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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2011 11:11 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: Saudis give \$70m for Palestinian housing in Gaza (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2011 11:10 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS; SES-O  
**Subject:** Saudis give \$70m for Palestinian housing in Gaza (AP)

AMMAN, Jordan - (AP) A U.N. agency aiding Palestinian refugees says Saudi Arabia is contributing \$70 million for new housing units in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has authorized construction of the 1,200 new homes and 18 badly needed schools in Gaza, in what would be one of the largest housing projects in the seaside territory in years.

Israel, which controls the cargo crossings into Gaza, has largely banned the entry of construction materials into the coastal strip since Hamas militants seized control in 2007. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness said Wednesday that the test of Israel's decision would be whether it allows thousands of trucks to ferry building material into Gaza's border town of Rafah, where the houses are to be built.

Japan is also funding the project.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*