

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Whereas:

1. Canada has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which, according to Article 11 (1-2) asserts “the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions,” and “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger,”
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 “Completed sections of the Barrier have had a serious impact on agriculture in what is considered the "breadbasket" of the West Bank... Palestinian cultivated land lying on the [Wall’s] route has been requisitioned and destroyed and tens of thousands of trees have been uprooted... Recent harvests from many villages have perished due to the irregular opening times and the apparently arbitrary granting or denial of passage. According to a recent World Food Programme survey, this has increased food insecurity in the area, where there are 25,000 new recipients of food assistance as a direct consequence of the Barrier's construction.” (paragraph 25)
4. A June 15, 2004 report from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs states, “Almost 40% of the population - or about 1.4 million people - are facing particular hardship and are food insecure. They rely on assistance, mostly food, to supplement their incomes. Of these, around 600,000 people are depending almost entirely on outside aid.”
5. Without direct international pressure, there is no apparent hope for Palestinians to get relief from impoverishment imposed by the Wall and other restrictive Israeli policies,

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

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

