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Istanbul Declaration announces East Jerusalem as capital of Palestine



Istanbul Declaration denounces Trump's 'unlawful' decision on Jerusalem

ISTANBUL - The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) issued a declaration on Wednesday recognizing East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. The "Istanbul Declaration" dubbed "Freedom for Jerusalem" was issued Wednesday evening after an extraordinary summit held in

Istanbul. "We confirm that we recognize the state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, and call the world to recognize East Jerusalem as the occupied capital of Palestine," the declaration read. The declaration also rejected and condemned

the "unlawful" decision of the U.S. president. It added that it was "not possible to give up on an independent and sovereign Palestine state, with East Jerusalem as its capital." "[...Trump's decision on Jerusalem] is null and void on the basis of history, laws and conscience," the declaration said.

"We call on the UN, EU and members of the international community to look after UN resolutions on Jerusalem's status," it added. In the declaration, the OIC welcomed the "peaceful resistance" that was shown by the people of Palestine against the break-in attempt to the Temple Mount in July. **MORE DETAILS**



Minister Simsek warns against bitcoin

Deputy prime minister's warnings come in the wake of bitcoin's skyrocketing value -- up more than 1,600 percent this year

Turkey's deputy prime minister on Wednesday warned investors against betting on cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin. "Bitcoin surpasses tulip mania, which was the biggest asset bubble in the history of finance," Mehmet Simsek said on Twitter, referring to the 17th-century Dutch craze

for tulips. While the price of Bitcoins can suddenly rise to an extreme level, "it can also collapse later," he warned. Tulip mania took hold of the Netherlands in the 1630s when prices of the flower bulbs rose sky high before collapsing in a spectacular fashion. **MORE DETAILS**

Erdogan: US mediation no longer possible



ISTANBUL - President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday an Istanbul summit of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) had showed the world Jerusalem had not been "abandoned". "I believe with this historic summit, we showed the world, as well as decision-makers, that Jerusalem has not been abandoned," Erdogan told during a news conference in Istanbul following the extraordinary OIC summit.

Erdogan reiterated Jerusalem was a "red line" for Muslims and U.S. President Donald Trump's recent move had "no value". "We... along with the 1.7-billion Islamic world, once again confirm that we have rejected the decision of the American administration." Ruling out U.S. mediation between Israel and Palestine, Erdogan said it was no longer possible for Americans to play a mediation role in... **MORE DETAILS**

Abbas rules out US role in peace process

ISTANBUL - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday said his country would not accept a future role for the U.S. in the Middle East peace process. The declaration came in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital last week. "We will never allow the U.S. role in the future peace process," Abbas told a special meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul. The president added that Palestinians

did "not want American mediation anymore." Turkey is hosting the 57 member OIC following the U.S. decision, which has been widely condemned by world leaders. The summit is expected to develop a unified Muslim position on Trump's policy shift. Abbas said that Jerusalem "is and always will be the capital of Palestine" as he called on the world to acknowledge the city as such. "Peace will not come unless Jerusalem is recognized as Palestine's... **MORE DETAILS**

