



[Slovenia Becomes the Latest European Country to Recognize a Palestinian State](#)

Slovenia has recently joined the more than 140 countries which officially recognize the State of Palestine after its parliament approved the move earlier this week on Tuesday. The decision comes after months of deliberation and steady but consistent efforts. Prime Minister Robert Golob's government filed for the proposed course of action in mid-May, but the process was slowed by opposition in parliament. Initially, it was delayed under the guise of "waiting until the situation in Gaza improved," with the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) issuing a motion for a referendum to delay the formal vote. In response, the ruling party led by Prime Minister Golob attempted to find a way around the referendum, and the motion was withdrawn only for another to be filed shortly thereafter. However, the second attempt at a referendum was ultimately dismissed entirely by the Parliament Committee for Foreign Affairs due to it being declared inadequate.

News broke last week that the Slovenian government had endorsed the move and was awaiting a parliamentary vote this past Tuesday, June 4th to approve it. After initial indications at the beginning of this week suggested that the opposition-introduced motion could delay the vote for at least 30 days, it was dismissed at an extraordinary session and the move to recognize the State of Palestine passed through parliament with a unanimous tally of 52-0. The 90-seat legislative body saw the opposition party leave the session and refuse to vote on the matter entirely. Slovenia, which only gained state recognition itself 33 years ago, has now followed in the footsteps of several other European nations who have also instituted the move recently. Golob stated that he propelled the process in response to Israel's further destructive military operation in Rafah, commenting that "The decision is not directed against anyone, not even Israel, but it is a message of peace." In his address to the Slovenian Parliament, he referred to Slovenia's strife for independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, intertwining his nation's previous dream for independence with Palestine's right to statehood.

Slovenia joins fellow European countries Ireland, Spain, and Norway as the most recent nations to recognize Palestine as an independent state. The moves have been welcomed and applauded by social justice advocates, and it is hoped that they may spur others to do so as well. As the devastating War on Gaza surpasses the eight-month marker, many countries are enacting policy changes in response to the overwhelming evidence of Israeli war crimes and human rights violations. Issue experts are anticipating that European nations like France, Malta, Italy, and Greece could be next on the horizon to initiate Palestinian statehood recognition. French President Emmanuel Macron said he was "totally ready" to recognize the State of Palestine, but wanted to do it at a "useful moment." Malta's leaders were a part of the original push in March alongside Spain, Ireland, Norway, and Slovenia to pave the way for a two-state system that would hopefully help advance peace in the region. All told, there appears to be a recent general movement towards recognition by European countries, and Slovenia is just the latest to become a part of this.

The recent cohesion of multiple European countries symbolizes a victory for anti-war and human rights activists in swaying public sentiment regarding the longstanding Palestinian struggle for freedom and social justice. This may very well put pressure on European powers such as France and Germany to consider doing the same. United Nations experts urge reluctant countries to follow the lead of the over 140 member states that have recognized

the State of Palestine. While many rightly celebrate the recent recognitions, addressing the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza and putting an end to the conflict there remain issues of utmost importance.