

Context and Sample Letter

Context:

[Kairos Palestine](#) - a Palestinian Christian movement for justice, peace, and liberation has issued an urgent call for action. Kairos Palestine urges the international ecumenical community to act on behalf of Palestinian families facing imminent eviction from their homes.

Israeli authorities have notified several families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem that they will be evicted from their homes on May 2. Many other families, constituting 37 households and 195 individuals, in Sheikh Jarrah as well as nearby Silwan, are also threatened with eviction in the near future. Most of these families are refugees, dating from the 1948 *Nakba* (catastrophe) and the establishment of the State of Israel. They settled in East Jerusalem in 1956 through a [special agreement](#) negotiated between Jordan (which controlled East Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967) and the [United Nations Relief and Works Agency](#) (the agency for Palestinian refugees).

For many years, Israel honoured the 1956 agreement, but recently Israeli settler organizations have challenged it in court, claiming they are the rightful owners of the land in question. In 2020 the courts ruled in favour of the settlers. Some of the Palestinian families are still appealing the rulings, but their legal options are running out. They and their advocates see the evictions as part of a larger program of Israeli state-supported ethnic cleansing. [Israeli NGO Peace Now](#) says, the court rulings are “part of an organised move designed to dispossess a Palestinian community of its home” and pave the way for an Israeli settlement in its place. The families are not permitted to exercise their internationally recognized right as refugees to return to their former homes in what is now Israel.

Consequently, Kairos Palestine and other groups are appealing to the international community – and especially to the global church – to pressure Israel to act in keeping with international law. As an occupying power and a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, Israel is constrained from forcibly transferring residents living under occupation.

Please send a letter to the Canadian government, asking it to urge Israel to protect the Palestinian families threatened with eviction and prevent them from becoming refugees once again. Send your letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, with copies to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau and your own Member of Parliament

Addresses:

Prime Minister Trudeau

email: pm@pm.gc.ca

mail: Langevin Block, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2 (postage needed)

Minister of Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau

email: marc.garneau@international.gc.ca

mail: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6 (no postage)

Your own Member of Parliament

email: search [here](#)

mail: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6 (no postage)

Sample Letter:

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I write to you as a concerned citizen who advocates for a peaceful and just end to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

I have learned of the grave situation of Palestinian families facing imminent eviction from their homes in East Jerusalem, specifically in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods. Israeli authorities have notified fifteen families they must vacate their homes. Most of these families are refugees expelled from their homes following the creation of the State of Israel.

I am deeply concerned that Israeli courts have ruled against these families and in favour of settler organizations, despite the fact that the Palestinian families have a legal right to their homes and properties. The actions of the settlers and courts, supported by the state, are an example of a concerted and ongoing attempt to ethnically cleanse East Jerusalem of Palestinians to make way for Jewish settlers. East Jerusalem, as well as West Bank and Gaza, remain Palestinian territories under Israeli occupation; therefore, these actions are a clear violation of international law and the responsibility of an occupying power not to forcibly transfer residents under occupation.

As a nation committed to human rights and the observance of international law, Canada must speak out against this imminent and illegal forced transfer of Palestinian peoples from their homes. Indeed, Canada must do much more to uphold the rights and dignity of all Palestinians by insisting on an end to the decades-long illegal occupation of their land. Until basic adherence to human rights and international law is offered by Israel, there will be no chance for a peaceful path forward to ending the conflict.

Please use your influence to speak out for the rights of Palestinians faced with eviction from their homes. Please act to prevent these families from becoming displaced yet again.

Sincerely,

[insert your name and Postal Code]