

Trump hosts Jordan's king and renews insistence that the US can control and redevelop Gaza

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump hosted Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House on Tuesday and renewed his insistence that Gaza could be emptied of all residents, controlled by the U.S. and redeveloped as a tourist area — a plan that could likely only work if the Arab nation agrees to accept more refugees.

Trump and Abdullah met in the Oval Office, where the president suggested he wouldn't withhold U.S. aid to Jordan or other Arab nations like Egypt if they don't agree to dramatically increase the number of people from Gaza they take in.

"I don't have to threaten that. I do believe we're above that," Trump said. That contradicted the Republican president previously suggesting that holding back aid from Washington was a possibility.

Abdullah was asked repeatedly about Trump's audacious plan to remake the Middle East, but didn't make substantive comments on it, nor the idea that his country could accept large numbers of new refugees from Gaza.

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