



Campaign for the Right to Enter the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt)

A Grassroots Campaign for the Protection of Foreign Passport Holders Residing in and/or Visiting the oPt

SITUATION UPDATE (JAN 2010 - AUGUST 2010)

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News round-up

Entry denials continue

In the first quarter of 2010, the number of entry denial cases reported to the Campaign increased to its highest rate since the initial surge of entry denials in early 2007, raising concerns that Israel is again escalating its policy of arbitrary entry denial. **All of the reported cases were of European and North American passport holders.**

The Campaign for the Right to Enter maintains that states upholding friendly relations with Israel have an obligation to scrutinize Israel’s exercise of authority as an occupying power and to oppose arbitrary denials of entry and residency that harm Palestinian family life, educational, religious and social service institutions. Third state failure to object when facts are brought to their attention implies acceptance of these policies and violates their own obligations in international law.

Cases of entry denial over the past six months include:

- * Bettye Najjab, a 71-year-old US citizen, was denied entry on 2 February, 2010, at the Allenby crossing. Brown was **seeking to live in the West Bank home she inherited from her husband.**

“I’m speculating, but I think the reason is clear. They don’t like the idea that a Palestinian university can be independent and pursue its own policies the same way that any other university in the world does. I mean, it’s almost unheard of, outside of totalitarian states, for a government to prevent someone from responding to an invitation at a university to give a talk...”

- Noam Chomsky, linguist and philosopher, and political activist, upon being denied entry into the oPt to speak at BirZeit University; excerpted from *Democracy Now!*, May 17, 2010
<http://tinyurl.com/22nqwwj>

- * On the weekend of 2-3 January, Israeli security officials denied entry to **Bob Gross, executive director of On Earth Peace** after holding and questioning him for more than twelve hours. He had come to set up appointments and make further plans for a peace delegation to Palestine and Israel. After **locking up Gross in Ben Gurion's airport jail for the night**, the Israeli authorities deported him back the United States and barred him from entering Palestine or Israel again for ten years.¹
- * Jared Malsin, a US citizen and journalist, was detained and subsequently denied entry at Ben Gurion Airport on 12 January, 2010, on his way to the oPt. His companion Faith Rowold, a volunteer with the Lutheran Church in Jerusalem, was also deported. Their **cell phones were confiscated and they were refused contact with US officials**. After two days of questioning and detention, the two were deported on 14 January, 2010.²
- * Ivan Prado, the **most famous clown in Spain** and director of the International Clown Festival in Galicia, was detained for **six hours of questioning** upon his arrival to Ben-Gurion International Airport on 26 April, 2010. Prado had planned to organize a clown festival for children in Ramallah.³

Book Highlight The Power of Inclusive Exclusion: Anatomy of Israeli rule in the occupied Palestinian Territories

Edited by Adi Ophir, Michal Givoni and Sari Hanafi (Zone Books, 2009)

“The Power of Inclusive Exclusion analyzes the Israeli occupation as a rationalized system of political rule. With essays by leading Palestinian and Israeli scholars engaging a variety of disciplinary and intellectual perspectives, the writers address the fundamental and contemporary dimensions of the occupation regime — its unpredictable bureaucratic apparatus, the fragmentation of space and regulation of movement, the intricate tapestry of law and regulations, the discriminatory control over economic flows, and the calculated use of military violence.

This book uncovers the structural logic that sustains and reproduces this occupation regime and provides a new set of categories crucial to our understanding of emergency regimes and duly identifies the stakes necessary for an informed and timely opposition.”

Israel's entry denial practices culminate in the killing of 9 foreign passport holders

Israel's attack on the Free Gaza Flotilla and killing of nine unarmed peace activists represents an escalation of Israeli restrictions on movement and access impacting the oPt.

The Flotilla attack, wholly illegal under international law⁴, continued Israel's four-year illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip. The blockade represents the most severe example of a web of **restrictions on movement that have effectively divided the oPt into a series of isolated and economically crippled, foreign aid-dependent cantons.**

¹ “Church of the Brethren delegation leaders denied entry into Israel.” CPTnet. 20 January, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/3x7hd4m>

² “What's the purpose of your trip to Israel? Delegation continues despite deportation of leaders.” On Earth Peace Assembly. 7 January, 2010.

³ “Israel cracks down on the press.” *Huffington Post*, 14 January, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/yfrvnh4>

⁴ “Shin Beit deports Spain's most famous clown upon arrival in Israel,” *Haaretz*, May 5, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/28nk3np>

⁵ “Legal questions and answers on Israel's action relating to the Free Gaza Flotilla,” July 5. 2010. www.alhaq.org/etemplate.php?id=529

The Quartet's welcoming of Israel's subsequent publication of a list of restricted items into Gaza following the attack⁵ indicated a **lack of political will on the part of the international community to push for a comprehensive treatment of Israel's illegal movement restrictions**. Since the publication

of the list, entry of basic goods into Gaza continues to be so inhibited that it remains newsworthy. Entry of people into Gaza remains restricted to a short list of journalists and international NGO workers, and Israel's subsequent prevention of a Libyan humanitarian aid ship from docking at Gaza shows that the policy of severe economic and humanitarian siege continues.⁶

The Flotilla attack was the logical conclusion of Israel's insistence that it can deny entry at its discretion and by any means, including murder. Until freedom of movement, entry and exit issues are collectively addressed, disasters like the killings on the Free Gaza Flotilla will continue to occur.

Visit our website for:

- *Updated media coverage of issues relating to entry denial*
- *Human rights analysis*
- *Legal resources*
- *Government contact information*
- *To report your case*

www.righttoenter.ps

Military Order 1650: a blank check to deport 35,000 Gazans from the West Bank

On 13 April, 2010, Military Orders 1649 and 1650 came into effect. B'tselem, the Israeli center for human rights, reported that, "Under the orders, any Palestinian who enters the West Bank 'unlawfully'... without an Israeli permit is deemed an "infiltrator" and may be deported... **The definitions in the orders are vague: they do not determine, for example, what is considered a valid permit and whether a Palestinian identity card constitutes one.**

The new definition of "infiltrator" turns persons whom Israel previously classified as "persons staying illegally" in the West Bank into criminals, who are subject to seven years' imprisonment."⁷

HaMoked, the center for the defense of the individual, learned through a Freedom of Information Act petition that **"nearly 35,000 individuals must be viewed as being at high risk for forcible transfer to Gaza: 7919 Palestinians who entered the West Bank from Gaza under "Safe Passage" and remain in the West Bank to date; 23,348 Palestinians who traveled to the West Bank from Gaza between 2001 and April, 2010 and 935 prior to the end of the year 2000; and 2,479 Palestinians who were born in the West Bank but who have registered addresses in Gaza. This brings the total number of individuals who must be considered at risk for forcible transfer to Gaza to 34,681."**⁸

Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi, founder of UPMRC and the Initiative Party and Dr. Raja Shehada, founder of Al-Haq, have joined the outcry from the human rights community and condemned the orders as acts of racism.⁹ The diplomatic community must follow and act immediately against these illegal and harmful orders that threaten to criminalize West Bank residents, separate families, and further fragment the oPt.

⁵ "Quartet Representative Tony Blair welcomes Israel's publication of controlled items list for Gaza," July 5, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/3yqqzdb>

⁶ As an example of how this affects ordinary residents of Gaza, the obstruction of construction materials into Gaza has created a severe housing shortage. Homes, particularly in the south of the Gaza Strip, are few and prohibitively expensive. One family from Gaza recently returned home after traveling abroad so that one of them could complete an MBA with a Fulbright scholarship. The family returned in March 2010 and has not yet been able to secure housing due to steep prices and availability.

⁷ "New military order defines tens of thousands of Palestinians "infiltrators" who may be expelled and imprisoned," B'tselem, 22 April, 2010. http://www.btselem.org/English/deportation/20100422_deportation_order.asp

⁸ See also Gisha's press release on new restrictions on Gazan families, "13 Human Rights Organizations Petition the Supreme Court: Israel should not determine which parent a Palestinian child lives with," Gisha, 15 March, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/2vzkamr>

⁹ "Israel's new military order is an act of racism," *Palestine Monitor*, 12 April, 2010. <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/spip/spip.php?article1353>

Residency and access rights for Jerusalemites under concerted attack as Jerusalem-based Palestinian legislators stripped of residency rights

In yet another move by Israel to empty occupied East Jerusalem of Palestinians, Israel took actions to strip three Palestinian legislators and a former minister of their Jerusalem residency rights and deport them to Gaza: elected legislators Mohammed Mahmoud Abu Teir, Ahmed Mohammed Atoun, Mohammed Omran Tawtah, and former Minister of Jerusalem Affairs Khaled Ibrahim Abu Arafah.

The four legislators joined the 86,000 Jerusalemites who have lost their residency rights since 1967, 829 of them since June 2009 alone, according to a recent study by the Jerusalem Center for Social and Economical Rights.

Israel's continued restrictions on entry and residency rights comprise yet another example of its numerous policies and practices that aim to further entrench the unlawful fragmentation and annexation of large swaths of the oPt; all these actions violate international law and undermine the prospects for peace and a just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.¹⁰

Third states, notably Quartet members, are obligated as signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to employ political, diplomatic, and economic pressure to bring Israel in line with international law. The Convention strictly forbids the expulsion of individuals from an occupied population and the separation of family members, under any circumstances.

Palestinian Authority-only visas and other measures continue to restrict access to oPt

In August 2009, Israel began introducing new measures at its border crossings with dangerous legal implications, as well as serious repercussions for those wishing to travel to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).¹¹ Chief among these was **the PA-only visa, which permits travel only in Areas A and B.** Those who received the stamp were mainly citizens of countries with diplomatic relations with Israel, from Europe and the United States, and were mainly of Palestinian and Arab descent, many of whom with family in the (oPt). Other travellers were required to sign **a statement committing them to not enter the Palestinian Authority controlled areas of the West Bank under penalty of legal action,** while some foreign nationals from countries without visa agreements with Israel were issued **"Israel only" visas.**

Adalah reported that the measures would affect **"500,000 protected residents in various areas of the West Bank and East Jerusalem"** who are highly dependent on

"PalTrade has focused much of its efforts on identifying the major factors that impede international investors, staff, and experts from entering and residing in WBG. The largest constraint remains the ever-increasing restrictions on entry policy, as well as the unclear procedure for obtaining and renewing entry permits/visas...

The difficulty investors face in obtaining long-term, multiple entry permits and visas and as well as the high uncertainty of being granted re-entry visas... severely limits the investors' ability to plan, or make an investment engagement as well as the PA's ability to promote investment."

-- Palestine Trade Center, Obtaining Visas for Investors, February 2010
<http://tinyurl.com/2u67cqf>

¹⁰ In a similar move in February, Israel removed the VIP IDs of Fatah members because of their participation in anti-fence protests, see "Fatah official: Israel confiscated VIP IDs," *Ynet News*, 26 February, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/3acaawl>

¹¹ *Israeli border officials at both the Allenby border crossing and Ben Gurion Airport have begun using a new entry visa stamp that permits travel only in Palestinian Authority-controlled areas.* (<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/border-crossings.html>)

foreign assistance as a result of Israel’s ongoing violations of their basic human rights.¹² While international diplomatic outcry lowered the number of PA-only visas issued, they have not officially been put out of practice and are indeed still used – although less frequently – at border crossings. They are yet another example of Israel’s numerous policies and practices that aim to further entrench the unlawful fragmentation and annexation of parts of the occupied territory, are in violation of international law and threaten to undermine the prospects for peace and a just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.¹³

“Not Permitted to Work”: Israel’s refusal to issue work permits threatens humanitarian workers



The B2 Visa

In another example of Israel’s abuse of its administrative control over the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), in contravention of its obligations under international law, **Israel issued an order in September 2009 that would eliminate B1 work visas for international workers**, providing them instead with B2 tourist visas, meaning they would not be permitted to work in Israeli-controlled areas including East Jerusalem. On this basis, **these organizations and the third States that sponsor much of their humanitarian work would also be prevented from providing assistance to Jerusalem’s Palestinian residents.**

At the time, *Haaretz* reported that “the NGO workers say they've come to believe that the new policy is intended to force them to close their Jerusalem offices and relocate to West Bank cities.”¹⁴ Thanks to the diplomatic outcry that followed, and the workers’ accusations that they were being discriminated against compared to other foreign nationals, the Interior Ministry stopped issuing these restrictive tourist visas, *Haaretz* reported in March.¹⁵

Martha Myers, the Country Director of CARE West Bank and Gaza, has been following the situation since September, and says that in general INGOs continue to receive B1 visas. “However, we have a recent, concerning development. A large organization with expatriate staff in Gaza has been told to get their B2 visas through COGAT. The INGO community doesn’t have an issue with the practice of issuing multiple entry B2 visas to Gaza-based expatriate staff since they obviously aren’t meeting the 15 hours a week in Israel requirement. However, it is worrisome that all of a sudden there is an effort, once again, to insert the Ministry of Defence into the process.”

Diaspora community vulnerable

While the second quarter saw a sharp decrease entry in denial reports, the Campaign remains concerned that

Online Resource Alert

A new blog, ***Military Order 1650***, militaryorder1650.blogspot.com, collects and disseminates updated media and legal information related to this discriminatory order.

¹² “Re: The cessation of issuing work visas to employees of international NGOs operating in the West Bank and East Jerusalem,” Adalah, 26 January, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/y1778ra>

¹³ The US State Department has criticised "PA only visa" as unfair and unacceptable, stating: “We have let the Government of Israel know that these restrictions unfairly impact Palestinian and Arab American travellers and are not acceptable.” The new measures have also been criticised by leaders within the Government of Israel. Israeli Ministry of Tourism issued a statement saying: "This decision taken by the interior ministry causes significant damage to Israel's image and to incoming tourism for those tourists who visit the holy sites in the Palestinian Authority." And the Israeli Foreign Ministry claims it does not support the new visa. "It is unclear what good it is and how it can be enforced" a Foreign Ministry official told the press. "All it does is damage Israel's image in its foreign relations," the official added.

¹⁴ “Israel withholding NGO employees’ work permits,” by Amira Hass, *Haaretz*, 20 January, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/35jkobg>

¹⁵ “Israel to resume issue of visas for foreign NGO workers in the West Bank,” by Amira Hass, *Haaretz*, 9 March, 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/3a7wtrm>

this does not reflect real trends. The second quarter of the calendar year generally sees an influx of the Palestinian Diaspora into the oPt. This is also the population most vulnerable to various forms of discrimination including entry denial. This population is also the least likely to report entry denial. **The lull in cases could thus point to fear of reporting rather than improved entry policy.**

Standstill in family unification

Meanwhile, the freeze on family unification applications continues. **According to the Palestinian Authority of Civil Affairs, 85,000 applications are waiting to be processed**, a figure that significantly understates actual need, since many Palestinians, aware of the freeze in place since 2000, have not submitted requests. Most approved requests relate to persons who remained in the oPt after their visitor's permit expired and continued to live with their families there with "illegal" status. For all individuals outside of the country, family unification procedures have been suspended since 2000.¹⁶

Academic freedom in peril

On May 16, 2010, the linguist, philosopher and political activist Noam Chomsky was denied entry into the oPt to deliver a speech at BirZeit University. Chomsky said that border authorities, in communication with the Israeli Ministry of Interior, indicated that **the reasons for the denial were his political views about Israel, and the fact that he was not planning to speak at any Israeli universities.** Chomsky isn't the only academic having trouble getting past Israeli authorities to go to school: **in one university alone, the Campaign has learned that 1 of 6 foreign students enrolled in summer program were barred.**

In the media

26 Jan, 2010: *In the West they say it's rain*, by Amira Hass

<http://tinyurl.com/39kzyvg>

14 Mar, 2010: *Palestinian business hampered by visa problems*, by Daniel Estrin for The World

Listen to mp3: <http://media.theworld.org/audio/031220102.mp3>

24 Mar, 2010: *Israel defends its right to arrest foreigners in the West Bank*

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1158632.html>

4 Apr, 2010: *Israeli groups fight orders allowing army to jail West Bank residents*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/apr/11/israeli-groups-attack>

24 May, 2010: *500 academics, students sign letter protesting Israel's refusal to grant Noam Chomsky entry*

<http://www.jpost.comservlet/Satellite?cid=1245184890433&pagename=JPArticle%2FShowFull>

30 May, 2010: *Rights groups petition against West Bank deportation policy*

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=176843>

2 Jul, 2010: *Jerusalem politicians face expulsion Israel creating loyalty test, warn lawyers*, by Jonathan Cook

<http://www.atlanticfreepress.com/news/1/13472-jerusalem-politicians-face-expulsion-israel-creating-loyalty-test-warn-lawyers.html>

¹⁶ http://www.btselem.org/english/Family_Separation/Index.asp

Subject: Mr. President: I Need My Money Back!

As an American taxpayer who part of his hard labor is deducted annually since over 45 years to give for free as a grant, as annual donations, to the largest recipient of American Foreign Aid, to Israel, I need my money back along with the compounded interest going back 45 years.

On February 23 and March 7th, 2010, I was denied entry to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, my place of birth, by the Israeli Occupying authorities. As I frequently visit the Occupied Territories to assist duly registered business enterprises, specifically Financial Banks, in the development of their businesses, I was denied entry for the sole excuse of frequent visits.

Somehow, Mr. Obama, I feel you would, as an Afro-American most relate to me in my plight of discrimination and denial of basic human rights. However, my plight, Mr. President, remains a miniscule in comparison with the enduring plight of the average Palestinian in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Mr. President, my plight is further accentuated by a wrenching sense of a sad irony; of the travesty of the position of our Government that while professes strict adherence to human rights, I am denied entry to my place of birth, the place where I had grown up until the age of adulthood, until the age of 18, as hordes of American Jewish settlers, mostly recent immigrants, move in droves to occupy illegal settlements right next to my hometown, Nablus, in the West Bank, Nablus. That's the discriminatory Israel, Mr. President, that your government elects to look the other side when it violates the very basic principles of human rights that our great American constitution stands steadfast in defending.

Mr. President, nearly 44 years ago, when I first left my home town, Nablus to pursue my University Education in the U.S.A, it never occurred to me that my home town, then part of the Sovereign Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, would be occupied by the Israeli forces [during the 1967 War]. Even then, I thought, to my great naivety, Mr. President, that the Geneva Conventions would be observed and that it would be totally inconceivable that I would be denied the right to return to my home town, my place of birth, for the simple technical problem that when the Israelis moved to occupy my city I was not there to be counted in the Israeli arbitrary and ad hoc system of deciding right of residence and the "Right of Return" of absentee students.

Dear Mr. President, for two months now, I tried every possible legal channel to relate my case to and request their intervention to solving this problem. Most disappointedly, the office of the American Consul General in Jerusalem brushed the case aside as that's a Sovereign Israeli matter they can not do anything about it. When I faced him, on the phone, with the fact that Israel enjoys a unique and exceptionally privileged treatment of the U.S. Government, and that Israel applies selectivity and discriminatory rules favoring Jewish Americans, the U.S. Consul General never responded.

Mr. President, I know that you could do nothing about my plight, and nothing to alleviate the plight and the enduring suffering of the millions of other Palestinians as a result of the U.S.A.'s UN-Evenhanded policies however, it is my rightful claim, Mr. President, that as a tax payer whose part of his hard labor goes in aid to Israel, and as an American who is discriminated against by the Israeli authorities, I need that part of my money back with a compounded interest stating since over 40 years.

*Respectfully,
Rajai Masri*

Rajai Masri is a U.S. citizen and an investment banker with degrees in electrical engineering and finance.

Summary of documented cases of entry denial 2009 - 2010 by type
(1 Jan 2009 through May 2010, updated 24 May, 2010)

	Jan '09	Feb '09	Mar '09	Apr '09	May '09	Jun '09	Jul '09	Aug '09	Sep '09	Oct '09	Nov '09	Dec '09	Jan '10	Feb '10	Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10
Ports of entry																	
Allenby Bridge		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ben Gurion Airport	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sheikh Hussein Bridge			X												X	X	
Taba										X							
Nationals																	
Europe	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Latin American								X		X		X					
North America			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Other*			X						X	X	X	X				X	
Types of visitors																	
Business persons														X			
Development, humanitarian & HR workers			X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family			X		X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Educators, health & social service workers				X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X
Media workers & artists										X			X			X	
Students & researchers	X	X											X				
Tourists & visitors				X	X	X						X	X			X	
UN officials & diplomatic corps				X													
Other**	X				X			X	X	X			X				

* Citizens of Arab countries are particularly reluctant to report entry denials. Procedures outlined in the COGAT and MOFA notices pertain only to countries having visa agreements with Israel; no provision for visas or entry permits are made for Jordanian nationals – the vast majority of those seeking family unification – or other Arab nationals seeking to visit or reside in the oPt.

** Other types of visitors/travelers include individuals affiliated with the church and/or other religious institutions and diplomatic missions.

Take action

Third states maintaining friendly relations with Israel command the standing to challenge the arbitrary exclusion of their nationals from the oPt. They also have **an obligation to scrutinize Israel's exercise of authority as an occupying power and to oppose arbitrary denials of entry and residency** that harm Palestinian family life, educational, religious and social service institutions, businesses and socio-economic development more broadly.

Third states are urged to:

1. Ensure Israeli implementation of the rights to family unity and family reunification and the establishment of clear and transparent procedures for foreign nationals seeking to reside in the oPt, in keeping with international law.
 - obtain Israeli cancellation of the stipulation by Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) that foreigners are restricted to a 27-month, single entry, maximum stay
 - demand Israel's adoption and implementation of a clear, transparent policy for issuing multiple entry residency permits to foreign nationals
2. Call for an immediate halt to Israel's arbitrary and abusive practice of denying entry to foreign nationals travelling to the oPt.
 - demand Israel's adoption and implementation of a clear, transparent policy for unhindered access to the oPt by foreign nationals
 - obtain explicit assurances that people who have previously been denied entry will be permitted to re-enter the oPt
 - demand an end the practice of issuing permits that restrict exit and re-entry
 - demand an end the practice of issuing permits of less than three months to those travelling to the oPt
 - demand that Israel cease the collective punishment of those whose relatives may have 'overstayed' their original visa duration
3. Apply vigorous scrutiny to cases of denied entry and denied residency in the oPt with a view to promoting Israel's adoption and transparent application of principles consistent with the internationally accepted rights and obligations of an occupying power.
 - set up clear mechanisms for citizens to report and appeal cases of denied entry
 - set up clear mechanisms for liaising with Israeli authorities to ensure safe passage to the oPt for all citizens and ensure the prompt and proper resolution of cases where safe passage has been hindered
 - insist on receiving a formal explanation of each decision taken by Israel to bar any of their citizens from the oPt
 - object to all arbitrary denials of entry and residency that harm Palestinian family life, educational, health and social service institutions and businesses and act to resolve all such cases of exclusion.
4. Respect the duty of all states not to acquiesce to internationally unlawful acts, bearing in mind that failing to object to *prima facie* unlawful acts or policies when notified of them implies accepting them as lawful.
5. Promote Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law with appropriate and effective tools of persuasion and dissuasion. Take appropriate measures based on reciprocity to ensure that the correct treatment accorded to Israel nationals seeking to enter third countries is reciprocated by correct treatment of their nationals seeking to enter Israel or the oPt.

Concerned individuals and organizations are called on to intensify their efforts to hold the governments of Israel, third states and the Palestinian National Authority to their respective obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

1. **Send a letter to Israeli, UN, the Quartet Representative's Office and your government representatives**, documenting your case and emphasizing the need to obtain clear assurances from Israel that persons carrying foreign passports will not be arbitrarily denied safe and secure passage to the oPt and that all foreign citizens seeking entry will be treated with dignity and respect.
2. **Write your local press** protesting Israel's unlawful policy of entry denials by telling your personal story and the impact it has had on you, your loved ones, your business, your organisation, etc.
3. **Update the Campaign on your experience.** Updated and reliable information about how entry denials (whether recent or past) continue to affect individuals, families and the general welfare of the Palestinian people in the oPt is essential to effectively combat Israel's policies. Even if you wish to keep your information confidential, it helps the Campaign to have documentation and statistics to establish trends and report impact. If you've attempted / been successful in returning, let us know. If you haven't tried, let us know why and under what conditions you might try to return.

Fill out the Campaign's denial of entry form and contribute to the Campaign's efforts to document and defeat Israel's unlawful policy of restricting entry into the oPt. The on line form can be found on this link:

<http://www.righttoenter.ps/ReportYourCase.php?mid=16&sid=18>

US citizens are also encouraged to report to the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee at:

[http://www.adc.org/index.php?id=2980&no_cache=1&word_list\[\]=Entry&word_list\[\]=Denial](http://www.adc.org/index.php?id=2980&no_cache=1&word_list[]=Entry&word_list[]=Denial)

For questions or assistance in taking action, please contact Christina Zola from AAI at 202.429.9210, Fahed Al-Rawaf from ADC at 202.244.2990 or Ghaith Al-Omari from AAFP at 202.887.0177

4. **Encourage friends and family members affected by the policy to take action.** The successful return of individuals previously denied entry and the unhindered entry of others was made possible by **organized civic action involving a broad alliance of concerned individuals and organizations** within the Palestinian, Israeli and international communities.

The nuisance factor: Register your opposition!

Organisations and individuals facing difficulties in securing entry permits to/from Gaza are encouraged to contact the UN Access Cell: 054-3311850 (round-the-clock, 7 days a week).