

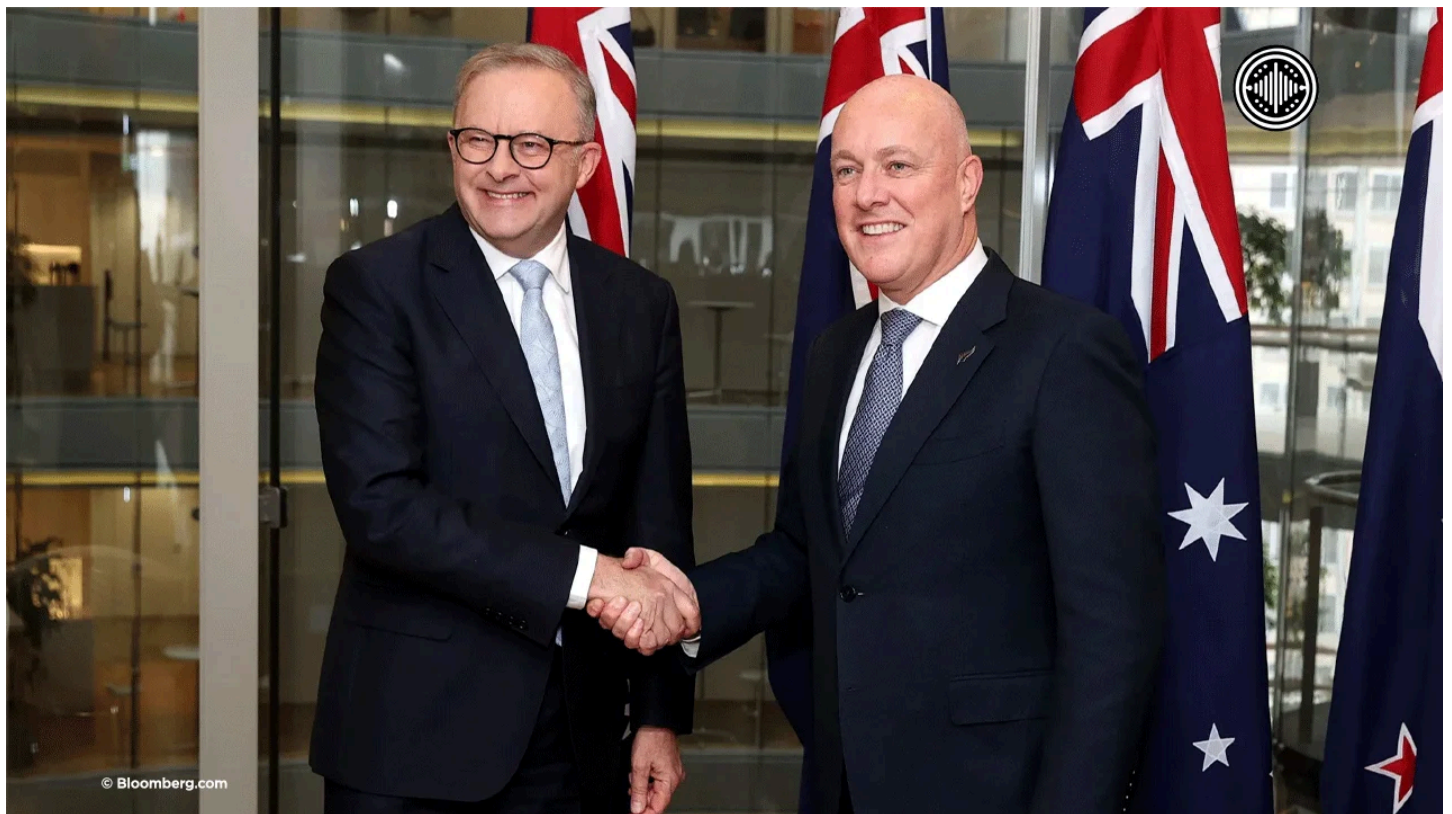
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Albanese and Luxon Urge Gaza Ceasefire and Two-State Solution

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Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon have jointly called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and reaffirmed their support for a two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during a meeting in New Zealand.

During a bilateral meeting in New Zealand, Prime Ministers Anthony Albanese of Australia and Christopher Luxon of New Zealand issued a unified call for an immediate ceasefire in the ongoing Gaza conflict. They emphasized the need for a two-state solution, advocating for peaceful negotiations to establish a Palestinian state alongside Israel as a path to lasting stability.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon have taken a firm stance on the Gaza conflict, urging an immediate ceasefire and endorsing a two-state solution during their recent meeting in Wellington, New Zealand. Their joint statement reflects a shared commitment to de-escalating violence in the region and fostering a diplomatic resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In their discussions, Albanese and Luxon highlighted the urgent need to halt hostilities in Gaza, where ongoing violence has caused significant loss of life and infrastructure damage. According to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), both leaders expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis and stressed that a ceasefire is critical to enabling aid delivery and protecting civilians. Luxon, speaking at a press conference, underscored New Zealand's position, stating that a ceasefire would pave the way for meaningful dialogue. Albanese echoed this, noting Australia's support for international efforts to broker peace.

The leaders reaffirmed their support for a two-state solution, a framework where Israel and a sovereign Palestinian state coexist peacefully. This aligns with long-standing policies of both nations, as outlined in Australia's DFAT statements and New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) guidelines. They called for renewed global efforts to facilitate negotiations, emphasizing that both parties must engage in good faith to achieve a sustainable resolution.

Critics of the Australian Labor government, led by Albanese, argue that its foreign policy often lacks decisive action, with some pointing to delays in addressing regional conflicts. However, both leaders' statements were grounded in practical steps, including support for United Nations (UN) resolutions promoting peace. Albanese and Luxon also acknowledged the complexity of the conflict, urging all parties to prioritize civilian safety and adhere to international humanitarian law.

The meeting in Wellington strengthens Australia-New Zealand cooperation on global issues. Both nations, while geographically distant from the Middle East, view stability in the region as critical to international security. Their unified call signals a broader push for diplomatic solutions over prolonged conflict, with a focus on tangible outcomes rather than ideological posturing.