



Brendan Hanley

Member of Parliament for the Yukon

For immediate release
March 20, 2024

On Monday, I voted in favour of the NDP Opposition Motion entitled “Canada’s actions to promote peace in the Middle East.” I was pleased that we were able to work on amendments that allowed for multiple parties, including the government side, to support the motion, and for the motion to carry. Through this vote, I was able to reaffirm my stance in calling for an immediate ceasefire, release of all hostages, and to demand unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza.

Palestinians and Israelis alike deserve to live in peace, with full enjoyment of their human rights and democratic freedoms. Our government will continue to work with international partners to actively pursue a just and lasting peace through a two-state solution in the Middle East.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to me on this matter, offering their diverse views and perspectives on a situation that continues to weigh heavily on our hearts. I welcome ongoing dialogue with my constituents by email, phone, or by appointment.

Read the amended motion, that passed, here:

MOTION TEXT

That, given that,

- (i) the situation in the Middle East is devastating to many Canadians, particularly those with friends and family members in the region,
- (ii) the death toll in Gaza has surpassed 30,000, with 70% of the victims being women and children,
- (iii) Hamas is a listed terrorist organization in Canada whose attacks on October 7, 2023, killed nearly 1,200 Israelis and that over 100 hostages remain in Hamas captivity,
- (iv) 1.7 million of residents of Gaza are displaced and at risk of starvation, death, and disease, and Gaza is currently the most dangerous place in the world to be a child,
- (v) the United Nations reports over 70 per cent of civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including homes, hospitals, schools, water and sanitation facilities, have been destroyed or severely damaged by Israeli military attacks,
- (vi) on January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice ordered six provisional measures, including for Israel to refrain from acts under the Genocide convention, prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to genocide, and take immediate and effective measures to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza,
- (vii) all states, including Israel have a right to defend themselves and in defending itself, Israel must respect international humanitarian law and the price of defeating Hamas cannot be the continuous suffering of all Palestinian civilians,
- (viii) Israelis are still at risk of attacks by Iran-backed terrorist groups including Hamas and Hezbollah,
- (ix) the increase in extremist settler violence against Palestinians and reports of Palestinian communities being forcibly removed from their lands in the West Bank,
- (x) the casualties of the war on Gaza and the Hamas terrorist attack include Canadian citizens,
- (xi) Canadian citizens remain trapped in Gaza, blocked from leaving,
- (xii) Jewish, Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian Canadians have reported an increase in hate-motivated attacks and racism since October,
- (xiii) Palestinians and Israelis both deserve to live in peace, with full enjoyment of their human rights and democratic freedoms,

the House call on the government to:

- (a) demand an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and Hamas must lay down its arms;
- (b) cease the further authorization and transfer of arms exports to Israel to ensure compliance with Canada's arms export regime and increase efforts to stop the illegal trade of arms, including to Hamas;
- (c) ensure continued funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to meet the dire humanitarian need, engage with the United Nations internal investigation and independent review process, and ensure implementation of necessary long-term governance reforms and accountability measures;
- (d) support the prosecution of all crimes and violations of international law committed in the region;
- (e) support the work of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court;
- (f) demand unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza;
- (g) ensure Canadians trapped in Gaza can reach safety in Canada and expand access to the temporary resident visa program;
- (h) sanction extremist settlers and maintain sanctions on Hamas leaders;
- (i) reaffirm that settlements are illegal under international law and that settlements and settler violence are serious obstacles to a negotiated two-state solution, and advocate for an end to the decades long occupation of Palestinian territories; and
- (j) work with international partners to actively pursue the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including towards the establishment of the State of Palestine as part of a negotiated two-state solution, and maintain Canada's position that Israel has a right to exist in peace and security with its neighbours.