

A Plea for the War to End in Palestine

To: Prime Minister Trudeau/ your MP

The latest round of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories has caused death and destruction at a rate that surpasses the world's deadliest wars in history. By now, more than 20,000 civilian Palestinians have been killed. Mostly women and children, these numbers include medical staff, doctors, nurses, and ambulance drivers. Also, many civil service members were killed; firemen often rushed into bombed buildings to rescue survivors, if they could find any, only to get bombed again by American-made bombs. Teachers and even United Nations employees and diplomatic envoys did not escape the onslaught. The genocide committed by the Israeli forces backed by US, UK, Canada, Australia, and Germany, to name a few, is in its third month, and the way things are going it's looking likely to continue into the year 2024.

While people around the world are getting ready to welcome a new year with festivities, Israeli forces continue to bomb Palestinian hospitals, clinics, schools, bakeries, and all signs of life in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is not limited to Gaza; this Israeli criminal conduct is carried out regularly in the occupied West Bank as well.

Canada proclaims itself to be a country of laws. Canada is a signatory to the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act, which is designed to prosecute those individuals and organizations involved in such crimes. Canada went further by implementing this into domestic law. There have been people charged in Canada under this section.

It is the opinion of NGOs such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, which are entrusted with looking into and keeping track of such violations, that Israel committed war crimes during the last few months in Gaza. The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) called on Israel to respect the international rules of war and said he was accelerating his investigation into violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. "In Gaza, there is no justification for doctors to perform operations without light, for children to be operated upon without anaesthetics. Imagine the pain," ICC prosecutor Karim Khan stated.

These crimes committed by Israel include but are not limited to:

- **War crimes** in the form of murder, extermination, deportation, imprisonment, torture, and persecution. The evidence for these crimes is documented daily by media, international NGOs, and world governments. Many UN council meetings have been held in order to stop them, only to be thwarted by the blood-thirsty US with its veto powers. Not surprising as US President Joe Biden is a self-proclaimed Zionist.

- **Genocide** means an act or omission committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, an identifiable group of persons. Many statements have been made by a plethora of Israeli officials and from the varying levels of the government, including the disgraced Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, declaring their intent to do this very act. To date, the Israeli mercenaries have been carrying out the Israeli government's orders.

It was considered whether to include the sections and articles that Israel has violated in this Act, but there is not one section of this act that has not been desecrated.

This brings us to the importance of this letter: If Canada is a country of laws, then all these companies offering financial support to the entity committing these crimes should cease their action. In all honesty, they should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Furthermore, many Israelis are dual citizens and some have left Canada to fight alongside the Israeli forces; the very forces committing genocide and crimes against humanity and war crimes. Upon return to this country these mercenaries should be arrested and prosecuted. Judging by the high number of

Palestinian children murdered at the hands of the Israeli forces, the returning combatants would have most certainly killed children and I would not feel that Canadian streets, schools, and hospitals will be safe with these criminals who bombed such places with impunity walking around.

While Canada and South Africa sit far apart geographically and politically, they share a common vestige. South Africa is well-situated to identify apartheid practices with the world organizations and governments recognizing the ongoing genocide. On December 18, South Africa moved to warn its citizens who have gone to fight alongside the Israeli forces that they will be prosecuted upon return. It is time for Canada to step up and do the right thing too. For the past few decades, Canada has lost its way on the world stage. It's time to get back on the right side of history. It is time to do all we can to stop this genocide and bring those who perpetrated it to justice.

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