

# Israel rebuffs U.S. call over settlements

Israel has rejected a strong plea from the U.S. – its close ally – to stop all construction in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said there must be no exceptions to President Obama's demand that Israel stop its settlement activity

**Israeli settlements**  
Includes settlement municipal area, outposts, and land cultivated by settlers

**Settler population:** Around 500,000 – including 200,000 living on occupied land that Israel says is part of Jerusalem

★ **Israeli army base**

**Palestinian control**

**Palestinian population:** 2.5 million

**West Bank barrier**  
Includes constructed and planned

**1967 ceasefire line**



Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**

intends to continue “natural growth” of settlements but will not build new ones



Palestinian Authority says it will

not return to peace talks until Israel halts settlement expansion

