

## **Open Letter: The hidden reality behind Canada's Public Statements on Arms Exports to Israel**

August 29, 2025

The Honourable Maninder Sidhu, MP  
Minister of International Trade  
Parliament of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario

Mr. Yasir Naqvi, MP  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State (International Development)  
Parliament of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Minister Sidhu and Parliamentary Secretary Naqvi:

We are concerned members of the Women, Peace and Security community in Canada. We are part of a volunteer network of expert feminists working in policy, research, advocacy, and development. We are committed to ensuring the equitable, consistent, and principled application of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Canada and around the world.

The newly released report, [Exposing Canadian Military Exports to Israel](#), reveals that Canada never stopped arming Israel, and that the government has been lying to us for the past 22 months. These actions are immoral — and are in violation of both Canadian and international law. It is shocking to learn that, based on this report, Canada is complicit in continuing to fuel the destruction in Gaza, the occupation of Palestinian territories, and the genocide of the Palestinian people by Israeli government policy.

This report exposes data from the Israeli Tax Authority that shows there have been shipments from 7 Canadian cities and around 100 international flights transporting Canadian components to Israel— bullets, military equipment, weapons parts, aircraft components, and communication devices.

The Canadian government has been concealing its role in arming the genocide in Gaza.

There are no words to describe the devastating pain as the Israeli military has killed over 60,000 Palestinians in Gaza, including more than 20,000 children. We know these numbers are not accurate—thousands more are being found under the rubble and so many more will perish due to lack of medicine and medical treatment, food, water, and shelter.

The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court have both declared that Israel must stop its genocidal acts being committed against the Palestinian people.

Now, into the second year of genocide in Gaza, we are overwhelmed with sorrow and outrage, and do not want to be complicit with the actions of the Canadian government.

As a signatory to the Geneva Conventions and Arms Trade Treaty, Canada is legally obligated to prevent and not be complicit in genocide, and must ensure that its actions, including arms transfers, do not facilitate serious violations of international law.

More than 20 countries—including China, Ireland, Turkey, Spain, and South Africa—convened in Bogotá for an emergency summit to take concrete diplomatic, legal, and economic action against Israel over alleged genocide in Gaza. These nations, organized under the "Hague Group," plan to enforce measures such as blocking arms shipments, refusing port access to military vessels, and upholding international court rulings. The initiative is a response to perceived inaction by the United Nations, International Criminal Court, European Union, and the United States, with participating countries declaring their intent to hold Israel accountable under international law.

The government of Canada should immediately:

- Comply with the Geneva Conventions and Arms Trade Treaty by ending all arms exports directly or indirectly to Israel;
- Publicly demand a permanent ceasefire to the war;
- Join the Hague Group and enforce its measures;
- Support the free flow of food and aid to the starving population; and
- Demand that Israel cease the killing of civilians seeking food and aid.

We, the undersigned, are writing to request that the government act according to the values and principles outlined by our Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the positive obligations the government of Canada has in relation to identifying and denouncing genocide. Canada has repeatedly committed to “never again” however continues to permit genocide to be committed unchecked. Despite significant evidence of intent, means, and actions constituting crimes of genocide perpetrated by Israel, Canada has refused to identify these acts as immoral, let alone genocidal. The tacit support of these crimes erodes Canada’s status as a leader in human rights and international normative ordering globally. It further legitimizes hateful attacks and suppression of freedom of expression, and withers civil and productive political discourse domestically.

Canada has long been a champion of feminist foreign policy and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, as well as the Children and Armed Conflict agenda and the International Criminal Court. These positions are diametrically opposed to continued arms sales of any kind. As Canadian feminist peace practitioners, we refuse to be complicit in these crimes. As members of civil society, we demand better.

Signed by:

Canadian Peace Initiative (CPI)  
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace  
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