

Minister
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

February 5, 2026

The Honourable Tracy Muggli, Senator
The Senate

Tracy.Muggli@sen.parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Yuen Pau Woo, Senator
The Senate

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Dear Senators Muggli and Woo:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 20, 2026, concerning the impending exclusion of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) from Gaza.

On March 9, 2025, the Government of Israel published “Guidelines for the Registration of Organizations and Issuance of Recommendations for Their Foreign Employees” that applies to all INGOs engaged in humanitarian work in the West Bank and Gaza. The chief challenge with this policy is that it requires INGOs to submit personal data on Palestinian staff.

Canada and other like-minded governments support decisions of INGOs not to disclose personal staff information in accordance with their organizational data protection and duty of care policies. INGOs have engaged constructively in the re-registration process, submitting a comprehensive set of materials and presenting multiple alternative options to demonstrate compliance with international safeguards on anti-terrorism. INGOs also act as essential implementing partners of the United Nations (UN), thus any changes to their registration procedures would have significant implications for the overall humanitarian response.

On December 30, 2025, 37 INGOs operating in Gaza and the West Bank were formally notified by an Israeli inter-ministerial committee that their registrations would expire on December 31, 2025. Under this policy, any organization not re-registered is required to cease operations following a mandatory 60-day wind-down period, unless registration is renewed. Since January 1, 2026, only re-registered organizations have been permitted to deploy international staff to Palestine.

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Despite the uncertainty, partners are continuing to deliver assistance through a variety of modalities, including in the West Bank, and they are pursuing contingency measures.

Over the last several months, Canada has engaged extensively at various levels with relevant authorities in Israel:

- Canada has raised the issue of INGOs re-registration with Israeli interlocutors in Tel Aviv. This was formalized in a letter on November 6, 2025, sent to the Israeli government, advocating on behalf of the humanitarian INGOs that Canada is currently funding in Gaza.
- Canada is engaging in the Civil Military Coordination Center with Israeli representatives as well as U.S. civilian and military representatives to raise concerns around the issue of registration, and to flag the importance of the INGOs footprint in the Gaza humanitarian response and principled humanitarian assistance.
- Canada signed a Joint Donor letter addressed to the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism on this subject on August 13, 2025.

Canada also signed a joint [Foreign Ministers' statement on international NGO restrictions](#) on August 12, 2025. Another joint [Foreign Ministers' statement](#) on August 9, 2025, calls “on the Government of Israel to urgently find solutions to amend its recent registration system of international humanitarian organisations, to ensure these vital actors of humanitarian aid can continue their essential work.” On December 30, 2025, Canada published the [Joint statement on the Gaza humanitarian response](#). The statement refers to the potential adverse impacts of INGOs deregistration including access to essential services provided by INGOs and their critical role in the humanitarian response given their collaboration with various UN agencies and Palestinian organizations. On January 28, 2026, Canada published a joint [Foreign Ministers' statement](#) which in part calls on Israel to “ensure that international NGOs are able to operate in Gaza, including by lifting restrictive registration requirements.”

Canada continues to engage with like-minded partners to coordinate joint advocacy efforts, notably through support of common positions advanced by the Good Humanitarian Donorship group and the Humanitarian Country Team Plus of which Canada is a member. These memberships have allowed Canada to contribute to, and support, numerous UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs statements on the issue, including in the UN Security Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anita Anand', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Anita Anand, P.C., M.P.