

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON

29th of July, 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you as former Canadian Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consuls General who proudly worked to promote longstanding Canadian values and interests in a world order that respected international law and the rights and the dignity of all peoples. We are deeply concerned that these precepts are being abandoned daily with the massive displacement, indiscriminate bombardment and starvation of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the violent attacks by extremist settlers in the West Bank.

We understand the profound impact that the brutal and criminal acts committed by Hamas militants on October 7, 2023, have had on Israeli families and society and we strongly support the safe and immediate release of all the hostages. Canada has always been a steadfast supporter of the State of Israel. However, this cannot include a dispensation to forsake its responsibilities under International Humanitarian Law to protect civilians. If Israel continues on this path, it will lose its standing with the world community, placing the security and the future of the Israeli people in jeopardy. We firmly believe that the security of Israelis and Palestinians can only be sustained through a permanent political settlement and that can only start with an immediate ceasefire.

On July 21st Minister Anand stood with 24 other foreign ministers to demand that Israel "comply with its obligations under International Humanitarian Law" to protect civilians. In the face of an imminent famine, the Israeli government has made some small but insufficient concessions to increase aid flows while continuing to bomb and kill civilians. Prime Minister, we fully support your statement of July 25th that "the denial of humanitarian aid is a violation of international law" and that "Israel's control of aid distribution must be replaced by the comprehensive provision of humanitarian

assistance led by international organizations". These are strong words, that need to be supported by strong actions.

To exert additional pressure on both Israel and Hamas to finalize a ceasefire, bring the hostages home safely, ensure international humanitarian organizations are given full access to deliver assistance and that all civilians are afforded their rights and protections under International Humanitarian Law we propose that:

1. Canada continue to refuse to channel aid through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation or dangerous air drops, and insist that Israel allow full and protected access on a sustained basis to international and UN agencies, including UNRWA, for the delivery of humanitarian assistance through existing road networks;
2. Canada join with other UN member states to demand action by the UN Security Council and, in the event of a veto, seek an Emergency Session of the UN General Assembly to employ the GA's residual powers under Article 12 of the UN Charter, and the Uniting for Peace Resolution 377 (V), to establish a UN mission to monitor a ceasefire and create a protected humanitarian corridor;
3. Canada use its authorities under the Export and Import Permits Act and the Special Economic Measures Act, to implement a two-way arms embargo on all military equipment and components to Israel, including through third states, and strengthen enforcement of financial regulations and criminal sanctions to disrupt and freeze any illegal flows of funding to Hamas or other terrorist groups;
4. Canada notify Israel of its intention to suspend the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement should it continue to fail to meet its International Humanitarian Law obligations and urgently impose trade restrictions on all Israeli exports originating from illegal settlements in the occupied territories;

5. Canada give serious consideration to expanding existing regulations under the Special Economic Measures Act to include persons directly involved in or facilitating illegal settlements in the occupied territories;
6. Canada reaffirm its respect and support for the key institutions underlying the international rules-based legal order, including the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, and their decisions.

While urgent priority must be given to the cessation of conflict and the protection of civilians we also need to begin building the conditions for a permanent peace. We warmly welcome Minister Anand's participation at the UN High Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine where she clearly underlined Canada's longstanding position that the two-state solution is "the only viable path to lasting peace for both Palestinians and Israelis". However, the enormous destruction and death in Gaza combined with the increasingly violent attacks by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank, are seriously undermining the viability of any future Palestinian state.

We believe the time has come for Canada to join the 147 nations (soon to be 148 with France) in recognizing the State of Palestine. Recognition will not only reinforce our longstanding commitment to the self-determination of the Palestinian people but also our total rejection of any effort to displace or expel Palestinians. It will create the political space needed to set the stage for a serious bilateral negotiation process and send a clear message to the current Israeli government, which actively opposes a Palestinian state, that it does not have a veto on the recognition of Palestine.

At the same time we must encourage Palestinians to build a new vision for Palestine that eschews terrorism and violence and recognizes Israel's right to exist in peace and security. Canada can play an important role in encouraging and supporting moderate Palestinian leaders to strengthen democratic practices and institutions.

As former diplomats with extensive experience we stand ready to support our government in taking an active and principled role in ending this terrible conflict and humanitarian tragedy and supporting a just and permanent peace.

Yours sincerely,

The following signatories are former Canadian Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consuls General, Deputy Heads of Mission and/or Permanent Representatives who were accredited to the missions listed below: (names are listed alphabetically)

Jon Allen

Israel, Spain, Andorra, Holy See

John R. Anderson

North Atlantic Council

Ruth Archibald

Maldives, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Mauritius, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Barbados, Dominica, Montserrat, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Grenada, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia

Gaston Barban

Australia, South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Madagascar

John P. Bell

Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Burkina-Faso, Brazil, Malaysia

Roderick Bell

Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Yemen (Republic of), Oman

Eric Bergbusch

Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, German Democratic Republic, Poland

Keith Bezanson

Bolivia, Peru

Anna Biolik

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (Republic of), Tajikistan (Republic of), Mongolia

Angela Bogdan

Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

Jean-Pierre Bolduc

Ghana, Togo, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo (Brazzaville), Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia,

Yves Boulanger

Mali, Ethiopia, Djibouti

Alan Bowker

Guyana, Suriname, Croatia, Kosovo

Marc-André Brault

Egypt, South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Mauritius, Namibia,

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North Atlantic Council

Brian Buckley

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Alexandra Bugailiskis

Syria, Cyprus, Cuba, Poland, Italy, Albania, Malta, San Marino, World Food Programme, International Fund For Agricultural Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ian Burchett

Hong Kong, Macau

Perry Calderwood

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Joseph Caron

China (People's Republic of), Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Mongolia, Japan, Bhutan, India, Nepal

Anne Charles

Bolivia, Peru, Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique

Chantal Chastenay

Lebanon

Caroline Chrétien

Nigeria, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu

Raymond A.J. Chrétien

Burundi, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Rwanda, Congo (Brazzaville), Mexico, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Belgium, United States of America, France

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Cuba, Mexico

William L. Clarke

Brazil, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia

Nicholas Coghlan

South Sudan (Republic of)

Robert Collette

Philippines, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

Paul-André Collin

Guinea

David B. Collins

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Rene Cremonese

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola

William Crosbie

Afghanistan

Heather Cruden

Bangladesh, Pakistan

Allan Culham

El Salvador, Guatemala, Venezuela, Organization of American States

Glenn Davidson

Syria, Afghanistan

Adriaan De Hoog

Berlin

Ferry de Kerckhove

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David Devine

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David Drake

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André Dubois

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