



JUST PEACE ADVOCATES
Mouvement pour une paix juste

September 24, 2025

Dear Paul-Claude,

We are reaching out to you as concerned members of the community, with specific connections to the ongoing genocide in Gaza. We write to you as legal experts, human rights leaders, faith leaders, athletes, journalists, artists, academics, and other concerned human rights advocates. We write to you as doctors who have worked in Gaza over the last two years, who have seen the ethnic cleansing, the maiming, the starvation, the indiscriminate killing with our own eyes. We write to you as Palestinian mothers, who are fighting day and night to protect our children, to survive, not knowing if what will kill us will be a bomb or starvation.

We are writing with deep concern and a heartfelt plea to use your position as Vice President of Canada Soccer to:

1. Publicly demand that FIFA and UEFA suspend the Israel Football Association (IFA).
2. Refuse to host the 2026 World Cup in good faith while Israel continues to enjoy impunity.

We know you have a long history of involvement in various human rights campaigns, including being retained by the United Nations Human Rights Commission multiple times. We also recognize your close ties to the community as former mayor, commissioner of the regional school board, and vice-president of the regional health authority, and now Executive Director of COPHAN

Your biography states that your “**passion for human rights** is matched only by [your] passion for soccer.” We ask, will you allow your passion for human rights to compel you to take action as this intersects with your second passion, soccer?

As an expert in governance, you understand the power you and Canada Soccer hold. Too often, people feel helpless, lost, alone, and confused — because they believe there is nothing they can do in the face of grave injustice. But right now, there is something you can do.

As someone who has received two honorary doctorates for your “sustained commitment to the rights of people with disabilities” and as the previous head of Accessibility Standards Canada, we ask you to speak up and act against the mass disabling event that is Israel's genocide in Palestine. It is incongruent to claim to support disabled people, while staying silent while hundreds of thousands of individuals are disabled through violent and targeted armed violence. Further, Israel's mass disablement is not isolated to the last two years.¹ It is [an integral part of Israel's occupation and apartheid system](#). For instance, in 2018, the [Palestinian Amputee Football Association](#) was founded after Israel intentionally disabled thousands of young people in the Great March of Return protests. The "Israeli military instituted a shoot-to-maim policy, causing more than 6,000 injuries, mostly to the lower limbs."



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This is not the first time FIFA would be taking such an action. South Africa was suspended from FIFA in 1961 and the [South Africa Football Association was expelled from FIFA in 1976](#). FIFA must be held accountable for the [failure to follow their own policies](#), to begin [demanding they suspend the IFA](#).

The reality that Israel's campaign is a genocide against Palestinians, has been documented by well-respected international organizations, including the UN and Amnesty International. While Israel has officially killed more than 64,522 [people and injured over](#) 163,096 at the time of this letter, the true [numbers are likely much higher. One Israeli professor recently used Israeli military data](#) to reveal 377,000 Palestinians unaccounted for.

Currently, only about a third of health facilities in Gaza remain **partially** functional. Our colleagues in Palestine and Lebanon have been targeted; over 1400 of them have been killed since October 2023. They have been working in unimaginable conditions, all while risking arrest, detention, torture and death. The events are a continuation of apartheid policies that have been systematically enacted against Palestinians over the past 75 years.

But that is not all. As Issam Khalidi writes in "[The Destruction of Sports Infrastructure in Gaza](#)": "Since October 2023, athletes and sports infrastructure have been impacted by the genocidal assault that Israel has inflicted on Gaza's people and its built environment. In addition to the athletes and coaches who have been killed, sports clubs and arenas have been destroyed, and stadiums used for mass arrests and mass graves."

Allowing the IFA to continue unabated not only violates international and Canadian law, it also breaches Canada Soccer and FIFA policies. For instance, Canada Soccer's Code of Conduct and Ethics requires adherence to federal, provincial, municipal, and host country laws. The IFA violates international law (as well as FIFA policies) by sponsoring football teams based in the Israeli settlements. This is a war crime. FIFA is allowing a genocidal apartheid occupying regime into the game. As already noted, the IFA is not innocent nor are they bystanders; neither are their players. Israeli footballers are all part of the Israeli military, and many have made genocidal statements on their social media.

As of February 2025, Israel had [killed at least 724 athletes](#), including 382 footballers. [Iyad al-Aklou, an 18-year-old midfielder/forward for Gaza City's Al-Sadaqa Club](#) (which Israel bombed), said: "Football was my childhood. Before the war on Gaza, I had a sound body and used to play well. I loved socializing with people outside and spending time with them." [Mehdi al-Nawasra, a 27-year-old former defender for Khadamat Al-Maghazi FC](#), was injured in an airstrike on his home which killed his entire family, 48 relatives in total. Nearly a year after his right leg was amputated, he said: "I always relished football. Playing for me was pure happiness. But I can't play the game as before, I can't even walk and work as before...I lost my family, my football career, my house, my leg. My message to FIFA and all sports organizations is that we're like anyone across the globe. We must be a priority for you."



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You have the unique privilege of making a tangible impact on the lives of Palestinians in Gaza, including those of us who write to you here. We are fighting for our lives, our childrens' tears do not stop, they hide in the closet to sleep trying to (unsuccessfully) avoid the sounds of the bombs. Our children do not have days or months to wait for action.

On behalf of,

Maryam, Palestinian mother in Gaza

Noor, Palestinian mother in Gaza

Charlotte Phillips, Football Player, Palestinian Women's National Team, York University

Odette Dabit, grandmother to 3 Football players, playing for the Palestinian Football Team

Abubaker Abed, Journalist, Independent

Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Senate of Canada

Leyla Hamed, Sports Journalist

Michael Lynk, Former UN Special Rapporteur, Professor Emeritus, Western University

Leilani Farha, Former UN Special Rapporteur - Housing

Richard Falk, Former UN Special Rapporteur, Palestine, Princeton University (emeritus)

Jonathan Kuttab, Lawyer, FOSNA, Just Peace Advocates

Maria Fakhouri, Canadian Psychotherapist

Muna Saleh, Palestinian Academic, Concordia University of Edmonton

Chris Giannou, Former Surgeon with Palestine Red Crescent Society

Mazin Qumsiyeh, Professor, Bethlehem University

John Philpot, Attorney, Just Peace Advocates

Nicholas Pope, Human Rights Lawyer, Hameed Law

Yipeng Ge, Family Doctor

Neve Gordon, Professor of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Queen Mary University of London

James Yap, International Human Rights Lawyer

Miriam Meir, Public Health Nurse who worked with Palestinian children & youth, IJV Canada

Dr. Heidi Matthews, Assistant Professor & Co-Director, International & Transnational Law Intensive Program, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Hamam Farah, Registered Psychotherapist

Roger Waters, Musician, Mr 100000

Gabor Maté, M.D., CM

Nathan Kalman-Lamb, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of New Brunswick

Dr. El Jones, Mount Saint Vincent University

Harsha Walia, Author, L.LB

Khaled Quzmar, Palestine

David Mivasair, Rabbi, Independent Jewish Voices Canada

Leila Sansour, Fimmaker and journalist

Bruce Katz, Co-president, Palestinian and Jewish Unity



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Chadi Marouf, Co-president, Palestinian and Jewish Unity
Kathleen Ruff, Former Director, Canadian Court Challenges Program
Susan Power, Head of Legal Research and Advocacy, Al-Haq

Abbas Hachem
Abdallah Grifat, Student, Palestine
Abdul Pirani, Member, Council of Canadians
Adam Isaacs, Student, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Adam Klatt, Concerned citizen
Afra Seddiq, Corporate Communications Manager
Ahmed Husseini, Activist and participant in "March to Gaza", Canadians for Palestine
Alberto Toscano, Academic, Simon Fraser University
Amanda Aziz, Lawyer, Migrant Workers Centre
Ambal Resch, Finance
Amine Tarabey
Amy Miller, Director, Producer
Andreas Papamichail, Senior Lecturer in Global Health, Queen Mary University of London
Angel Sukkau, Clinical Counsellor
Anne Bryce, Retired Nurse who worked in Palestine, NHS
Anne Roberts, Former Vancouver City Councillor, City of Vancouver
Anne Savage, Retired University Professor, McMaster University
Annette Lengyel, Human Rights Advocate
Anthony O'Brien, Professor & Spurs fan, Queens College, CUNY (ret.)
Antisar Hlil
Asaf Rashid, Lawyer, Asaf Rashid Law
Ashley Dawson, Professor, City University of New York
Asma Jawad Mousa, Translator
Avi Lewis, NDP Leadership Candidate
Aycha Hamaoui, Coach and Educator
Benjamin Robinson, Academic, Indiana University Bloomington
Benjamin Thomson, Physician
Benoît Allard, Porte-parole, collectif Désinvestir pour la Palestine
Bianca Mugenyi, Co-founder, Canadian Foreign Policy Institute, Canadian Foreign Policy Institute
Brad Jolly, Lawyer
Bruce "Sasha" Lofquist, EPInc
Carly Greenberg, Supporter
Cathy Gulkin, Documentary Filmmaker
Chelsea Otero, Activist
Chen Chen, Assistant Professor of Sport Management, University of Connecticut
Cheryl Gaster, LL.B., C. Med



Christopher Gunness, Director, The Myanmar Accountability Project
Clayton Thomas-Müller, Author
Cory Greenlees, Activist, Victoria Peace Coalition
Courtney Ratt-McDougall, Registered Practical Nurse
Dale Dewar, Physician & Professor, Family Medicine
Dan Maitland, Retired volunteer youth soccer coach, Guelph Youth Soccer
Daniel J. Kuhlen
Daphne McCulloch, Professor, University of Waterloo
Dave Diewert, Retired Ccademic
David Carment, Full Professor, Carleton University
David Low, Reverend
David Palumbo-Liu, Professor, Human Rights Scholar, Stanford University
David Rifat, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto
Debbie Hubbard, Citizen
Deborah Jean Phelan, Retired Educator
Demetrios Koutsoufis, Artist, Artistes Pour La Paix (APLP)
Desmond Anthony Sequeira, Systemic Social Justice Advocate, Niagara Movement for Justice in Palestine/Israel (NMJPI)
Diana Fahad Albawab, Technical manager, Construction
Dianne Varga, Writer
Dimitri Lascaris, Lawyer
dina al-kassim, Writer
Don Wright, Human rights advocate
Dorothy Field
Douglas Jack, Community Designer, Sustainable-Development-Association (Canadian Non-Profit 1994) & Indigene Community 1983
Dr. Bruce Robertson, Medical Doctor, Retired
Dr. David Maxwell, Physician
Dr. Mounir Samy, Child Psychiatrist who has worked in Canada, Retired Associate Professor, McGill University
Dr. Nahid Azad, Physician, University of Ottawa
Dr. Sally Mahood, Physician, RQHR
Dr. Susan Diane, Retired
E. Gillian Darling, Documentary Filmmaker Retired, Independent
Edwin Janzen, Writer and visual artist
El Yafi Nahila, MD Ophthalmologist
Elizabeth Lee, Activist
Elizabeth Morris, Teacher & Grassroots Political Activist, 2 Rivers 4 Palestine
Ellen Woodsworth, Former City Council and Co President WILPF Canada, City of Vancouver
Enver Domingo, Member, Ontario Palestinian Rights Association
Erin Peters, Educator



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Eva Jewell, Associate Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University
Farhan Hasan Zaidi
Faried Vallie, University of Stellenbosch
Frances Combs, Clergy, United Church of Canada
Frances E Hunt, R.N. Retired
Fred Hahn, CUPE Ontario
Gary Engler, Retired Vancouver Sun Associate Sports Editor
Georgina Kirkman, Concerned citizen
Gillian Wallace, PhD
Gonzalo Boye, Lawyer, Former Head of the Legal Unit of the Palestinian Football Association
Gordon Doctorow, Retired Academic, Nova Southeastern University, Independent Jewish Voices
Gur Tsabar, Spokesperson, Jews Say No to Genocide Coalition
Hadaf Zubi, Healthcare Analytics Developer, CAMH
Hans ModlichRe, Retired Engineer
Harold Shuster, Decent Human Being
Harry Smaller, Assoc. Professor Emeritus, York University
Hind, CEO
Hussein Mohamedali
Ian Elford, Lawyer
Ibrahim Danial, Lawyer
Idrisa Pandit, Academic
Ildi Varga
Jacob Norris, Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History, University of Sussex
Jalal Kawash, Academic
James Dickins
James Kafieh, Lawyer
Jase Tanner, Filmmaker
Jayce Salloum, Filmmaker
Jean Lessard, Academic, Université de Sherbrooke
Jenn Grant, Singer Songwriter, Jenn Grant Music
Jennifer McSporran, Advocate for Palestinian human rights
Jeremy Wildeman, PhD
Jess Nachman, Sport Sociology student, York University
Jessica Ball, Professor Emerita, Director of Early Childhood Development Intercultural Partnerships, University of Victoria
Jill Clark-Gollub, Peace Activist, Americas Without Sanctions
Jill Thomson, Campaigner, Scottish Sport for Palestine
John Grant, Citizen
John Liss, Lawyer
John Maerhofer, Professor, Rutgers University
John Robert Young, PhD, Independent academic



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Jonathan Mitchell, Author
Jord Samolesky, Musician
Jorge Filmus, University Professor, University of Toronto
Joshua Sealy-Harrington, Associate Professor & Chair in Palestinian Human Rights in Canada, University of Windsor, Faculty of Law
Joyce Frohn, Religious person
Judy Rebick, Writer, Activist
Karen Rodman, Board Member, Just Peace Advocates
Karim Mattar, Academic, University of Colorado at Boulder
Kathy Wazana, Documentary filmmaker who has done projects in Gaza, Documentary Organization of Canada
Ken Stone, Treasurer, Hamilton Coalition To Stop The War
Kevin Gould, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
Kevin Neish, ISM human shield in Gaza and the West Bank, International Solidarity Movement
Kevin Skerrett, Adjunct Research Professor, Carleton University
Khaled Mouammar, Former Member, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Kieran Conway, Family Physician
Kjell Anderson, Associate Professor of Law, University of Manitoba
Kurtis Peters, Academic, UBC
Lana Robinson, Quaker Delegate to KAIROS' Faith Leaders trip to Palestine/ Israel 2019
Larry Hannant, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Victoria
Larry Neufeld, Activist
Laura Avalos
Lawrence Sutherland, Activist
Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Independent Scholar, Writer
Leda Raptis, Professor, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.
Libby Davies, Former Member of Parliament
Linda Mae Scherzinger, Retired United Church minister, United Church of Canada
Lisa Loader, Lawyer
Lorraine Michael, Former Leader of a Canadian Political Party
Luna Khirfan, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo
Lynette Bondarchuk, Trustee, Edmonton Small Press Assn
Mahmoud Ayoub
Malek, Academic, McGill University
Malini Johar Schueller, Academic
Maria Ines Trabal Luisi, Medical Doctor
Maria Landi, Human Rights Activist, BDS Uruguay
Marie Lloyd, Former Secondary Teacher
Marilyn Porter, Academic and activist, Memorial University
Marion Pollack, Retiree
Marissa van Rensburg, OR Tambo School of Leadership, South Africa



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Mark David Mandel, Academic, Université du Québec à Montréal
Martin Duckworth, Retired Film-maker, Independent
Martin Jansen, Palestine Solidarity Campaign
Mary Girard
Mary Mouammar, Former Member, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Maryem Tollar, Musician
Mathew Hannouche, Physician and Academic, McGill University
Matthew David Webster, Retired Humanities/Education Teacher, University of British Columbia
Maud McInerney, Professor, World Cup Fan, Haverford College
Maung Zarni, Genocide Scholar and Human Rights Activist, Force of Renewal Southeast Asia
Michael Letwin, Former President, Association of Legal Aid Attorneys/UAW 2325; Co-Convener, Labor for Palestine National Network
Michel Habib, Academic
Michelle Hartman, McGill University
Mohamed Boudjenane, Canadian Arab Federation
Mohamedou Houbeini
Mohammad Abu Amerah, Individual, الحارة الرائدة لاعادة التدوير
Mohammad Fadel, Professor of Law, University of Toronto Faculty of Law
Ali Mallah, Board Member, Just Peace Advocates
Muazzam Orakzai
Muhannad Ayyash, Professor of Sociology, Mount Royal University
Murtuza Khoja, MK
Nahla Abdo, Chancellor's Professor, Carleton University
Nasreen Dindar, Concerned south african, Qonce PSF
Nayzaar Reeyaad, Manager, James Cook University
Neil Balan, PhD, Contract Teaching Faculty, Social Justice & Community Studies, SMU & WLU
Nyla Matuk, Author
Paul Salvatori, Journalist
Penny Green, Professor of Law, Executive Member Gaza Tribunal, Queen Mary University of London
Penny Oyama, Retired Nurse
Peter Chidiac, PhD, Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Western Ontario
Peter Eglin, Retired Academic, Author and Human Rights Activist, Wilfrid Laurier University
Peter Purich, Technical Writer (retired)
Prof. Omar M. Ramahi
Raj Chetty, Academic, St. John's University
Rajah al Sur
Ralph Ghoche, Professor, Barnard College, Columbia University
Rashmi Luther, Academic who visited Gaza in 2009, Carleton University
Rebecca Steckle, Registered Nurse (non-practicing), Staff, Just Peace Advocates
Reem Jundi
Regina Kopty, Retired,



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Rehab Nazzal, Artist and Filmmaker
Richard Alexandre Wazana, Lawyer
Richard Darville, Retired Academic
Robert Kent, Academic
Robert Lyons, Former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Province of Saskatchewan
Robert Massoud, Founder, Zatoun, Fair trade olive oil from Palestine
Roc Rochon, Assistant Professor, Pacific University
Ryan Kirkby, Coordinator, Watermelon Foundation for Justice
S Teac, CoModerator, Selfop
S. Rayes, Retired Lawyer
Saima Jamal, Social Activist & Co-Founder, Calgary Immigrant Support Society
Saira Sayeed, Concerned citizen
Sajjad Sayeed, Limitless canada
Sally Campbell, Mediator & Lawyer, Retired
Salma C, Political staff
Salman Naqvi, Founder, Freedom Advocacy Network
Sara avMaat, Former accompanier with EAPPI, Ecumenical Accompaniment Program of World Council of Churches
Sara C Rans
Sara Farhan
Sara Flounders, Co-Director: International Action Center
Sean Tucker, Professor of Occupational Health and Safety, UBC and University of Regina
Sharon Burns
Shaun Narine, Professor, St. Thomas University
Shoak Alhussami, Syrian Justice Interviewer, Attorney General of BC
Steffen Lauge Sørensen
Stephen Sheehi, Sultan Qaboos Professor of Middle East Studies, William and Mary
steven jordan
Sufiya Mary Reid
Susan Stout, Supporter
Sydney Foran, Social Worker
Tamara Lorincz, Academic, Wilfrid Laurier University
Teresa Diewert, High School Teacher; Grandmother of 6 football payers
Terry Engler
Thomas Craig Brown, Professor Emeritus, Simon Fraser University
Tiffany Mcdougall, Academic
Tom Baker, Veterinary Epidemiologist, Retired
Travis Frampton, Registered Nurse
Valerie Zink, Photojournalist
Violet Rosengarten, Artist, Art Educator & Artist
Walter Thomas Beckett, Human Rights Activist, Solidarity with Palestine - St. John's



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Waterloo Region Friends of Palestine, Pro-Palestine Supporters

Yasmin Jiwani, Professor Emeritus, Concordia University

Yves Engler, Author, Canadian Foreign Policy Institute

Ziyaad Patel, South African Lawyer / International Human Rights and lawfare advocate, Ziyaad E Patel Attorneys

¹ Ashly, "How Israel Is Disabling Palestinian Teenagers," Al Jazeera, September 21, 2017, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2017/9/21/how-israel-is-disabling-palestinian-teenagers>; "Gaza's 'Great March of Return,' Six Months On," Amnesty International, October 19, 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/10/gaza-great-march-of-return/>; "The Targeting of Palestinian Youth in Dheisheh Refugee Camp Continues," BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, accessed March 16, 2025, <https://badil.org/press-releases/912.html>; *What Is Kneecapping?*, 2024, <https://english.almayadeen.net/videos/what-is-kneecapping>; Bethan McKernan and Hazem Balousha, "Gaza Strip Protesters Received Bullet Wounds to Ankles, Medics Report," *The Guardian*, October 4, 2023, sec. World news, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/04/gaza-strip-protesters-received-bullet-wounds-to-ankles-medics-report>; "Israel: Stop Shooting at Gaza Civilians | Human Rights Watch," April 24, 2014, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/04/24/israel-stop-shooting-gaza-civilians>; Ghassan Abu-Sitta and Jasbir Puar, "Israel Is Trying to Maim Gaza Palestinians into Silence," Al Jazeera, March 31, 2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2019/3/31/israel-is-trying-to-maim-gaza-palestinians-into-silence>; "Israel Deliberately Injures and Maims Palestinian Civilians, Prevents Evacuation of Wounded, and Denies Access to Vital Healthcare Facilities Outside the Gaza Strip," accessed March 16, 2025, <https://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/6243.html>; "Israel: Collective Punishment against Palestinians | Human Rights Watch," February 2, 2023, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/02/02/israel-collective-punishment-against-palestinians>.



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24 septembre 2025

Cher Paul-Claude,

Nous vous écrivons en tant que membres concernés de la communauté, particulièrement touchés par le génocide en cours à Gaza. Nous vous écrivons en tant qu'experts juridiques, défenseurs des droits humains, chefs religieux, athlètes, journalistes, artistes, universitaires et autres défenseurs concernés par la question des droits humains. Nous vous écrivons en tant que médecins ayant travaillé à Gaza au cours des deux dernières années, ayant été témoins de nos propres yeux du nettoyage ethnique, des mutilations, de la famine et des meurtres aveugles. Nous vous écrivons en tant que mères palestiniennes, qui luttons jour et nuit pour protéger nos enfants, pour survivre, sans savoir si ce qui nous tuera sera une bombe ou la famine.

Nous vous écrivons avec une profonde inquiétude et un appel sincère à utiliser votre position de vice-président de Canada Soccer pour :

1. Exiger publiquement que la FIFA et l'UEFA suspendent l'Association israélienne de football (IFA).
2. Refuser d'accueillir la Coupe du monde 2026 en toute bonne foi tant qu'Israël continue de jouir de l'impunité.

Nous savons que vous vous engagez depuis longtemps dans diverses campagnes en faveur des droits humains, notamment en tant que membre de la Commission des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies. Nous reconnaissons également vos liens étroits avec la communauté en tant qu'ancien maire, commissaire du conseil scolaire régional, vice-président de l'autorité sanitaire régionale et désormais directeur exécutif de la COPHAN.

Votre biographie indique que « votre passion pour les droits humains n'a d'égale que votre passion pour le football ». Nous vous demandons si vous laisserez votre passion pour les droits de la personne vous pousser à agir, car celle-ci croise votre deuxième passion, le soccer.

En tant qu'expert en gouvernance, vous comprenez le pouvoir que vous et Canada Soccer détenez. Trop souvent, les gens se sentent impuissants, perdus, seuls et confus, car ils croient qu'ils ne peuvent rien faire face à de graves injustices. Mais en ce moment, vous pouvez agir.

En tant que personne ayant reçu deux doctorats honorifiques pour votre « engagement soutenu en faveur des droits des personnes handicapées » et en tant qu'ancien directeur d'*Accessibility Standards Canada*, nous vous demandons de vous exprimer et d'agir contre le génocide perpétré par Israël en Palestine, qui provoque des handicaps à grande échelle. Il est incohérent de prétendre soutenir les personnes handicapées tout en restant silencieux alors que des centaines de milliers d'individus sont handicapés à la suite de violences armées ciblées. De plus, les mutilations massives



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perpétrées par Israël ne se limitent pas aux deux dernières années. Elles font [partie intégrante du système d'occupation et d'apartheid israélien](#). Par exemple, en 2018, [l'Association palestinienne de football pour amputés](#) a été fondée après qu'Israël ait intentionnellement mutilé des milliers de jeunes lors des manifestations de la Grande Marche du retour. « L'armée israélienne a mis en place une politique de tir visant à mutiler, causant plus de 6 000 blessés, principalement aux membres inférieurs. »

Ce ne serait pas la première fois que la FIFA prendrait une telle mesure. L'Afrique du Sud a été suspendue de la FIFA en 1961 et [la Fédération sud-africaine de football a été expulsée de la FIFA](#) en 1976. La FIFA doit être tenue [responsable de ne pas avoir respecté ses propres politiques](#), et [commencer à exiger la suspension de l'IFA](#).

Le fait que la campagne menée par Israël constitue un génocide contre les Palestiniens a été documenté par des organisations internationales très respectées, notamment l'ONU et Amnistie Internationale. Si Israël a officiellement tué plus de [64 522 personnes et blessé plus de](#) 163 096 autres au moment de la rédaction de cette lettre, [les chiffres réels sont plus élevés](#) : ils indiquent que 377 000 Palestiniens sont portés disparus. Un professeur israélien a récemment utilisé des données militaires israéliennes pour en faire le constat.

Actuellement, environ le tiers des établissements de santé de Gaza restent partiellement fonctionnels. Nos collègues en Palestine et au Liban ont été pris pour cible ; plus de 1 400 d'entre eux ont été tués depuis octobre 2023. Ils ont travaillé dans des conditions inimaginables, tout en risquant l'arrestation, la détention, la torture et la mort. Ces événements s'inscrivent dans la continuité des politiques d'apartheid qui ont été systématiquement mises en œuvre à l'encontre des Palestiniens au cours des 77 dernières années.

Mais ce n'est pas tout. Comme l'écrit Issam Khalidi dans « [The Destruction of Sports Infrastructure in Gaza](#) » (La destruction des infrastructures sportives à Gaza) : « Depuis octobre 2023, les athlètes et les infrastructures sportives ont été touchés par l'assaut génocidaire qu'Israël a infligé à la population de Gaza et à son environnement. Outre les athlètes et les entraîneurs qui ont été tués, les clubs et les arènes sportives ont été détruits, et les stades ont été utilisés pour des arrestations massives et des fosses communes. »

Permettre à l'IFA de poursuivre ses activités sans restriction constitue non seulement une violation du droit international et du droit canadien, mais également une violation des politiques de Canada Soccer et de la FIFA. Par exemple, le code de conduite et d'éthique de *Canada Soccer* exige le respect des lois fédérales, provinciales, municipales et du pays hôte. L'IFA viole le droit international (ainsi que les politiques de la FIFA) en parrainant des équipes de football basées dans les colonies israéliennes. Il s'agit d'un crime de guerre. La FIFA autorise un régime d'apartheid d'occupation illégale et du génocide à participer au jeu. Comme déjà mentionné, l'IFA n'est pas innocente et n'est pas non plus



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un simple spectateur, tout comme ses joueurs. Les footballeurs israéliens font tous partie de l'armée israélienne et beaucoup ont tenu des propos génocidaires sur les réseaux sociaux.

En février 2025, Israël a [tué au moins 724 athlètes](#), dont 382 footballeurs. [Iyad al-Aklou, un milieu de terrain/attaquant de 18 ans du club Al-Sadaga de Gaza](#) (bombardé par Israël), a déclaré : « Le football était toute mon enfance. Avant la guerre à Gaza, j'étais en bonne santé et je jouais bien. J'aimais socialiser avec les gens à l'extérieur et passer du temps avec eux. » [Mehdi al-Nawasra, ancien défenseur de 27 ans du Khadamat Al-Maghazi FC](#), a été blessé lors d'un raid aérien sur sa maison qui a tué toute sa famille, soit 48 proches au total. Près d'un an après l'amputation de sa jambe droite, il a déclaré : « J'ai toujours adoré le football. Jouer était pour moi un pur bonheur. Mais je ne peux plus jouer comme avant, je ne peux même plus marcher et travailler comme avant... J'ai perdu ma famille, ma carrière de footballeur, ma maison, ma jambe. Mon message à la FIFA et à toutes les organisations sportives est que nous sommes comme tous les gens ailleurs dans le monde. Nous devons être une priorité pour vous. »

Vous avez le privilège unique d'avoir un impact tangible sur la vie des Palestiniens et Palestiniennes à Gaza, y compris ceux et celles d'entre nous qui vous écrivons ici. Nous nous battons pour notre survie, nos enfants ne cessent de pleurer, ils se cachent dans leur placard pour dormir, essayant (en vain) d'échapper au bruit des bombes. Nos enfants n'ont pas des jours ou des mois à attendre avant que des mesures soient prises.

Au nom de,

Maryam, Palestinian mother in Gaza

Noor, Palestinian mother in Gaza

Charlotte Phillips, Football Player, Palestinian Women's National Team, York University

Odette Dabit, Grandmother to 3 Football players, playing for the Palestinian Football Team

Abubaker Abed, Journalist, Independent

Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Senate of Canada

Leyla Hamed, Sports Journalist

Michael Lynk, Former UN Special Rapporteur, Professor Emeritus, Western University

Leilani Farha, Former UN Special Rapporteur - Housing

Richard Falk, Former UN Special Rapporteur, Palestine, Princeton University (emeritus)

Jonathan Kuttab, Lawyer, FOSNA, Just Peace Advocates

Maria Fakhouri, Canadian Psychotherapist

Muna Saleh, Palestinian Academic, Concordia University of Edmonton

Chris Giannou, Former Surgeon with Palestine Red Crescent Society

Mazin Qumsiyeh, Professor, Bethlehem University

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Yipeng Ge, Family Doctor

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