

23 December 2020

The Hon. Karina Gould, P.C., M.P. Minister for International Development House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 <u>Karina.Gould@parl.gc.ca</u>

Dear Minister Gould,

The United Network of Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel ('UNJPPI') is a grassroots network of United Church of Canada members and friends working for a just peace in Palestine/Israel through education and advocacy.

Today I write on behalf of UNJPPI to thank you for your December 21<sup>st</sup> announcement of Canada's continued support for Palestinian refugees. The amount announced - of up to \$90 million dollars payable over 3 years through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency – is a significant contribution and one that is desperately needed for the essential education, health and livelihood needs of Palestinian refugees. The members of UNJPPI very much appreciate Canada once again helping to meet these needs.

While thanking you for this financial commitment, I must note that the greatest need of Palestinians is not aid but justice based on compliance with international law and the end to the Israeli military occupation. Many UNJPPI members and supporters have visited Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. We see what is happening in the West Bank as Palestinians are forced off their lands, to make way for more illegal Israeli settlements. Canada has a long tradition of support for international law and we encourage the Canadian government to use its significant influence to encourage full compliance with international law.

Sincerely,

George Bartlett Chair

c.c.

The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, P.C., M.P. Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Erin O'Toole, Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition <u>Erin.OToole@parl.gc.ca</u>

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