

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
[pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

We write to you on behalf of [*N. parish or diocese of the Anglican Church of Canada*] to urge the Government of Canada to make every effort to secure a lasting ceasefire in Gaza as an essential first step toward achieving peace in the region.

The Primates and Moderators of the worldwide Anglican Communion, meeting Feb 1-5, 2009 in Alexandria, Egypt, issued “A Statement of Concern about the Situation in Gaza”. In it they expressed distress at the injury and loss of life in Gaza and southern Israel, noting specifically the damage to Al Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza, an institution of the Anglican diocese of Jerusalem.

They further deplored the inability to reach a ceasefire beyond six months and grieved the loss of all life in the region, inviting Churches and international organizations to help rebuild Gaza. Speaking for Anglicans throughout the world, they said:

**We call upon our governments to use their best efforts to secure an immediate and lasting ceasefire as an essential precondition to negotiations leading to a lasting peace.**

In pressing for a lasting ceasefire, international leaders including Canada must recognize the recent violence as a symptom of decades-long failure of the international community, State of Israel, and leaders of the Palestinian community in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem to make difficult but necessary commitments to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Canada must publicly recognize that no lasting peace is possible without justice, and without the adherence of all parties to the rule of law, especially those on which the international community has agreed, including the Geneva Conventions and the protection of non-combatants in militarily occupied territories. Ending the siege of Gaza and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank are two critical steps toward achieving justice and toward adherence to the rule of law.

The Primates’ Statement of Concern about the situation of Gaza acknowledges it is “an immensely complex and sensitive problem”, while also endorsing “the rights of both Israel and Palestine to live in peace and security, free from fear, and with dignity and hope.”

We respectfully urge you, Mr. Prime Minister, to do everything in your power to secure a lasting ceasefire, to work for an end to all armed aggression in the region, and finally to work toward peace with justice in Israel and Palestine.

Sincerely,

*N.*

c.c. The Honourable Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada  
[IgnatM@parl.gc.ca](mailto:IgnatM@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party  
[LaytoJ@parl.gc.ca](mailto:LaytoJ@parl.gc.ca)

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