

UK Ties Palestinian Recognition to Gaza Ceasefire

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Prime Minister Keir Starmer has indicated that the UK may recognise a Palestinian state, but only after a ceasefire is reached in Gaza. The position follows concerns about regional stability and aligns with previous statements that recognition would occur at an “appropriate time.”

According to The Financial Times, Starmer has opted against early recognition to avoid diplomatic friction with the administration of US President Donald Trump. Washington is reportedly urging its allies not to take unilateral steps toward Palestinian statehood, warning that such moves could complicate efforts to resolve the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip.

The idea of recognising a Palestinian state was included in the Labour Party's 2024 election manifesto. However, the document did not specify a timeline. Since entering office, Starmer has emphasised that recognition would only happen in coordination with wider efforts toward peace and stability in the region.

On 24 July, French President Emmanuel Macron announced that France would formally recognise the State of Palestine during a session of the United Nations General Assembly in September. France's announcement marks a shift among Western nations, with some EU members expected to align with Paris.

In the UK, foreign policy analysts have described the government's cautious approach as a strategic balancing act. While some international partners are moving toward formal recognition, the UK appears focused on maintaining diplomatic alignment with both Washington and its European counterparts.

A spokesperson for the Foreign Office declined to comment directly on a potential timeline but reiterated the UK's longstanding support for a two-state solution. They noted that any decision on recognition must contribute meaningfully to peace negotiations and regional security.

The UK's position reflects broader efforts to support a negotiated settlement while avoiding unilateral action that might increase tensions. The situation remains fluid, with developments expected as the September UN session approaches.