

# Jagmeet Singh calls for ending Canadian arms sales to Israel

ei [electronicintifada.net/blogs/nora-barrows-friedman/jagmeet-singh-calls-ending-canadian-arms-sales-israel](https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/nora-barrows-friedman/jagmeet-singh-calls-ending-canadian-arms-sales-israel)

May 13, 2021



## You are here

[Nora Barrows-Friedman](#) [Power Suits](#) 13 May 2021



“Will the Prime Minister commit to stopping the sale of arms to Israel while they’re violating international human rights?” asks Canadian MP Jagmeet Singh. ([Twitter](#))

Canadian lawmaker [Jagmeet Singh](#), head of Canada’s nominally progressive New Democratic Party, has called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to stop arms sales to Israel.

Israel has slaughtered dozens of Palestinians in Gaza in [hundreds of air strikes](#) since Monday.

Singh’s call was a change from his [habitual tendency](#) to deflect on the issue.

It is also a signal that public calls on lawmakers to take a stand for Palestinian rights can yield results.

Speaking up also creates room for better political leaders to emerge who wouldn't need to have a fire placed under their asses for them to do the bare minimum

— Joe Emersberger (@rosendo\_joe) May 12, 2021

At the NDP party convention last month, rank and file members had approved a call for an end to Canada's arms deals with Israel.

Singh had initially refused to publicly state that he agreed with his party's constituents. Instead, he said he agreed with the demands from human rights organizations to apply "pressure to get to a resolution."

But at the House of Commons on Wednesday, Singh was very clear.

"Instead of taking action to stop or to deal with the long-standing illegal occupations, this prime minister is effectively supporting the status quo and going as far as to sell weapons to Israel," Singh said.

"By arming one side of the conflict, it is undermining the peace process and it is supporting the illegal occupation. So, will the prime minister commit to stopping the sale of arms to Israel while they're violating international human rights?," Singh asked Trudeau directly.

Fantastic to see @theJagmeetSingh using his time in QP to push @JustinTrudeau to stop arming Israel. <https://t.co/K6RB81GYnC>

— Michael Bueckert (@mbueckert) May 12, 2021

Trudeau, a staunch ally of Israel, did not answer Singh's question.

Instead, he stated that Canada affirms "Israel's right to assure its own security," condemned rocket attacks launched by Palestinian resistance factions, and stated Canada's support for the long-dead "two-state solution."

He also said violence against Palestinians in Jerusalem was "unacceptable" and added that Canada was "gravely concerned" over Israeli settlement expansion projects – political finger-wagging that does not come with material consequences.

Here is @NDP leader Jagmeet Singh demanding that Canada commit to an arms embargo against #Israel

Trudeau's response is to blame "both sides", and commit to nothing.

Cowardly inaction from a fellow settler colonial state. #GazaUnderAttack  
#SaveSheikhJarrah [pic.twitter.com/upHdYBIBjO](https://pic.twitter.com/upHdYBIBjO)

— Geneviève Joëlle (@genevievejoelle) May 12, 2021

## Lawmakers say it's apartheid

---

More than 30 members of parliament have indicated their opposition to Israel's eviction operations in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah.

In this thread, MP [@JackHarrisNDP](#) says that Israel must stop illegal evictions [#SheikhJarrah](#) <https://t.co/v1JPKiEnFU>

— CJPME [#SaveSheikhJarrah](#) ([@CJPME](#)) [May 8, 2021](#)

Taking it a step further, at least five MPs have been clear that Israel is practicing apartheid.

"In a statement, the families of [#SheikhJarrah](#) said that the judge "ordered that 'both sides' should reach some 'deal' whereby the Sheikh Jarrah families admit the settler organization's ownership of the land and pay rent to the settler organization"

This is State Apartheid <https://t.co/6lg3f8xw3d>

— Matthew Green 🍊📈👊 ([@MatthewGreenNDP](#)) [May 6, 2021](#)

✓ IN SUPPORT

MP [@Yasmin\\_Ratansi](#) met with [@CanPalCoalition](#) and heard the concerns of the Palestinian diaspora.

"I was very perturbed to see live footage of innocent Palestinians being shot while they prayed at the Al Aqsa Mosque during the Holy Month of Ramadan."  
[pic.twitter.com/Kn0lueBylU](https://pic.twitter.com/Kn0lueBylU)

— Canadian MPs On Palestine ([@CanadianMps\\_Pal](#)) [May 9, 2021](#)

MP [@marwantabbaramp](#) calls for the international community to take action against Israel's evictions and apartheid [#SheikhJarrah](#) [pic.twitter.com/1oVdmOLHV6](https://pic.twitter.com/1oVdmOLHV6)

— CJPME [#SaveSheikhJarrah](#) ([@CJPME](#)) [May 9, 2021](#)

Last month Human Rights Watch called the Israeli occupation apartheid. What is happening in East Jerusalem right now is ethnic cleansing and it's happening live on social media.

[1/2#SheikhJarrah](#) <https://t.co/YvWwpsTWHJ>

— Paul Manly ([@paulmanly](#)) [May 10, 2021](#)

It is a totally inadequate statement. Forced Evictions must end! I stand with Palestine and condemn the unthinkable air strikes in Gaza. End Apartheid! [#SaveSheikhJarrah](#)

— Jenica Atwin, MP for Fredericton Députée (@JenicaAtwin) [May 11, 2021](#)

Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, a human rights group, [is calling](#) on the Canadian government to convene an emergency session in order to address the “imminent forced evictions and escalating violence in Jerusalem.”

“In the absence of a clear plan from the Canadian government to address Israel’s violations, CJPME urges parliament to show leadership and debate Canada’s response to this human rights emergency,” the group stated.

## Tags

---

- [#GazaUnderAttack](#)
- [Jagmeet Singh](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [New Democratic Party](#)
- [arms embargo](#)

[Nora Barrows-Friedman's blog](#)

[Add new comment](#)

## Comments

---



### [The Right to Resist](#)

---

[Permalink](#) Stefano R. Baldari replied on Thu, 05/13/2021 - 23:54

Mr. Singh has done right in expressing to Mr. Trudeau that Canada should stop selling arms to Occupied Palestine (Israel) while it continues to violate the human rights of Palestinians (and anyone else who is not a white Jew).

Palestinians have a legal right to resist and fight their occupation by Zionist Israelis. As stated by the 1960 United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Of course Mr. Trudeau could not, and I would not expect him to, answer Mr. Singh's question, because he couldn't defend the indefensible.

[Reply](#)

**Add new comment**

---

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

[Comment policy](#).

## **Nora Barrows-Friedman**

---



Nora Barrows-Friedman is a staff writer and associate editor at The Electronic Intifada, and is the author of *In Our Power: US Students Organize for Justice in Palestine* (Just World Books, 2014).

[Twitter](#)