

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2011 4:19 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: UPDATE: Palestinian spokesman agrees to talks only under settlement freeze (Reuters)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Sunday, October 09, 2011 04:11 PM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O
Subject: UPDATE: Palestinian spokesman agrees to talks only under settlement freeze (Reuters)

BRUSSELS, Oct 9 (Reuters) - In response to Ashton's statement, Nabil Abu Rdainah, a spokesman for Abbas, said that if Israel "recognises the 1967 borders and freezes settlements, we are ready to go immediately" to talks the EU seeks to convene.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli official contacted by Reuters would not comment on the planned invitation, but suggested Israel would be ready to attend if no conditions were attached.

Israel has "repeatedly expressed its willingness to start direct peace talks with the Palestinians face to face without any preconditions whatsoever," the official said. He added: "We hope the Palestinians will be ready, too."

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.