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## **CJPME Deeply Troubled by Canada's Loss in International stature**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONTREAL, June 10, 2008 / – Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) is greatly saddened by the loss of international stature behind Canada's likely abandoning its bid for a Security Council seat for 2010. Last month, Canadian media reported that the Canadian government was considering dropping its 2010 bid for the Security Council.

Canada has a long and treasured history in trumpeting international law and peacekeeping at the United Nations, dating as far back to 1956 with Lester B. Pearson historic initiative to end the Suez Crisis. Some, such as Canada's longest serving ambassador to the United Nations, Robert Fowler believe Canada's withdrawal considerations is evidence of Canada's low confidence in its own foreign policy.

"While there are a number of contributing factors, there's no doubt the Canadian government's unquestioned support of Israel over the past several years has undermined its international credibility," says Asma Ishak of CJPME. The Globe and Mail's Jeffrey Simpson described Canada's Middle East policy as its "Israel-right-or-wrong policy."

Despite Canada's enormous contribution in the past, such as curbing arms smuggling in Angola or blood diamond trafficking, its recent foreign policy behavior seems to have elevated the concern over its partiality and whether it can adequately satisfy Article 23.1 of the UN Charter—the main criteria by which candidates are judged for the Security Council—which measures candidate countries contribution to international peace and security as well as other UN initiatives.

CJPME reiterates its commitment to international law and humanitarian principles. "It is part of what makes us Canadian," says Ishak. "From Lester B. Pearson to John Humphreys, Canada has been defined by its commitment to enlightened principles. We hope this unfortunate stumble sends signals to our leaders that some of our foreign policy positions, particularly in the Middle East, need to be reviewed."

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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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