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CJPME CALLS ON CANADA TO PRESSURE ISRAEL TO STOP ITS SIEGE OF GAZA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, January 24 / – Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) urges the government of Canada to denounce the ongoing siege of the Gaza Strip in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and calls on it to demand that Israel end it immediately. It calls on Prime Minister Harper and Foreign Affairs Minister Bernier to condemn the repeated Israeli aggression on the citizens of Gaza, which, through many attacks this month, has seen dozens of Palestinians killed, among them many civilians.

Thomas Woodley of CJPME stated, “Because Israel controls Gaza’s borders, airspace, Radio, TV and coastline, and because it attacks Gaza at will, Israel is responsible for the well-being of all Gazans, for their food, health, education and livelihoods. Israel’s blockade of Gaza is shockingly immoral and inhumane.”

Since Friday, Jan. 18th, Israel has cut all fuel and shipments of raw materials used for construction, among other things, that enter Gaza. Even prior to Jan. 18th, the population was living on only 6-8 hours of water every two days, and 6-8 hours of electricity per day.

Israel has also been blocking shipments of medicines and medical supplies from entering Gaza for months, and severely restricts those needing medical treatment from leaving Gaza. Since the siege began almost eight months ago, more than 60 people have died due to these reasons alone.

CJPME calls on the government of Canada to:

- Insist that Israel’s blockade of Gaza cease immediately.
- Insist that Israel stop hampering international aid to Palestinians.
- Provide humanitarian aid to Palestinians.
- Call on Israel and Palestinian parties to respect international humanitarian law.

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About CJPME

CJPME is a pan-Canadian grassroots advocacy organization uniting Canadians of all backgrounds who believe in justice, peace and security for all people in the Middle East. CJPME seeks to positively influence Canadian foreign policy in the Middle East and Canadian media coverage of the events and peoples of the region. CJPME values Canada’s historical role as a neutral broker in the Middle East, and wants to promote better understanding among Canadians of Middle Eastern issues and dynamics.

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