UNJPPI

United Network for Justice and Peace
in Palestine and Israel

9 July 2024

The Hon. Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca
Melanie.Joly@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Joly,

Re: Need for Strong Sanctions on Israel in Response to its Ongoing War Crimes

The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel ('UNJPPI') is a faith-based network that advocates for a just, sustainable peace in Palestine and Israel – a peace based on respect for human rights and political self-determination for all the inhabitants of the region.

Sanction All Perpetrators and Supporters of Settler Violence

Today we write to you concerning two documents recently issued by Global Affairs Canada. The first is a June 27th News Release, announcing Canada's second set of sanctions on individuals and entities for 'facilitating, supporting or financially contributing' to extremist settler violence against Palestinian civilians in West Bank.

UNJPPI supports these and the previously-announced sanctions. However, we do not understand why no Israeli government minister or official is included in the list of individuals being sanctioned. As Zvi Bar'el asked in a July 5th Haaretz newspaper Opinion piece, we wonder why Canada and other western countries are going after a small number of individuals and not the government that continues to grant them legal and military protection and prodigious economic support as recognition that they are serving Israel's interest. Only the government of Israel can end the terrorism being meted out on Palestinians. If the individuals are terrorist, then the government that supports them is also terrorist.

George Bartlett
UNJPPI Chair
web: www.unjppi.org email: george@unjppi.org

It's Time for Strong Action – not just Words – in Response to Israel's Settlement Construction

The second Global Affairs Canada document is a Statement issued on July 3rd, after European and Canadian diplomats made a joint visit to the village of Um al Kheir in South Hebron after the largest Israeli military demolition operation in the West Bank since 7 October. This village is part of Masafer Yatta of which we have written you multiple times.

As reported in the Statement, the diplomatic delegation, *inter* alia, called on Israel,

- to halt demolitions and confiscations of Palestinian property, in accordance with its obligations under international humanitarian law, and
- to cease the policy of settlement construction and expansion, of designating land for exclusive Israeli use, and of denying Palestinian development.

Ironically, the same day as Global Affairs Canada made the noted announcement, the Toronto Star published an article – with the headline, *Israel turbocharges West Bank settlement expansion with largest land grab in decades* – that highlights some of Israel's most recent actions, including the largest seizures of West Bank lands in over 3 decades. The article references information from the respected Israeli organization *Peace Now*.

In other recent news, *Peace Now* reports first, on the Israeli cabinet's June 27th decision to establish five new settlements in isolated areas deep in the West Bank by legalizing five illegal outposts, and second, on the Higher Planning Council's July 4th approval of 5,295 units and the establishment of 3 new settlements.

The multiple announcements suggests that it is very unlikely that Israel will stop its expelling Palestinians from their West Bank lands, and its construction of residences for illegal Israeli settlers on Palestinian lands, all in violation of international humanitarian law and constituting war crimes, simply because some diplomats make that demand of them. By the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Nevsun Resources Ltd. v Araya,* these population transfers also violate Canadian law.

What will Canada do if Israel does not promptly stop displacing Palestinians from their lands and stop the construction in the West Bank and East Jerusalem of residences and other uses for illegal Israeli settlers?

We urge you to immediately take the following actions,

1. Implement a total two-way arms embargo on Israel, and cancel every already-issued permit for the shipment of arms to Israel or the import of arms from Israel,
2. Impose sanctions on Israeli Minister Smotrich, and any other Israeli Minister or official facilitating the seizure of Palestinian lands in the West Bank or East Jerusalem and their allocation for Israeli settlers housing or other uses.

George Bartlett
UNJPPI Chair
web: www.unjppi.org email: george@unjppi.org

3. Immediately terminate the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement, as it makes no distinction between products produced in Israel proper and those produced in the illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

We look forward to receiving a reply to this letter, with a statement of the action Canada will take if Israel fails to stop the confiscation/seizure of Palestinian lands and their allocation for use by Israeli settlers.

Respectfully,

George Bartlett
Co-Chair

c.c.

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, P.C., M.P.
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition
Pierre.Poilievre@parl.gc.ca

Jagmeet Singh, New Democratic Party of Canada Leader
Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca

Yves-François Blanchet, Bloc Québécois Leader
Yves-Francois.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca

Elizabeth May, Green Party of Canada Leader
elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Michael Chong, Conservative Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister
Michael.Chong@parl.gc.ca

Heather McPherson, NDP Foreign Affairs Critic
Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca

Don Davies, NDP Deputy Foreign Affairs Critic
Don.Davies@parl.gc.ca

Stéphane Bergeron, Bloc Québécois Foreign Affairs Critic
Stephane.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca

Jonathan Pedneault, Green Party Deputy Leader
jonathan.pedneault@greenparty.ca

Rob Oliphant, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Rob.Oliphant@parl.gc.ca

Her Excellency Lisa Stadelbauer, Ambassador of Canada to Israel,
Lisa.Stadelbauer@international.gc.ca

David Da Silva, Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority,
David.DaSilva@international.gc.ca

Global Affairs Canada, Director for Israel, West Bank, Gaza
karim.morcos@international.gc.ca

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, The United Church of Canada
CLansdowne@united-church.ca

Rev. Dr. Michael Blair, General Secretary, The United Church of Canada
mblair@united-church.ca