



Julie Dzerowicz
Member of Parliament / Députée
Davenport



January 26, 2024

Updated Statement on Israel/Hamas/Palestine

Davenport friends and neighbours,

Thank you to all who have called me and written to me re: the horrific and devastating situation that continues to unfold in the Israel-Hamas War.

I am hearing you.

I have listened to your messages and calls and read your emails. Many of you have asked for:

1. Export ban on any military arms and goods leaving Canada for the Middle East
2. Sanctions on Israel
3. Cut in diplomatic ties with Israel including a recall of our Ambassador and team

Since the week leading to Christmas and afterwards, I have reached out to our Foreign Minister and her team to find out what our federal government's position is on the above points and as of today (Jan 26) I have not yet heard back from them.

Multiple diverse views in Davenport

The Davenport riding is a wonderful mixture of 106,000 residents with many different opinions. I represent all residents within the riding, and in this communication, I will focus my comments on how Canada can be most effective.

Here are the top three things Canada has prioritized.

1. **Getting Palestinian-Canadians, Palestinian-Canadian PRs and their families out of Gaza.** Canada is doing all it can to get Palestinian-Canadians, Permanent Residents and their extended families out. This is a daily and ongoing negotiation with three groups that have a say at the Rafah border: Israel, Egypt and Hamas. This continues to be a top priority and a focus for Canada. **It is very important to note that Canada is one of the few countries (there may be one or two others) that are trying to get its citizens out and to provide a pathway for family members to come to Canada.**

Page 1/4

Ottawa
Room 617 Wellington Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-992-2576
Fax: 613-995-8202

Constituency
1202 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M6H 1N2
Tel: 416-654-8048
Fax: 416-654-5083

Ottawa
Pièce 617 Édifice Wellington
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-992-2576
Télé: 613-995-8202

Circonscription
1202, rue Bloor ouest
Toronto (Ontario)
M6H 1N2
Tél: 416-654-8048
Télé: 416-654-5083

julie.dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca

2. **Two-state solution.** Prime Minister Trudeau believes, as do I – that this is the only solution to long-standing peace and security for Israel, for Palestine and for the Middle East.

It's troubling, but not surprising, that Prime Minister Netanyahu and the leaders of Hamas are both rejecting the idea of a two-state solution. Canada, the EU and the US have all made it clear that we disagree and that a two-state solution is what we are pushing for.

It is imperative that Canada moves decisively with its international partners to begin to identify pathways toward peace and to start the hard work of creating a framework for a workable two-state solution. There are many credible actors in the Middle East that can take on this leadership and help find a successful path forward.

3. **Humanitarian aid.** Canada is also focused on getting the essentials of life and medical supplies into Gaza. We cannot stop these efforts. The situation on the ground is heartbreaking. Israel, Egypt and Hamas, who all have certain controls at the Rafah border, must allow aid in and for it to get to innocent Palestinians who are trapped in Gaza.

Many of you have asked where I stand on a number of issues. See below for my thoughts:

On an export ban on all arms.

First, it's important to remind ourselves that our federal government does not provide any arms or military equipment to Israel, or anyone engaged in the Israel-Hamas war.

Canada does have a military sector – which is a critical component of the local economy of many Canadian cities and towns. We are part of NATO, a transatlantic alliance that has kept Canada and much of the world largely peaceful over the last 75 years. NATO forms a key part of Canada's National Defense Policy. As such, **I do not support arms sales** to non-NATO or non-democratic countries.

On sanctions.

Our federal government has not taken an official position on this. This is a complex and contentious issue involving many considerations. It is part of an ongoing international debate and does not yet have a simple or universally accepted solution. I also continue to think about this issue.

On cutting diplomatic ties.

Ideologically, our federal Liberal government does not believe in cutting ties with any national government. I agree with this.

We want to be able to directly communicate (good or bad info) with governments (we like or don't like) around the world directly. It is important for Canada to have an ambassador on the ground with staff to get first-hand information and news. We do not want to go through another country to communicate on our behalf or to pass along information—it makes us less effective.



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Sustainable Ceasefire now.

I continue to stand by [the joint statement Canada put out before Christmas with Australia and New Zealand](#).

I would add one major ask: **that Israel change how they are going after the terrorists & Hamas in Gaza because their current approach has not worked and has resulted in the killing of too many innocent lives and the levelling of too much of Gaza. It is an approach that is unacceptable.**

It is also important to note that the Benjamin Netanyahu War Cabinet is currently split – and [their division is now public](#).

- Former military chief Gadi Eisenkot has formally called for general elections within months and has publicly declared that the Israeli government is lying about its offensive against Hamas.
- Eisenkot has also called for a stop to the fighting for a significant time and an immediate release of the rest of the October 7 hostages.
- Senior Israeli leadership is stepping up to support a stop to the fighting and the immediate release of hostages.
- And it's important to note that Hamas continues to embed itself among civilians and fire rockets into Israel (north and south)

South Africa Case before International Court of Justice

The international court of justice, the top court of the UN, ordered Israel today to take measures to prevent and punish direct incitement of genocide in its war in Gaza, and to refrain from any acts that could fall under the genocide convention. Israel must report to the court within a month on what it's doing to uphold the order. **The decision is legally binding, and I accept the decision.**

[Mexico and Chile have also asked the International Criminal Court](#) (ICC) to investigate possible war crimes by officials of both Hamas on October 7 and by officials of Israel in their invasion of Gaza.

Note that the ICJ and the ICC are very different courts. The ICJ settles legal disputes between **states**. It does not have jurisdiction over individuals or non-state entities. Therefore, Hamas, as a non-state entity, cannot be brought before the ICJ. The ICC can hear cases against individuals but not states, so **officials** of both Hamas and Israel are fair game. I will also accept all decisions of the ICC.

It is important to remind ourselves that Canada has said from the very beginning that all wars have rules and must be conducted according to international law.

Racism and discrimination are completely unacceptable.

The rapid rise of Anti-Semitism in our community, in our city, and in our country has been shocking. I cannot stress enough how completely unacceptable this is.

There are members of the Davenport Jewish community who have never experienced discrimination in Canada until recently. They are now, for the first time in their lives, afraid for their safety and security in the community that they have always called home.

Discrimination against Arab, Muslim and Palestinian communities is also on the rise. In particular, I am hearing that in a number of different professions, if someone supports or *follows* a pro-Palestinian group online, they are no longer considered for the job they have applied for. This is equally unacceptable.

Davenport: Let's find ways to have debate and dialogue and be alright if we disagree with each other. The issues in the Middle East are complex and go back decades if not centuries. There are experts within our riding – but the vast majority are not experts, and for those who decide to engage on this issue, they are trying to find their way via the multiple sources that are out there – some more accurate than others.

I've been asked to help with the work to try to start healing the divisions within our community. I am happy to help with this work and would be grateful if you could email me if you too would like to be part of these efforts in the coming weeks and months.

My best regards,



Julie Dzerowicz

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