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# 'Canada turned its back on Israel,' says visiting Israeli legislator

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*In an interview with the National Post, Toronto-born Knesset member Sharren Haskel accused the Canadian government of betraying Israel*

By [Bryan Passifiume](#)

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Israeli, MK member of the Knesset Sharren Haskel, at Toronto's Queen's Park on June 4, 2024. PHOTO BY PETER J. THOMPSON / NATIONAL POST

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OTTAWA — As Israel continues to both recover from and deal with the aftermath of the October 7 terror attacks, a visiting member of the country's legislature is calling

Canada out for turning its back on its longtime ally.

Sitting down with the National Post during a visit to Ottawa this week, Knesset member Sharren Haskel expressed concerns over Canada's lack of support for Israel after the October 7 massacre.

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“Canada has turned its back on Israel. It really feels like a betrayal,” said the Toronto-born Haskel.



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In Canada, like the United States, cases of antisemitism have skyrocketed largely from persistent anti-Israel protests that sprang up after the October 7 terror attacks, in which Hamas terrorists conducted a campaign of kidnappings, murder and sexual assault against 1,200 Israeli men, women and children.

These protests — which began on highway overpasses and within Canada's largest Jewish neighbourhoods — now occupy the grounds of numerous Canadian universities and are often accompanied by antisemitic slogans, chants and signs.

As well, Jewish university students in Canada are reporting increased instances of hate and

harassment while on campus, leading to calls for action and lawsuits.

In January, Canada followed suit with the United States in suspending financial support for the contentious United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), following revelations that its employees took an active role on October 7.


Despite being presented with evidence of a cozy relationship between UNRWA and Hamas — the National Post was provided with this evidence earlier this year from sources within the Israeli government — Canada still chose to resume sending money to UNRWA in March.

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“Canada knows how Hamas has taken over UNRWA. Once Canada completely stopped the funding for UNRWA under a different

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government, because they understood what it is,” said Haskel.

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Giving money to UNRWA, without any oversight, amounts to little more than Canadian taxpayer-funded donations to Hamas, she said.

“They understand that Hamas is controlling a 2.5 million population in Gaza through UNRWA, supplying them services that are being paid for through the international community ... and through that control they’re able to radicalize that population,” she said.

“(Canada’s) not helping the Palestinians because aid isn’t being bought with that money. It doesn’t reach the Palestinian people. Hamas is taking half of (the aid) and

selling it in the market, so it can pocket that money.”

The evidence viewed by the National Post, the same intelligence presented to Canada by Israeli officials, showed aerial photos of UN schools built atop underground Hamas bunkers, rocket launchers just metres from UN refugee camps, and the famous Hamas data centre found underneath UNRWA’s Gaza headquarters.

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“They’re turning schools and hospitals into military bases,” Haskel said.

“They know that, yet (countries) still contribute and even top that with more money.”

Photos of the scene, as well as intercepted phone calls, suggest last week’s deadly tent fire in Rafah after an Israeli air strike was

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actually caused by a Hamas ammunitions depot deliberately hidden adjacent to the camp.

Haskel fears Canada's apathy will have wide-ranging repercussions.

“That attempt of recognition of the Palestinian state, it was here in Parliament where they were trying to push it and trying to debate it — it's absurd, this is rewarding terrorism,” she said.

“What will other terror organizations learn from that? Murder people, create the worst massacre the world has seen in recent history and then hide behind the civilian population? The international community will let you off the hook.”

Despite the current tension between allies Canada and Israel, she said the actions of one government won't shake the inextricable bonds between the two nations.

“The bond and the bridges between the Canadian and the Israeli community are stronger,” she said.

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