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## Macron rejects Netanyahu claim, reaffirms Palestinian Statehood goal



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Paris, August 27— French President Emmanuel Macron has firmly rejected accusations by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that France is fueling antisemitism, stressing that the fight against antisemitism must never be “weaponized.”

Macron’s remarks came in an open letter responding to Netanyahu’s August 17 statement, which

criticized France's intention to recognize the State of Palestine in September. Macron reiterated that France's position stems from its commitment to peace and regional stability.

"Our determination to ensure that the Palestinian people have a State is rooted in our belief that a lasting peace is essential to the State of Israel's security, its full regional integration, and the normalization process we strongly support," Macron wrote.

He emphasized that such peace requires the creation of a demilitarized, sovereign Palestinian state that recognizes Israel and guarantees its security. Macron also warned Netanyahu against escalating military actions in Gaza, cautioning that a ground offensive would impose "an unbearable cost on Palestinians" and have long-term repercussions for Israelis.

"The occupation of Gaza, forced displacement, deliberate famine, hateful rhetoric, and annexation of the West Bank will never bring Israel lasting victory," Macron stated.

Reaffirming France's role as a mediator, Macron underlined that recognition of Palestine aims to pave the way for peace, not division. He urged Israel to pursue dialogue rather than measures that deepen conflict and isolation.