Trump to host Jordan's King Abdullah II as he escalates pressure on Gaza resettlement plan



President Donald Trump will host Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House on Tuesday as he escalates pressure on the Arab nation to take in refugees from Gaza — perhaps permanently — as part of his audacious plan to remake the Middle East

The visit is happening at a perilous moment for the ongoing ceasefire in Gaza as Hamas, accusing Israel of violating the truce, has said it is pausing future releases of hostages and as Trump has called for Israel to resume fighting if all those remaining in captivity are not freed by this weekendTrump has proposed the U.S. take control of Gaza and turn it into "the Riviera of the Middle East," with Palestinians in the war-torn territory pushed into neighboring nations with no right of return.

He suggested on Monday that, if necessary, he would withhold U.S. funding from Jordan and Egypt, longtime U.S. allies and among the top recipients of its foreign aid, as a means of persuading them to accept additional Palestinians from Gaza.Yeah, maybe. Sure, why not?" Trump told reporters. "If they don't, I would conceivably withhold aid, yes."

Jordan is home to more than 2 million Palestinians and, along with other Arab states, has flatly rejected Trump's plan to relocate civilians from Gaza.Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, said last week that his country's opposition to Trump's idea was "firm and unwavering."In addition to concerns about jeopardizing the long-held goals of a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, Egypt and Jordan have privately raised security concerns about welcoming large numbers of additional refugees into their countries even temporarily

.When asked how he'd persuade Abdullah to take in Palestinians, Trump told reporters, "I do think he'll take, and I think other countries will take also. They have good hearts."