

## Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice



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

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 on behalf of CUSJ, a faith-based organization that advocates for peace and justice in our world. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the killing and wounding of unarmed Gazan protesters by Israeli Defence Forces. Firing live ammunition into crowds of unarmed civilians is not only a violation of international law, but an outrage to human decency and morality.

Canada and the international community can no longer stand idly by and do nothing in the face of this ongoing travesty of justice against a defenceless and impoverished people.

Israel and the international community have consistently ignored the human rights of Palestinians for 70 years. An occupied people have the right to protest against their appalling living conditions and the ongoing blockade that cuts them off from the rest of humanity. Robert Piper, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for the West Bank and Gaza, calls Israel's blockade an "extraordinarily inhuman and unjust process of strangling gradually two million civilians in Gaza that really pose a threat to nobody."

We call on the Canadian government to denounce Israel's violent suppression of a civilian population, and to insist on an independent international investigation into the fatal shooting of innocent children, women and men, including journalists. For far too long the government of Israel has ignored and defied international humanitarian law, and the peoples of Palestine and Israel have all suffered in the process.

If Canada's government is truly committed to doing its "utmost" to defend human rights, then you must take strong action now. We call on the Canadian government and the United Nations to impose appropriate economic sanctions, including an arms embargo, on Israel, until such time as the blockade against Gaza, the appropriation of Palestinian land, and the illegal settlement building, end.

Standing on the Side of Love and Justice!!

Margaret Rao  
President, Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice