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### **Expelled from the West Bank, Gazan student celebrates her graduation alone**

[Berlanty Azzam](#), the Gazan student who was forcibly deported from the West Bank, has graduated from Bethlehem University. But instead of celebrating the ceremony with her classmates at her university's commencement ceremony, the 22 year-old celebrated alone with her family in a church in Gaza.

Several weeks ago, Azzam was detained at an Israeli army checkpoint while traveling from Ramallah, where she had a job interview, to Bethlehem. Soldiers discovered that she was a resident of Gaza who held an expired permit for West Bank residency. Such permits are rarely renewed. Azzam was deported the same day, in handcuffs, to Gaza. She was two months shy of completing her degree.

The Israeli NGO [Gisha](#) took Azzam's case to the Supreme Court, but justices rejected Azzam's request to finish her studies in Bethlehem, ruling that she could not return to the West Bank.