

'U.S. to withdraw from UN human rights council'

The United States was to announce on Tuesday that it is withdrawing from the UN Human Rights Council, which it accuses of bias against Israel, UN officials said. U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley was to make the announcement at a press conference with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Washington at 5.00 p.m. (2200 GMT).

Ms. Haley has repeatedly threatened to quit the Geneva-based body, established in 2006 to promote and protect human rights worldwide. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric declined to comment ahead of a formal announcement, saying: "We will wait to hear the details of that decision before commenting fully."

However, UN officials privately confirmed they were expecting the U.S. decision to quit the rights body.

Since President Donald Trump took office, the United States has quit the UN cultural agency UNESCO, cut UN funding and announced plans to quit the UN-backed Paris climate agreement.

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