

IJV calls on Canada to bring Bissan and her newborn daughter home

Independent Jewish Voices Canada stands in solidarity with others asking the Trudeau government to ensure that Bissan Eid, a Canadian citizen, and her newborn daughter Sarah can return home without any further delays. As IJV spokesperson Abby Lippman has commented, *"I am distressed that Canadian bureaucrats continue to prevent this new mother and her baby from returning to their home in Montreal and rejoining their family, friends and Concordia community members who are increasingly worried about them."*

Bissan is a 24-year-old Canadian citizen who visited Gaza in 2016 and is now stranded there. Israeli authorities have prevented her from leaving the Palestinian territory of Gaza. They have refused to process Bissan's exit despite her having a Canadian passport. Lippman, an emerita professor at McGill and Research Associate at Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute, explains, *"This violation of Bissan's right to freedom of movement has not only forced her to give birth in Gaza – far away from her immediate family and adequate medical facilities – but it has also obstructed her completion of a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering at Concordia."*

Rather than intervening directly to coordinate Bissan's return, as many have been asking since January, Canadian officials redirected her to apply for exit documents from the Jordanian authorities. *"This can only be understood as Canada's approval of discrimination against Canadian-Palestinians, in this case targeting a mother and her newborn baby,"* states Lippman.

"IJV urges the Canadian government to take action and fulfill its responsibilities to support two Canadians trapped overseas." More specifically, adds Lippman, *"we call on all those in government with responsibilities and relevant roles to play to expedite the processing of Sarah's citizenship papers as well as to directly coordinate with Israeli and Jordanian authorities to ensure Bissan and Sarah's immediate return home to Montreal."*

For more information contact <info@ijvcanada.org>

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