

14 May 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON, K1P 5K9

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing you today with a strong sense of urgency about the need for immediate action, in concert with our European partners, to halt the Israeli government's stated intention to annex the West Bank; and the need to bring an end to its daily attacks against innocent civilians in Gaza and Lebanon.

On 29 July 2025, 173 former Canadian Heads of Mission called on you to support a ceasefire in Gaza and to seek your recognition of the State of Palestine as a step towards achieving a permanent peace settlement. More than seven months later, despite a declared ceasefire, the Israeli government continues to impede humanitarian aid to Gaza and to destroy civilian infrastructure including hospitals and water facilities while killing and injuring hundreds of Palestinians, many of whom are women and children.

In announcing Canada's recognition of the State of Palestine on 21 September 2025 you explained that this decision was based on your assessment that the conditions for a two-state solution were being systematically destroyed. The situation has deteriorated further with Israel's decision to accelerate its support for settlement expansion. On 1 June 2026 the Israeli government will begin issuing tenders for the construction of settlements in the E1 corridor, that Finance Minister Smotrich has explicitly stated is intended to prevent Palestinian statehood by eliminating the possibility of a contiguous Palestinian state. At the same time, extremist settlers, often with the tacit support and at times active participation of Israeli police and military, are violently displacing large numbers of Palestinians from their homes and lands, killing and injuring with impunity.

Similar tactics are being employed in Lebanon, where the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates that over a million Lebanese have been displaced and more than 2,500 killed as a result of Israeli military operations. While Canada recognizes Israel's legitimate security concerns regarding Hezbollah, the raziing of entire towns and the high civilian death toll is a serious violation of international law. Israeli Defence Minister Katz's stated intention to occupy parts of southern Lebanon also threatens Lebanese sovereignty.

It is evident that without robust international sanctions the Israeli government will persist in disregarding international law and human rights and will press forward with its plans to expand settlements. If we are to preserve the viability of a permanent peace settlement via a two-state solution, Canada must act now, with other international parties, by taking the following measures:

- inform the Israeli government of Canada's intention to undertake an immediate review of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA), including the application of rules of origin to exclude coverage of products from the illegal settlements;
- notify Israel of Canada's intention to terminate the Canada-Israel Strategic Partnership MOU within six months, should the government continue to support the expansion of settlements in the West Bank;
- expand economic and travel sanctions to include any Israeli cabinet member, member of the Knesset, government official, settler, or organization that promotes violence against Palestinians or the seizure of their land;
- take legal action against Canadian companies that bid on or participate in construction projects in the settlements;
- announce Canada's unequivocal support for, and implementation of, decisions and actions taken by the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice regarding allegations of war crimes and genocidal acts in the region;
- strengthen bilateral relations with the State of Palestine including increased support to the Palestinian Authority and other civil institutions through training and technical assistance with a particular focus in the areas of governance, finance, the judiciary and security;
- appoint a Special Envoy to coordinate with international partners in addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and to advance support for a negotiated two-state solution with a requirement to report semi-annually to Parliament on the situation;
- accelerate efforts by the Canada Revenue Agency to revoke the charitable status of all entities supporting illegal settlements or facilitating recruitment or funding for the Israel Defence Forces;
- collaborate with international partners to support non-governmental organizations providing protective accompaniment and legal advocacy to Palestinians facing settler violence in the West Bank; and
- advocate with partners to lift Israel's restrictions on Non-Governmental Organizations and journalists in Gaza to ensure effective aid delivery and independent reporting.

As former diplomats, many of whom have served in the Middle East, we recognize that the pursuit of peace between Israel and Palestine has been undermined by the actions of extremists on both sides. The events of 7 October 2023 are a stark and tragic example within a broader history of violence and human rights violations. We share your view that the only

durable path for lasting peace between Israel and Palestine is a viable two-state solution. Our failure to act now, to support that objective, will lead to many more years of conflict, suffering and death.

Respectfully,

The following 190 signatories are former Canadian Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Permanent Representatives, Consuls General, Deputy Heads of Mission and/or Chargés d'affaires who were accredited to the missions listed below: (names are listed alphabetically)

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Jon Allen

Israel, Spain, Andorra, Holy See

Rajani Alexander

Guatemala, Belize, Chandigarh

Terence Bacon

Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Albania

Brian Baker

Denmark

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

Donald Bobiash

Ghana, Togo, Indonesia, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Timor-Leste, Colombia

Jean-Pierre Bolduc

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

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Mali, Ethiopia, Djibouti, African Union

Anne-Marie Bourcier  
Finland, Portugal

Alan Bowker  
Guyana, Suriname, Croatia, Kosovo

Marc-André Brault  
Egypt, South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Mauritius, Namibia

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Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina-Faso

Kerry Buck  
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Brian Buckley  
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International Fund For Agricultural Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
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Nigeria, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Sao Tome And Principe,  
Pakistan, Cuba

Phil Calvert  
Laos, Thailand, Cambodia

Joseph Caron  
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Terence Colfer  
Kuwait, Qatar, Iran

Robert Collette  
Philippines, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

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William Crosbie  
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Heather Cruden  
Bangladesh, Pakistan

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Glenn Davidson  
Syria, Afghanistan

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