

Global Calls for Palestinian State Challenge Israel

JERUSALEM, Israel – From the International Criminal Court at The Hague to the frontlines at Rafah, Israel is fighting battles on multiple fronts as nations take sides on the ICC's decision to push for the arrest of Israeli leaders and three countries decide to recognize a Palestinian state.

Norway, Ireland and Spain all announced Wednesday that they would give recognition to a Palestinian state, even as Israel is fighting to destroy the fighting capability of Hamas in Gaza.

Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris stated, "Each of us will now undertake whatever national steps are necessary to give effect to that decision. In the lead-up to today's announcement, I've spoken with a number of other leaders and counterparts, and I'm confident that further countries will join us in taking this important step in the coming weeks."

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The announcement comes after this week's decision by the ICC to consider arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

Norway's government declared Tuesday that if warrants are issued, they would enforce them.

On Capitol Hill, U.S. senators say they'll take action against the ICC, while Netanyahu warned other democracies will be affected. He told ABC News the ICC prosecutor is pouring gasoline on the global fires of antisemitism.

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“Because he is attacking the one and only Jewish state and trying to handcuff us, preventing us from, exercising responsibly through the laws of war as we obey them, and we are subordinate to them. He’s saying we’re not. He’s creating false symmetry, false facts and he’s doing a grave injustice to the international court,” Netanyahu said.

Concerning battlefield issues, the White House expressed satisfaction with Israel’s scaled-down military plan for the invasion of Rafah.

Reportedly, the Israel Defense Forces already control about 30 percent of Hamas’ last major stronghold and more than half of the strategic Philadelphi Corridor. This area contains smuggling tunnels used by Hamas to resupply its ammunition and weapons.

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