On the 1st of May, the internet giant Google officially recognized a Palestinian state by adopting the name 'Palestine' in place of the previous 'Palestinian territories' on its Palestinian search engine. The name change follows last November's bid by the Palestinian Authority to have 'Palestine' granted observer status at the United Nation's General Assembly. Since then the Palestinian Authority has pursued a unilateral approach to the recognition of a Palestinian state, requesting full membership of UN agencies and bodies, even as the peace negotiations with Israel falter. Now President Abbas has written to several international organizations and groups, pressuring them to indirectly recognize a Palestinian state by changing the name from 'Palestinian territories' to 'Palestine'.

Quote: *"Palestinians in general seek recognition for the state they are trying to establish and the adoption of the name Palestine. Israel considers any formal use of the word Palestine as pre-judging the outcome of currently stalled peace talks. In much of Israel's official terminology the West Bank is referred to as* ***Judea and Samaria****.*

[redacted] BBC [redacted]