



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02072**

BY: **MR. BOULERICE (ROSEMONT-LA PETITE-PATRIE)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 14, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE CHRYSIA FREELAND**

Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Israel

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

As a friend of Israel and friend of the Palestinian people, Canada is committed to the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel.

This Government is committed to the United Nations and respects resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Canada's longstanding stated policy is that a just solution to the Palestinian refugee issue is central to a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as called for in United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (1948) and United Nations Security Council resolution 242. A solution to the Palestinian refugee issue must be negotiated among the parties concerned in the context of a final status peace agreement. This solution should respect the rights of the refugees, in accordance with international law. Canada has played a prominent role in the search for a viable and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian refugee issue, including through continuing to focus international attention on improving the situation of Palestinian refugees.

Canada remains concerned by ongoing settlement activities. The settlements, which are illegal under international law, constitute a serious obstacle to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.