

# Trump aims to ...

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## INTERVIEW

**Page 1** > However, according to international law, forced population transfer and the forcible acquisition of territory are strictly prohibited and violate the UN Charter. Notably, the dual behavior of some Arab countries regarding the Gaza issue is a point of interest. While Arab countries remained largely silent during the Gaza crisis and even some took steps to support the interests of Israel, they now oppose Trump's plan for the complete evacuation of the Gaza Strip and the resettlement of Palestinians in neighboring Arab countries. Iran Daily has conducted an interview with Emad Abshenas, an expert on Middle Eastern and Arab countries, about the objectives of Trump's plan for the forced relocation and complete evacuation of the Gaza Strip, as well as the relocation of its residents to neighboring Arab countries and the stance of Arab states on issues related to Gaza. The details are provided below:



Emad Abshenas



Jordan's King Abdullah II (L) meets US President Donald Trump in the White House on February 11, 2025, in Washington D.C., the United States.  
ALEX BRANDON/AP

### IRAN DAILY: How feasible is Donald Trump's proposed plan to forcibly relocate Gaza residents, and what specific objectives does he intend to accomplish through this strategy?

**ABSHENAS:** Trump, from the moment he returned to the White House as the president of the United States for a second term, has consistently tried to shake up the world by proposing plans and ideas that lack logical and rational foundations. He aims to always be at the center of media attention. Apparently, he intends to detonate a news bomb every day during his four-year presidency, each time proposing a plan that will impact the entire world. Trump's executive plan for the forced relocation of Gaza residents to Jordan and Egypt is another such project that has no practical feasibility. The solution to the Palestinian issue and the Zionist regime is to grant the rights of the Palestinian people. All countries are aware of this, but since the United States

has always been under the influence and control of the Zionist lobby, and Congress representatives are essentially paid by the Zionist lobby, and the president of the country is also a puppet of the Zionist lobby, such plans are proposed to benefit the Zionists. The forced relocation plan for Gaza residents is based on Israel's desire to displace the people of Gaza. As we saw after the events of October 7th, the Israelis made significant efforts to force Gaza residents to migrate to Egypt, but Egypt resisted, and the people of Gaza themselves refused to leave their homes. Seventy years ago, Palestinians made a major mistake by being forced to leave their homes due to Israeli pressure, hoping their departure would be temporary and they would return after the conflicts ended. However, seventy years have passed, and they have not been able to return to their land. They did not take their furniture and even still hold the keys to their homes, but their homes are now gone.

Clearly, neither the Palestinians are willing to leave their land nor are other Arab countries willing to accept them. It appears that Trump's goal in proposing this plan is to extort Arab countries. Over the past year and a half, Arab countries have remained silent in the face of events in Gaza and Lebanon, and some have even supported Israel against Iranian missile and drone attacks. These countries now must face the consequences of their actions and should not be surprised by the expectations and plans of the US president.

### How do you view the Arab countries' stance on this plan? During the press conference with Trump, it seemed that King Abdullah acted passively and weakly in the face of the US president's demands and, despite his inner dissatisfaction, refrained from openly opposing Trump's plan.

I reiterate that the Arab countries are now paying the price for their silence in the face of Israel's crimes

against the people of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and others. If the Arab countries had previously stood up against Israel's crimes in Gaza and Lebanon and taken a stronger position, they could have stopped Israel and the US a year and a half ago. But they didn't, and now they are forced to bow to the US' demands. As we all witnessed, King Abdullah showed a very weak stance during the press conference with Trump. Trump deliberately tried to humiliate King Abdullah by suddenly putting him in a press conference setting, where he made his demands. King Abdullah was caught off guard and didn't know how to respond, which put him in a very difficult position. After this conference, we saw that Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the president of Egypt, canceled his trip to the US when he saw these circumstances. No reason was given for the cancellation. Some media outlets even reported rumors about a potential trip by Mohamed bin Salman, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

of Saudi Arabia, to the US, but this was also left unaddressed after the press conference.

### It is illogical for Trump to suddenly assert that the residents of a territory should abandon their land and that another country should assume their permanent settlement and provide them with land. What do you think is the reason behind Trump's statements?

Indeed, many of Trump's statements are baseless and should not be taken too seriously. He often makes numerous threats and promises to countries, attempting to achieve his goals through bullying tactics. Trump has a particular strategy in negotiations; he raises the ceiling of his demands so that the other party eventually agrees to a lower amount. He has employed this tactic in the past regarding the acquisition of the Panama Canal, the annexation of Canada, and making it the 51st state of the US, among other things. In es-

sence, Trump's negotiation behavior aligns with the Persian proverb, "Threaten with death so they'll accept a fever."

Trump's intention in bringing up the issue of Gaza is the same. He has raised his demands to such a high level that he can gain concessions. To achieve this, Trump has even changed his statements several times. Initially, he proposed buying Gaza, saying they wanted to invest there. Then he declared that they, along with other countries, would take control of Gaza, only to later reject this and claim that they would take Gaza from Israel. No one has pointed out that if Israel could have kept Gaza, they wouldn't have given it up and would have maintained control. Even if American forces go to Gaza now, the people of Gaza will certainly not roll out the red carpet for them. The youth of Gaza, who have resisted the Zionists with empty hands until now, will undoubtedly stand up against the Americans and refuse to submit to force.



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People ride in the back of tricycles transporting them from Nuseirat to Gaza City on February 10, 2025 as displaced people return home amid the current cease-fire in the Israeli war on Gaza.  
AFP



US President Donald Trump (R) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold a joint press conference at the White House in Washington D.C., the United States, on February 4, 2025.  
HU YOUSONG/XINHUA