

**SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY****December 5,6,7, 2023, Ottawa, ON****Resolution no.82/2023**

---

**TITLE:** Call for a Permanent Ceasefire in Israel-Gaza Crisis

---

**SUBJECT:** Justice, Rights

---

**MOVED BY:** Wilton Littlechild, Proxy, Erminskin Cree Nation, AB

---

**SECONDED BY:** Chief George Ginnish, Natoaganeg First Nation, NB

---

**DECISION** Carried; 4 abstentions

---

**WHEREAS:****A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- ii. Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
- iii. Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- iv. Article 26 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- v. Article 26 (2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of December 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario**

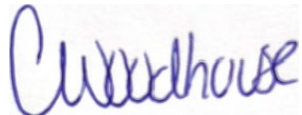
---

**CINDY WOODHOUSE, NATIONAL CHIEF****82 – 2023***Page 1 of 3*

- vi. Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.
- B. The UN Declaration expresses the international legal minimum for the human rights of Indigenous Peoples globally.
- C. The Preamble of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* states:
  - i. “Whereas the Government of Canada is committed to taking effective measures—including legislative, policy and administrative measures—at the national and international level, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.”
  - ii. “Whereas respect for human rights, the rule of law and democracy are underlying principles of the Constitution of Canada which are interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and are also recognized in international law.”
- D. The Indigenous Peoples of Palestine—the Jahalin, al-Kaabneh, al-Azazmeh, al-Ramadin, and al-Rshaida Bedouins—have been forcefully displaced and dispossessed from their lands since Israel’s declaration of independence in 1948.
- E. Through Resolution 3236 (XXIX) in 1974, the United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, national independence, and sovereignty.
- F. International Human Rights Organization Amnesty International reports that since 1948 the State of Israel has forced over 600,000 Palestinians off of their lands, violating international humanitarian law and occupying and creating illegal settlements to house Jewish Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank.
- G. Violence has escalated rapidly in Gaza since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack where 1,200 Israelis were killed and 240 were taken hostage. In retaliation, Israeli military forces detained more than 2,200 Palestinians without charge or trial, many of them children, across the occupied West Bank.
- H. Since October 7, 2023, over 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza have been displaced, and over 14,500 Palestinians—the majority being women and children—and many UN aid workers, have been killed by Israeli forces targeting refugee camps, hospitals, and schools.
- I. On October 27, 2023, Canada abstained on a UN General Assembly resolution that called for an immediate and sustained humanitarian truce leading to the cessation of hostilities.
- J. The UN has expressed alarm over the increasing violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and the serious violations of international law, where 1.5 million Palestinians have been cut off from access to food, water, fuel, medicine, and sanitation.
- K. On October 26, 2023, 132 Indigenous activists, artists, and intellectuals from across Turtle Island, Australia, and Aotearoa/New Zealand signed a letter expressing Indigenous solidarity with Palestine.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of December 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario**



---

**CINDY WOODHOUSE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**82 – 2023**  
Page 2 of 3

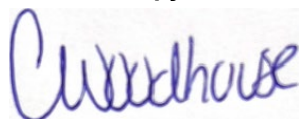
- L. The Israel-Gaza crisis is directly connected to settler-colonialism, contributing to violence, assimilation, and dispossession. Canada must not be complicit in supporting settler-colonialism both in Turtle Island and around the world.
- M. First Nations are concerned about the rise of antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian racism and stand united against hatred in all forms.
- N. We express our deep concerns about the ongoing suppression of the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly experienced by several individuals and groups speaking out against the violence and continued occupation of the Palestinian people.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:**

1. Call upon the Government of Canada to call for an immediate ceasefire and end to the occupation of Gaza, the release of all Israeli and Palestinian hostages, the unimpeded flow of immediate humanitarian access into all occupied Indigenous Peoples' territories, and full respect for international human rights law in all occupied Indigenous Peoples' lands including both Gaza, and the occupied West Bank.
2. Condemn all forms of violence against Indigenous Peoples and hereby advocate for an end to the violent illegal occupation of all Indigenous Peoples' lands.
3. Remind all States of their treaty, moral, and legal obligations to fully respect international human rights law and its norms and standards, including respect for International Treaties, which call on States to achieve peaceful co-existence with Indigenous Peoples.
4. Direct the National Chief to immediately send a letter to the Government of Canada calling for a permanent ceasefire.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of December 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario**



---

**CINDY WOODHOUSE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**82 – 2023**  
*Page 3 of 3*