Dear Member of Parliament,

I am a member of NAME Presbyterian Church in PLACE. I am deeply concerned about the situation of Palestinian children who continue to be detained in Israeli military prisons, some of whom are as young as 12 years old. This has been a protracted situation, with Palestinian children living under decades of military occupation by the Israeli government.

In July 2020, The Presbyterian Church in Canada wrote to The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, requesting that the Government of Canada appoint a Special Envoy to monitor and report on the human rights situation of Palestinian children living in the occupied territories.

This request has not been granted and the violence continues. According to the organization, Defense for Children International, Palestine, 2198 Palestinian children have been killed between 2000 and 2021.

Each child belongs to a family and a community and they are mourned greatly. Every one of these children were entitled to the protections guaranteed under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and under the Fourth Geneva Convention, treaties to which both Israel and Canada are signatories, with obligations to uphold. All children are entitled to these same protections, which must be upheld if the violence and trauma of these deaths is to be ended.

In light of continuing deaths that are in clear contravention of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, I urge you to support the appointment of a Special Envoy to be sent so that no more Palestinian children are detained in military prisons or become names on the growing list of fatalities.

I look forward to your response. Please rest assured of my prayers for your leadership in these difficult times.

Sincerely,