

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2011 12:41 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Israel to freeze funding to UNESCO (Reuters)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2011 11:56 AM
To: NEWS-IO; NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Israel to freeze funding to UNESCO (Reuters)

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel will freeze its funding to the U.N. cultural agency UNESCO following the group's decision to grant the Palestinians full membership, a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said November 3.

The statement said UNESCO's decision this week hurt chances of reaching a peace deal with the Palestinians and that Israel would halt its annual payments of \$2 million.

Israel's main ally, the United States, has also halted funding following Monday's vote in favour of the Palestinians.

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.