

[on official letterhead of the Ministry of Defense]

Coordination of Government
Activities in the Territories
Civil Coordination Department
Public Liaison
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File: General
Ref: EVEN289-01-470
12 Tammuz 5778
25 June 2018

To
Adv. Osnat Cohen-Lifshitz - Gisha

Via e-mail

Re: Application under the Freedom of Information Act 5758-1998 – Request for Information and Figures on the Processing of Applications for Permits to Enter and Exit the Gaza Strip by the Gaza

CLA

Ref: Yours dated April 8, 2018, no. 10014

1. By way of introduction, it is necessary to point out that the CLA does not have a category for “non-criteria” permit applications. All applications are required to meet the criteria, and the only record of applications that do not meet the criteria is the record of applications denied due to failure to meet criteria. No record is kept of exceptional applications approved *ex gratia* due to security-political or other considerations and based on the specific circumstances of the application, despite not meeting whatever criteria purported in the application.
2. In addition, it is noted that the total number of applications relates to each application entered into the computer system, including duplicates and applications entered in error.
3. Below please find a list of incomplete/unclear points according to paragraph in your letter:
 - a. The total number of applications submitted to the CLA in 2017 is 133,166.
The total number of applications submitted to the CLA in 2018 (up to March 31, 2018) is 30,575.

- b. We clarify that communications made by lawyers, organizations and associations are not considered applications but public appeals. Hence, there is no disaggregated data according to this criterion.

Breakdown of applications in 2017

- Number of applications to enter Gaza: 14,870.
- Number of applications to exit Gaza: 118,296.
- Communication origin:

Communication origin:	No. of applications
International organizations	14,340
Civilian Affairs Committee	116,453
Other	886
Israeli	1,487

Breakdown of applications in 2018 (up to March 31, 2018)

- Number of applications to enter Gaza: 3,148.
- Number of applications to exit Gaza: 27,427.
- Communication origin:

Communication origin:	No. of applications
International organizations	2,847
Civilian Affairs Committee	27,107
Other	159
Israeli	462

- c. The total number of applications approved by the CLA in 2017 is 54,190.

The total number of applications approved by the CLA in 2018 (up to March 31, 2018) is 14,795.

- d. Breakdown of permits in 2017

- Non-policy applications – as noted above there is no record of failure to meet criteria, but of refusals on these grounds. There is no category of applications approved despite policy.
- Number of applications to enter Gaza: 7,138.
- Number of applications to exit Gaza: 47,052.

Breakdown of permits in 2018 (up to March 31, 2018)

- Non-policy applications – as noted above there is no record of failure to meet criteria, but of refusals on these grounds. There is no category of applications approved despite policy.

- Number of applications to enter Gaza: 1,729.
 - Number of applications to exit Gaza: 13,066.
- e. The total number of applications denied by the CLA in 2017 is 39,349.
- The total number of applications denied by the CLA in 2018 (up to March 31, 2018) is 17,568.
- f. Breakdown of denied applications in 2017:
- Number of applications to enter Gaza: 2,116.
 - Number of applications to exit Gaza: 37,233.
 - Denial breakdown:

Grounds for denial: Application missing documents (total 22 applications)
Grounds for denial: Applications missing details (total 39 applications)
Grounds for denial: Forged application (total 54 applications)
Grounds for denial: Failure to meet policy criteria (total 4,690 applications)
Grounds for denial: No familial relationship (total 17 applications)
Grounds for denial: Not an immediate relative (total 86 applications)
Grounds for denial: Immediate relative is a Hamas operative (total 21 applications)
Grounds for denial: Expired passport (total 4 applications)
Grounds for denial: No stamp affixed to application (total 1 application)
Grounds for denial: Application does not meet processing schedule (total 2,268 applications)
Grounds for denial: Application found to be forged (total 330 applications)
Grounds for denial: New application filed (total 846 applications)
Grounds for denial: Identical permit valid in last three months (total 2 applications)
Grounds for denial: Permit for person seeking accompaniment denied (total 2,006 applications)
Grounds for denial: Duplicate application received (total 3,698 applications)
Grounds for denial: Missing relevant documents (total 751 applications)
Grounds for denial: Commerce application with full/current receipts must be submitted (total 451 applications).
Grounds for denial: Application must be submitted a week in advance (total 5 applications)
Grounds for denial: Administrative review failure (total 175 applications)
Grounds for denial: No danger to life/no long-term hospitalization (total 179 applications)
Grounds for denial: No Operations Branch clearance (total 16 applications)
Grounds for denial: No police clearance (total 16 applications)
Grounds for denial: No ISA clearance (total 3,100 applications)
Grounds for denial: Improper document (total 504 applications)
Grounds for denial: Treatment available in the area (total 59 applications)
Grounds for denial: Traveled between areas without transiting through/coordinating with Israel (total 3 applications)
Grounds for denial: Application expired (total 19,110 applications)
Grounds for denial: Patient has other persons accompanying (total 194 applications)
Grounds for denial: Concern over exploitation of permit for illegal stay (total 600 applications)
Grounds for denial: Expired visitor permits (total 4 applications)
Grounds for denial: Applicant illegally present in Israel or the Judea and Samaria Area (total 33 applications)

Grounds for denial: Illegal use of permit (total 12 applications)
Grounds for denial: Registered personal information does not match application (total 2 applications)
Grounds for denial: Valid permit exists (total 51 applications)

g. Breakdown of denied applications in 2018 (up to March 31, 2018):

- Number of applications to enter Gaza: 672.
- Number of applications to exit Gaza: 16,896.
- Denial breakdown:

Grounds for denial: Application missing documents (total 12 applications)
Grounds for denial: Applications missing details (total 4 applications)
Grounds for denial: Forged application (total 4 applications)
Grounds for denial: Failure to meet policy criteria (total 1,425 applications)
Grounds for denial: No familial relationship (total 7 applications)
Grounds for denial: Not an immediate relative (total 17 applications)
Grounds for denial: Immediate relative is a Hamas operative (total 833 applications)
Grounds for denial: Expired passport (total 1 applications)
Grounds for denial: No stamp affixed to application (total 1 applications)
Grounds for denial: Application does not meet processing schedule (total 537 applications)
Grounds for denial: Application found to be forged (total 27 applications)
Grounds for denial: New application filed (total 398 applications)
Grounds for denial: Identical permit valid in last three months (total 1 applications)
Grounds for denial: Permit for person seeking accompaniment denied (total 1,463 applications)
Grounds for denial: Duplicate application received (total 849 applications)
Grounds for denial: Missing relevant documents (total 1,289 applications)
Grounds for denial: Commerce application with full/current receipts must be submitted (total 66 applications)
Grounds for denial: Application must be submitted a week in advance (total 1 application)
Grounds for denial: Administrative review failure (total 25 applications)
Grounds for denial: No danger to life/no long-term hospitalization (total 217 applications)
Grounds for denial: No Operations Branch clearance (total 11 applications)
Grounds for denial: No police clearance (total 4 applications)
Grounds for denial: No ISA clearance (total 5,855 applications)
Grounds for denial: Improper document (total 276 applications)
Grounds for denial: Treatment available in the area (total 21 applications)
Grounds for denial: Traveled between areas without transiting through/coordinating with Israel (total 179 applications)
Grounds for denial: Application expired (total 3,853 applications)
Grounds for denial: Patient has other persons accompanying (total 7 applications)
Grounds for denial: Concern over exploitation of permit for illegal stay (total 125 applications)
Grounds for denial: Applicant illegally present in Israel or the Judea and Samaria Area (total 25 applications)
Grounds for denial: Illegal use of permit (total 10 applications)
Grounds for denial: Valid permit exists (total 25 applications)

- Request to receive copy of processing schedules clarifying when processing is feasible and when it is not: Processing times are posted on the COGAT website. Beyond requirement, we enclose of copy of the processing schedule procedure.
- g. (g-i) – We are unable to produce the statistics requested in these sections as this would require an unreasonable allocation of resources, i.e. reviewing thousands of applications in the system to confirm they were not closed.

In addition, past experience has shown that our process for extracting this datum does not function properly and produces an erroneous result. This is due to the existence of duplicate applications in the same matter with final responses in one not always recorded in the duplicates.

We further note that work is currently underway to restore the process available to us for inquiries regarding the status of pending applications.

- j. The information sought relates to internal operations of a public authority that are irrelevant and unimportant to the public. Therefore, subject to the provisions of Section 9(b)(5) of the Freedom of Information Act, it has been decided not to provide this information.
- k. We note that we do not possess information about permits requested before 2014. The following is a presentation of existing statistics:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	March, 31 2018
Applications submitted	546	3,890	318	275	70
Applications approved	144	1,859	91	149	45
Applications denied	376	1,923	102	68	16

Breakdown of refusals for personal needs:

Year	Grounds for denial
2014	Grounds for denial: Failure to meet policy criteria (total 279 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Application changed or canceled (total 6 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Improper document (total 1 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Application expired (total 90 permits)
2015	Grounds for denial: Failure to meet policy criteria (total 1,210 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Expired passport (total 1 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Application does not meet processing schedule (total 3 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Application changed or canceled (total 80 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Improper document (total 14 permits)
2016	Grounds for denial: Application expired (total 615 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Applications missing details (total 3 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Failure to meet policy criteria (total 6 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Duplicate application received (total 29 permits)

	Grounds for denial: Missing relevant documents (total 6 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Administrative review failure (total 2 permits)
	Grounds for denial: No ISA clearance (total 17 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Application expired (total 39 permits)
2017	Grounds for denial: Failure to meet policy criteria (total 19 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Application does not meet processing schedule (total 1 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Duplicate application received (total 4 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Missing relevant documents (total 1 permits)
	Grounds for denial: No ISA clearance (total 7 permits)
March 31, 2018	Grounds for denial: Application expired (total 36 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Failure to meet policy criteria (total 12 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Duplicate application received (total 1 permits)
	Grounds for denial: No ISA clearance (total 2 permits)
	Grounds for denial: Application expired (total 1 permits)

Sincerely,

[signed]
Uziel Nisim, Captain
Public Liaison Officer
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