



December 27, 2023

International Committee of the Red Cross

Att: President Mirjana Spoljaric Egger

mspljaric@icrc.org

icrc.qva@icrc.org jer_jerusalem@icrc.org sadavies@icrc.org

Dear Ms. Spoljaric Egger,

I hope this letter finds you well. As concerned Canadians who advocate for the advancement of universal rights, we feel compelled to express our disappointment in the recent actions and statements attributed to the ICRC, an organization we hold in high regard for its global efforts in promoting human rights and peace.

We have been following reports on the approximately 125 Israeli hostages still held by Hamas, and we are troubled by the apparent deviation from the ICRC's mission. It has come to our attention that the ICRC, under your leadership, has seemingly placed the responsibility for freeing the hostages squarely on Israel. In one reported statement, you were quoted as saying, "now, Israel has to negotiate with Hamas using an intermediary...they have to reach an agreement so that we are informed where the hostages are...".

Additionally, Prime Minister Netanyahu's recent revelation that an ICRC representative refused to deliver a box of life-saving medicine to Israelis in Gaza is deeply concerning. Providing essential medical aid is a fundamental humanitarian duty, and we find it disheartening that such assistance was declined. This incident underscores the urgency of ensuring that the ICRC acts beyond being a mere transport service for hostages and actively delivers the vital medicine required by Israeli hostages, working towards their prompt release.

Our disappointment is further compounded by the recent announcement of our government's allocation of \$3.2 million in additional funding to the Red Cross. As taxpayers, we believe it is within our rights to demand that the ICRC upholds the principles and objectives set forth by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The hostages taken by Hamas are facing increasingly dire circumstances, and their survival is of utmost importance. We call on the ICRC to re-evaluate its approach, prioritize the well-being of the hostages, and work diligently towards their release. In this, we are reminded of the silence of the ICRC during the dark day of the Holocaust.

We anticipate your prompt response and hope to see a commitment from the ICRC to align its actions with the noble goals set forth by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Sincerely,

Avi Abraham Benlolo

Founder and CEO,

The Abraham Global Peace Initiative

