Mr. Peter Julian

MP, New Burnaby- Westminster, BC

Dear Sir,

How are you? I hope my message reaches you in your best state of health! My name is Dena Alaloul; I'm a Canadian citizen from Vancouver, British Columbia.

In January 20th, 2015, I came with my family members (me, my mother and three siblings) through the Egyptian border into Gaza Strip to visit some family members after seven years of immigrating in Canada. We were planning to stay for few weeks and then go back to Vancouver; however, we got stuck here in Gaza. The Egyptian Palestinian Rafah border is closed and we cannot get out. The situation is Gaza is so bad. We are not feeling safe and secured in here. Me and my brothers are so desperate to leave Gaza and go back to Vancouver, where we feel we belong. We have registered for the summer semester at Douglas College, BC; and we wish to be able to attend. Two of my brothers work in Vancouver besides attending college. We have contacted the Palestinian Israeli liaison office asking for help, and they told us that they cannot do anything unless our embassy try to make an effort and contact the Israeli side directly. The Palestinian Israeli liaison office gave us examples of other embassies and how they helped their citizens get out of Gaza. We hope you can help me and my family by contacting our Canadian embassy in Tel-Aviv urging them to get us passing permission through the West Bank into Jordan so we can get back to Vancouver, Canada. Israel started to give facilities by issuing more passing permission toward the West Bank for people from Gaza.

We called the Canadian Consular and Emergency Services and they said that they cannot help us since there is no evacuation case right now, and after having a discussion with them, they asked us to send them an email and also asked us to contact the Canadian embassy in Tel-Aviv directly. We called our Canadian embassy in Tel- Aviv several times, and they transferred us to an answering machine. We left a massage; however, unfortunately, we did not get any reply back.

Mr. Julian, I'm writing to you with a broken heart! First of all, I would like to apologize for writing to you in an informal way; however, I feel like I need to talk to a father. Mr. Julian, me and my family feels that we are been left out. We are very depressed! We have called the Canadian embassy in Tel-Aviv several times and we left many messages; however, unfortunately, we never got a reply back. Moreover, we have called the representative office of Canada in Ramallah about a month ago, after my dad has contacted you seeking help, and we have got no promises until now, and we were surprised that unfortunately they have not done anything to help. We are in a very bad situation! We have lost the opportunity of attending two semesters in our collages. Also, my mom and two of my brothers are unable to get back to their jobs and make a living. We are not living a normal life here in Gaza; it is very unsafe in here.

My five years old brother keeps getting sick, and he is unable to recover in his polluted area. We are very concerned about him. He is very unhappy and keeps asking us when we are getting back home. He is always sitting alone and he has no friends to play with. He misses his school and his friends so much. We have very much noticed the differences this experience has made on his life. He is always silent and speechless. We are very unhappy in here and we are living an unstable life. We are very concerned about his physical, social, and emotional state.

I am myself emotionally disturbed. I'm so much missing my life, collage, and friends in Vancouver. We came to Gaza Strip to visit our family members after seven years of immigrating. My grandparents are very sick and we came to see them maybe for the last time. We were planning to stay for a couple of weeks only; however, we are stuck in here for almost four months now. Rafah border is close and we are not able to get out through it. This is due to the bad situation in Sinai, Egypt, where radical groups kill people there almost every day; it is very unsafe. We need the help of our beloved Canadian government. We are not asking for much, we only need passing permission for a couple of hours through the West Bank to get into Jordan so we can fly back to Vancouver, our home. Every day we spend in Gaza we feel that we are missing too much out there. We feel so lifeless in here. We are Canadian citizens, and we need to feel that we are cared about. All we need is a little effort from your side by contacting our embassy or contacting the Israeli side and urging them to give us passing permissions though West Bank to get back home safely. I hope to hear from you soon! Your effort will be deeply appreciated Mr. Julian.

Our passport numbers:

Dena Alaloul, 23 years old (GC748387)

Neveen Alaloul, 41 years old (GC748292)

Fathy Alaloul, 21 years old (GC748067)

Fady Alaloul, 19 years old (GC748622)

Amir Alaloul, 5 years old (GC748385)

Thank you for your time!

Dena Alaloul