

Access Kit

A guide to procedures and protocols which regulate
access to and from the Gaza Strip



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Access Kit

The State of Israel restricts travel to and from Gaza through its own territory. The procedures used by the Israeli authorities, which detail the specifics of the restrictive travel policy, impact the lives of Gaza residents both directly and indirectly, including by reducing their access to livelihood, academic studies and other opportunities outside the Gaza Strip. The procedures also limit travel into Gaza by foreign nationals, affecting Gaza's development and its ties to the international community.

Most procedures are not published in Arabic, and Gaza residents, as well as foreigners wishing to enter Gaza and their counsel are not aware of their existence. As a result, people who contact the Israeli authorities do not know by what procedures they should file their applications, and by what criteria these applications are denied or approved. They often lack the correct forms or the list of required documents and are unfamiliar with the appropriate filing procedures.

Gisha is an Israeli human rights organization dedicated to protecting Palestinians' right to freedom of movement, particularly Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip. After a decade of providing legal aid to Gaza residents in an effort to protect their right to freedom of movement, we have decided to share the information, knowledge and experience we have gained over the years with pertinent audiences who can make use of the information: Palestinians, foreign nationals, and journalists. This document was written with a view to enable residents of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Israelis and foreigners who wish to exercise their right to freedom of movement to successfully engage the Israeli authorities on their own. At this juncture and in the following document, we've decided to focus on protocols and procedures related to the following categories: entrance to Israel of merchants and those classified as Businessmen from Gaza (BMG); exit of students abroad; travel from Gaza for consular services; travel from Gaza for conferences, trainings and meetings, and; entrance of foreigners to Gaza.

Of course, publishing these procedures does not mean that Gisha recognizes their legitimacy. The sweeping restrictions Israel imposes through them are disproportionate and constitute a breach of international law. The main failing is not the fact that the procedures are not published, but rather, the very fact that they exist. Gisha, therefore, engages in legal and public efforts to challenge the legitimacy of these procedures, working with army officials, the Israeli justice system, and policy-makers. Still, so long as the procedures are enforced, familiarity with them is a practical necessity, even if only to allow more people to exercise their rights, thereby enriching their own lives and communities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nomi Heger, Adv.
Director of the Legal Department

We clarify that the information included in this document is correct at the time of publication, to the best of the knowledge and according to the experience of Gisha staff. However, the Israeli authorities often change the way they implement the procedures. In addition, Israeli authorities sometimes do not implement requirements listed in a procedure, and sometimes make requirements that are not listed in them. For up-to-date consultation on filing of applications and how the procedures are being implemented, contact Gisha by phone at 03-6244120 or by e-mail at info@gisha.org.

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Israeli policy

Israel's policy on travel to and from Gaza originates in a government resolution passed after Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. The restrictions were concealed from public view for a number of years until they were put in writing in a document entitled [Policy on Movement of People between the State of Israel and the Gaza Strip](#), published on May 5, 2011. The document provides a general outline of the authorizations and criteria for travel from Gaza to Israel and vice versa. Detailed, up-to-date breakdowns of these authorizations are now available through documents entitled "Status of permits for entry of Palestinians into Israel, exit abroad and travel between the Judea and Samaria Area and the Gaza Strip", which are updated from time to time by the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), who is in charge of implementing government policy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These documents provide information relevant to travel both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Thanks to Gisha's work, the "Status of Permits" documents are now publicly accessible and regularly posted on Gisha's [website](#), and some also on the [COGAT website](#), including, at times, in Arabic. This is also how the specific procedures on the various issues covered in this document are published.

A sample of the permit status document, dated March 23, 2016, can be seen in Appendix 2. We stress that the permit status document is updated often so it is important to visit the Gisha and COGAT websites for the most up-to-date information.

General information about filing applications for travel permits

How are applications filed? Palestinians file their applications to the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee in Gaza, or the regional Palestinian District Coordination Office (DCO) in the West Bank. Applications are then transferred to the relevant Israeli DCO, and the response is returned to the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee or Palestinian DCO and from there back to the applicants. This complex mechanism and the large volume of applications often result in situations where applications are not transferred from the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee to the Israeli DCO for different reasons. It is therefore recommended to frequently inquire after the applications with the relevant body. Applications regarding Israeli citizens or residents should be forwarded to the Israelis desk at the DCO and applications regarding staff members of recognized international organizations should be forwarded to the Department of Foreign Relations and International Organizations in the DCO. When either Palestinian or Israeli officials refuse to accept an application for whatever reason, we recommend applicants consult with Gisha.

- Applications must enclose all relevant documents, depending on the type of application. The documents must be current, clear and legible. Documents may be submitted in Arabic, English or Hebrew. It is recommended that applicants make sure their applications are filed under the right category upon submission (e.g.: commerce permit, conferences and seminars etc.) and ask for written confirmation that the application was filed and receive its serial number.
- Applicants must retain copies of the application itself and the documents enclosed with it.
- Applicants must record the date on which they filed the application.
- Applications must be submitted in person at the offices of the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee at al-Ansar building, across from the Commissioner's Palace in Gaza City. Contact the Economic Representative on commercial matters. For more information on filing application, applicants should contact the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee, Tel: 08-2829647/9, Fax: 08-2829648.
- Applications by recognized foreign and international organizations should be filed with the Department of Foreign Relations and International Organizations of the Gaza DCO, using the DCO's online application system at www.clagaza.org. In the event of urgent applications or inability to access the online system, applications should be submitted directly to the DCO Public Liaison Officer, Tel: 08-6741506, or by e-mail: mhavrim@int.gov.il

How far in advance of departure should applications be filed? According to the "[Procedure for submitting a request by Palestinian residents to enter Israel to attend an event with a fixed date and set in advance](#)" (See Appendix 3, Hebrew) (professional seminars, conferences, weddings etc.), applications to attend such events should be filed no later than 23 business days prior to the requested departure date (i.e., five weeks in advance, note that Friday and Saturday are not considered business days). It is important to note that the above is based on the cited procedure, but in our experience, applications are accepted after the deadline noted in the procedure. Additionally, in urgent cases such as death, visiting a terminally ill patient and the likes, last-minute applications are accepted.

According to the procedure, applicants who are required to undergo security screening must file their applications no later than 50 days prior to the requested departure date. We note that applicants have no way of knowing in advance whether or not they are required to undergo security screening. If screening is required, processing of the application may be delayed. We note also that the number of days is calculated from the date the DCO receives the application, rather than the date it is filed with the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee in Gaza.

Non-urgent applications with no fixed date should be filed as soon as possible, at least a month in advance. On the other hand, it is recommended not to file too long ahead of the requested date so that the application is not lost during the long waiting period.

When to expect a response? Responses to applications for an event with a fixed, known date, filed by the deadline noted above, should be sent no later than five days prior to the requested departure date. Unfortunately, in most cases, Israeli military authorities fail to comply with their own procedures and responses are often delayed until the last minute, and sometimes even later. When applications for a fixed date that were filed in compliance with the procedure attached as Appendix 3 are not answered in time, we recommend consulting with us.

With respect to applications without a fixed date, Israeli authorities are obliged to provide answers within 45 days of application submission. Since the applications are transferred by the Civil Affairs Committee, no exact timeframe can be determined. However, we recommend following up on the status of the application about two weeks after submission.

What are the hours of operation at Erez Crossing?

Erez Crossing hours of operation for Palestinian travel are Sunday to Thursday, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, and Friday 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM. However, residents wishing to exit Gaza must arrive at the crossing by 3:30 PM, while residents wishing to return to Gaza may do so until 7:00 PM. The crossing is closed on Saturdays, with the exception of life-saving emergencies. The crossing is also closed on holidays. Holiday hours are posted on the Gaza DCO website, www.clagaza.org, ahead of the relevant holiday.

Applications for commerce permits

Travel from Gaza to Israel and the West Bank for commercial purposes is regulated by the following Israeli military procedures: [Procedure for issuing merchant permits, business permits, and permits for Palestinian Authority employees in the financial sector](#) (Hebrew, see Appendix 4), [Issuing permits for business purposes in Israel for Gaza Strip residents](#) (Hebrew, see Appendix 5) and [Procedure – travel by merchants for business in the Judea and Samaria Area or Israel](#) (Hebrew, see Appendix 6).

The total quota or pool of businesspeople approved for entry into Israel and the West Bank has recently been expanded to 5,000. The permit allows businesspeople unlimited travel from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank and Israel for three months, after which they may apply to renew the permit. As part of the easing of the policy on commerce permits, travel permits have been extended to spouses of businesspeople with a quota of up to 200 spouses weekly. Permits for spouses are valid for two weeks and the spouse must cross at the same time as the businessperson.

In order to receive commerce permits, applicants must first be entered into the business database, which includes a list of all businesspeople that have been screened and approved by the DCO. The database helps streamline the process of issuing commerce permits on a routine basis. Applications for registration in the database may be submitted according to the instructions below.

It is important to note that aside from the military procedure, inclusion in the database may also be pursued through the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee through an unpublished process. The information presented below is based solely on the Israeli military's procedures.

- Applications must be submitted in person to the Economics Representative at the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee at al-Ansar building, across from the Commissioner's Palace in Gaza City. Tel: 08-2829647/9, Fax: 08-2829648.

Minimum requirements for application submission:

1. Age and marital status – As of February 2016, to be eligible for permits, Palestinian businesspeople must be aged 30 or over, married and have children. Businesspeople who do not meet these criteria may be approved in exceptional cases, and subject to individual security screening. The age criteria for spouses currently stands at 30 as well. .
2. Security considerations – Applications are approved subject to consultation with ISA officials. Businesspeople under a security preclusion will not be approved, other than exceptional cases, subject to the discretion of the DCO.
3. Scope of business activity – A minimum business cycle was previously required, but this condition has been omitted from the current procedures. However, as far as Gisha knows, officials in both the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee and in the Israeli DCO prioritize processing of applications based on the applicants' business cycle and their importance in their business sector. Presumably, the larger the volume of business conducted with Israeli companies, the better the application's chances of approval.

Filing applications for commerce permits:

There are two simultaneous tracks for filing applications for commerce permits – one for businesspeople who are not registered in the database and must undergo comprehensive, initial processing and another for those who are included in the database, whereby permits are issued through a simplified, shorter process, based on a previous examination of their business activity.

Application for registration in the business database (un-profiled business person) – persons applying for registration in the database must enclose the following documents:

1. Registration with the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Economics/Trade bureau, including confirmation of company registration
2. Invitation from Israeli contact person
3. Current invoices or future business contracts
4. Official application from the Civil Affairs Committee Business Coordinator
5. Invoices demonstrating business activity

Application by businesspeople registered in the database (profiled business person) – Applications from profiled businesspeople are processed on an individual basis, without enclosing the documents listed above with the exception of current invoices demonstrating current business activity.

Application review process:

1. Application transferred from the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee to the Gaza DCO.
2. Business person connected to relevant coordinator according to type of business (transportation, agriculture etc.)
3. Following an examination of the documents and consultation with ISA officials, where necessary, the application is forwarded to the relevant coordinator for a recommendation. If security screening is required, the applicant is summoned for an interview at Erez Crossing
4. Approval/denial of application

Commerce permits for family members (accompanying) – Permits are issued according to the quotas listed in the Status of Permits document, currently 200 per week. The Status of Permits document lists only spouses of businesspeople as eligible for permits, but in our experience other family members (mostly adult sons) also receive these permits. Applications are reviewed subject to the comments of ISA agents and the recommendation of the relevant coordinator.

Exit and entry by businesspeople at Erez Crossing – Businesspeople must arrive at the crossing with their identity card and a valid commerce permit issued by the DCO. Entry is through the pedestrian crossing and subject to security checks, including luggage. We note that businesspeople may not bring goods in commercial quantities from Israel into Gaza without prior coordination. Transport of agricultural samples from the Gaza Strip into Israel requires advance approval from the agricultural coordinator.

Receiving BMG (Businessman Gaza) Status

BMG status – BMG status is a special status granted to senior Gaza businesspeople, and carries special travel privileges (see [Annex 7](#)). This applies to a distinct group of businesspeople, including business and factory owners, businesspeople in the consulting, advertising, information and communications technology and other such industries, importers and major corporations and banks.

Special privileges for BMG status holders:

1. Permits issued for six months
2. Permits valid from 12:00 AM to 12:00 AM, including overnight stay (in the West Bank only)
3. Permission to travel in Israeli vehicles with Israeli drivers through West Bank crossings
4. Permission for VIP travel abroad via Allenby Bridge (lighter security checks and speedier registration)
5. Permission to travel abroad via Ben Gurion International Airport in exceptional cases and subject to individual assessment
6. If a security/police preclusion is entered for a BMG status holder assessment will be held immediately and within no more than seven days
7. Authorization for periodic permits for spouses, subject to Status of Permits document

BMG status quotas: According to the current status permit document, the quota for BMG status stands at 500.

Criteria for receiving status:

Minimum age to receive status as of February 2016 is 30

Criteria	Annual business cycle	Minimum no. of employees	Proof of business ties in Israel/abroad	Proof of membership in professional association	Quota and position
Business, factory owners	5 million ILS*	20	+	+	2: Factory manager + management level employee
Services – businesspeople in consulting, advertising, ICT etc.	2 million ILS	5	+	+	
Importers	5 million ILS	5	+	+	
Corporation/ Conglomerate/ Bank	50 million ILS	50			5 per corporation: Board chair, executive director, 2 deputy directors or 2 other senior office holders

* Applicant must provide financial reports for past three years and confirmation from Palestinian tax authorities.

All permits are issued subject to security/police screening if necessary.

Application review process:

1. Application transferred by Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee to Gaza DCO
2. Economics Branch reviews application in consultation with relevant coordinator according to area of business. Application is simultaneously transferred for ISA comments
3. Once the initial review is completed, and a recommendation is reached, a specialized DCO committee charged with denying or refusing the application discusses the application. Members of the committee include the head of the Gaza DCO, the head of the operations division, the head of the economics division, the relevant coordinator, the legal advisor and head of economic coordination division. We note that the head of the Gaza DCO has authority to approve applications that do not meet the criteria in exceptional cases
4. Notification of refusal or approval is transferred to the applicant via the Civil Affairs Committee and entered into the Israeli computer system

Academic studies abroad

Since 2000, students from the Gaza Strip have been prevented from studying at universities in Israel or the West Bank. Israeli policy on exit abroad by Gaza students traveling for the purpose of academic studies changes according to the security-political situation and the operation of the Rafah crossing. Since Rafah has remained closed for extensive periods of time, Israel has come under pressure to allow students to travel via Erez Crossing and Allenby Bridge. However, the policy on this issue is not fixed. It changes according to changing needs and has no dedicated procedure. The main source of information regarding current policy is the Status of Permits document.

Passage through Israel in order to go abroad for studies – Gaza students may exit through Israel by way of individual permits only for advanced degree programs. Students depart via the Allenby Bridge border crossing and from there continue to their destination. The current Status of Permits document lists a weekly quota of 100 Gaza residents permitted to travel abroad via Allenby Bridge, including students. As far as we are aware, this quota is flexible.

As of February 2016, students, among others, can travel abroad from Gaza via Israel and Allenby Bridge only on Mondays and Thursdays, and only in official shuttles accompanied by a representative from the Palestinian Civil Administration. Students bear responsibility for funding the transportation.

Beginning in January 2013, immediate relatives (spouses and children) of scholarship recipients are also permitted to exit through Israel.

Students may travel abroad for undergraduate studies by special request from the Palestinian Authority which provides Israel with lists of names for coordination.

At any rate, it is important to submit the request as early as possible and no less than 14 business days before the requested departure date, to avoid missing the beginning of classes.

Documents to be enclosed:

1. Copy of ID card
2. Letter of acceptance to the program and confirmation of scholarship
3. Photocopy of passport and entry/student visa for the country in question
4. Jordanian transit visa (if already issued)

What to emphasize in the application:

1. The scholarship awarded to the student
2. The fact that the destination state maintains diplomatic relations with Israel
3. The requested date of departure and/or the latest date by which the applicant must be present for his/her studies

Application to enter Israel for consular services

According to the Status of Permits document, Palestinian residents may enter Israel from Gaza for the purpose of receiving consular services by foreign countries, but only when the services are not available in Gaza. The United States, recently followed by other countries, issues visas only after an in-person interview at the consulate in east Jerusalem for example. Other countries require applicants to present themselves at representative offices in Ramallah or embassies in Tel Aviv. In order to do so, applicants must contact the embassy, consulate or representative office and request an interview summons. The summons must be included in the applicant's request for a one-day entry permit to Israel along with any other relevant documents. Consulates are contacted through their websites by filling out a form and paying the application fees where applicable.

For a US visa, the form in the following link must be filled: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>

Biometrics: In recent months, several countries have started requiring biometrics as part of the minimum application requirements. As far as we are aware, no procedures have been put in place so far for allowing Gaza residents to enter Israel in order to provide biometrics. The European Union has an office in Gaza where biometrics can be provided and private companies provide these services to some countries. These offices are not consistently active. Some countries require submission of biometrics in Ramallah, Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

It is important to file the applications for travel permits for consular services as soon as possible, and, inasmuch as possible, at least a month before the requested date of travel. In our experience, processing of applications by young people (up to age 35) takes longer due to security screening.

Inasmuch as the applicant is interested in exiting to Jordan via Allenby Bridge, after receiving a visa, an application for a Jordanian transit visa (*adam momanah*) must be submitted using the Aramex courier service. This visa takes several weeks to obtain.

- Most consular offices understand that it is difficult for Gaza residents to attend interviews on the scheduled date because obtaining an Israeli entry permit may take time and applicants have no control over the process. Consequently, the consulates are prepared to receive applicants for the interview as soon as the Israeli entry permit is issued. Therefore, it is not necessary to submit a second request for an interview summons on a new, later, date as long as the Israeli entry permit is granted within a reasonable amount of time of the interview.
- It is important to note that a permit to exit Gaza for a visa interview is no guarantee that a permit to exit abroad will be granted once the visa is issued. Applications for travel abroad must be filed separately.

Conferences, seminars and business meetings

Officially, the Status of Permits document makes no reference to and presents no criteria for entry by Gaza residents for conferences, seminars or business meetings in Israel or the West Bank with the following exceptions:

1. Residents wishing to attend conferences and events held under the sponsorship of the Palestinian Authority
2. Residents with commerce permits wishing to exit Gaza for a business meeting
3. Residents with BMG status
4. Special conferences abroad
5. Conferences and trainings in the West Bank related to the rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip.

Despite the lack of substantive information provided in the document on this category, in our experience, many applications that do not fall into the above detailed categories are approved when the application emphasizes the importance of the request, its contribution to the physical and social rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip, economic development, or the humanitarian nature of the request and the positive impact expected from the travel, as detailed below.

Documents to be enclosed and what to emphasize in the application:

1. Copy of ID card
2. Letter of invitation to the conference, seminar or business meeting
3. A letter emphasizing the importance of approving the application and its humanitarian nature
4. Photocopy of prior entry permits to Israel (if there are any)
5. Any other document which might support the application

Pointers for writing applications:

1. The larger and better known the inviting organization, the higher the chances of the application's approval
2. In any case, it is recommended to attach a cover letter and invitation written by the management or board of the organization in question. The letter should include details about the organization itself, the year it was established and its aims, must be printed on the letterhead of the inviting organization and must include a signature and stamp
3. The application must emphasize the humanitarian nature of the request and the applicant's specific need to attend the conference/seminar, stressing the contribution his/her participation would have on applicant's professional life and his/her ability to contribute to Gaza's rehabilitation

Entry of foreign nationals into Gaza

Who is a “foreign national”? Entry into the Gaza Strip as a foreign national applies to individuals who have foreign citizenship exclusively, not to foreign nationals who also have Israeli citizenship or Palestinian residency.

Application submission: Entry into the Gaza Strip by foreign nationals visiting Israel is permitted by special permit from the military commander only. Note that entering Israel does not constitute permission to enter Gaza and a permit to cross from Israel into Gaza does not guarantee smooth entry into Israel proper. These are two entirely separate procedures that are reviewed and approved by different bodies.

The process by which foreign nationals may obtain an entry permit for the Gaza Strip is detailed in the “Entry of foreigners into the Gaza Strip via the Erez Crossing” procedure (See [Appendix 8](#)), from June 2015. The procedure stipulates categories of foreign nationals who may submit an application to enter the Gaza Strip: diplomats, United Nations employees, employees of recognized international organizations, employees of unrecognized international organizations, foreign nationals employed by the Palestinian Authority, journalists, foreign nationals immediately related to Palestinian residents of Gaza and religious clerics. The application tracks vary according to the category into which the applicant fits. In this document we review only the following categories:

1. **Foreign nationals employed by a recognized international organization** - A request in this track has the highest chance of approval; however, the category applies to a very small group of employees of recognized international aid organizations which are registered with the Israeli Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Interior or the Foreign Ministry. Inquiries made by Gisha have revealed that there is currently no procedure for recognizing and registering international organizations. The only document available is a list of minimum requirements for registration with the Israeli authorities (see [Appendix 9](#) (first page is in Hebrew, list itself is in English)), such as a description of the organization’s activities along with the annual report and annual budget, confirmation from the Palestinian Authority regarding the organization’s work in its territory, a copy of the registration documents in the country of origin, contact details for the organization’s representatives in Israel, and a copy of a lease attesting that the organization has offices in Israel. The authorities have been discussing which agency is to take responsibility for registering organizations and it is not currently clear what government ministry will take charge of registration and what the requirements will be. For more information on the subject of recognition of international organizations, contact Ms. Renana Tchelet, Head of the Ministry of Welfare International Relations Department, tel. 02-508-5409 or e-mail reneet@molsa.gov.il.

How to submit a request on behalf of a recognized international organization? Applications by foreign nationals working for recognized international organizations should be addressed to the Department of Foreign Relations and International Organizations at the Israeli District Coordination Office (DCO) in the Gaza Strip, located at Erez Crossing. The applications must be signed by the head

of the organization or his/her appointed delegate. The military demands that these applications be submitted electronically using the DCO website, at www.clagaza.org.

It is important to note that before submitting a request through the website, it is first necessary for the applicant (i.e. the international organization) to register and open a special personal account. Once registration is completed, the applicant fills out an application form, which must include the IVA number, i.e. the organization's registration number in the welfare ministry. At the end of the registration process, applicants receive an application number which enables them to monitor the status of their application. The procedure is cumbersome and may take a long time. In case the request is urgent or it is not possible to submit it electronically, it should be submitted directly to the DCO Public Liaison Officer, Tel: 08-6741506 or by e-mail at: mhavrim@int.gov.il.

For further information on how to electronically register online with the DCO, contact the Gaza DCO Department of Foreign Relations and International Organizations, Tel: 08-674-1530/27 or by e-mail at arbelgaza@gmail.com or int.org@cvladm.gov.il.

2. **A foreign national representative of a recognized international organization**-A foreign national who is not an employee of a recognized international organization, but is hired by the organization as an outside expert with a skill valuable to the activities of the organization (for example: doctors, engineers, specialized technicians) can apply for a permit to enter Gaza. The request must be made formally by the headquarters of an international organization recognized by Israel.
3. **A foreign national employed by an unrecognized international organization** - An employee of an organization that is not recognized by military authorities or the Ministry of Welfare may submit an exceptional request which will be reviewed in accordance with current Israeli policy. Such requests will have a greater chance of approval if they are based on humanitarian reasons. Nonetheless, it should be noted that in our experience, few of these types of requests are actually considered.

How to submit a request on behalf of an unrecognized international organization? A request by an unrecognized international organization should be submitted directly to the DCO Public Liaison Officer at Tel: 08-674-1506 or by e-mail: mhavrim@int.gov.il. The application must enclose personal information (full name, date of birth, nationality, current residence, address abroad, cell phone in Israel and abroad, passport number and e-mail address), details about the purpose of entry, details about the organization and supporting documents (photocopy of passport, photocopy of visa and other relevant documents). In case Israeli military authorities refuse to accept the request for any reason, we recommend consulting with us.

4. **Journalists** - Journalists with foreign citizenship (i.e. neither Israeli nor Palestinian) are permitted to travel back and forth between the Gaza Strip and Israel on presentation of an Israel Government Press Office (GPO) card. Although the procedure says entry must be coordinated between the GPO and the relevant DCO officials, in our experience, no special arrangements are required for GPO card-carrying journalists. However, special arrangements are required when a military operation is

underway in the Gaza Strip. The procedure for obtaining a GPO card is [explained on the GPO website](#).

In exceptional circumstances, it is possible to apply for an entry permit to the Gaza Strip without a GPO card, with authorization from the COGAT Spokesperson, Ms. Hadar Horn, Tel: 03-6977611 or Fax. 03-6977674

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - [Policy on movement of people between the state of Israel and the Gaza Strip](#)
- Appendix 2 - [Sample of Status of Permits for the entry into Israel of Palestinians, for overseas departures and the crossing points between Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip \(Hebrew\)](#)
- Appendix 3 - [Procedure for submitting a request by Palestinian residents to enter Israel to attend an event with a fixed date and set in advance \(Hebrew\)](#)
- Appendix 4 - [Procedure for issuing merchant permits, business permits, and permits for Palestinian Authority economy field workers \(Hebrew\)](#)
- Appendix 5 - [Issuing permits for business purposes in Israel for Gaza Strip Residents \(Hebrew\)](#)
- Appendix 6 - [Procedure – travel by merchants for business in the Judea and Samaria Area or Israel \(Hebrew\)](#)
- Appendix 7 - [Procedure for issuing a “business men Gaza” \(BMG\) certificate for merchants in the Gaza Strip \(Hebrew\)](#)
- Appendix 8 - [Entry of foreigners into the Gaza Strip via the Erez Crossing \(Hebrew\)](#)