

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

Volume 211
June 1, 2021

U.N. Security Council calls for 'full adherence' to Gaza cease-fire, immediate humanitarian aid From: CNBC/Reuters contributed: May 22, 2021

The U.N. Security Council on Saturday called for a "full adherence" to the cease-fire in Gaza and urged immediate humanitarian aid for Palestinian civilians in its first statement on the 11-day war between Israel and Hamas.

The cease-fire, which took effect at 2 a.m. Friday local time, has held so far despite clashes in Jerusalem outside Al Aqsa mosque between Israeli police and Palestinians just hours after the truce officially began.

Al Aqsa mosque is one of the most sacred places in Islam and sits in a site known in Judaism as the Temple Mount, the religion's holiest site. Clashes at the complex were one of the factors that sparked the war.

The Security Council urged a "restoration of calm in full" and emphasized "achieving a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders."

The U.S. had previously blocked the U.N.'s most powerful body from calling for an end to the conflict, arguing that doing so would hinder diplomatic efforts by the Biden administration to help achieve a cease-fire.

Israel hit Gaza with scores of airstrikes and Hamas militants fired more than 4,000 rockets at Israel. Palestinian medical officials said at least 248 people were killed in Gaza, including 66 children and 39 women. At least 12 people were killed in Israel, all civilians except one soldier.

The Security Council "mourned the loss of civilian lives resulting from the violence" and expressed support for the U.N. Secretary General's call to develop an "integrated, robust package of support for a swift, sustainable reconstruction and recovery."

More than 77,000 Palestinians have been displaced and reconstruction costs in Gaza could amount to tens of millions of dollars, according to Palestinian officials, with damage to infrastructure affecting water, sanitation and hygiene services.

The U.N. said Friday that it released \$22.5 million in humanitarian aid to Gaza. A day earlier, President Joe Biden promised the U.S. would work with the U.N. to provide humanitarian assistance to Palestinians and help rebuild Gaza.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected to travel to Israel and the West Bank next week to build on the cease-fire, according to Reuters. Egyptian mediators are also continuing talks with Hamas and Israel to secure longer-term calm after the truce

Statement on the Situation in Israel-Palestine

By: International Fellowship of Reconciliation--May 21, 2021

A fresh armed confrontation has emerged in the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict. In this region, however, history is never far away. This month marks the 73rd anniversary of the creation of Israel following the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution n. 181 (1947)¹, and the following so-called "Nakba" of 1947-48, where thousands of Palestinians lost their homes. This is still ongoing through forcible transfer, houses demolition, land grabbing and threats of further annexation of occupied land.

It is in this light that the current re-escalation of violence must be seen. Israeli authorities planned to evict Palestinian residents in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem - which Israel has annexed, even though it is occupied territory under international law - and transfer their homes to Israel settlers, Palestinians held demonstrations around East Jerusalem and Israeli forces responded by firing teargas, stun grenades, and rubber-coated steel bullets, including a violent attack against worshipers during Ramadan inside al-Aqsa Mosque². Hamas has launched rockets into Israel and the Israelis' army responded with a massive military action in Gaza which has been under blockade since 2007 and where the pre-existing humanitarian situation is extremely fragile.³

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) was founded over 100 years ago in response to the horrors of the First World War. Since then, IFOR has taken a consistent stance against war and its preparation. When people, organizations and state institutions commit themselves to peace, war can be prevented, conflicts transformed through nonviolent means and systems that foster fear and hatred dismantled. When truth and justice are restored, reconciliation and healing can take place and lasting peace can be established.

IFOR condemns all armed actions against civilians and civilian targets by the Israeli military and Hamas. Violence only leads to more violence. We mourn for all victims and their families.

The decades-long pattern of injustice and violations of international law and fundamental rights has become unsustainable and inhumane.

IFOR welcomes this morning announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

IFOR supported the call for a ceasefire by the UN Secretary General, during the Security Council meeting held on May 16⁴; the UN chief stressed that the only way forward is to return to negotiations towards a two-State solution. Regrettably, the USA has reportedly blocked UNSC statements -for the third time in a week- that condemned Israel's military response and called for a ceasefire⁵.

The international community should be responsible for ensuring that there are no double standards when it comes

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(From page 1) **Situation in Israel-Palestine**

to international law and human rights violations. While it shunned Hamas fifteen years ago, at the height of the ‘war on terrorism’, Israel has not honored UN General Assembly Resolution n. 194 (1948)⁶, nor has it complied with scores of the UN Security Council Resolutions including n. 242 (1967) and n. 338 (1973) calling for its withdrawal from the West Bank, including the illegal annexation of East Jerusalem, the Golan. Further UN Security Council Resolutions have also gone unheeded, including n. 2334 (2016), calling for the dismantlement of its settlements in "Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem", which constitute a "flagrant violation" of international humanitarian law and have "no legal validity". These resolutions implore Israel to stop settlement activities, dismantle the settlements, and fulfill its obligations as an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits an occupying power from transferring its population into the land it is occupying. Currently, more than 675,000 Israelis are living in contravention of these resolutions, in settlements across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The persistent, uneven application of international law should be a matter of the greatest urgency to governments around the world. As things stand, civil society fills the gap, expressing its concerns in ever sharper terms. Last month, Human Rights Watch issued a report denouncing Israel for apartheid and persecution.

As the cycle of violence increases, **IFOR takes heart from and highlights the value of nonviolent actions such as civil disobedience, boycott and non-collaboration**; we report, for instance, the courage of the young Israelis who refuse to serve in the military not to support the occupation⁷ and the dockworkers refusing to load weapons onto ships bound for Israel not to support war⁸. Many in Israeli civil society and Jewish communities around the world⁹ denounce the human rights violations and support various nonviolent initiatives. We have also seen Palestinians running several nonviolent initiatives, insisting on a peaceful solution, refusing to no longer accept the violence and the destruction caused by the ongoing conflict.

IFOR calls on the governments in the region and around the world to assume their responsibility in upholding international law, contributing to a peaceful solution and considering the impact of their role in supplying weapons to the region, and thus backing armed confrontation and maintaining structural violence. IFOR calls on the Member States of the UN Security Council and the entire international community to support peace negotiations under UN supervision and to ensure the implementation of International law and Justice, in Israel and Palestine.

1. A/RES/181 (II) [https://undocs.org/A/RES/181\(II\)](https://undocs.org/A/RES/181(II))
2. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/05/11/jerusalem-gaza-israeli-authorities-reassert-domination>
3. <https://www.un.org/unispal/humanitarian-situation-in-the-gaza-strip-fast-facts-ocha-factsheet/>
4. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1092042>
5. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/17/no-us-action-after-third-uns-c-meeting-on-israel-palestine>
6. A/RES/194 states the “Right to return” for Palestinian refugees. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/ip-ares-194.php>
7. <https://www.972mag.com/sixty-teens-israeli-army-objectors/>
8. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/israel-palestine-arms-livorno-port-italy-b1848773.html>
9. Including dozens of Jewish organizations such as B’Tselem, Jewish Voice for Peace, American Jews for a Just Peace, Gush Shalom, the New Israel Fund, the Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, the orthodox Neturei Karta.

Statement by Canada Following UN Security Council Session on the devastating violence in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza

By: Global Affairs Canada--May 16, 2021

“Canada is appalled by the ongoing violence, rising tensions, and the devastating loss of life. The toll — particularly on civilians, including women and children — has already been too great. Canada continues to express grave concerns over the escalating violence in Israel, West Bank, and Gaza. Canada joins its allies and friends in urging all parties to take steps to immediately end all violence, prevent further loss of life, protect all civilians, and de-escalate tensions. All parties must uphold international law.

“Canada reiterates the fundamental importance of protecting journalists and press freedom. Journalists and media workers are the cornerstone of any fair, strong and vibrant society and must be free to do their work without fear. Any violence against journalists is completely unacceptable, especially in volatile contexts where they are risking their lives to do their jobs. Further, it is completely unacceptable to see humanitarian workers and facilities under fire. Their safety and security must always be ensured.

“The continued indiscriminate barrage of rocket attacks fired by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad into Israel against civilians is completely unacceptable and must cease immediately. Those foreign entities which support Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad must end their material and financial support to these groups. Canada supports Israel's right to live in peace with its neighbours within secure boundaries and fully supports Israel's right to assure its own security. This right also comes with immense responsibility and obligation to act in accordance with international law. The use of force has led to significant civilian loss of life and we urge utmost restraint.

“Canada remains gravely concerned by the continued expansion of settlements, demolitions, and evictions, including the ongoing cases in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan. These actions impact families and livelihoods do not serve peace and are a violation of international law. Unilateral actions that prejudge the outcome of direct negotiations and further jeopardize the prospects for a two-state solution must be avoided.

“Canada is alarmed by the clashes and violence among Arab and Jewish communities in parts of Israel. We implore all authorities and citizens alike to help maintain calm, reduce tensions, and help keep the peace while respecting human rights. We stand firmly with the Israeli and Palestinian people in their right to live in peace, security, with dignity, without fear, and with their human rights respected.

“Canada has observed an increase of hatred, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, at home and around the world. It is our collective responsibility to fight hatred and condemn it in the strongest possible terms. Canada is committed to standing against hatred and discrimination in all their forms and is committed to working with our domestic and international partners to promote and defend pluralism, inclusion and human rights at home and abroad.

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Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

(From page 2) Statement by Canada

"Canada is committed to the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel. We will always stand ready to support efforts for a two-state solution.

"The loss of life in this conflict is heartbreaking. For decades, this conflict has caused much pain to both Palestinian and Israeli families and impacted the social fabric in the region. This is all the more reason for the parties to urgently find a sustainable resolution to the conflict. The spiral of violence and hatred must immediately stop. Mutual recognition and respect are the critical foundation for a lasting peace.

"Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and with Israeli and Palestinian youth and future generations top of our mind, we urge all parties to renew their commitment to peace and security and encourage the Security Council to remain engaged on efforts to bring an end to the violence."

Contacts

Syrine Khoury
Press Secretary

"Prominent Canadians Speak Out Against the War on Gaza" (Ursula Franklin quoted here)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=CA&hl=en&v=Nx1eRkBgzcA&NR=1>

URSULA FRANKLIN: Thank you, David. I'm glad to be with you. I am not glad for the need to be here. I have been on too many of these panels, deploring too many things. Anton Kuerti, distinguished members of Science for Peace, Michael Mandel or other friends among "the usual suspects" — all of us have been on too many of these panels having far too little impact.

Having heard the wonderful, precise and up-to-date presentation of Judith Deutsch, I would like to take advantage of my age — being probably the oldest among you — and remind you of what I think goes beyond all the horrors of day by day in Gaza and in the rest of the world: and that is an incredible betrayal of the very people who were in fact — and are in fact — constantly cited as a justification for what is going on now, i.e. the victims of war and oppression, and their memory.

When the war ended in 1945 — and I do remember the bombing of Berlin with unpleasant acuteness, especially when I think of people now in Gaza, and their helplessness — **there was a global moment of clarity.** When the horrors of what happened in the concentration camps, that took all my maternal family, began to be revealed, there were two quite universal reactions. One was: "had we only known" and the second: "never again." (Continued page 4)

In response to Israeli war crimes, Canada must call for Sanctions Now!

Dear supporters of Canadian Boat to Gaza,
Our friends at the newly formed Green Left Canada called for sanctions on Israel in this statement. We encourage you to share widely and join in calls to #StopArmingIsrael and stand with #GazaUnderAttack.

Canadian individuals, civil society and human rights organizations are increasingly recognising Israel's actions for what they really are: colonial violence, ethnic cleansing, religious persecution and police brutality against Palestinians living in Al Quds-Jerusalem, and disproportionate military violence against Palestinians in Gaza, including killings of children and adults, and indiscriminate destruction of civilian homes and infrastructure. These most recent heinous acts add to the long record of apartheid, persecution and other war crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against Palestinian civilians.

Canada's political leaders are, however, failing Canadians and their organizations when they confine their responses to expressions of "grave concern" and to calls for "restraint" based on false "both sides" narratives that equate the occupier with the occupied. In their place, Canadians and the world need leaders to hold Israeli authorities accountable for their actions or face political and economic consequences that cannot be ignored.

Although the New Democratic Party and the Green Party have overwhelmingly adopted policies specifically calling for a bilateral arms embargo and a ban on the imports from illegal Israeli settlements in occupied territories, in order to promote respect for human rights, the NDP and the Green Party leadership seem to have difficulty publicly advocating both of these policies. The Liberal, BQ and Conservative parties, meanwhile, are even further behind the Canadian public, and remain stuck in empty platitudes that really mean supporting the repressive status quo.

Green Left Canada calls on all politicians and political parties to join the mainstream of Canadian and world opinion in condemning Israeli violence against the Palestinian people. We also call on the Trudeau government to **IMPOSE SANCTIONS NOW** in order to pressure the occupying power towards full respect for international law and Palestinian human rights.

For further information, please contact:

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Please continue to help us spread the word about our campaigns:

Twitter: [@CanadaBoatGaza](https://twitter.com/CanadaBoatGaza) [@GazaFFlotilla](https://twitter.com/GazaFFlotilla)
www.facebook.com/CanadaBoatGaza
www.facebook.com/BateauCanadienGaza
www.facebook.com/FreedomFlotillaCoalition

Together, we can help end the blockade!

WHAT'S UP?

We have an added section as a **Special Edition** due to ongoing actions in Israel/Palestine.

Copy and paste the link below into your browser for an informative interview:

Israeli Soldier Shocks BBC News!!!

Our next issue will deal be on the 'genocide' in Canada of our Indigenous peoples.

Don't make assumptions: We should not assume that others know what we think or what we want, and vice versa. We should communicate our needs and our feelings clearly, and we should ask questions instead of jumping to conclusions when thinking about the behaviours of others.

Miguel Angel Ruiz

War creates a state in which power and glory is at the end too often received by the most undeserving and vicious people.

Leo Tolstoy

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-444-0524** or **250-442-0434** or email L4peace@telus.net.

The BPI works with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups: is an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Peace Pledge Union, Abolition 2000 and CNANW.

(From page 3) Prominent Canadians Speak

But "never again" did not mean solely that no Jews should ever again be in a concentration camp. "Never again" meant no human beings should ever again be in a position where naked power could determine their lives, nor that there would ever again be people among us who do not matter. And I remind you that Jews were not the only ones in the concentration camps.

But what united all in this moment of history, be it those who were supposedly the innocent bystanders and didn't know, be it those who had suffered and lost their health and families, or those who like me were spared — the young — ALL felt there was a moral mortgage on their lives, and that it would be there for the rest of their lives. They felt compelled to act on this "never again," to act on the "had we only known." Discharging some of this mortgage meant for them to try and translate the "never again" into political reality and to draw conclusions from the knowledge of the past and of the present.

There was a moral mortgage on those like George Ignatieff, who said, "My gifts have to be used to develop international instruments that make it impossible for evil doers to be undetected and unrestrained "

What is going on right now, I see with absolute, profound sadness and depression as a betrayal of a generation that attempted to learn and draw conclusions from the holocaust. It is a betrayal of all those around the world who not only said, yes, there has to be safety for those of Jewish faith, there had to be reparations for those who were hurt, to the extent to which reparations are possible, but that there must also be knowledge, consciousness, legal and political instruments and the will to make "never again" both global and compelling.

What we see now, beyond the horrors of the day, is contempt, disregard and the complete betrayal of a generation that worked for peace. Some of those are here; some of them are my friends. There are women across the world united in their wish to see, not only their own children, but everybody's children safe. They are the people who know intellectually, legally, and in terms of the evidence of the past fifty years, that making somebody insecure does not make even the most powerful secure. It doesn't matter whether you believe in God, Allah or in a great cheese in the sky, the plain evidence is that more war, more violence, more weapons produce further suffering, further wars and more extensive destructions. It is a betrayal on those who not only pointed this out, but lived lives that showed that other ways of social and political ordering are possible. And we should not forget that other ways are possible and are working.

We have seen incredible progress over a wide variety of social change. None of them were obtained by violence.

What I bring to you, to this press conference, is this: do ask for a ceasefire in Gaza, do say that the Canadian government has international obligations to prevent war and violence, but do not forget the obligations to the past.

Please make it clear that when people suffer from brutal powers outside their control, no "bystander" ought to forget or deny the moral mortgage on those who were spared war and violence. The obligations enshrined in the "never again" are systemic, and global. They do compel all of us not ask on which side of the fence, the war, the barrier, the house of worship a child was born before extending our care and respect.

And in your deliberations, in your reports, please do not go easy on those who govern in the shadow of the mortgage of the past, which is a moral and binding obligation. It is not like the documents in the recent mortgage crisis, when institutions could offer loans to people who knew they could not pay them back.

On the contrary, within a generation blessed with health, with advances in technology, with great efforts to bring education, schooling and opportunity to those who did not have it before, many have tried hard to pay back some of the moral mortgage, by working for a peaceful world.

The world community has developed and ratified international and nation legal and practical instruments designed to constrain violence and brutality. Their blatant disregard cannot remain unreported and unchallenged.

It is an immoral and despicable default of the elected and the non-elected decision makers in Canada and the world not to acknowledge that their conduct and behaviour has to be constrained by these new instruments. As journalists, don't allow the powerful to forget the moral mortgage that is upon them; they live and work because of what those before them had understood.

Thus I would ask you not to forget the context of your "news". Thank you.