# EU-Israel Relations Strained as Spain and Ireland Recognize Palestinian State



**EU-Israel Relations Deteriorate Amid Palestinian State Recognition by Spain and Ireland**

Relations between the European Union (EU) and Israel have significantly worsened as Spain and Ireland prepare to officially recognize a Palestinian state. This development comes as tensions escalate due to Israel's military actions in Gaza, particularly in Rafah.

On May 27, 2024, Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares stated that Spain and Ireland, together with non-EU member Norway, would recognize the Palestinian state the following day. This joint announcement has drawn a sharp reaction from Israel, which summoned the ambassadors of these countries to show them videos of Hamas attacks.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz condemned the recognition decision, accusing Spain of “rewarding terror” and evoking historical grievances by referencing the Spanish Inquisition. Furthermore, he stated Spain’s consulate in Jerusalem would be barred from assisting Palestinians.

The EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, a Spaniard, supported the International Criminal Court's (ICC) move to seek arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leaders. This aligns with the UN's top court, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which demanded an immediate halt to Israel's offensive on Rafah.

Reports state that airstrikes in Rafah have resulted in significant casualties, with Palestinian health workers citing at least 35 deaths on May 26. Israeli authorities have acknowledged targeting a Hamas compound and promised to investigate civilian casualties. French President Emmanuel Macron expressed outrage over the strikes and called for an immediate ceasefire, echoing sentiments from other international leaders and agencies.

The situation remains volatile as the geopolitical dynamics continue to evolve, with international bodies and countries urging de-escalation and accountability.