

Letters from Overseas

Jan McIntyre writes from Jerusalem

March 2013

Dear Canada,

Since returning to Palestine, I have been appalled at the level of Israeli settlement growth (on Palestinian land in the West Bank) that has occurred since I left here 15 months ago. These settlements are built in direct contravention of International Humanitarian Law.

Many people in Canada are confused about settlements and settlers and what the terms refer to. Part of our work as EAs is to write a blog. Over the past few weeks, I attempted to help people understand these terms through a blog post "[Settlements and Settlers](#)" and another post "[The Human Costs of Settler Violence](#)".



Qusra woman standing beside one of four cars burned in a recent settler attack. (EAPPI photo)

As you are aware, the issue of Israeli settlement products was discussed at the United Church's General Council 41 in August 2012, with General Council taking definitive action. On February 28, 2013, Nora Sanders, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, [wrote to Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird](#) [and subsequently, to International Trade Minister Ed Fast] asking that products produced in Israeli settlements in the West Bank be clearly identified and distinguished from products made in Israel. You can [learn more](#) about her letter on the United Church website.

Included on that webpage is a request to write letters to local MPs and to Minister Baird [and Minister Fast], in support of Nora Sanders' letter.

As a current United Church overseas personnel serving with the World Council of Churches EAPPI in Jerusalem, I am strongly encouraging your congregations and individuals to send letters to your MPs and to Minister Baird [and Minister Fast] in support of the letter written by Nora Sanders. Please also circulate this request through your circles. Letter writers can be people of any denomination, and no denomination. We are all Canadian consumers.

Thank you.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom,
Jan

To learn more, visit Jan's blog at amosaicforpeace.wordpress.com, or view [photos](#) of EAPPI work taken by United Church accompaniers.

Jan McIntyre serves The United Church of Canada as an Ecumenical Accompanier in the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). The views contained herein are personal and do not necessarily reflect those of her employer (The United Church of Canada) or the World Council of Churches.