



The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau MP The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Melanie Joly MP The Hon. Minister of National Revenue, Marie-Claude Bibeau MP The Hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Arif Virani MP

Our ref.: M0251

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& couriered to respective Parliament Hill offices

16 November 2023

#### URGENT

Dear Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of National Revenue, and Minister of Justice (Attorney General):

# NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SEEK PROSECUTION OF CANADIAN OFFICIALS COMPLICIT IN WAR CRIMES

## NOTICE OF IMMINENT AND ONGOING COMMISSION OF WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY BY ISRAEL IN THE GAZA STRIP

The Government of Canada is hereby provided with notice that we intend to seek the commencement of legal proceedings against Canadian officials where there is evidence that they have aided, abetted or in any other way supported, encouraged or provided material assistance in the commission of a war crime.





This letter is sent by the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians  $(ICJP)^1$  – an independent organization of lawyers, academics and politicians that works to protect the rights of Palestinians.

In light of the catastrophic situation currently unfolding in the occupied territory of Gaza, and clear evidence that Israel may have committed war crimes and mass atrocity crimes in Gaza, this letter is provided to the Government of Canada to emphasize its duties and responsibilities under international criminal law.

Support provided to perpetrators of international crimes can be investigated and prosecuted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and Third States under the principles of Universal Jurisdiction. This includes Canada's support of Israel's armed forces where there is demonstrable evidence that international crimes may have already been committed, and when there is clear evidence that further crimes against civilians will imminently be perpetrated.

## • Clear evidence and knowledge of international crimes which may have been committed and further imminent crimes

The Government of Canada is aware that actions taken by Israel since 7 October have already been reported as constituting serious breaches of international criminal law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Attacks on Gaza not complying with the requirement under international law for proportionality and distinction have indiscriminately killed and injured civilians; including women, children, and the elderly.<sup>2</sup> Entire residential housing blocks have been levelled to the ground, killing all inside.<sup>3</sup> Reports document entire families being killed; with all members of the family - from every generation, young to old – being killed.<sup>4</sup> Over 11,100 Palestinians – including over 4,600 children – have already been killed in the 40

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> International Centre of Justice for Palestinians - <u>https://www.icjpalestine.com/</u>

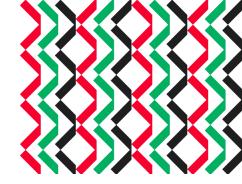
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See, for example, Protection Approaches, Statement on preventing mass atrocity crimes in Israel & in Gaza, 13 October 2023: <u>https://protectionapproaches.org/news/f/statement-on-preventing-mass-atrocity-crimes-in-israel-in-gaza</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See, for example, Israel/OPT: Israel must lift illegal and inhumane blockade on Gaza as power plant runs out of fuel, Amnesty International, 12 October 2023:

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/israel-opt-israel-must-lift-illegal-andinhumane-blockadeon-gaza-as-power-plant-runs-out-of-fuel/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See, for example, In Gaza, entire families destroyed by Israeli bombing: 'My son, my niece and another child are still under the rubble,' Clothilde Mraffko, Le Monde, 12 October 2023: <u>https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2023/10/12/in-gazaentire-families-destroyed-by-israeli-bombing-my-son-my-niece-and-another-child-are-still-under-the-rubble 6167251 4.html</u>





days since 7 October 2023.<sup>5</sup> There are also credible reports on Israel's use of white phosphorus munitions against the civilian population in Gaza – a substance which is known to ignite fires and cause burns to those who are impacted by it.<sup>6</sup> Israel's armed forces have bombed the al-Maghazi, Jabalia, and Bureij refugee camps, killing hundreds.<sup>7</sup> Airstrikes have also hit ambulances as well as the vicinity of the Al Shifa hospital in Gaza.<sup>8</sup>

On 13 October 2023 Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, stated "It's an entire nation out there that is responsible. This rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved, it's absolutely not true."<sup>9</sup> At the same time Israel's military issued an order to 1.2 million people in Gaza to immediately leave their homes in northern Gaza and move south.<sup>10</sup> This order may well amount to both a war crime and a crime against humanity, particularly the crime of forcible transfer and displacement. Israel has commenced a ground invasion of the Gaza Strip, which will further devastate any civilian populations in the area.<sup>11</sup> This is despite pleas from local medical professionals, which have been echoed by the World Health Organization, that it is impossible to evacuate vulnerable hospital patients from northern Gaza, particularly those on ventilators. Forcing such action would be a death sentence.<sup>12</sup> This has tragically proved to be the case; on 12 November 2023 it was reported that 3 out of 39 premature babies at Al Shifa Hospital

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2023/gaza-rising-death-toll-civilians/ <sup>6</sup> See, for example, Israel: White Phosphorus Used in Gaza, Lebanon Use in Populated Areas Poses Grave Risks to Civilians, Human Rights Watch, 12 October 2023:

https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/12/israel-white-phosphorus-used-gaza-lebanon <sup>7</sup> See, for example, AI Jazeera, Palestinians flee massacre as Israel bombs al-Maghazi refugee camp, 6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ruby Mellen, Artur Galocha and Júlia Ledur, Gaza reports more than 11,100 killed. That's one out of every 200 people., Washington Post, 13 November 2023:

November 2023: <u>https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/11/6/palestinians-run-for-their-lives-as-israeli-</u> strike-hits-al-maghazi-camp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See, for example, Al Jazeera, 'Intense bombings' by Israeli forces around Gaza hospitals amid blackout, 5 November 2023: <u>https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/5/intense-bombings-by-israeli-forces-around-gaza-hospitals-amid-blackout</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Chris McGreal, The language being used to describe Palestinians is genocidal, The Guardian, 16 October 2023: <u>https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/16/the-language-being-used-to-</u> <u>describe-palestinians-is-genocidal</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See, Fear, confusion as Israel issues evacuation order for northern Gaza, Al Jazeera, 13 October 2023: <u>https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/13/nowhere-safe-to-go-confusion-fear-after-israels-warning-to-evacuate</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Tanks seen moving in southern Israel as military orders Gaza evacuation, The Guardian, 13 October 2023: <u>https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2023/oct/13/tanks-southern-israel-military-orders-gaza-evacuation-video</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Moving severely ill people in Gaza amounts to 'death sentence', WHO says, Reuters, 13 October 2023: <u>https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/moving-severely-ill-people-gaza-amounts-death-sentence-who-2023-10-13/</u>





who had been taken out of incubators due to the lack of fuel to power them, had already died.<sup>13</sup>

There is no safe place in Gaza.<sup>14</sup> Israel's armed forces bombed the road leading to the southern part of the Gaza Strip where internally displaced people were fleeing, killing 70.<sup>15</sup> It has also bombed the southern part of the Gaza Strip.<sup>16</sup>

On 14 October 2023, Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, warned that "Israel is seeking to justify what would amount to ethnic cleansing," and went on to state that "any continued military operations by Israel have gone well beyond the limits of international law."<sup>17</sup>

On 28 October 2023, Craig Mokhiber, the Director of the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, tendered his resignation citing the United Nations' failure to adequately confront what he called a "text-book case of genocide" by Israel. He later went on to explain that "the hardest part of proving genocide has been proven for us with these very open statements of genocidal intent by Israeli officials, including the prime minister and the president and senior Cabinet ministers and military officials, who in their public statements have indicated very clearly their intention not to distinguish between civilians and combatants, and to carry out the kinds of wholesale slaughter that we are witnessing in Gaza."<sup>18</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Under bombardment, Gaza medics fight to save patients with no power, water or food, The Guardina, 12 November 2023: <u>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/12/under-bombardment-gaza-medics-fight-to-save-patients-with-no-power-water-or-food</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See, for example, International Committee of the Red Cross, Israel and the occupied territories: Deescalate now to prevent further human suffering, 28 October 2023:

https://www.icrc.org/en/document/israel-and-occupied-territories-deescalate-now-prevent-further-humansuffering

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> See, for example, Bethan McKernan and Sufian Taha, Gaza civilians afraid to leave home after bombing of 'safe routes', The Guardian, 15 October 2023:

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/14/gaza-civilians-afraid-to-leave-home-after-bombing-of-safe-routes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See, for example, Al Haq, Israel's Last Evacuation Order Requires Urgent International Intervention to Protect Gaza's Civilian Population, Who Have Nowhere Left to Shelter. 29 October 2023: https://www.alhag.org/advocacy/22041.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> United Nations, UN expert warns of new instance of mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, calls for immediate ceasefire, 14 October 2023: <u>https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/un-expert-warns-new-instance-mass-ethnic-cleansing-palestinians-calls</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Democracy Now, "Text-Book Case of Genocide": Top U.N. Official Craig Mokhiber Resigns, Denounces Israeli Assault on Gaza, 1 November 2023:

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/11/1/craig\_mokhiber\_un\_resignation\_israel\_gaza





The warnings of Special Rapporteur Albanese and former Director Mokhiber became increasingly ominous when on 29 October 2023 Prime Minister Netanyahu declared "You must remember what Amalek has done to you, says our Holy Bible,"<sup>19</sup> referencing scripture from verse 3 of chapter 15 of the Book of Samuel, which states, "Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."

On 2 November 2023, a group of eight UN experts who form the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council released a statement which reads in part "We remain convinced that the Palestinian people are at grave risk of genocide ... The time for action is now. Israel's allies also bear responsibility and must act now to prevent its disastrous course of action."<sup>20</sup>

On 8 November 2023, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk stated that those who have committed war crimes include Israel's armed forces. He specifically noted the "The collective punishment by Israel of Palestinian civilians amounts also to a war crime, as does the unlawful forcible evacuation of civilians."<sup>21</sup>

On 10 November 2023 Prime Minister Netanyahu declared that "IDF forces will remain in control of the Strip, we will not give it to international forces."<sup>22</sup> As if to dispel any doubt about what was underway, Avi Dichter, Israel's Minister for Agriculture and former head of Shin Bet, publicly stated on 12 November 2023 that "We are now actually rolling out the Gaza Nakba."<sup>23</sup>

It is inescapable that these most recent alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity must be understood within the context of the decades of documented abuses and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> National Public Radio, Netanyahu's references to violent biblical passages raise alarm among critics, 7 November 2023: <u>https://www.npr.org/2023/11/07/1211133201/netanyahus-references-to-violent-biblical-passages-raise-alarm-among-critics</u>

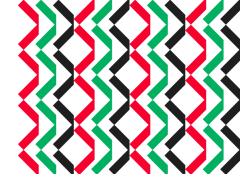
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> United Nations, Gaza is 'running out of time' UN experts warn, demanding a ceasefire to prevent genocide, 2 November 2023: <u>https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-running-out-time-un-experts-warn-demanding-ceasefire-prevent-genocide</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> United Nations, UN Human Rights Chief visits Rafah border crossing with Gaza, 8 November 2023: <u>https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/11/un-human-rights-chief-visits-rafah-border-crossing-gaza</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Jacob Magid, Netanyahu says IDF will control Gaza after war, rejects notion of international force, Times of Israel, 10 November 2023: <u>https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-idf-will-control-gaza-after-war-rejects-notion-of-international-force/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Michael Hauser Tov, 'We're Rolling Out Nakba 2023,' Israeli Minister Says on Northern Gaza Strip Evacuation, Haaretz, 12 November 2023: <u>https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-11-12/ty-article/israeli-security-cabinet-member-calls-north-gaza-evacuation-nakba-2023/0000018b-c2be-dea2-a9bf-d2be7b670000</u>





potential international crimes committed with impunity by Israel's armed forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.<sup>24</sup>

With knowledge of the crimes allegedly committed in the days since 7 October, the Government of Canada must understand that this puts it on notice of further international crimes which may be imminently committed. As Israel's military demolition of Gaza continues, each new action harming innocent civilians constitutes a potential international crime with which Canada may be complicit.

This is most clear with the siege on Gaza. Since Sunday 8 October, Israel has imposed a total siege on Gaza, cutting off its electricity, water and food supplies, and preventing the access of any meaningful humanitarian aid – including medicine and medical supplies.<sup>25</sup> The withholding of food, water and other basic necessities from civilian populations during international armed conflicts is expressly forbidden under international humanitarian law, and amounts to war crimes and crimes against humanity under the ICC Rome Statute. Moreover, such action constitutes collective punishment which is prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever, whether committed by civilian or by military agents under the Geneva Conventions of 1949.<sup>26</sup> The siege also constitutes an inhumane act of apartheid and persecution.<sup>27</sup> These alleged international crimes committed by Israel may also be offences under Canada's *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*.

It must be remembered that the prohibition against collective punishment is absolute. This has already caused immeasurable harm and suffering to the people of Gaza,<sup>28</sup> such that there are grounds to believe that international crimes are being committed.

<sup>26</sup> See Article 75 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: <u>https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/api-1977/article-75</u>

<sup>27</sup> Michael Lynk, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, United Nations, 12 August 2022: https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2071255/G2244872.pdf

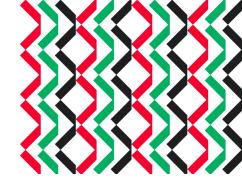
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> See, for example, Israel's apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel system of domination and crime against humanity, Amnesty International, 1 February 2022, p.266

https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/5141/2022/en/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Yoav Gallant, Israel's Defence Minister, said "I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed," and "We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly": <u>https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\_entry/defense-minister-announces-</u> complete-siege-of-gaza-no-powerfood-or-fuel/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> LPHR statement on new sustained military action in Gaza/Israel, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, 10 October 2023: <u>https://lphr.org.uk/latest-news/lphr-statement-on-new-sustained-military-action-in-gaza-israel-2/</u>





At the same time, Israel has systematically continued to bombard Gaza with widespread and indiscriminate airstrikes, destroying thousands of civilian homes, and killing over 11,100 people, including at least 198 medical staff and 42 journalists. Over 2,700 people remain missing under the rubble.<sup>29</sup> Conducting further bombardment of a similar nature will constitute additional international crimes which were reasonably foreseeable to the international community.

#### • Support for international crimes: individual criminal responsibility

Information and evidence that international crimes may have been committed against Palestinian civilians since 7 October 2023 (and within the context of historical abuses, crimes and oppression) is available to the Government of Canada, as is clear evidence that this pattern will continue in the immediate future. This letter is intended to place you on notice that government officials providing support to the actions of the Israeli state under circumstances in which war crimes and crimes against humanity are imminent or ongoing are likely to incur individual criminal liability and may be prosecuted at the ICC, in domestic courts, or before other tribunals.

The investigation into the Situation in Palestine is currently ongoing at the ICC. ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan has reiterated that the Office of the Prosecutor has an ongoing investigation with jurisdiction over Rome Statute crimes in Palestine (dating back to 2014), and his office continues to have prosecutorial jurisdiction over crimes committed in Gaza and the West Bank on and since 7 October 2023.<sup>30</sup>

Under Article 25 of the Rome Statute, individual criminal responsibility attaches not only to the direct perpetrators of crimes but also to those who aid, abet or otherwise assist in the commission of a crime within the jurisdiction of the ICC.<sup>31</sup>

It is not required that an individual who provides support for the commission of a crime be located in the territory over which the ICC has jurisdiction for the individual to bear responsibility for aiding and abetting.<sup>32</sup> Nor does the ICC recognize an individual's

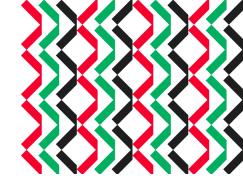
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Israel commits widespread war crimes in Gaza, humanitarian catastrophe is imminent, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, 10 October 2023: <u>https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/5846/Israel-commits-widespread-war-crimes-in-Gaza,-humanitariancatastrophe-is-imminent</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> International Criminal Court, Statement of ICC Prosecutor Karim A. A. Khan KC from Cairo on the situation in the State of Palestine and Israel, 30 October 2023: <u>https://icc-cpi.int/news/statement-icc-prosecutor-karim-khan-kc-cairo-situation-state-palestine-and-israel</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> ICC Rome Statute, Article 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> See, for example, Valérie Paulet, The ICC & universal jurisdiction: Two ways, one fight, Coalition for the International Criminal Court, 23 May 2017: <u>https://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/news/20170519/icc-universal-jurisdiction-two-ways-one-fight</u>





official capacity as a protection against such scrutiny, with the ICC Appeals Chamber having found that there is no head of state immunity under customary international law in regards to international courts.<sup>33</sup> Expressions of concern or calls for "humanitarian pauses" by government officials are insufficient if Canada's actions give encouragement and material support for those committing atrocities in Gaza.

To this, it is unacceptable that the Government of Canada has not only continued to express support for Israel's actions in Gaza, but has also facilitated arms exports, economic support, and military assistance. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has refused to cancel permits for arms exports to Israel in accordance with her responsibilities under Canada's *Export and Import Permits Act* and the UN's *Arms Trade Treaty*.<sup>34</sup> The Minister of National Revenue has allowed Canadian charities to funnel millions of dollars in donations to subsidize the operations of Israel's armed forces and expand illegal Israeli settlements, contrary to the policy of the Canada Revenue Agency.<sup>35</sup> And the Director of Public Prosecutions (the Deputy Attorney General) has taken no action to enforce the *Foreign Enlistment Act* to halt the recruitment of Canadians to enlist or accept other voluntary engagements in the Israel's armed forces.<sup>36 37</sup>

Canada's support for Israel's military occupation is also at odds with its own foreign policy, which states that it "does not recognize permanent Israeli control over territories occupied in 1967 (the Golan Heights, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip)." It goes further to state that "the Fourth Geneva Convention applies in the occupied territories and establishes Israel's obligations as an occupying power, in

<sup>34</sup> See, for example, Which Canadian Weapons Fuel Israel's 'Textbook Genocide' Of Palestinians? The Feds Don't Disclose, Alex Cosh, The Maple, 17 October 2023: <u>https://www.readthemaple.com/which-canadian-weapons-fuel-israels-textbook-genocide-of-palestinians-the-government-doesnt-disclose/</u>
<sup>35</sup> See, for example, Canadian Charities Are Funding Israeli Apartheid, Yves Engler, Jacobin, 4
September 2021: <u>https://jacobin.com/2021/09/canada-charities-israel-apartheid-west-bank-occupation</u>
<sup>36</sup> See, for example, Why is the Israeli military still recruiting in Canada?, Yves Engler, Canadian Dimension, 19 October 2020: <u>https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/why-is-the-israeli-military-still-recruiting-in-canada</u>; See also, Bianca Mugyenyi, Campaign to prohibit illegal Israeli military recruitment in Canada gets big boost, Canadian Dimension, 29 September 2022:

https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/campaign-to-prohibit-illegal-israeli-military-recruitment-incanada-gets-big-boost

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Al-Bashir Case: ICC Appeals Chamber confirms Jordan's non-cooperation but reverses the decision referring it to the ASP and UNSC, ICC Press Release, 6 May 2019: <u>https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/al-bashir-case-icc-appeals-chamber-confirms-jordans-non-cooperation-reverses-decision</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Canadian special forces have also been deployed to Israel since 7 October 2023, for reasons which are not entirely clear. See, for example, Jeremy Appel, What Is The Canadian Military Up To In Israel?, The Maple, 7 November 2023: <u>https://www.readthemaple.com/what-is-the-canadian-military-up-to-in-israel/</u>





particular with respect to the humane treatment of the inhabitants of the occupied territories."<sup>38</sup>

The Government of Canada must be aware that such support and assistance raises the risk of it being complicit in the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity. For example, it is a crime to supply arms to a state with knowledge that they will be used for war crimes and genocide.<sup>39</sup> The Government of Canada should also be aware that international criminal tribunals have previously examined the responsibility of those who have substantially contributed to a crime by providing encouragement and moral support to the perpetrators where the perpetrators are aware of this support.<sup>40</sup>

Under Article 1 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, all High Contracting Parties, of which Canada is one, are required to take actions to ensure that violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention do not occur under any circumstances. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that Canadian policy towards the unfolding catastrophe in Gaza complies with international law, and is centered on the core humanitarian principles of proportionality, distinction, precaution and humanity. It must not contribute, support or assist with the commission of international crimes.

Armed with this understanding of its responsibilities under the basic framework of international law, the legal and moral path for the Government of Canada to follow is to support the UN Secretary General's call for an immediate ceasefire to prevent further loss of life on both sides and for an immediate end to the siege. A ceasefire is the minimum action necessary. We also ask you to urgently work with international partners to secure the access of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

In order to reduce the risk of further complicity, the Government of Canada must immediately take the following diplomatic and economic measures:

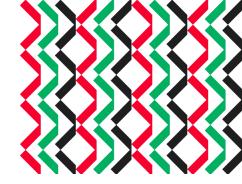
- 1. Call for a ceasefire to prevent further loss of life in Gaza;
- 2. Call for secure provision of meaningful humanitarian aid to Gaza;
- 3. Issue a public statement condemning Israel's breaches of international law;
- 4. Insist that Israel fully comply with international law;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Government of Canada, Canadian policy on key issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, 20 January 2023: <u>https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\_relations-relations\_internationales/mena-moan/israeli-palestinian\_policy-politique\_israelo-palestinien.aspx?lang=eng</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> See, for example, Public Prosecutor v. Frans Cornelis Adrianus van Anraat, Case no.: 09/751003-04, 23 December 2005: https://internationalcrimesdatabase.org/Case/178/Van-Anraat/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> See, for example, ICTY, Prosecutor v. Brđanin, Appeal Judgment, IT-99-36-A, 3 April 2007, para. 277; Prosecutor v. Bemba et al., Judgment Pursuant to Article 74 of the Statute, ICC-01/05-01/13-1989-Red, 19 October 2016.





- 5. Cancel all Canadian permits for arms exports to Israel;
- 6. Prosecute those recruiting Canadian volunteers for Israel's armed forces; and
- 7. Prevent Canadian charities from using donations to benefit Israel's armed forces.

We will continue to gather evidence in relation to the conduct of Canadian officials. We encourage the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute Canadian officials where there is evidence of their involvement in offences under Canada's *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*. We also intend to share our evidence with the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICC, as well as Third-Party State signatories to the Rome Statute, and encourage an independent investigation and prosecution of Canadian officials who have aided, abetted, or otherwise assisted Israel's commission of war crimes.

Finally, we wish to emphasize that Canada agreed to pursue the implementation of the principle of Responsibility to Protect at the UN 2005 World Summit, and again committed to doing so at the UN General Assembly's 64th Plenary Meeting in 2021. Canada has acknowledged that it "has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means [...] to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity." <sup>41</sup> Genocide overrides all other considerations, and there are immediate obligations which arise when an alert on genocide is raised. Canada – as a Contracting Party to the Genocide Convention – is obliged under Article 1 of the Convention to take measures to end and prevent genocide. This includes (but is not limited to) calling for a ceasefire.<sup>42</sup>

We urge you to give the utmost priority to these commitments and obligations.

Yours sincerely,

#### ICJP Canada (Legal Working Group for Canadian Accountability)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> See United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (A/RES/60/1) at para 139: <u>https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/about-responsibility-to-protect.shtml</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> UN General Assembly, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 9 December 1948, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 78, p. 277