



January 6, 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

On behalf of the more than three million working women and men affiliated to the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), I urge you to add Canada's voice to the international condemnation of the military assault by Israel on the people of Gaza.

The CLC condemns both the actions of Hamas in launching rockets into Israel ending a fragile six-month cease-fire, and Israel's military offensive into Gaza in response. We urge you to condemn the serious violations of humanitarian and international law in the region and call for an immediate cease-fire.

With the death and injury toll rising each day, we call on you to play a leadership role and urge the Israeli government to end its year-long blockade and reopen the border crossings so that aid can reach the 1.5 million people suffering from shortages of essential medical care, food, fuel and electricity. Canada should support a major aid effort to provide much-needed assistance to the civilian population of Gaza. The conflict has left the economy in a shambles with an unemployment rate approaching 80% and the prospect of increased poverty looming high.

We support efforts by the United Nations Security Council to have both sides cease hostilities. The cycle of attacks and counter-attacks by both parties must be replaced by dialogue and a renewed commitment to the pursuit of peace.

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We urge you to act quickly on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Georgetti', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kenneth V. Georgetti
President

cc: CLC Officers and Executive Assistants
CLC Executive Council
The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Guy Ryder, General Secretary, ITUC
Shaher Sae'd, General Secretary, PGFTU
Ofer Eini, Chairman, Histadrut