

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 4:02 PM
To: s 47E(d)
Subject: FW: Hamas Comments - Australia's Recognition of Palestine [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Palestinian state Australia_ Hamas praises Albanese, claims credit for government decision.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 3:58 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; Kang, Pablo <Pablo.Kang@pmc.gov.au>; Titheridge, Dave <Dave.Titheridge@pmc.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; Rayner, Karla <Karla.Rayner@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: Hamas Comments - Australia's Recognition of Palestine [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find below the comments made by Hamas regarding countries' announcements on recognition of Palestine.

We are only aware of the one statement regarding Australia, reported in media today. DFAT is the same.

Sending this through to meet your deadline. We will continue to review and revert with any significant updates.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australia – Statement by Hassan Yousef (Reported in article attached)

“We welcome Australia’s decision to recognise the state of Palestine, and consider it an important step towards achieving justice for our people and securing their legitimate rights,” Hamas co-founder Hassan Yousef said in a statement to Nine newspapers.

“This position reflects political courage and a commitment to the values of justice and the right of peoples to self-determination.

“We call on all countries, especially those that believe in freedom and human dignity, to follow Australia’s example and translate their positions into practical steps to support the Palestinian people and end their suffering under occupation.”

United Kingdom – Comments reported in The Telegraph ([Why the UK cannot simply conjure up a Palestinian state](#))

A senior Hamas official has welcomed Sir Keir Starmer's promise to recognise Palestine, saying that "victory and liberation are closer than we expected".

Basem Naim, a former minister in the terror group's government of Gaza, said: "International support for Palestinian self-determination shows we are moving in the right direction."

Canada

No public comments identified.

France ([France to recognise Palestinian state in September](#))

Hamas said France's decision was a "positive step in the right direction" and urged all countries of the world "to follow France's lead".

Ireland/Norway/Spain – Reported in Jewish Chronicle ([Hamas welcomes Palestinian statehood recognition from Ireland, Norway and Spain - The Jewish Chronicle - The Jewish Chronicle](#))

"We consider this an important step towards affirming our right to our land," the group said in a statement, calling "on countries around the world to recognize our legitimate national rights."

Bassem Naim, a senior member of the Hamas political bureau, attributed the decision to the "brave resistance" of the Palestinians.

"These successive recognitions are the direct result of this brave resistance and the legendary steadfastness of the Palestinian people. ... We believe this will be a turning point in the international position on the Palestinian issue," Naim told AFP.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) A/g Senior Advisor

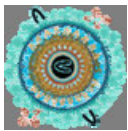
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The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Exclusive Politics Federal Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Hamas praises Albanese's 'courage', claims credit for Palestinian recognition

**Matthew Knott**

August 13, 2025 – 12.24pm

Listed terrorist group Hamas has applauded the Albanese government's decision to recognise Palestine, arguing the move by Australia and other Western governments has vindicated its shock October 7 attacks on Israel and commitment to armed resistance.

Rejecting Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's claim that Hamas would be "totally opposed" to the move to recognise Palestine as part of a global effort to progress a two-state solution, one of the militant organisation's top officials praised the government for showing "political courage" and urged other nations to follow suit.



A co-founder of terrorist group Hamas, Sheikh Hassan Yousef (right), has welcomed the Albanese government's decision to recognise Palestine. ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN, AFP

Sheikh Hassan Yousef, a co-founder of Hamas who has been arrested several times by Israel, made clear the group rejected the rival Palestinian Authority's calls for it to [demilitarise and be excluded from Palestinian elections](#), conditions [Albanese cited when explaining the decision](#) to recognise Palestinian statehood.

"We welcome Australia's decision to recognise the state of Palestine, and consider it an important step towards achieving justice for our people and securing their legitimate rights," Yousef, one of Hamas' most senior officials in the occupied West Bank, said in a statement to this masthead.

"This position reflects political courage and a commitment to the values of justice and the right of peoples to self-determination.

"We call on all countries, especially those that believe in freedom and human dignity, to follow Australia's example and translate their positions into practical steps to support the Palestinian people and end their suffering under occupation."

The Israeli government and federal opposition have vehemently opposed the government's move to recognise Palestine, saying it rewards Hamas' terror tactics and would embolden the group to continue fighting in Gaza.

Albanese has rejected that argument, telling Channel Seven's *Sunrise* on Tuesday: "Hamas will be totally opposed to this decision. Hamas don't support two states, they support one state."

Yousef's statement is the first time that Hamas has commented on Australia's decision to [recognise Palestine at the United Nations General Assembly](#) in September.

Opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman Michaelia Cash said that "Albanese should hang his head in shame after being praised today by the terrorist group Hamas for his decision to recognise a Palestinian state".

"Mr Albanese has emboldened a terror group who murder civilians in cold blood and still hold 50 Israeli hostages in tunnels under Gaza," she said.

"All Australians should be appalled at the massive propaganda victory Mr Albanese has handed Hamas on a platter.

"This is a sad day for our nation."

Hamas fighters stormed into [southern Israel on October 7, 2023](#), killing about 1200 people, including the massacre of young people at the Nova music festival and elderly residents and children living in kibbutzes near the Gaza border. It was the worst mass murder of Jews in a single day since the Holocaust.

Hamas, which has governed the Gaza Strip since 2007, also took around 250 people hostage, dozens of whom are believed to have died in captivity during the war in Gaza. The incursion sparked a ferocious military response from Israel that has extended for almost two years and killed over 60,000 Palestinians.

Australia listed Hamas, which has launched rocket attacks into Israel and carried out suicide bombings, as a terror organisation in 2022, joining the United States, United Kingdom and other countries.

Asked whether Hamas believed its commitment to violence had encouraged countries like Australia to recognise Palestine, Yousef said: “Yes, we believe that the escalation of armed resistance, including the operations carried out on October 7, has significantly contributed to highlighting the suffering of the Palestinian people and the injustice they face.

“These operations have drawn global attention to the Palestinian cause and compelled many countries and organisations to reconsider their positions, leading to greater support and recognition of Palestine as a state by some countries.

“Resistance has proven to be an effective means to break the siege and bring the Palestinian cause back to the international discussion table.”

Yousef’s comments echo those of fellow Hamas official Ghazi Hamad, who last week said the wave of Western nations moving to recognise a Palestinian state was the result of “the fruits” of Hamas’ October 7 massacre.

Hamas stated on August 2 that it would not disarm until a sovereign Palestinian state is created with its capital in Jerusalem, contradicting statements by US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff that Hamas was prepared to demilitarise to end the war in Gaza.

Albanese told Channel Nine’s *Today*: “I’ve seen some of the comments that have been made about Hamas somehow being rewarded. Hamas is opposed to two states. This is the opposite of what Hamas wants.”

However, Yousef celebrated Australia’s recognition announcement, saying that “such decisions strengthen our people’s hope of achieving their dream of freedom, independence, and the establishment of their own state with Jerusalem as its capital”.

A government spokesperson said: “What Australia has done is contribute international momentum towards a two-state solution, which Hamas opposes.

“We are supporting the Arab League’s efforts to isolate Hamas.”

A declaration by 22 Arab nations issued last month called for Hamas to lay down its weapons, release all remaining Israeli hostages and end its rule of the Gaza Strip in a major rebuke of the organisation.

The government spokesperson said Hamas “always tries to manipulate facts for their own propaganda” and that media outlets “have a responsibility to make professional judgments to not promote propaganda of terrorist organisations to get cynical headlines”.

Albanese has said an important factor in his recognition decision was [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas’](#) commitment to hold elections soon and “the isolation and opposition to Hamas playing any role in a future Palestinian state”.

Yousef, who was elected to the Palestinian parliament for Hamas in 2006, said the group would not consider any Palestinian elections legitimate unless it was included in the process.

“We believe that elections must be inclusive of all Palestinian factions, and excluding Hamas means sidelining a large segment of Palestinians,” he said.

“Only through free and fair elections in which everyone participates can the true legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority be achieved.”

Yousef has been repeatedly arrested by Israel and accused of incitement, spending long stretches in jail without facing trial. One of his sons, Mosab Hassan Yousef, worked as a spy for

Israel's internal security agency before relocating to the US, where he has become a prominent critic of Hamas.

Hamas scored a major victory in the most recent Palestinian elections of 2006, winning 74 of 132 parliamentary seats and significantly outperforming Abbas' more moderate Fatah party.

Recent polling shows Hamas remains the most popular faction among Palestinians despite the devastation of the war in Gaza.

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Matthew Knott is the foreign affairs and national security correspondent for The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. Connect via [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 14 August 2025 4:09 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Kang, Pablo; Titheridge, Dave; s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii); Rayner, Karla
Subject: Israeli Ambassador - Comments Following Hamas Statement [SEC=OFFICIAL]
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Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii),

Please find below two posts on X made by Israeli Ambassador Amir Maimon following Hamas' comments yesterday – only one responding directly on Hamas.

Let us know if you need anything further.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Amir Maimon posted on X [today](#) (10:20am):

Calling out Hamas propaganda is right. Doing it only when it suits politics is not.

Hamas always lies: about casualty numbers, about hiding in hospitals and schools, and about who really puts Gazans at risk.

Truth is not selective.

Amir Maimon posted on X [today](#) (3:55pm):

Our humanitarian efforts continue (August 13th):

 400+ trucks were collected and distributed by the UN and intl organizations.

 350+ trucks entered Gaza through the Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings.

 119 pallets of aid were airdropped in cooperation with the UAE, Jordan, Germany, Belgium, Italy and France.

 Nearly 140 patients and their caregivers exited Gaza via the Kerem Shalom Crossing to Ramon Airport for treatment abroad.

 UN fuel tankers entered to support essential humanitarian systems.

We remain steadfast in our efforts to provide humanitarian relief to those who need it most.

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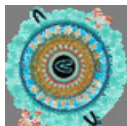
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