

July 17, 2014

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

Re: Conflict in Gaza

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is deeply concerned about the escalating conflict between Israel and Palestine. The death toll is growing with over 200 people killed in Gaza, and one person in Israel. We recognize the previous demand of the Government of Canada for a ceasefire, and further call on you to demonstrate genuine support and recognition of human rights and international humanitarian law as a principle underlying this demand.

Devastating violence has been inflicted on thousands of innocent people in Israel and Palestine, with impacts that will last generations. It is not a secret that the people in the Gaza Strip are being disproportionately affected by this violence as is evident in the rising death toll.

Peace in the region cannot be achieved unless there is an immediate halt to the bombardment against Gaza, an end to rockets sent by Hamas, the end to the blockade against Gaza and the end of the illegal occupations of the Palestinian territories by Israel.

Collective punishment that targets civilians and infrastructure in Gaza such as hospitals, schools and water systems warrants an immediate condemnation from the international community including the Government of Canada.

As an affiliate of Public Services International (PSI), we support the call for *"a democratic, inclusive and non-sectarian approach that can provide a lasting peace to the conflict, and this is conditional on the dismantling of all oppressive instruments, including legislative, military, political, social, economic and political barriers."* We agree that at the very least this must involve:

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- Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality;
- Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties;
- An immediate end to Israel's illegal settlements and blockade on Gaza.

CUPE calls on the Government of Canada to be a leader in the world by calling for a ceasefire that includes, as a pre-condition for peace, the recognition of human rights and international humanitarian law by all sides of the conflict.

Yours truly,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer

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c.c.: P. Beattie; M. Butler; CUPE National Executive Board; D. Ivanochko; K. Cameron; T. Mulcair; J. Baird;
P. Dewar; R. Pavanelli; H. Yussuff