

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Freeland,

Canadian Friends of Sabeel and Just Peace Advocates/Mouvement pour Paix Justice, alongside 36 organizations, wrote to you on November 28, 2018 and called to make sure you had received our letter in time for the *International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People* at the United Nations General Assembly. In our letter, we urged Canada to use its voting power in a manner that reflected the principles of international law and our responsibility as a signatory to the 4th Geneva Convention “to undertake, to respect, and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances”. We asked that you uphold the 4th Geneva Convention with respect to the occupation of the Palestinian Territory and its people. As well, we emphasized the importance of this year’s votes considering Canada’s impending bid for the United Nations Security Council in 2020.

To our deepest disappointment, Canada voted against every resolution that spoke to the occupation of the Palestinian territory and its people with the exception of an abstention on the resolution that pledged assistance to Palestinian refugees. Canada’s votes consistently disregarded the UN Charter, previous Security Council Resolutions, the Geneva Conventions and both Canadian and international law.

In voting alongside a small group (5 to 10 countries), our voting pattern seems inconsistent with our bid for a seat on the Security Council. It is our understanding that the Security Council has primary responsibility, under the United Nations Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. We believe that a country that sits on the United Nations Security Council should demonstrate that they are a voice for peace, security and human rights.

We would like to arrange a meeting with you to better understand Canada’s voting record – and how the Liberal Party of Canada sees these votes to be reflective of our legal and moral obligations in both our national and international communities.

Sincerely,

Canadian Friends of Sabeel
Just Peace Advocates/Mouvement pour Paix Justice