

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Aryeh Makhlouf Deri
Minister of Interior Affairs
2 Kaplan Street, PO Box 6158
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem, 91061, Israel

November 14, 2019

Stateless Palestinian Mustafa al-Kharouf Must be Granted Permanent Residency Status

Dear Minister Aryeh Deri,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to immediately grant **Mustafa al-Kharouf** permanent residency status in East Jerusalem. **Mustafa al-Kharouf** was arbitrarily detained in Givon prison in Ramle with his arrest occurring after the Israeli Ministry of Interior Affairs denied his request for family unification and ordered his immediate deportation to Jordan. Israeli immigration authorities attempted to deport him twice; Jordanian authorities refused him entry on both occasions.

We are deeply concerned about reports from Amnesty International that, despite being granted his conditional release by the Tribunal for Review and Custody of Illegal Aliens, he may still be at risk of deportation if he does not obtain legal status to reside in East Jerusalem. Under international law, East Jerusalem is considered an integral part of Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and there its Palestinian population, including **Mustafa al-Kharouf**, is protected by the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. As such, authorities are prohibited from forcibly deporting **Mustafa al-Kharouf** as it is in violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, his deportation can also be considered a war crime.

Though we welcome **Mustafa al-Kharouf's** release from Givon prison, we are concerned that he remains at risk of being detained again, and therefore deported, as he has not been granted legal residency status. We urge you to allow **Mustafa al-Kharouf** to remain by giving him permanent residency status in East Jerusalem in line with Israel's obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Hayashi".

Brandon Hayashi
Vice-President Equity
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sierra Rae".

Sierra Rae
President
TRU Student's Union

cc. His Excellency Nimrod Barkan, Ambassador for Israel