# ICC's Intensified Scrutiny on Israel Sparks International Controversy



The International Criminal Court (ICC) has intensified scrutiny on Israel's handling of the Gaza conflict. Last week, ICC prosecutor Karim Khan accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and three Hamas leaders of war crimes. The ICC aims to issue arrest warrants for these leaders, which has led to strong reactions from Israel and the United States.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has ordered Israel to stop its military action in Rafah, a city in southern Gaza. In addition, Ireland, Norway, and Spain have moved to recognize Palestinian statehood, impacting Netanyahu's stance against a two-state solution. The ICC's move has emphasized the need for compliance with the laws of war, focused on preventing collective punishment and starvation tactics.

Australia has been drawn into the controversy, with opposition leader Peter Dutton claiming Australia was consulted on the ICC actions. However, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) denied any such consultation, stating it is not ICC practice to consult all states parties before making arrest warrant applications. Dutton has urged the Australian government to condemn the ICC's decision, while the government maintains respect for the ICC's independence. The situation underscores rising international pressure on Israel and its current leadership.