

Statement from the Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Promote Palestinian Human Rights

May 20, 2021

As legislators from North America and Europe, we are horrified by the recent escalation in violence in the Middle East and we are urging the international community to take action. Israel's planned dispossession of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah, the violent raids against worshippers at the Al Aqsa mosque, and the devastating airstrikes targeting civilians in Gaza are shocking and unacceptable.

We are also gravely concerned by recent reports from human rights organizations, including B'Tselem and Human Rights Watch, which affirm what Palestinians have been saying for decades: that Israel's discriminatory practices constitute apartheid. These reports must not go ignored but should force governments to acknowledge the reality of the oppression that Palestinians are subjected to across historic Palestine and in exile.

We know that our governments in North American and Europe have played a material role in Israel's violations of international law and Palestinian human rights for decades, through trade, arms and security deals, as well as diplomatic support. We insist that Israel must be held accountable by the international community. Now is the time for governments to adopt concrete measures to put pressure on Israel to respect human rights.

Signed,

- Niki Ashton, Member of Parliament, Canada (New Democratic Party)
- Paul Manly, Member of Parliament, Canada (Green Party of Canada)
- Ruba Ghazal, Member of National Assembly, Québec (Québec Solidaire)
- Pádraig MacLochlainn, Teachtaí Dála, Ireland (Sinn Féin)
- Gino Kenny, Teachtaí Dála, Ireland (People Before Profit)
- Patrick Costello, Teachtaí Dála, Ireland (Green Party)
- Afzal Khan, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom (Labour)
- Tommy Sheppard, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom, (Scottish National Party)
- Steven De Vuyst, Member of Parliament, Belgium (Workers Party of Belgium)
- Veronika Honkasalo, Member of Parliament, Finland (Left Alliance)
- Idoia Villanueva, Podmeos International Head of Relations and MEP in AFET Committee, Spain (Podemos)
- Antón Gómez-Reino, Congress Member & Vicepresident at Foreign Affairs Committee, Spain (Podemos)
- Lucía Muñoz Dalda, Congress Member & Speaker at Foreign Affairs Committee, Spain (Podemos)