

Brazil Will Back Hamas As Long As It Recognizes Israel

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The Brazilian government says it will collaborate with any Palestinian government that wants peace and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim made the comments Thursday in response to published reports that Hamas - the Islamic group that won last month's Palestinian elections - would seek financial and political support from Brazil.

But Amorim said Hamas has not contacted Brazil.

The United States and other countries have warned that they will curtail funding to a Hamas-led Palestinian government unless the group renounces violence and acknowledges Israel's right to exist.

Hamas has said it will not be pressured into recognizing Israel by what it calls international threats of blackmail over aid.

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