

RELEASE IN FULL

---

**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 4, 2010 10:52 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: (Reuters) Netanyahu, Abbas hold rare phone chat over fires

---

**From:** Moore, Anna W  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_Shift-II  
**Sent:** Sat Dec 04 10:24:20 2010  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Netanyahu, Abbas hold rare phone chat over fires

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas expressed condolences in a rare telephone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu December 4 over the deadly fires raging in northern Israel, Israeli officials said. The two leaders were not believed to have spoken since they last met in September when U.S.-backed peace talks stalled in a spat over Jewish settlement construction. A statement from Netanyahu's office said Abbas "expressed his condolences to the people of Israel on those who died in the fire and said he would be happy to provide any necessary help."