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CANADA TO AID WAR VICTIMS IN EL SALVADOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada will provide \$100,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for medical and other assistance for victims of the recent fighting in El Salvador.

The funds, from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), are in response to a world-wide appeal by the Red Cross for assistance in caring for the wounded and homeless.

The fighting, which started on November 11, is the worst in ten years. The ICRC has called for a truce and is attempting to negotiate access to all areas for Red Cross personnel. It has also put its ambulances at the disposal of the Salvadoran Red Cross Society to transport wounded to hospitals in San Salvador and San Miguel.

The Canadian funds will help the ICRC to fulfill a number of tasks in coping with the emergency, such as visiting prisoners in detention centres, tracing missing persons, providing blood and medical supplies and evaluating the needs of the civilians as the fighting continues.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures