

Clinton reiterates U.S. commitment to Israel's security, Middle East peace

Written by Administrator



Palestinian youths hurl stones at an Israeli army vehicle during clashes in the West Bank village of Jaba on Nov. 11 during an Israeli army incursion. (SAIF DAHLAH/AFP/Getty Images)

United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reiterated her country's unshakable commitment to Israel's security and to peace in the Middle-East.

A lengthy discussion between Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York on Nov. 11 agreed on the importance of continuing direct Middle-East peace negotiations

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to achieve the goal of "a two-state solution."

A joint statement issued after the talks said the leaders decided that both America and Israel would work closely together in the coming days toward that end.

Clinton reiterated that "the United States believes that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state, based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps."

At the same time, she made it clear that the deal should ensure "the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements." Those requirements will be fully taken into account in any future peace agreement, Clinton added.

The U.S. initiated direct peace negotiations are currently dead-locked over Israel's refusal to extend a settlement construction moratorium in West Bank after it expired on Sept. 26.

The Palestinians have given the United States until the end of November to resolve the issue.

Adding to the Palestinian concerns, Israel recently announced plans to build 1,300 new Jewish homes in occupied East Jerusalem, which the West Bank projects as its future capital.

(RTTNews)