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Global Condemnation of Israel's Gaza Offensive Escalation

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Australia and New Zealand have formally aligned with Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom in a joint diplomatic statement rejecting Israel's recent Security Cabinet approval of a military plan to take control of Gaza City. Officials warned the proposal could exacerbate the already dire humanitarian situation, endanger hostages, and result in mass displacement, potentially violating established international legal norms.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong, representing Australia, signed the statement alongside her German, Italian, New Zealand, and UK counterparts. The ministers emphasised that any attempt at annexation or settlement expansion would infringe upon international humanitarian law. The statement called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire,

unimpeded humanitarian aid deliveries, and the release of hostages without precondition.

In Queenstown, New Zealand, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon echoed these concerns. He condemned the proposed military operation, urging instead a diplomatic resolution backed by humanitarian corridors. He described the approach as contrary to the interests of both Australians and New Zealanders, advocating for a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and unimpeded aid access.

The international reaction continues to mount. The United Nations Security Council has scheduled an emergency meeting to discuss the situation, as global concern grows over the worsening famine-like conditions in Gaza.

Domestically within Australia, while Wong's strong stance has drawn criticism from some in the Coalition, who argue Israel must retain the right to defend itself, others, including Coalition figures Andrew Hastie and Keith Wolahan, have expressed strategic and humanitarian alarm, questioning the broader wisdom and sustainability of a Gaza City occupation.

This collective rebuke from middle powers reflects a serious challenge to the Israeli plan and underscores the increasing willingness of democratic allies to assert legal and humanitarian principles. As regional tensions remain elevated, the call for diplomacy, civilian protection, and legal compliance continues to grow louder.