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CJPME Invites Canadians to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, May 15, 2008 / – CJPME would like to invite Canadians to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Nakba. On this day, Palestinians remember the suffering and the distress that was bestowed upon them in May of 1948.

Every year, Palestinians commemorate the Nakba, the Arabic word for "catastrophe". It indicates the expulsion and disposition of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and land in 1948. In that year, more than sixty percent of the total Palestinian population was expelled and became refugee abroad and internally. More than 400 Palestinian villages were depopulated and completely destroyed. Palestinians have been prohibited from returning to their lands in the aftermath of the Nakba until this day.

It's essential that Canadians commemorate that day since Palestinian refugees still hope to go back to the land they had to leave sixty years ago. Today, UNRWA estimates that there are almost 4.5 million Palestinians who live in the refugee camps in Jordan, the Gaza strip, and other neighbouring countries. These refugees live under the hardship of poverty, famine, disease, unemployment and conflict. There are other parts of the Nakba diaspora who also live in the West and in the rest of the world.

CJPME believes that Canadians should show sympathy and join the Palestinians in their grief and memory of this tragic event in history. By commemorating this day, we can lessen the burden of their grief and we can play our role in ensuring a just resolution for the Palestinians. "Canadians must recognize the Nakba as a turning point in history for the Middle East and the Western states," says Nina Amrov of CJPME. "This is where everything started and as long as we don't recognize it, we can never find just solutions for the conflict."

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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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