



WHAT DOES ISRAEL'S ENTRY BLACKLIST MEAN FOR YOU?

On January 7, 2018, Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry published a blacklist of 20 organizations, which it said would be banned from passing through border terminals it operates. Those terminals control all access to Israel and the illegally occupied West Bank (including East Jerusalem). According to the ministry's directive, individuals holding senior positions, as well as key activists, in blacklisted organizations will be denied entry.

Most people traveling to Palestine/Israel are not affected by the new directive. [This factsheet explains what Israel's blacklist might mean for you.](#)

If you are Palestinian, the blacklist changes very little

[Israel already bars millions of Palestinians from entering Palestine.](#) Since 1948, Israel has denied millions of Palestinian refugees the right of return. Additionally, Palestinians (as well as others of Muslim and Arab descent) are the highest percentage of individuals who are routinely denied entry at borders controlled by Israel, including the border between Jordan and the illegally occupied West Bank.

Unless you are a staff member, board member, or major figure in one of the 20 blacklisted organizations, you are *NOT* banned

[You will not be denied entry simply for paying membership dues to an organization, or participating in its campaigns.](#) This is not a blanket policy. The directive clearly targets individuals who hold "senior or important positions" in blacklisted organizations, as well as "key activists, even if they hold no official position." Israeli officials have been careful to make this distinction in statements to the press.

These organizations are on the blacklist

In the United States, the list includes the American Friends Service Committee, American Muslims for Palestine, CODEPINK, Jewish Voice for Peace, National Students for Justice in Palestine, and the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights. In Europe, the list includes the Association France Palestine Solidarite, BDS France, BDS Italy, the European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine, Friends of Al Aqsa, Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Norge Palestinakomitee, Palestinagrupperna i Sverige, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, War on Want, and BDS Kampagne. Also included are BDS Chile, BDS South Africa, and the BDS National Committee.

This is **NOT** a new policy

Although Israel just published the blacklist, this travel ban has been in effect for the majority of 2017, and possibly earlier. During that time, 3.6 million people, including hundreds of members of the targeted organizations, have entered safely. Even if you are a senior staff member or key activist within these organizations, it is not guaranteed that you will be turned away from Israeli-controlled border crossings.

This policy will be challenged

Human rights lawyers in Israel and around the world are monitoring the implementation of this policy and collecting data on its effects. Travel bans are also a growing issue in Israel's bilateral relations with other governments. We've seen various Israeli border policies and directives come and go over the years. This one may stick... or it may not.

If you are active in the movement for Palestinian Rights, keep at it

This policy is clearly meant to intimidate those involved at every level. Israel knows that the international movement in solidarity with Palestinians is growing. It is scared that it's iron grip on Palestinian land is under threat. This reaction clearly demonstrates that solidarity tactics, such as BDS, are working! **It's important to send the message that people around the world are not intimidated and will continue to challenge Israeli policies which seek to isolate Palestinians and violate their basic rights.**

Traveling to Palestine/Israel now is more important than ever

Israel's goal is to isolate Palestinians. The blacklist is meant to cut off Palestinian communities from the rest of the world. That is why those in the position to do so must continue to travel to Palestine. **Traveling is one of the best ways to challenge this policy and other longstanding practices of discrimination employed at Israeli-controlled borders.** We must also insist on Palestinians' abilities to visit family, friends, and their homeland. In doing so, they are risking racial profiling, intimidating questioning, strip searches, and denial of entry. If they can make such sacrifices to travel, then so can we.

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