
**AUSTRALIA A 'SOVEREIGN NATION,' PREMIER SAYS ON POSSIBLE US REACTION IF IT
RECOGNIZES PALESTINE**

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Riyaz ul Khaliq

Amid reports that Albanese may speak to Israeli counterpart, human rights defender reminds Australia premier of pending arrest warrant against Netanyahu.

Australia is a sovereign nation, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Monday when asked whether the US would retaliate if Canberra recognized a Palestinian state.

"We are a sovereign nation. Australia makes our decisions as a sovereign nation," Albanese told reporters in Canberra, according to ABC News.

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