

For Immediate Release

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Lawyers for Secure Immigration Calls for Immediate Government Action Following Global News Report on Alleged Hamas Operatives in Canada

Lawyers for Secure Immigration (L4SI) is deeply concerned by the Global News report indicating that alleged Hamas operatives may be present in Canada. If accurate, these revelations raise serious national security, public safety, and immigration integrity concerns that demand urgent, transparent, and coordinated action by the Government of Canada.

Canada's immigration and refugee protection systems must remain not only humane, but also secure. L4SI strongly supports Canada's longstanding humanitarian commitments, but those commitments must operate alongside robust measures to prevent individuals affiliated with terrorist organizations - including Hamas, a listed terrorist entity under the Criminal Code - from entering into, residing in, or obtaining status in Canada.

Unified Call to Action for the Government of Canada

Lawyers for Secure Immigration calls on the Government of Canada - specifically the Minister of Immigration and Citizenship - to take immediate, transparent, and coordinated action considering the Global News report and the broader security concerns affecting Canada's immigration system which it raises.

L4SI urges the Government to:

1. **Provide a Public Briefing on the Gaza Special Measures Vetting Protocols:** this should clearly outline the security screening, identity-verification, and inter-agency coordination measures in place for applicants under the Gaza Special Measures program. It should also explain any additional safeguards implemented in response to current regional security conditions and intelligence assessments.
2. **Disclose Government Knowledge and Actions to Date:** it should offer a factual update on what federal agencies knew regarding the allegations involving potential Hamas operatives in Canada, when they became aware of these concerns, and what immediate actions have been taken to mitigate risks.

3. **Conduct a Targeted Review of Security Screening Processes:** it should undertake a comprehensive audit of IRCC, CBSA, CSIS, and partner-agency procedures to identify vulnerabilities or procedural failures that may have permitted inadmissible individuals to enter or remain in Canada.
4. **Enhance Transparency on Threat Assessments:** it should release declassified, non-operational intelligence - where lawful - to reassure Canadians that proactive steps are being taken to detect and disrupt infiltration attempts by extremist organizations.
5. **Strengthen and Modernize Screening Systems:** it should accelerate deployment of advanced digital vetting tools, improved identity-verification technologies, and enhanced intelligence-sharing frameworks to ensure earlier identification of high-risk individuals.
6. **Ensure Swift Action and Comprehensive Status Reviews for Individuals Alleged to Have Ties to Hamas:** it should direct IRCC to immediately review the citizenship, permanent residence, and temporary residence status of all individuals alleged to have ties to Hamas who are currently physically present in Canada. It should also require IRCC to examine the validity and continued eligibility of all individuals outside Canada who hold Canadian passports, permanent resident cards, temporary resident visas, electronic travel authorizations, or other valid Canadian entry documents where credible information links them to Hamas or affiliated entities. Where the law permits, it should take prompt action - including revocation proceedings, inadmissibility findings, cessation determinations, or visa cancellations - to prevent these individuals from entering, remaining in, or benefiting from Canadian immigration or citizenship status.

Balancing Security with Fairness

L4SI emphasizes that robust security screening is not incompatible with fairness. In fact, the integrity of Canada's immigration system depends on it. Genuine refugees and newcomers - who can contribute to Canada's safety, prosperity, and social fabric - are best served by a system that is trusted, predictable, and protected against exploitation by violent extremist organizations.

Statement from L4SI

"The public must have confidence that Canada's immigration and refugee systems cannot be manipulated by actors linked to terrorism. If the allegations reported are substantiated, they reflect serious systemic vulnerabilities that Parliament and federal agencies must address

immediately. Clear communication from the Minister on the vetting of all special measures, including the Gaza program, is essential. A secure, rules-based immigration framework is central to maintaining public trust.”

About L4SI

Lawyers for Secure Immigration is a non-partisan advocacy organization composed of Canadian immigration lawyers and legal professionals committed to strengthening the integrity, lawfulness, and security of Canada’s immigration and citizenship systems while supporting safe and orderly immigration grounded in Canadian democratic values.