

Department of Geography, Planning & Environment

Departmental Statement in Support of Bissan

Geography, Planning and Environment calls on the Government of Canada and Hon. Justin Trudeau to #BringBissanHome

Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia University wishes to express our deep concern about the well-being of Bissan Eid, a Concordia graduate student who has been prevented from leaving the Palestinian territory of Gaza.

Bissan, a Canadian citizen since 2005, traveled to Gaza to get married and to visit her aging grandparents in June 2016. She has been trying to return home to Canada since December 2016, but she has been prevented from leaving due to the slow processing of her exit visa by the Israeli authorities. Bissan is having a high-risk pregnancy and is expected to give birth in May, and needs medical attention in Canada immediately. Furthermore, Bissan's completion of a master's degree in civil engineering has been obstructed because she is blocked from leaving Gaza.

The Geography, Planning and Environment] community, faculty, students and staff, support Bissan's right to freedom of movement as well as her right to adequate healthcare. Due to her high-risk pregnancy, we understand this to be truly a life-or-death matter and call on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and all accountable parties to act without delay to secure her safe return home.

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