

**Statement in regards of the Canadian Government Response to
the assassination of Shireen Abu Akleh by the Israeli occupation forces**

Canadians, as all peoples around the world, are shocked and dismayed by the murder of a well-respected and revered Palestinian-American journalist that was gunned down while doing her job reporting from the field. If this was not sufficiently inhumane and brutal, Israeli police attacked mourners and pallbearers in her peaceful funeral procession in full display of inhumanity and brutality.

The United States, the European Union and the United Nations have called for an independent investigation and bringing the assassins to justice. Canada has not, so far, joined this call and the Parliament of Canada and the Legislative Assembly in Quebec have not supported a vote of condemnation of this wanting crime against the press and Palestinians conducting their normal peaceful daily lives.

The culture of impunity that Israel enjoys is partly supported by the silence of the rest of the world who fail to condemn its apartheid crimes against the Palestinian people under occupation and those treated as second class citizens in Israel and for not holding it accountable for its repeated infractions of international law and international humanitarian laws. Canada's silence and unwillingness to hold Israel accountable for its crimes is contributing to these crimes and is in complete deviation from Canadian values and Canadian principles.

We call on our government to join the world consensus in the condemnation of these acts and in the demand for an independent investigation. This is high time for Canada's government to live up to its avowed principles and policies of protecting human rights of the vulnerable and the respect of international law. The Canadian government and the Canadian people are watched closely by the rest of the world to see where they stand on this issue. Any misstep will not be forgotten or forgiven.

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The Coalition of Canadian Palestinian Organizations (CCPO)

The Coalition of Canadian Palestinian Organizations (CCPO) consists of 24 non-partisan and not-for-profit Canadian Palestinian organizations from coast-to-coast across Canada, united nationally on protecting Palestinian human rights in Canada and abroad. The Coalition operates in 12 major cities and focuses its projects on two fields: Humanitarian projects and Political advocacy.