

As UN Palestinian State Vote Looms, Israel to Build in Strategic Judean Corridor

JERUSALEM, Israel – At the United Nations, Israel is bracing for more than a dozen countries to announce their recognition of a Palestinian state during the annual General Assembly. However, Israel has announced plans on the ground that could stop a Palestinian state from becoming a reality.

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed an agreement on Thursday to build a large number of housing units just outside of Jerusalem in a largely open area known as the E-1 Corridor. It's a move many believe would effectively prevent the establishment of a contiguous Palestinian state.

"This thing is about to bring about a doubling of the city of Ma'ale Adumim. There will be 70,000 people here within five years," Netanyahu said.

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He added, "This is a huge change, and we know there's another change here, or more precisely, another fulfilment of promise, not a biblical one but a present one. We said that a Palestinian state will not be established, and indeed a Palestinian state will not be established."

Israel also held a 9-11 memorial on Thursday. Hundreds gathered to remember those who died on Sept. 11, 2001.

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Jewish National Fund-USA President Deb Lust declared, "This memorial, which was built in part through the generosity of Jewish National Fund-USA, is important for several reasons. The first one is that it's the only memorial outside of the United States that lists every single victim from that horrible day. And it also represents the strong bond between the United States and Israel."

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