

June 11, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Canadian Friends of Sabeel is a national ecumenical response to the call of Palestinians – and especially Palestinian Christians – for solidarity. Once again, we are calling on you to take greater action in support of the human rights of Palestinians.

We are grateful for recent statements you have made concerning the horrific treatment by Israel of Canadians who participated in the legal and completely nonviolent Global Sumud Flotilla. This flotilla was aimed at delivering desperately needed humanitarian aid to Gaza and to break the nearly two decades long Israeli blockade of Gaza.

At the same time, we are deeply disappointed that you and your government have not addressed the situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in custody in Israeli military prisons. Right now, we are particularly concerned about **Natalie Abuddayeh and three other students -- Jolan Abu Awad, Sama Safi and Leila Na'el Khalil** -- who were apprehended on June 2 at gunpoint from their homes.

Natalie Abuddayeh is a media and journalism student at Birzeit University and an outstanding member of the Palestinian Women's National Football Team. She is also a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Beit Jala and a beloved member of our wider network of Palestinian partners.

A week after Natalie's arrest, we are deeply disturbed by the reality that she and her companions now join the thousands of Palestinians in Israeli detention and who are likely to experience severe mistreatment.

Your officials no doubt are aware that:

- As of April 2026, there were approximately 9600 Palestinians in Israeli military detention, according to [Al Jazeera](#). This number includes 3532 prisoners under "administration detention" – those held with no charges and no trials.
- [B'Tselem, the Israeli information Centre on Human Rights in the Occupied Territories](#), has called Israeli prisons "a network of torture camps for Palestinians," with systematic violence that includes physical and psychological abuse, inhuman conditions, deliberate starvation, denial of

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medical care, and in some instances sexual violence and abuse. See their report called [Living Hell](#).

- The report of the [UN Special Rapporteur](#) on torture emphasizes how emergency measures, enacted by Israel after October 2023, have “exposed Palestinians to Palestinian detainees to torture, potentially unlawful deaths, incommunicado detention, and degrading conditions.” Alice Jill Edwards’ March 2026 report notes the deaths of 94 Palestinians in custody since 2023.
- The recent enactment into law by Israel of the death penalty for Palestinians convicted of killing Israelis. Death by hanging will become the default punishment for West Bank Palestinians convicted of nationalistic killings. [UN and other bodies](#) have warned that this law marks a “grave human rights retrogression.”

Prime Minister, you have expressed a deep concern for Israel’s treatment of Canadian activists on the Global Sumud Flotilla. We urge you to demonstrate the same concern for Palestinians held in Israeli military detention. We especially implore you to act to protect Natalie Abuddaheh and her fellow students. Please stand up for the human rights of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rula Odeh", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Rula Odeh

Chairperson, Canadian Friends of Sabeel

Cc: The Honourable Anita Anand, P.C. MP., Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, P.C. M.P., Leader of the Official Opposition
Mr. Yves-François Blanchet, M.P., Leader of the Bloc Quebecois
Mr. Avi Lewis, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land