

At the 49th session of the CHR, a special rapporteur was appointed with the mandate of investigating violations of international law, and to report to the CHR "until the end of the Israeli occupation of those territories".

CANADIAN POSITION

The Canadian Government, through its Embassy in Tel Aviv and international bodies, keeps abreast of political and economic events and human rights issues within the OT. It co-ordinates closely with the responsible international bodies, as well as non-governmental development and human rights organizations, the Israeli government and Palestinian institutions.

Canada has called on Israel (through bilateral contacts, ministerial statements and positions adopted in UN fora) to respect and apply the Fourth Geneva Convention. Canada raises serious human rights violations with the Israeli Government whenever warranted. Over the past year, Canada has spoken in UN fora to reiterate the position that human rights violations by the occupying authorities are unacceptable and contrary to international law. Canada has supported UN resolutions that identify Israeli activities which are subject to justified criticism, such as renewed breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Canada has formally protested the demolition of houses of alleged activists and the expulsion of militants.

Canada believes it is only through the successful conclusion of the peace negotiations that the cycle of violence will be broken and violations of human rights much reduced, if not eliminated.

Concern has also been expressed by Palestinian leaders over the degree to which human rights and democratic values will be respected under autonomy. To meet these expectations, Canada actively supports the developments of democratic institutions through its aid programs directed at Palestinians. Circumstances permitting, eventual co-operation between Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations could go far in addressing the concerns of both sides.

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