



Dec 16, 2015
The Embassy of Canada
P.O. Box 9442
Tel-Aviv, 6706038
Israel

**Dar al-Kalima University of Arts and Culture faculty member, Canadian Citizen
Ms. Rehab Nazzal shot by Israeli forces while photographing in the West Bank**

We, at Dar Al-Kalima are sending this letter to inform you that Rehab Nazzal, a faculty member at Dar Al Kalima, who is also a Canadian citizen has been shot by the Israeli occupation forces. We are shocked by this violence against a fellow faculty member, and concerned for her safety as well as for the safety of many other Palestinian researches, journalists, and photojournalists who are put at risk by the reckless violence of the Israeli occupation forces.

At approximately 2:00 PM on Friday December 11, Ms. Rehab Nazzal, a lecturer at Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem since September 2015, was carefully walking along Jerusalem-Hebron Road, a main street in Bethlehem, towards where she usually stands with other journalists and photographers in order to document a military "Skunk" truck that spays chemicals with a strong sewage smell. Ms. Nazzal is a third year PhD student in the Visual Arts Department at Western's University in London, Ontario. She holds a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Scholarship to investigate the sonic effect of unmanned robotic weapons and surveillance systems on civilians. She has been documenting the clashes between the Israeli occupation forces and the Palestinian protesters since the beginning of October. Her research focuses on the effect of the Israeli weapons that target human senses: sound bombs, teargas and Skunk chemicals. Ms. Nazzal's work has been exhibited in Canada and internationally. As such, being at the place she was at that time, documenting the events is an important part of the research work she is carrying out here in Bethlehem.

She reports what happened to her on Friday: "While walking, I would take shelter every few meters to avoid the teargas and the "Skunk" army truck that was spraying sewage chemical liquid on the protesters and the surrounding neighborhoods. When I stopped by a corner of one of the shops, and while taking some photographs, I was suddenly shot in the leg. I did not realize what had happened. The last image I photographed shows a sniper hiding on the ground near the entrance to one of the city's hotels." (See attached IMG_2397_1.jpg)

An ambulance rushed to her aid, and was attacked with teargas grenades, suffocating the paramedics and Nazzal, creating a cloud of gas that prevented other photographers and journalists from documenting what was happening. At the hospital, it was revealed that a bullet had entered and exited her leg, fortunately without shattering any bones. Ms. Nazzal is now fine, getting the necessary medical help. The wound was identified as being from a .22 caliber bullet, a type of ammunition that is prohibited for live fire against unarmed civilians, according to [Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem](#).



“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.” comments Nazzal.

We believe that research-based work is significant for artists who document the reality they are studying. We sincerely hope that you will protest this violent act of the occupation forces thus protecting one of your citizens whose life is endangered for no reason other than conducting an academic research.

With best regards,

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb

President

Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture