

October 10, 2025

The Right Honorable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

RE: Urgent Appeal for the safe release of detained Memorial University Student and Alumni

The Memorial University Faculty Association (MUNFA), representing more than 800 academic staff members at Memorial University in Newfoundland Labrador, is writing to express our deep concern regarding the reportedly illegal seizure by Israeli military forces of three members of the Memorial University community: student Sadie Mees, and alumni Nikita Stapleton and Devoney Ellis.

The three were aboard the Freedom Flotilla Coalition's ship *The Conscience*, part of a humanitarian mission aimed at bringing physicians, journalists, and aid to Gaza amid an urgent and internationally recognized humanitarian crisis in this region. According to media reports, the vessel was intercepted approximately 220 kilometers from Gaza, in international waters, and communication with the ship was lost as the Israeli military approached. We understand that Sadie, Nikita, and Devoney, along with other Canadians on board, have since been detained. Further media reports have additionally raised concerns about the conduct of forces during the interception of the vessels, poor detention conditions, and access to legal representation.

The actions of the current Israeli government in intercepting and detaining Canadian civilians who were taking part in a peaceful humanitarian mission indicate violations of international law and the protection of human rights. These Canadians were acting with compassion and courage, motivated by a belief in justice and solidarity. As educators, these are values we aim to encourage in students every day.

We ask Prime Minister Carney's government to take immediate diplomatic action to ensure their safe release and return to Canada. We also urge you to condemn these actions publicly and to reaffirm Canada's commitment to international law, human rights, and the safety of Canadian citizens abroad.

MUNFA stands with everyone working to end the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and we call on Prime Minister Carney's government to lead with empathy and courage. Our hearts are with the families and loved ones of Sadie, Nikita, and Devoney as they wait and hope for their safe return.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Moores', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Lisa Moores
President
Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association