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The International Legal Forum Condemns Sanctions against Israel

The governments of Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and other European states announced sanctions against Israel, against their own national interests and in a capitulation to anti-Israel radicalism in their home countries.

Practically speaking, these sanctions will first and foremost harm the employment opportunities and livelihood of Palestinian workers, precisely the people these policies are ostensibly designed to support.

Just like these countries' unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state following the worst attack against Jews since the Holocaust, this will not advance peace. It will fuel openly declared genocidal intent and attempts to destroy Israel and murder Jews in a forever war against Israel as the Jew among nations, enable continued radicalization of generations of perpetual "refugees" with lethal antisemitic poison, and embolden re-militarization of Gaza by designated terror entities for whom human tragedy is the strategy.

This shameful decision ignores the historical record, inverting facts in addition to law. The State of Israel has made repeated, documented, credible, good-faith proposals to advance a "two-state solution." In 2005, Israel removed every settlement from Gaza in 2005, with Hamas, whose charter openly calls for Israel's destruction, taking over the territory just meters away from Israeli civilian homes. The obstacle to peace at each opportunity has been Palestinian political leadership that, over and over, choose rejectionism over normalization, brutal campaigns of terrorism against Israeli civilians over a better future for their children, and destruction of Israel over construction, all fueled by billions of dollars of international humanitarian aid.

Relinquishing agency and responsibility, Palestinians continue to do so with unflinching international backing and funding. The countries currently pursuing sanctions against Israel continue to provide diplomatic and financial support for UNRWA, despite overwhelming evidence of this entity, which uniquely grants one group of refugees "status in perpetuity" is infested with Hamas members and other perpetrators of the genocidal October 7th massacre. They continue to provide this support despite incontrovertible evidence that UNRWA schools use curriculums that indoctrinates generations with lethal antisemitism, calls for the annihilation Israel, and glorification of terrorism as a means to the ends, not of "two states" but until "all of '48." Despite commitments and statements, they continue to support the unreformed Palestinian Authority whose corrupt leadership denies the Holocaust, peddles antisemitic incitement in its school curriculum, and incentivizes the murder of Jews through its continued "Pay for Slay" program.



Serving narrow political considerations in their countries, these sanctions interfere with Israel's democratic election weeks before Israelis are set to vote, something these states would presumably condemn in any other context or if the roles were reversed. These sanctions are not just a diplomatic misstep, they expose the collapse of morality that endangers all who cherish life and liberty.

Finally, this decision exposes and sounds sirens to the danger of the mechanism that enables antisemitism to mutate from time immemorial, after decades of systematic demonization, delegitimization, and double standards, that creates modern lethal strains, including antizionism. The announcement echoes the antisemitic history of these countries, whether Canada's declaration that "None is Too Many" when it turned away Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust or the UK's refusal to allow Jews to return to their ancestral homeland prior to the creation of the Jewish state in 1948. It comes on the eve of the 2026 Jewish high holidays as billions are spent by local Jewish communities to protect themselves from the pernicious ever-muting hate that has been normalized by these governments and societies.

As we mark both 25 years since the Durban Conference against Racism, turned antisemitic hate fest, and 25 years since 9/11, the decision by these governments signals the continued dangerous failure to recognize the raging war of barbarism on civilization that 10/7, like 9/11, represented, and the existential threat to freedom and humanity that antisemitism signals, again and again.