



November 1, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Since the horrifying terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians on October 7th and the beginning of this latest siege of Gaza, we, members of the New Democrat caucus, are united in grief and despair.

Our constituents are in pain. Many have lost family members and friends in Gaza and in Israel. Many fear for their loved ones.

We mourn with the Jewish community who are traumatized by the horrendous terrorist attacks by Hamas. We urge you to work harder to secure the release of all hostages, including the Canadians believed to be among them.

Canadian Palestinian and Muslim communities are telling us they are feeling unheard by this government. They, too, are in deep pain.

We condemn the alarming rise in antisemitism, anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia in our communities and across Canada and we ask for a stronger response from your government.

Over the past three weeks more than one hundred thousand Canadians have written to us asking Canada to call for a ceasefire.

And as we write today, over 400 Canadians are trapped in the siege of Gaza, trying to survive amid the most terrible conditions and under constant bombing. People with disabilities, children, and seniors are amongst the Canadian citizens affected.

We are horrified by reports of airstrikes near hospitals, schools, and cancer facilities. We are appalled by the indiscriminate and unjustified bombing by Israel of the Jabalia refugee camp on October 31.

Israel's siege of Gaza has killed doctors, journalists, UN staff, poets, students, parents, and over 3000 children. Each of these people had a name, a family, hopes and dreams for their futures.

This week, Save The Children confirmed that more children have been killed in Gaza than in global conflicts annually over past four years. One child is killed every ten minutes.

None of these children were responsible for the grave crimes of October 7th.

Humanitarian organizations and the United Nations are sounding the alarm at shocking levels of human suffering in Gaza. Nearly a million people have been made homeless, with no access to food, water, fuel, medicine, or sanitation. Tens of thousands of pregnant women and babies are drinking contaminated water. Women are undergoing c-sections without anaesthetic. Children's wounds are sanitized with vinegar from the corner store.

And in the West Bank, extremist right-wing settlers are harassing, threatening and killing innocent Palestinians as Israeli security forces watch. It has to stop, and these crimes must be prosecuted.

Prime Minister, these are extremely serious violations of international law.

This is the worst crisis in the Middle East in our lifetimes – and your government is failing to meet this moment.

Since October 11th, New Democrats are calling for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the siege of Gaza, unimpeded and immediate humanitarian access, and full respect for international law.

We are profoundly alarmed by your refusal to call for a ceasefire.

We condemn Canada's abstention at the United Nations General Assembly on a resolution calling for "an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities."

We do not accept Canada's brazen refusal to support ICC and ICJ investigations into the situation in Israel and Palestine. The rules of international humanitarian law apply universally and equally to all parties of an armed conflict; one war crime does not excuse another. All victims in Israel and Gaza deserve justice.

We call for an end to Canada's arms sales to Israel. Global Affairs Canada officials cannot confirm whether Canadian weapons, components or technology are used by Israel in this latest bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza. Canadians deserve to know the extent of Canada's complicity in this conflict. And Canada must do more to end illegal arms transfers to Hamas.

Prime Minister, your government has long promoted the rules-based international order.

But it is clear that, in Israel and Gaza, those rules are abandoned.

We are urgently asking Canada to do the following:

- Call for an immediate ceasefire;
- Demand unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza;
- Ensure all Canadians can safely leave the region;
- Support ICC and ICJ investigations into the situation in Israel and Palestine;
- Halt arms sales to Israel and work with partners to end illegal arms transfers to Hamas;

- Advocate for an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories and work toward a two-state solution;
- Continue to work with partners to counter terrorism in the region;
- Invest in building a just and sustainable peace for Palestinians and Israelis.

Our goal as New Democrats has always been a just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis. The global community, Canada included, must work towards a credible peace process that will finally bring peace and security to all in the region, while respecting the humanity and rights of all civilians, Israeli and Palestinian.

We urge you to understand the seriousness of this moment. Canadians are in deep pain and are looking for global leadership.

Canada must not abandon the principles of international law and justice. We urge you to take action today. Many lives depend on it.

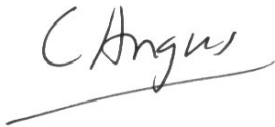
Sincerely,



Jagmeet Singh, MP
Burnaby South



Heather McPherson, MP
Edmonton Strathcona



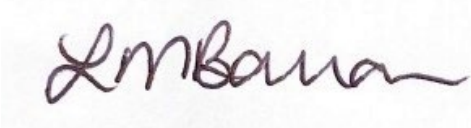
Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins – James Bay



Niki Ashton, MP
Churchill – Keewatinook Aski



Taylor Bachrach, MP
Skeena – Bulkley Valley



Lisa Marie Barron, MP
Nanaimo – Ladysmith



Daniel Blaikie, MP
Elmwood – Transcona



Rachel Blaney, MP
North Island – Powell River




Alexandre Boulerice, MP
Rosemont – La-Petite-Patrie



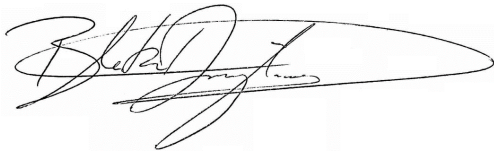
Richard Cannings, MP
South Okanagan – West Kootenay



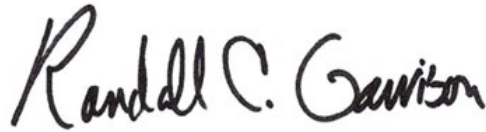
Laurel Collins, MP
Victoria




Don Davies, MP
Vancouver Kingsway



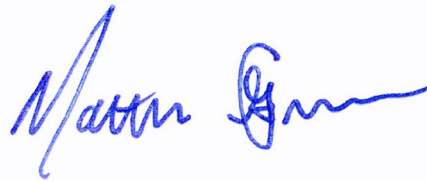
Blake Desjarlais, MP
Edmonton Griesbach



Randall Garrison, MP
Esquimalt – Saanich – Sooke



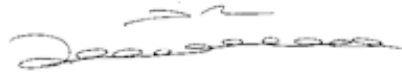
Leah Gazan, MP
Winnipeg Centre



Matthew Green, MP
Hamilton Centre



Carol Hughes, MP
Algoma – Manitoulin – Kapuskasing



Lori Idlout, MP
Nunavut



Gord Johns, MP
Courtenay – Alberni



Peter Julian, MP
New Westminster – Burnaby



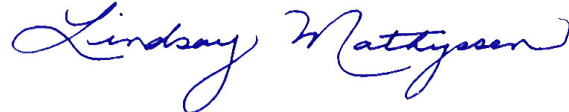
Jenny Kwan, MP
Vancouver East



Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan – Malahat - Langford



Brian Masse, MP
Windsor West



Lindsay Mathysen, MP
London – Fanshawe



Bonita Zarrillo, MP
Port Moody – Coquitlam

cc. The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs