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From: Sent: To: Subject: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov> Thursday, November 3, 2011 12:41 PM H 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.

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