



Canadian International
Development Organization

CIDO Newsletter, June 2026

Welcome to CIDO's periodic newsletter! We are aiming to provide you with informative, compelling updates about CIDO's work, and we welcome your suggestions.

Summary

Need to Know: Gaza "medical referrals" update

CIDO Updates: Mariam Joy Project; Friends of the Foundation for Palestinian Studies Fund Project

Donor Spotlight: Khaled Shetayah and Danah Azizi

Your Next Steps: CIDO Donation Link; CIDO Social Media Links

Need to Know

As of April 2026, around 20,000 patients in Gaza were registered for urgent medical travel abroad, according to WHO and Palestinian Ministry of Health lists, but they remain unable to leave due to the closure of crossings, with only a very small number permitted to exit. More than 1,500 patients have died while waiting for treatment.

Over 90% of hospitals have been severely damaged or are out of service amid the ongoing Israeli war on Gaza. More than 4,000 cancer patients are among the referral cases, alongside thousands of others in urgent need of care. See Al Jazeera Arabic news clip [here](#).

What is unfolding is a systematic collapse of healthcare, with medicine and medical supplies blocked. Providing our support is more urgent than ever.

CIDO Updates

Mariam Joy Project

We wanted to share with you feedback from another family supported by CIDO's partner, Mariam Foundation. The "Mariam Joy" project provides daily companionship and emotional support to children with cancer, especially those from Gaza and the West Bank. Mariam Joy places trained university students by the children's side throughout their treatment journeys, offering them care, warmth, and emotional stability during long and difficult hospital stays.



*"My testimony truly cannot do justice to the incredible **Mariam Joy** team. They were **the source of all the positive energy for both Baraa and me**; they were our backbone in overcoming the challenges of Baraa's illness. In fact, I owe so much of his progress and my own strength to them.*

*I will never forget a time when I was completely exhausted and desperately needed a moment to breathe. They gave me such a **profound sense of security** that I felt safe leaving Baraa in their care*

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*to go out to the market. Deep down, I was so at peace that I didn't even feel the need to call and check on him, because **I knew he was in safe hands.***

*At the beginning of Baraa's journey, I used to push them away; I was afraid and rejected the idea of anyone entering my son's space. But now, we eagerly await their arrival. **Both my mental health and Baraa's spirit have been completely transformed because of them.***" - Baraa's mom, 2026



CIDO is honoured to stand alongside Mariam Foundation and support projects like "Mariam Joy". To learn more, visit our [Gaza Urgent Appeal page](#).



"The atmosphere becomes wonderful, and you carry our children with you. Even though our children can be difficult at times, you are able to handle everything they bring. Thank you, Mariam Joy, for everything—truly, thank you." - Mariam Foundation project beneficiary, 2025

Friends of the Foundation for Palestinian Studies Fund Project

Since its launch in 2021, the Foundation for Palestinian Studies Fund at the University of Waterloo has provided our students, faculty, staff, and wider community with the opportunity to learn about the rich and complex body of scholarly, artistic, literary, creative, and popular works generated by Palestinians spanning the globe. Through a [public lecture series](#), we seek to understand new perspectives and to work for peace and justice in this region of the world.

The latest talk in this series, entitled "**The Gaza Doctrine: Implications for International Law and the future of the Middle East**", was delivered on Wednesday May 13, 2026. Neve Gordon introduced what he calls the "Gaza Doctrine," a concept he uses to describe a pattern of modern warfare characterized by mass civilian displacement, significant civilian casualties, and extensive destruction of civilian infrastructure. He examines how, in the context of the violence in Gaza, Israel frames its military operations as lawful actions targeting Hamas, and how international law is invoked in that justification. Gordon further argues that similar patterns may be emerging in other conflicts in the Middle East, and raises

broader questions about the role of European countries and Canada in shaping or enabling evolving norms of international warfare where "might makes right".

Neve Gordon joined the School of Law at Queen Mary University of London after teaching for seventeen years at Ben-Gurion University in Israel. He is the author of *Israel's Occupation* (University of California Press, 2008) and co-author of *The Human Right to Dominate* (Oxford University Press, 2015), *Human Shields: A History of People in the Line of Fire* (University of California Press, 2020, published in paperback in 2026 with a new preface and epilogue). He is a Fellow of the British Academy of Social Sciences, a panel member of the Gaza Tribunal and a board member of the International State Crime Initiative.



Donor Spotlight

We wish to highlight Khaled Shetayah and Danah Azizi, among CIDO's top donors in fiscal year 2024-2025. Their generous contribution has been put to work supporting children with cancer through the Mariam Foundation.

Palestinian Couple Plants Hope in the Hearts of Gaza and West Bank Children with Cancer

Khaled Shetayah, and his wife Danah Azizi — a Palestinian couple who chose to turn their love for their people into meaningful action — donated to CIDO, the official partner of the Mariam Foundation and its fundraising arm in Canada, supporting children with cancer in Gaza and the West Bank.



They offer more than money — they offer a hand to hold in a moment of weakness, and a light that brightens a room full of exhaustion. Their donation today may be a life tomorrow, and a sincere prayer from a child's heart — and that alone makes giving worthwhile.

Thank you Khaled and Danah — for choosing to be a reason for easing someone's pain.

Your Next Steps

At this time of conflict, displacement and great need in the world, please consider contributing through CIDO to Mariam Foundation's efforts in supporting some of the world's most vulnerable children, who are fighting cancer in Palestine. Your donation would make a huge difference in the life and wellbeing of a child and the overall family. [Donate Now.](#)

We also strongly encourage you to stay connected and follow our work online as we expand our online presence. By following CIDO's social media profiles and engaging with our content, you help increase awareness of our humanitarian mission to support Palestinian families and children in need.

Follow us on:

[Instagram](#)

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Parting Words

*"I grant you and the little ones refuge,
the little ones who
change the rocket's course
before it lands
with their smiles."*

Hiba Abu Nada (1991–2023)