

CIDA Reveals That Even Israel Opposes Canada's UNRWA Cuts

By [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#)

Global Research, July 07, 2011

[Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#) 7 July 2011

Region: [Canada](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

Montreal, July 7, 2011 — A recently released August 24, 2010 CIDA memo reveals that Canada was asked by the US and even Israel to restore its funding to the UNRWA General Fund. The revelation that Israel was among those requesting that Canada reverse its 2009 decision to cut funding to UNRWA's core programmes has surprised some observers. In recent years several Canadian pro-Israel lobby groups have smeared UNRWA, claiming that it had been infiltrated by Hamas and was unworthy of Canadian support.

There are indicators that the Harper government's 2009 decision to cut funding for UNRWA's General Fund was made primarily at the behest of Canadian pro-Israel groups. Significantly, it was made public during Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' January 2010 trip to Israel. The announcement's timing indicates that the Harper government believed that Israeli officials and Canada's pro-Israel groups would welcome it. Moreover, the cuts were made when civilians in Gaza were reeling from Israel's 2008-09 assault, and urgently needed UNRWA support.

"Israel's opposition to Canada's reduction in funding to UNRWA is an indication of the stabilizing role that UNRWA plays within the Palestinian refugee population," says Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) President Thomas Woodley. CJPME notes that pro-Israel elements within Canada regularly issue disinformation about UNRWA's role and practices, and that the Harper government was likely influenced by these elements. Canada cut all its funding to UNRWA's General Fund in 2009, a year in which Palestinians in Gaza were at their neediest. CJPME believes that logic and compassion would have dictated increases, not cuts, to Canada's UNRWA funding.

Canada has provided \$15 million in funding for UNRWA in 2011: \$10 million for food in Gaza, and \$5 million for job creation in the West Bank. The food aid is needed to address severe impoverishment among Palestinians in Gaza, especially given Israel's imposition of a sweeping blockade on Gaza since 2007. However, the blockade is also causing 45 percent unemployment and keeping Palestinians dependent on foreign aid. UNRWA's General Fund finances core education, health care and infrastructure — all of which Palestinian refugees need in order to eventually achieve self-sufficiency, and a stable civil society.

#####

For more information, please contact:
Patricia Jean

Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East
Telephone: 438-380-5410

[CJPME Email](#) – [CJPME Website](#)

The original source of this article is [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#)
Copyright © [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#), [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#), 2011

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca