



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 (SEPT 2008 - JUNE 2009)

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News round-up

Entry denials continue

In the first six months of 2009, **the number of entry denial cases reported to the Campaign increased** relative to cases reported in the last quarter of 2008, raising concerns that Israel is again escalating its policy of arbitrary entry denial. Nearly **60% of all cases collected by RTE since December 2007 involve US citizens**. Over **22% were European citizens and nearly 5% were Canadian**.

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.

"The quintessential Palestinian experience takes place at a border, an airport, a checkpoint: in short, at any one of those many modern barriers where identities are checked and verified."

- historian Rashid Khalidi as quoted in Leila El-Haddad in "I Was Born Palestinian," in which she reflects on her recent failed attempt to return home to Gaza

<http://palsolidarity.org/2009/04/6158>

UN officials thwarted in their duties by Israel's entry restrictions

In December 2008, Israeli officials barred entry to UN Special Rapporteur Richard Falk who was travelling to the oPt via Ben Gurion Airport as part of a UN fact finding mission on Israel's compliance with human rights standards and international humanitarian law. (See story below for details.) Despite UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay's insistence that she would address the issue "directly with the Israeli authorities, including possible breaches of UN privileges and immunities in

the treatment and detention of Professor Falk at Ben Gurion airport,"¹ Falk has yet to be granted permission to enter Israel or the oPt.

In June 2009, members of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission mandated by the Human Rights Council were forced to enter Gaza through the Egyptian border at Rafah after Israel refused to allow the delegation to enter Israel. The team, headed by South African Justice Richard Goldstone, former chief U.N. war crimes prosecutor for Yugoslavia and Rwanda, is mandated to study allegations of human rights violations during the hostilities between 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009.

"It would have been our wish to start there [Israel], to visit southern Israel and Sderot, to go through Gaza through the front door, to go into the West Bank which is also included in our mission," commented Goldstone.²

Other cases of entry denial over the past nine months include:

- * Tiffany Ulbruch, a US citizen married to a Palestinian from Hebron was denied entry on 16 September, 2008 at Sheikh Hussein Bridge. **Ms Ulbruch was denied entry for the first time** at Ben Gurion Airport and deported to Germany on 10 July, 2007 **when she attempted to reach the West Bank for her wedding.** She was later able to enter through Allenby Bridge on a two-week visa allowing her to marry before she was obliged to leave the country. Ms Ulbruch's father reports that the first time she tried to enter "she was told in a written report mailed to her brother in California that she was denied entry because she carried a fake passport. This same passport was accepted two days later from the bridge side. This time they [again] say there is a problem with the passport."
- * In September 2008, **two American teachers** at the Pioneers Baccalaureate School, the first secondary language school in Nablus, were denied entry at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge.³

¹ OHCHR, 17 Dec 2008, press release.

² Stephanie Nebehay, May 20, 2009, "U.N. war crimes inquiry hopes to visit Gaza early June," <http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFTRE54J2P820090520>

³ http://arabic.pnn.ps/index.php?option=com_zcontent&task=view&id=38544&Itemid=35

"My Expulsion from Israel" By Richard Falk

On December 14, I arrived at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, Israel to carry out my UN role as special rapporteur on the Palestinian territories. I was leading a mission that had intended to visit the West Bank and Gaza to prepare a report on Israel's compliance with human rights standards and international humanitarian law....

To avoid an incident at the airport, Israel could have either refused to grant visas or communicated to the UN that I would not be allowed to enter, but neither step was taken. It seemed that **Israel wanted to teach me, and more significantly, the UN a lesson: there will be no cooperation with those who make strong criticisms of Israel's occupation policy.**

After being denied entry, I was put in a holding room with about 20 others experiencing entry problems. At this point, I was treated not as a UN representative, but as some sort of security threat, subjected to an inch-by-inch body search and the most meticulous luggage inspection I have ever witnessed. I was separated from my two UN companions who were allowed to enter Israel and taken to the airport detention facility a mile or so away. I was required to put all my bags and cell phone in a room and taken to a locked tiny room that smelled of urine and filth. It contained five other detainees and was an unwelcome invitation to claustrophobia. I spent the next 15 hours so confined, which amounted to a cram course on the miseries of prison life, including dirty sheets, inedible food and lights that were too bright or darkness controlled from the guard office.
(*contd. on p.3*)

- * On 4 February 2009, despite assurances from the Israeli government the previous night, **Evangelical Lutheran Church Bishop Munib Younan and Anglican Bishop Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani were denied entry to Gaza**. The two were the only Palestinians in a group of the heads of churches travelling to visit Gaza in the aftermath of the December assault and the only ones to be denied entry. Younan commented: "We are protesting because this is against our right to move and against our freedom of religion... Isn't it our right as heads of churches to have free movement and to enter Gaza for pastoral visits where ever we want?"
- * On 1 March 2009, **Israeli authorities at Allenby Bridge refused entry to Toshio Tarui, a Japanese physio-therapist** working with a Palestinian NGO in the West Bank. Mr. Tarui, 35, was denied entry a second time when he subsequently tried to enter from Sheikh Hussein Bridge. Mr Tarui was informed that he would only be permitted entry if he could acquire a volunteer or work permit from an international organization recognised by the Israeli Ministries of Interior or Foreign Affairs.

Richard Falk, "My Expulsion from Israel," (*contd. from p. 2.*)

I spent the next 15 hours so confined, which amounted to a cram course on the miseries of prison life, including dirty sheets, inedible food and lights that were too bright or darkness controlled from the guard office.

Of course, my disappointment and harsh confinement were trivial matters, not by themselves worthy of notice, given the sorts of serious hardships that millions around the world daily endure. Their importance is largely symbolic. I am an individual who had done nothing wrong beyond express strong disapproval of policies of a sovereign state. More importantly, the obvious intention was to humble me as a UN representative and thereby send a message of defiance to the United Nations.

Israel had all along accused me of bias and of making inflammatory charges relating to the occupation of Palestinian territories. I deny that I am biased, but rather insist that I have tried to be truthful in assessing the facts and relevant law. It is the character of the occupation that gives rise to sharp criticism of Israel's approach, especially its harsh blockade of Gaza, resulting in the collective punishment of the 1.5 million inhabitants. By attacking the observer rather than what is observed, Israel plays a clever mind game. It directs attention away from the realities of the occupation, practising effectively a politics of distraction....

The purpose of my reports is to document on behalf of the UN the urgency of the situation in Gaza and elsewhere in occupied Palestine. Such work is particularly important now as there are signs of a renewed escalation of violence and even of a threatened Israeli reoccupation.

Before such a catastrophe happens, it is important to make the situation as transparent as possible, and that is what I had hoped to do in carrying out my mission. Although denied entry, my effort will continue to use all available means to document the realities of the Israeli occupation as truthfully as possible.

- excerpted from *The Guardian*, Dec 20, 2008

Richard Falk is professor of international law at Princeton University and the UN's special rapporteur on the Palestinian territories.

Access to Gaza

Movement in and out of Gaza continues to be severely restricted by the Israeli authorities; total closure during Israel's massive military attacks last December and January has only been minimally eased. Protests by Israeli and international journalists eventually led to a reopening of the area to accredited press, and permits are being granted to selected international humanitarian agencies for up to six months duration with requirements for coordination with Israeli authorities prior to each visit dropped. However, reports regarding the number of instances of international staff, particularly those of 'non-Western' descent, being refused permits or receiving single entry permits of limited duration **demonstrate Israel's continued exercise of discretion over the Gaza border in an arbitrary and unlawful manner.**

Access to human rights organisations through Erez has been blocked by Israeli authorities since the end of the Israeli offensive on Gaza launched in December of last year. In April, a delegation of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network was unable to secure permits for its trip to Gaza during which it had planned a fact-finding mission on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Gaza as well as its bi-annual meeting with Palestinian partner organisations.

More importantly, the limited number of **West Bank and Jerusalemite Palestinians** --even those working for international organisations-- who used to be able to acquire permits to Gaza, have had, with very few exceptions, **no access to the Gaza Strip since at least late 2008.** Long before Israel's December attacks on the Gaza Strip, the continued closure left families separated, Gaza's economy in shambles, and health and social services severely compromised, threatening to destroy the collective political identity and social fabric of the Palestinian community.⁴ In the aftermath of recent attacks, Palestinians in the West Bank, who provide critical expertise in current humanitarian, relief and developmental efforts and in the vital task of supporting and fostering community resilience, have been barred entry. Furthermore, with very few exceptions, **Israel continues to deny 1.5 million Gazans from reaching the West Bank** and only a very limited number of humanitarian cases have been granted permits into Israel for medical treatment.⁵ (See story below for Israel's latest efforts to permanently separate West Bank and Gaza Strip.)

"The EMHRN strongly condemns the restriction imposed on the freedom of movement of human rights defenders (HRDs) by the Israeli authorities, which not only denies their right to freedom of movement, enshrined in the UN declaration on human rights defenders (HRDs) adopted by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, but is also counter-productive for the peace process.

"The EMHRN also reiterates its condemnation of the lack of access into the area for urgently-needed humanitarian and reconstruction materials."

- Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network, Apr 2009, press release

⁴ See, for example, OCHA, Dec 2007, "Special Focus: The Closure of the Gaza Strip – The Economic and Humanitarian Consequences," http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/Gaza_Special_Focus_December_2007.pdf . See also OCHA humanitarian updates and situation and Gaza access reports www.ochaopt.org .

⁵ According to the Israeli rights group Physicians for Human Rights, more than 400 Palestinian patients seeking permits for medical treatment in Israel were summoned to Erez crossing point and interrogated by Israeli authorities in the first three months of 2009. Physicians for Human Rights says Israeli security services are involved in a systematic attempt to recruit Palestinians as collaborators and says Israel also interrogated children, detained patients for undisclosed periods of time, and intimidated them during interrogations. Those who did not co-operate were refused permission to leave Gaza for treatment, the group says" (BBC NEWS, 4 May, 2009, "Gaza patients questionings 'rise'," http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/middle_east/8032508.stm). For details on deaths related to Israel's refusal to provide entry permits into Israel for medical treatment, see for example: <http://www.ynetnews.com/Ext/Comp/ArticleLayout/CdaArticlePrintPreview/1.2506.L-3526442.00.html> <http://www.ynetnews.com/Ext/Comp/ArticleLayout/CdaArticlePrintPreview/1.2506.L-3538080.00.html> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0.7340.L-3617974.00.html>

Human Rights Organisations Protest Restrictions on Change of Residency for Palestinians in Gaza

An official procedure that has come to light following HaMoked's petitions to the Supreme Court reveals a far-reaching Israeli policy intended to deepen and formalize the separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Under the new procedure, Israel sets extremely stringent conditions for changes of residence from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, erecting a new and virtually insurmountable barrier between the two areas. The procedure constitutes an escalation in Israel's policy of separation between Gaza and the West Bank, undermining the prospect of a viable Palestinian state and exacting a high price from the Palestinian population of the Occupied Territories.

Israel is preventing civilians from changing their place of residence using the vague pretext that it is responding to the security-political situation in the Gaza Strip, but in fact, Israel is pursuing political goals at the expense of the civilian population, in blatant violation of international humanitarian standards.

Even as the international community, led by the United States, is working to achieve a two-state solution, and the Israeli Prime Minister himself declares his intention to promote a political settlement, Israel is systematically taking action to further isolate the Gaza Strip while increasing the geographic and political separation between Gaza and the West Bank.

The new procedure contradicts a long list of Israeli undertakings to conduct negotiations for the establishment of an independent, viable Palestinian state, including an explicit commitment in the Oslo Accords to preserve the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as "a single territorial unit." The procedure, which is supposed to restrict relocation from Gaza to the West Bank to "humanitarian" cases only, in fact renders the term "humanitarian" meaningless. It specifies that even in patently humanitarian cases – such as an orphan living in Gaza who seeks to reunite with his remaining parent in the West Bank, or an elderly invalid who requires care by a relative who lives in the West Bank, or married couples who have become separated – Israel will not permit relocation to the West Bank, except under the most exceptional circumstances....

HaMoked and Gisha call on Israel to cancel the procedure and allow Palestinians to move from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, and change their registered address accordingly.

HaMoked and Gisha call on the international community to take action to have Israel revoke this procedure, which violates the basic rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, severely damages the ties between Gaza and the West Bank and undermines the possibility of establishing a viable Palestinian state.

-excerpt from Gisha – Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement and HaMoked Centre for the Defence of the Individual (June 2009) "New Procedure – Israel bars Palestinians in Gaza from moving to West Bank," http://www.gisha.org/UserFiles/File/publications_/WB_Gaza_Procedure-PositionP-Eng.pdf

Jerusalem strangulated

In the last several months Israeli authorities have introduced new measures requiring Palestinians holding West Bank IDs,⁶ who are lucky enough to receive permits to enter Jerusalem or Israel, to register upon entering and exiting. Registration is only possible at certain checkpoints and registration of entry and exit

⁶ While Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem is in contravention of international law and is not recognised by the international community (including the US and EU), Israel none the less issues separate identity papers for East Jerusalemites.

must be done at the same checkpoint.⁷ As a result, more people are being channeled through fewer checkpoints with more procedures and, predictably, further delays. These procedures are expected to facilitate **Israel's escalated efforts to revoke Jerusalem IDs of Palestinians** who are unable to establish Jerusalem as their "centre of life," because they live or work elsewhere in the West Bank. The situation is particularly acute for families where one spouse has a West Bank ID and the other a Jerusalem ID. Husband and wife cannot live together legally in Jerusalem without a special permit which must be renewed every six months, and the spouse with a Jerusalem ID risks losing it if s/he chooses to live elsewhere in the West Bank.

Family unification

In March, another list of Israeli-approved family unification approvals was announced, bringing the number of individuals receiving family unifications since September 2000 to nearly 35,000 according to Palestinian officials at the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Applicants from Gaza were not included on the most recent list and, as in previous instances, approvals were awarded on the basis that applicants were currently in the West Bank. Based on Israeli human rights organisation B'Tselem statistics, this represents only one-third of all applicants and leaves at least 86,000 Palestinians still waiting. Moreover, this figure significantly understates actual need, since many Palestinians, knowing about the sweeping freeze in 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. Approval for unification of split families, in which family members have been forced to remain outside the oPt has been even more limited. **The approvals, which were given in the framework of Israeli-Palestinian political negotiations, were described by Israel as a gesture, and not a change in policy.**⁸

In a noticed published in the leading Palestinian daily newspaper, *Al-Quds*, on 19 March, the RTE Campaign noted that Israel's latest approval of family unification requests gives breathing room to some families in the occupied West Bank. However, **families in Gaza continue to wait, while Palestinians in Jerusalem routinely have their existing residency permits withdrawn by Israel in an effort to change the demographics there by removing Christians and Muslims from the city.** For all individuals outside of the country, family unification procedures have been suspended since 2000. While the procedure for making a family unification request through the Palestinian Authority is clear, what happens when the request is forwarded on to the Israeli authorities is unclear. Applications for family unification will continue to flow in to the PA, while the 10-year backlog of applications awaits Israeli processing. A transparent mechanism by Israel for granting family unification requests is urgently needed.

Visa renewals

According to Palestinian Authority officials, **more visa renewals were issued to those wishing to stay in the oPt during 2008 than prior years;** 80% (1,382 of 1,718) of all visa renewal applications submitted in 2008 to Israeli authorities via the PA were approved; 230 were rejected and an additional 106 were not processed due to wrong/incomplete information. A PA official informed RTE that renewal refusals primarily involve individuals without first degree family (spouse or child) holding Palestinian IDs and residing in the oPt.

As the number of individuals reaching the 27-month limit to internal visa renewals rises (announced by Israeli authorities in December 2006), more people are again facing the difficult choice of remaining illegally or travelling abroad and risking entry denial on their return. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many of those who choose to leave have been permitted to re-enter, but at considerable expense. To date,

⁷ West Bankers who enter Jerusalem or Israel with a permit based on a magnetic security clearance card are fingerprinted at entry and exit (same day before 7pm); if they fail to do so they risk losing their magnetic card and future permits.

⁸ http://www.btselem.org/English/Family_Separation/20080807_Family_Runification_Gesture.asp

the internal visa renewal option is almost exclusively for individuals with first degree relatives holding Palestinian IDs. Campaign documentation indicates that other individuals still depending on tourist visas arbitrarily issued at the border for various lengths of time (but not exceeding three months) spend between \$200 to \$5,000 every three months in travelling abroad to renew their visas, with additional costs incurred for living expenses and work days lost.

Work permits

To date, **there is no clear or consistent policy in place for foreign passport holders wishing to work in the oPt to obtain work and residency permits.** In 2008, university professors were able to negotiate a special deal allowing them to renew their visiting visas for up to one year. Several other educational institutions have reportedly secured similar arrangements for international staff. The visa provided, however, is generally not a multiple entry visa and technically does not allow the person to work in the oPt. In 2009, a handful of individuals working in the oPt have reportedly been able to secure multiple entry work permits. But even these few individuals are not protected from Israel's arbitrary practice of entry denial. The Campaign has documented cases of individuals, including UN staff, with valid work permits denied entry at Israel-controlled borders.

For others, whether health professionals, social service providers, humanitarian workers, employees or volunteers for religious institutions, non-governmental organisations and charities, not even these minimal arrangements are available. Likewise, there are **no provisions made for granting student visas for students with foreign passports** (whether of Palestinian or other origin) who wish to study in Palestinian schools or universities. The Campaign has been alerted to a number of cases in which **students have been unable to take up or complete their studies due to Israel's refusal to grant them entry into the oPt.**

In the media

15 Sept, 2008: *Two teachers denied entry at Sheikh Hussein*

http://arabic.pnn.ps/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=38544&Itemid=35

13 Nov, 2008: *Foreign reporters furious over Gaza ban*

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1226404717323&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

Dec 2009: Interviews with Prof. Falk:

http://www.democracynow.org/2008/12/17/days_after_calling_israeli_blockade_o
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkF1XxdXQFc>

27 Apr, 2009: *Foreign journalists allege harassment at airport and elsewhere*

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1239710805573&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

4 May, 2009: *Gaza patients' questionings 'rise'*

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/middle_east/8032508.stm

20 May, 2009: *At Tel Aviv airport, even the pope gets searched*

<http://www.maannews.net/en/index.php?opr=ShowDetails&ID=37941>

16 June, 2009: *Israel 'stopping Gazans' moving to West Bank*

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090616/wl_mideast_afp/mideastconflict/palestiniansrights

21 June, 2009: *Crossing the King Hussein Bridge* by Daoud Kuttab,

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

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).

Summary of documented cases of entry denial 2008 - 2009 by type
(1 Jan 2008 through 31 Dec 2008, updated 30 June 2009)

	Jan '08	Feb '08	Mar '08	Apr '08	May '08	Jun '08	Jul '08	Aug '08	Sep '08	Oct '08	Nov '08	Dec '08	Jan '09	Feb '09	Mar '09	Apr '09	May '09	Jun '09
Ports of entry																		
Allenby Bridge	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	X						X			
Taba				X														
Nationals																		
Arab World**																		
Europe	X	X	X	X		X		X					X	X		X	X	
Latin American				X														
North America	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X
Other						X									X			
Types of visitors																		
Business persons	X											X						
Development, humanitarian & HR workers			X	X											X			
Family	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X						X		X	X
Educators, health & social service workers	X								X							X		
Media workers & artists			X	X														
Students & researchers	X	X	X					X			X		X	X				
Tourists & visitors		X		X	X		X					X				X	X	X
UN officials & diplomatic corps												X				X		
Other***	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.

*** Others include individuals affiliated with the church and/or other religious institutions and diplomatic missions.