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November 9, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
By email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Like you and many Canadians, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions is deeply saddened by the unfolding events in Israel and Gaza. I am writing today on behalf of over 250,000 frontline nurses to support Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) call for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. As nurses and health care workers we are torn apart and are looking to our country's leaders to continue Canada's legacy of humanitarian intervention.

As the level of violence and bombing continues to escalate, critically needed humanitarian supplies and staff must be allowed in and able to work safely. Hospitals in Gaza are overwhelmed, and the health care system faces total collapse. It is a clear obligation under international humanitarian law that medical facilities, medical staff and patients are protected.

An immediate ceasefire would allow for medical and humanitarian supplies to get into the region and help those in such desperate need. MSF is ready to increase their aid capacity in Gaza, and they have teams on standby. They cannot send in medical supplies under current conditions. According to MSF, if the intensity of bombing continues, any efforts to increase medical aid will also inevitably fall short.

We call on your government to strengthen your influence and to call for an immediate ceasefire and the release of all hostages. The Canadian government must support the United Nations, the World Health Organization, MSF and the International Council of Nurses, along with many other international aid organizations' pleas for help and intervention.

We thank you for your consideration on this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Silas, CFNU President

cc.: The Hon. Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development
The Hon. Mark Holland, Minister of Health
Joseph Belliveau, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)