

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

CC:

The Honourable Anita Anand, P.C.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
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The Honourable David McGuinty, P.C.
Minister of National Defence
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
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Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you as a coalition of Iranian Canadians and our allies across Canada with immeasurable pain, grief, and urgent concern over Israel's war on Iran, and Canada's role therein.

It has been less than a week since Israel began its unprovoked aggression against Iran and its people, in blatant violation of international law and the country's sovereignty, and the destruction and death it has caused for the Iranian people is already immense and mounting every second. At the moment over 200 civilians have been killed and over 1,200 others wounded. 90% of the casualties have been civilians. Scientists, academics, activists, artists, students, parents and children have been targeted.

We Iranian Canadians have family, loved ones and deep connections in Iran. All of us are in constant fear of hearing about our families' deaths, and some of us have already received such devastating news. Many of us grew up and built lives and memories on the very streets being bombed. In fact, many Iranian Canadians are currently in Iran, at risk of death and with no way of getting out. Our community is scared, angry and grieving.

We are especially concerned by your government's stance on this war, which has been shameful and disappointing. Your shocking statement on 13 June did not even acknowledge the Israeli

attack on our people. Rather than condemn the aggressor, you focused on the alleged threat of Iran's nuclear program and affirmed, in words that have puzzled international law experts and the Canadian public at large, Israel's "right to defend itself." Looking at your statement, one would get the impression that no Israeli attack had occurred at all! Minister Anand's words were no less disappointing. In her first statement, issued when Israel had begun its bombardment, she simply stated that Canada was "following closely the escalation of tensions," refusing to name the aggressor or even mention Israel's unprovoked attack. Yet just a few hours later, when Iran had begun its justified defensive response under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, Minister Anand was quick to declare that "Canada condemns Iran's attack on Israel." To us and many Canadians, this double standard is a sign of hypocrisy and disregard for international law. The fact of the matter is that this was an unjustified, unprovoked, criminal attack. If one can speak of a "right of defence" at all, it belongs to Iran, not to Israel, the party that initiated this war.

We would like to remind you of the Canadian government's position on the invasion of Iraq under Prime Minister Chrétien. At the time, the Bush administration tried to rally Western states around an illegal and criminal invasion through fearmongering and fabricated allegations that Iraq was producing WMDs, much like Netanyahu and Trump are doing today. Canadians opposed that war and mobilized en masse to demand that their government stay out of it. Prime Minister Chrétien chose to trust Canadian intelligence, listen to the Canadian people, and refuse to join in. History proved his position to be right.

Your statements today, by contrast, fan the flames of war by repeating the Israeli government's unsubstantiated fearmongering about a nuclear threat and explicitly defending an illegal war under the guise of "self-defence." Unfortunately, these recent statements are a continuation of your government's position on Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza. After nearly two years of relentless mass murder which has taken the lives of over 100,000 innocent civilians, and as Israeli government officials make it abundantly clear that their aim is nothing but the complete annihilation of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and ongoing colonization of their land in the West Bank, your government has still refused to take a principled stance for human rights, to put meaningful pressure on Israel, or even to call the genocide what it is. Your inaction is in violation of Canada's obligations under the Genocide Convention, and Canadians have been calling on you to meet those obligations for two years to no avail. So long as the Canadian government refuses to impose a two-way arms embargo and continues to permit the sale of arms to Israel, it is complicit in all of Israel's crimes, be they against our siblings in Gaza or us and our people in Iran. Moreover, your government's recent decision to massively increase military expenditure at a time when Canadians are struggling to meet their basic needs indicates that you have chosen war over peace and weapons over people.

These decisions violate Canada's obligations under international law. They tarnish its image as a peace-keeping nation and positions it as a supporter of war, genocide, racism, apartheid and

aggression. They put not just the lives of our people in Iran and across the region but also the safety of Canadians at risk.

In 2021, when Iranians were protesting for their rights in Iran, the Canadian government issued statements in their support. Yet today, while Iranians are being bombarded, they see no condemnation from Canada. And Iranian Canadians stuck in Iran, rather than receiving the support they deserve from their government, are watching you justify and defend their bombardment while continuing to supply the weapons used to kill them. Your display of utter disregard for the lives of our people in Iran today reeks of hypocrisy, and has made many Iranian Canadians feel that our government will only support us when it suits its own interests, and completely abandon us when it does not.

As such, we, the undersigned civil society organizations, strongly urge you to change course and take a clear stance for peace, justice and human rights by ending Canada's complicity. We demand that the Canadian government:

1. Revise its recent statements, issue an apology and explicitly condemn Israel's unprovoked aggression against Iran.
2. Commit not to join or assist any Israeli or American war on Iran and support diplomacy.
3. Put meaningful pressure on Israel to immediately cease its aggressions across the region, including ending its genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and accepting a real, permanent ceasefire.
4. Immediately impose a two-way arms embargo, revoke all existing arms export permits and end all arms trade with Israel.
5. Immediately impose sanctions on all Israeli officials, commanders and combatants responsible for war crimes and prosecute Canadian nationals who have been involved in these crimes.
6. Engage with representatives of the Iranian Canadian community, the Palestinian Canadian community and the broader peace movement across Canada to address our concerns, rather than listening to a small minority of warmongering voices.

We urge you to change course before it is too late, and not to allow Netanyahu's genocidal, extremist, Messianic fantasies of war and destruction drag Canada and the world down the irreversible path of dangerous war.

1. Iranian Canadian Congress (ICC)
2. Iranians United for Palestine (IU4P)
3. Western Association of Iranian Students (Western University)
4. Palestinian Canadian Congress

5. Palestinian Youth Movement
6. Canadian Council of Muslim Women - National
7. Conseil Canadien des Femme Musulmanes - Québec
8. The Iraqi Canadian Society
9. Ghadir Cultural and Educational Centre
10. World Beyond War Canada
11. Canadian Foreign Policy Institute (CFPI)
12. Just Peace Advocates
13. Popular Front of Canada
14. Equity Network
15. A New Blueprint for Humanity
16. Mouvement Québécois pour la paix
17. The Coordinating Council for Palestine
18. Palestinian and Jewish Unity (PAJU)
19. Ontario Palestinian Rights Association
20. Toronto4Palestine
21. Independent Jewish Voices (IJV)
22. L'Union juive française pour la paix (UJFP)
23. Stop the Gaza Genocide (STGG)
24. Canada-wide Zaps for Palestine
25. Palestine Vivra
26. Arabic Left Forum
27. Labour for Palestine
28. CUPE 1218
29. CUPE 3903
30. Students for Justice in Palestine at Toronto Metropolitan University
31. McMaster Apartheid Divest (MacAD)
32. McMaster Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR)
33. Faculty 4 Palestine, McMaster University
34. Western Divestment Coalition
35. Thaqaalayn Muslim Association at UBC
36. UBC Faculty for Palestine
37. Academics and Staff for Palestine - Concordia University
38. Faculty for Palestine Alberta
39. Faculty for Palestine Ottawa
40. Faculty for Palestine SMU
41. Faculty for Palestine Trent
42. Health Workers Alliance for Palestine
43. Canadian Nurses for Justice in Palestine (CNJP)
44. Occupational Therapists for Palestine

45. Ontario Nurses Against Apartheid (ONAA)
46. BC Nurses United for Social Justice
47. Irish4Palestine
48. Queers for Palestine
49. No War With Iran Toronto
50. Greater Toronto for BDS
51. Christians for a Free Palestine (Toronto)
52. Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War
53. Belleville for Justice and Peace
54. Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME), Saskatoon Chapter
55. The Iraqi Canadian Society - Montreal
56. University—Rosedale for Palestine
57. Etobicoke North & Humber River Black Creek for Palestine
58. Burlington for Palestine
59. Ottawa West—Napean for Palestine
60. Willowdale for Palestine
61. Spadina-Fort York for Palestine
62. Eglinton-Lawrence and Don Valley for Palestine
63. Papineau pour Palestine
64. Laurier-Sainte-Marie pour la Palestine (LSM4P)
65. Mississauga—Streetsville for Palestine (MS4P)
66. Parkdale—High Park for Palestine
67. LaSalle-Émard-Verdun pour la Palestine (LEV4Palestine)
68. West5forPalestine
69. Willowdale in Neighbourly Community (WINC)
70. Toronto Forum on Cuba