

Hon. [Click here to enter text.](#), MP

8 August 2014

Dear [Click here to enter text.](#)

As a constituent of the [*your riding*], and on behalf of many others in the riding, I write to you distressed by Canada's reaction to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. I would like to urge you to consider immediate actions that the Canadian government must undertake to contribute to a humanitarian resolution in the current crisis in Gaza, Palestine.



As you may know, the conflict that started at the beginning of July with heavy shelling from Israel into Gaza, has resulted – at the time of writing – in 1,306 Palestinians dead including 260 children, 18 or younger. In the photo you can see Yasmeen and Hatem al-Yazji, killed with their grandparents July 21st at the Jabalya Refugee Campⁱ in Gaza.

I am aware of reports about rockets being shot from Gaza into Israel, 3 civilians were reported killed. Fifty-three Israeli soldiers were also killed during the ground invasion of Gaza. This is in wide contrast with the disproportionate massacre of Palestinian civilians and infrastructure destruction in Gaza caused by the IDF. Nothing has been spared. Bombing has included houses, mosques, hospitals, UNRWA schools and, just yesterday, the only major power plant in Gaza. **Nothing justifies this level of devastation and outlaw behaviour by an occupying country.** Not even security or self-defense!

“... as an occupying power, Israel has responsibility to protect the basic rights of the Palestinian people, including rights to adequate food, water, housing, education and health. UN and NGO reports have consistently shown how Israel's blockade has denied these rights to the people of Gaza.”ⁱⁱ

It is obvious to me that the Canadian government position of unconditional support for Israel makes Canada complicit in the killing of many innocent civilian Palestinians caught in a conflict of which they are not part. Civilian population is protected under international law even in time of war and, as a Canadian, I expect Canada to uphold and respect international law.

Finally, as your constituent, I urge you, as a Member of Parliament:

1. To advocate for the Canadian government to immediately and publicly condemn the abuses committed by Israel, widely considered crimes.
2. To recommend that Canada recognize the call of Palestinians for their internationally recognized human rights, and be a promoter for peace in all circumstances.

3. To ask that Canada uphold international law in cases of conflicts wherever they may occur.
4. To demand that Israel end the expansionist aggression, the occupation of Palestinian territory and the blockade of Gaza as the only venue to restore long-lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Star of 30 July reports “Canada’s bully-boy approach to Gaza may be politically expedient for Prime Minister Stephen Harper. But in terms of bringing peace to the Middle East it is not helpful. If anything, it makes matters worse.”ⁱⁱⁱ My Canada must always choose to be on the right side of history beyond any political ideology.

Let’s not repeat errors of judgment that we will surely regret later.

Sincerely,

[constituent’s signature & address]

ⁱ United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

<http://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip/camp-profiles?field=1>

ⁱⁱ 'The Right to Protect' and the loss of Parliament's moral compass.

<http://rabble.ca/news/2014/07/right-to-protect-and-loss-parliaments-moral-compass?>

ⁱⁱⁱ Stephen Harper’s hardline approach to Gaza unhelpful: Walkom. The Star:

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/07/29/stephen_harpers_hardline_approach_to_gaza_unhelpful_walkom.html