



Jana's Story – Justice Denied

Personal Statement by Mahmoud Elkahlout Montreal, Canada

My name is Mahmoud Elkahlout, the father of Jana Elkahlout, who tragically passed away in Gaza on **January 8, 2024**, after a long struggle with illness, compounded by the dire conditions imposed by war and the Israeli blockade. Jana suffered from **cerebral palsy** and required intensive special care, but her life was cut short due to several devastating factors:

1. **The lack of food and medicine** caused by the blockade imposed by Israeli forces on the Baptist Hospital in Gaza City, where she was receiving treatment until her final moments.
2. **The refusal of the Red Cross to cooperate** with us in transferring her to the Rafah border crossing so she could travel to Canada, accompanied by my brother Hasan and his wife Mariam. Notably, the Red Cross was actively evacuating Israeli hostages from Gaza throughout the war.

Although my brother and his wife managed to leave Gaza for Egypt, they faced extremely harsh humanitarian conditions there. We had hoped that Jana would join us in Canada to reunite with her siblings, Elia and Sham, after years of separation. Sadly, fate denied us this opportunity.

Our Efforts to Reunite the Family

Since our arrival in Canada on **June 28, 2019**, my wife, Samar Alkhdour, and I have been in contact with the Member of Parliament for Verdun, **Mr. David Lametti**, who also served as the Minister of Justice in Justin Trudeau's government. We sought a swift solution to ensure our daughter Jana's transfer to Canada. Unfortunately, our efforts were met with indifference and neglect:

- **Mr. Lametti initially refused to meet with us** and showed no serious engagement with our humanitarian case.
- Following the outbreak of war in Gaza in October 2023, we intensified our efforts to pressure him for an urgent solution. When he finally agreed to meet, he treated us with disrespect and demonstrated a clear bias toward the Israeli side, stating: *"The Palestinians started the aggression."* This, despite our insistence on focusing solely on the humanitarian aspect of our request.
- We asked him to expedite our **permanent residency process** to facilitate Jana's transfer to Canada. However, he replied: *"I cannot change Canada's policies to meet your request,"* which was never our demand in the first place.

Regrettably, **Mr. David Lametti left political life in January 2024** without offering any tangible solutions to our humanitarian case.

Our Demands

As the parents of Jana Elkahlout, and based on our legal rights as permanent residents of Canada, we demand accountability from **Mr. David Lametti** for his clear negligence in addressing the urgent humanitarian situation of our daughter. The absence of swift and

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serious action resulted in the loss of an innocent life— a tragedy that could have been prevented had the matter been handled with the seriousness and responsibility it deserved.

Jana Elkahlout stands as a painful and stark example of the ongoing suffering endured by innocent people due to the blockade and successive wars. Today, **I call for justice for her pure soul**, which was denied the opportunity to live the dignified life she so rightfully deserved.

The Story of Hasan and Mariam

Here is the revised version with the corrected spelling for the names *Hasan* and *Mariam*:

In addition to my father, Nasser, and my mother, Sana, my brother Hasan and his wife, Mariam, were the primary caregivers for Jana during her time in Gaza since 2018. Arrangements were coordinated through *Global Affairs Canada* to accompany Jana and facilitate her transfer to join us in Canada.

Indeed, Mariam and Jana were granted exit permits through the Rafah Crossing on December 3, 2023. At that time, Jana was hospitalized in Gaza City, trapped under harsh conditions, while the Israeli military imposed strict restrictions on the movement of residents. Hasan and Mariam reached out to Hisham Mhanna, the spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza, to intervene and transport Jana to Rafah so that they could all exit Gaza via the Rafah Crossing. However, their request was denied.

Jana remained in the hospital under the care of the *Missionaries of Love*. As I mentioned above, In an attempt to secure transportation for her, they contacted Hisham Mhanna, via WhatsApp. However, he refused to cooperate, claiming that the Red Cross's operations were suspended in Gaza—an unjustified excuse. The Red Cross, as a humanitarian organization, is expected to operate specifically during times of war and crises, and it had previously intervened to transport Israeli hostages out of Gaza.

After Jana's death, and given the dire conditions faced by residents in Gaza, I advised my brother to take advantage of the coordination provided by *Global Affairs Canada* to leave the Gaza Strip, as their names were already listed among the travelers through the Rafah Crossing. After an extremely exhausting journey from Rafah to Cairo, they arrived at the hotel that had been booked for them and Jana.

Upon their arrival at the hotel, the Canadian consul contacted them by phone. When the consul asked about Jana, they sorrowfully informed him that she had passed away in Gaza. However, his response was shocking and harsh: "*We cannot accommodate you, and you must leave the hotel immediately because there is no longer a reservation in your name.*"

The consul refused to allow them to speak or communicate with him and turned off his phone, leaving them expelled from the hotel in the midnight. This was a clear and unjustified act of mistreatment by a diplomat who is expected to assist the relatives of the residents in Canada.

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At 2:30 a.m., they were forced to leave the hotel and seek shelter on the street, where they spent the rest of the night outdoors. They had no money, and Mariam, who was pregnant, suffered from exhaustion and physical fatigue, making it impossible for her to endure the humiliation of being evicted in such a cruel manner and the hardship of sleeping on the street

How can people who fled the horror of a devastating war and harsh displacement be treated with such cruelty?

Hasan and Mariam lost their home during the war, and their belongings were gradually stolen in the first days of the conflict. Yet the suffering did not stop there. They were forced to displace six consecutive times: from northern Gaza to Gaza City, then to the Middle area of Deir al-Balah, and finally to the UNRWA displacement tents in Rafah.

After enduring difficult circumstances in Egypt, where the parents and their son Rayan were deprived of the right to work and the landlords refused to rent them apartments simply because they are from Gaza, their lives depended on limited and sporadic assistance. They lacked the financial means to meet even their most basic needs.

Today, in Canada, the same tragic scenario is repeating itself: they live without shelter or money and receive no form of support. The most basic necessities of life are unavailable to them, and the visa they were granted is unjust and fails to meet even the minimum of their essential needs, making their ordeal even harsher and more difficult.

My Family in Rafah

Here is a professional and fluent English translation suitable for legal or humanitarian purposes:

My Family in Rafah

At the beginning of June 2024, my family, residing in the Canada Refugee Camp in Tal Al-Sultan neighborhood of Rafah, began to flee their home. They are 13 people, including children. The psychological impact of this displacement has had a devastating effect on their lives. Before they were displaced, I used to communicate with them daily to check on their well-being, but today it has become extremely difficult to get any news about them. From time to time, my brother Mohammad sends me photos and videos documenting their daily struggles, showing the terrifying, heartbreaking, and unbearable conditions they are living under.

My family's house in Tal Al-Sultan was bombed. In one of the news reports, I saw images of our home with a destroyed Israeli tank beside it. Today, it is impossible to recognize the neighborhood due to the massive destruction it has suffered. A quick glance at the news or social media reveals videos showing the Israeli army boasting about bombing civilian homes in Rafah, including my family's house. There is no longer any safe place in Rafah, and my family is living under constant, life-threatening danger.

On December 4, 2024, Almawasi area had sought refuge in was bombed. It was an absolutely horrifying experience. Moments before the bombing, I had been speaking to my parents over the phone. Suddenly, everything changed—they started running in every direction,

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desperately searching for one another amidst the chaos and destruction. Those were truly harrowing moments, and then, suddenly, the connection was lost.

I want to see them alive and know that they are safe—outside Gaza and far from the tents and the daily dangers that threaten their lives. I want them to live in peace and safety, away from the horrors of war that continue to pursue them.

Our Story with Immigration Minister Marc Miller

After our attempts to communicate with Canadian parliamentarians and their lack of cooperation in the case of my daughter Janna, we reached out to the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Immigration. In late March 2024, I met with Minister Marc Miller. I attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of my family, advocating for our rights as Canadians of Palestinian origin who have relatives in Gaza. I called for changes to the Gaza Crisis Visa to make it open, allowing our relatives to come to Canada without conditions, just as the visa process had been facilitated for Ukrainians and Syrians.

Months passed without any response from the minister or his office, and we are still being ignored. Now, I seek the intervention of all human rights organizations to assist my family and help them escape the degrading conditions in the tents of southern Gaza so they can leave Gaza and survive the ongoing genocide.

Months have passed without receiving any response from the minister or his office, and our demands continue to be completely ignored. Therefore, I now call for the intervention of all human rights and humanitarian organizations to assist in rescuing my family and getting them out of the degrading conditions in the tents of southern Gaza, so they can escape and survive the genocide that threatens their lives daily.

On December 4, 2024, the area of tents where they had sought refuge was bombed. It was extremely terrifying. I was talking to my mother and father on the phone when suddenly everything changed. Everyone began running in every direction, searching for one another amidst the chaos and destruction. It was a horrifying moment in every sense of the word.

I want to see them alive and know that they are safe, far from the tents and the daily dangers that threaten their lives. I want them to live in peace and security, away from the horrors of war that continue to haunt them.

Our Story with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

In September 2024, during the by-election in the Verdun–Lasalle–Côte-des-Neiges riding, I met with the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was accompanied by Laura Palestini, the candidate for our district. I stopped Mr. Trudeau and spoke to him about the death of my daughter Jana, the Gaza file crisis, the government's lackluster handling of our relatives' issues, and the disregard shown by Immigration Minister Marc Miller to our just demands.

But I was surprised by a response I didn't expect. He said to me: "Wait until the candidate Laura wins the by-election, and we will work with your file!"

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We, the Palestinians residing in Canada, demand that all media outlets shed light on the blatant disregard and indifference shown by the Canadian government toward our ongoing suffering. We are human beings who possess fundamental rights that cannot be denied or overlooked under any circumstances. Our voices must be heard, and our cause deserves attention and serious action to achieve justice and fairness.

For an entire year, we have witnessed bloody events, accompanied by explicit support from Western governments for the Israeli entity. This reveals to us that the so-called concept of justice is entirely absent when it comes to us, **the Palestinians**. It is clear that Western governments adopt a policy of deliberate disregard, supporting the aggressor while condemning the victim—an action that starkly contradicts the principles of human rights.

The countries that provide weapons, food, and military support to Israel—resources that are used to kill the innocent civilians in Gaza—cannot be considered just or fair. We will not stand idly by in the face of this unjustified bias, nor in response to the arrogant statements made by certain Canadian officials, such as **David Lametti** and **Marc Miller**.

We reaffirm that we are demanding the rights guaranteed to us under Canadian and international law, and we will not abandon our pursuit of justice and equality.

My Demands as a Palestinian and Canadian Citizen

On behalf of my family in Gaza and all the Palestinians residing in Canada, I demand the following:

1. **Accountability for Negligence:** I demand accountability for **David Lametti**, Marc Miller, Justin Trudeau, and **the Red Cross** for their clear negligence in responding to the urgent humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and for ignoring their humanitarian responsibilities toward my family and all the Palestinians enduring catastrophic conditions there.
2. **Immediate Evacuation of Affected Families:** The immediate evacuation of my family and all affected Palestinian families in Gaza to Egypt as a first step to ensure their safety. Following that, I call for facilitating their arrival in Canada, particularly given the dire circumstances they face due to the ongoing siege and escalating war.
3. **Policy Reform for the Gaza Crisis:** Streamlining travel procedures for relatives of Palestinians in Gaza and ensuring they are treated fairly. This includes providing them with services comparable to those extended to Syrian and Ukrainian refugees, such as comprehensive government support and the issuance of permanent residency cards.
4. **Solidarity with Palestinian Canadians:** Reaffirming the role of the Canadian government in supporting its citizens of Palestinian origin and protecting their rights, as well as the rights of their families in conflict zones. I also demand efforts to find permanent and just solutions that ensure stability and dignity for all affected Palestinians.

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Urgent Humanitarian Appeal

I am reaching out with a sincere plea for your support in sharing **our story** and the link to our **GoFundMe campaign** launched to raise funds. This campaign aims to **evacuate my family** from **Gaza**, which is enduring the most horrific forms of Israeli aggression.

The donations will primarily be used to secure their safe passage out of Gaza and facilitate their relocation to **Canada**, where they can escape these harsh conditions and live in peace and safety, far from the horrors of war and blockade.

I urge all of you to:

- **Donate** to support our campaign, no matter how small; every contribution makes a significant difference in saving my family's lives.
- **Share our story** and the campaign link with your friends and family across all social media platforms.

Every show of support and every contribution brings us one step closer to safety and survival for my family. **Together, we can make a difference.**

Thank you for your support and humanitarian solidarity.

<https://gofund.me/ebc73dba>

Important Note:

My daughter's story has been featured in Montreal newspapers, and you can view the media coverage by searching Google under the following title:

[/https://montreal.citynews.ca/2024/02/13/montreal-family-grieves-daughter-died-gaza](https://montreal.citynews.ca/2024/02/13/montreal-family-grieves-daughter-died-gaza)

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My Family in Gaza:

#	Full name	Relationship
1.	Nasser M. I. Elkahlout	father
2.	Sanaa R. H. Elkahlout	mother
3.	Ibrahim N. M. Alkahlout	Brother
4.	Mohammed N. M. Elkahlout	Brother
5.	Lamis A. M. Alkahlout	Sister-in-law
6.	Nabeel M. Alustaz	Son of lamis
7.	Ahmed N. M. Alkahlout	Brother
8.	Samah A. M. Alkahlout	Sister-in-law
9.	Zaina A. N. Alkahlout	Niece
10.	Malak A. N. Alkahlout	Niece
11.	Ayed M. I. Alkahlout	Uncle
12.	Samira A. M. Alkahlout	Uncle's wife
13.	Ahmed A. M. Alkahlout	cousin



Address: 75/2162 Alqadisia st, Tal Al sultan, City, Gaza Strip, Palestine.

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