



UNJPPI

United Network for Justice and Peace
in Palestine and Israel

13 October 2023

The Hon. Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca
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Dear Minister Joly,

Re: Urgent Action Required to Address Human Tragedy - Gaza and Israel

The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel ('UNJPPI') is a faith-based network that advocates for a just, sustainable peace in Palestine and Israel – a peace based on respect for human rights and political self-determination for all the inhabitants of the region.

Our hearts are shattered by the latest horrific news coming from Israel and occupied Palestine, starting on October 7th and still on-going. The earliest reports were of non-combatant Israelis being killed by Hamas operatives that crossed from Gaza into Israel and of other Israelis being kidnapped and taken into Gaza. This has been followed by the most intense ever Israeli bombardment of Gaza with the destruction of innumerable buildings, including the homes of non-combatant Palestinians and civilian infrastructure. UNJPPI condemns the atrocities being perpetrated by both sides on innocent civilians.

The number of casualties continues to rise. As of October 13th, OCHA reports the following casualties:

<i>Palestinian Casualties</i>		<i>Israeli Casualties</i>
<i>Gaza</i>	<i>West Bank</i>	
1,900 Fatalities	49 Fatalities	1,300 Fatalities
7,696 Injuries	950 Injuries	3,436 Injuries

George Bartlett
UNJPPI Chair
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From news reports we learn that Israel has also cut off the supply of food, water and electricity to Gaza, creating the real risk of a humanitarian disaster. On Friday Israel called for 1.1 million Palestinians in the north of Gaza to relocate to the south within 24 hours. The U.N states that this is impossible “without devastating humanitarian consequences”. It is also ethnic cleansing, a violation of international law. It needs to end immediately.

To help stop this disaster from spiraling even further out of control, UNJPPI calls on the Canadian government to use all the influence it can bring to bear on Israel and Hamas, either directly or through other world leaders, to achieve the following:

1. An Immediate ceasefire,
2. An immediate end to the threatened ethnic cleansing or forced relocation of people from any part of Gaza,
3. Quick and safe passage of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and its delivery to the affected Gazan population,
4. Expedited restoration of water and electricity services to Gaza, with a priority for medical facilities, and
5. U.N. and international law protections for all Palestinians in Gaza.

We look forward to learning of Canada’s leadership in helping to end this humanitarian disaster.

Respectfully,



George Bartlett
Chair

c.c.

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, P.C., M.P.

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