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**Palestinian Presidency rejects Netanyahu's remarks
vowing to extend ground offensive into Rafah**

The Palestinian Presidency has vehemently expressed its rejection and condemnation of the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding plans to extend the ground Israeli onslaught to the overcrowded province of Rafah, in the farthest south of the Gaza Strip.

The Presidency said the move would entail the forcible displacement of Palestinian citizens from the province—already overcrowded with hundreds of thousands of displaced people from northern Gaza. It considered the move "a real threat and a dangerous prelude to implementing the rejected Israeli policy aimed at displacing the Palestinian people from their land."

In a press statement, the Palestinian Presidency held the Israeli government fully responsible for the repercussions of this potential escalation, emphasizing the special responsibility of the U.S. administration to prevent what could be a disastrous escalation.

The Presidency affirmed that "the Palestinian people will not abandon their land and will not accept being forcibly displaced from their homeland."

Additionally, the Palestinian Presidency called on the United Nations Security Council "to fulfill its responsibilities," adding that "the Israeli occupation's move threatens security and peace in the region and the world. This is a blatant violation of all red lines."

"The time has come for everyone to bear their responsibility in the face of creating another catastrophe that will push the entire region into endless wars."

For more information, please contact the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific.