

## **HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN LEBANON**

### **Message from the Committee for Human Rights Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**

**Most Reverend Roger Ébacher  
Archbishop of Gatineau,  
President of the Committee for Human Rights**

Day after day Medias are showing us the on-going escalade of violence in the Middle East which particularly affects civil population in Lebanon.

A serious humanitarian crisis is taking place. Following the massive displacement of population, the destruction of infrastructures like roads, bridges, landing tracks, some power supply facilities, services and communication centers, hundreds of thousands of innocent people are victims of this war. They risk hunger, thirst and sickness in temporary shelters.

We ask our government to concretely express the compassion of the people of Canada towards all the evacuees, particularly those in Lebanon, by setting up a substantial emergency fund toward this humanitarian crisis. We also ask the government to act firmly in making sure that this humanitarian aid is conveyed.

We also have to strongly emphasize that it is imperative that international conventions be respected by all present parties and that all violence and reprisals against innocent and defenseless populations cease.

In order to rapidly set-up a ceasefire, concerted and effective international action becomes urgent. Dialogue and mediation are important values of the Canadian society; this particular feature of our identity should guide Canada through its intervention to help resolve the conflict.

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