

24 November 2009: Update on Berlanty Assam, Bethlehem University Student
28 days since she was blindfolded, handcuffed, and taken from Bethlehem to Gaza

Find a Solution

Dear Friends of Bethlehem University,

“Find a solution!” ... This is basically what the Israeli High Court said today to the Israeli military concerning the Berlanty Azzam situation.

Here is the link to the latest press release from Gisha:

<http://www.gisha.org/index.php?intLanguage=2&intItemId=1645&intSiteSN=113>

Simply put, you are making a difference!

We are *cautiously hopeful news*. The Israeli High Court received the report from the Israeli military and then shortly after this, the Israeli High Court issued a decision that:

1. called for a hearing concerning Berlanty within the coming 7 days
2. proposed that the Israeli military find a way to resolve this matter so that Berlanty could return to Bethlehem and continue her studies (perhaps with a significant financial "bail" being posted to guarantee her return to Gaza upon completion of her degree, and
3. proposed that the Israeli military find a way for Berlanty to be present at her hearing within the coming 7 days.

No outcome is guaranteed. We expect that the next hearing with the Israeli High Court will be on Sunday or Monday, Nov 29th or 30th.

Can you spare some time to send another email:

1. to your elected officials in your home country
2. to Mr. Daniel Rubinstein, US Counsel General in Jerusalem: UsConGenJerusalem@state.gov
3. to Major General (Res.) Amos Gilad, Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT): cogatspokesman@gmail.com

Suggested message:

I am writing concerning Berlanty Azzam and her quest to complete the remaining weeks of classes for her bachelors' degree at the Vatican-sponsored Bethlehem University in the West Bank that is conducted by the international religious order of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

There is a hearing with the Israeli High Court within the coming 7 days – and they have proposed that the Israeli military find a way to bring Berlanty back to Bethlehem from Gaza so that she can complete her degree. With respect, I ask that on compassionate and humanitarian grounds you do all in your power to return Ms. Berlanty Azzam immediately to Bethlehem University to complete her studies.

I agree with what the US Counsel General in Jerusalem recently wrote about Berlanty's case:

“The United States believes that education is a fundamental right and a force for moderation. As Secretary Clinton remarked in her speech at the Forum for the Future on November 3 in Morocco, the United States is actively committed to increasing educational opportunities for students. This would apply to students such as Berlanty Azzam. We hope to see Berlanty Azzam’s case resolved in a positive manner soon, so that she can complete her degree and go on to realize her educational and professional aspirations.”

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. I await your response.

Blessings to you,

brother jack