

From: Ismail Zayid [mailto:izayid@eastlink.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 5:29 PM
To: pm@pm.gc.ca
Cc: Leslie, Megan, MP.; Regan.G@parl.gc.ca; Savage, Michael; Duceppe.G@parl.gc.ca; Ignatieff.M@parl.gc.ca; Layton.J@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Canada's vote at UN Human Rights Council.

Canada Palestine Association,

Jan. 13, 2009

The Right Hon. Mr. Stephen Harper, MP.

Prime Minister, Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Harper:

The report of Canada being the **only** member, out of 47 members, voting against the resolution passed by the UN Human Rights Council on Jan. 12, 2009,

is distressing and shameful for Canada, a country that claims to uphold international law, the UN Charter and human rights.

This resolution is calling for an immediate ceasefire and rightly condemning the outrageous Israeli assault on the 1.5 million people of the overcrowded Gaza Strip, who are mostly refugees, ethnically cleansed, from their homeland, by Israel in 1948, and not allowed to return to their homes, in defiance of repeated UN resolutions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Nearly a thousand have been killed and over 4000 injured, more than 50% of them are women and children, as reported by UN observers and international human rights organisations.

As to the breach of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, that our political leaders and media continue to blame Hamas for, the facts are that it was Israel which first broke this ceasefire on

Nov. 4, 2008, as reported by UN and international observers as well as by 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.**" Six Palestinians were killed in that raid. Furthermore, Israel had been imposing a siege on the people of Gaza for two years, denying them access to the outside world, by controlling all their means of access, by air, land or sea, as well as denying adequate supplies of food, water, medicine and all basic needs of human life.

We call on our government and political leaders to call for an immediate ceasefire and demand Israeli compliance with international law and the UN Charter.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.

President, Canada Palestine Association.