



Canadian Voice of
Women for Peace
(VOW)
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Women's International
League for Peace &
Freedom (WILPF) Canada
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July 28, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

**Re: JOINT LETTER: End the Genocide! Two-way arms embargo against Israel
 Canadians want a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, negotiations and peace in the Middle East.
 We want peace and nuclear disarmament.**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Joly,

We, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Canada, are writing to you about our opposition to Israel's horrific genocide in Gaza and our grave concern about the immense suffering of the Palestinian people. As well, on the eve of the 79th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are appealing to you to reduce the risk of nuclear escalation through disarmament and dialogue and cancelling the F-35 procurement and the F-16 training program for Ukraine.

Though the Canadian government has announced its support of a ceasefire in Gaza in December 2023, it is not enough. Over the past nine months, the Israeli military has killed more than 46,000 Palestinians including 15,000 children and has also wounded more than 88,000 Palestinian. Please see enclosed statistics by EuroMed Human Rights Monitor of the genocide in Gaza at the end of this letter. Moreover, the Lancet medical journal recently estimated that at least 186,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza. Of that amount, according to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA), 197 UNRWA personnel and hundreds more humanitarian workers and medical professionals have been killed by Israel since the 7th of October. Most of the homes, hospitals, schools, libraries, mosques, churches and heritage sites have been destroyed by Israel. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has found that there are plausible grounds that Israel is committing a genocide against the Palestinian people and issued provisional orders to stop it. The ICJ has also determined that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal and must end.

Thus, Canada has a responsibility to do more to implement the decisions of the ICJ and end Israel's genocide against the Palestinians. Canada must enact an immediate two-way arms embargo against Israel. Canada must also increase its funding for UNWRA and help get more aid into Gaza. As well, the family reunification program for Palestinians is not working and thousands of Palestinian-Canadians are desperately waiting for their family members in Gaza and the West Bank to come to Canada. Canada must open its doors and bring Palestinians into the country in the same way that it did for Ukrainians.

In addition, the Canada Revenue Agency must cease charitable status for all Canadian organizations that are raising money for the State of Israel and the Israeli Defence Forces. Over the past 18 months detailed complaints have been submitted to the CRA asking it to investigate a dozen Israel-focused charities, including the Canadian Zionist Cultural Association, Mizrahi Canada, the Jerusalem Heritage Foundation of Canada, Ne'eman and the HESEG Foundation. Over 200 registered charities in this country funnel over a quarter billion dollars in subsidized donations to Israel annually, which has a per capita GDP equal to Canada's. Canadian subsidization of Israel's occupation, apartheid and genocide must end.

VOW and WILPF-Canada are also concerned about the growing risk of a wider war by Israel against Yemen, Syria, Lebanon and Iran. Israel has been repeatedly striking these countries with missiles. Israel is a nuclear-armed state, so a regional war must be prevented. The Middle East needs peace.

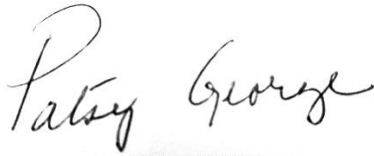
On the issue of nuclear weapons, VOW and WILPF-Canada are calling on the federal government to take meaningful steps to implement Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament." This August is the 79th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Our organizations are hosting commemorations across the country and are calling on Canada to do more to advance the NPT and to sign onto the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

VOW and WILPF-Canada believe that Canada's procurement of F-35 fighter jets that are designed to carry tactical nuclear weapons and Canada's participation in NATO's nuclear deterrence are violations of the NPT. Two weeks ago, at the NATO Summit, Canada announced that it would spend \$389 million to train Ukrainian pilots on the F-16 fighter jets, which are nuclear-capable warplanes. Canada should not be supplying warplanes and more weapons to Ukraine, but brokering peace to end this tragic war. Canada must do more to fulfill its obligations under the NPT to eliminate the risks of nuclear weapons, which is in the best interests of our children and youth and aligns with the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

We are aware that the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to NPT is currently under way at the UN's Palais des Nations in Geneva. Ray Acheson, the Director of Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament program of the WILPF, is participating in this crucial meeting. Acheson delivered an important statement on "gender and nuclear disarmament" supported by 17 organizations. We have attached their statement to our letter. We are calling on the federal government and Global Affairs Canada to show greater leadership on nuclear disarmament by ending the genocide in Gaza, cancelling the F-35 procurement and F-16 training program, withdrawing from NATO, joining the TPNW and respecting the recommendations of civil society for nuclear disarmament.

Finally, we are requesting an online to discuss these matters further. We can set up a zoom call with you at your convenience. We can be reached by email info@vowpeace.org or by phone: 416-603-7915. We want Canada to show leadership on peace and disarmament. Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Co-chair Patsy George

On behalf of co-chair Ellen Woodsworth and board
the Women's International League for Peace &
Freedom (WILPF) Canada



Co-chair Lyn Adamson

On behalf of co-chair Hannah Hadikin and the
board the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
(VOW)

Encl.

Civil Society Statement on Gender and Intersectionality to the 2024 NPT Preparatory Committee 23 July 2024, Geneva, Switzerland. Written and delivered by Ray Acheson, Reaching Critical Will of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) is the largest national feminist peace organization with members and chapters across the country. VOW was established in 1960 and is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization comprised of a network of diverse women. VOW's main office is in Toronto. VOW runs many campaigns related to women, peace, disarmament and anti-militarism. VOW has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every year brings a delegation of Canadian women to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference. For over 60 years, VOW has tirelessly advocated for a world without war. VOW stands for a feminist peace based on nonviolence, disarmament, diplomacy and common security with gender equality.

Web site: <http://vowpeace.org>

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Canada is a membership-led organization committed to a feminist peace, social justice, and gender equality. We are a non-partisan, non-governmental organization members across the country. We are the national section of WILPF International, which is the world's longest standing women peace organization founded in 1915, with 32 Sections and 13 Groups across Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Two of our leaders, Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch, won the Nobel Peace Prize. WILPF International is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and has a disarmament program called *Reaching Critical Will* in New York. Our *Peace Women* program monitors the United Nations' Women, Peace & Security agenda and we have an international *Environment Working Group*.

Web site: wilpfcanda.ca

VOW and WILPF-Canada are also members of the **Global Women for Peace United Against NATO:** <https://womenagainstnato.org/> and the **Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network:** <https://peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/>

ARMS EMBARGO



Day **280**

THE ISRAELI GENOCIDE IN THE GAZA STRIP

7 October - 12 July 2024



Killed *

46,848

15,813 Children 10,292 Women
42,230 Civilians at least



Injured

88,127



Journalists killed

152



Displaced

1,750,000



Completely destroyed homes

153,750



Partially destroyed homes

321,000



Destroyed/damaged press headquarters

182



Damaged schools

476



Destroyed industrial facilities

2,620



Damaged mosques

700

Damaged churches

3



Healthcare professionals

1,177

507 Killed 670 Injured



Healthcare facilities

381

32 Hospital 110 Clinics
239 Ambulances



Heritage sites

203



Civil defense workers

276

71 Killed 205 Injured



Detainees/Forcibly disappeared

3,120

* The killed number includes those presumed dead under the rubble

* The published numbers are continuously reviewed and updated based on new information collected from additional eyewitnesses and sources.