

Australians Nationwide Mobilize in ‘National Day of Action’ to Demand an End to Genocide in Gaza

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Australians are set to stage nationwide rallies this weekend, uniting under a National Day of Action to call for an end to what organizers describe as genocide in Gaza. The coordinated demonstrations, backed by Amnesty International Australia and other activist groups, are urging the federal government to take stronger measures, including sanctions and

diplomatic pressure, to halt the ongoing violence and ensure humanitarian aid reaches those affected.

The campaign builds on the momentum of recent large-scale protests. Earlier this month, an estimated 90,000 to 300,000 people marched across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in what organizers described as one of the country's largest peaceful demonstrations. Despite challenging weather and police attempts to limit the rally, participants pressed ahead, calling for a ceasefire, recognition of Palestinian statehood, and an end to the use of starvation as a weapon of war. The event drew attention nationwide and highlighted growing public discontent with Australia's handling of the conflict.

Amnesty International has pointed to what it views as a gap between public sentiment and government action. While Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has acknowledged that Israel has breached international law and pledged additional funding, bringing Australia's total humanitarian aid for Gaza to \$130 million, activists argue these measures are inadequate. They are demanding concrete steps such as supporting International Criminal Court (ICC) investigations, halting arms transfers, and leveraging diplomatic channels to push for a ceasefire.

The rallies are planned across major cities, including Brisbane, where Justice for Palestine organisers are negotiating with police to march across the Story Bridge to Centenary Place. The route carries symbolic weight, as Brisbane authorities previously refused to light the bridge in Palestinian colours. Police have expressed safety concerns but say discussions remain ongoing.

Amnesty's spokesperson on the occupied Palestinian territories, Mohamed Duar, has stressed that protests are not just expressions of solidarity but vital democratic acts. He warned that blocking peaceful demonstrations undermines Australians' rights to free expression and assembly, calling restrictions on rallies a "grave threat" to civic freedoms. Amnesty and other groups argue that Australia must do more than offer statements; it must act decisively to uphold international law and protect human rights.

Public opinion appears to back this stance. Recent polling indicates that a majority of Australians believe Israel's actions in Gaza are unjustifiable, with strong support across party lines for increased government intervention. This sentiment has translated into visible grassroots momentum, with community groups, faith organisations, and advocacy networks joining forces to amplify the call for change.

As Australians prepare to gather for the National Day of Action, organizers hope to turn growing public pressure into tangible outcomes. They argue that Australia's role in the international community carries weight and that failure to act decisively would be a moral and political misstep. The rallies, they say, are a reminder to leaders that Australians expect more than rhetoric; they expect meaningful action to address one of the most pressing humanitarian crises in the world today.