PA Foreign Minister **Riyad Al-Malki on Opening of ICC Investigation of Israel**

Translation available in “ICC prosecutor gave PA advance notice but asked to “keep secret” her ‎decision to open an investigation ‎

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**Official PA TV host:** “Going back to the recent decision of [ICC] ‎General Prosecutor [Fatou Bensouda], have you made contact with ‎her? …‎

**PA Minister of Foreign Affairs Riyad Al-Malki: Yes, we are in ‎constant contact with her… and her office from the first moment ‎when we set foot in the ICC in 2014**… [We’re in touch] directly or ‎indirectly, through the visits we are making, through the contact via our ‎delegation at The Hague, or through the periodical reports we are ‎submitting to the general prosecutor’s office. **We made contact before ‎the announcement** [of the ICC investigation], **and we were informed a ‎number of hours before the announcement that there will be an ‎announcement. We knew about this, but they asked us to keep it ‎secret**… We are currently seriously considering visiting The Hague and ‎meeting with the general prosecutor to discuss the following steps. ‎What can be expected from her? … What is required of us? What do ‎they expect from the government of the State of Palestine in this matter, ‎and when can we expect the arrival of the ICC’s first delegations  for ‎preparations ahead of beginning the investigation? …‎

**Official PA TV host:** “But there has been no contact with you from the ‎general prosecutor’s office after this decision?”‎

**Riyad Al-Malki:** “There was, there was. Yes, contact has been made ‎between us and the general prosecutor’s office regarding the request ‎for a meeting...‎

**Host:** “Is this visit expected to be soon?”‎

**Riyad Al-Malki:** “It depends first of all on the steps taken in Holland ‎against the [Coronavirus] epidemic... Maybe the meeting will be ‎possible next week. Maybe it will be the following week or later.‎

[Official PA TV, Topic of the Day, March 6, 2021]‎