

# canpalnet

Canada-Palestine Support Network  
[www.canpalnet.ca](http://www.canpalnet.ca)



**Palestine & Israel:**  
**Where does Canada stand?**

In 1967, the Israel army illegally occupied the Palestinian territories of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. It was supposed to be a temporary measure.

Thirty five years later, the occupation continues. Israel has systematically violated international standards of human rights by using its army to coerce the civilian population into accepting their expropriation and dispossession.

For more than three and half decades, the Palestinians have resisted Israel's attempts to annex the West Bank and Gaza. Israel has cordoned off their land and pushed them into ghettos and refugee camps, calling them terrorists and subjecting them to cruel and degrading collective punishments. Many have been killed, exiled or tortured.

The Palestinians have witnessed an influx of hundreds of thousands of Israeli settlers onto their land. They have beseeched the Canadian government to call on Israel to withdraw its soldiers, bases and civilian settlements from their territories. To no avail.

## Where does Canada stand?

Rather than join the international community in condemning Israel's human rights abuses, successive Canadian governments have condoned Israel's systematic annexation of Palestinian land. Our foreign ministers routinely talk about the need for peace, but resolutely refuse make the one demand that could significantly prepare the ground for an end to violence between the two national groups: the unilateral and immediate end of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

It's a sad state of affairs when our foreign ministry takes its cue from the US State Department and not the citizens of Canada. But that's what our government has been doing for over three decades. Rather than stand firm with international opinion, Canada has lined up behind the United States and its Israeli client state. Rather than call

for an end to the occupation, Canada has made do with diplomatic cliches or a resounding silence.

Over the past year, Canadian diplomats have run interference for the US at UN conferences dealing with Israel's record of human rights abuses. It happened at the anti-racism conference in Durban South Africa in the summer of 2001 and at the UN Human Rights Commission that met in Geneva in the Spring of 2002. It happened when Canada refused to support sending a fact finding mission to the occupied territories to investigate Israel's April 2002 incursion.

## Where should Canada stand?

We have to demand our government stands up for the human rights of all peoples all around the world, without exception. And that includes the Palestinian people. So long as Israeli security is contingent on the mass misery of the Palestinians, there will not be peace in the Middle East.

It's past time for us to make our voices heard. CANPALNET (Canada Palestine Support Network) has organized a Canada-wide "Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories". The goal is to change Canadian government policy on this issue. All of us, with all our different backgrounds, have the same responsibility to make this policy a just one.

The campaign statement (on the other side of the page) is also on our website: [www.canpalnet.ca](http://www.canpalnet.ca) (go to campaigns and you will find a link to the statement and the list of signatories).

CHECK IT OUT.

ADD YOUR NAME.

HELP BUILD THE CAMPAIGN.

To add your name or that of your organization to the statement, contact us by  
email: [support@canpalnet.ca](mailto:support@canpalnet.ca)  
Phone: 604-534-8275  
604-298-9638  
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Burnaby V5B 1K4

## Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories

It is the responsibility of all people in Canada to insist on the inviolability and universality of human rights. As such, and compelled by our government's failure to meet its obligations to the Palestinian people, we call for an immediate change in Canada's Middle East policy.

While proclaiming that all peoples in the region have a right to security, successive Canadian governments have condoned Israel's systematic violation of the Palestinian population's basic human right to live free of military coercion and violence.

Collective punishment, land expropriation, home demolitions, extra-judicial killings and the daily humiliation of an entire population provide fertile soil for the growth of brutality and the perpetration of atrocities. Continuing military occupation is the root cause of the present spiral of violence between the Palestinian and Israeli populations.

We urgently demand that the Canadian government assume its international responsibilities regarding the illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. We call on the Canadian government to publicly and unequivocally demand the immediate and unilateral withdrawal of all Israeli military forces from the Palestinian Territories occupied in June 1967 and the dismantlement of illegal settlements.

We demand the Canadian government uphold the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding civilian populations under military occupation (enacted following the atrocities of World War II). We call on the Canadian government to respond to Israel's continuing non-compliance with the rule of law by joining the international community in the censure and sanction of the illegal Israeli occupation and colonization of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

In so doing, we affirm the universality of our basic human rights, and protest their selective application by the Canadian government.

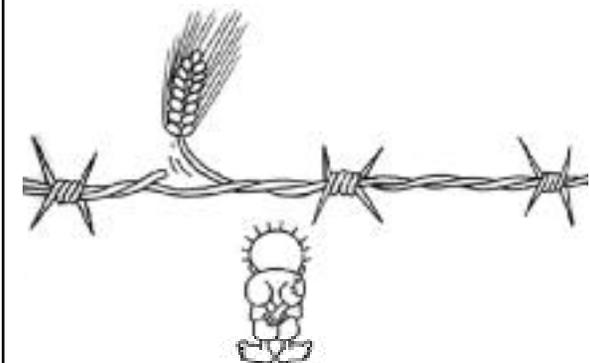
**WE CALL ON PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS TO JOIN US IN THIS CAMPAIGN.**

## The meaning of occupation

"Israeli soldiers announced from their loudspeakers, their burly voices resounding up and down the neighborhood roads: "To the people of Ramallah: It is forbidden to move around. Anyone breaking curfew will be shot." Silent houses, closed shops, and deserted streets greeted their orders for good reason. These are no idle threats. Last week, several Palestinian civilians, including six children, were killed and injured when they went outside during what they thought was a lifting of the curfew. This collective punishment of hundreds of thousands of people has been barely mentioned in the western press. The enthusiastic foreign reporters who flocked to the West Bank when Palestinians were shooting and dying in March and April are nowhere to be found during the few hours of "freedom" residents have every couple of days. Watching people rush around trying to stock up on supplies before the curfew is reimposed is not news. Repression through stifling is apparently not dramatic enough." – Lori Allen, "The Tugs of War: Palestinian Life Under Curfew," Counterpunch (Weekend Edition), July 7, 2002.



"There is nothing quite like the misery one feels listening to a 35-year-old man who worked fifteen years as an illegal day laborer in Israel in order to save up money to build a house for his family only to be shocked one day upon returning from work to find that the house and all that was in it had been flattened by an Israeli bulldozer. When I asked why this was done the land, after all, was his I was told that a paper given to him the next day by an Israeli soldier stated that he had built the structure without a license... Jews can build, but never Palestinians. This is apartheid." – Edward W. Said, "An Orphaned People," The Nation (Israel at Fifty Issue), May 4, 1998



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canpalnet gathers Canadians of all backgrounds who support the human, democratic, and national rights of the Palestinian people.

canpalnet aims to change the policies and actions of the Canadian government so that these come to support the rights of the Palestinian people.

canpalnet guides itself by United Nations resolutions affirming Palestinians' right of return and calling for an end to the Israeli occupation.

canpalnet similarly guides itself by accumulated inter- national law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which upholds the equal worth and dignity of persons regardless of their ethnic or religious identity, and which affirms democratic rights and opposes apartheid structures.

canpalnet works for the national co-ordination of solidarity work.

To contact us for more information:  
email: [support@canpalnet.ca](mailto:support@canpalnet.ca)  
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