



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 31, 2026

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

The Honourable Anita Anand, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive,
Ottawa, ON,
K1A 0G2

Re: JOINT LETTER: Stand up for Palestinians illegally detained and tortured by Israeli forces, speak out against illegal Israeli settlements, and sanction Israel

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Minister Anand,

We, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Canada, are writing to you to urge you to speak out for Palestinians, such as Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, who have been arbitrarily detained and tortured by Israel and demand their immediate release. We also call on you to condemn Israel's ongoing ceasefire violations against Palestinians in Gaza, escalating violence against Palestinians in the West Bank, and construction of new illegal settlements on Palestinian land. Israel's deplorable and illegal wars against the people of Palestine, Lebanon and Iran demand that Canada sanction Israel and cancel the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA) and prohibit all trade with illegal Israeli settlements.

We would also like to inform you that our organizations participated in the International Day of Action to call for the release of Dr. Abu Safiya and the other Palestinian detainees on July 15th. Dr. Abu Safiya is a pediatrician and the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza who has been held without charge or trial by Israel for over 570 days. He is one of many Palestinian healthcare workers who have been detained by Israel and prevented from providing urgent care to the people in Gaza who have been gravely wounded by Israel's relentless shelling, shooting and bombing.

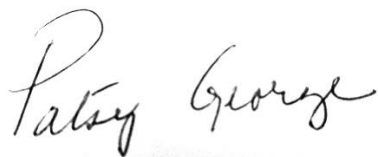
On July 8, the United Nations' Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory expressed its grave concern at credible reports that Dr. Abu Safiya has been subjected to continued and severe abuse since his detention by the Israeli authorities in December 2024. The Commission found that Israeli forces deliberately killed, wounded, detained, and severely mistreated Palestinian medical personnel, which constitutes war crimes, torture and crimes against humanity.

Earlier this year, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, lawyer Francesca Albanese, similarly found that Israel was committing torture against the Palestinian detainees in her report, *Torture and Genocide*. Albanese explained that widespread, systematic and horrific abuse is being inflicted by Israeli forces against Palestinian detainees. She noted that in the past three years, Israel has killed Palestinian medical workers in custody including three doctors, Dr. Adnan al-Bursh, Dr. Iyad al-Rantisi and Dr. Ziad al-Dalou. We have provided a link to the Commission's 72-page report and Special Rapporteur Albanese's 23-page report below.

Finally, we bring to your attention the terrible recent statistics by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) that Israel has killed 73,246 Palestinians and has injured 173,727 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip between October 7, 2023 and July 24, 2026. VOW and WILPF-Canada join Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) to call on you to use diplomatic and economic pressure to sanction Israel and hold it accountable for its shameful, ongoing violations of international law.

We look forward to your reply and action to stop Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people.

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)

cc:

Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

Hon. Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Hon. Avi Lewis, Leader of the New Democratic Party

Hon. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada

Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva

Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York City

SOURCES

Canada must sanction Israeli terrorism in the occupied West Bank: CJPME, July 24, 2026:

https://www.cjpme.org/pr_2026_07_24_west_bank

Humanitarian Situation Report, July, 23 2026:

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/opt-humanitarian-situation-report-23-july-2026>

UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, Report "Torture and Genocide", March 23, 2026:

<https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/61/71>

United Nations "Israel must release Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and all Palestinian medical personnel arbitrarily detained and adhere to international law, UN Commission of Inquiry says," July 8, 2026:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/07/israel-must-release-dr-hussam-abu-safiya-and-all-palestinian-medical>

United Nations, Human Rights Council, "Legal analysis of the conduct of Israel in Gaza pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," September 16, 2025:

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-crp-3.pdf>

ABOUT

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: wilpfcanada.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/>

73,246

Palestinians have
reportedly been killed in
the **Gaza Strip**
between 7 October 2023
and 24 July 2026.

**Many more are feared
missing under the rubble.**

Source: OCHA

