



January 20, 2026

The Honourable Anita Anand
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: Impending Exclusion of International NGOs From Gaza

Dear Minister:

We are writing to follow up on concerns regarding the impending exclusion of international non-governmental organizations from Gaza and the West Bank, and to ask what further steps are being taken in response.

While we note that Canada joined other foreign ministers on December 30, 2025, in expressing concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, including the risk of NGO deregistration, Israel has since introduced new registration requirements that are widely viewed as incompatible with sustained humanitarian operations. As of December 31, several established international NGOs providing essential humanitarian services have been deregistered as a result, including Médecins Sans Frontières, Islamic Relief Canada, Care Canada, and Oxfam Canada.

We understand that deregistration could result in the closure of INGO operations within 60 days. If this occurs, the impact on access to essential services, particularly health care, would be significant. The window for action is short.

As you know, international NGOs support a substantial portion of remaining health capacity in Gaza, and many health facilities would be forced to cease operations if these organizations are unable to continue their work. INGOs, working alongside the United Nations and Palestinian organizations, deliver humanitarian assistance at a scale that cannot easily be replaced.

Given Canada's humanitarian commitments, and our role in funding and supporting these organizations, we would appreciate clear information on how Global Affairs Canada is engaging on this issue, including with Israeli counterparts and international partners, to prevent disruption to INGO operations.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

The Honourable Yuen Pau Woo
Senator, British Columbia

The Honourable Tracy Muggli
Senator, Saskatchewan