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## Sydney Protest Showdown Heads to Court

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– Categories: Human Rights



A legal challenge has postponed approval for a planned pro-Palestine march across Sydney Harbour Bridge, with Justice Belinda Rigg reserving judgment until Saturday morning. The event, titled the *March for Humanity*, could draw an estimated 50,000 participants, prompting concerns from NSW Police about traffic disruption and public safety. Organisers have stated they are open to postponing the protest to August 24 if necessary to allow for cooperation with authorities.

Joshua Lees, a representative of the Palestine Action Group, testified to the group's record of peaceful demonstrations and its willingness to coordinate with police. The court also heard details about a cancelled counter-protest by the group Never Again, originally planned near the Harbour Tunnel. Lees said the demonstration was intended to take place during what he described as a "crucial moment" in international events.

Legal observers say the case will test the balance between the right to protest and the need to maintain public order in high-traffic areas.

Organisers presented three possible outcomes to the court: a permitted march with police support, an unauthorised protest, or a voluntary postponement. The court's ruling is expected to clarify the legal boundaries around demonstrations on key transport routes.



Previous major protests in Sydney have taken place without major incidents. However, the strategic importance of the Harbour Bridge adds operational complexity for authorities. The court's decision is likely to influence future planning for large-scale public gatherings and demonstrations in urban centres.