

January 26, 2023

To the Right Honorable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

The Palestinian Israeli conflict has been raging on for almost a whole century. Canada has been involved in trying to mediate a political resolution, offered recognized peace keeping resources and has extended financial support to the different parties to the conflict.

Historically Canada's foreign policy in the region was balanced, and most Canadian parties and governments tried to adhere to that norm. Unfortunately today's government, following the Harper government biased policies in favour of Israel, is ignoring Canadian public opinion on Palestine and have voted with Israel with the U.S. and a few small islands and countries on almost every issue concerning the Palestinian question at the United Nations, even on issues involving basic human rights such as the inalienable right of people to self-determination and the right to unshackle an illegal occupation that is now the longest in history..

The recent election in Israel brought to government a right wing coalition of extremists some of whom have been charged with terrorist activities. The new government has not hidden its desire to annex the occupied territories and is engaged in daily massacres of innocent Palestinians, home demolitions, annexing new lands, mass incarceration of Palestinians including children, building new illegal settlements and desecrating places of worship for Christian and Muslim Palestinians.

Today, on Thursday the 26th of January, the Israeli army and police attacked the refugee camp of Jenin, killing 10 people and injuring scores of people that the occupier, under international law, is supposed to protect.

Canada that has always took a leading role in resolving conflicts in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and today in the Ukraine is surprisingly and unjustifiably silent on Palestinians under occupation. Silence is consensus making Canada complicit with the Israeli crimes.

The Coalition of Canadian Palestinian Organizations including its members organizations representing the Canadian Palestinian Community in their respective cities, and their Canadian supporters, urge the Canadian government to live up to her declared support of human rights everywhere and to continue her work for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. This is the least we expect of our government in remaining wedded to Canadian values of justice and integrity.

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