



Canadians for Justice and Peace
in the Middle East



A Sensible and Humane Canadian Middle East Policy

May 29, 2008



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Why are we meeting?

1. To talk about a new approach – a sensible Canadian approach – to resolving the international siege of Gaza.
2. To ask you to challenge a recent Canadian commitment: The Declaration of Intent between Canada and Israel for Public Safety Cooperation



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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CJPME's Policy Proposals to end the Gaza Siege

Violence in Gaza

FIGURES FOR APRIL 2008

Palestinian Rockets	149
Palestinian Mortars towards Israel	174
Palestinian Mortars against IDF inside the Gaza Strip	443

IDF Searches	15
IDF Arrests/Detentions	181
Israeli Airstrikes	35

	From Direct Conflict with Israel			
	Injuries	Deaths	Women Deaths	Child Deaths
Palestinian (Gaza Strip)	155*	70	1	21
Israeli (in Gaza Strip)	20**	4***	0	0
Israeli (in Israel)	3****	2***	0	0

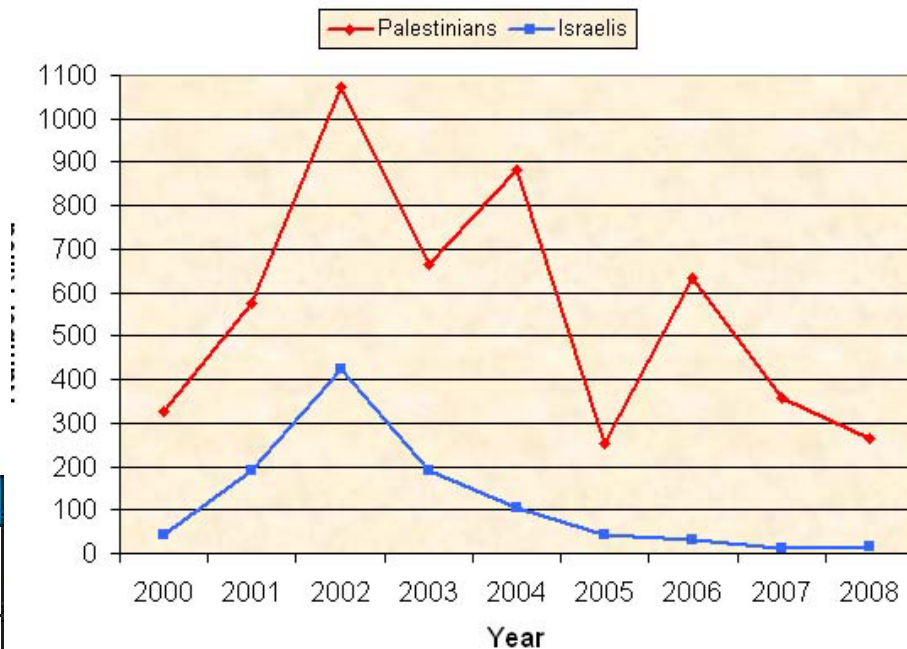
* Including at least 21 children

** All IDF soldiers injured in the Gaza Strip

*** Four Israeli Army soldiers and two employees at Nahal Oz crossing

****One child in the western Negev by a rocket and the assistant to the Israeli Internal Security Minister by live ammunition.

Number of Palestinians and Israelis Killed each Year since 9/29/00



“Peace will not be achieved by locking 1.5 million people into a prison of spiralling poverty and misery. Failure to end the policy of isolation will only continue the cycle of increasing poverty and extremism in Gaza rather than bring an end to it.”

From “The Gaza Strip: A Humanitarian Implosion”

Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

“The situation for 1.5 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is worse now than it has ever been since the start of the Israeli military occupation in 1967. The current situation in Gaza is man-made, completely avoidable and, with the necessary political will, can also be reversed...”

For 2008, the UN has launched the biggest ever humanitarian appeal for the Palestinians of \$462 million, well over twice the 2006 appeal, and representing the third largest UN request after the Sudan and Congo²³. International governments have also pledged an unprecedented US\$7 billion for the Palestinians over the next three years...

More aid is going to the Palestinians than ever before and yet the humanitarian situation continues to decline. Continued aid is vital to respond to the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza but it cannot provide a solution in itself...”

From “The Gaza Strip: A Humanitarian Implosion” sponsored by a Coalition of UK Aid Organizations, March, 2008



Gazans queue up to try to buy what little fuel may be available to them after Israel cut supplies to almost nil. Even hospitals had insufficient fuel for generators, and ambulances had insufficient fuel to drive.

End the Siege of Gaza: A

Demand an immediate stop to all Israeli collective punishment

- Since January, Israeli restrictions on goods into Gaza have been unbearable. Limits on fuel electrical delivery have caused, inter alia:
 - Occasional halts to distribution of international aid
 - Problems for ambulances to respond to emergencies; hospitals without electricity or fuel for generators
 - A virtual shutdown of the manufacturing
 - Limited or no garbage collection
 - Inability to irrigate crops
 - Overflowing sewage as pumps have no fuel
 - Only very limited electricity available
- Israeli violence has resulted in hundreds of deaths in Gaza since the beginning of the year.
 - In April alone, there were 70 civilian deaths, including 21 children.
 - 360 Palestinians have been killed since the beginning of 2008

Collective Punishment: “The punishment of a group of people as a result of the behaviour of one or more other individuals or groups. The punished group may often have no direct association with the other individuals or groups, or no direct control over their actions”



Trash piles up in Gaza because there is not enough fuel to provide garbage collection.

End the Siege of Gaza: B

Insist that the Warring Parties Respect International Law

- Killing of civilians during armed conflict is strictly forbidden under int'l law. Both parties have violated int'l law:
- Canada must call Israel to:
 - Cease airstrikes and assassinations in civilian population centers
 - Cease violent invasions and shelling in
 - Cease the destruction of civilian infrastructure
- Canada must call Hamas to:
 - Cease the shooting of rockets at civilian areas
 - Cease the shelling of Israeli civilian areas

April 28, 2008, following the death of a mother and her four children in Gaza: "The mounting loss of civilian life in and around Gaza is deeply worrying," "[I remind the Israeli Army] of its responsibility to protect civilians under international humanitarian law during its military operations."

*Ban Ki-Moon
UN Secretary-General*



Crowds gather around a vehicle in Gaza that was destroyed by an Israel airstrike launched against an alleged militant. These types of attacks regularly kill innocent bystanders and acquaintances.

End the Siege of Gaza: C

Continue humanitarian and other assistance to Palestinians

- CJPME applauds Canada's helpful emergency responses in 2007
 - \$8 million for emergency health relief through the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM)
 - \$10 million for UNRWA's 2007 emergency appeal and assistance through the Red Cross
 - \$300 million over 5 years pledged on Dec. 17th
 - Must ensure aid not prevented from getting to Gaza
 - Must relax restrictions (e.g. progress on peace process) to ensure aid gets to needy civilians
- Address the long-term need for economic development
 - Push Israel to cease the stranglehold of its siege in Gaza, and its military occupation overall
 - Encourage creative programs through the UN and NGOs to find ways to spur economic growth



In February, a UN special appeal for the Gaza Strip had managed to bring in only a small percentage of the US\$9.8 million needed for urgent food aid and cash assistance for the enclave's most vulnerable refugee.

End the Siege of Gaza: D

Drop the Bush Administration's approach to Hamas

- Hamas is not a monolithic, or exclusively militant organization. It is a political, religious and social organization as well. Much of its \$70M budget goes to social programs and schools
- Hamas will be integral to any eventual negotiated deal.
 - As Abbas seeks to represent all Palestinians, he cannot ignore the killing in Gaza by Israel
 - The negotiations process cannot continue as long as tit-for-tat violence reigns in Gaza
- Hamas should not be assessed by its 1988 Charter, but by its recent policy positions: e.g. acceptance of the Saudi Peace Plan, ability to maintain prolonged ceasefires, etc.



In 2007, the Mecca Accord was signed between Hamas and Fatah to form a Palestinian Unity Government. Canada's government never chose to recognize the Unity government, and it eventually collapsed when Hamas took control of Gaza

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



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CJPME's Policy Proposals on Public Safety Cooperation

Declaration of Intent between Canada and Israel for Cooperation in “Public Safety”

- “To prioritize and manage cooperation in the following areas within the responsibility of the Ministries:
 - Border management and security, including biometric applications;
 - Correctional services and prisons;
 - Crime prevention;
 - Critical infrastructure protection;
 - Emergency management;
 - Illegal immigration;
 - Law enforcement cooperation;
 - Money laundering;
 - Organized crime;
 - Terrorist financing; and
 - Trafficking in persons.



Canada's Minister of Public Safety, Stockwell Day, shakes hands with his Israeli counterpart, Avi Dichter at the signing of the Declaration. In December 2007, Dichter had to cancel a speaking engagement in the UK amid fears he might be arrested on war crimes charges, brought by private citizens. The charges would have concerned the 2002 targeted assassination of Hamas commander Salah Shehade under his watch as head of Shabak, in which Saleh's bodyguard and 15 civilians, many of them children, were also killed

Declaration of Intent between Canada and Israel for Cooperation in “Public Safety”

- “To achieve the following objectives:
 - Build on their shared commitment to facilitate and enhance cooperation to protect their respective countries’ population, assets and interests from common threats;...
 - Share knowledge, experience, expertise, information, research, and best practices;
 - Identify and share public safety concerns on the basis of threats, risk assessments, priorities, vulnerabilities, and consequences; and
 - Facilitate technical exchange cooperation, including education, training, and exercises.”



Canadians who oppose Israeli policies – especially Immigrants and refugees – have good reason to be wary of possible information-sharing between Canada and Israel under the Declaration signed in March, 2008

Canada-Israel Public Safety Cooperation: A

Choose our “public safety” partners wisely

- Canada must only choose public safety partners who espouse universal equality
- Canada must only choose public safety partners who share its commitment to human and humanitarian rights
- Canada must be careful not to legitimize or reward the unlawful behaviour of other states
- Canada must seek international models in public safety partnerships

The May, 2007 publication by the Israeli human rights organization, Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, captures testimonies of Palestinians tortured by Israel. This report mirrors similar findings by other Israeli human rights organizations like B'Tselem and HaMoked



“Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.”

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

“The purpose of this Basic Law is to protect human dignity and liberty, in order to establish in a Basic Law the values of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.”

Israel’s Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty

Canada-Israel Public Safety Cooperation: B

Assess the root causes of the threats Canada faces

- The organizations that threaten Israel do not threaten Canada.
- The organizations that threaten Israel do so for specific reasons relating to Israel's military occupation of Palestine and other lands of its neighbours.
- Much global ill-will toward the West is due to the West's support of Israel's regime of occupation in Palestine.
- Canada's public safety agreement with Israel may actually create or deepen the threats faced by Canada

"Terrorism is a tactic used by various groups, not a single unified adversary."

*Dr. John J. Mearsheimer
University of Chicago*



"Effective engagement in this fraught region requires patience, risk, measure, great diplomatic skill and a profound knowledge of the troubled history of the region. But, above all, it demands balance, fairness and credibility. Recent statements by the Prime Minister and recent votes at the United Nations suggest our balance on Middle Eastern questions needs some attention."

*Robert Fowler,
Canada's longest-serving ambassador to the UN who helped Canada win a seat on the Security Council in 1999-2000*



Canada-Israel Public Safety Cooperation: C

Protect our commitment to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

- The Declaration of Intent with Israel clearly suggests (e.g. “sharing of training, education and exercises”) Canada engage in activities which would undermine its commitment to Charter values
- Canada’s Charter ensures
 - 1) the right to life, liberty and security of the person;
 - 2) the right from unreasonable search and seizure;
 - 3) freedom from arbitrary detainment or imprisonment;
 - 4) the right not to be subject to cruel and unusual punishment



An actor demonstrates one of the torture positions used during interrogations of Palestinian detainees.

- Documented Israeli practices include
 - 1) extrajudicial assassinations; reckless force against civilians;
 - 2) destruction of private property; confiscation of land and property;
 - 3) abusive use of administrative detention to intimidate and punish;
 - 4) torture

Canada-Israel Public Safety Cooperation: D

Canada must protect its own citizenry

- Canada must protect vulnerable Canadians of Middle East origin from the freedom suggested in the Declaration:
 - “sharing... information;”
 - cooperating on illegal immigration;
 - cooperating on law enforcement
- Israeli intelligence should be considered suspect
 - “Evidence” gathered by Israeli intelligence may have been obtained through inappropriate means
 - Israel may have its own reasons to trump up charges against Middle Eastern Canadians
 - The context of Israel’s occupation creates a distorted context in which to view “intelligence”



Palestinians queue up at a highly fortified checkpoint in the occupied Palestinian territories. Such checkpoints are a focal point for humiliating and abusive treatment by the Israeli Army and other Israeli security forces.



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Thank You



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Principles of Humanitarian Aid and International Law

Moral Guidelines for Aid-giving

The UN allocates assistance on the basis of clear criteria guiding humanitarian interventions, including²:

- Principle of Impartiality:
I.e. Humanitarian assistance should be guided by need rather than political requirements according to the principle of impartiality.
- Principle of Neutrality:
I.e. Humanitarian assistance is neutral, and humanitarian agencies should interact with all parties to ensure access and to negotiate conditions for delivery. Humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the host authority.
- Principle of Humanity:
E.g. Humanitarian intervention should be expanded to address the impact of increasing poverty and unemployment – for example, through employment generation and the provision of credit, so as to target the poorest and stimulate the local economy.



Ama'ri Refugee Camp in Ramallah: A young Palestinian gets his eyes tested in the local health center

What about International Law?

- The Fourth Geneva Convention applies specifically during times of war and occupation.
- It's applicability to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories is questioned by none but Israel:

*“Under the Fourth Geneva Conventions, Israel as the occupying power bears the responsibility for the welfare of the Palestinian population. In recent years, international donors and the Palestinian Authority have in practical terms taken on this role. If the PA is unable to provide basic services to the Palestinian population and donors withhold assistance, the emphasis will shift back to Israel to resume its legal obligation.” **

For more explanation
(slide 44)

* “Assessment of the future humanitarian risks in the occupied Palestinian territory,” April 11, 2006, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Applicability of International Humanitarian Law: Fourth Geneva Conventions (slide 1)

The Fourth Geneva Conventions makes Israel – as the occupying power – responsible to ensure that the humanitarian needs of the civilian population are met:

- Article 55 – Ensuring adequate food and medical supplies

“...the Occupying Power has the duty of ensuring the food and medical supplies of the [occupied civilian] population; it should, in particular, bring in the necessary foodstuffs, medical stores and other articles if the resources of the occupied territory are inadequate.”

- Article 56 – Ensuring the functioning of medical institutions

“To the fullest extent of the means available to it, the Occupying Power has the duty of ensuring and maintaining, with the cooperation of national and local authorities, the medical and hospital establishments and services, public health and hygiene in the occupied territory, with particular reference to the adoption and application of the prophylactic and preventive measures necessary to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics. Medical personnel of all categories shall be allowed to carry out their duties.”



November 22, 2005: Palestinian school girls run away from an Israeli soldiers' tear gas thrown at them at a checkpoint in the Palestinian city of al-Khalil (Hebron)



November 20, 2005- Israeli soldiers search a Palestinian boy on his way to school for explosives devices

Applicability of International Humanitarian Law: Fourth Geneva Conventions (slide 2)

The Fourth Geneva Conventions make Israel – as the occupying power – responsible to ensure that the humanitarian needs of the civilian population are met:

- Article 23 – Expediting of relief supplies

“Each... party shall allow the free passage of all consignments of medical and hospital stores... intended only for civilians of another High Contracting Party, even if the latter is its adversary. It shall likewise permit the free passage of all consignments of essential foodstuffs, clothing and tonics intended for children under fifteen, expectant mothers and maternity cases.”

- Article 50 – Ensuring the functioning of educational institutions

The Occupying Power shall, with the cooperation of the national and local authorities, facilitate the proper working of all institutions devoted to the care and education of children.

BACK (slide 34)



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Questions of Equal Expectations of All

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:

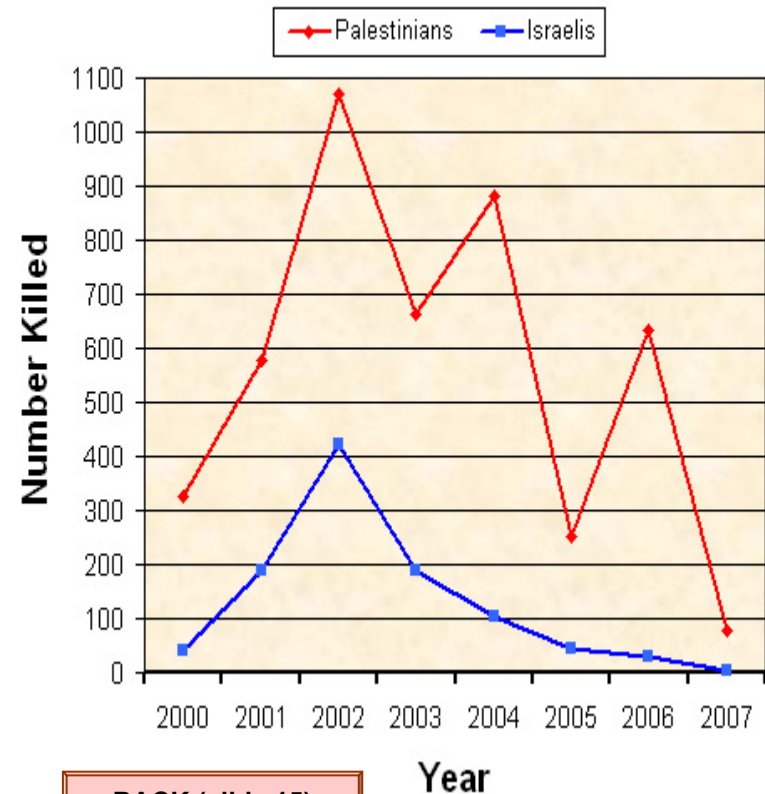
- Pledges to seek a policy of calm/truce with Israel via the Unity Gov't

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 \(slide 3\)](#)

