

President Mahmoud Abbas Says Hamas' Actions Don't Represent Palestinians

Why In The News?

- The Palestinian Authority's Official News Agency Published Comments On Sunday By **President Mahmoud Abbas That Criticised Hamas Over Its Actions** But Later Removed Reference To The Terror Group Without Providing An Explanation.
- The Comments, Published By Palestinian News & Information Agency (WAFA) On Its Website, Came During A **Phone Call Between Abbas And Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro**. The Two Discussed Israel's Bombardment Of Gaza Following Hamas's Deadly Rampage Through Israeli Cities.



President Mahmoud Abbas Says Hamas' Actions Don't Represent Palestinians: Report

In a phone call with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, Mahmoud Abbas also called the Palestine Liberation Organization the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," WAFA said.

What Do We Know?

- The Original WAFA Report On Abbas' Call Included The Line, "The President Also Stressed That **Hamas' Policies And Actions Do Not Represent The Palestinian People**, And The Policies, Programmes And Decisions Of The (Palestine Liberation Organisation) Represent The Palestinian People As Their Sole Legitimate Representative."
- Several Hours Later, The Phrase Was Adjusted To Read, "The President Also Stressed That The Policies, Programmes, And **Decisions Of The PLO Represent**

The Palestinian People As Their Sole Legitimate Representative, And Not The Policies Of Any Other Organisation."

- It Was Not Immediately Clear Why The Reference To Hamas Was Removed. There Was **No Immediate Comment By Abbas's Office** Or By Wafa. Hamas Had No Immediate Comment.
- Abbas's Palestinian Authority Exercises Limited Self-rule In The Israeli-occupied West Bank. **He Has Long Been Opposed To Hamas**, Which Seized Control Of Gaza In 2007 And Ousted Fatah Party Forces Loyal To Abbas. Years Of Reconciliation Talks Between The Rivals Have Failed To Reach A Breakthrough.
- **Abbas Also Heads The PLO**, The Umbrella Group That Represented The Palestinians In Past US Sponsored Peace Talks With Israel. During His Call With Maduro, Abbas "Affirmed His Rejection Of The Killing Of Civilians On Both Sides And Called For The Release Of Civilians, Prisoners And Detainees“.

