



# UNJPPI

United Network for Justice and Peace  
in Palestine and Israel

8 August 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

Email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)  
[mark.carney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mark.carney@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: When Will Canada Act to Help End the Gaza Genocide? – Concrete Action Required NOW!**

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.

On March 21<sup>st</sup> we wrote to you, urging action to help end the tragedy Israel is meting out on the people of Gaza, a tragedy respected human rights organizations and others have named a genocide. While all eyes are on Gaza, illegal Israeli settlers and Israel's military are also intensifying their human rights violations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Canadians do not want to be part of this genocide and demand our government to do what it can to help end it.

George Bartlett  
UNJPPI Co-Chair  
web: [www.unjppi.ca](http://www.unjppi.ca) email: [george@unjppi.ca](mailto:george@unjppi.ca)

We acknowledge your recent government statements and actions, including:

- With Britain and France, threatening action if Israel does not stop its Gaza offensive (May 19)
- With the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Norway, sanctioning two Israeli ministers for inciting violence against Palestinian West Bank communities (June 10)
- Together with foreign ministers of 24 other countries, saying the Gaza war and the displacement of Palestinians must end now (July 21)
- Your post on X stating that Israel's control of aid distribution must be replaced by comprehensive humanitarian assistance led by international organizations (July 24)
- Your announcement that Canada will recognize the State of Palestine (July 30)
- Canadian Forces airdrop of humanitarian aid into Gaza for the first time (Aug 4)

These were all positive steps. Some are in line with the requests made in our March letter, but with the famine in Gaza intensifying, as evidenced by the recent [IPC Alert](#) they are now clearly grossly inadequate.

In its August 6th *Humanitarian Situation Update #311 | Gaza Strip*, OCHA stated that FSS partners “have enough food in the region or *en route* to feed the entire Gaza population of 2.1 million people for at least three months”. Despite this food being available, it is not getting into Gaza. The reason – Israel is not permitting trucks to safely bring the food in.

So countries like Canada have resorted to airdrops, which everyone, including Canadian officials, know will never be anywhere near sufficient to address the famine.

And on Thursday Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu said that Israel intends to take military control of all of Gaza, even though that action is opposed by Israel's top military officer and most Israelis.

The Israeli Prime Minister and his cabinet ministers have their own personal agendas which clearly do not include saving the lives of Palestinian children or their parents. They also are in total disregard of the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion stating that the continuing Israel occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza is illegal.

Given all the above, it is clearly time for Canada to take very strong action. If Canada's usual allies are not prepared to join with it, then Canada must act with others that will.

Here are some actions Canada should take. We are sure your officials will be able add others.

George Bartlett  
UNJPPI Co-Chair  
web: [www.unjppei.ca](http://www.unjppei.ca) email: [george@unjppei.ca](mailto:george@unjppei.ca)

## ***Effective Two-Way Arms Embargo on Israel***

On 10 September 2024 The [Canadian Press and the CBC](#) reported then Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly stating “ “We will not have any form of arms or parts of arms be sent to Gaza, period.” But now, based on documentation from Arms Embargo Now, [CBC has reported](#) that:

“At time of publication, the searchable website of the Israel Tax Authority details 2025 imports of Canadian "bullets" and other military hardware of a kind that Ottawa has said are not being, and cannot be, shipped to Israel.”

At another point in the CBC report, it states:

“Consequently, although GAC issued only two permits to Israel in 2024, Canadian [government figures](#) show that Israel was Canada's fourth-most frequent customer for military equipment that year, with 164 permits used.”

Minister Anand has taken issue with the Arms Embargo Now report, stating in part that the “bullets” mentioned in the report were in fact ‘paintball-style projectiles’. Presumably these were intended for use in training of the Israeli military, to help them be more effective killers.

Either way, with what has been identified as a genocide being committed by the occupying power under an occupation which the International Court of Justice has advised the UN General Assembly is illegal, Canada should not be permitting the supply from Canada of any military equipment directly or indirectly to Israel and should not be purchasing any military equipment directly or indirectly from Israel.

So Canada must stop the flow of all military, equipment, hardware or supplies, whether directly or indirectly, from Canada to Israel, and similarly from Israel to Canada.

## ***Terminate or At Least Suspend CIFTA and Stop Settlement Products Entering Canada***

For many years now, Canadian government policy has stated that Israel’s settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory (‘oPt’) are both a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and an obstacle to peace. Given that policy and international law provisions, it makes absolutely no sense to permit products from those settlements to enter Canada. It makes even less sense to permit them to enter Canada through the Canada Israel Free Trade Agreement (‘CIFTA’).

In line with the 13 September 2024 resolution of the UN General Assembly, Canada should expeditiously take steps to ensure that products coming in whole or in part from the illegal Israeli settlements do not enter Canada. As a first step Canada should immediately terminate CIFTA or at least suspend CIFTA until measures are in place to ensure that nothing produced in or incorporating components produced in the illegal settlements is entering Canada under it.

George Bartlett  
UNJPPI Co-Chair

web: [www.unjppei.ca](http://www.unjppei.ca) email: [george@unjppei.ca](mailto:george@unjppei.ca)

## ***Take Other Actions Directed by the UN General Assembly on 13 September 2024***

Canada should also put Israel on notice that Canada will be moving expeditiously to take other actions in line with the UN General Assembly's September 2024 resolution and any further actions requested by the UN General Assembly this year. This includes steps,

1. To ensure that Canadian nationals, and Canadian companies and entities, do not act "in any way that would entail recognition or provide aid or assistance in the situation created by Israel's illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory"; and
2. To prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal settlements and the continuing occupation.

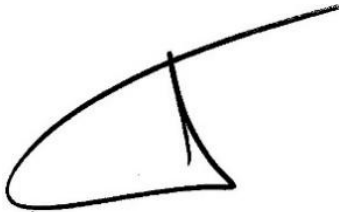
### ***Conclusion***

In a joint op-ed in the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Globe and Mail, Lloyd Axworthy and Allan Rock, two former Canadian government ministers referenced the July 21<sup>st</sup> foreign ministers' statements and then wrote:

*"We applaud our government's participation in the effort to stop the cruelty in Gaza. The joint statement is a good first step. But that effort must be sustained. This moment calls for moral clarity, political courage, and urgent, decisive action. Over two million lives – nearly half of them children – hang in the balance."*

We too call on you and your government to show moral clarity and political courage by taking urgent decisive action, including the two actions requested in this letter.

Respectfully,



George Bartlett  
UNJPPI Co-Chair

c.c.

The Hon. Anita Anand, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

[Anita.Anand@international.gc.ca](mailto:Anita.Anand@international.gc.ca)

[Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca)

George Bartlett  
UNJPPI Co-Chair

web: [www.unjppi.ca](http://www.unjppi.ca) email: [george@unjppi.ca](mailto:george@unjppi.ca)

The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition

[Pierre.Poilievre@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Pierre.Poilievre@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)

Don Davies, Interim New Democratic Party of Canada Leader

[Don.Davies@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Don.Davies@parl.gc.ca)

The Hon. Michael Chong, Conservative Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister

[Michael.Chong@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Michael.Chong@parl.gc.ca)

Stéphane Bergeron, Bloc Québécois Foreign Affairs Critic

[Stephane.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Stephane.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca)

Heather McPherson, NDP Foreign Affairs Critic

[Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca)

Mona Fortier, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

[Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Mona.Fortier@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 Leslie Scanlon, Ambassador of Canada to Israel,

[Leslie.Scanlon@international.gc.ca](mailto:Leslie.Scanlon@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. Dr. Michael Blair, General Secretary, The United Church of Canada,

[mblair@united-church.ca](mailto:mblair@united-church.ca)

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web: [www.unjppei.ca](http://www.unjppei.ca) email: [george@unjppei.ca](mailto:george@unjppei.ca)