



*Julie Dzerowicz*  
Member of Parliament / Députée  
Davenport



Feb 2, 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. An export ban on any military arms and goods leaving Canada for the Middle East
2. Sanctions on Israel
3. A cut in diplomatic ties with Israel including a recall of our Ambassador and team

### **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.**

I have received many calls and emails from Davenport residents who are concerned for the safety of Mansour Shouman, a Palestinian-Canadian journalist whose whereabouts are unknown — and who is believed by many to be taken by the IDF.

This past Monday, I had an excellent dialogue with the **National Council of Muslims (NCCM)** who requested that I personally inquire about Mr. Shouman's whereabouts. I told them I would do so and will be writing to Minister Joly regarding this matter ASAP.

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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 among the top donors to Gaza in terms of per capita funding, having given a total of \$100 million in humanitarian assistance.

Canada is also focused on getting the essentials of life and medical supplies into Gaza. We must continue 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.

While Canada has temporarily paused additional funding for UNRWA, this week (Jan 31), the federal government pledged an additional \$40 million in funding for humanitarian assistance to address urgent needs in the Gaza strip. The funds are being allocated as follows:

- a. World Food Programme: \$16 million
- b. UNICEF: \$6 million
- c. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): \$5 million
- d. World Health Organization: \$3 million
- e. International Committee of the Red Cross \$3 million
- f. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) \$2 million

**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:** Davenport residents have been asking me since before Christmas to push for Canada to implement an arms embargo against Israel.

I reached out to Foreign Minister Melanie Joly and her team to ask what Canada's position is. I recently received a response from Global Affairs with the following information.



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*Our federal government does not provide any arms or military equipment to Israel, or anyone engaged in the Israel-Hamas war. As part of Canada's legal obligation to protect confidential information regarding the commercial activities of individual companies, we cannot comment on individual export permits or permit applications.*

*With that being said, Canada has not received any requests for, and therefore has not issued, any permits for major conventional arms or light weapons to Israel in over 30 years. Over this time period, only three permits have been issued for the export of small arms, for a combined total of less than one hundred items. Any export permits which have been granted since October 7, 2023, are for non-lethal equipment.*

*Global Affairs has indicated that permits to export controlled goods and technology from Canada will not be issued if there is a substantial risk that they could be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of International Human Rights or Humanitarian Law, including violence against women or children, amongst other criteria.*

I would also add that Canada has a military sector – which is a critical component of the local economy of many Canadian cities and towns. Canada is 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.

While appreciating the response from Global Affairs and the Minister's team, I will be going back to ask how do we reconcile the information above with [Table 6](#) (Export value of military goods and technology to all non US destinations) in the [2022 Exports of Military Goods Report](#) on the Government of Canada website.

**On sanctions:** Our federal government has not taken an official position on this yet. 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. [I know that the US has sanctioned four Israeli settlers on the West Bank this week.](#)

**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.

### **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 and Hamas in Gaza because their current approach has not worked and has resulted in the killing of too many innocent lives and the leveling 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. 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.



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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julie'.

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