

Russia Says Palestinian Leader Abbas 'Postponed' Visit to Moscow

By [AFP](#)

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Mahmoud Abbas a frequent guest in Moscow **TASS/ZURAB DZHAVAKHADZE**

Russia said Friday that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas had "postponed" a trip to Moscow that was planned for this month.

Russia – which has working relations with Israel, with Palestinian authorities and with Hamas – has said several times that a visit by Abbas to Moscow was possible without previously giving a date.

Russia's deputy foreign minister Mikhail Bogdanov told state media on Friday that a trip planned for November 15 had been moved.

"It has been postponed. On the request of the Palestinian side," he said, cited by Russian news agencies.

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Bogdanov said Palestinian officials had informed Moscow that ‘the situation now is difficult’ and that Abbas "cannot leave the region".

Bogdanov said Russia was "maintaining working contact [with the Palestinian side] constantly by phone".

Russia has good relations with both Israel and Hamas, which it does not consider a terrorist organization.

President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly called for a creation of a Palestinian state as a long-term solution to the conflict in Israel.

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