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The Honourable Mélanie Joly
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs

Re: Death of Canadian mother in Turkish detention

October 31, 2024

Dear Ministers,

We are urgently calling for an independent and impartial investigation into the suspicious death in Turkish detention of a Canadian mother of six children who is referred to by her initials as F.J.

F.J. was held in a detention camp in northeastern Syria for five years. The woman's four boys and two girls were repatriated, but the federal government refused to repatriate F.J., arguing that it didn't have the "ability to manage her behaviour once she [got] back to Canada." This is despite the fact that eight other women in the same Syrian camp were repatriated, some through terrorism peace bonds.

F.J. bravely escaped the Syrian camp in an attempt to acquire emergency travel documents in Turkey to return home to Canada. However she was subsequently arrested by Turkish authorities and charged with being a member of a terrorism group, although any evidence of involvement was not made public. She was acquitted in a trial on October 15 and transferred to an immigration holding centre. No more than 48 hours later, F.J. was found dead in her cell by her lawyer. Turkish officials have claimed the cause of death is a heart attack, but there is no proof that an autopsy was performed and no indication that she was in poor health.



The tragic death of F.J. has devastated her family and raised significant concerns about the nature of her death. An independent investigation and autopsy are necessary to address the allegations that the death is suspicious.

Please call for an immediate investigation into the tragic death of F.J., a Canadian citizen and loving mother to six children who are now living with a foster family in Quebec.

We also reiterate calls for the government to repatriate all Canadians detained in northeastern Syria. Attached is a previous letter sent to Minister Joly in 2022 on this matter. If there is evidence against a detainee, this should be addressed through the legal system in Canada and not abroad.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich--Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada



Mike Morrice
Member of Parliament
Kitchener Centre

