Dear Sirs,

- Urgent -

Re: Revocation of decision to deny the entry of communication equipment into the Gaza Strip

We hereby contact you with regards to the matter in reference with a demand to immediately revoke the decision to deny the entry of communication equipment into the Gaza Strip and permit the immediate entry of goods held in Israel, as follows:

1. Since the attacks on Gaza during the military operation referred to as Operation Guardian of the Walls, which ended on May 21, 2021, the State of Israel has been imposing severe restrictions on the movement of goods to and from the Gaza Strip via Kerem Shalom Crossing. The results are disastrous. The restrictions have caused great shortages in Gaza’s markets and exacerbated the dire economic situation, particularly after the hostilities, given the need for reconstruction.

2. The information communication and technology (ICT) sector has been hit particularly hard by the restrictions, which include a blanket ban on the entry of ICT equipment. The harm to the ICT sector has a ripple effect on additional critical sectors, including health, education and commerce. Though Israel has announced some restrictions on the transport of goods have been lifted, information received by Gisha indicates that these do not currently include ICT equipment.

3. According to reports from the Palestinian Information Technology Association of Companies (PITA), about 15-20 million dollars’ worth of communications equipment slated for shipment to the Gaza Strip is currently held up in Israel and the West Bank. Much of this equipment had already received all permits and approvals required for transport via Kerem Shalom, and it includes desktop and laptop computers, tablets, phones, cables, printers, projectors, spare parts and solar energy systems. A large proportion of this equipment has been purchased for
We permit ICT equipment to be brought into Gaza to meet their needs. The measure constitutes unlawful collective punishment and a breach of Israel’s obligation to respect and safeguard normal civilian life for Gaza’s civilian population.

Given the aforesaid, we ask that you order the revocation of the decision to prevent the entry of ICT equipment into Gaza forthwith, particularly at this time when this equipment is vital, and to permit the entry of ICT equipment held in Israel and the West Bank without further delay.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Muna Haddad, Adv.