

RTE Call to Action by Third States

The Campaign calls on the US, EU Member States, and other third States to redouble our shared efforts to address critical humanitarian issues regarding movement, access, and residency in the oPt. Third States have a clear 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; and businesses and socio-economic development more broadly. Third States maintaining friendly relations with Israel have a special standing, legal basis and obligation to challenge the arbitrary exclusion of their nationals from the oPt when the acts of exclusion cause or contribute directly to such harms. In such situations, failures to object and demand rectification in conformity with international law imply acquiescence to the Occupying Powers' violation of its obligations to the protected civilian population under its control. This obligation to object and demand rectification is not primarily owed by third States to their nationals. It is primarily owed to the protected persons and communities of the oPt, and to the community of States.

The Campaign urges third States to make a fresh assessment of their own relevant rights and responsibilities. The current conditions are unlawful and unsustainable. Diligent third State scrutiny and responses to the wrongful administrative treatment of their dependents as they seek to enter or maintain their presence in the oPt is necessary and appropriate as a first level of harm mitigation and humanitarian protection. This diligence must also open the way to addressing the persistent mal-administration that continues to give rise to serious harms. It is time to secure Israel's **articulation and implementation of a clear and consistent regime governing entry into, movement within, and longer-term stay in the oPt** in keeping with international humanitarian law, applied without discrimination, and according all affected persons full dignity and respect.

Objectives:

1. End the illegal closure imposed on Gaza and all other unlawful restrictive measures that violate Palestinians' fundamental right to freedom of movement within the oPt.
2. Implement the rights to family unity and family reunification and the establishment of clear, transparent and internationally lawful procedures for foreign nationals seeking to reside in the oPt.
 - Cancel the stipulation by Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) that restricts foreigners to a 27-month, single entry, maximum stay.
 - Adopt and implement a clear and transparent policy for issuing multiple entry residency permits to foreign nationals.
3. Halt arbitrary and abusive denials of entry to foreign nationals travelling to the oPt.
 - Obtain Israel's adoption and implementation of a clear, transparent policy that places no unlawful barriers on access to the oPt by foreign nationals.
 - Obtain explicit assurances that people who have previously been unlawfully denied entry will be permitted to re-enter the oPt.
4. Abolish "PA only," "Judea and Samaria only," and other geographic restrictions that arbitrarily restrict freedom of movement within the oPt and undermine its territorial integrity.
5. End the collective punishment of protected persons whose relatives may have overstayed their original visa duration.

Measures by Third States:

1. Vigorously scrutinise cases of denied entry, denied visa renewals and denied residency in the oPt.
 - Set up clear mechanisms for citizens to report and appeal cases of denied entry and visa renewals.
 - Set up effective mechanisms for liaising with Israeli authorities to ensure the safe transit of their nationals into the oPt in conformity with international law and the prompt and proper resolution of cases where such transit has been hindered.
 - Insist on receiving an official explanation of each decision taken by Israel to bar any of their citizens from the oPt and/or refuse residency.
 - 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.
2. Reinvigorate the implementation of third State duties to object to *prima facie* unlawful acts and policies when notified of them, lest failures to object imply acquiescence to them.
3. Promote Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law with appropriate and effective tools of persuasion and dissuasion.
4. 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.