

Jan 6th, 2009

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Prime Minister of Canada

Cc: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
International Committee of the Red Cross
Arab American Institute
Amnesty International
Canadian Arab Federation
U.S. Department of State
Coalition for the International Criminal Court

UN Humanitarian Affairs
Council of American Islamic Affairs
Canadian Peace Congress
Human Rights Watch
Canada Palestine Association
Israeli Ambassador to Canada
Doctors Without Borders

Petition to stop Atrocities in Gaza

Letter to the Canadian Government,

Outlined below are **egregious violations** of International Law that constitute **blatant war crimes** by the Israeli government which I expect our Minister of Foreign Affairs to publicly condemn.

A CNN report stated today that the IDF had dropped leaflets warning civilians in Gaza indicating that they would soon be bombed urging them to flee, knowing full well that they have no where to flee. Foreign relief agencies intervned on the CBC have confirmed that civilians are being fired upon when attempting to leave their homes to obtain relief and shelter.

Further to this the IDF is deliberately targeting hospitals, schools, places of worship, UN compiounds and Red Crescent relief workers and vehicles.

Most disturbing is the shelling of mourners at a funeral for civilians killed in a bombing.

This is clearly is a strategy by design to inflict physical harm and psychological trauma upon innocent civilians in the most inhumane fashion.

Ruse of War

Ruses of war are prohibited. These include camouflage, decoys, mock operations and misinformation. ([Protocol I, Art 37](#), Sec. 2)

Children

Parties to a conflict must respect children, provide them with any care or aid they require, and protect them from any form of indecent assault ([Protocol I, Art. 77](#), Sec. 1).

Warring parties must try to make local agreements to allow the removal of children from besieged or encircled areas. ([Convention IV, Art. 17](#))

Hospitals

Fixed establishments and mobile medical units must be protected and respected by all sides in a conflict. (Convention I, Art.19)

Collective Penalties

Civilians must not be punished for offenses that they personally did not commit. Collective Penalties, intimidation and penalties against civilian populations are prohibited. (Convention IV, Art.33)

Places of Worship

If there is any doubt as to whether a place of worship is being used to help the military action, then it will be presumed not to be so used. (Protocol I, Art. 52, Sec. 3)

Attacks against places of worship are grave breaches against the Geneva Convention. (Protocol I, Art. 85, Sec. 4)

As a signatory to the Geneva Conventions and a nation of decency it is obligatory upon the Canadian government to publicly denounce the inhumane actions of the Israeli government and to call for an immediate end to the atrocities being perpetrated by the IDF.

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