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CJPME welcomes World Public Opinions Survey on Israel-Palestine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, July 24, 2008 – Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) welcomes a recent World Public Opinions survey showing that the vast majority of citizens around the world prefer even-handedness regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The poll, conducted in 18 countries and spearheaded by the University of Maryland's Program on International Attitudes, showed that 14 of those 18 countries surveyed support an even-handed approach, that is, their government tilting to neither side. (Of the four other countries, Egypt, Iran, and Turkey prefer favouring the Palestinian perspective, while India was divided.) The official poll results can be found at http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/home_page/503.php

Most noteworthy is that according to the survey, 71% of Americans do not favour taking sides in the conflict. "This finding is yet more evidence that the path of balance and fairness is a widely favoured path," CJPME's Asma Ishak said Tuesday. "Both parties to this conflict should be condemned equally and praised equally when the situation warrants. In the long-run, it is detrimental to the security and happiness of both peoples if one-sided policies are favoured over tougher, fairer standards for all".

Many American political commentators have weighed in on the poll including Glenn Greenwald of Salon. Though the majority of Americans support a balanced approach, Greenwald laments that "not only is the view of 'even-handedness' completely unrepresented among mainstream political figures in the U.S., it's deemed political death to go anywhere near expressing that view."

Tom Woodley, President of CJPME hopes that this poll will affirm the importance of balance and fairness in the Middle East on the part of Canada, especially regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. "CJPME hopes that elected representatives in Canada will take this poll as an important bellwether for future policy considerations in Israel-Palestine," says Woodley.

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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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