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Sydney Protest Proceeds After Court Ruling

August 7, 2025

– Categories: General News



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – Thousands of demonstrators gathered in central Sydney this week for the “March for Humanity,” after the New South Wales Supreme Court ruled in favor of the event proceeding despite earlier objections by police.

The protest, held to show solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, followed a legal challenge from NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb. The Commissioner had sought to prohibit the march, citing safety and logistical concerns. However, the Supreme Court ruled in *Commissioner of Police v Joshua Lees* that the demonstration could go ahead lawfully, affirming the rights of peaceful assembly.

Participants marched from Hyde Park to Belmore Park in the city's central district, waving Australian flags and holding banners related to the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The event drew support from a wide range of Australians, including teachers, health workers, retirees, and families, with attendees noting a significant turnout that included older citizens and professionals.

While NSW Police maintained a visible presence during the march, there were no reported incidents or arrests. The protest remained peaceful, and participants complied with directions from law enforcement.

Legal experts noted that the court decision reinforced the public's right to freedom of assembly, particularly in cases where demonstrations are conducted peacefully. Critics of the attempted ban expressed concern over what they viewed as political interference with civil liberties.

This is the second time the "March for Humanity" has proceeded with legal support. Organizers stated they intend to continue holding events to raise awareness and express public concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

The NSW Government has not issued further statements regarding the demonstration or future policy on similar public gatherings.