

## Sample Letter and Contacts

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly, [melanie.joly@international.gc.ca](mailto:melanie.joly@international.gc.ca)  
Member of Parliament (find your MP [here](#))

Dear

I write today as part of a broad-based ecumenical group of Canadians, horrified at the increasing violence perpetrated by the Israeli military against Palestinian children aged 12-17. The number of children arrested in night raids on their homes, the beatings aimed to terrorize them and forcing confessions--these actions are inhumane. Many children are incarcerated until their trial and then are sentenced to additional time in prison. Some are held under administrative detention, which means the military court can hold them without laying any charge for an undetermined period of time. They normally do not have access to a lawyer; and their parents generally do not know where they have been taken. These children are often incarcerated in prisons within Israel, which is a flagrant violation of international law.

Canada prides itself as an ardent supporter of the rule of law, an upholder of international and human rights law. Yet even a cursory reading of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which both Canada and Israel are signatories, indicates that Israeli actions are in violation of many of the requirements of that convention. In the face of its own commitments, Canada is bound to uphold these laws and should be working with others in the International Community to call Israel to account.

In 2018 a group of eighteen Canadian Members of Parliament visited Palestine, and upon returning to Parliament recommended, among other actions, that the government appoint a Special Envoy to monitor and report on the human rights situation of Palestinian children living in the Palestinian territory, refer to e-petition 2667. The motion was tabled; no envoy was ever appointed.

Thus I petition you now to have Canada:

1. Appoint a Special Envoy to promote, monitor and report on the human rights violations of Palestinian children living in the Palestinian territory, by reference to the standards of international law and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. Charge the Special Envoy to listen to the voices of the children who have been victimized, to their families, and to other recognized human rights groups, both Israeli and Palestinian.
3. Set out a plan that is a roadmap for actions to be undertaken by the Government of Canada—a plan that contains specific recommendations and is framed with respect to

the standards of international law and the testimony of the individuals and groups interviewed.

4. Focus on accountability which, out of respect to Canadian values, ensures that Israel is held responsible for ignoring international law and UN Conventions.

Thank you for your action in this regard.

Sincerely,

[Name]  
City/Postal Code