

**January 26, 2010**

**Middle East Network Newsletters.**

**Link:** [http://ga6.org/elca\\_advocacy/notice-description.tcl?newsletter\\_id=28953794#Palestine](http://ga6.org/elca_advocacy/notice-description.tcl?newsletter_id=28953794#Palestine)

**Bethlehem University Student Completes Degree, Ceremony Held in Gaza**

Bethlehem University Student Berlanty Azzam, who was deported by the Israeli military to Gaza in October, 2009, has finished her degree long-distance and celebrated her graduation at Holy Family Church in Gaza. Bethlehem University officials traveled to Gaza to mark the occasion and to show support for students awaiting permission from the Israeli military to attend Bethlehem University. Azzam's case received support from around the world, including advocacy by Churches for Middle East Peace and the ELCA in a letter from Bishop Bruce Burnside, chair of the Conference Committee on Middle East Issues.