

Dear Friends in Kairos and in Canada,

I hope all is well with you. In these dark days, we are immensely grateful for and in need of your continued solidarity. Your partnership with us and commitment to justice, peace, and human rights are a sustaining source of hope for us.

As you well know, Oct 7th, 2023, was not the start of Palestinian suffering or plight under settler-colonial occupation, but instead is a sharp escalation of an oppression and of injustices endured for more than 68 years. We thank you for your unwavering call for a cessation of all violence and injustice, including a ceasefire, the release of all prisoners, and an end to this settler-colonial occupation. These injustices are not just destabilizing of the Middle East, but are also directly tied to global injustices, and desensitization to violence and oppression. As many peace practitioners have long-stated, our lives are intertwined and our injustices connected, and as such it is not just a moral imperative, but a global call to action against the systems of injustice-Systems which recount numbers, and neglect human souls and lives.

As such, we ask the Canadian people, our brothers, sisters, and others to use their voices to pressure the Canadian government to call for:

1. An immediate Ceasefire and cessation of violence: All violence must be condemned, especially that which targets and hurts civilians. As such, we call on Canada to raise its voice in demanding an immediate ceasefire and guaranteeing respect for international humanitarian law, to support humanitarian initiatives, especially local ones.

2. Work for a Just and Sustainable Positive-Peace that is based in justice: Call for renewed peace talks that place justice, human rights and dignity above political interests and affiliations. The international community, which the government of Canada is a leader in, has to insist on an end to the occupation with a resolution of security and sovereignty for

Palestinians. It is only through such action that occupation and settler-colonialism may be addressed seriously with respect to the grave crime that it is.

3. Speak out for Human Rights and Accountability (For Gaza, and for the world): The Canadian government should continue to call — as it has in the past — for respect of human rights of all individuals throughout the region, and throughout the world. This includes seeking accountability to violations of international law and supporting international efforts to investigate and address these violations, as well as initiatives, especially local ones to move past these violations. This call must also address the experiences of the indigenous and first nations of Turtle Island, as well as the marginalized and disenfranchised internationally. If we value human rights and accountability, we do so globally, and not just locally, understanding that these are different faces and manifestations of same and similar injustices.

4. Enhance Humanitarian Aid and Reconstruction to Gaza (and other devastated communities, such as the DRC, Sudan, and Haiti): Canada should also step up its humanitarian assistance to Gaza and other conflict-hit areas. Rescuing the victims of war and conflict from human-caused starvation and dehydration, and annihilation. Our fabrics are woven together, and for too long has that fabric been unbalanced by resource exploitation, sentiments of racism and false superiority, and the willful neglect of our histories of oppression.

5. Suspend all trade in arms and military equipment with Israel and any institutions which profit and benefit from the exploitation of others, wherever, and whomever they may be. We call on the people to dismantle the industrial military and prison complexes, understanding these as local manifestations of an exportable and deplorable disregard for our global communities.

6.Call and work towards the dismantling of occupation in Palestine not as a result of negotiations, but as a precursor for all serious negotiations and conversations which value human dignity and worth.

We the people of Palestine, including our team at Wi'am, yearn for a shared future where children, youth, women, and community at large can grow up free from fear, violence, and oppression. We ask the government and peoples of Canada to stand with us, not just in words, but also through decisive actions which forward peace, justice, and unequivocally denounces injustice, and promotes human rights, human dignity, and life.

Thank you again for amplifying our voices throughout all seasons, but especially our tribulations, and thank you for all the work you do in partnership with us, and others, globally and locally. Together, we shall strive towards justice till its peace is felt by all!