of terror," they chanted.

Angry Palestinians switched off Christmas lights at Jesus' traditional birthplace in the West Bank town of Bethlehem and in Ramallah. A tree adorned with lights outside Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, where Christians believe Jesus was born, and another in Ramallah, next to the grave of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, were plunged into darkness.

All Palestinian factions called for a general strike and protest rallies at midday on Thursday.

REUTERS-XINHUA

# US asks Israel to restrain response over its recognition

WASHINGTON — The United States is asking Israel to temper its response to the US recognition of Jerusalem as its capital because Washington expects a backlash and is weighing the potential threat to US facilities and its people, according to a State Department document seen by Reuters on Wednesday.

"While I recognize that you will publicly welcome this news, I ask that you restrain your official response," the document dated Dec 6 said in talking points for diplomats at the US embassy in Tel Aviv to convey to Israeli officials.

"We expect there to be resistance to this news in the Middle East and around the world. We are still judging the impact this decision will have on US facilities and personnel overseas," the document said.

A second State Department document seen by Reuters, which was also dated Dec 6, said the agency had formed an internal task force "to track worldwide developments" following the US decision on Jerusalem.

A US official who spoke on condition of anonymity said it was standard to set up a task force "anytime there is a concern about the safety and security of US government personnel or US citizens".

Trump reversed decades of US policy by recognizing Jeru-

salem as the capital of Israel, imperiling Middle East peace efforts and upsetting US friends and adversaries alike.

The first document also laid out talking points for officials at the US consulate general in Jerusalem, the US embassies in London, Paris, Berlin and Rome and the US mission to the European Union in Brussels.

## 'Final status'

In its message for the European capitals, the document asked European officials to argue that Trump's decision did not prejudice so-called "final status" issues that Israel and the Palestinians need to hammer out in any peace agreement.

"You are in a key position to influence international reaction to this announcement and we are asking you to amplify the reality that Jerusalem is still a final status issue between Israelis and Palestinians and that the parties must resolve the dimensions of Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem during their negotiations," it said.

"You know that this is a unique administration. It makes bold moves. But it is bold moves that are going to be needed if peace efforts are finally going to be successful," it said.

REUTERS

## Advertorial

# China Marine Economy Expo to float the boats of 2017 visitors

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The annual China Marine Economy Expo will swing into action again in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province, on Dec 14-17, to promote global marine industrial communications and development.

Hosted by the State Oceanic Administration and Guangdong provincial government, the expo is the only State-level comprehensive marine-themed expo in China.

This year, the fair is expected to attract more than 3,000 exhibitors and more than 50,000 professionals from both home and abroad. The total number of visitors should exceed 300,000, according to the event's organizers.

Organizers said that this year's fair will combine exhibitions with trade, compared with previous shows which focused purely on exhibitions.

The Zhanjiang government signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement with the China Foreign Trade Center, the organizers of China Import and Export Fair, or Canton Fair, in September, aimed at upgrading the annual grand gathering for the marine industry.

Officials said that Zhanjiang hoped the new partnership could turn the expo into a more professional and international event.

The 2017 fair will have five zones — the national pavilion zone, industrial pavilion zone, tourism and culture demonstration zone, a goods exhibition and trading zone as well as a zone for people to experience new products or services.

The show will focus on demonstrating the latest



**The Zhanjiang government** signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement with the China Foreign Trade Center in September, aiming at upgrading the annual China Marine Economy Expo. CHEN YU / FOR CHINA DAILY



**Expo visitors** look at models of a marine project located in Zhanjiang. LI JUNDE / FOR CHINA DAILY



**Children** look at penguin specimens at the 2016 China Marine Economy Expo. CHEN XIAOQING / FOR CHINA DAILY

innovation in marine vessels, port logistic services, marine energy, marine engineering equipment, marine technology and tourism, as well as other areas.

It will also display state-of-the-art technologies in the

marine services sector, such as maritime information, the application of big data, positioning and navigation.

Leading companies in the marine industry, including China Shipbuilding Industry Corp and China National

Petroleum Corp, will display their latest products and industrial solutions in the four-day expo. Some financial service providers will also attend the exhibition.

Apart from showing visitors the latest products and

services, the fair will provide information for people to learn about new trends in the marine industry.

The State Oceanic Administration will release a China Ocean Economic Development Index and invite lead-

**300,000**  
visitors

will visit the 2017 China Marine Economy Expo on Dec 14-17

**City claims top scorecard**

Zhanjiang, in South China's Guangdong province, reported outstanding results in promoting marine economy development in 2016.

The output value of its marine economy reached 125.8 billion yuan (\$19 billion) in 2016, an increase of 65.4 billion yuan year-on-year.

It ranked No 3 among all the cities in Guangdong.

The output value of its fishing industry was 4.46 billion yuan last year. There are 32 fishing ports and 11,173 registered fishing boats in the city, the largest number in the province.

Zhanjiang is one of China's leading prawn breeding and baby prawn supply centers. It also has the largest offshore deep-water cage breeding base in Guangdong.

Officials said industries linked to the marine sector reported significant growth in the past few years.

The city has paid significant attention to developing five industries. These are modern steel production, petroleum, paper making, logistics and tourism. It has also made significant investments in marine infrastructure construction such as ports.

Zhanjiang has long promoted the protection of its marine environment, to achieve sustainable development.

There are 22 natural marine environment protection zones in the city, which covered 136,000 hectares at the end of 2016.