



still
Students ^ Trapped
in Gaza

July 2008



Since June 14, 2007, 1.5 million people have been trapped in Gaza.

Their ability to lead healthy, dignified lives is jeopardized by the continued closure of Gaza's crossings for people and goods.



Crossings Activity Status

Crossing	Status	Lack of Movement
Erez	<u>Closed</u> for most of the Gaza Strip's 1.5 million residents.	Families divided between Gaza and West Bank, patients denied medical care.
Karni	<u>Closed</u> for commercial passage.	No commercial imports. No export.
Rafah	<u>Closed</u> for travel abroad.	1.5 million people cut off from the outside world.



Hundreds of young Palestinian men and women are trapped in the Gaza Strip, prevented from pursuing academic studies abroad.



Following news of the cancellation of Fulbright scholarships for seven Gaza residents, world leaders protested the policy trapping hundreds of students in Gaza.



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice:

“If you cannot engage young people and give them a complete horizon to their expectations and to their dreams, then I don't know that there would be any future for Palestine.”

May 30, 2008



**A representative of the Palestinian Civil Affairs
Committee in Gaza:**

“Currently there is no system whatsoever
to allow Gaza residents to exit the Strip...
The Israelis are refusing even to receive
any such requests from us.”

May 2008



Quartet Envoy to the Middle East Tony Blair:

**“This is something that is important
we raise with the Israelis and get
changed.”**

June 5, 2008



New York Times Editorial:

“The ban on student departures is part of the wider Israeli economic blockade imposed on the civilian population of Gaza in response to Hamas rule and a steady rain of rocket attacks. This also needs to be re-examined ... **punishing students, and any other forms of collective punishment, will only sow more anger and hate.**”

June 9, 2008 (emphasis added)



**Knesset Education Committee
Chair Rabbi Michael Malchior:**

**“Trapping hundreds of students in Gaza
is immoral and unwise.”**

May 28, 2008



Israeli Supreme Court Justice Elyakim Rubinstein:

The ban seems “no less harmful to the Israeli interest, because we have to live with the Palestinians in the future, too.”

June 2, 2008



A public opinion poll commissioned by Gisha and PHR-Israel:

- A majority of Israelis believe that the closure of Gaza is ineffective.
- Poll conducted June 1-11, 2008 by Maagar Mohot
- 600 Hebrew-speaking, Jewish Israelis (margin of error +/- 4.5%).



A public opinion poll commissioned by Gisha and PHR-Israel:

- **83% of Israelis believe that Hamas has gotten stronger** since the closure was imposed on Gaza in June 2007.
- **68% say Israel's security has deteriorated** since then.



**A public opinion poll commissioned
by Gisha and PHR-Israel:**

60% of Israelis think the closure is making life so hard for Gaza residents that it is likely to push them towards Islamic extremism.



Change in Policy? Cosmetic.

State Attorney's Office, in response to a High Court petition on behalf of a student from Gaza wishing to attend Nottingham University:

The state will only consider requests to exit Gaza “if at the time of submitting the application the applicant is in possession of a **recognized scholarship.**”



Hundreds of students in Gaza still trapped, Gaza's borders still closed.

Letter from Foreign Minister **Tsippi Livni** to Member of Knesset, July 7, 2008 (emphasis added):

“The policy of not permitting exit abroad for students from Gaza is part of the Security Cabinet decision from 19.09.07 which defined Gaza as a hostile entity and placed restrictions on the borders for passage of goods and movement of people from the Strip and to it except for humanitarian cases.

As of today, there is no change in this policy. At the same time, after consideration of particular cases, **a few exceptions were approved**, following, among other things, requests made by international actors.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in touch with the relevant authorities in the security system in order to analyze the policy in this matter and its implementation according to the circumstances of each case, among other things by **responding positively to requests from friendly countries** and this in parallel with the work of military authorities in the security system to clarify its position on this subject.”



Hundreds of students **STILL** trapped.

Azhar Alboraey

Age: 23

Field: Architectural Conservation, MA

University: Martin Luther University,
Germany



“We are human beings; we just want the chance to study.”

DENIED permission to leave Gaza



**“Everyone shall be free to leave
any country, including his own.”**

(International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)

Trapping hundreds of students – and 1.5 million people – is **illegal**.



“If you cannot engage young people and give them a complete horizon to their expectations and to their dreams, then I don't know that there would be any future for Palestine.”

(U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice)

Trapping hundreds of students – and 1.5 million people – is **counterproductive**.