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CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF  
NORTH AMERICA

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF  
MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN'S  
INSTITUTES

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(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
COMMON GLOBAL MINISTRIES BOARD

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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JPIC COUNCIL

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON  
NATIONAL LEGISLATION

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE  
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MENNONITE CENTRAL  
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COMMON GLOBAL MINISTRIES BOARD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY  
GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES:  
WOMEN'S DIVISION

October 30, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madame Secretary,

We are writing to you regarding the case of Ms. Berlanty Azzam, a fourth year student at Bethlehem University in Bethlehem who was detained and deported to Gaza by the Israeli military on October 28, 2009. Ms. Azzam, 21 year old, is only few months away from completing her four year Bachelor's degree in business administration.

Bethlehem University has strong connections to the United States. It is registered in the U.S. and has been the recipient of USAID funds under the Assistance to US Schools and Hospitals Broad (ASHA) program. The US-based Catholic Relief Services, a member of our Board, was one of its founders in 1973 and remains a supporter. The General Councilor of Christian Brothers Conference of Washington, DC is on the University's International Board of Regents.

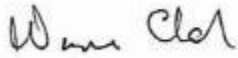
This disruption of education and deportation appears to represent an escalation in the previous policy of preventing Palestinian residents of Gaza from studying in Palestinian universities in the West Bank.

We ask that you request the government of Israel on compassionate and humanitarian grounds to allow this young woman to return to Bethlehem to complete her studies. She has not been accused of being a security threat.

We believe permitting her to return to Bethlehem to complete her degree also would be in the spirit of the "Agreement on Movement and Access" negotiated between the Palestinian Authority and Israel in 2005 that was facilitated by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Sincerely,

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Warren Clark  
Executive Director



James Fine  
Chair of the Board



Philip C. Wilcox, Jr.  
President, Foundation for Middle East Peace and  
Member, CMEP Leadership Council