

# Canada's arms exports to Israel skyrocket

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## The Electronic Intifada

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Nora Barrows-Friedman 10 June 2022

A notable portion of Canada's 2021 military exports to Israel are categorized as bombs, explosives and related equipment.  
Giles Campbell ZUMA

Canada's weapons exports to Israel have risen markedly, despite such horrors as the May 2021 attack on Gaza.

The total value of arms and components sent from Canada to Israel in 2021 exceeded 26 million Canadian dollars (\$20 million) in 2021. That was a 33 percent increase from the year before.

According to the Canadian government's annual report on export controls, published in late May, Israel is named as tenth in a list of the top 12 non-US countries to which Canada exported military goods and technology.

Saudi Arabia, which leads a coalition that has been waging a brutal war on Yemen, is listed as Canada's number one non-US importer.

About one-quarter of Canada's military exports to Israel are categorized as bombs, explosives and related accessories and components.

Another quarter are registered in a category that includes "fire control" and "countermeasure" equipment. Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) says that category "may include weapon sights, bombing computers, or target acquisition components."

According to Canada's newly released annual report on military exports, Canada exported \$26m in military goods to Israel in 2021.

This is way up from \$19.5m in 2020, and approaches the historical high-water mark of \$26.9m in 1987. [pic.twitter.com/t9XowWj5dQ](https://pic.twitter.com/t9XowWj5dQ)

— Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (@CJPME) May 31, 2022

The human rights group states that “this further raises the possibility that Canadian-made weapons or components could have been used in Israel’s military offensives in Gaza, including airstrikes on residential targets which may amount to war crimes.”

The new Canadian government document follows a CJPME report, “Arming Apartheid: Canada’s Arms Exports to Israel,” which details the recent acceleration of Canada’s exports of military goods to Israel up through the year 2020.

## “Brutal assault”

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With this new data on the increase of arms exports in 2021, CJPME is demanding Canada “put an immediate halt to this worrying trend by immediately suspending all military trade with Israel.”

Michael Bueckert, vice president of CJPME, stated that “it is outrageous that Canada’s arms exports to Israel skyrocketed last year, even as Israeli forces were bombing residential buildings in Gaza, assaulting worshippers at the al-Aqsa mosque [in Jerusalem] and shooting children in the West Bank.”

Canadian weapons manufacturers, he added, “should not be contributing to, nor profiting from, Israel’s brutal assault against the Palestinian people.”

Bueckert recently joined us on The Electronic Intifada Podcast to talk about CJPME’s “Arming Apartheid” report and Canada as an accomplice to Israel’s crimes.

Last December, Robin Wettlaufer, Canada’s envoy to the occupied West Bank and Gaza, claimed that “we neither fund nor arm Israel.”

Her statement was a response to The Electronic Intifada’s Ali Abunimah, who asserted – correctly – that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is an accomplice in Israel’s crimes against Palestinians.

While you may oppose Palestinian elections, with all due respect sir, this is disinformation. We neither arm nor fund Israel

— Robin Wettlaufer (@alkanadiyya) December 15, 2021

Canada's weapons sales to Israel increased by 38% last year, from \$13.7m in 2019 to \$18.9m in 2020. Meanwhile, Canada subsidizes the occupation by giving trade benefits to settlement businesses via CIFTA. What do you mean "we neither arm nor fund Israel"?

— Michael Bueckert (@mbueckert) December 15, 2021

Wettlaufer has yet to tweet about the Canadian government’s own admission that arms exports to Israel are continuing to rise.

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The continued support of the Israeli apartheidstate by the west show clearly that all the apologies the western colonial states offered to their former colonies and even ( small ) reparations should definitely not taken serious. The Germans with their atrocities in Namibia, the Dutch for their atrocities during the Indonesian Liberation war and their minor reparations, the Canadians with their insignificant reparations and their hypocritic apologies to the First inhabitants ( the original Canadian Indian people ) and the other neocolonial western countries just continue their colonial policies by supporting the last apartheidstate in the world by arms, by financial support, by trade agreements, by political support. Their policies changed in their appearance but they haven't changed anything since 100 years ago. The only way I see a change is the total loss of power of the western countries since this means the end of 500 years colonialism. I hope that the outcome of the present conflict in the Ukraine is the total bankruptcy of the west. The peculiar thing is that the western countries are causing their bankruptcy by themselves by imposing sanctions on Russia. Soon the US\$ will become a currency like others and the result will be that the US and it's proxies will lose their political power in the world.

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**Nora Barrows-Friedman**

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Nora Barrows-Friedman is a staff writer and associate editor at The Electronic Intifada, and is the author of *In Our Power: US Students Organize for Justice in Palestine* (Just World Books, 2014).

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