

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice



A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values

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President, Margaret Rao

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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ), a faith-based organization that advocates for peace and justice in our world. One year ago this month, we sent you a letter urging you to overturn your government's motion condemning those who support a boycott of goods produced in the illegal settlements¹.

CUSJ supports the BDS grassroots movement, to pressure Israel to cease its expansion of Jewish settlements and to stop violating international law and Palestinians' human rights. Even before the latest 'Expropriation Bill,' which retroactively legalizes more than 50 settlements, Israel had announced plans for over 6000 settlement homes in the new year, in response to the UN Security Council's unanimous Resolution condemning Israeli settlement building.

The new law, deemed illegal and opposed by Israel's attorney general –has been soundly condemned by Britain, France and Germany. Even the new American President, a staunch ally of Israel, stated that more Israeli settlements in the West Bank "don't help the [peace] process." The Canadian government's blanket support for Israel in recent years, and silence in the face of this latest flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention, undermines Canada's reputation as an honest broker in the Middle East.

The results of a just-released Ekos poll indicate that the majority of Canadians have a negative view of the Israeli government. It appears that our government is out of step with its own citizens and its own official policy, as well as the vast majority of UN member states. Outgoing U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, rightly pointed out that in unilaterally choosing a one-state solution, "Israel can either be Jewish or democratic - it cannot be both – and it won't ever really be at peace."

Now that the two-state solution is apparently no longer an option, what will Canada, in concert with the international community, do to help bring a just and lasting peace for both Jewish and Arab Israelis and the long-suffering Palestinian people?

CUSJ urges you and your government to be part of the global effort to promote a negotiated end to Israel's military occupation and a just peace in the 'Holy Land'. The time to act is **now**. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Standing on the Side of Love and Justice!

Respectfully yours,



Margaret Rao
President, Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
cusj.org

<http://cusj.org/international-conflicts-peace/israel-and-palestine/cusj-president-urges-justin-trudeau-to-be-a-true-friend-to-israel/>