



# UNJPPI

United Network for Justice and Peace  
in Palestine and Israel

21 March 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney,  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Ottawa ON Canada  
[pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: Canada's Silence in the Face of Israel's Blocking Aid to Gaza and Then Bombing Gaza**

UNJPPI is a grassroots network of United Church of Canada members and friends working for a just peace in Palestine/Israel through education and advocacy.

First, we want to congratulate you, both on your selection by the Liberal Party of Canada as its new leader and on your swearing in as Canada's 24<sup>th</sup> prime minister. As you will realize, in accepting this high office you have taken on important responsibilities, both domestically and internationally, at a time when there are serious challenges in both areas. We thank you for offering yourself and your significant knowledge and skills in this important way.

Today we write concerning the tragic events in Gaza - more tragic events in what appears to be an ever-worsening stream of tragic events. As [CBC reported](#), on Tuesday Israeli airstrikes pounded Gaza, killing more than 400 people. The report also noted that "after heavy strikes, the Israeli army issued evacuation orders for a number of neighbourhoods in Gaza". The Palestinian people have seen this recurring nightmare many times before and know from their tragic experience that there is no safe refuge anywhere in Gaza.

Even before the resumption of airstrikes, Israel on March 2<sup>nd</sup> tightened its genocidal blockade of Gaza preventing the entry of all food, fuel and medicine. Emergency shelters and tents were also blocked from entry. And on March 19<sup>th</sup> we read the UN Statement after the Israeli strikes on the clearly designated UN Compound, killing one and injuring five. And then the news of Israeli tanks again entering Gaza.

News reports from Israel make clear that what is driving all of this is not the security of Israel but the survival of the Netanyahu government, and Prime Minister Netanyahu's efforts to avoid a probable quick transfer from political office to serving time in jail.

There is ever-mounting anger and disgust in Canada and throughout the world over what Israel is doing to Palestinians, not only in Gaza but also in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. What we find truly puzzling is Canada's silence and inaction in response to distressing events there.

A change in Prime Minister provides an important opportunity to adjust our country's course. In world affairs, hopefully this means taking actions that strengthen international law and the international institutions that visionary Canadian leaders helped create. These include the United Nations, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. To this end, some of the questions we urge you to ask are the following:

- Why has Canada not yet recognized the State of Palestine, as over 75% of UN member states have done?
- Why has Canada not publicly called on Israel to immediately end its occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza (the 'OPT') in line with the 19 July 2024 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice which stated the occupation is unlawful?
- Why has Canada not terminated the Canada Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA), or at least amended it to exclude products from illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT in response to the 18 September 2024 UN General Assembly resolution?
- Why has Canada not taken steps to ensure our country's nationals, companies and other entities do not act in any way that recognizes or assists Israel to maintain its illegal presence in the OPT, again as required by the noted UN General Assembly resolution?

As immediate steps, we urge your government to:

1. Publicly call on Israel to immediately end its military assault on Gaza and to resume negotiations on Stage 2 of the Three-Phase Ceasefire Agreement previously negotiated.
2. Publicly call on Israel to end its illegal blockade of Gaza and permit the immediate, continuous, sufficient and unhindered provision of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip as is required by international law.
3. Impose a full and immediate two-way arms embargo on Israel, with the embargo covering both direct trade and trade through the US or any other third-party state.
4. Take the necessary steps to promptly terminate CIFTA, or at least amend it to exclude products from Illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT.

Canadians want our government to do its utmost to end the death and destruction in Gaza. We look forward to news confirming that this is what your government is doing.

Yours respectfully,

George Bartlett  
UNJPPI Co-Chair  
c.c.

The Hon. Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs  
[Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca](mailto:Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca)

The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition  
[Pierre.Poilievre@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Pierre.Poilievre@parl.gc.ca)

Jagmeet Singh, New Democratic Party of Canada Leader  
[Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca)

Yves-François Blanchet, Bloc Québécois Leader  
[Yves-Francois.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Yves-Francois.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca)

Elizabeth May, Green Party of Canada Leader  
[elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca](mailto:elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca)

The Hon. Michael Chong, Conservative Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister  
[Michael.Chong@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Michael.Chong@parl.gc.ca)

Heather McPherson, NDP Foreign Affairs Critic  
[Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca)

Don Davies, NDP Deputy Foreign Affairs Critic  
[Don.Davies@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Don.Davies@parl.gc.ca)

Stéphane Bergeron, Bloc Québécois Foreign Affairs Critic  
[Stephane.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Stephane.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca)

Rob Oliphant, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
[Rob.Oliphant@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rob.Oliphant@parl.gc.ca)

Her Excellency Lisa Stadelbauer, Ambassador of Canada to Israel,  
[Lisa.Stadelbauer@international.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Stadelbauer@international.gc.ca)

Graham Dattels, Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority,  
[Graham.Dattels@international.gc.ca](mailto:Graham.Dattels@international.gc.ca)

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, The United Church of Canada  
[CLansdowne@united-church.ca](mailto:CLansdowne@united-church.ca)

Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, The United Church of Canada  
[mblair@united-church.ca](mailto:mblair@united-church.ca)