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## Albanese Seeks Netanyahu Call on Palestinian Statehood Debate

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Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has requested a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the Australian Labor Government weighs its position on recognizing Palestinian statehood ahead of a critical vote at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2025.

Australia faces mounting international pressure to join allies such as the United Kingdom, France, and Canada, who have signaled conditional support for Palestinian statehood. Albanese emphasized during an ABC 7.30 interview on August 1, 2025, that any recognition must support a two-state solution and be contingent upon key conditions, including the demilitarization of Palestine and the removal of Hamas from control in Gaza.

Albanese's outreach follows intensifying global scrutiny of Israel's conduct in Gaza. As of August 2025, 147 out of 193 UN member states have formally recognized Palestine, according to a Brisbane Times report. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, however, has strongly opposed Palestinian statehood, citing national security concerns, as expressed in a January 2024 NPR interview. Albanese has stated that Australia's decision would require reforms within the Palestinian Authority and assurances of long-term regional stability.

Opposition Deputy Leader Sussan Ley, speaking to ABC News on August 3, 2025, expressed that statehood should only follow a formal peace process and that Hamas must first disarm and release hostages. The Coalition maintains that unconditional recognition risks undermining regional security and Israel's right to self-defense.

The Labor Government also recently committed \$20 million in humanitarian aid to Gaza, announced by Foreign Minister Penny Wong on August 2, 2025, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. While the aid signals Australia's concern over humanitarian conditions, some political figures argue it raises questions about the government's international priorities.

Albanese has insisted that Australia will not be pressured by external political timelines and will take a measured approach that upholds international law and promotes peace. The outcome of the requested call with Netanyahu may shape Australia's diplomatic posture ahead of the upcoming UN vote.