



By: TA | AP Insight

Australia has announced the recognition of the Palestinian state without Hamas in the Palestinian government



Australia is the latest in a series of key Western allies of Israel to announce recognition of a Palestinian state.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, under internal pressure, claims that this decision is the best way to end the cycle of violence in the Middle East.

Australia will recognize a Palestinian state, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Monday, joining the leaders of France, Britain and Canada in **signaling** they would do so.

His remarks followed weeks of urging from within his Cabinet and from many in Australia to recognize a Palestinian state and amid growing criticism from officials in his government over suffering in Gaza, which Albanese on Monday referred to as a "humanitarian catastrophe."

Australia's government has also criticized plans **announced** in recent days by Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu for a sweeping new military offensive in Gaza.

Albanese says conditions must be met for Palestine recognition

Albanese told reporters after a Cabinet meeting Monday that Australia's decision to recognize a Palestinian state will be formalized at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

The acknowledgement was "predicated on commitments Australia has received from the Palestinian Authority," Albanese said.

Those commitments included no role for Hamas in a Palestinian government, demilitarization of Gaza and the holding of elections, he said.

The situation in Gaza has gone beyond the world's worst fears - Anthony Albanese

"A two-state solution is humanity's best hope to break the cycle of violence in the Middle East and to bring an end to the conflict, suffering and starvation in Gaza," Albanese said.

"The situation in Gaza has gone beyond the world's worst fears," he said. "The Israeli government continues to defy international law and deny sufficient aid, food and water to desperate people, including children."

Netanyahu rebuked Australia before the announcement

Ahead of Albanese's announcement, Netanyahu on Sunday criticized Australia and other European countries that have moved to recognize a Palestinian state.

"To have European countries and Australia march into that rabbit hole ... this canard, is disappointing and I think it's actually shameful," the Israeli leader said.

Australia has **designated** Hamas a terrorist entity and Albanese repeated Monday his government's calls for the group to return Israeli hostages held since Oct. 7, 2023.

Mahmoud Abbas has agreed to conditions with Western leaders, including Albanese, as they prepared to recognize a Palestinian state

The Australian leader last week **spoke** to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose authority administers parts of the occupied West Bank, supports a two-state solution and cooperates with Israel on security matters.

Abbas has agreed to conditions with Western leaders, including Albanese, as they prepared to recognize a Palestinian state.

"This is an opportunity to deliver self-determination for the people of Palestine in a way that isolates Hamas, disarms it and drives

it out of the region once and for all,” Albanese said. He added that Hamas did not support a two-state solution.

Recognition is growing, but is largely symbolic without the U.S.

Nearly 150 of the 193 members of the United Nations have already **recognized** Palestinian statehood, most of them decades ago. The United States and other Western powers have held off, saying Palestinian statehood should be part of a final agreement resolving the decades-old Middle East conflict.

Recognition announcements are largely symbolic and are rejected by Israel, and by the United States — the only country with any real leverage over Netanyahu. Israel's leader said this month that he would not accept Palestinian Authority involvement in a government for Palestine.

A two-state solution would see a state of Palestine created alongside Israel in most or all of the occupied West Bank, the war-ravaged Gaza Strip and annexed east Jerusalem, territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war that the Palestinians want for their state.



New Zealand has been clear for some time that our recognition of a Palestinian state is a matter of when, not if – Winston Peters

Albanese dismissed suggestions Monday that the move was solely symbolic.

“This is a practical contribution towards building momentum,” he said. “This is not Australia acting alone.”

Albanese had discussed Australia's decision with the leaders of Britain, France, New Zealand and Japan, he said. He also had a “long discussion” with Netanyahu this month, he added.

In neighboring New Zealand, Foreign Minister Winston Peters said Monday his government “will carefully weigh up its position” on recognizing a Palestinian state before making a formal decision in September.

“New Zealand has been clear for some time that our recognition of a Palestinian state is a matter of when, not if,” Peters said in a statement.

Australian Jewish and Palestinian groups criticized the move

After Albanese's announcement Monday, Israel's envoy to Australia said the move undermined Israel's security.

“By recognising a Palestinian state now, Australia elevates the position of Hamas, a group it acknowledges as a terrorist organisation,” Amir Maimon posted to X.

“This commitment removes any incentive or diplomatic pressure for the Palestinians to do the things that have always stood in the way of ending the conflict,” spokesperson for the Executive Council of the Australian Jewry Alex Ryvchin said in a statement.

Too late and completely meaningless – Nasser Mashni

Meanwhile, President of the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network Nasser Mashni decried Albanese's recognition as too late and “completely meaningless” while the country continues to trade with Israel.

He told reporters in Melbourne on Monday that the move would do nothing to end the “ongoing genocide in Gaza which has been live streamed for the entire world for two years.”