Macron stakes anti-Trump global role with Gaza initiative at UN summit

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<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/macron-pushes-gaza-initiative-unga-opens-raising-questions-about-his-motives-rivalry-trump>

French President [Emmanuel Macron](https://archive.vn/o/jV1xW/https%3A/www.foxnews.com/category/person/emmanuel-macron) opened his week at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with a dramatic announcement that France will formally recognize a Palestinian state, seeking to reset the diplomatic agenda on Gaza and signal France's role on the world stage.

As world leaders gather in New York for UNGA, Macron is seizing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to stake out global leadership — and, critics argue, to position himself as a counterweight to President Donald Trump.

Renewing his call for recognition of a Palestinian state, Macron has also put forward a proposal for a multinational force to take over from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) ‘the day after’ the Gaza war, according to [The Times of Israel](https://archive.vn/o/jV1xW/https%3A/www.timesofisrael.com/french-proposal-envisions-multi-national-force-tasked-with-gradually-disarming-hamas/).

For Macron, the [United Nations](https://archive.vn/o/jV1xW/https%3A/www.foxnews.com/category/world/united-nations) General Assembly is a stage to project France as an alternative power. ‘Macron’s policy on the Israel-Palestine conflict reflects his broader ambitions on France’s foreign policy, that is, the idea that the country, as a middle European power, can offer an alternative to the U.S.-China competition,’ Jean-Loup Samaan, a senior research fellow at the National University of Singapore’s Middle East Institute, told Fox News Digital. ‘In this specific case, Macron believes that his push for a Palestinian state will increase French credibility in the Arab world and the so-called ‘Global South.’’

‘We have to recognize the legitimate right of Palestinian people to have a state,’ Macron said in an interview broadcast Thursday on Israel’s Channel 12. ‘If you don’t give a political perspective, in fact, you just put them in the hands of those who are just proposing a security approach, an aggressive approach.’ He went further, denouncing Israel’s ground offensive in Gaza City as ‘absolutely unacceptable’ and ‘a huge mistake.’

The comments infuriated both Israel [and the United States](https://archive.vn/o/jV1xW/https%3A/www.foxnews.com/politics/rubio-denies-visas-palestinian-leaders-un-general-assembly-citing-terror-support), which argue that recognition emboldens extremists and rewards Hamas, the group responsible for the Oct. 7, 2023 massacre.

Macron, however, insists recognition is the only way forward, reviving the long-stalled two-state solution. More than 145 countries already recognize Palestine, and European allies, including the U.K., Canada, Australia, Portugal, Malta, Belgium, and Luxembourg, are expected to follow France’s lead in the coming days.

Yet analysts warn Macron’s track record suggests otherwise. ‘If you want to know how UN-sponsored peacekeepers do with terrorist groups in the region, we have a 20-year case study in UNIFIL, which enabled rather than denied Hezbollah the ability to grow into a massive military threat,’ Richard Goldberg, senior advisor at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told Fox News Digital.

‘Macron is certainly driven by his beleaguered domestic political situation and the large French Muslim population, but in his own mind he's also been down this road in Lebanon, where France has historic equities. The record is pretty clear: Macron has never delivered on anything; security improvements have only come through U.S. pressure and Israeli military might,’ Goldberg said.

Just days before Macron’s push, Trump met with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Jared Kushner to discuss Gaza’s future — and is set to hold a meeting tomorrow with Arab leaders on ‘the day after,’ sources confirm to Fox News Digital. The overlap has fueled speculation that Macron is maneuvering to outshine Trump and claim the mantle of statesman-in-chief.

Goldberg added bluntly: ‘He may perceive himself that way, but I don’t think many in Washington spend a lot of time thinking about him.’

Anne Bayefsky, director of the Touro Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, called Macron’s maneuvering ‘a blatant power-grab.’ She told Fox News Digital: ‘The fact is that would-be Emperor Macron has no clothes. The promise he is waving around of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas’ ‘promise’ to soon hold elections and abandon dictatorship and terror screams ‘scam.’’

‘At home, foreign policy topics are not driving the [current political troubles](https://archive.vn/o/jV1xW/https%3A/www.foxnews.com/world/macron-appoint-fourth-prime-minister-year-debt-battle-topples-centrist-leader), which are primarily focused on France’s need to reduce its fiscal deficit,’ Samaan noted. ‘I think Macron’s initiative on Palestine has more to do with his personal aspirations in terms of legacy. He’ll leave office in 2027.’

The proposed Gaza force, modeled on UNIFIL in Lebanon where France has long played a role, would demand French resources and likely face opposition in parliament from both the far left and far right, and without U.S. endorsement, Israeli buy-in, or domestic consensus in France, the initiative could stall before it begins.