

An Appeal to Green Party of Canada Members: Don't Reverse Your Support for Palestine

As Israel's illegal military occupation approaches a half-century, it's long past time for concrete international action to pressure its government to reverse course. The Green Party of Canada's recent vote to support "the use of divestment, boycott and sanctions (BDS) that are targeted at those sectors of Israel's economy and society which profit from the ongoing occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories" represents such a measure.

Without international pressure, Israel will continue to steal Palestinian land, demolish olive groves, build Jewish-only roads, imprison without due process and impose collective punishment on innocent Palestinians. It will continue to violate international law and dominate a defenseless people.

Canadians cannot wash their hands of Palestinians' plight. Ottawa has long been a close ally of Israel and each year registered Canadian charities channel millions of dollars to projects supporting Israel's powerful military and illegal settlements.

We urge you not to succumb to political pressure to reverse or weaken the vote to support Palestinian rights. Your position is consistent with – indeed required by – the Fourth Geneva Convention, and reflects the vote of the vast majority of UN member states. It even aligns with official Canadian policy.

And, most importantly, it's a contribution to the nonviolent campaign to advance Palestinian rights.

Signatories

Naomi Klein

Author, Social Activist and Filmmaker

Noam Chomsky

Professor Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Tariq Ali

Writer, Journalist and Filmmaker

Bruce Cockburn, OC

Singer, Songwriter and Guitarist

Christopher Hedges

Journalist, Activist, Author and Presbyterian Minister

Yann Martel

Author

Gabor Mate

Author and Physician

Murray Dobbin

Journalist, Broadcaster, Author and Social Activist

Martin Duckworth

Filmmaker, Prix du Québec 2015

Yves Engler

Author and Political Activist

Norman Finkelstein

Author

John Greyson

Filmmaker and York University professor

Rawi Hage

Writer and Photographer

Vijay Prashad

Historian and Journalist

*Richard Reed Parry
Musician, Arcade Fire*

*Lia Tarachansky
Israeli-Canadian Journalist and Filmmaker*

*Clayton Thomas-Muller
Stop-it-at-the-source Campaigner, 350.org*

*Nadia Abu-Zehra
Associate Professor of International Development and Global
Studies,
University of Ottawa*

*Bilan Arte
University of Manitoba*

*Mohammed Azhar Ali Khan, C.M., O.Ont.
Former journalist, civil servant, refugee judge*

*Patricia Balcom
Professor (retired), Département d'anglais, Université de
Moncton*

*Reverend Steve Berube
Co-chair, United Network for Justice and Peace in
Palestine/Israel*

*Martha Lucia Blandon
Chair, Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network*

*Mohamed Boudjenane
Acting President, Canadian Arab Federation*

*Daniel Cayley-Daoust
Energy and Climate Campaigner, Council of Canadians*

*Derik Chica
Chair, Educators for Peace and Justice*

Peter Chidiac

*Professor, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology,
University of Western Ontario*

Aziz Choudry

*Associate Professor, Integrated Studies in Education, McGill
University*

John Clarke

Ontario Coalition Against Poverty

Chandler Davis

Professor, University of Toronto

Judith Deutsch

Member of Independent Jewish Voices

Board member of Centre for Social Justice

Gordon Doctorow, Ed.D.

Adjunct Faculty, Nova Southeastern University

Rachel Engler-Stringer

Associate Professor, University of Saskatchewan

Hammam Farah

*Alumni Advisor, Students Against Israeli Apartheid at York
University*

Hossein Fazeli

Filmmaker

Mireya Folch-Serra

*Professor Emerita, Department of Geography, University of
Western Ontario*

Ellen Gabriel

Mohawk Activist and Artist

Sam Gindin

Professor of Political Science, York University

*Cy Gonick
Founder, Canadian Dimension*

*Chris Hannah, Todd Kowalski, Jord Samolesky
Musicians, Propagandhi*

*Jens Hanssen
Associate Professor of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean
History, University of Toronto*

*Michelle Hartman
Associate Professor, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill
University*

*Scott Harris
Chair, Palestinian Solidarity Network – Edmonton*

*David Heap
Associate Professor, French & Linguistics, University of
Western Ontario*

*Jake Javanshir
Member, Independent Jewish Voices*

*Bruce Katz
Co-president, Palestinian and Jewish Unity*

*Michael Keefer
Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph*

*Maureen Korp, PhD
Author, Lecturer*

*Annette Lengyel
Secretary, BDS Action Calgary*

*Kay Ma
Coordinator, Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)
Peterborough*

Richard Marcuse

Social anthropology, University of Victoria, Retired

Khaled Mouammar

Former President, Canadian Arab Federation

Vicki Perkins

Spokesperson, Justice for Palestinians

Judy Rebick

Author

Diana Ralph, MSW, Ph.D.

Retired Associate Professor Carleton University

David Rifat

Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto

Rev. Karen Rodman

Minister in the United Church of Canada

Member, Green Party of Canada

Marty Roth

Professor Emeritus of English, University of Minnesota

Member of the Green Party of Canada

Reuben Roth, Ph.D.

School of Northern and Community Studies, Laurentian University

Larry Rousseau

*Regional Executive Vice-President, National Capital Region,
Public Service Alliance of Canada*

Sid Ryan

Former President, Ontario Federation Labour

Douglass St. Christian

Emeritus Professor, Anthropology, University of Western Ontario

Roswitha Shaw

Member, Green Party of Canada

Sid Shniad

National Steering Committee, Independent Jewish Voice Canada

Eric Shragge

President, Immigrant Workers Centre

Pance Stojkovski

Secretary, Socialist Project

Ken Stone

Treasurer, Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War

Alex Tyrrell

Leader, Green Party of Quebec

Maria Paez Victor

Spokesperson, The Loui Riel Bolivian Circle (Toronto)

Henry Voltmeter

Professor of Development Studies, Saint Mary's University

Barry Weisleder

Secretary, Socialist Action

James Winter

Professor of Communications, University of Windsor

Thomas Woodley

President, Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East

Ralph Carl Wushke

Minister, Bathurst Street United Church