



December 15, 2023

Via website

Dear Davenport Friends and Neighbours:

Thanks to all who joined the two Zoom sessions just over a month ago regarding the Israel – Palestine – Hamas War & Conflict.

There were three outstanding questions. Here are the responses:

1. Is Canada supplying arms to Israel?

The report by Global Affairs Canada in 2022 states that Canada exported over \$21 million dollars worth of military goods and technology to Israel.

Since our Zoom meetings, I have followed up directly to our Minister of Defence, the Hon Bill Blair to ask if Canada is supplying arms or technology to the current Israel – Hamas – Palestinian War & Conflict.

He said to me that Canada is not providing arms or any military support to Israel. This includes no weapons and no ammunition.

Any military personnel in the region are working for Canada's Head of mission at the Canadian Embassy to provide protection and assist with repatriation of Canadians.

2. Is Israel committing genocide in Gaza?

Academics and experts are split on this. I find many who say yes and others who say no. The crime of genocide was defined in 1948 by the United Nations as "the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such." Here is one opinion piece that is on the "no" side:

What I Believe as a Historian of Genocide - The New York Times (nytimes.com) By Omer Bartov Mr. Bartov is a professor of Holocaust and genocide studies at Brown University



The current war/conflict in Israel and Gaza is horrific, painful and overwhelming. The loss of life is absolutely devastating. This is why I firmly support the statement that Canada announced this week with Australia and New Zealand.

The war must stop and we must find a way to a two state solution that will lead to longstanding peace and security where Israelis and Palestinians can live securely within internationally recognised borders.

3. What are my sources?

At this time of misinformation and disinformation it is hard to find the truth in one or two sources, so I am on a daily basis consulting the following sources: Toronto Star, Globe and Mail, Guardian, Wall Street Journal, Economist and the New York Times among others.

In addition, I am also in constant contact with our two Ministers (Joly & Blair) and their staff to Global Affairs for their updates and best information.

My best,

Julie Dzerowicz

Member of Parliament, Davenport

