

# News Release

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



# Communiqué

Secrétaire  
d'État aux  
Affaires  
extérieures

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## SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed Canada's shock at the unprecedented violence in the Israeli-occupied territories, following the brutal murder of seven Palestinians on May 20. "We deplore this tragic incident and the deaths and injuries which occurred in its wake in the occupied territories and Israel," said Mr. Clark. "The large number of civilians injured by live fire from Israeli forces is of particular concern. Canada appeals to the Israeli authorities to demonstrate maximum restraint." Mr. Clark called on both sides to cease further confrontations and to avoid acts which will contribute to the dangerous cycle of violence.

Mr. Clark underlined that Canada is extremely concerned about the tense political environment of which the massacre in Gaza and the subsequent deaths and casualties are symptoms; the attack on French tourists in Amman is one alarming repercussion. "The existing stalemate in the peace process exacerbates the frustrations of those in the occupied territories and Israel who want to believe that a negotiated settlement is possible, and contributes to a volatile atmosphere." He reiterated Canada's hope for an early start to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, which is the preferred route to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement.

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