



CANADIANS IN SUPPORT OF REFUGEES IN DIRE NEED

Letter to the Prime Minister of Canada

Copies to all MPs across Canada

March 15, 2024

Re : War on Gaza – CSRDN Statement – **Please vote for ceasefire**

Dear Honorable Prime Minister Trudeau

Canadians in Support of Refugees in Dire Need is a national humanitarian organization dedicated to upholding the principles of equality and justice for all people regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

We are writing to you to express our grave concerns regarding the ongoing bombardment of Gaza. We have witnessed the killing of 15,000 children who have been burnt to death, dismembered, or crushed to death under rubble by Israeli airstrikes. We have seen more than 30,000 Palestinians killed in the Israeli bombings and sniper attacks on civilians over the past nearly 5 months. This indiscriminate carpet bombing which includes hospitals, schools, ambulances, refugee camps and homes is in complete violation of international humanitarian law.

The cruel and painful deaths of the Palestinian children and civilians led Aaron Bushnell a 25yr old member of US Air Force to set himself on fire in front of the Israeli embassy in Washington on February 25, 2024. He burnt himself to death in protest of the ongoing bombing of the people of Gaza by Israel and the USA. He demonstrated to us by sacrificing his own life, the painful deaths experienced by more than 30,000 civilians, half of whom are children.

We have seen 364 doctors killed. 155 medical facilities and hospitals destroyed. 2,675 massacres against the Palestinian people in Gaza and 132 journalists killed by Israel and Canada has still not denounced and condemned the Israeli attacks on the people of Gaza.

The Geneva Convention article #4 is based on 3 principles all of which have been grossly violated by the Israeli Government.

1. Proportionality – the bombing and killings and now deaths by forced starvation and complete blockade on Gaza are totally disproportionate to the attacks of October 7 with 1200 Israeli people killed.
2. Target – there has been no distinction between military and civilian targets – hospitals and schools and places of worship for both Christians and Muslims have been bombed. Pregnant women have been bulldozed over, children have been shot in the head at close range.
3. Precaution – if the target could be civilian then the target cannot be bombed. We have seen hospitals bombed with the excuse that a Hamas fighter could be present for which there is no evidence.

More than 1.9 million people have been displaced and a quarter are on the brink of famine. We are now seeing babies and children dying from starvation, dehydration and diseases due to lack of clean water and food.

These horrific deaths and barbaric attacks by Israeli Government funded by the USA cannot continue to be supported by civilized nations.

We ask that Canada not be complicit in the war crimes now unfolding and ongoing.

We ask for the following

1. immediately stop the bombing of Gaza
2. immediately open the land border to allow food, water and medical supplies into Gaza. The food airdrops are inefficient and have cost hundreds of lives as people gathering for food are then targeted by Israeli air strikes.
3. end the occupation of Palestine and support sovereignty for Palestine as Canada has for Ukraine
4. provide similar emergency visas for displaced Palestinians as Canada has provided for displaced Ukrainians.
5. Immediately stop providing military support to Israel which is currently under investigation for plausible genocide by the International Court of Justice.

The Israeli government as an occupying force is obligated to provide protection for the people and the territory it is occupying. Instead it is collectively punishing civilians against the clear recommendations of the International Court of Justice, with more than 70% of those killed being women and children. Canada must respect international law for all people and not just for some.