



Just Peace Advocates
Mouvement pour une Paix Juste

2020 Highlights

Just [Peace Advocates](#) is a Canadian based independent human rights organization promoting Just Peace/Paix Juste through the rule of law and respect for human rights in Canada and around the world for the Palestinian people and those that stand in solidarity for the human rights of the Palestinian people. Just Peace Advocates also has a specific focus on the realization of the self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

[Just Peace Advocates](#) was formed on March 27, 2018, as a [not-for-profit corporation in Canada](#).

Our Vision is to provide a civil society voice focused on government, institutional and society's accountability to the rule of law, and the standards of international human rights and humanitarian law for the rights of all people, with a specific focus on Palestinian and Kashmiri people given the denial of their rights of self-determination for over seven decades.

The work of Just Peace Advocates is accomplished through **research, monitoring, education, communications, advocacy, programs, and services.**

Guiding Principles for the work of Just Peace Advocates is:

- Based on the principle — that the people of Palestine and Kashmir are entitled to the same human rights as all people.
- Focused on protection of the civil and constitutional rights of those who speak out for freedom, equality and justice.

How Is Our Work Accomplished?

Public policy interests for equity for all people including those of Palestine and Kashmir is advanced through strong national and international networks that build effective relationships with government, media, Canadian civil society, including all faiths and ethnic groups, and supporters of human rights and international law.

Our Core Work includes:

Justice: One-stop accessible info to understand your rights and make informed decisions.

[Read More »](#)

Communication: The go-to for accurate analysis, and timely responses with regards to Kashmir and Palestine.

[Read More »](#)

Advocacy: Providing civil society voice to hold our government, media, institutions and others accountable in relation to international law and human rights.

[Read More »](#)

Policy: Research and analysis to support legal, communications and advocacy work.

[Read More »](#)

Action: Campaigns and advocacy support; education/webinars; building alliances and networks in Canada and around the world.

[Read More »](#)

Just Peace Advocates' campaigns provide education, and they engage civil society to hold our government, media, institutions and others accountable in relation to international law and human rights. These are specific to [Palestine](#) and [Kashmir](#), as well as in support of other work related to self-determination, human rights, international law and the rule of law. We also partner with and support other organizations in campaigns. We stand against the tools of the colonizer in Palestine, in Kashmir, across Turtle Island and around the world.

Support the work of Just Peace Advocates

Donations to Just Peace Advocates allows for the core legal, advisory, policy, and programs in support of a civil society voice focused on government, institutional and society's accountability to the rule of law, and the standards of international human rights and humanitarian law. Donations can be made by credit card, or in Canada also by e-transfer.

[Donate »](#)

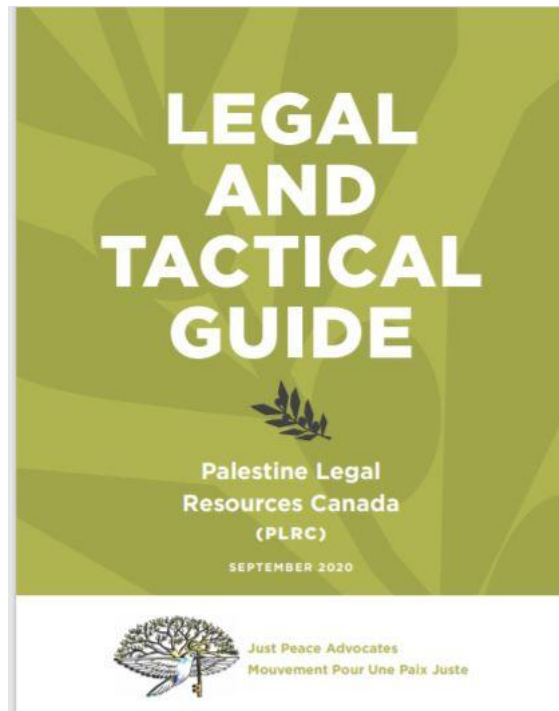
Fiscal Sponsor

Just Peace Advocates formed a relationship with Non-Violence International as a fiscal partnership in September 2019. This allowed us to receive financial support towards establishing a one-stop accessible information hub, the Palestine legal Resources Canada initiative. This initiative is to help people understand their rights and make informed decisions in regard to their work in support of Palestinian human rights, and to undertake proactive work to support international law and human rights related to Palestine.

Just Peace Advocates is a registered Canadian not-for-profit. In the USA, Just Peace Advocates is a fiscally sponsored project of tNon-Violence International in the USA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

1. Just Peace Advocates launched “[legal resources for Palestine human rights supporters in Canada](#)”



The mission of this initiative is to bolster the Palestine solidarity movement across Canada by challenging efforts to threaten, harass and legally bully activists into silence and inaction.

Comprehensive, accessible legal resources launched

In September 2020, the first **comprehensive, accessible [legal and tactical guide](#) for human rights supporters of Palestine in Canada was launched.**

The guide can be read online or downloaded as a free PDF. It is available as a full guide or it can be viewed and/or downloaded in sections.

1. Practical Tips for Activism
2. Free Speech Rights
3. Solidarity Actions, The Right to Protest and Criminal Issues You May Face
4. Potential Lawsuits by or against you
5. Campus Specific Issues
6. Surveillance and Law Enforcement
7. Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions
8. Additional Resources

Accompanying the guide is [six related factsheets](#) including:

1. Practical Tips for Activism
2. Free Speech Rights
3. Human Rights Law
4. Do's and Don'ts of Demonstrations
5. How to Make an Information Access Request
6. Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

These resources provide the core for moving forward with training and is intended to serve as a key resource for those doing work related to Palestine across Canada. This will provide the basis for future resource development during 2021.

[Intake and monitoring](#) were also introduced, along with a webinar workshop in November for activists and lawyers to introduce the materials.

[Lawyer Network](#)

Just Peace Advocates has a network of about 100 lawyers who have indicated interest in Palestine that are part of "Just Peace Advocates Legal Network."

In early 2020, Just Peace Advocates worked with the Palestine human rights organization, Al-Haq, to establish a **study tour for Canadian lawyers to Palestine**. The purpose of this intensive study tour was to provide specific learning about international law and human rights in Palestine while providing a specific focus on Canadian domestic law as a tool to support legal work in the Canadian context. A dozen lawyers joined in several sessions in the preparation for the March 2020 study tour. However, due to Covid-19, the March study tour had to be postponed.

Following the postponement, several interactive workshops for Canadian lawyers were led by Al-Haq and Just Peace Advocates during 2020 including:

i) In June 2020: International Law and Occupied Territory

This segment focused on the responsibilities of an occupying power in occupied territory towards the civilian population and the natural resources therein. It addressed the various ways in which Israel fails to uphold those responsibilities while exploiting the Palestinian people and their resources for its own benefit, thereby turning the occupation into a profitable business venture. Finally, the session highlighted the involvement of corporate actors in this venture.

Discussions focused on what the presented information means in the context of both international and domestic law.

Approximately 30 lawyers joined for this session.

ii) In November 2020: Direct Approaches to Corporate Accountability through Judicial and Non-Judicial Mechanisms

This segment explored some of the approaches that have been used to challenge corporate activity in occupied Palestinian territory. It will highlight specific examples of both judicial and non-judicial mechanisms such as civil complaints, criminal complaints and OECD

National Contact Point complaints. The session also addressed the challenges associated with such examples.

Approximately a dozen lawyers joined for this session.

Lawyers can indicate their interest in the [Just Peace Advocates legal network in Canada and/or future seminars](#) and are encouraged to share information with other lawyers who may be interested.

Through these efforts a **network of lawyers supporting work related to Palestine is developing across Canada**. The purpose of this network is to provide a basis for providing legal advice, Know Your Rights trainings, and providing advocacy support to students, grassroots activists and affected communities who stand for justice in Palestine. If your group is interested in a session and/or to discuss the resource, please contact info@justpeaceadvocates.ca.

2. Canada at the United Nations since 1947 & the 2020 defeat for UNSC seat

A defeat for Canada is a victory for Palestine

Canada lost its bid for a United Nations Security Council seat

On June 17, 2020 Canada lost its bid for a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) seat, for the second successive time. This followed an active campaign to expose Canada's stance on foreign policy issues including with regards to Palestine. Read [Canada's Security Council Defeat is a Win for Palestine](#)

This **initial work** began in November 2018, with a letter initiated by Just Peace Advocates and Canadian Friends of Sabeel, with a call to the Canadian government to change their voting at the United Nations if they wished to be seen as a viable choice for the UNSC bid. Read more: [The initial campaign](#)

Initial Analysis of Canada's voting at the United Nations during 21st century

In early May 2020, Just Peace Advocates did **initial analysis of Canada's voting record at UN since 2000**. This analysis included that since 2000, Canada voted against Palestine resolutions 166 times, while Norway and Ireland had never once voted 'no' on a UN resolution related to Palestine during this time. See the full analysis at: [Canada's record at the UN in regard to Palestine speaks for itself](#). The analysis was used by many others over the coming weeks in coverage of Canada's bid for a UNSC seat.



CANADA'S SECURITY COUNCIL DEFEAT IS A WIN FOR PALESTINE

www.justpeaceadvocates.ca

Palestine as part of the #NoUNSC4Canada campaign

The [Canadian Foreign Policy Institute](#) (CFPI) launched **#NoUNSC4Canada** in May 2020. Just Peace Advocates worked to assist CFPI in getting various [endorsements](#) including [Roger Waters](#). The campaign was launched following the Toronto Star's publishing of an article in the [Big Debate](#) column on May 19, 2020.

Check out endorsement by Roger Waters

Working with Father Robert Assaly, co-founder of the Canadian Friends of Sabeel (CFOS), Just Peace Advocates moved forward with a specific focus related to Canada's voting record on Palestine at the United Nations.

Read: Father Robert Assaly in the *Hill Times*, June 8, 2020: "At home and globally the media is reporting on Canada's shameful human rights and international law record."

The campaign related to Palestine involved Just Peace Advocates obtaining endorsement of [100+ organizations & 300+ individuals statement](#) that was sent to each UN member state ambassador.

Just Peace Advocates organized the sending of three separate letters to each United Nations Ambassador individually. This included the original one referenced above, a follow up when Canada's UN Ambassador Blanchard was [unnerved](#) by the 1000+ individual letters wrote to UN ambassadors trying to qualify Canada's stance on Palestine to discount Just Peace Advocates' analysis, and one on behalf of the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute.

This was followed up with an individual letter writing campaign arranged by Just Peace Advocates that originally saw over [1000+ letters sent to UN Ambassadors](#).

Then over a few weeks, 2000+ individuals letters were received by **United Nations ambassadors** including 1300 on [Palestine](#), and with the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute, over 100 in regard to Canada's policy regarding to [Africa](#), almost 200 in regard to Canada's policy related to the [Caribbean](#), and almost 500 in regard to [overall Canadian foreign policy](#).

The engagement by civil society continued following Canada's lost bid for the UNSC seat, with almost 500 letters sent to the federal opposition leaders and critics, including almost 300 letters on behalf of CFPI, [Canadians call for a public review of our foreign policy after UNSC defeat](#) and over 150 letters from Just Peace Advocates, asking [Canadian opposition to hold Trudeau government accountable after Palestine stance spurred Canada's Security Council defeat](#).

After Canada's naming of [Bob Rae as its UN Ambassador](#) almost 400 letters were sent in a letter writing campaign with CFPI calling on the need for a Canadian foreign policy review.

Just Peace Advocates was pleased to be able to work with CFPI on this campaign, highlight Palestine as one of the ways Canada falls short on its foreign policy agenda. The international community and civil society spoke out, and Canada failed to obtain a UNSC seat once again.

At home and globally the [media reported](#) on Canada's shameful human rights and international law record.

A summary of the campaign and defeat can be read in an opinion piece by Karen Rodman in Ricochet on June 30, 2020, [Did Canada's position on Palestine sink its UN Security Council bid?](#)

Check out the long list of op-eds, media coverage and interviews related to the campaign [HERE](#).

Check out: [Tik Tok](#) by Lina Abojaradeh

Post Campaign

Following a CBC interview with Ambassador Bob Rae and Stephen Lewis which dismissed Canada's UN history regarding Palestine playing a role in regard to the defeat of the UNSC seat bid [this letter](#) was written by Father Robert Assaly, along with an opinion editorial in Canadian Dimensions by Karen Rodman on October 4, 2020, titled [Memo to Bob Rae and Stephen Lewis: Palestine does matter](#)

Analysis of Canada's voting at the UN from 1947 onwards

An overall analysis was completed of Canada's United Nations voting record since 1947 by Just Peace Advocates in late 2020. It is thought to be the first such analysis, and it is a reminder of the longer picture. A picture that speaks to Canada's at best conditional support regarding Palestine.

A summary of votes by year can be found [here](#) with an [initial analysis](#).

Opinion editorials by Karen Rodman provide further analysis:

[Don't be fooled by Canada's recent pro-Palestine UN vote](#), November 29, 2020, Canadian Dimension

[Canada's less than sterling record in support of Palestine rights at the UN](#), Crescent International, November 30, 2020.

Action to hold Canada accountable at the UN: charge of apartheid



Just Peace Advocates was the only Canadian organization that signed the statement to UNGA initiated by PNGOs calling on the UN to investigate Israeli apartheid. Accompanied by a letter writing to Canadian elected officials and diplomats

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/just-peace-advocates-joins-call-to-unga-to-investigate-apartheid/>

Campaign: [write letter to the Canadian government: call to UNGA & member states to investigate apartheid](#) 400 letters were sent

Canadian Civil Society Calls on the International Criminal Court to Investigate Crimes in Palestine



Just Peace Advocates, secured 42 Canadian organizations as part of the 183 organizations that wrote to the ICC. Also, Just Peace Advocates secured 17 organizations that called on Canada to implement sanctions on Israel in a stronger Canada specific call.

On 28 January 2020, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber invited amicus curiae submissions on the question of jurisdiction to be submitted to the Court. This led to the submission of 43 amicus curiae briefs, including seven from State parties to the Rome Statute (Germany, Austria, Australia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Hungary and Uganda) arguing against territorial jurisdiction and denying that the ICC can exercise jurisdiction over Palestine.

Although Canada was not among those seven submitting a brief, the Canadian government did take the position in a letter that the ICC did not have jurisdiction over Palestine and at the same time, in a veiled threat, reminded the ICC of Canada's financial contribution.

On February 26, 2020, the [Canadian Jewish News](#) revealed that the Canadian government had sent a letter to the ICC on February 14 asserting that because Palestine is not recognized as a full state, the court has no jurisdiction to pursue investigations. As indicated in the [Palestine Chronicle](#), Netanyahu praised only two days after the Canadian letter what he called "efforts" by "friendly states" to prevent the ICC from launching an investigation.

It is an embarrassment that the Canadian government has taken this stance. Beyond this, Canada's approach means it has avoided having to face the legal accountability of filing an amicus curiae brief. We join in naming the culture of impunity which has prevailed for some 52 years in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), and insist the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the OPT must be held accountable at the International Criminal Court.

The Canadian government has accountability through both international and domestic law to take steps to ensure Israel does not commit war crimes and is held accountable for the war crimes it does commit.

Specifically, under:

International Law: Under Article 1 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, all high signatories including Canada, are required to take actions to ensure that violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention do not occur under any circumstance.

Domestic Law: Canada ratified the Rome Statute in 1998 and enacted the Statute through the [War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity Act](#) in 2000.

The December 13, 2019 [mandate letter](#) from Prime Minister Trudeau indicates to Minister Champagne that he is to "reinforce institutional institutions like the International Criminal Court" and ensure "additional resources to promote and uphold international law." The letter on February 14, 2020 to the ICC from the Canadian government is counter to this mandate.

[See](#) the Canadian organizations that signed on, and the letter sent by over 100 individuals.

3. Legal work to expose Canadian Business Complicity

Just Peace Advocates has also been proactive in **legally based work** in support of possible violations of international law by Canadian companies.



In particular, several [letters](#) have been written by a lawyer retained by Just Peace Advocates to **Canadian companies complicit in military occupation and illegal settlement**.

This included to Bombardier and WSP, two [Canadian companies complicit in the Jerusalem light rail](#)

According to Who Profits:

[WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff](#) is a Montreal based company with a team that is responsible for the planning and the design of the Jerusalem light rail.

[Bombardier](#) is heavily involved in the Israeli A1 fast train project. Although, in 2019 Bombardier indicated it was not entering into future contracts, but to date they have made no indication that they are pulling out from existing contracts.

Several letters had been written to both Bombardier and WSP during 2019, but with no response. The following letters were sent in late February 2020. The letters sent in 2020, have been received and signed for by the companies, but no response has been received at this time. See:

[Letter to Bombardier](#)

[Letter to WSP](#)

In June 2020, Just Peace Advocates sent a letter to [Actuonix Motion Devices](#). According to [Who Profits](#), “Actuonix devices were documented being used by the Israeli military during attacks on unarmed civilian protestors in Gaza during the Great March of Return.” Actuonix received the letter but has not responded.

In addition, research has been done by Just Peace Advocates in regard to several other Canadian companies that are listed by [Who Profits](#), "an independent research center dedicated to exposing the commercial involvement of Israeli and international corporations in the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian lands." Letters will be sent to these Canadian companies that are involved in the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and/or Syrian lands.



Photo: Israeli warplanes make a ceremonial flyby of the Israel Electric Corporation's Orot Rabin coal-fired generating station, to mark what Israel calls its Independence Day, May 2017. The power company is deeply complicit in Israel's violations of Palestinian rights. (via Facebook) Electronic Intifada

Cut the Current to Israel Electric

In support of the campaign to [Cut the Current to Israel Electric](#), Just Peace Advocates sent two requests to the [Canadian Electricity Association](#) (CEA) asking for status of relations with Israel Electric. No response has been received.

This followed the successful 2019 BDS Québec campaign that saw Quebec Hydro not renew its contract with Israel Electric. Israel Electric Corporation is a **public company**, which produces and supplies electricity to all sectors of the Israeli economy, both within its so-called "1967" borders, by the United Nations, and in the Palestinian territories of the West Bank, Gaza and annexed Jerusalem, whose occupation, colonization and annexation by Israel are in violation of international law, multiple resolutions of the United Nations and have been condemned by the majority of the international community. Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) is openly violating international law and the human rights of Palestinians.

In addition to contact with CEA, letters have been sent to approximately [forty Canadian utility companies](#) asking about their status with Israel Electric. Fifteen Canadian utility companies have indicated they have no ties to Israel Electric, with 24 others having not replied. Three separate letters were sent during 2019/20, with the first ones from the Canadian BDS Coalition, and the last one which

included legal language being [sent by Just Peace Advocates in 2020](#). Just Peace Advocates has worked with Manitoba activists/Peace Alliance Winnipeg on access requests and sending a letter to the one utility company that has indicated it does have relations with Israel Electric, [Manitoba Hydro through Manitoba Hydro International](#) (MHI). It is expected that Peace Alliance Winnipeg will move forward with this campaign shortly given that MHI has not indicated it will be severing ties with Israel Electric.

The Canadian Pension Plan (CPP)

Based on the desire by the Canadian BDS Coalition to consider divestment work related to the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) from companies involved in the military occupation of Palestine, research was undertaken by Just Peace Advocates to review all companies in the **Canadian Pension Plan** foreign and domestic portfolio to identify which should be divested. Over 50 percent of the CPP domestic portfolio includes investments in [WSP](#). The research undertaken by Just Peace Advocates included updating the work undertaken by Coalition To Oppose Arm Trade (COAT) from 2013-2016, and reached out to Al-Haq, Who Profits, and Investigate with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Following this, discussions with leaders in mining injustice, anti-war, and labour leaders indicated interest in intersectional discussions.

About 15 groups beyond the 25 groups that are part of the [Canadian BDS Coalition](#) have come together. These include beyond Palestine group, groups that are focused on climate, peace, mining justice, Kashmir, and others that come together, including the Canadian and American Friends Service Committees, working to build alliances. This group brings a lot of experience and expertise.

CPP Ethical Investment

One of the first steps has been to support a government petition [E-2966](#) sponsored by New Democratic Party (NDP) member of parliament [Alistair MacGregor](#) in support of his private member's Bill C-231 which calls for proactive due diligence related to ethical investments of the CPP.

To date, Just Peace Advocates has done research and analysis, and has been working with others in building networks in this regard. This work can also serve as a base in regard to other pension holdings beyond the CPP.

Ban Settlement Goods

Just Peace Advocates joined the Palestinian international human rights organization, Al-Haq, in [call on Canada to Ban Israeli Settlement Products and Services Entirely](#). Specifically calling:

“on the Canadian Government and Parliament to take a stance against Israel’s illegal settlement enterprise, in line with Canada’s obligations under international law including not to recognise, give effect or assist an unlawful situation, by banning trade in settlement products and services entirely.”

Just Peace Advocates joined with Al Haq to call on the Government of Canada:

- Take positive measures toward respecting international law, including by banning illegal settlement products and services;
- To take all necessary measures to ensure full respect for and compliance with international law norms, including the Geneva Conventions, relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council,

General Assembly, and the Human Rights Council regarding third state obligations toward the OPT; and

- To abide by their obligations as third States and as High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, notably under Common Article 1, to respect and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law in the OPT in all circumstances.

Just Peace Advocates supports the Amnesty International call of “Occupation at 50” which calls countries to ban all settlement goods. In this regard, Just Peace Advocates promoted the parliamentary petition [e-2710](#) that David Kattenburg initiated.

Just Peace Advocates also submitted information access requests to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in regard to labeling of Medjoul dates, along with analysis and follow up to CFIA redefining “medjoul dates” as not a fruit, thus allowing settlement project to not be labeled.

4. Justice for Kashmir



Delegation to Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) meet with President of AJK

Just Peace Advocates began work related to [Kashmir](#) in early 2019, and this focus intensified after the August 5, 2019 lockdown of Kashmir by the Indian government.

A [call](#) was made by Just Peace Advocates for the immediate end of the current lockdown by India of occupied Kashmir. This included a call for:

- immediate cessation of violence against Kashmiri civilians by the Indian army;
- the right to free expression, a free press, free association and free assembly of the citizens of Kashmir under Indian military rule.
- India’s immediate restoration of basic human rights of movement, food, education, work and health by the Indian government for the people of Kashmir under its control; and
- that India ensures the basic social and cultural rights of Kashmiris are restored ensuring dignity of life without persecution, insult, or fear of intimidation.

And for public support of a referendum for the people of Kashmir for their own self-determination. At present, India maintains that such a referendum should not occur, and so this would include Canada being clear that we expect no country to stand in the way of the referendum promised in UN Security Council Resolutions on Kashmir [Res.

38, 39, 47, 51 (1948); 80 (1950); 91, 96 (1951); 98 (1952); 122,123, 126 (1957); UNCIP Res. (13 Aug 48, 5 Jan.49)

In December 2019, Just Peace Advocates was part of a [human rights delegation](#) to Azad Jammu Kashmir. The human rights delegation returned from Islamabad and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) with the vow to intensify their efforts on behalf of the suffering people of Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The delegation identified several specific areas where they intend to work. These included: a call on the Canadian government to help lift the lockdown to which the 8 million Kashmiris have been subjected by India since August 5; Work with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to facilitate contact between the thousands of Kashmiri youth taken into custody, and their parents; Urge Amnesty to be proactive in naming prisoners of conscience; Call on the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) to speak out on behalf of Kashmiri journalists that have been detained and are prevented from doing their work; Intensify efforts in Canada to further highlight the plight of the Kashmiri people; and work towards a BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign against India because of its atrocious conduct in IOK.

Just Peace Advocates joined to work with several Kashmiri and other groups in Canada and internationally in specific initiatives, strategic planning and educational events over the year.

To this end, a number of contacts were made, speaking engagements occurred, and letters were written. This included contact with the ICRC and Amnesty International related to prisoners. Also, formal government petitions were initiated, [432-00017](#) sponsored by Liberal MP Yasmin Ratansi, and [e-2607](#) by NDP MP Scott Duvall. Read [more](#).

[During my Christmas in Kashmir, stories of survival, resistance, and pain](#), an article by Michaela Lavis who joined Just Peace Advocates in the delegation appeared in the Toronto Sunday Star, January 5, 2020.

During 2019, more than 3,000 letters in total were sent to the Canadian government through Just Peace Advocates' campaign, and more than 4,000 signed a [petition](#). This set the stage for Just Peace Advocates' [focus on Kashmir](#) in 2020.

During 2020, working in partnership with several other organizations including Canadian for Peace and Justice in Kashmir (CPJK), Justice for All, and Friends of Kashmir Canada, Just Peace Advocates called for [action in regard to the Domicile Law](#) that saw 400 letters sent to Canadian elected officials. The petition initiated by Just Peace Advocates that was [sponsored by Scott Duvall, E 2607](#) had close to 2000 signatures. A statement was released in regard to [Kashmir Martyrs' Day, 89 years later, that we remember July 13, 1931](#).

On August 5, 2020, a year after the lockdown, Just Peace Advocates, with Friends of Kashmir Canada, Justice for All, Canadians for Peace and Justice for Kashmir, sent a press release to 2500 Canadian media outlets on the [double lock down in the Kashmir valley—a year of military](#)

[lockdown](#), as well as [letters sent](#) to UN Ambassador designate Bob Rae and to Minister of Global Affairs Champagne. Read [more](#).

Requests for hearings by the Human Rights subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Standing Committee (SDIR) and the Senate Human Rights Committee (RIDR), were made by Just Peace Advocates with Justice for All, Friends of Kashmir Canada, Canadians for Justice and Peace in Kashmir, Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights, and Amnesty International Canada.

Op-eds from Just Peace Advocates regarding Kashmir included:

The Canada Files: [Canada stands idly by, as Kashmir passes a year of military occupation by India](#), Karen Rodman

Spring Magazine: [Kashmir's grim one-year lockdown anniversary](#), Michaela Rodman Lavis

Hill Times, [Canada has a duty to respond to human rights situation in Kashmir](#) by [Anam Zakaria and Michaela Lavis](#), August, 20, 2020

[Kashmir's grim one-year lockdown anniversary](#), Crescent International, Michaela Rodman Lavis

[A year of military lock down and Israeli style colonization in Kashmir](#), by Karen Rodman and Michaela Rodman Lavis, August 5, 2020, Mondoweiss

[A year later, Canada's silence on Kashmir is even more deafening](#), *Lack of media attention given to Kashmir remains striking* by Karen Rodman, Ricochet, August 5, 2020

Webinars regarding Kashmir in which Just Peace Advocates spoke included:

[Canada One](#) TV, Karen Rodman interviewed re Kashmir, August 4, 2020

[High Commission of Pakistan to Canada](#), Karen Rodman interviewed, August 5, 2020

[Kashmir: A Quest For Peace and Justice](#), May 10, 2020, Justice by All, Karen Rodman interviewed

Also, Let Kashmir Decide event, Michaela Rodman Lavis and Karen Rodman.

Radio interviews on Kashmir included:

[The Taylor Report](#) March 17, 2020, Karen Rodman interviewed, Michaela Rodman Lavis on earlier show.

[Unusual Sources](#): Karen Rodman and Michaela Lavis

Earlier op-ed: The Toronto Star, Michaela Lavis, January 2020, [During my Christmas in Kashmir, stories of survival, resistance, and pain](#)

Read [more](#).

Also, a number of statements and letters were signed onto by Just Peace Advocates that had been initiated by CPJK, Kashmiri Scholars Network and others.

Karen Rodman is also a director on the Canadians for Justice and Peace in Kashmir (CJPJK).

Online Webinar: “Canada’s silence on India’s colonization of Kashmir”



Thought to be the first ever event focused on Canada’s foreign policy in regard to Kashmir.

Over 1K engaged during the [October 22 event](#) with the [online webinar & live stream](#). The event coordinated by Just Peace Advocates, Canadian Foreign Policy Institute, Canadian for Peace and Justice in Kashmir, Friends of Kashmir Canada, Justice for All Canada, and rabble.ca had 25 groups that joined to endorse.

[View the webinar.](#)

Read more:

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/canadas-silence-on-indias-colonization-of-kashmir/>

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/canadas-silence-on-indias-colonization-of-kashmir-october-22-event/>

5. Gaza 20/20

The logo features the text "GAZA 2020*" in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the words "LIFT THE CLOSURE!" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with the exclamation mark being particularly large and prominent. The entire logo is set against a solid yellow background.

The Al-Haq [Gaza 20/20](#) campaign that Just Peace Advocates rolled out across Canada in 2018, continued in 2019 with 75 organizations endorsing the campaign through a specific call to the Canadian government to:

- publicly condemn Israeli security operations in Gaza and demand an end to all breaches of international humanitarian law and international human rights law;
- insist through the implementation of sanctions that Israel end its blockade of Gaza;
- implement an arms embargo, and press for a comprehensive arms embargo at the level of the UN Security Council;
- vote at the UNGA in alignment with the majority of the international community taking a stance in line with international law and human rights for Palestinians, recognizing this is important also in seeking a seat on the UNSC; and
- impose a ban on all goods originating from illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory entering Canada as well as a ban on Canadian companies operating in illegal settlements or trading in settlement goods.

[Read the letter 75 groups that signed.](#) In 2018, [100+ organizations](#) had signed an earlier statement that was not as explicit about calling for sanctions.

In June 2020, Al-Haq and other NGOs from Palestine put a push on this campaign related to “Lifting the Closure” on Gaza, including presentations at the UNHRC. There was also a petition to the UN Human Rights Council and member states. Just Peace Advocates took on the coordinating role to obtain Canadian organizations signing onto the UNHRC petition, as well as with letter writing to federal MPs.

[See more.](#)

The federal petition [parliamentary petition E-2565](#) sponsored by the Green Party of Canada’s MP Paul Manly also was in support of the Gaza 2020 call, although Manly would not include the call for sanctions. 2680 people signed the petition. Read [more](#).

[E-petition 3031](#) sponsored by the Liberal’s MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith is currently open, and calls for the end of the blockade on Gaza, but again not sanctions to hold Israel accountable.

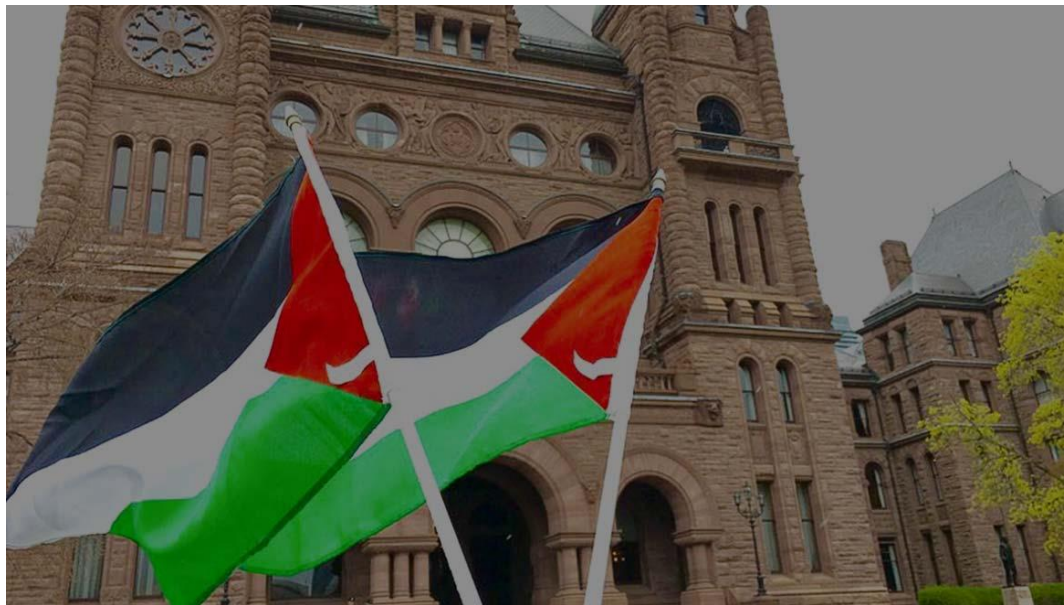
During the airstrikes in Gaza in August 2020, over 60 letters were sent to all federal members of Parliament and diplomats regarding the Israeli’s three weeks of airstrikes on the Palestinian

people of Gaza, and the ban of fuel resulting in electricity only being available for a few hours each day. See [Gaza airstrikes August 2020](#). Earlier about 80 letters were sent to Canadian elected officials in regard to [Gaza 2020 in relation to Land Day](#).

[Interview](#) with Jonathan Kuttat along with Miko Peled (go to 20 minute) re Gaza at end of 2020.

Al-Haq has moved forward with an [updated campaign](#) as 2020 comes to an end, and Just Peace Advocates will carry on with the continued call for ***Canada to implement sanctions against Israel based on international law (Article 1 for Fourth Geneva Convention) and domestic law (the Special Economics Measures Act) until not only the blockade on Gaza is lifted, but until the occupation ends, equal rights are in place in historic Palestine and the right of return is realized.***

6. [No to the IHRA definition silencing Palestine human rights](#)



A [brief was filed](#) by Just Peace Advocates with the Justice Policy Standing Committee of the Ontario legislature in regard to concerns about Bill 168 in Ontario, the proposed legislation calling for support of the [IHRA definition](#). Other organizations joined in including the Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights (CLAIR), the Ontario Law Union, the Palestinian Canadian Congress, and Palestine House. However, before the updated brief was submitted to the Justice Policy Committee, the Ontario government cancelled the hearings. In the end [over 30 organizations](#) joined the statement. The statement was provided to the Ontario NDP (ONDP) elected members of parliament and ONDP executive, but not filed with the Standing Committee

Earlier in the summer, [700+ letters sent to Ontario MPPs](#) in conjunction with Palestine House, calling elected member of the Ontario legislature to not support Bill 168. After the Ontario government did an end run implementing IHRA through Order-in-Council and cancelled the hearings for Bill 168, the ONDP was asked to support (or at least table a motion) denouncing IHRA, and calling for revoking of the OIC and the withdrawal of Bill 168. Indication was that no NDP member of the Ontario legislature could even

table such a motion. [400+ letters were written to the ONDP](#) elected member of provincial parliament as well as the ONDP executive denouncing the ONDP's stance, with the [Palestinian and Jewish Unity](#) (PAJU) organization joining with Just Peace Advocates in this effort.

Just Peace Advocates kept in touch with Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) in the actions above, and also supported IJV actions related to #NoIHRA, as well as joined the No-IHRA group of allies.

Op-Ed: [The dangerous Bill 168 must be stopped](#), August 2, 2020, The Canada Files

The statements:

Just Peace Advocates' submission to the Justice Policy Standing Committee

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/stop-bill-168-say-no-to-ihra-in-ontario/>

30+ organizations signed statement ready for Committee, but Committee cancelled the hearings

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/legal-civil-society-organizations-come-together-to-say-stop-bill-168/>

Following the invoking of [Order-in-Council 1450/2020](#), and the cancelling of late October 2020 [hearings on Bill 168](#), Just Peace Advocates

- i) focused on getting access to the transcripts and exposing the committee meetings.

Read: [Ontario government railroaded controversial IHRA definition behind closed doors, bypassing public input](#) Crescent International, November 13, 2020

- ii) getting a response from the Ontario Attorney General about what was really included in the Order-in-Council.

The deputy Attorney General confirmed that the Order-in-Council was *focused on matters within the discretion of a ministry of the Crown*.

Read more:

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/ontario-attorney-general-deputy-confirms-order-in-council-relates-to-ihra-matters-within-the-discretion-of-a-ministry-of-the-crown/>

- iii) Access to information request with the Cabinet Office, Premier's Office, Intergovernmental Affairs, Attorney General and Solicitor General

Initial requests suggest the pandemic is the reason for the cancelling of the Bill 168 hearing, which is not what the transcripts for the meeting would suggest nor what the ONDP has been saying.

Read more: [Ontario government denies public scrutiny of IHRA and Bill 168](#), December 23, 2020, Spring Magazine

7. Jerusalem: Working for the Palestinian Rights of those in Al Quds



Google search AP photo. Palestinian Flag on rooftop of home in Silwan, East Jerusalem

Just Peace Advocates has included a [focus on Al-Quds](#) including support of the work of the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem. In 2019 this included raising funds to support the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ) to attend the United Nations Commission for Human Rights Council in Geneva in September 2019, as well as programs in the summer of 2019 for the youth of Al Quds learning about their own narrative and leadership programs for the youth in communities facing complete destruction – [Wadi Yasoul and Silwan](#).

Read more about the situation in [East Jerusalem](#) (Al-Quds).

In 2020, the focus has been on providing support for the core legal defense work of the CCPRJ to prevent home evictions, raising \$4300 USA through two marathons, one for Al-Quds, and another one which included a [theme related to Daoud Kuttab's "Sesame Street, Palestine"](#) as well as through a webinar focused on Canadian foreign policy and Jerusalem on December 6.

Read:

[Toronto Marathon raised funds to support families facing evictions in East Jerusalem](#) also [Donate to self-isolation marathoner in support of those facing evictions in Al Quds/East Jerusalem](#)

[Sesame Street, Elmo runs for Palestine, raised \\$1200 USD](#)

Just Peace Mennonite also supported the [US event supporting](#) CCPRJ through the Palestine Israel Networks (PIN) and Friends of Sabeel North America by sharing information and encouraging donations.

On-line webinar “Threat to Al-Quds/Jerusalem”



Over 200 people joined online, and many others on the live stream, to hear about the current situation in Al-Quds from a stellar panel including:

Zakaria Odeh, executive director of the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem

Jonathan Kuttab, founder of Al-Haq, recognized international human rights lawyer

Dr. Yousef Al Natshi, director of the prestigious Department of Tourism and Archaeology at the al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem

Azeezah Kanji, legal academic and journalist

The event was organized by:

[Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem](#)

[Just Peace Advocates](#)

Canadian Council for Justice and Peace

[Canadian Foreign Policy Institute](#)

with

[50+ endorsing organizations](#)

MEDIA SPONSORS

[Spring Magazine](#)
[Media Review Network of South Africa](#)
[Crescent International](#)
[The Canada Files](#)

Read more:

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/the-threat-to-al-quds/>

Youtube of the event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z21NijlyW4g&t=12s>

Article re Al-Quds evictions <https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/forced-eviction-in-occupied-east-jerusalem/>

Raised \$2100 USD for CCPRJ which brought the total to \$4300 USD over the year. In support of the legal defense work to stop illegal Israeli evictions in Al-Quds.

Letter writing: over 100 letters written to [the Canadian government: regarding Jerusalem](#)

Liberal member of parliament Nathaniel Erskine-Smith supported [Petition to the Government Canada](#) which reads:

Whereas:

- Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) are unlawful under international law, as recognized by the United Nations Security Council, including in UN Security Resolution 2334 which reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law;
- Israeli occupation authorities have issued a decision to forcibly evict 400 Palestinians from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem;
- Israeli forces have demolished 176 Palestinian homes in occupied Jerusalem since the beginning of this year and approved the establishment of 17,000 settlement units in Jerusalem; and
- Under Article 1 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, all high signatories, of which Canada is one, are required to take actions to ensure that violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention do not occur under any circumstance.

We, the undersigned, **Residents of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to:

- call on Israel to stop its eviction of the Palestinian families in Sheik Jarrah, and its carrying out of the announced land settlement of title and registration policy in occupied East Jerusalem which will result in the permanent appropriation of Palestinian land by the State of Israel in flagrant violation of international law; and
- take steps required to stop Israel's violations of international law, including its continued building of settlements and forced displacement in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, and to end Israel's blockade of Gaza.

Media Coverage

Evictions of Palestinians threatens Jerusalem, December 4, Spring Magazine

Threats to Al-Quds and implications of Palestinian evictions, Crescent International, December 4

Canada's Complicity in Israeli Colonization of Al Quds exposed, Canada Files Staff, December 11

Also, Just Peace Advocates provided editing for statements made by CCPRJ to make materials more accessible, and also promoted the information through Just Peace Advocates website, social media and e-blasts. These included:

[Update on the Cable Car Legal Case in East Jerusalem](#)

[A comprehensive look at 53 years of settler colonization in East Jerusalem](#)

[Israel Police stormed the Yabous Cultural Center and Edward Said National Conservatory of Music](#)

[Forced Evictions in Occupied East Jerusalem](#)

8. #NoCanadians4IDF



The [October 19 complaint](#) was accompanied by an open letter signed by Noam Chomsky, Roger Waters, Ken Loach, former MP Jim Manly, as well as poet El Jones and author Yann Martel, and more than 170 Canadians as well as several others, asking Justice Minister David Lametti to investigate recruitment taking place in Canada for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Lametti has received nearly 1500 [letters from concerned individuals](#) about illegal Israeli military recruitment in Canada. The campaign was led by Just Peace Advocates, the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute and Palestinians and Jewish Unity.

In response, on [October 21](#), Lametti stated that foreign diplomats must respect Canadian law. He said the issue would be referred to the authorities: the police and Public Prosecutor for investigation.

It is a crime in Canada to recruit anyone for a foreign military. It is also a crime to aid and abet such recruitment by offering incentives and encouraging any person to serve in a foreign military.

The Foreign Enlistment Act, 11 (1) states, “Any person who, within Canada, recruits or otherwise induces any person or body of persons to enlist or to accept any commission or engagement in the armed forces of any foreign state or other armed forces operating in that state is guilty of an offence.”

The only exception would be the recruitment of Israeli citizens who are not Canadian.

On November 3, 2020, evidence was [provided directly to the RCMP](#) by attorney John Philpot. On November 19, the RCMP indicated to Philpot that the matter was under active investigation.

On January 3, 2021, additional evidence was provided to Rob O'Reilly, chief of staff for the office of the [RCMP Commissioner](#), regarding illegal Israeli military recruitment in Canada. Recently, the RCMP indicated they were investigating Israeli military recruitment taking place in Canada.

Read more:

October 19, 2020: the complaint, evidence, press release & actions.

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/no-illegal-israeli-military-recruiting-in-canada/>

Media coverage:

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/media-coverage-of-complaint-regarding-illegal-israeli-military-recruiting/> (media coverage)

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/omni-arab-interview-regarding-illegal-israeli-military-recruiting-in-canada/> (Arabic news)

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/le-devoir-reported-on-illegal-israeli-military-recruiting-in-canada/> (Le Devoir in English)

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201222-campaign-to-stop-canadian-citizens-joining-israeli-army-gathers-pace/> (Middle Eastern Monitor)

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/nora-barrows-friedman/israel-illegally-recruits-canadian-citizens-its-army> (Electronic Intifada)

[1450+ letters sent to Justice Minister Lametti with all federal members of parliament copied.](#)

Letter Campaign with the Palestinian and Jewish Unity (PAJU): [écrire Le Devoir: merci pour couverture du recrutement militaire israélien](#) saw about 50 letters sent in support of Le Devoir.

A [twitter storm](#) also took place.

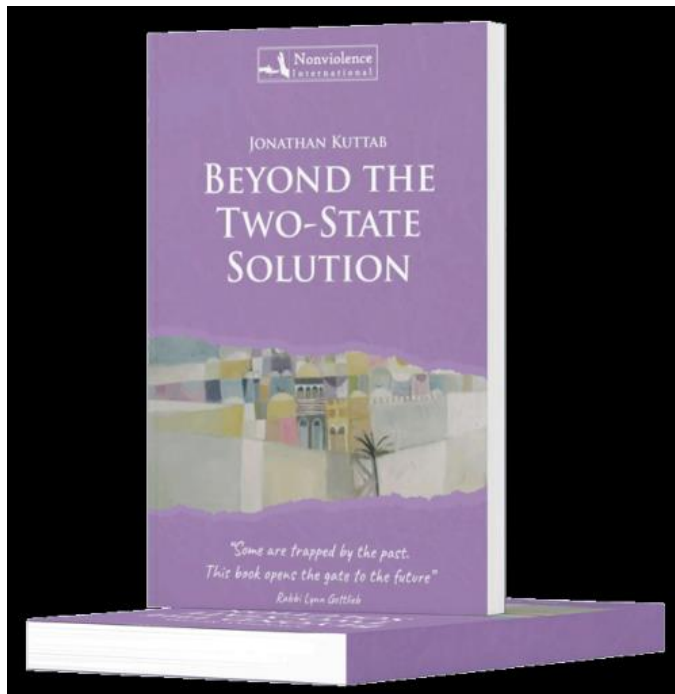
#NoCanadians4IDF

Following the submission of additional information to the RCMP, over 500 letters were written over the next day to the RCMP Commissioner:

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/complaint-sent-to-the-rcmp-regarding-foreign-recruiting-in-canada-for-the-israel-defense-forces/>

Several access requests have been submitted to the Canadian government and await reply.

9. Release of Jonathan Kuttab's "Beyond the Two State Solution"



Jonathan Kuttab's book "Beyond the Two State Solution" was released. Just Peace Advocates is fortunate to have Jonathan as one of its co-founders and current board member.

Jonathan Kuttab's decades of legal service and creative activism has led him to write this important book.

[Get your copy](#) and let us know what you think. To change the future, we must change the conversation. With this text and your help, we can do just that.

Zionism and Palestinian Nationalism have been at loggerheads for over a century. Some thought the two-state solution would resolve the situation in which Jonathan explains that the two-state solution is no longer viable. He suggests that any solution be predicated on the basic existential needs of the two parties, needs he lays out in exceptional detail. He formulates a way forward for a 1-state solution that challenges both Zionism and Palestinian Nationalism. This book invites readers to begin a new conversation based on reality: two peoples will need to live together in some sort of unified state. It is balanced and accessible to neophytes and to experts alike.

Just Peace Advocates has shared Jonathan's book with over 12+K, and has been in touch with elected member of parliament, and various leaders to introduce them to this critical book.

Just Peace Advocates was pleased to work with Nonviolence International in its original launch of Jonathan's book. Watch [HERE](#).

Events will be scheduled with Jonathan in early 2021.

10. Focus on Media Accountability

During 2020, Just Peace Advocates put a focus on media accountability, including monitoring and proactive response, as well as providing opinion editorials, press releases and media coverage.

A key focus was Canada's public broadcaster, CBC.

CBC owes the people of Palestine an apology



LOGO FOR THE CBC SHOW THE CURRENT (IMAGE: FACEBOOK)

The deletion and apology by CBC

On August 18, in an interview on the CBC's The Current, the guest anchor, Duncan McCue introduced his guest, Joe Sacco, referencing Sacco's work in Bosnia, Iraq and Palestine. Joe Sacco, is a graphic novelist, and the creator of a work called Palestine, and was being interviewed regarding colonization and resource extraction.

This deemed faux pas resulted in quite the flurry with CBC editors as they worked to scrub the word Palestine before the edition could play in time zones of Western Canada. The revised transcript introduced Sacco, saying "your work in conflict zones, Bosnia, Iraq" and closed out "Joe Sacco has spent his career telling stories from conflict zones from the Gaza Strip to Bosnia." Palestine was deleted.

Joe Sacco told Just Peace Advocates when asked about his thoughts about the CBC's actions:

It's ironic that the CBC would apologize for the use of the word "Palestine" for a segment about my book, whose subject is at least partly the attempted obliteration of the cultural identity of indigenous people of the Northwest Territories, particularly through the notorious residential school system. Imagine today if the First Nations people I talked to, the Dene, would be made to apologize for using their word "Denendeh", which means "The Land of the People," for describing where they live. To whom, exactly, was the CBC apologizing for using the word "Palestine"? If anything, this storm over a proper noun brings into relief a similar way the adherents of colonial-settler projects seek to suppress native peoples and then laud their dominance. I'm sure none of this is lost on either Canada's indigenous people or Canadian-Palestinians.

Just Peace Advocates letter writing:

Over 2,000 people have written to the CBC to condemn its deletion of the word “Palestine” and its subsequent apology for uttering it. Still, the broadcaster insists the word falls outside its standards.

Read article in Mondoweiss, September 11, 2020

<https://mondoweiss.net/2020/09/cbc-owes-the-people-of-palestine-an-apology/>

Read more:

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/the-cbc-continues-to-insist-palestine-is-against-cbc-language-standards/>

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/cbc-owes-the-people-of-palestine-an-apology-2/>

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/cbc-owes-the-people-of-palestine-an-apology-3/>

A follow up with the [Minister of Canadian Heritage](#) asking the federal government to take accountability for the CBC actions of erasing “Palestine resulted in almost 700 letters being sent. We thank one liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith for responding in support of CBC using the word “Palestine.”

While CBC is an independent Crown corporation responsible for managing its own operations, I wanted to note that Canada has long recognized the [Palestinian right to self-determination and the creation of a sovereign, independent Palestinian state](#). As this is the case, it would certainly make sense that our national broadcaster include “Palestine” in their language standards. Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, October 23, 2020

An official complaint was also made by Just Peace Advocates to the CBC Ombudsman.

CBC, the elephant you ignored in the UNSC defeat, the Israel factor



The Trudeau government’s voting record on Palestine at the UN undoubtedly contributed to its failure to gain a seat on the Security Council. However, the CBC remained largely silent about this.

230 people wrote the CBC—the National, the Current, the House, Power and Politics, and global affairs reports, asking them about CBC’s silence regarding **the role Canada’s stance on Palestine played in it’s failed Security Council bid.**

Read: [the letter](#)

After about 20 letters had been sent, Just Peace Advocates and others who were involved in the #NoUNSC4Canada campaign were asked by several members of the CBC if we could stop letters coming. The only response received was mention in one of those emails that the CBC has written about “the very issue”. Although the references were from the past, and not related to the UNSC lost bid, or the months leading up to the bid. The letters continued to be sent, with no further response from the CBC.

Memo to Bob Rae and Stephen Lewis: Palestine does matter

On September 20, Bob Rae, Canada’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and former Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis [spoke](#) to the **CBC’s Piya Chattopadhyay** about the UN’s 75th anniversary and the institution’s continued relevance in the world. Both Rae and Lewis talked about what can be done to protect multilateralism, but failed to critically address why Canada’s recent bid for a seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC) fell short.

Read the October 4, 2020 article in [Canadian Dimension](#)

Illegal act of hate targeting restaurant supporting Palestinians

300 letters were sent to Toronto Media.

A pro-Palestinian storefront, Foodbenders, was vandalized with supremacist graffiti in broad daylight. Despite being filmed doing so, nothing has happened to the perpetrators.

People asked [Toronto Media](#), why they had ignored reporting on this.

Toronto media receiving the letter included: the Star, the Globe and Mail, Toronto NOW, CP24, Toronto Life, and the CBC.

Media reporting on Palestine attacked by pro-Israel lobby

Along with holding media accountable for their “deleting,” silence and inaccuracy coverage related to Palestine, Just Peace Advocates worked with partners to support those media reporting related to Palestine which came under attack by pro-Israel lobby.

Le Devoir

When a pro-Israel group started a campaign against Le Devoir for its reporting on illegal Israeli military recruiting in Canada, Just Peace Advocates and Palestinian & Jewish Unity asked people to support Le Devoir’s principled journalism. About 50 people [écrire Le Devoir: merci pour couverture du recrutement militaire israélien](#).

St. John’s NTV and Telegram

On Saturday, July 4, St Johns, NL residents gathered at Confederation Building to protest Israel's proposed annexation of Palestinian lands. NTV and the Telegram provided coverage. When the pro-Israel lobby tried to discount the accurate reports on annexation made by NTV and the Telegram, Just Peace Advocates joined with [Solidarity With Palestine](#) to provide information about international law and support for the accurate reporting of NTV and Telegram of Israel's proposed annexation of Palestinian land. [About 40 people](#) wrote to NTV and the Telegram to thank them, and provide information.

Toronto Star and Globe & Mail: Canadian media repression of Palestine



Both the [Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star](#) treated the University of Toronto Law withdrawal of an offer of employment to human rights scholar Dr Valentina Azarova as an isolated scandal of procedural interference, **obscuring the broader and escalating climate of silencing regarding Palestine of which this is just one manifestation.** Over [600 letters](#) were sent to the Globe and Mail, and the Toronto Star saying this is not just an isolated scandal, and that this is part of the campaign related to silencing on Palestine.

Media Alerts

Regular monitoring to hold the Canadian media accountable for accurate coverage related to Palestine. Please check in for analysis and steps you can take to respond when inaccurate and shoddy reporting happens.

Check out: [media alerts](#) were put in place by Just Peace Advocates.

Media coverage:

During the year coverage of work by Just Peace Advocates was included in Canadian and international media such as Le Devoir, Radio-Canada, the Hill Times, the Star, Al Jazeera, Arab News, Electronic Intifada, Indus, Palestine TV and others. This included reports and published articles and interviews. Over 30 op-ed were published in a variety of media such as the Toronto Star, Canadian Dimension, rabble.ca, Mondoweiss, Ricochet, Canada Files, Spring Magazine and others.

Media coverage

Kashmir

[More than a dozen items](#) with highlights including:

Toronto Star, Michaela Lavis, January 2020, [During my Christmas in Kashmir, stories of survival, resistance, and pain](#)

Hill Times, [Canada has a duty to respond to human rights situation in Kashmir](#) by [Anam Zakaria and Michaela Lavis](#)

Canada Lost its UNSC bid



Check out a few of [several dozen](#) articles, op-ed, interviews related to #NoUNSC4Canada, and the blow delivered to the Israel lobby by the international community. A few highlights included:

[Canada's UN Security Council defeat a victory for international law](#), June 25, Arab News, Father Robert Assaly

[Canada seated on Security Council could constitute a setback for a rules -based order](#) Robert Assaly, Published by [The Hill Times](#), June 8, 2020

Interview with Indus News with Peggy Mason, Rideau Center, Corey Balsam, Independent Jewish Voices, and Karen Rodman of Just Peace Advocates on the Canadian lost bid for UN Security Council seat. [#NoUNSC4Canada](#) Starts at 13 minutes. [Indus News](#)

[Canada does not deserve a seat at the UN Security Council](#) *If allowed into the council, Canada will act as an 'Israeli asset' and contribute to the erosion of international law* by [Jonathan Kuttub](#), June 16, 2020, Al Jazeera

[UN snub the latest in Liberals' rancid record](#) The Star By [Rick Salutin](#) Contributing Columnist, Fri., June 26, 2020 (used Just Peace Advocates research, although not cited).

Media coverage of complaint regarding illegal Israeli military recruiting

Check out some of the [coverage highlights](#) related to the evidence provided to Minister Lametti on October 19, 2020, including [front page coverage in Le Devoir](#)



Check out [press release and media coverage](#) related to January 3 evidence delivered to RCMP for their investigation into illegal recruitment for Israeli military.

More Media

In addition, Just Peace Advocates worked to provide coverage to areas not covered widely. This included op-eds, articles and press releases.

During the year, Just Peace Advocates created a press release group of about 3 K media in Canada and internationally which has been used for Just Peace Advocates, in partnership with and support of other organizations.

One of these included:

Peace Groups call upon Canadian Government to condemn assassination of Iranian scientist
[Press release](#) sent to 3K media



Just Peace Advocates, the Canadian Council for Justice and Peace and the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute denounce the targeted assassination of Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, Iran’s top nuclear scientist and physicist, in Tehran on November 27, 2020.

Another example included how two press releases were sent on behalf of Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War regarding the “Free Meng Wanzhou,” a campaign and webinar that Just Peace Advocates also supported.

Other media coverage

Palestinian-Israeli Coordination

[Ending Palestinian-Israeli Coordination Is Hard to Do](#) Jonathan Kuttab, December 15, 2020, Arab Center Washington

Normalization between Israel and Morocco

[Canada welcomes normalization between Israel and Morocco](#) December 18, 2020, Karen Rodman, rabble.ca

Palestine TV: International Day of Solidarity

[Statement of solidarity](#) from Just Peace Advocates and the Canadian BDS Coalition.

Annexation

[A comprehensive look at 53 years of settler colonization in East Jerusalem](#) article by Jonathan Kuttab, Mondoweiss, with an article original written for Arab Centre in Washington DC

[How will annexation change the legal landscape in the West Bank?](#) Electronic Intifada, Jonathan Kuttab, July 2020

In this regard [letter sent to Canadian Members of Parliament: Sanctions regardless of Annexation](#). About 65 letters were sent to all MPs and diplomats calling for Sanctions on whether or not formal annexation proceeds.

Coverage of the [Canadian Christian response](#) regarding Palestine

Christian organizations in Palestine were part of the [2005 civil society](#) boycott, divestment and sanctions call, and have reached out for support over the last fifteen years including explicitly to the international Christian community. In June 2017, the 50-year mark of military occupation, [The National Coalition of Christian Organizations in Palestine \(NCCOP\)](#) said “We need brave women and men who are willing to stand in the forefront. This is no time for shallow diplomacy Christians.”

Palestinians should not have to wait any longer to hear these words coming from Canada’s Christian communities. Anything less is a betrayal of the people of Palestine, and certainly not showing integrity to the Christian call from Palestine to the international community.

[Check out](#) the op-eds, documentation and research related to the Canadian Christian history and current stance related to Palestine, including the 1973 agreement between B’nai Brith and the United Church of Canada.

Keep up to date through Just Peace Advocates:

Media Center

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/media-center/>

Media alert and monitoring

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/media-alerts/>

What’s New

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/news/>

Other areas:

[No Military Law for Children](#)



This work is supportive of Defence for Children International Palestine (DCIP)’s “No Way to Treat a Child,” and the “No Way to Treat a Child” campaign that was brought to Canada in 2017 via those who

later started Just Peace Advocates. This initial launch saw over 40+ organizations engaged in the DCIP “No Way to Treat a Child in Canada.”

Subsequently, Just Peace Advocates’ focus is on child detainees in IOK as well as in oPt. Read more [No Military Law for Any Children - Just Peace Advocates](#)

Following the Human Rights delegation to Azad Jammu and Kashmir, initial work with regards to campaigns related to children detainees in Indian occupied Kashmir took place with Defence for Children International (DCI), Amnesty International, the ICRC and others, however, with Covid-19, this work was put on hold.

Follow up also occurred with the federal New Democratic Party in regard to the emergency resolution their executive had committed to follow up on at their February 2018 convention related to No Way to Treat a Child campaign 2018. Initially responses during 2018-2019 was that the resolution would be addressed, but in 2020 the NDP went entirely silent. About 400 people wrote to [Jagmeet & the NDP team: to remind them of 2018 commitment for Palestinian child detainees.](#)

Focus on Prisoners

Over 150 letters were sent to Canadian government regarding Prisoners in Israeli occupied Palestine and Indian occupied Kashmir. See: [2020 Prisoner Day](#)

[#FreeMahmoud](#) about 300 letters were sent to all Canadian MPs with call for the BNC (BDS National Committee)

Coordinator and other human rights defenders are to be released.

Ongoing BDS work included support of the Puma Campaign

[Puma](#)

Fund raising to support World Vision work in Palestine

On November 22, \$10 K was raised, through 100 KM ultramarathon @RussellTheRunner [Read more](#)

Media coverage:

<https://www.beachmetro.com/2020/11/06/beach-ultramarathoner-russell-lavis-to-run-100-kilometres-this-saturday-to-raise-funds-for-world-vision-canada/>

Over 2 million letters sent since April 2020

Just Peace Advocates hosted 30+ letter writing campaigns from April to December 2020, that reached well [over 2M recipients](#), with 12.5+K letters sent. Several of these were with partners.

Over 30 separate letters have been sent, including to the federal government, Ontario government, political parties, the RCMP, the CBC and other media, and to United Nations Ambassadors.

Elected members of the federal government received approx. 5,000 letters each.

United Nations Ambassadors received over 2K letters each.

See the letters [HERE](#). Many of these are still available should you wish to write.

Letter writing outreach from April to August resulted in [1 M+ letters sent](#).

Just Peace Advocates statements included:

In solidarity with [Black Lives Matter](#)

[Canadian organizations join to send urgent appeal to UN Special Procedures on the wilful killing of Ahmad Erekat](#)

[Statement to Toronto City Council regarding Toronto Police Services](#)

[Calling for Justice for Ejaz Choudry](#)

- **FREE MENG WANZHOU** JPA sent two press releases (3K list)

Webinars

A [new website](#) has been put in place for Just Peace Advocates, and it includes the [Palestine Legal Resources Canada](#) intake and resource center.

Campaigns

Check out [past](#) and [ongoing](#) campaigns.

[Resources](#)

Just Peace Advocates provides research articles and papers, as well as articles that have been published in various media. The work of Just Peace Advocates is accomplished through research, monitoring, education, communications, advocacy, programs and services, and to that end we provide material to hopefully help in the understanding, analysis and taking action in supporting human rights, international law and rule of law accountability.

[Research](#)

Just Peace Advocates supports research-based advocacy. This begins with the facts that further the principles of human rights and international law. Information to support Just Peace Advocates core work associated with advocacy, communication, and related campaigns requires research and education.

During early 2020, [Just Peace Advocates](#) updated its website. This includes an accessible list of resources that are available in regard to both Palestine and Kashmir.

Also, a number of access requests were made with all three levels of government. This work informs the research, programs and educational efforts of Just Peace Advocates

[Internship Opportunities](#)

Just Peace Advocates welcomed two interns in 2020. Just Peace Advocates welcome interns and volunteers who are passion about social justice, human rights and international law, as it relates to the mandate of Just Peace Advocates' areas of focus on justice, communication, advocacy, policy and action/campaigns.

Newsletters

[You can subscribe to newsletter](#)

[You can review past newsletters](#)

Donations

Just Peace Advocates is a registered not-for-profit corporation in Canada. We are not applying for charitable status as we believe our work for justice should not be compromised.

[Donations](#) to **Just Peace Advocates** allows for the core legal, advisory, policy, and programs in support of a civil society voice focused on government, institutional and society's accountability to the rule of law, and the standards of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Contributions are important in ensuring public policy interests for equity for all people, including those of Palestine and Kashmir, are advanced through strong national and international networks that build effective relationships with government, media, Canadian civil society, including all faith and ethnic groups, and supporters of human rights and international law.

Donations are made by individual contributors who value our work, along with contributions for events and specific campaigns. At this point, the organization operates on volunteers and very minimal costs, and has a very small donation basis with most donations being specific to support for partners in Palestine that Just Peace Advocates supports.

Leadership

<https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/leadership/>

Our Location

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