

From: Ismail Zayid [mailto:izayid@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 4:41 PM
To: 'Rae, Bob - M.P.'
Cc: Ignatieff.M@parl.gc.ca
Subject: RE: The killing in Gaza must stop - Canada must do something

The Hon. Mr. Bob Rae, M.P.

The House of Commons:

Dear Mr. Rae:

Thank you for your message and expressing your humanitarian concern for the loss of life in the Gaza attack, including, I assume, even that of Palestinians.

Interestingly, the position of the Liberal Party is to condemn the Hamas rockets but no mention of the outrageous assault on the 1.5 million Palestinians, mostly refugees ethnically cleansed from their homeland by Israel in 1948. In the outrageous bombardment of Gaza, nearly 900 have been killed and 4000 injured, todate. Their homes are demolished, including mosques as well as the entire infrastructure in Gaza, including even UN schools were hundreds were ordered to take refuge by Israel, then bombarded and murdered.

The Liberal and Tory parties continue to blame Hamas for breaking the truce that was organised in June last year. That charge is completely false. As to the breach of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, it was Israel which first broke this ceasefire on Nov. 4, 2008, as reported by UN and international observers as well as Israeli Peace Group **Gush Shalom**, which confirmed this, on Dec. 27, in its statement: "**It was the State of Israel which broke the truce, in the 'ticking tunnel' raid on the night of the US elections two months ago. Since then the army went on stoking the fires of escalation with calculated raids and killings, whenever the shooting of missiles on Israel decreased", killing 6 Palestinians.**

You mention the need for peace, stability, and human rights in the Middle east. It is vital to remember that Peace will only be secured if there is justice. And justice will be

obtained only if Israel is made to comply with international law and the UN Charter and terminate **completely** its illegal occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, that has been allowed to stand for over 40 years in defiance of international law and repeated Security Council resolutions. During this brutal occupation, Israeli practices include extra-judicial assassination, detention of thousands with no charge or trial, torture, humiliation, denial of health care and expropriation of property for the creation of illegal colonies [settlements]. These practices are in violation of virtually every article of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and are considered, war crimes, by international law.

So, briefly, Mr. Rae, if the Liberal Party is truly interested in the liberal values, that we Canadians claim, it should condemn , in the strongest terms, the current Israeli onslaught and murder in Gaza and call for Israeli compliance with international law and UN resolutions and terminate completely its illegal occupation of Palestinian land and allow the Palestinian refugees the right to return to their homes in compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and repeated UN resolutions.

We look forward to hear your true concern for human rights and compliance with international law.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.

President, Canada Palestine Association.

From: Rae, Bob - M.P. [mailto:Rae.B@parl.gc.ca]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 3:27 PM

To: izayid@eastlink.ca

Subject: RE: The killing in Gaza must stop - Canada must do something

Dear Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for your letter concerning the conflict in Gaza. Your humanitarian concerns are shared by all Canadians.

We join in the calls for a genuine and deeply shared ceasefire. This means an end to the Hamas rocket attacks on Israeli civilians as well as an end to the air and land attack in Gaza by the Israeli Defence Forces and an immediate response to the humanitarian crisis in the region. The position of the Liberal Party reflects long standing commitments of our party and country to peace, stability, justice and human rights the Middle East

I attach below the official statement of our Party`s leader, one that reflects the spirit and position of the Liberal Party of Canada.

As always, thank you for your concerns.

Sincerely,

Hon Bob Rae

MP Toronto Centre

Statement by Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Official Opposition, on the situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip

I am greatly concerned by the deepening violence in Israel and the Gaza Strip and the fear and suffering on all sides that this mounting instability has caused.

The Liberal Party of Canada unequivocally condemns the rocket attacks launched by Hamas against Israeli civilians and calls for an immediate end to these attacks. We affirm Israel's right to defend itself against such attacks, and also its right to exist in peace and security.

We regret the loss of life sustained on all sides of the conflict. We call on all parties to end these hostilities, mindful that a durable ceasefire will be necessary to prevent continued civilian casualties and lasting damage to essential civilian infrastructure.

The international community has a responsibility to ensure that the cost of conflict is not borne by the innocent and Canada must stand ready to assist and ensure that basic humanitarian assistance reaches those who need it.

Our thoughts are with those in Israel and the Gaza Strip whose lives are imperiled by the cycle of violence in the region. In the midst of this crisis, we continue to stand for a peaceful resolution. We firmly believe that the basis of this peace will be the mutual recognition by both Israelis and Palestinians of two states, living side by side in peace

and security, with a full resolution of the issue of refugees and settlements, as well as secure and internationally recognized borders and boundaries.