

# PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Whereas:

1. Canada has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which establishes the human rights of freedom from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family and home (Art. 17), peaceful assembly (Art. 21), free association (Art. 22), and freedom of religious practice (Art. 18),
2. Canada voted in favor of United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-10/13, on October 21, 2003, demanding “that Israel stop and reverse the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,”
3. The UN Secretary-General’s Report (A/ES-10/248) of November 24, 2003, pursuant to Resolution ES-10/13 states that “The [Wall], in both completed and planned sections, appears likely to deepen the fragmentation of the West Bank created by the closure system Israel imposed after the outbreak of hostilities in September/October 2000. The main component of the closure system is a series of checkpoints and blockades that severely restrict the movement of Palestinian people and goods, causing serious socio-economic harm.” (paragraph 23)
4. A February 27, 2004 report from the UN Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights states, “Family life is a victim of the Wall. Within the Closed Zone not all members of a family are granted permits to reside within the Zone. In some localities, such as Jerusalem, married couples are divided by their identity documents... Moreover, the quality of family life suffers from unnecessarily long journeys to reach checkpoints to work or to school. Visits to family members resident on the other side of the Wall are subject to the usual uncertainties of the permit system.” (paragraph 22),
5. Without direct international pressure, there is no apparent hope for individual Palestinians to enjoy a reasonably normal family, community or religious life,

We call upon the House of Commons to apply direct pressure on the government of the State of Israel – to respect the human rights of Palestinians – via one or more of the following mechanisms:

- The unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing construction of Israel’s Wall within the Occupied Palestinian Territories,
- The exclusion of imports from Israeli settlements (located in the Occupied Palestinian Territories) from the Canada – Israel Free Trade Agreement,
- The blocking of tax-free donations from Canadian citizens intended for the construction, expansion or enhancement of Israeli infrastructure – including settlements – in the Occupied Palestinian Territories,
- The suspension of funding of, and participation in the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation

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<b>SIGNATURES</b> <i>(Sign your own name; do not print)</i>	<b>ADDRESSES</b> <i>(Give your home address, city, province or postal code)</i>









