Please consider adapting and sending the following sample letter to:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – pm@pm.gc.ca

Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly – Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca

Your own Member of Parliament – find email address [here](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en)

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Joly,

May 15, 2023 will mark the 75th anniversary of the *Nakba* – the catastrophic displacement and dispossession of a million Palestinians as a result of Israeli and Zionist ethnic cleansing in 1948 and the years following.

As you know, in December 1948 the United Nations passed Resolution 194, affirming the Right of Return of Palestinian refugees. This resolution has been reaffirmed regularly by the UN. As you also know, the Palestinian refugee crisis continues to the present. Some 6.6 million Palestinian refugees are registered with UNRWA today, and millions of these in the West Bank and Gaza live under military occupation as stateless persons.

I was very disappointed to learn that Canada recently voted against a special UN event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the *Nakba*. Formerly, Canada played an important role in seeking a resolution to the Palestinian refugee situation. While I am grateful that your government restored funding to the UNWRA in 2016, I am troubled that Canada currently places such a low priority on Palestinian rights under international law – including the Right of Return.

I urge you to support Palestinians’ right to return to their homeland by acknowledging the *Nakba* and the refugee crisis that continues seventy-five years later. You can do this in the following ways:

* When you publicly congratulate Israel on its anniversary on the 14th of May please include an acknowledgement that on the next day, Palestinians remember that Israeli Independence came at the expense of the Palestinian people and their quest for nationhood.
* See that there is some kind of Canadian government presence at events led by Palestinians on May 15.
* Use your social media tools to include the Palestinian experience.
* Challenge Israel to loosen its restrictions on Israeli Palestinians who wish to mark the Nakba in public events.

Mr. Trudeau, in our own journey of truth and reconciliation in Canada, you have shown great courage in acknowledging the injustices of our colonial history, even while celebrating national pride in our confederation. Please give the same kind of courageous and moral leadership in your stance toward Israel, which claims to share our values. Polite silence is only enabling the ongoing injustices we deplore.

Sincerely yours,

[Your name and address]