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UK, France, Germany Urge Gaza Aid Access

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Leaders of the UK, France, and Germany have called for improved humanitarian access to Gaza and an immediate ceasefire in response to the ongoing conflict.

The statement came after a joint call between UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. It called the blocking of essential humanitarian assistance "unacceptable" and emphasised the need for a political solution that ensures long-term peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians. No further actions were detailed.

The call follows France's recent announcement that it will recognise a Palestinian state, a move Macron intends to formalise at the United Nations General Assembly in September. France is the first G7 member and the largest European country to announce such recognition, drawing mixed reactions from allies.

Germany has stated it has no immediate plans to follow, noting that state recognition should occur as part of final negotiations in a two-state solution. The UK has maintained a similar stance, reaffirming support for a negotiated settlement rather than unilateral recognition.

More than 140 countries have recognised Palestinian statehood. In the UK, over 220 Members of Parliament have signed a letter urging formal recognition, but the government has not committed to a timeline.

Following the E3 discussions, Starmer reiterated the UK's commitment to a two-state solution, stating that recognition of a Palestinian state should be one step within a broader peace process. He also expressed concern about the continued hostage situation, restrictions on aid, and rising violence in the region.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza has drawn increasing international concern. Germany, historically one of Israel's closest European allies, has also urged greater aid access and has stated it may consider further steps if conditions do not improve.

In recent weeks, the UK has suspended some arms export licenses to Israel, paused free trade negotiations, and imposed targeted sanctions on specific individuals. However, Downing Street has not indicated any change in its current position.

The United States and Israel have criticised France's decision. Starmer is expected to meet U.S. President Donald Trump in the coming days during Trump's visit to Scotland, where regional issues may be discussed.