

The Honourable Stéphane Dion  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
750, Marcel Laurin Blvd., Suite 440  
Saint-Laurent, (QC) H4M 2M4  
emailed to: [stephane.dion@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephane.dion@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Dion:

We are writing concerning the shooting of Rehab Nazzal, a Canadian citizen in Bethlehem, occupied Palestinian territory, by the Israeli military last Friday. We are further concerned by a subsequent Israeli military tear gas attack on the ambulance that came to her assistance. This is in breach of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention that guarantees the safety of medical personnel.

Regarding her shooting Nazzal has stated, “What shocked me was the fact that I was alone, with no clashes, no stone throwers, absolutely no one around me, and yet I was intentionally shot by a sniper. This was not an accident.”

The hospital indicated that a .22 caliber bullet, which is standard issue for the Israeli military, entered and exited Nazzal’s leg. She reports she is receiving the needed medical attention.

Nazzal is a third year PhD student at the University of Western Ontario supported by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. She has been in the West Bank since July researching the effect of weaponry on senses — sight, sound and smell. At the time of her shooting, she was documenting an Israeli attack using skunk water.

We are also concerned that Nazzal is an example of the recent escalation in violence in the Palestinian territories. This has been described by Israeli human rights group B’Tselem as, “the chilling chasm between the normative position which prohibits this type of shooting and the present reality & public mood that considers ‘shooting to kill’ valid in all cases & circumstances . . . resulting in soldiers, police and armed civilians becoming judge, jury and executioner.”

We call on you to express serious concern on behalf of our government to the Prime Minister of Israel regarding this shooting of a Canadian. Further, that you ask the Israeli government to provide an immediate, independent investigation into this incident including the tear gas attack on her and the medical personnel.

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Steve Berube  
[sberube@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sberube@nb.aibn.com)  
(506) 381-7869

Rev. Marianna Harris  
[holymom1@shaw.ca](mailto:holymom1@shaw.ca)  
(604) 439-1678

Co-chairs, United Network for Just Peace in Palestine-Israel (UNJPPI)

cc	Hon. Rona Ambrose	<a href="mailto:rona.ambrose@parl.gc.ca">rona.ambrose@parl.gc.ca</a>
	Hon. Thomas Mulcair	<a href="mailto:thomas.mulcair@parl.gc.ca">thomas.mulcair@parl.gc.ca</a>
	Hon. Chrystia Freeland	<a href="mailto:Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca">Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca</a>
	Elizabeth May	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca">Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca</a>
	Rehab Nazzal	<a href="mailto:renazzal@gmail.com">renazzal@gmail.com</a>
	Vivian Bercovici	<a href="mailto:taviv.consular@international.gc.ca">taviv.consular@international.gc.ca</a>
	Katherine Verrier-Fréchette	<a href="mailto:rmlah@international.gc.ca">rmlah@international.gc.ca</a>