

PA leader sees no peace accord in '08

by UPI

JERUSALEM -- Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salaam Fayad said he doesn't think a final Mideast peace agreement with Israel will be signed by the end of 2008. Speaking during a private visit to Austin, Texas, Fayad said Israel's failure to dismantle settlements and outposts in the West Bank was largely to blame, the Jerusalem Post said. Fayad also found fault with Israeli military action in the West Bank where he said operations by Israeli forces hamper Palestinian efforts to enforce order. On Thursday, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni defended Israeli military action in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in retaliation for rocket attacks. She said that a Palestinian state would only be established after a solution was found to the threats Israel faces.

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