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CJPME applauds Louise Arbour's Tenure as the UN HCHR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, July 3, 2008 / – Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) applauds the work of Canadian Louise Arbour during her four-year term as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Ms. Arbour's term expires at the end of June and she did not seek reappointment to the post.

Ms. Arbour held her post during some very challenges periods, most notably through the creation in 2005 of the new UN Human Rights Council, and through several periods of regional war. "Ms. Arbour is an example for all Canadians, men and women alike, in the way she pursued her passion for universal human rights," opined Thomas Woodley of CJPME. While Canadian herself, Ms. Arbour was not a representative of the Canadian government while serving in her role as High Commissioner.

A June 18 Reuters news release concerning Ms. Arbour highlighted her distaste for taboos on topics of human rights. "Ms. Arbour is an individual who was never able to tolerate taboos – it's inimical to her principled stand on key moral issues," asserted Woodley. "Ms. Arbour's candour has often made her a threat to existing power establishments, but that is ultimately the responsibility of the High Commissioner."

Ms. Arbour was accused of being anti-Israel during the 2006 Destruction of Lebanon by Israel. Critics pointed to her call for accountability for the death and destruction that occurred during that war as a bias against Israel. In fact, while the death and destruction was highly disproportionately inflicted by Israel, Ms. Arbour held all those "in a position of command and control" responsible – presumably both Hezbollah and Israel.

CJPME encourages all Canadians – especially the Canadian government – to congratulate Ms. Arbour for her numerous and exemplary achievements, both in Canada and at the UN. CJPME considers her lifelong promotion of human rights as a standard that all Canadians can admire.

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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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