

**GAZA  
UNLOCKED**



PHOTO: RYAN RODRICK BEILER.COM

## Restriction of movement

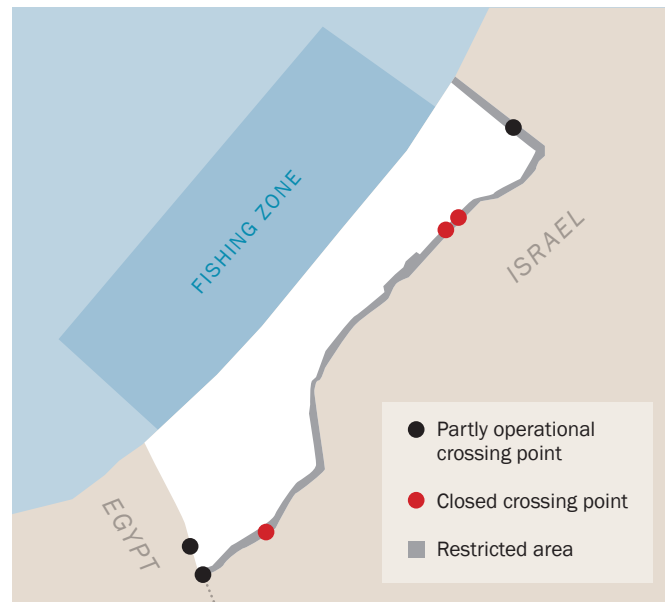
Israel has controlled the movement of people and goods into and out of Gaza for decades, but since the imposition of the blockade in 2006, restrictions have been severely tightened.

The Erez Crossing, located on the northern edge of the Israeli-built wall around Gaza, is the only crossing through which civilians can travel between Gaza and Israel. At the start of the Second Intifada or Palestinian “uprising” in late 2000, around 26,000 people were allowed to leave Gaza each day via the Erez Crossing. During the first half of 2016, the number of Palestinians allowed out of Gaza has averaged only around 15,000 per month.

Nearly all access to the outside world is blocked for the residents of Gaza. Students are denied exit to study abroad. Patients needing medical treatment not available in Gaza are delayed or blocked from reaching care. People with families in other parts of the occupied Palestinian territory are blocked from seeing their relatives. People wishing to leave to pursue work in other places are blocked from doing so.

The only official crossing for goods into and out of Gaza is through Kerem Shalom. Any imports and exports are regulated through a list of controlled entry items created by Israel. Between 2007 and 2010, even basic necessities such as cooking gas, water filtration equipment, toilet paper, toothpaste, clothes, noodles,

candy, and spices were blocked from entering Gaza. Some limitations have been lifted, but severe restrictions on the import of many goods—including the raw materials necessary for industrial production, construction materials, medical supplies, fuel, and many consumer goods—remain in place.



# Quick facts

## Impacts of restricting the movement of people and goods

- In September 2000, about 26,000 Palestinian laborers were permitted to exit through Erez Crossing every day. In 2015, the number of people allowed to exit was less than 3 percent of that number.
- In 2015, the monthly average of truckloads of goods exiting Gaza through Kerem Shalom was about one-tenth the amount allowed to exit in 2007.
- Israel imposes a “no-go” zone of six nautical miles from the shores of Gaza. Gaza-based fishing boats are restricted to this zone and the Israeli navy opens fire on any fishermen who go near the edge of this zone.<sup>1</sup>
- Materials needed for industrial production—including wood planks, pipes, cement, and steel—are banned from entering Gaza.<sup>2</sup>
- Residents of Gaza are indiscriminately prohibited from traveling or moving to the West Bank and West Bank residents are banned from entering or moving to Gaza in violation of the Oslo Accords.<sup>3</sup>
- Fifty-seven percent of Gaza households are food insecure, and approximately 80 percent receive some form of food assistance, largely due to unemployment caused by restrictions on movement and imports and exports.

1 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), “The Gaza Strip: The Humanitarian Impact of the Blockade (July 2015).”

2 “The Gaza Cheat Sheet,” Gisha (10 August 2016).

3 “A Guide to the Gaza Closure, In Israel’s Own Words,” Gisha (September 2011).

# What can you do?

## Demand an immediate end to the blockade on Gaza

U.S. government policy officially supports Israel’s continued blockade on Gaza—and it is the blockade that has resulted in this crisis facing Gaza’s population. The blockade is illegal and immoral and must end.

Contact your government representatives, and demand that they call for an immediate change in U.S. government policy and support the complete end to Israel’s blockade on Gaza.

Take action: [afsc.org/endtheblockade](http://afsc.org/endtheblockade)



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

**The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice. Since 1948, AFSC has worked in the U.S., Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territory with Palestinians, Israelis, and other committed activists to support nonviolence, challenge oppression, and—since 1970—to end Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territory. This work is guided by our “Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel.” These principles support the implementation of international human rights and humanitarian law and call for an end to Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territory, implementation of refugees’ right of return, equality, and justice for Palestinians and Israelis. More: [afsc.org](http://afsc.org)

### LEARN MORE

The following organizations in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel address and challenge Israel’s policies on Gaza:

**Al-Mezan**  
[www.mezan.org/en](http://www.mezan.org/en)

**Palestinian Center for Human Rights**  
[www.pchrgaza.org/portal/en](http://www.pchrgaza.org/portal/en)

**Gaza Community and Mental Health Program**  
[www.gcmhp.net/en](http://www.gcmhp.net/en)

**B’Tselem**  
[www.btselem.org](http://www.btselem.org)

**Gisha**  
[www.gisha.org](http://www.gisha.org)

**The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**  
[www.ochaopt.org](http://www.ochaopt.org)