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CANADA DEPLORES ISRAEL'S DEPORTATION OF PALESTINIANS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today deplored Israel's deportation of some 400 Palestinians to Lebanon from the Occupied Territories. The Minister issued the statement from Brussels where she is attending meetings of NATO and the North Atlantic Co-operation Council.

"Such deportations are a violation of international law, specifically the fourth Geneva Convention, which imposes duties on occupying powers," said Mrs. McDougall.

The Minister condemned the violence in the Occupied Territories over the last few days, notably the death of several Palestinians and Israeli soldiers. She said that she was profoundly saddened by the murder of an Israeli soldier earlier this week.

"The expulsions and the renewed violence in the Occupied Territories are a setback in the long process of reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinians," said the Minister. "Both sides must realize that peaceful negotiations rather than violence are the only avenue toward a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

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