



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

July 28, 2017

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We are writing to you regarding Amnesty International's serious concerns about the impact that 50 years of Israeli occupation has had on Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), who continue to experience grave and widespread human rights violations on a daily basis. As a very concrete measure towards addressing these concerns, we ask that you take steps across government to ban Israeli settlement goods from entering Canadian markets, and stop companies based in Canada from operating in the Israeli settlements or trading in goods from those settlements.

We make this call in recognition of the toll that five decades of living under Israeli occupation has had on the Palestinian women, men and children who reside in the OPT; a harsh reality that has led Amnesty International to launch a global campaign this year.

We are pressing governments around the world to take steps to address the impact that five decades of unlawful and discriminatory policies have had on the Palestinian population. Tens of thousands of Palestinian properties have been demolished and large swathes of the population have been displaced to build homes and infrastructure to illegally settle Israel's own population in the occupied territories. Israel has also diverted Palestinian natural resources such as water and agricultural land for settlement use. The very existence of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories violates international humanitarian law and is a war crime.

The forced eviction and dislocation of thousands of Palestinians from their land, land that has then been occupied and illegally used to create settlements that exclusively house Jewish Israeli settlers, must be addressed. Entire Palestinian communities have been displaced as a result. Their homes and livelihoods have been destroyed. They have had restrictions enforced on their freedom of movement, access to their own water, land and other natural resources. They have faced frequent violent attacks by the Israeli military and settlers. More than 100,000 hectares of land has been appropriated by Israeli authorities from Palestinians over these 50 years, and more than 50,000 homes and structures have been demolished by Israel in the OPT over that period of time.

Despite multiple UN resolutions, Israel has continued to appropriate Palestinian land and support at least 600,000 settlers living in the occupied West Bank, including East

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Jerusalem. Until 2005, more than 9,000 Israeli settlers were illegally residing in Gaza. In recent months, Israel has accelerated settlement expansion. The government has announced plans for thousands of new homes in existing settlements, as well as the establishment of new settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Central to the effort to resolving this devastating human rights situation is the crucial imperative to stop enabling the economy that keeps these illegal settlements growing, adding to the decades of suffering already endured by the Palestinian population. That is why Amnesty International is asking governments to ban Israeli settlement goods from entering their markets and to also prohibit nationally-based companies from operating in the settlements or trading in goods from the settlements. That is the request we are making of Canada.

We are writing this to you, Prime Minister, and copying Ministers Freeland, Champagne and Philpott, as this is an issue that crosses a number of Ministries. It obviously touches directly on both Foreign Affairs and International Trade. A recent concern involving the Food Inspection Agency's decision to reverse an initial decision that wines from Israeli settlements could not be labelled as "Product of Israel" points to an issue coming within the authority of the Minister of Health, as "country of origin" labelling plays a key role here. There may be other Ministries implicated as well.

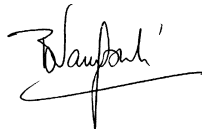
We would welcome a meeting with officials across a range of relevant departments to discuss Amnesty International's concerns and recommendations, highlight the international legal obligations at stake and consider the concrete steps and reforms Canada should take to ensure that our companies and our consumers are not intentionally or unwittingly drawn into enabling the economy that has fuelled fifty years of war crimes and grave human rights violations.

Arrangements for a meeting can be made through Alex Neve's Executive Assistants, Aden Seaton/Sarah French, at [ea@amnesty.ca](mailto:ea@amnesty.ca) or by phone at 613 744 7667 ext 263.

Sincerely,



Alex Neve  
Secretary General  
Amnesty International Canada  
francophone  
(English branch)



Béatrice Vaugrante  
Directrice Générale  
Amnistie internationale Canada

cc. The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade  
The Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health