



Canadians for Justice and Peace  
in the Middle East



# For a relevant and positive Canadian Middle East Policy

June 5, 2007



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# Why are we meeting?

1. To bring light to positive opportunities for stability in the Middle East
2. To consider a model for Canadian foreign policy which would enable Canada to be a relevant and positive presence in the region
3. To ask you to sign a petition promoting Canadian values: Action against land mines in the Middle East



**CJPME:**  
**Justice**  
**Peace**  
**Action**

# Let's get to know one another...

- Who/what is CJPME
- What is in the CJPME binder that we are leaving with you?
- We'd like to stay in touch

Who is CJPME? (slide 24)

Map History of the  
Middle East (slide 25)



**CJPME:**  
Concerned  
Informed  
Action



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# Update on Palestine and Lebanon



# Boycott an occupied people; turn up the heat!

## Spring, 2007

### Crisis Elements in Palestine

- New Israeli government's unilateralist approach dictating "final status issues" and facts on the ground
- Unlawful Israeli withholding of Palestinian tax revenues
- International boycott of the PA, despite a highly reputable democratic election
- Inability for government to maintain services – hundreds of thousands of public employees unpaid for over a year
- Collective punishment for all of Gaza – infrastructure included – with the capture of a single Israeli soldier in June, 2006
- US military aid and training for Fatah – feeding future sectarian violence
- Deep poverty rate rises by 64.3 percent in Palestine
- Unwillingness of US / Israel to even consider engaging on the Saudi Peace Plan
- Rejection by Israel and its supporters of the Palestinian Unity government
- Sectarian violence on several occasions, esp. February and May, 2007

**New fuel on the fire**



# Pressure-cooker in Lebanon

## Spring, 2007

### Crisis Elements in Lebanon

- \$4,000,000,000 damage from 2006 Israeli destruction of Lebanon
- Ongoing confessional dissatisfaction on all sides with the status quo
- Internal and international wrangling over the Hariri trial, and what to do next
- Ongoing Israeli violations of Blue Line giving militias excuse to rearm
- 800,000 undetonated cluster bomblets preventing Lebanese from agriculture and other use of land
- External military support and diplomatic manipulation from US, Israel, Syria, Iran and others
- Attempts to delegitimize the government – attempts to marginalize the opposition
- Mysterious but intense conflict with Fatah al-Islam in the Palestinian refugee camp Nahr el-Bared
- Random acts of terrorist violence throughout the year, especially in May

**Fuelling the fire**





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# **CJPME's Policy Proposals for Canada**

# Policy Recommendations for Canada: A

## In terms of aid, give more than just “welfare” to the Palestinians

- Canada must *continue* to give generously to UN humanitarian appeals for Palestinians
- Canada must address the root causes of Palestinian poverty:
  - Tax revenues illegally withheld by Israel, which traditionally account for over 50 percent of PA income
  - Pressure-cooker environment
  - A 40-year occupation, with terrible restrictions on movement and commerce
- Canada must fund growth-oriented and institution-building aid
  - Prevent the meltdown of essential services
  - Prevent the PA from becoming a “failed state”

*“...the decision to suspend aid to the PA and withhold tax revenues has led to immense suffering. One year on, the number of Palestinian people living in poverty has jumped by 30 per cent, essential services are facing meltdown, and previously unknown levels of factional violence plague Palestinian streets..”*

*- Oxfam, April 13, 2007*



# Indicators of the Current Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine

- The individual deep poverty line is defined as living on \$2.10 USD per day. The deep poverty rate in Palestine rose by 64.3 percent following international sanctions:

	Second- Half	First- Half	Relative
Deep Poverty Rates	2005	2006	Changes
Persons	17.30%	27.50%	58.96%
Households	13.80%	22.20%	60.87%
Deep Poor Count			
Persons	650,827	1,069,280	64.30%
Households	79,625	137,016	72.08%

- 165,000 government employees of the PA unpaid in over a year
- Number of Israeli military checkpoints and barriers in Palestine increased 40% between disengagement from Gaza (Aug., 2005) and end of 2006
- 70% of Gaza's population is now dependent on food aid



Palestinians collect food from a UN food shipment to the occupied Palestinian Territories. In the first half of 2006, because of the illegal Israeli occupation and international boycott, UNWRA determined that 70 percent of Gaza's population had become dependent on external food aid.

# CIDA Programs for Palestinians

- According to CIDA, the following programs have gotten the vast bulk (i.e. about 95 percent) of all aid to Palestine
  - Revised UNRWA Emergency Appeal - West Bank Gaza 2006
  - Contribution to the World Food Program
  - Response to the UN Consolidated Appeal Process 2006 for relief for Palestinians
  - Support to UNRWA's 2006 Emergency Appeal
  - Special Gaza Refugees Support Program
- In the past year, there has been no Canadian investment in:
  - Capacity building; economic development
  - Good governance and accountability; development of legislative or judicial strength
  - Academic or public service exchange programs

# Policy Recommendations for Canada: B

## Support and promote the Saudi Peace Plan

- Canada must reject the status quo
  - Violence and counter-violence under pressure-cooker conditions
  - A people prevented from achieving self-determination
- The Plan is fully aligned with international law, and previous UN resolutions
- Canada must itself enter into dialogue with the players of the region
- Canada must insist on dialogue on the Plan, pressuring:
  - Israel
  - US

*“I think after the meeting in Riyadh [Arab nations] will be constructive and active in moving the peace process forward. The moment in which we are living is a moment of hope that we may be able to move the process of a comprehensive peace forward.”*

*Javier Solana  
EU foreign policy chief*



# The Saudi Plan's obligations on Israel

- Israel must:
- Withdraw from all the territories occupied since 1967, including the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan
- Agree to a just solution to the Palestinian refugee situation based on UNGA Resolution 194.
- Allow for the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

## Int'l Law

Aligned with Article 2 of the UN Charter

## Int'l Law

Aligned with Art. 13 of UDHR & Art. 12 of the ICCPR

## Int'l Law

Aligned with Art. 1 of the ICCPR & Art. 1 of the ICESCR



...ent, held in Riyadh at the end of March, 2007, was significant owing to the unified front presented by the leaders of the the Arab states

# The Saudi Plan's obligations on the Arab League & Palestinians

- In return, the Arab League promises to
  - “consider the Arab-Israeli conflict ended,”
  - Enter into “normal relations” with Israel in a regional peace providing security for all states.
- The Plan address the “final status issues”: It’s not a staged plan. Rather, based on the principle of land for peace, the plan lays out clear targets for final status issues: refugees, Jerusalem, security, and borders
- The Plan brings comprehensive peace: Normalized relations; the end of the conflict; peace and security for all nations



# Policy Recommendations for Canada: C

## Canada must recognize the Palestinian Unity Government

- Canada must recognize the Unity government which has implicitly addressed the expectations of the current Canadian government and others.
- Canada must develop a Middle East policy based on equal expectations for all.
- Canada must reassert international law as the cornerstone of its Middle East policy.



On February 7<sup>th</sup>, the Mecca Accord was signed between Hamas and Fatah. The new Unity Government's cabinet was formed in mid-March. Canada's government has not chosen to recognize the new Unity government.

Does Canada have equal expectations for all? (slide 23)

*“Aid alone is not a panacea for Palestinian poverty, nor will it deliver peace: that requires intensified efforts by all parties to seek a two-state solution. However, Oxfam has witnessed a rapid rise in suffering and insecurity as a result of the boycott of the PA. Many programmes operated by Oxfam and its partners in the water, health, and agriculture sectors have been placed in jeopardy.”*

*Oxfam, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

# The Unity Govt Platform satisfies the demands of Israel and its supporters?

- Demands imposed:
  1. Acceptance of previously negotiated accords
  2. Recognition of Israel;
  3. Renunciation of violent resistance;
- Unity Government Platform:
  1. New government pledges to “achieve national objectives through the resolutions of [Palestinian bodies...] and the resolutions of the Arab Summits, and shall respect the international resolutions and agreements signed by the PLO [i.e. Palestine Liberation Organization.]”
  2. By citing its support for the Arab League Peace Plan (a.k.a. Saudi Peace Plan) which includes recognition of Israel and its borders (and Oslo), the new government implicitly states its recognition of Israel.
  3. While the new government reserves the right of Palestinians to defend themselves against the Israeli military occupation, it nevertheless commits to “consolidating calm and expanding it to a comprehensive reciprocal truce [with Israel.]”



# Policy Recommendations for Canada: D

## Canada must consider Norway's approach to M-E diplomacy

- Canada must say “no” to the status quo
- To try to intercede as an “honest broker,” Canada must actually be an “honest broker” in the Middle East.
  - Canada must choose principles as the basis for its Middle East policy; not the support of a specific regime
- Canada must make distinctions:
  - Canada must avoid broad-brushing complex situations in overly simplistic terms
  - Canada, like Norway, must develop and leverage good relations with all
  - Canada should constructively engage

*“In its programme, the Unity Government is taking important steps towards complying with the international community’s demands. Norway will thus on this basis re-establish political and economic relations with the Palestinian Government.”*

*Jonas Gahr Støre  
Norwegian Foreign Minister*



# Norway's nuanced response to the formation of the Unity Government

- “I congratulate President Abbas on what has now been achieved. We will continue to support the President actively in his efforts to establish **an independent Palestinian state free of occupation.**”
- “The formation of a Palestinian Unity Government is a historic event. **The alternative to this government would be continued violence and unrest in the Palestinian territory.**”
- “It is essential that the Unity Government gains control of the security situation in Gaza and the West Bank, and that the rocket attacks on Israeli areas cease.”
- “Norway calls on the Unity Government to make an active effort to secure Corporal Shalit’s release. This is necessary in order to continue President Abbas’ dialogue policy vis-à-vis Israel.”
- **“Norway will deal with members of the new Palestinian Government as representatives of a broad and representative Unity Government. Norway upholds its demands on Hamas as an organisation.”**



Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Store

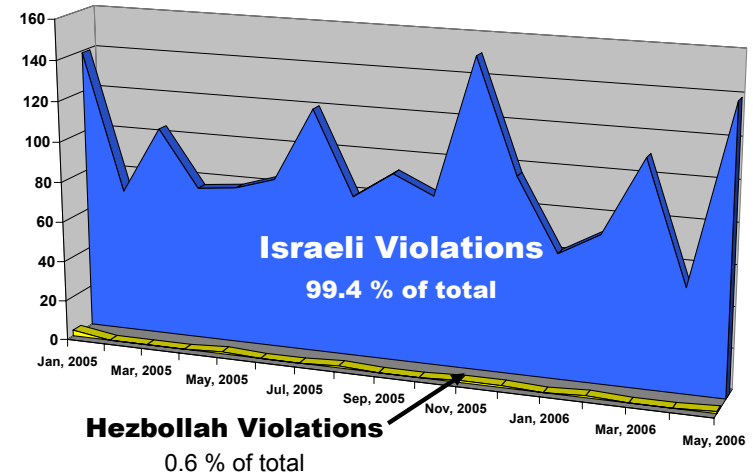


Norway has a population of less than 5 million, yet has significant influence in the Middle East and elsewhere due to its wise, fair and balanced approaches.

# Policy Recommendations for Canada: E

## Protect Lebanon from outsiders; support Lebanese solutions

- Canada must call for an end to all external diplomatic and military manipulation of Lebanon.
  - Call for an end to ongoing Israeli violations of Blue Line. These violations give militias in Lebanon an excuse to rearm
  - Call for an end to external manipulation, whether diplomatic or military
    - International pressure on Hariri trial
    - International pressure undermining “National Dialogue” stemming from Taif Accords
    - Israeli military operations
    - US arms sales and training
    - Syrian and Iranian interference
- Canada must provide aid to Lebanon.



Current Israeli violations of the Blue Line mirror those leading up to the Destruction of Lebanon in 2006.

*“The incursions into Lebanese airspace continue on an almost daily basis. UNIFIL reported a significant increase in Israeli air violations during the month of February and the beginning of March, which on some days exceeded ten Israeli over-flights in its area of operations.”*

*Ban Ki-moon, UN Sec.-Gen., Mar 14, '07*

# Needs of Lebanon: Infrastructure; Institution-building; Humanitarian

- Lebanon sustained over \$4B in damages in 2006, Canada has offered \$30 million over two years
- Israel covered 34 square km. of south Lebanon with cluster bomblets
- 135,000 unexploded bomblets have been cleared, 800,000 remain after 9 months



Chinese munitions experts remove unexploded munitions in south Lebanon near the village of Hiniyeh. Each cluster bomb contains hundreds of bomblets, and the dud rate is extremely high (10 – 40 percent) They are inappropriate for civilian areas because the targeting is very indiscriminate and they tend to create de facto mine fields.

*“Despite repeated United Nations efforts to receive detailed information from the [Israeli military] regarding the exact location, quantity and type of cluster munitions utilized during the conflict, I regret that Israel has not yet provided UNIFIL with this data... I reiterate my request, as contained in my previous reports, for Israel to provide detailed data on its use of cluster munitions to the United Nations as soon as possible.”*

*Ban Ki-moon  
UN Secretary-General  
March 14, 2007*





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# The Petition



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**Thank You**

# Is Canada holding the Hamas-led PA and Kadima-led Israel to the same standard?

CJPME supports Canada's view that violence be renounced between the parties in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

## Current Violence

### Hamas:

- Chose a moderate election platform
- Held a unilateral ceasefire for 18 months from Dec., 2004

### Unity Government:

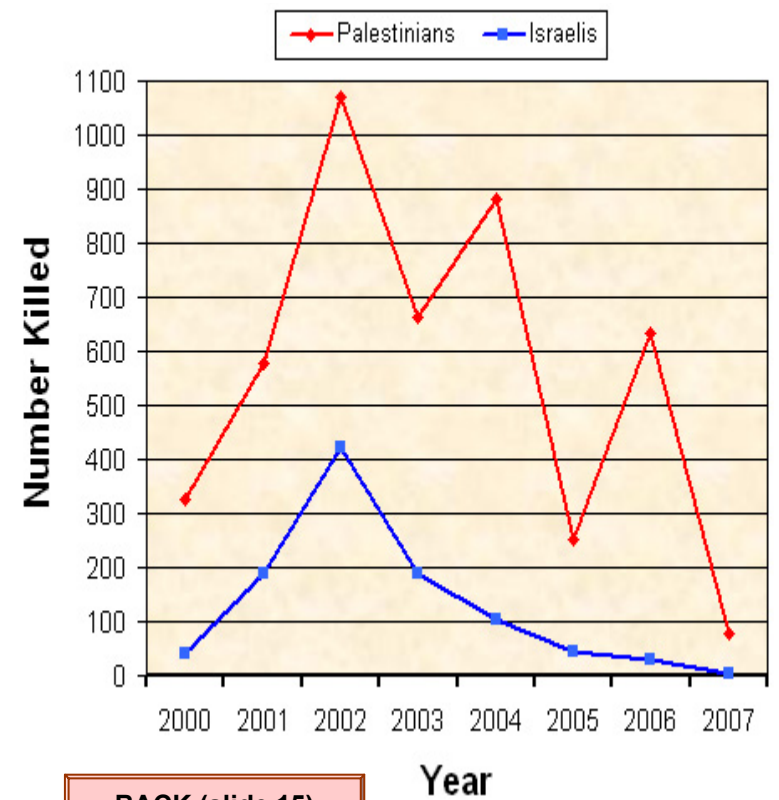
- Pledges to seek a policy of calm/truce with Israel via the Unity Gov't

## Current Violence

### Israel (ongoing):

- Assassinations
- House demolitions
- Incursions
- Construction of the Wall
- Colonization and colonist violence

Number of Palestinians and Israelis killed each year since Sept. 2000



BACK (slide 15)



# Is Canada holding the Hamas-led PA and Kadima-led Israel to the same standard?

CJPME supports “mutual recognition” - a position where Canada insists that all parties respect the right to self-determination of the other

## Mutual Recognition

### Palestinians:

- Recognized Israel in Oslo Accords (1993)
- Accepted two-state vision established in Road Map Peace Plan as-is
- Unity Gov’t accepts two-state vision proposed in Saudi Peace Plan

### Hamas:

- Asks what Israel’s borders are.

## Mutual Recognition

### Israel:

- Only recognized the PLO in Oslo Accords
- Rejected key aspects of Palestinian sovereignty in its reservations to the Road Map Peace Plan
- Has never declared its borders
- Sharon’s former (Likud) party: “The Government of Israel flatly rejects the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state west of the Jordan river.” ( Likud Platform, 2006 Elections )

**BACK (slide 15)**



# Is Canada holding the Hamas-led PA and Kadima-led Israel to the same standard?

CJPME believes that Canada should insist on respect for previous agreements, including Oslo I & II, and the Road Map Peace Plan

## Respect for previous agreements

### Fatah-led PA:

- Was unable to fully constrain violence of militant groups
- Did obtain a shaky cease-fire in 2005

### Hamas-led PA:

- Has offered to negotiate if Israel withdraws to 1967 borders (UN Security Council Res. 242)

### Unity Gov't:

- Pledges respect for previous agreements

## Respect for previous agreements

### Israel:

- Has never respected “territorial integrity of the West Bank and Gaza” (Oslo, RMPP)
- Never ceased or slowed colony growth (Oslo, RMPP)
- Never removed colony “outposts” (RMPP)
- Withholds tax transfers (Paris Protocols of Oslo)
- Follows a unilateralist “dictate final status outcomes” approach

BACK (slide 15)

# Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME)

- **Who we are:**

- A grassroots, secular organization with members in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver.
- We are Canadians of all religious and ethnic backgrounds who believe in justice, peace and security for all people in the Middle East.
- We seek to positively influence both our government's foreign policy in the Middle East, and our media's portrayal of current events and people in the region.

- **Our mission:**

- To advocate for a just Canadian foreign policy on the Middle-East;
- To insist that the Canadian government uphold and enforce all UN resolutions and instruments of international law, both in word and in deed;
- To challenge the media to present balanced and objective coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
- To promote a better understanding of the historic injustices suffered by Middle Eastern peoples;
- To collaborate with others who seek justice and peace in the Middle East.

[BACK \(slide 3\)](#)

# Historic Palestine: The Story of the Land

Over time, the Palestinians become increasingly dispossessed with each decade:

- In 1947, the UN allocated 47 percent of the land to Palestinians, who at that time represented 66 percent of the population
- In 1948, the war left Palestinians with only 23 percent of the land
- In 1967, the Palestinians had an occupation, and no land
- In 1968, Israel annexed East Jerusalem
- Starting in 2002, imprisonment within the Wall began

[BACK \(slide 3\)](#)

