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## Hamas Refuses to Disarm Without Palestinian Statehood Recognition

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Hamas has declared that it will not lay down its arms until an independent Palestinian state is formally established. The announcement, reported by *Sky News*, comes amid increased diplomatic pressure on the organisation to disarm, particularly from Western countries and Arab states that have, for the first time at the United Nations (UN), jointly called for Hamas to cease its military activities.

The group's statement challenges recent diplomatic developments, including declarations from the United Kingdom and France indicating a willingness to recognise a Palestinian state by September 2025 if Israel does not commit to a ceasefire. This timeline has appeared to embolden Hamas to reframe disarmament as contingent upon

formal statehood recognition, complicating the position of Western negotiators who had previously indicated that disarmament was a prerequisite to peace talks.

International calls for Hamas to disarm have grown since the escalation of hostilities in Gaza, with increasing demands for the group to accept political solutions over armed resistance. United States envoy Steve Witkoff previously suggested Hamas had shown openness to disarmament, but the group's latest statement appears to contradict that claim, reasserting its stance of resistance until statehood is achieved.

Hamas's position also invokes legal precedent. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 2625 and 3314, alongside Geneva Protocol I, acknowledge the right of occupied peoples to resist, including through armed struggle, under certain conditions. By referencing these resolutions, Hamas seeks to frame its actions within a legal context, positioning itself as an entity resisting occupation rather than a rogue militant organisation.

The broader geopolitical implications of Hamas's refusal to disarm remain significant. Western and Arab nations face a difficult balancing act between encouraging peace in the region and acknowledging legal frameworks that may support resistance in occupied territories. The situation places added strain on international efforts to broker a long-term ceasefire or diplomatic resolution, especially as recognition of a Palestinian state becomes an increasingly central point in discussions.

As pressure builds on all sides, the refusal by Hamas to disarm without statehood signals a hardened negotiating position and reflects the deep-rooted complexities surrounding sovereignty, security, and the legal status of Palestinian territories. Further diplomatic developments are expected as the UN and global powers respond to Hamas's announcement.