

Dear _____

As a member of The United Church of Canada I am writing to you - my member of Parliament - to call for the Government of Canada to do everything in its power to help bring an end to the large-scale human suffering in Gaza, Occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

People in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are experiencing utter destruction, loss of lives, and inhumane conditions without access to necessities for life. Famine is ongoing. Children are particularly impacted. In Occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank, Israeli settlers and the Israeli military forcibly displace and dispossess Palestinians of their lands, their homes, and their rights. Canada must not be complicit in genocide, ethnic cleansing, and famine. To do nothing is unconscionable.

I am calling on Canada to:

1. Implement a comprehensive, binding two-way arms embargo on Israel*
2. Use all diplomatic, political and economic channels and leverage points to
 - a. ensure safe passage of humanitarian aid to Gaza
 - b. ensure a robust, permanent, meaningful ceasefire
3. Support building the conditions for a just and lasting peace, including an end to the occupation, sanctions on the Israeli government, release of all captives – Palestinian and Israeli, protecting evidence needed for truth, justice and reconciliation and publicly supporting respect for international law by all parties.

I count on you to do everything you can to ensure the Government of Canada advances on each of these fronts. I await a speedy response detailing what action you have taken in response to my letter.

Sincerely,

Dear _____,

Despite Canadian government promises to “not allow Canadian-made weapons to fuel this conflict in any way”, Canada continues to arm Israel as it continues its genocidal assault on Gaza and its illegal attacks on neighbouring countries.

Increasingly this is happening via a major loophole in Canadian law allowing Canadian weapons parts to get to Israel through the US – unregulated and unreported.

The truth is that the F35 bomber jets, Apache attack helicopters, and Elbit drones that Israel is using to murder Palestinians every day are made with Canadian technology and are full of Canadian parts.

That’s why I was so pleased to learn that MP Jenny Kwan recently introduced Bill C-233 — the No More Loopholes Act. Formally called An Act to Amend the Export and Import Permits Act, this Private Member’s Bill aims to close dangerous gaps in Canada’s arms export laws — especially the U.S. loophole, which allows Canadian-made weapons parts to be shipped through the U.S. and on to Israel or other conflict zones without proper oversight. The bill would bring Canada’s laws in line with the global Arms Trade Treaty and ensures Canadian exports are not complicit in genocide or other war crimes.

It’s been horrifying to witness Canada continuing to allow the export of military goods to a state that has slaughtered tens of thousands of civilians over the last two years. And I have been beyond shocked at the pattern of the misrepresentation, obfuscation, and outright lies from the Canadian officials in an effort to conceal all of this horrifying reality. Nothing can justify Canada continuing to supply weapons to a government that is deliberately starving children to death.

It’s time to finally close the U.S. loophole through which Canadian corporations are sneaking unreported and unregulated weapons to Israel. It is time to end Canada’s direct complicity in one of the most extreme moral crises of our time.

As your constituent I am calling on you to support the No More Loopholes Bill. Please let me know how you intend to vote on this bill. I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,