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STATE OF ISRAEL  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES

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28 December 2008

Dear Dr. Erakat,

I would like to advise you that the policy regarding entry of foreign nationals from countries maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel has changed, and entry of these foreign nationals into the West Bank is now possible.

For your information, attached please find several relevant procedures with regard to this matter. We shall continue to update you on this issue.

Best regards,

  
Maj. Gen. Jossef Mishiev  
Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories

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**Entry of Foreign Nationals from those Countries that Maintain Diplomatic Relations with Israel into the West Bank – Instructions**

**1. Entry to the West Bank:**

In general, entry of foreign nationals from countries maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel into the West Bank is possible.

Entry of aforementioned foreign nationals will be permitted through means of the military commander's consent, on the basis of which an entry permit from the Ministry of Interior will be granted. The foreign national will be required to keep the military commander's consent form with his/her passport.

Nationals from countries that do not have visa agreements with Israel can enter the West Bank through Israel, after receiving a visa from the Ministry of Interior, through the embassy/consulate at the country of origin. The request must detail the reason for the visit.

Nationals from countries that have visa agreements with Israel may enter the West Bank by either of the following procedures:

- Preliminary coordination through the embassy /consulate at the country of origin (Recommended).
- Uncoordinated arrival at the border. This necessitates some checking procedures at the border crossing.

In general, nationals will be able to receive an entry visa valid for three months.

The following groups are eligible:

- Spouses of local residents.
- Workers of international representation offices in Israel (diplomats, consulate staff and their families).
- Representatives of International Organizations.



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- Businessmen/ investors/ persons with working permits.
- Pilgrims.
- Reporters.
- Volunteers, lecturers, consultants and others.

## **2. Visa Renewal:**

The visas can be extended by sending a request to the representative of the Ministry of Interior in Beit- El, in either of the following ways:

- Approaching the Palestinian population registry representative in Ramallah and applying for visa renewal.
- In exceptional cases- independently approaching the Israeli Ministry of Interior representative at Beit - El.

The following groups will be able to extend the visa for another year (the total staying time shall not exceed 27 months):

- Spouses of local residents.
- Businessmen.
- Investors.
- People with working permits (Bankers/ specialist doctors).

At the end of the 27 months, a further extension may be granted (provided the foreign national exits and re-enters the area).

International organization employees can obtain a six month renewal for their visa in either of the following ways:

- Sending a request to the International Relations Branch at the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories.
- Sending a request to the Israeli Ministry of Interior population registry regional offices - for employees that live in Israel.



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*Comment:*

The "LAST PERMIT" stamp has been cancelled. People who have this stamp on their passport may leave the area, and their return will not be prevented solely on the basis of the stamp.