

May 31, 2024

melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Mélanie Joly
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Joly;

As nurses and health care professionals, members of United Nurses of Alberta are appalled and alarmed by the continuing horrific attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza, in particular the intentional targeting of hospitals and health care facilities by the armed forces of Israel. Most civilian infrastructure throughout Gaza – which occupies roughly the same space as the City of Lethbridge – has been destroyed.

In your own words, civilians in Gaza “do not have any safe space to go.”

The few remaining hospitals in North Gaza that had managed to continue functioning since November 2023 are now under intense airstrikes and shelling. Since May 22, all three hospitals in Northern Gaza have been inaccessible, and any remaining staff are struggling to maintain services. The special protection for hospitals, ambulances and medical personnel accorded by international law and natural justice are being ignored.

I agree with your public statements that this is completely unacceptable.

UNA condemns the siege of Gaza and the ongoing targeting of health care workers and infrastructure.

UNA demands that the Canadian Government take meaningful actions against the perpetrators. In addition to demanding an immediate and sustained ceasefire, the end of all attacks on civilian infrastructure and medical facilities, and the resumption of deliveries of humanitarian services and supplies to Gaza, Canada must respond with appropriate measures if that does not happen.

Sincerely,



Heather Smith
President, United Nurses of Alberta

cc. Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca
Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, mark.holland@parl.gc.ca
Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Labour, seamus.oregan@parl.gc.ca