

June 28, 2010

The Right Hon. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

Further to my letter of June 11, 2010, I am writing again to urge you to join with the community of nations calling for an end to the blockade of Gaza by Israel, and for an independent inquiry into the May 31 attack by Israeli military forces on a flotilla taking supplies to Gaza.

I strongly urge you to add Canada's voice to the chorus of nations and non-governmental organizations, including long-time partners of The United Church of Canada, who:

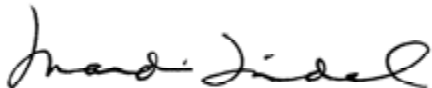
- support the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement, strongly requesting that Israel respect and abide by international law and end the three-year blockade of Gaza by Israel, and
- support the formation of a United Nations Security Council-mandated independent inquiry on the attack on the flotilla.

While calling for the end of the blockade, I also affirm the hope and desire of the United Church for the people of Israel to live in peace and security. The United Church condemns all forms of violence, and is deeply concerned for the suffering and safety of all people in the region. We also recognize that inspections may be necessary to prevent weapons and explosive materials from entering Gaza.

We believe a just resolution to the conflicts in the Middle East is necessary if the world is truly to move forward in building peaceful and respectful relationships across major cultural divides. We pray for the people of Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel, and for the nations and people affected by these conflicts.

I urge you to ensure Canada takes a leadership role in responding to this tragic incident.

Sincerely,



Moderator,
Mardi Tindal
The United Church of Canada/L'Eglise Unie du Canada

Cc: The Hon. Lawrence Cannon
The Hon. Michael Ignatieff
The Hon. Jack Layton
Gilles Duceppe
The Hon. Bob Rae
Paul Dewar
Francine Lalonde