

Letter by Hanna Kawas to Prime Minister Paul Martin

Jan. 12, 2004

Prime Minister of Canada

Rt. Honourable Paul Martin

Dear Prime Minister:

On January 9, 2004, the Jewish Western Bulletin carried a disturbing article under the title "Israel supporters in cabinet"

(<http://www.jewishbulletin.ca/archives/Jan04/archives04Jan09-01.html>)

One member of "Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel", Stephen Owen, the new Canadian minister of public works and government services, brags (even gloats) about the influence their group has in the new Cabinet. He is doing this with total disregard for the suffering being inflicted on the Palestinian people, and with disregard for the ramifications such support for war crimes could mean for them personally and for the Canadian government as a whole.

International human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, have categorized Israeli military actions in the West Bank and Gaza as "war crimes". A January 8, 2004 report of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs further detailed recent Israeli war

crimes in Nablus.

(see

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/RWB.NSF/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/4c2b5ea9eea1a05bc1256e19005a41dc?OpenDocument>)

The continued Western support for Israel is what encourages and enables it to carry out more war crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people that have been under Israeli occupation for the past 36 years. It also prolongs the occupation of Palestinian and Arab lands; it is time for people to take a stand against those who perpetuate the suffering and oppression of other people.

Support for war crimes connotes direct responsibility for them.

Silence about these war crimes is complicity in them.

Accordingly, we call on you to dismiss Mr. Owen and all the other ministers who implicate Canada in these war crimes in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention: <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/92.htm>

We will also be calling on all peace-loving people to immediately convey their strongest condemnation to you personally and to the Canadian government about this infamy.

Yours truly,

Hanna Kawas

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