



JUSTIN TANG / THE CANADIAN PRESS

A person watches from the High Commission of India in Ottawa after the Liberal government expelled the high commissioner and five other diplomats on Monday.

SANCTION ALL ENVOYS INVOLVED: SINGH

NDP LEADER

'Severe' penalties
needed for
criminal activity

DYLAN ROBERTSON
AND LAURA OSMAN

OTTAWA • Any Indian diplomats involved in criminal activity in Canada must be subjected to "severe sanctions," NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh charged Tuesday, a day after the RCMP said it had credible evidence linking Indian agents to murder, extortion and coercion in Canada.

On Monday, Canada expelled six Indian diplomats, including the high commissioner, after the RCMP announced they had evidence those diplomats played a role in coercively collecting information on South Asian

Canadians and then passing that information on to criminal organizations who took violent action, including extortion and murder.

India denied the allegations and expelled six Canadian diplomats in return.

As the seriousness of the situation began to settle in Tuesday, Canada's Trade Minister Mary Ng moved to reassure Canadian businesses with ties to India. In a statement Ng acknowledged the "uncertainty" that Canadian businesses and investors may have as a result as the diplomatic expulsions. She said the government will continue to support commercial and economic ties between the countries.

"However, we must consider our economic interests with the need to protect Canadians and uphold the rule of law," she said.

"We will not tolerate any foreign government threatening, extorting or harming Canadian citizens on our soil."

Ng said the government remains "open to a dialogue" with India and looks forward to continuing a "valued relationship."

The House of Commons is not sitting this week, preventing an immediate debate on the matter, but Singh said his party will be asking the House public safety committee to study "other steps we can take to keep Canadians safe."

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Samidoun a 'terrorist entity'

TYLER DAWSON

Samidoun, the Vancouver-based anti-Israel organization, has been designated as a terrorist entity in both Canada and the United States.

"The listing of Samidoun as a terrorist entity under the Criminal Code sends a strong message that Canada will not tolerate this type of activity, and will do everything in its power to counter the ongoing threat to Canada's national security and all people in Canada," said Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc in announcing the designation on Tuesday.

Khaled Barakat, whose wife Charlotte Kates is a director of Samidoun, has also been designated a terrorist by the U.S. government and identified as a member of the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the U.S. State Department said.

"His fundraising and recruitment efforts support the PFLP's terrorist activity against Israel," says a separate U.S. news release.

Last week, at a Vancouver rally

CANADA, U.S.
JOINTLY LIST
GROUP ACCUSED
OF FUNDRAISING
FOR TERRORIST
ORGANIZATION,
CHANTING 'DEATH
TO CANADA'

organized by Samidoun on the one-year anniversary of the October 7 terror attacks, attendees chanted "death to Canada." Samidoun later said that "we at Samidoun stand by this phrase as the call to action that it is" in a statement posted to Instagram.

At the event, five masked protesters set a Canadian flag on fire. An unidentified woman chanted "We are Hezbollah and we are

Hamas," referring to the terror groups active in, respectively, Lebanon and Gaza.

In a press release, the United States, in a joint action with Canada, said it is designating Samidoun a "sham charity that serves as an international fundraiser for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) terrorist organization."

"The PFLP, which was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist by the U.S. Department of State in October 1997 and October 2001, respectively, uses Samidoun to maintain fundraising operations in both Europe and North America," the U.S. press release says.

Canada has listed PFLP as a terrorist organization since November 2003. Founded in 2011 following a widespread hunger strike organized by the PFLP in Israeli prisons, Samidoun has been a prominent organizer of protests in Canada since the October 7 Hamas attacks in Israel.

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