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## Australia PM Albanese Faces Netanyahu Backlash Over Palestine

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— *Categories: Breaking News*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has intensified his criticism of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese following Canberra's decision to formally recognise a Palestinian state. The development, announced this week, has triggered sharp diplomatic tension, drawing global attention to Australia's foreign policy stance in the Middle East.

On Thursday, Netanyahu claimed Albanese's political legacy had been permanently damaged by the recognition move, describing it as a "historic mistake." His comments mark the strongest rebuke so far from Israel towards Australia since the decision was made public.

Albanese's government confirmed earlier in the week that it would join a growing number of countries formally recognising Palestinian statehood. The decision aligns Australia with several European and Global South nations, though it diverges sharply from the position held by Israel and its closest allies, including the United States.

In Israel, Netanyahu's remarks were aimed directly at Albanese's leadership. "History will judge this decision harshly," he said in a televised statement. "Prime Minister Albanese has chosen a path that undermines peace and rewards those who reject dialogue."

The announcement has also prompted responses within Australia. Jewish community leaders have urged caution, with the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) calling for calm debate rather than heated exchanges. “We ask that all sides consider the consequences of escalating rhetoric,” the group said in a statement, emphasising the need for respectful discussion over Middle East policy.

Despite the backlash, Albanese has defended his government’s stance, arguing that recognising Palestine is consistent with Australia’s long-standing commitment to a two-state solution. “This decision reflects our belief in peace, security, and dignity for both Israelis and Palestinians,” he said earlier in the week.

Foreign policy analysts say the fallout underscores the diplomatic risks of Canberra taking a more independent position in international affairs. While recognition has been welcomed by Palestinian representatives and some advocacy groups, critics argue it could strain Australia’s relations with Israel and complicate its role in the region.

The move comes at a time of heightened conflict in Gaza and the West Bank, where renewed violence has drawn global condemnation. For Australia, the decision marks a significant shift in its Middle East policy, one that is already reshaping its international standing.

As Netanyahu continues to escalate his attacks, pressure is mounting on Albanese to navigate both domestic and international responses. The diplomatic rift is expected to remain a central issue in Australia’s foreign relations in the weeks ahead.