Dear [Add name of elected official(s)],

I am a member of [NAME] Presbyterian Church in [PLACE]. I am writing because I am deeply concerned about the human rights of people affected by Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian Territories.

All Palestinian and Israeli peoples have a right to live in peace, security and dignity—without fear and with their human rights respected. My denomination supports a just peace in the region that includes a two-state solution where all can live in peace and security and condemns all acts of hate or intimidation that target any peoples or communities not only abroad but here in Canada as well.

No one should have to face hunger. Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 55, occupying powers have a responsibility to assure sufficient food for the affected population. Food insecurity affects 60% of the people in Gaza and 40% of people in the West Bank. The UN reports this situation is directly tied to the impact of the Israeli Occupation. Economic stagnation, high unemployment, poverty and food insecurity are the results of restricted movement of people, access to water and other resources and basic social services, together with recurrent dispossession of land, settler violence and periodic armed hostilities.

Annexation of the Occupied Territories must be halted immediately, and Palestinian people must be allowed the right of return. The ongoing development of infrastructure (such as military outposts and roads, homes for Israeli settlers, and the building of the Separation Wall on Palestinian lands) on annexed territory, despite the formal suspension of new expansion into the West Bank, is in contravention of international law and only deepens and entrenches Israeli occupation on Palestinian lands. These developments, and the human rights violations that accompany them, remain a critical roadblock to a long-lasting and just peace between Israel and Palestine.

My faith in a loving Creator emboldens me to encourage you to support steps to seek a just peace that reflects the dignity, well-being and security of all Palestinians and Israelis. Thank you for your consideration of these matters, and please rest assured of my prayers as you govern. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[Your name]