



# UNJPPI

United Network for Justice and Peace  
in Palestine and Israel

20 June 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Ottawa ON Canada

**Email:** [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: Deteriorating Situation in the oPt and Israel**

This is further to our May 15<sup>th</sup> letter/email concerning recent tragic events in the oPt and Israel. In it we asked that your government make a public statement in support of equal human rights for all people living in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. We also asked that you speak in support of an end to the Israeli military occupation.

Following our letter, we read with interest Canada's May 27<sup>th</sup> statement at the UN Human Rights Council. We thank you for that statement. It is a significant advance on Canada's long-standing *Canadian policy on key issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict* in that it:

- expresses the firm belief that both Palestinians and Israelis have the right to live with dignity, without fear, and with their human rights respected;
- recognizes that Israel's right to assure its own security must be exercised in a way that is proportionate and fully respects human rights and international law; and
- strongly states that Israel's settlement activities including in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, which are a violation of international law, must cease.

Your statement, however, stopped short in not demanding an end to the military occupation of the West Bank, an end to the annexation of East Jerusalem and an end to the illegal siege of Gaza as was requested in our letter.

There are presently roughly an equal number of Palestinians and Jewish Israelis living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. They are all effectively controlled by the same government, but for which only a small percentage of Palestinians may vote. For Palestinians 'to live with dignity, without fear and with their human rights respected' requires an end to the Israeli military occupation.

Israel gives no indication it intends to end the occupation. Instead, the occupation is intensifying. In East Jerusalem this is through the expulsion of Palestinians to make way for Jewish settlers – a war crime. What triggered the May flare up of hostilities was Israeli court proceedings to expel Palestinian families from homes they have occupied for 70 years in Sheikh Jarrah. Similar proceedings are in process in other East Jerusalem communities.

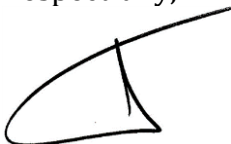
To persuade Israel to end its military occupation and to bring peace based on equal rights to dignity as affirmed in Canada's recent statement, we urge your government to:

- Immediately have Canadian consular representatives visit Sheikh Jarrah and other communities under threat and attend related court proceedings.
- Use official diplomatic means to emphasize to Israel that its violations of international law and war crimes must end.
- Officially recognize the State of Palestine as have 138 other U.N. members.
- Provide financial and other support so the International Criminal Court can undertake a thorough investigation of alleged war crimes and other violations of law within its mandate committed within the oPt.
- Repeal any laws, resolutions and policies specifically intended to suppress the free speech right of Canadians to protest State of Israel actions.
- Require that any products from the illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem be properly so labeled and not as from Israel, and exclude them from the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

Canada taking these steps will appropriately reflect the anger Canadians feel at Israel's continuing violations of international law.

We look forward to hearing what action Canada will take. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Bartlett', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George Bartlett  
Chair



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c.c.

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