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Australia, UK, France, and Allies Demand Immediate Halt to Gaza Conflict

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On 21 July 2025, twenty-five nations, including Australia, the United Kingdom (UK), and France, issued a joint call for an immediate end to the war in Gaza, criticising Israel's aid delivery model and urging a ceasefire. This article examines the coalition's stance, Israel's response, and the broader implications of this diplomatic push amid Gaza's humanitarian crisis.

The joint statement, signed by foreign ministers from nations including Australia, Canada, Japan, and the European Union (EU) Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, condemned Israel's military operations, which have killed over 59,000 Palestinians since October 2023, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministers highlighted the "inhumane killing" of over 800 civilians near aid sites, blaming the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), which is backed by Israel and the United States (US), for a flawed aid model that "fuels instability" (ABC News, 21 July 2025). The conflict, sparked by Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack killing 1,200 Israelis and taking 251 hostages, has left Gaza on the brink of famine, with 50 hostages still held, fewer than half believed alive.

Israel rejected the criticism, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu calling it "disconnected from reality" and arguing that Hamas's actions necessitate continued military pressure (ABC News, 21 July 2025). Israel claims its restrictions on aid prevent diversion by Hamas, though the United Nations (UN) disputes claims of widespread looting. The coalition's call for a ceasefire aligns with ongoing US, Qatar, and Egypt-led talks, but Netanyahu insists on Hamas's disarmament and exile of its leaders, a stance critics argue prolongs the conflict (Reuters, 21 July 2025).

The statement, absent US and German signatures, reflects growing frustration among Israel's allies. "The suffering in Gaza has reached new depths," the ministers declared, opposing plans for demographic changes in Palestinian territories (The Guardian, 21 July 2025). While the coalition supports a two-state solution, Israel's recent aid resumption—five trucks on 20 July 2025—has been deemed "wholly inadequate" (BBC,

20 May 2025). This diplomatic pressure, coupled with global protests, signals Israel's increasing isolation and challenges its leaders to balance security goals with international demands for humanitarian relief.