

**Still confined in Saudi Arabia with her three children,  
Nathalie Morin sends a message to Canadians**

Confined in Saudi Arabia with her three children since 2005 by her partner, Nathalie Morin is living a veritable nightmare that doesn't seem to end. Despite the continued efforts of her mother to raise the awareness of the Canadian government such that they assume their responsibilities and negotiate the repatriation of Nathalie and her three children (all Canadian citizens) with the Saudi government; despite the support of several MPs and MNAs, several Quebec women's groups, human rights organisations; despite a unanimous motion by MNAs from Quebec's National Assembly asking the Federal government to ensure their return, Nathalie is still held in Saudi Arabia and her physical and psychological health, as well as that of her young children, are deteriorating, day after day. They live locked up 24/7 in an unsanitary apartment, are victims of violence almost daily and do not eat enough to appease their hunger.

Last October 26<sup>th</sup>, for the first time in 2 years, her partner left the apartment and left his laptop accessible to Nathalie. She seized the opportunity to write this letter that we reproduce here with her consent.

Nathalie Morin's Support Committee

[www.nathaliemorin.org](http://www.nathaliemorin.org)

*To Whom It May Concern,*

*I am Nathalie Nathalie Morin and it has been two years that I haven't touched a computer. I am seizing this exceptional moment to have a computer in my hands and Internet service to write. Since I have arrived in Saudi Arabia on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005, I realised right away that I made the biggest mistake of my life and I immediately wished to return to Canada with my son. I became pregnant with my second child by armed sexual assault. At the beginning of my second pregnancy, in the month of December 2005, I phoned Omer El Souri at the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh with my mother who was visiting. I asked for help and he told me I had to reimburse 100\$ in order to receive consular services. A little while after, at the very beginning of 2006, I went to the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh and met Omer El-Souri alone in his office. I was three months pregnant, I asked him to repatriate me to Canada immediately so that I could give birth in Canada. He replied no and expelled me from his office and from the Embassy. I never wanted to become pregnant a second time, but I was raped. I never wanted to give birth to my child in Saudi Arabia, but I was forced by Saeed Al Shahrani and forced by the Canadian Embassy who refused to repatriate me to Canada before the birth. After, I became pregnant of a third child by armed sexual assault. Throughout my pregnancy I asked the Canadian Embassy several times if I could give birth in a neighbouring country, but they always refused saying that Qatar and Saudi*

*Arabia were the same. At the end of my pregnancy I was crying over the phone with Chuck Andeel who couldn't understand me because of my sobs, and finally after I could stop crying I asked him to send a driver for my myself and my three children, so that we could be taken to the Embassy to be safe. That day Saeed had been very violent. He kicked me in the stomach when I was at the end of my pregnancy and he dragged me by my hair and beat me in the face. Chuck Andeel replied that the Canadian Embassy was not able to receive a woman about to give birth and her children. I also entered in communication with Nicholas Gauthier and he sent me an sms saying that when my physical and psychological condition was restored, we would speak about repatriation to Canada.*

*In conclusion, I request the right for my three children, even my two children born in Saudi Arabia, to return with me to Canada.*

*From 2005 'til now, we are, my children and I:*

*1-Confined by key, sometimes we have access to a phone, sometimes not. Our access to the phone is periodic. Only now, after two years, do I have access to a computer.*

*2-Malnourished. Our food is generally bread, dates, white rice and drinkable water. Sometimes we don't even have white rice and sometime we can wait five days before having drinking water. I say generally because when my mother complains to authorities we can have somewhat better food for a week or two. When I say somewhat better I mean instead of eating dry bread, we eat bread with peanut butter...*

*3-Victims of physical and psychological violence. My son Samir is very affected by the violence and is suffering from delayed speech development, difficulty in pronunciation, insomnia, encopresis... etc... My other two children have asthma. Just a few days ago, my daughter was hospitalised for an asthma attack. I am beginning to be affected mentally due to sustained violence since 2005. Last October 4<sup>th</sup>, after Saeed Al Shahrani beat me, I hid in the washroom with a pair of scissors. I cut my hair very short, to one inch of my scalp (my hair was to the middle of my back before). I am scared that I will lose my mind.*

*But I will not abandon my children, because I promised my son Samir that I will never leave him.*

*"Dear Samir, I love you and I'm sorry to have brought you here and because I am guilty, I will fight 'til my last breath, even if I lose my mind. Your fight is my fight, my fight is your fight."*

*Thank you  
Nathalie Morin*