Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario [Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca)

September 28, 2025

Dear Minister Anand:

Congratulations to the government of Canada for recognizing the State of Palestine at the recent UN General Assembly alongside 156 other countries. However, while Palestinian statehood is critical for long-term justice, on the day that we recognized the state of Palestine, 61 people were killed in Gaza, roughly the same number as on the day before and the day after, as has been the case every day in recent months. This declaration does nothing to halt Israel’s horrific attacks on the civilian population.

As I write the Global Sumud Flotilla of 50 boats is travelling to Gaza to break Israel ‘s blockade of Gaza, draw attention to the Israel’s ongoing atrocities, and deliver a symbolic amount of humanitarian aid. The flotilla has been repeatedly attacked despite it clearly having thousands of civilians from more than 44 countries onboard who are committed to nonviolent action. David Adler stated in his recent article in the Guardian, that “direct action flourishes where political and legal systems fail to uphold the most basic values, the most foundational commitment to human rights.” <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/sep/25/gaza-vessel-global-sumud-flotilla>

There are eight Canadian women onboard the flotilla including York University law professor Heidi Matthews and Dr. Suzanne Shoush, a St’atl’imx (Coast Salish)/Sudanese physician, among others. Professor Heidi Matthews, who is travelling as part of a legal team with the flotilla spoke about the dangers of the initial attacks and commitment of all to persevere <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/gaza-flotilla-drone-damage-israel-1.7641984>

This week Italy and Spain deployed naval ships to assist the flotilla in the face of attacks. [https://apnews.com/article/israel-gaza-flotilla-italy-spain-000441922caa2c88cf73203e83d3e6e2](https://apnews.com/article/israel-gaza-flotilla-italy-spain-000441922caa2c88cf73203e83d3e6e2S) Sixteen countries recently expressed solidarity with the flotilla and concern for the safety of the flotilla and stressed that they would seek accountability for violation of international law including attacks on the flotilla <https://www.msn.com/en-xl/politics/government/pakistan-15-other-states-concerned-over-security-of-global-sumud-flotilla/ar-AA1MIAJa>

What is Canada doing to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Canadian citizens on board the Global Sumud Flotilla? What is Canada doing to stop this genocide, the illegal occupation and immanent annexation of the West Bank? It is critical that we ACT NOW to end the genocide which de facto means release of the hostages and the end of this brutal carnage. In the name of all that Canada stands for, ACT NOW to stop Israel from committing further war crimes and annexing the West Bank.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Printed Name: Postal Code: