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Canada must stop the exportation of weapons to Israel.

2024 27 august \ PDF file

Tags:

Over \$83 million in explosive mortar shells produced by a company operating in Quebec, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc., are reportedly purchased by the US and integrated into the US weapons program for Israel.

The League of Rights and Freedoms and the International Federation for Human Rights call on the Government of Canada to block this transaction and to take all necessary measures to end the military interventions by the State of Israel in the Gaza Strip.

Montreal and Paris, August 27, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Prime Minister's Office
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca

SUBJECT: Canada must urgently stop arms exports to Israel

Mr Prime Minister,
Madam Minister,

The League of Rights and Freedoms (LDL) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the defence of human rights. Since its creation in 1963, the LDL has influenced several government policies and bills in Quebec and in Canada, in addition to contributing to the creation of instruments for the defence and promotion of human rights, such as the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

The LDL is a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), an international NGO comprising 188 National human rights organizations from 116 countries. Since 1922, FIDH has been involved in the defence of human of all human rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a member of several Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations.

Extreme violence against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank has continued since October 2023, and it is with dismay that we have learned that more than \$83 million in explosive mortar shells produced by a Quebec-based company, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc., would be acquired by the U.S. Integrated into the US weapons program for Israel[1], [2].

The League of Rights and Freedoms and the International Federation for Human Rights hereby call upon the government of Canada to block this transaction and take all necessary steps to stop military interventions of the State of Israel in the Gaza Strip.

In our joint letter dated February 23, 2024, we urged Canada to impose an immediate arms embargo on Israel, while genocidal acts are being perpetrated against the Palestinian people. Let us also remember that the Canada's parliament passed a motion last March calling for the cessation of all arms transfers from Canada to Israel. It will be important to say that in line with the spirit of this motion, there is an urgent need to put an end to any indirect transfer which would transit via another country.

On 19 July, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion^[3] stating that Israel's occupation of Occupied Palestinian Territory, consisting of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, is illegal. This notice states that obligations of other states, including Canada, with respect to Israel's policies and practices in the Palestinian Territory Unambiguously (we underline):

[...] not to maintain, with respect to the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof, economic relations trade with Israel that would strengthen the latter's illegal presence in that territory; [the States] shall, in the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel, refrain from any recognition of its illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and taking measures to prevent trade or investments that help maintain the illegal situation created by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory. [par 278]

[...] all States are required not to provide assistance or assistance in maintaining the situation created by this presence. All States shall ensure, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, that any impediment to the exercise of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination resulting from the illegal presence of Israel in the Territory Occupied Palestinian Territory. In addition, all States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention have an obligation, in accordance with Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure that Israel respects international humanitarian law such as is enshrined in this Convention. [par 279]

In addition, as we noted in our previous letter, the International Court of Justice ordered in January 2024 precautionary measures to protect the Palestinian people from "a real and imminent risk of irreparable harm". In As a State party to the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Canada has a legal obligation to preventing and punishing genocide^[4]. This is a binding legal responsibility under international law and Article 1 of the Convention, which requires Canada to take all necessary measures to stop and punish Acts of genocide perpetrated by the State of Israel against the Palestinian people.

Exports of weapons, military goods and technology to Israel also violate the law Canadian, specifically the Export and Import Permits Act (sections 7.3 and 7.4), because there is evidence that Israel has

committed and continues to commit violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

As human rights organizations whose mission is to ensure respect for international law and Human Rights Principles, the League of Rights and Freedoms and the International Federation for Human Rights call on Canada to
to immediately stop the transfer of Canadian-produced weapons destined for the U.S. arms program for
Israel. In doing so, the Canadian government would be respecting its own legislation as well as the spirit of the motion adopted by the
Parliament of Canada on March 18, which you voted for.

Please act accordingly, and in accordance with Canada's human rights and international law obligations,

Alexandre Petitclerc
Chairman
League of Rights and Freedoms (LDL)

Alice Mogwe
Chairperson
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

C.C

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament for Carleton, Ontario

Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party and MP for Burnaby South, British Columbia

Yves-François Blanchet, leader of the Bloc Québécois and member for Beloeil-Chambly, Québec

Ms. Salma Zahid, Chair of the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group and Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre, Ontario

His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms. Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories
since 1967, Swiss

Nadja Pollaert, Executive Director of Médecins du Monde Canada

Ms. France-Isabelle Langlois, Executive Director of Amnesty International Canada Francophone

[1] La Presse, Munitions made in Quebec in Israel? Le gouvernement canadien muet, 21 août 2024, en ligne: [https://](https://www.lapresse.ca/newsletters/politics/politiques/2024-08-21/war-between-israel-and-hamas/munitions-made-in-quebec-a-israel-the-government-of-canada-mute.php)

www.lapresse.ca/newsletters/politics/politiques/2024-08-21/war-between-israel-and-hamas/munitions-made-in-quebec-a-israel-the-government-of-canada-mute.php

[2] US Defence Security Cooperation Agency, Press Release of 13 August 2024, Israel – M933A1, 120mm High Explosive Mortar Cartridges, online: Israel – M933A1 120mm High Explosive Mortar Cartridges | Defense Security Cooperation Agency (dsca.mil)

[3] International Court of Justice, “Legal consequences arising from Israeli policies and practices in the territory. Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,” advisory opinion issued on July 19, 2024, online: [https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf](https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case%20related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf)

[4] Article 1 of the 1948 International Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide ratified by the Canada in 1952.

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The LDL is a non-profit, independent organization and non-partisan, drawn from Quebec civil society and affiliated with the International Federation for human (FIDH). For more than 60 years, it has been the defence and promotion of all human rights (civil, political, economic social and cultural) recognized by the Charter human rights international.

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