

June 18, 2020

The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We are a diverse group of Canadian Jews and long-time supporters of Israel who share a deep concern about the current Israeli government's intention to unilaterally annex parts of the West Bank.

Unilateral annexation of almost any magnitude, unless reversed, would make it impossible to achieve an eventual resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a two-state solution.

Whether on a large or even on a smaller scale, annexation would block the possibility of a contiguous, viable Palestinian state, would create new hardships for the Palestinians and institute new violations of their human rights. Any form of West Bank annexation would signal that Israel is uninterested in a negotiated solution. And it would be very difficult for a future government to reverse.

An annexation agenda assails not only Palestinian rights and national aspirations but also Israel's founding values as outlined in its Declaration of Independence. Illegal under international law, unilateral annexation could provoke a new cycle of violence, lead to the collapse of the Palestinian Authority, jeopardize peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt, undermine Israel's security and further destabilize the region.

We support the Government of Canada's long-standing policy of support for a negotiated two-state solution that upholds the right of both peoples – Jews and Palestinians — to self-determination and to live in peace and security. We are encouraged that all Canadian political parties have re-affirmed their commitment to the two-state solution. We urge our government to speak out strongly against a unilateral annexation agenda that is unwise, unjust, and dangerous to peace in the Middle East.

Signed,

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Former Canadian Ambassador to Israel

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***Affiliations shown for identification purposes only. Organized by Canadian Friends of
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