

Mennonite
Church Canada
Palestine-Israel
Network



CANADIAN
FRIENDS
OF SABEL

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

July 28, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

We write on behalf of KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Development and Peace: Caritas Canada, The Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Friends of Sabeel, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network, The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The United Church of Canada. We bring together more than 4 million people from communities across Canada. Many of us, over decades, have urged the Government of Canada to take effective action for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

We were hopeful when, on May 20, you joined leaders from Britain and France in stating that *"the level of human suffering in Gaza is intolerable,"* promising further action if Israel failed to halt its offensive and lift restrictions on aid.

On May 22, the one-year anniversary of the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: Canadian Churches for Just Peace, we [reiterated](#) our calls to the government of Canada to use all economic, diplomatic, and political tools available to:

- Secure an **immediate, sustained ceasefire**
- Ensure the **unhindered delivery of food, water, fuel, and humanitarian aid**
- Achieve the **release of all captives, both Israeli and Palestinian**
- Impose a **comprehensive, two-way arms embargo on Israel**, including closing loopholes such as exports via the U.S.
- End Israel's **military occupation and annexation of Palestine**, paving the way for a just peace

On June 10, Canada added two Israeli cabinet ministers to the list of extremist settlers sanctioned under the Special Economic Measures Act. These sanctions are a step in the right direction — but Israel's impunity remains intact.

On June 17, following the bombing of the Anglican Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza City, we [wrote again](#)—demanding accountability, full humanitarian access into Gaza, and a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel.

On July 21, you issued [another joint statement with 26 partners](#), stating again that you are prepared to take further action. On July 24, you recognized publicly that [Israel's denial of humanitarian aid is a violation of international law](#).

Today, with deepening grief and frustration, we write once more, urging the Government of Canada to act decisively to end the abhorrent suffering and violence in Gaza. We welcome your words and intentions but have seen no meaningful action—only continued Israeli bombardment, displacement, blocked aid, and the deaths of hundreds of civilians, many of them children, desperate for food and water.

Our work and witness are rooted in decades of partnership with local Christian churches and human rights organizations in Palestine and Israel. Even as they live through devastation, they continue to work boldly and sacrificially for just peace. Canada must do no less.

While all Palestinians are suffering from Israel's siege in Gaza and Israeli settlements and occupation in the West Bank, the situation of Palestinian Christians grows increasingly dangerous and grave. As Christian organizations in Canada, we are compelled to amplify their suffering and demands for peace.

On July 7, Israeli settlers attacked the Christian village of Taybeh in the West Bank, prompting [three priests](#) to call on the international community to stop the illegal and expanding encroachment of settlers. We join these priests in their desperate appeal to urge Canada to respond with concrete action.

On July 17, an [Israeli air strike hit the Holy Family Church in Gaza](#), the only Catholic church in Gaza. Hundreds of families have sheltered within Holy Family since October 2023. The church is directly supported by Caritas Jerusalem, a partner of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, which receives funds from many Canadians who care about peace and justice in the region. Numerous people were injured in the strike, including the parish priest, Fr. Gabriel Romanelli, whom Pope Francis called daily. Three people were killed, among them Saad, the brother of a staff members of KAIROS' West Bank partner Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre, dedicated to just peace, gender justice, and conflict resolution.

Our friends at Wi'am wrote just after the news of Saad's death:

"We are devastated to hear that Saad was taken while in prayer in a sanctuary of peace, now turned into rubble. There are no words for such grief. But we trust Christ, who wept at Lazarus' tomb, now weeps with us. Saad died in prayer. We believe he is now in the eternal embrace of our Heavenly Father, where no missiles fly and no tears are shed."

While Christians have been victims of these horrific acts of violence and occupation, Palestinian Christians in the region insist they share their fate with all Palestinians.

We repeat our request for an urgent meeting to discuss the immediate, concrete steps our government must take to uphold human rights and international law.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Tania Principe
Executive Director
KAİROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives



Luke Stocking
Interim Executive Director
Development and Peace - Caritas Canada



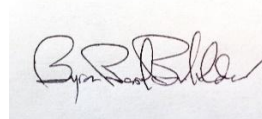
The Most Reverend Shane Parker
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada



Rula Odeh
Chair, Canadian Friends of Sabeel



The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Byron Rempel-Burkholder
Chair, Mennonite Church Canada
Palestine-Israel Network



The Rev. Jeffrey Murray,
Moderator of The General Assembly,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada



The Rev. Michael Blair
General Secretary
The United Church of Canada

cc: The Hon. Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs