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## Albanese Faces Pressure on Palestine Statehood Recognition

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Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reaffirmed Australia's commitment to a two-state solution in a call with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, amid growing pressure to recognize Palestinian statehood.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, leader of the Australian Labor Party, reiterated Australia's support for a two-state solution during a rare phone call with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on August 4, 2025, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office. The discussion, one of the first since November 2023, focused on humanitarian aid to Gaza, a permanent ceasefire, and the release of hostages held by Hamas, a Palestinian militant group designated as a terrorist organization by Australia. Abbas thanked Albanese for Australia's \$20 million aid increase to Gaza,

emphasizing Australia's potential to play a significant role in peace efforts by recognizing Palestinian statehood, as reported by ABC News.

The call comes as France, the United Kingdom, and Canada signal intentions to recognize Palestine at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2025, conditional on governance reforms excluding Hamas. Albanese, however, avoided committing to a timeline, a stance critics argue reflects indecision amid domestic and international pressure. Shadow Attorney-General Julian Leeser warned that premature recognition could reward Hamas and destabilize global security, citing its October 7, 2023, attack that killed 1,400 Israelis, per Israeli government figures. Leeser, speaking on ABC Radio, stressed the need for a demilitarized Palestinian state to ensure Israel's security.

Albanese's government faces internal Labor Party pressure to act swiftly, with former minister Ed Husic urging immediate recognition to align with allies like the UK, according to ABC News. Yet, Albanese emphasized Australia's sovereignty in decision-making, rejecting external timelines, including from the United States, as noted in his 7.30 interview. He highlighted Abbas's June 10 commitments to a demilitarized state and democratic elections as "significant," but insisted recognition must advance tangible peace outcomes.

The opposition, led by figures like Simon Birmingham, argues that recognizing a state without clear borders or governance risks being symbolic, per SBS News. With Gaza's death toll exceeding 60,000, per the Gazan Health Ministry, and public protests in Sydney, Albanese's cautious approach may face scrutiny as the UNGA looms.