

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

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,

Kerry Buck

North Atlantic Council

Brian Buckley

Minneapolis

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

Venezuela, Senegal, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Sao Tome And Principe, Pakistan, Cuba

Phil Calvert

Laos, Thailand, Cambodia

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

Keith Christie

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

Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Pakistan, Malaysia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, United Nations (Nairobi), Burundi, Eritrea, Rwanda, South Sudan (Republic of)

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

Pakistan, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Egypt

David Devine

Guyana, Suriname, Vietnam (Socialist Republic of)

Brian Dickson

El Salvador, Guatemala, Organization of American States

David Drake

Egypt

André Dubois

Qatar, Guinea

Jean-Marc Duval

Azerbaijan (Republic of), Georgia (Republic of), Türkiye (Republic of), Turkmenistan, Colombia,

Mark Entwistle

Cuba

Nicholas Etheridge

Bangladesh

Marc Faguy

Ghana, Benin, Liberia, Togo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

Ian C. Ferguson

Lebanon, Nigeria

Patricia Fortier

Dominican Republic, Peru, Bolivia

Louise Fréchette

Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, United Nations (New York), United Nations Deputy Secretary General

Réjean Frenette

Burundi, Rwanda, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo (Brazzaville), Nigeria, Switzerland, Benin, Liechtenstein

Patricia Fuller

Uruguay, Chile, Climate Change

Émile Gauvreau

Bangladesh, Myanmar, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Benin

Marie Gervais-Vidricaire

Austria, International Organizations (Vienna), Germany (Federal Republic Of)

Barbara Gibson

Organization for Security and Cooperation In Europe

Raphael Girard

North Macedonia (Republic of), Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova

Stanley E. Gooch

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Honduras, India, Nepal, Mexico,

John Graham

Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela, Dominican Republic

Chris Greenshields

Ramallah, Israel

Susan Gregson

Shanghai

Marius Grinius

Vietnam (Socialist Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), United Nations (Geneva), United Nations Conference on Disarmament

Louis Guay

Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe

Pierre Guimond

Hungary, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Robert Hage

Hungary, Slovenia

Sam Hanson

Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sudan

Lisa Helfand

Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Netherlands, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Kathryn Hewlett-Jobes

Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, Bahamas, Jamaica

Robin Higham

Morocco

James K Hill

Mozambique, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras

Daniel Hobson

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

John Holmes

Jordan, Iraq, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Georgia (Republic of), Azerbaijan (Republic of), Turkiye (Republic of), Turkmenistan, Philippines

Deanna Horton

Vietnam (Socialist Republic of)

Margaret Huber

Czech Republic, Slovakia (Slovak Republic), Pakistan, Jordan, Iraq

David Hutchings

Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Rod Irwin

Trinidad And Tobago, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Armenia, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan

Sigrid Johnson

Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo (Brazzaville)

Bruce Jutzi

Czech Republic, Slovakia (Slovak Republic)

Norbert Kalisch

Chile

Deirdre Kent

Norway

Jeremy Kinsman

Azerbaijan (Republic Of), Georgia (Republic Of), Russian Federation, Armenia, Belarus (Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (Republic of), Tajikistan (Republic of), Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Italy, Malta, San Marino, Albania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, European Union

Richard Kohler

Brazil

Gwyneth Kutz

El Salvador, Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia

Patricia Langan-Torell

Panama

Christian Lapointe

Ecuador

Suzanne Laporte

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

Benoit-Pierre Laramée

Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo (Brazzaville), Cameroon

Louise Larocque

Kosovo, Croatia

Gilbert Laurin

United Nations (New York), United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Cécile Latour

Vietnam (Socialist Republic of)

Gaetan Lavertu

Colombia, Ecuador, Germany (Federal Republic of), Mexico, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development

Anne Leahy

Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Armenia, Belarus (Republic of), Uzbekistan, Great Lakes Region In Africa, Holy See

Louise Leger

Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras

Allan Lever

Saudi Arabia, Yemen (Arab Republic), Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of), Yemen (Republic of)

Michèle Lévesque

Guinea-Bissau, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Benin, Liberia, Morocco, Mauritania, African Union, Djibouti, Ethiopia

Peter Lloyd

Trinidad and Tobago

Julie Loranger

Spain, Cuba

Marc Lortie

Chile, Paraguay, Spain, Andorra, France, Monaco

Victor Lotto

Venezuela, Dominican Republic

Ken Macartney

Sweden

Melvyn MacDonald

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

Kathleen Mackay

Taiwan

David Malone

United Nations (New York), India, Bhutan, Nepal, United Nations Under-Secretary General

Ginette Martin

Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo (Brazzaville)

Tim Martin

Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, Kandahar, Ramallah

Barry Mawhinney

Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Korea (Republic of)

Carolyn McAskie

Sri Lanka

Stuart McDowall

United Arab Emirates

Peter McGovern

Italy, Malta, San Marino, Food And Agriculture Organization Of The United Nations (FAO),
World Food Programme, International Fund For Agricultural Development, Albania

Donald McMaster

Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia

Rob McRae

North Atlantic Council

Paul Meyer

United Nations (Geneva), United Nations Conference On Disarmament

Michael Molloy

Jordan

John Morrison

Montenegro, Serbia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania

Scott Mullin

Somalia, Iran

Lilly Nicholls

Panama, Bangladesh

Olivier Nicoloff

Belgium, Luxembourg

John Noble

Greece, Switzerland, Liechtenstein

Sabine Nölke

Netherlands, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Henri-Paul Normandin

United Nations (New York), Haiti

Brian Northgrave

Uruguay

Brian Oak

Ecuador

Robert Orr

Comoros, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia

Louise Ouimet

Burkina-Faso, Mali

Michel Perrault

Algeria, Korea (Republic of), Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic

David Plunkett

European Union

Louis Poisson

Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, Congo (Brazzaville), Equatorial Guinea

Christopher Poole

Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Haiti

Donica Pottie

Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Jordan

Claire A. Poulin

Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, El Salvador, Uruguay

Robert Ready

Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas

Penny Reddie

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

Philippe Rheault

Guangzhou, Chongqing

Barbara Richardson

Bangladesh, Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Czech Republic

Gilles Rivard

Haiti, United Nations (New York)

Andrew Robinson

Jordan, Ukraine

Dominique Rossetti

Sudan, Chad, Eritrea

Isabelle Roy

Mali, Algeria

Guy Saint-Jacques

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, China (People's Republic of)

Virginie Saint-Louis

Mali

Jules Savaria

Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Burkina-Faso

Darren Schemmer

Ghana, Togo

John Schram

Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Sudan, Liberia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana

Jon J. Scott

Bangladesh

Sandelle Scrimshaw

Ghana, Benin, Liberia, Togo, Montserrat, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent And The Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, South Africa, Mauritius, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)

Chris Shapardanov

Finland

Scott Slessor

Afghanistan, Chandigarh

John Sloan

Armenia, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan

Donald W. Smith

Croatia, Holy See

Judith St George

Malaysia

Lisa Stadelbauer

Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola, Kenya, United Nations (Nairobi), Rwanda, Somalia, Burundi, Uganda, Israel

Mario Ste-Marie

Taiwan

Hugh Stephens

Taiwan

Allan Stewart

Venezuela

Peter Sutherland

Saudi Arabia, Yemen (Republic Of), India, Nepal, Philippines,

Carmen Sylvain

Morocco, Mauritania, Colombia

John Tennant

Detroit

Richard Têtu

Iceland

Lillian Thomsen

St. Petersburg

Christopher Thomson

United Arab Emirates

Douglas Valentine

Colombia, Yemen (Arab Republic), Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of), Saudi Arabia

Gordon Venner

Iran

Caterina Ventura

Brunei (Darussalam)

Louis Verret

Mali, Niger

David Viveash

Libya

Alexandra Volkoff

Sweden

Otch Von Finckenstein

Ecuador, Brunei (Darussalam)

John Weekes

United Nations (Geneva), World Trade Organization (Geneva)

Michael Welsh

Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Montserrat, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands

Christopher Westdal

Bangladesh, Myanmar, South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), United Nations Conference On Disarmament, Ukraine, United Nations (Geneva), United Nations Conference On Disarmament, Russian Federation, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Ireland

David J.S. Winfield

Guatemala, Mexico

F. Ian Wood

Bahrain, Kuwait. Qatar. United Arab Emirates, Oman

Jim Wright

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Robert G. Wright

New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Samoa, Japan, China (People's Republic of), Mongolia

Janet Zukowsky

Anguilla, Montserrat, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines