

Hamas seeks charges against PM

by UPI

GAZA -- A threat by the militant group Hamas to prosecute Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salaam Fayad won't help reconciliation talks, analysts say.

Leaders of Hamas, which controls Gaza, announced Tuesday they would seek to bring charges against Fayad, a member of the rival Fatah Palestinian faction based in the West Bank, for alleged "collaboration" with Israel and "squandering" taxpayer money, The Jerusalem Post reported.

The threat comes as talks for a Palestinian national unity government have broken down in Egypt and a restart date is uncertain, the newspaper said.

Fayad has already submitted his resignation to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in an effort to pave the way for reconciliation deal and is planning to step down at the end of this month, observers said.

The talks have been derailed by continuing disagreements over the political platform of a prospective unity government, the reconstruction of the Palestinian security forces and over how a president would be elected, the Post reported.

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