

December 15, 2017

PA President Abbas rejects bilateral talks with Israel

On December 13, PA President Mahmoud Abbas delivered a blistering speech to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in response to President Trump's Dec. 6 recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital—a policy long supported by bipartisan majorities in Congress. President Abbas demanded that countries “review their recognition of the State of Israel” and consider breaking off diplomatic relations, and declared that Palestinians would no longer be bound by previous agreements with Israel. Abbas also denied any historical Jewish connection to Jerusalem, stating, “It is a Palestinian Arab Muslim Christian city, the eternal capital of the state of Palestine.” He went on to falsely accuse Israel of violating the status quo at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. In addition, Abbas rejected direct, bilateral talks with Israel and announced his intent to use the international community to impose conditions on Israel. He called on countries to support Palestinian efforts to “join all international organizations and treaties as a natural right for them in order to affirm the existence of the State of Palestine in the international system.” Abbas has also refused to meet with Vice President Mike Pence during the vice president's upcoming trip to the region.

Our Synagogue partners with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby, in educating our community on issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. We encourage you to learn more by contacting AIPAC at synagogue@aipac.org or by visiting www.aipac.org.