

## Trump says Jerusalem is Israel's capital city

8th December, 2017



The President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, has announced that the USA officially recognizes that Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel. This comes ahead of the USA moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The decision by President Trump overturns decades of America having its embassy in the city of Tel Aviv. In an address at the White House, Mr Trump explained his rationale for his decision. He said he, "judged this course of action to be in the best interests of the United States of America, and the pursuit of peace between Israel and the Palestinians". He added that recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital was, "nothing more or less than a recognition of reality".

The UN called the decision "a moment of great anxiety". It added: "There is no alternative to the two-state solution." Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was "a historic day". He said Israel was profoundly grateful to President Trump. Palestinian leader, Ismail Haniya, described Trump's decision as a "flagrant aggression," and "the official announcement of the end of the peace process." A Palestinian diplomat told the BBC that Mr Trump, "is declaring war in the Middle East and against 1.5 billion Muslims." Israel's Haaretz newspaper wrote: "It will certainly provide Iran and its allies with a wonderful rallying cry and could even breathe new life into terrorist organizations like ISIS."

Sources:

[bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [haaretz.com](http://haaretz.com) / [Aljazeera.com](http://Aljazeera.com) / [voanews.com](http://voanews.com)

## Writing

What will happen in the Middle East in the coming years? Discuss three possibilities.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

president / Jerusalem / capital city / embassy / rationale / action / peace / reality / decision / anxiety / alternative / grateful / announcement / aggression / war / breathe

## True / False

- The USA has moved its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. T / F
- The American embassy has been in Tel Aviv for a few years. T / F
- Trump said recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital was good for the US. T / F
- Trump said it was a reality that Jerusalem is Israel's capital city. T / F
- The UN is very worried about President Trump's declaration. T / F
- Israel's leader suggested the declaration wasn't so historic. T / F
- A Palestinian leader said Mr Trump has declared war on Muslims. T / F
- An Israeli newspaper said the announcement would not help ISIS. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>announced</b>  | a. inject       |
| 2. <b>moving</b>     | b. speech       |
| 3. <b>overturns</b>  | c. fact         |
| 4. <b>address</b>    | d. answer       |
| 5. <b>reality</b>    | e. transferring |
| 6. <b>anxiety</b>    | f. shocking     |
| 7. <b>solution</b>   | g. concern      |
| 8. <b>profoundly</b> | h. declared     |
| 9. <b>flagrant</b>   | i. deeply       |
| 10. <b>breathe</b>   | j. reverses     |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why might Trump's decision have caused "a moment of great anxiety"?
- What will bring about a two-state solution?
- Why might Mr Trump's decision be a "flagrant aggression"?
- Is President Trump's decision good or bad for the Middle East?
- What will the Middle East be like this time next year?
- Will President Trump's decision be a rallying cry for Iran?
- What questions would you like to ask Donald Trump about his decision?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. This comes ahead of the USA      | a. recognition of reality       |
| 2. Mr Trump explained his rationale | b. grateful                     |
| 3. the pursuit of                   | c. moving its embassy           |
| 4. recognizing Jerusalem            | d. into terrorist organizations |
| 5. nothing more or less than a      | e. peace                        |
| 6. a moment                         | f. war                          |
| 7. There is no alternative          | g. of great anxiety             |
| 8. profoundly                       | h. as Israel's capital          |
| 9. declaring                        | i. to the two-state solution    |
| 10. breathe new life                | j. for his decision             |

## Discussion – Student B

- How big is this news (and why)?
- Why has Donald Trump made this official announcement?
- Why haven't previous US presidents recognized Jerusalem as a capital?
- What do you know about Jerusalem?
- Why might the decision be best for the USA?
- How might this be good for peace in the Middle East?
- If Israel says Jerusalem is its capital, why shouldn't it be?
- What is the media in your country saying about this news?

## Spelling

- Trump has nnoundae that
- moving its essmyab
- overturns ecseadd
- explained his olantaeri
- the upuirst of peace
- a recognition of ylrtaie
- a moment of great inxayet
- There is no rtatlnaeive
- the two-state usolotni
- Israel was duopfnylor grateful
- A Palestinian mdpotali
- Iran and its iaslle

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. g	7. d	8. i	9. f	10. a

## Role Play

### Role A – Israel/Palestine

You think Israel/Palestine is the region where peace is most likely to come to first. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their country or region won't experience peace as quickly. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to achieve peace so quickly of these (and why): North Korea, Syria or Myanmar.

### Role B – North Korea

You think North Korea is the region where peace is most likely to come to first. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their country or region won't experience peace as quickly. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to achieve peace so quickly of these (and why): Israel/Palestine, Syria or Myanmar.

### Role C – Syria

You think Syria is the region where peace is most likely to come to first. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their country or region won't experience peace as quickly. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to achieve peace so quickly of these (and why): North Korea, Israel/Palestine or Myanmar.

### Role D – Myanmar

You think Myanmar is the region where peace is most likely to come to first. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their country or region won't experience peace as quickly. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to achieve peace so quickly of these (and why): North Korea, Syria or Israel/Palestine.

## Speaking – Peace

Rank these with your partner. Put the places where peace will come to first at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| • Syria   | • Israel/Palestine |
| • Myanmar | • Afghanistan      |
| • Ukraine | • North Korea      |
| • Congo   | • Punjab           |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.