



The Anglican Church of Canada



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Canada

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

The Hon Marc Garneau, P.C, M.P.  
House of Commons  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
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Dear Minister Garneau,

We are deeply distressed by the escalating violence and bloodshed in Gaza and central Israel.

On April 20, 2021, we joined with ecumenical leaders in a letter to you regarding the volatile situation in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood, where dozens of Palestinians are being evicted from their family homes by Israeli settlers. We urged that Canada:

- i. publicly condemn the evictions from, and demolitions of, Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem and call on Israel to immediately reverse the rulings on the intended evictions and halt its settlements policy;
- ii. live up to its obligations and commitments to protect and promote human rights and international law without exception;
- iii. together with the international community, denounce this impunity and the ongoing human rights violations.

As you know, since that time, the conflict has increased with deadly consequences. Our besieged church partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, tell us

we know from experience that violence and hatred will never lead to solutions to the deep ethnic and religious divisions that have afflicted this region for over a century. We urge all parties to act responsibly and calmly, and to preserve human life at all costs. We continue to pray and advocate for reconciliation and a just peace for Jerusalem and all its residents – Christian, Jewish, and Muslim, Palestinian and Israeli.

Today, we urge Canada:

- To call on authorities on every side to agree to an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza conflict in order to end the rain of death and destruction that has had tragic consequences for thousands of individuals and families
- To encourage Israeli authorities to restore order and calm within the ethnically mixed cities where rioting has broken out, so that the human and civil rights of all are protected equally

- To work with the United Nations and the International Community to work with all parties in Israel and Palestine to seriously address the underlying injustices and grievances that have led to this latest unrest in a recurring cycle of violence and to work for a just and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis that incorporates a viable Two State solution.

The Anglican Church of Canada and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada have longstanding relationships of solidarity and support with our partner churches in the region. We pray constantly for peace in the Middle East.

“Learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the orphan, and plead the widow’s cause.” Isaiah 1:17

We urge you and the Government of Canada to do everything possible promote peace.

Yours in Christ



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls  
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC)



The Rev. Susan C. Johnson  
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)

CC:

Party Foreign Affairs critics

Rob Oliphant: Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Iqra Khalid, Chair, Standing Committee of Justice and Human Rights

Randall Garrison, NDP Justice Critic

The Honourable Rob Moore, Conservative Justice Critic

Rhéal Fortin, Bloc Québécois Justice Critic

Troy Lulashnyk, Director, Middle East & the Maghreb, Global Affairs Canada