

Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

- Canada has urged Israel repeatedly, both publicly and privately, to freeze all settlement activity - on the grounds that settlements are contrary to international law and an obstacle to peace;
- Canada has consistently maintained that Israel's construction of the barrier inside the West Bank and East Jerusalem is contrary to international law;
- Through high level bilateral interventions and in international fora such as the Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights, Canada has urged both parties to end the violence and to stop practices which infringe on human rights;
- Canada has supported HaMoked, an Israeli legal rights organization, to establish a legal and human rights internet data base for use by those engaged in the defence of human rights in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem;
- Canada is funding a project by the Early Childhood Resource Centre, based in the West Bank, to raise awareness in Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza of the importance of early childhood development in general and children's rights in particular.
- Canada has also supported the faculties of law at the University of Windsor and the University of Toronto to undertake a judicial sector assessment mission and deliver a two week course on constitutional, administrative and procedural law. These separate but mutually reinforcing initiatives are expected to build the foundation for future Canadian engagement in strengthening the Palestinian legal sector. CIDA has allocated funds to assist with the Palestinian elections;
- The Government and UNICEF are jointly supporting a remedial education project, providing compensatory education to children who have missed classes due to closures and curfews.

The Government condemns all acts of terrorism, wherever they may occur. Canada has called for the dismantlement of terrorist networks, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Concrete examples of Canadian policy in action:

- listing of Hamas, Hezbollah and other groups as terrorist organizations in accordance with UN regulations and Canadian legislation;
- terrorist acts against Israeli civilians draw Canadian Government condemnation in the form of public statements; as a matter of public policy, Canada accepts no suggestion of moral equivalency;
- delivery of strong exhortations to the Palestinian Authority to dismantle infrastructure of terrorism.