

Canada's Response to the Rogue State of Israel

By Jane Touzel, May 30, 2026

Prime Minister Carney, Minister Anand,

It can no longer be denied that Israel is a rogue state. This week, Israel has clearly broadcast its intentions. Let's look at Gaza.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz in a text this week celebrating the murder of Hamas' military commander said, "We committed that Hamas will not rule Gaza civilly or militarily, and so it shall be, and also the voluntary emigration plan from Gaza will be implemented — everything at the right timing and in the right manner." His 'voluntary emigration plan' is a euphemism for the ethnic cleansing of Gaza, a cruel lie regarding a population whose lives, property and society have been bombed into dust, whose existence has purposely become unliveable, illegal acts that Katz has been openly calling for since October 7th.

Speaking in an illegal West Bank settlement this week, Prime Minister Netanyahu said he had given orders to occupy another 10% of Gaza. Since the so-called ceasefire in October 2025, Israeli has seized an additional 7% of Gaza and under current orders, the military will seize another 10%. Netanyahu said, "We are now tightening the grip. ... we are now in 60% of the territory of the Gaza Strip. You know that? We were at 50%. We moved to 60%. My directive is to go ... to move step by step ... to move to 70%. First of all, 70%. Let's start with that." Of course, his audience immediately called for 100% now and his language inferred that that would be the plan. Netanyahu declared his support for 'voluntary migration' at a Likud meeting in December 2023 as the genocide began. Currently, Israeli-backed and armed militias play a leading role in removing populations from new territory Israel wishes to occupy.

Bezael Smotrich declared in November 2024, "We can occupy Gaza and thin the population by half within two years." 'Thin the population' is another gaslighting replacement of the words ethnic cleansing. We'll just thin them out and nobody will notice.

These are commitments by Israeli government officials to forced displacement, murder and systematic violence — crimes against humanity and war crimes according to the Geneva Conventions. 'Voluntary emigration' of a population whose homes, work places, hospitals, schools, universities, mosques and churches have been destroyed along with all

livestock, agriculture, transportation and water supplies is a lie. You cannot invite a population that daily faces hunger, disease, displacement and near constant bombardment to 'choose' to leave. This is not a choice; it is violent purposeful ethnic cleansing. These are the words of senior Israeli officials overseeing a genocide and forcing the displacement of, according to their own declared intentions, at least a million people.

Last year, Israel created a bureau for voluntary migration to assist those who 'must' leave, ensuring they won't return. In this way, the population of Gaza will slowly dwindle, fleeing state terror, under the eyes of Western governments who either won't notice, don't care or are complicit. And of course, the genocide itself has not stopped. We don't know how many have been killed in Gaza. Estimates all surpass the number provided by the Gaza health authorities, all over one hundred thousand. We don't know how many have left. We do know that at least 900 have been killed in the on-going, seemingly never-ending military strikes that have continued unabated since the so-called ceasefire began. President Trump, who is responsible for keeping Israel compliant with the ceasefire is himself in favour of the ethnic cleansing of Gaza and has stated so publicly, trying to coerce a number of countries to accept Palestinian 'refugees'. Israel is determined to erase Gaza, by violent murder, starvation, lack of medical treatment or expulsion. Is it not time to stand up to Israel and demand accountability?

— Israel flaunting of international law is not just in Gaza. Let's turn to the West Bank.

Palestinians in the illegally occupied West Bank face an unprecedented crisis of escalating violence and severe systemic insecurity. Since late 2023, the combination of surging military raids, aggressive settler expansion and state-backed settler violence has driven Palestinian displacement to historic highs. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has documented an average of at least six settler attacks per day. These operations frequently involve coordinated armed raids, the torching of homes, farmland and vehicles, and direct physical assaults — all conducted with impunity, under the eyes of the IDF. The government itself has armed settlers and investigations into settler crimes seldom result in justice. Israeli NGO tracking suggests that over 94% of police files are closed without indictments, systematically shielding perpetrators.

Mass displacement is increasing throughout the West Bank, with the threat of violence leading to the abandonment of homes and farmland. Some 45 entire Palestinian herding and Bedouin communities have disappeared. Over 45,000 Palestinian refugees have been driven from their homes, as Israel moves to erase refugee villages and towns from the map, literally bulldozing them, or reconfiguring them with Hebrew signage, new

road systems and road names.

According to OCHA, Israel maintains at least 925 physical barriers across the West Bank, including 24/7 manned checkpoints, intermittently staffed gates, trenches and roadblocks. These checkpoints physically divide Palestinian cities and villages, and impede access to employment, agricultural lands and basic healthcare, and forcing children in particular to face dangerous and heavily restricted commutes to school, or blocking them from school entirely. Lethal force is a constant in family life, with at least one Palestinian child killed each week.

Demolition orders target many houses. Currently many multi-story buildings and over 80 regional schools also face demolition orders. In early 2026, Israel's security cabinet approved construction of an additional 19 new settlements, these specifically designed to block the formation of a contiguous Palestinian state, to divide the West Bank in two. The annexation of the West Bank and expulsion of Palestinians is state policy. Is it not time to seriously object to this flagrant abuse of international law?

— A history of war against Palestine

Israel behaviour in Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem has been condemned by the UN for many years. When the world saw what happened in the 1948 Nakba, it immediately passed Resolution 194 (December 11, 1948), regarding the Palestinian refugees' right of return and compensation for those who chose not to return, as well as placing the city of Jerusalem under an international governance regime. Subsequent UN Resolutions called on Israel to follow international law, and to respect internationally recognized borders. Following the 1967 Six Day War, SC Resolution 242 (November 11, 1967), emphasized the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" and called for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent war. Other than a few resolutions to comply with ceasefires, Israel has not complied with any of the many UN Resolutions over the years that refer to the illegality of Israeli settlements, to demands to halt settlements, to censure Israel for taking Jerusalem as its capital, to censure Israel for the occupation and to demand that Israel withdraw from the Occupied Territories.

At the outset of the Gaza genocide, the International Criminal Court issued preliminary findings of plausible risk of genocide, issuing binding provisional measures to prevent genocidal acts, to punish public incitement to genocide and to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. Further findings of the ICJ called on Israel to halt the siege in Rafah, to increase basic services in Gaza, and to ensure unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

Meanwhile, the ICC issued warrants for the arrest of Israel's Prime Minister and its Minister of Defence in November 2024. They are accused of war crimes (including starvation as a weapon of warfare) and crimes against humanity (including murder, persecution and inhumane acts). Just recently, the UN has added Israel to its blacklist of countries who use sexual violence as a weapon of war. Is Israel's murderous intention toward Palestinians not clear by now?

— and finally, let's look at a regional perspective. In Gaza and the West Bank, Israel's flaunting of international norms and UN resolutions is glaring and indisputable. This is also the case in its treatment of its neighbours.

Israel has illegally bombed at least seven countries in the last 18 months. (Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Yemen, and the coast of Tunisia). Many of these countries have suffered from Israeli military assaults, leadership decapitations (assassinations) and land seizures for decades. Systematic patterns of targeting cultural, educational, health institutions, and civilians, of illegally ordering evacuations and bulldozing entire villages, and of breaking ceasefires to do so have been repeated Israeli practice in the region for decades. While international attention is now focussed on its illegal war against Iran because of its severe economic repercussions, Israeli assaults on other countries have been devastating to the region over the longterm — in Libya, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and of course in Lebanon which Israel occupied from 1982 - 2000. Israel has launched seven major assaults on Lebanon over the years and Israel has breached the current ceasefire, with 1.2 million Lebanese forcefully displaced, 3500 killed and another 10,000 injured. Just as the Iran peace discussions show positive signs this week, Israel launched a full assault, with Netanyahu saying, "Press on the pedal even more." Israel believes it has the right to intervene in the affairs of other nation where it attempts for force policy change and influence elections, and when that fails, to simply murder military and political leaders that it finds inconvenient, and to occupy land to weaken its neighbours. This month we see that Israel will put the world economy in danger in order to ensure the U.S. does not pull out of its war against Iran.

— Israeli policy is at the heart of the conflict.

Striving to dominate the region, and heading towards regional hegemony, Israel has destabilized the region since its inception, causing enormous loss of life, economic catastrophe and insecurity over the years. It has provoked several regional wars. As the population of Israel has evolved and changed, the country is now ruled by messianic Zionism and a belief in the god-given right to Greater Israel, which would include all of

Palestine, some of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and in the view of some, reaching all the way to the Euphrates. Israel is currently manoeuvring to de-legitimize Jordan as the Custodian of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, just one small example of its constant international provocations. It is generally agreed that the illegal U.S. war against Iran was heavily promoted by Israel, using false and misleading security analysis. Policy and conviction mean that Israel will always be provoking insecurity in the region, until Israel can fully dominate.

Israel's conflict with its neighbours will continue, and continue having global impacts, until and unless Israel accepts the fact that Palestine will not be eradicated. Palestinians will not leave the territories that are legally theirs and Israel will eventually have to decide how to live alongside Palestinians, either in two states or one. Their attempts to drive the Palestinians out, to erase them and to thwart any country that tries to defend them, will fail. But in the meantime, the entire world is held hostage to this rogue state. Is it not time to call them out for their behaviour and demand change?

— Taking on Israel begins with joining like-minded countries in vocal and unequivocal condemnation of Israeli behaviour, not just each egregious incident as it occurs, but in its historical entirety. This must happen on a global stage in order to have impact. As part of Canada's role as a middle power, this gesture would be welcome by almost all other middle power countries, including those who have supported Israel in the past who might welcome the added pressure to do what is right, rather than what doesn't rock the boat.

— Verbal declarations should be followed by actions that impose real costs on Israel: cancel the Israel-Canada Free Trade Agreement, actively enforce the end of military sales to Israel through the U.S., actively enforce legal action against IDF or IDF-related recruitment events in Canada and end any joint military activities, end Canadian participation in sporting, arts/entertainment or other competitive events that include Israel, remove funding from academic and associational activities that include Israel, offer unwavering support for the work of the ICC and the ICJ and act on their findings.

— Prepare a multi-pronged approach to dialogue with the U.S. to assist in moving our neighbour towards limiting or ending military assistance, and regulating or perhaps ending military sales to Israel. This will be a multi-year and multi-directional strategy, much like the one developed by the Mulroney government regarding the end of apartheid in South Africa. Canada was on the right side of history in fighting that battle. Let us use our power to move the world forward on this strategic moral and economic objective.

Thank you for your attention.

Jane Touzel