



CAMPAIGN FOR THE RIGHT TO ENTER THE  
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT)

*A Grassroots Campaign working for the right to freedom of movement and residency in the oPt*

**Right to Enter Campaign Update**  
**8 February 2021**

Dear Madam/Sir,

We hope this finds you well and in good health.

Further to our correspondence of 29 November 2020, the Right to Enter Campaign would like to update you on the current visa and family unification situation for foreign nationals in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Through our continued outreach to affected foreign nationals and communications with lawyers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on visa extension and residency issues involving foreign nationals in the oPt, we have received the updated information we are sharing here below.

We hope for your continued attention to, and objection to, any Israeli policies and practices that contravene its obligations under international and/or international humanitarian law, and that affect the rights of protected persons and your own nationals; and hope for your continued support and advocacy for reparative measures. We are available to discuss any further questions or

concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

the Right to Enter Campaign

### *1. West Bank visa renewals*

The Right to Enter Campaign has obtained information from lawyers indicating that the Coordination for Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) has **automatically extended visas of foreign passport holders in the West Bank valid on 10 January 2021 up until 31 March 2021**. Those who have received visas not restricted to the West Bank may not be eligible for this automatic extension. This information has not been published by COGAT on an accessible platform, and has not been made available to the campaign in writing.

The Right to Enter Campaign therefore recommends consular and representative offices to obtain written confirmation of the above extension from COGAT, prior to informing their citizens.

**The Right to Enter Campaign also urges third States to continue advocating for their nationals and for a transparent, consistent and lawful policy -- and accompanying procedures -- governing the entry into and presence of foreign nationals in the oPt. Timely publication on an accessible platform of all significant updates to visa policies and procedures constitutes an essential part of a transparent, consistent and lawful policy.**

## *2. Court cases and petitions*

In Case HCJ 1273/19, a case requesting that the current "Policy on the Entry of Foreigners into the West Bank" be amended and brought in line with both Israeli and international law, **the State was granted an additional extension by the Court and ordered to present its new "visa policy" to it on 28 February 2021**. The State's response is expected to make publicly available the COGAT and the Israeli Ministry of Interior's new visa policy applicable to foreign nationals seeking entry into the West Bank. Various Israeli officials have since 2017 frequently referred to a new "visa policy" in the making in order to justify the absence of immediate remedies to the significant escalation in arbitrary visa denials and maladministration encountered by foreign nationals seeking entry to, or visa renewals in, the West Bank since mid 2017.

In Case HCJ 6103/17, "Josefin Herbach and Abed Salaymah v. the State of Israel", **the State was granted another extension by the Court until 28 February 2021**. The case challenges Israel's current freeze on family unification between oPt residents and foreign nationals, in place since 2000, with the exception of a "political gesture" in 2007, and with family unification being granted only in alleged "exceptional humanitarian circumstances".

**The Right to Enter Campaign urges third States to request Israel's publication of its visa policy and accompanying procedures governing the entry and presence of foreign nationals in the oPt. The Campaign also urges third States to assess the lawfulness, per international and international humanitarian law, of any such visa policy published by the State, and of any response by the State on the matter of the freezing of family unification -- and to formally object to Israel's application of any policies and procedures at odds with its obligations as an occupying power.**



---

**Our mailing address is:**

Main Street, Ramallah, Palestine

[righttoenter@gmail.com](mailto:righttoenter@gmail.com)

[www.righttoenter.ps](http://www.righttoenter.ps)