

Canadian Prime Minister Affirms Support for Israel

Canada's Stephen Harper issued a statement in honor of Hanukkah, and reaffirmed his country's support for the Jewish people.

"The story of Hanukkah reminds us that hope and faith can overcome any challenge and provide light in times of darkness," Harper said. "The nightly lighting of the menorah during Hanukkah commemorates the liberation of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple over 2,000 years ago, and the miracle of the oil lamp which lasted for eight full days in the reclaimed Temple, when it was only meant to last for one.

"During these challenging times, we reaffirm our commitment to stand by the Jewish people and we pray for peace during the holiday season and in the year ahead.

The Canadian prime minister is a staunch supporter of Israel and recently personally intervened to pressure PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas to drop his bid for upgraded status at the U.N. Canada joined Israel and the U.S. on Nov. 29 as one of only nine countries opposing the Palestinian Authority's bid.