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Canada urged to follow suit with U.S. sanctions on contentious UN rapporteur

Francesca Albanese's "political and economic warfare against the US and Israel will no longer be tolerated," said U.S. Secretary

OTTAWA — Canadian observers are applauding the U.S. move to sanction a controversial UN rapporteur, while one Jewish affairs group is calling on Canada to completely divest itself from her.

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Francesca Albanese, the UN's Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur for West Bank and Gaza, was sanctioned by the U.S. State Department on Wednesday — with Secretary of State Marco Rubio calling out her "illegitimate and shameful efforts" to convince the

> Today I am imposing sanctions on UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese for her illegitimate and shameful efforts to prompt @IntlCrimCourt action against U.S. and Israeli officials, companies, and executives.
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Albanese last visited Canada late last year as part of a sponsored speaking tour that included a November 2024 Parliament Hill news conference, where she publicly accused Canada's "Israel lobby" of cancelling meetings between her and former Foreign Minister Melanie Joly.

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Toronto Immigration Lawyer Sergio Karas, who was part of a coalition of lawyers opposing Albanese's visit, told the *Sun* her history of anti-Israel activism means Canada should consider following suit with the Americans.

"Francesa posted that what Hamas was doing needed to be 'put in context.' By October 11th, she was writing posts online suggesting claims of sexual violence were unsubstantiated," he said.

Since Oct. 7, Canada has seen an explosion of hate and anti-Israel activism on city streets, university campuses and even Toronto's Jewish neigbourhoods — as well as a concerning increase in crimes targeting Jewish families, organizations and buildings.

Antisemitic slogans and signs are common at these protests, as are participants showing overt support for proscribed terror organisations, and describing Israel's self-defence efforts as a so-called "genocide" against Gaza.

Gerald Steinberg, president of Jerusalem-based research institute NGO Monitor, likewise applauded the move, and urged Canada to follow suit.

CIJA CALLS FOR ALBANESE DIVESTMENT

Others here at home are calling on the government to divest itself from further interactions with Albanese

In an email to Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board Chair Manon Brassard, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) President Noah Shack raised concerns over government use of Albanese-crafted materials on Israel and the Palestinian territories.

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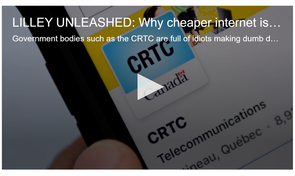

Hockey fight breaks out on a golf course in viral clip appearing to feature ex-NHL enforcer
Allegedly drunk golfer was tossed in a water hazard and punched several times by what fans believe to be Nick Tarnasky.
Toronto Sun

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