



**United Network**

*For Justice and Peace*

*In Palestine and Israel*



17 May 2020

Jack Harris, MP  
New Democrat Critic for Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons, Canada

Good afternoon,

I am the Chair of the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel ('UNJPPI'), a grassroots network of United Church of Canada members and friends working for a just peace in Palestine/Israel through education and advocacy.

I am writing to thank you for your May 13th Newsroom release expressing concern about a letter sent by the Canadian government to the International Criminal Court stating Canada's opposition to the jurisdiction of the ICC to investigate allegations of war crimes by Israeli forces and Hamas in the Occupied Territories and Gaza. We too are concerned not only with Canada's opposition to the ICC undertaking the investigation but also with the allegations you reference suggesting that Canadian funds to the ICC might be withheld if such an investigation is undertaken. We appreciate your efforts to confirm the allegations.

We also appreciate the statement in the release that Canada must speak out and condemn the stated plans of the incoming Israeli government to again annex lands in the occupied Palestinian territory. Given Canada's long history of helping build international institutions and international laws to promote peace and human rights, it is disappointing that our Canadian government has not publicly spoken out in opposition to the threatened annexation.

We will be sharing your May 13<sup>th</sup> Newsroom release with our UNJPPI supporters across Canada.

Thanks again for speaking out.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

George Bartlett  
Chair, UNJPPI