

# VISITORS TO ISRAEL, ENTRY DENIED

*Met nederlandse inleiding  
With introduction in English*



Nederlands Palestine Komitee, februari 2006

## *Inleiding*

Voor U ligt een verzameling van 22 berichten over waarnemers, vredesactivisten, journalisten en niets vermoedende bezoekers die bij de Israëlische douane problemen hebben ondervonden en de toegang zijn ontzegd en zijn uitgewezen. Dit overzicht is gemaakt naar aanleiding van kamervragen die Farah Karimi van GroenLinks indiende toen Gretta Duisenberg in het najaar van 2005 de toegang tot Israël werd ontzegd. Op de vraag of de regering “mede naar aanleiding van dit geval, bereid [was] de kwestie van ontzegging van toegang tot Israël aan mensen die opkomen voor de rechten van Palestijnen op EU-niveau aan de orde te stellen” ontving het kamerlid als formeel antwoord van de minister “ Voorzover mij bekend, ontzegt Israël niet structureel de toegang aan mensen die opkomen voor de rechten van de Palestijnen. Ik zal deze kwestie dan ook niet in EU-kader aan de orde stellen.”

Dit antwoord was voor het Nederlands Palestina Komitee aanleiding om een uitgebreidere inventarisatie te maken van soortgelijke gevallen, aangezien het beleid van Israël er volgens onze informatie wel degelijk op gericht is om bezoekers die op opkomen voor de rechten van de Palestijnen te weren.

De collage die voor U ligt heeft niet de pretentie volledig of systematisch te zijn. Het is het resultaat van een eerste sondering onder vredesactivisten, m.n. in Nederland en Europa. Het resultaat is echter even indrukwekkend als zorgbarend. Het systeem dat Israël hanteert om vrienden van de Palestijnen te weren is weliswaar niet waterdicht, maar van een structurele poging dit te bewerkstelligen lijkt wel degelijk sprake te zijn.

Waarom is deze informatie relevant? Israël heeft immers het soevereine recht om een ieder te weren die het wil?

Wij achten deze informatie bijzonder relevant, en wel om de volgende redenen: Israël heeft de reputatie een democratische staat te zijn. Democratische staten behoren geen waarnemers te weren. Zij hebben normaal gesproken van waarnemers niets te vrezen. Israël heeft echter wel degelijk iets van waarnemers te vrezen. Het rapporteren van de grootschalige mensenrechtenschendingen die het pleegt jegens de Palestijnen beschouwt het als staatsgevaarlijk. Israël zou hiermee immers zijn “goede reputatie” verliezen.

Israël heeft een sterke relatie met de Europese Unie, en hechte economische, culturele en wetenschappelijke samenwerkingsverbanden. Deze banden staan op het spel, vanwege de voorwaarden die aan dergelijke samenwerkingsvormen worden gesteld op het gebied van eerbiediging van de mensenrechten.

De relevantie schuilt ook nog in een derde aspect: het vrije verkeer van personen tussen Europa en Israël. Waarom zouden Europese landen Israëlische bezoekers vrije toegang verlenen wanneer kritische burgers uit Europa onheus worden behandeld en de toegang tot Israël en de bezette Palestijnse gebieden wordt ontzegd?

In dit overzicht zitten uiteenlopende gevallen:

- van personen die op de luchthaven van Tel Aviv na eindeloze verhoren, en visitaties waarbij ze zich soms geheel moeten ontkleden, in een detentiecel worden gezet om daar het volgende vliegtuig terug naar hun bestemming af te wachten. Wat niet in de verslagen zit, maar wat we wel regelmatig horen, is dat mensen die worden

teruggestuurd niet hun paspoort meekrijgen. Hun paspoort wordt aan het boordpersoneel gegeven, alsof ze criminelen zijn.

- reizigers worden veelal eindeloos verhoord, er zijn gevallen bekend van verhoren van 9 uur, waarbij ze gevraagd worden naar alle mogelijke details uit hun leven, wat ze doen, wie ze kennen, waar ze geweest zijn, namen van personen met wie ze contact gehad hebben, waar ze bepaalde dingen gekocht hebben, etc etc

- er zijn gevallen bekend waarin laptops van reizigers werden afgenomen, evenals mobiele telefoons, en niet meer werden geretourneerd

- reizigers werden reeds op Schiphol door Nederlands personeel ondervraagd, en kregen als ze naar de Palestijnse gebieden gingen een oranje sticker waarmee ze bij aankomst in Israel herkenbaar zijn

- bij Allenby Bridge worden reizigers besproeid met een mysterieus gas, de aard waarvan niet aan hen bekend wordt gemaakt. Reizigers worden gescheiden van hun bagage.

- vooral journalisten moeten het ontgelden. Er zijn veel gevallen bekend van journalisten die geen visa krijgen, gecensureerd worden, wier visa niet wordt verlengd omdat ze kritisch over Israel hebben geschreven, gedeporteerd worden etc.

Het bijgevoegde overzicht gaat uitsluitend over buitenlandse bezoekers. Over de ronduit onbeschofte behandeling van arabische/palestijnse reizigers zijn vele boeken vol te schrijven.

In het overzicht zijn de oorspronkelijke talen waarin de berichten verschenen gehandhaafd. In een aantal gevallen verschijnt een bericht in twee talen, en is het ter wille van de lezers ook in beide talen opgenomen.

Tenslotte een opmerking over hoe is omgegaan met persoonlijke gegevens: Voorzover de verkregen informatie afkomstig is van websites en gedrukte informatie zijn de namen van personen om wie het gaat vermeld. Echter, van informatie die niet openbaar toegankelijk is, is ervoor gekozen de namen en adressen waarvan deze afkomstig af te schermen. De volledige informatie is echter voorhanden bij het Nederlands Palestina Komitee.

Wij hopen met deze dataverzameling de vrije toegang van waarnemers tot Israel en de bezette Palestijnse gebieden te bevorderen. Deze is van het grootste belang voor de informatievoorziening over de problematiek die zich er afspeelt, en opdat waarnemers contact kunnen blijven onderhouden met de onderdrukte Palestijnse bevolking. Wij hopen hiermee tevens, zij het indirect, bij te dragen aan de gewenste situatie dat Israel zich gaat houden aan het internationaal recht, en het Palestijnse volk in staat stelt te genieten van hun internationaal erkende en onvervreemdbare rechten.

## *Introduction*

This document contains 22 cases problems faced by international observers, peace activist, journalists and non-suspecting visitors when trying to enter Israel. The overview was made after the Dutch GreenLeft MP ms Farah Karimi questioned the Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding the denied access to Israel of Gretta Duisenberg in the fall of 2005. Her query as to whether the government “was prepared to raise the issue of Israel denying of access to people fending for the rights of the Palestinian people at EU level” prompted the Minister’s formal reply that “As far as I am informed there is no question of Israel structurally denying access to persons fending for the rights of the Palestinians. Therefore I shall not raise this issue in an EU context”.

As a reaction to this reply the Netherlands Palestine Committee (NPK) initiated the current inventory, based on our ample experience that Israel’s policy on this issue clearly is to bar or deter those visitors who are sympathetic to the Palestinian cause.

The current inventory is in no way complete or even systematic. It is the result of a superficial sounding among peace activists in the Netherlands and in Europe. One email within our network was enough to prompt an avalanche of information. What has been collected, however, is no more than the tip of the iceberg.

Why is this information relevant? Surely Israel has the sovereign right to decide who may enter and who may not? In our view this information is highly relevant, for the following reasons:

Israel has the reputation of being a democratic state. There should be no need for a democratic state to bar observers from whom they should have nothing to fear. But on the contrary, Israel has a lot to fear and hide from observers. Reports on Israel’s large scale violation of the human rights of Palestinians are dangerous to the Israeli state, for they could give cause to loss of reputation.

Israel has a strong tie with the EU, and close economic, cultural and scientific cooperation. This tie could be jeopardized due to the condition of respect for human rights to which these ties are subjected. Another relevant aspect is the free traffic of persons between Europe and Israel: Why should European countries allow Israeli citizens free and easy access while critical European citizens wanting to visit Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) are treated with disrespect and are denied entry?

This overview contains a variety of cases:

- of persons who, upon arrival at Ben Gourion Airport, are questioned for hours on end, are requested to undress partially or totally, and/or are put in detention without their possessions in order to wait there for an unknown period in order to be deported back to their place of origin. The written accounts do not mention that passengers who are deported are not given their passports, but receive them from the cabin crew upon return, as if they are criminals
- during the endless questioning (cases are known of passengers being questioned for 9 hours) passengers are required to relate all possible details of their lives, what they do, whom they associate with, their whereabouts, and especially names and addresses of persons they have been in contact with, etc etc

- some passengers have had their laptops and mobile phones confiscated and not returned to them
- passengers from the Netherlands have been questioned by Dutch staff at Schiphol airport and received an orange sticker in the case they intend to travel to OPT to enable easy identification upon arrival in Israel.
- at Allenby Bridge passengers related that they were sprayed with a mysterious gas, the nature of which was concealed. Passengers were separated from their possessions.
- journalists enjoy particular scrutiny. There are many documented cases of journalists not receiving visa or visa extension, suffering censorship and deportation as a result of having written critical reports about Israel.

The case material material relates only to foreign visitors. No effort has been made to translate all the case material into English. However, where versions were available in more than one language these have been included to facilitate easy reading.

The scandalous treatment of travellers of Arab or Palestinian origin could easily fill the pages of numerous publications. However, the current report does not deal with them.

Finally we would like to clarify how we have dealt with the privacy of individuals in this report. To the extent that information was obtained from websites or printed material the identity of the writers and persons involved has not been protected. However, the names and contact details of individuals who privately made their experiences available have been concealed. Complete information is available with the Netherlands Palestine Committee.

We hope that this inventory will serve to promote the freedom of entry to Israel and the OPT. We consider this of high importance so that information on the living conditions in the OPT can be freely available and observers can continue to connect with the oppressed Palestinian people. Eventually of course it is hoped that this will serve the cause of just peace, in which Israel will finally enable the Palestinians to enjoy their internationally recognized inalienable rights.

Aan de Voorzitter van de  
Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal  
Binnenhof 4  
Den Haag

Directie Noord Afrika en  
Midden-Oosten  
Afdeling Midden-Oosten  
Bezuidenhoutseweg 67  
Postbus 20061  
2500 EB Den Haag

*Datum* 28 oktober 2005

*Kenmerk* DAM-497/05

*Blad* 6/1

*Bijlage(n)* 1

*Betreft* Beantwoording van vragen van het lid Karimi over  
de weigering van de Israëlische autoriteiten  
mevrouw Duisenberg tot Israël toe te laten.

*Behandeld* Roger van Laak

*Telefoon* +31 (0)70-3485185

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*E-Mail* Dam@minbuza.nl

Graag bied ik u hierbij de antwoorden aan op de schriftelijke vragen gesteld door het lid Karimi over de weigering van de Israëlische autoriteiten mevrouw Duisenberg tot Israël toe te laten. Deze vragen werden ingezonden op 12 oktober 2005 met kenmerk 2050601320.

De Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken,

Dr. B.R. Bot

**Antwoord van de heer Bot, minister van Buitenlandse Zaken, op vragen van het lid Karimi over de weigering van de Israëlische autoriteiten mevrouw Duisenberg tot Israël toe te laten.**

**Vraag 1**

Hebt u vernomen dat mevrouw Duisenberg de toegang tot Israël is geweigerd? 1)

**Antwoord**

Ja.

**Vraag 2**

Bent u tevens op de hoogte van de “schandalige manier” waarop mevrouw Duisenberg bejegend en behandeld zegt te zijn? Zo ja, wat is uw oordeel hierover?

**Vraag 3**

Bent u bereid een nader onderzoek in te stellen naar dit incident en de Israëlische ambassadeur in Nederland te ontbieden om opheldering in deze zaak te krijgen en uw zorg hierover uit te spreken?

**Antwoord**

Mevrouw Duisenberg noch de delegatie waar zij deel van uitmaakte, heeft tijdens het voorval de Nederlandse ambassade in Tel Aviv benaderd. Eerst na terugkeer in Nederland heeft mevrouw Duisenberg contact gezocht met de Nederlandse ambassade. Naar aanleiding van dit contact heeft de ambassade bij de Israëlische autoriteiten om opheldering gevraagd over de weigering mevrouw Duisenberg toe te laten tot Israël en haar behandeling.

**Vraag 4**

Bent u, mede naar aanleiding van dit geval, bereid de kwestie van ontzegging van toegang tot Israël aan mensen die opkomen voor de rechten van Palestijnen op EU-niveau aan de orde te stellen?

**Antwoord**

Voorzover mij bekend, ontzegt Israël niet structureel de toegang aan mensen die opkomen voor de rechten van de Palestijnen. Ik zal deze kwestie dan ook niet in EU-kader aan de orde stellen.

1) de Volkskrant, 10 oktober jl.

## CASE 1

[http://www.livejournal.com/users/masha\\_camp/](http://www.livejournal.com/users/masha_camp/)

December 2005, Peace Workers denied Access to Bethlehem

By The [International Solidarity Movement](#)

In the early hours of this morning the Israeli authorities at Tel Aviv airport stopped a group of international observers who were en route to a Christmas peace conference in Bethlehem.

After lengthy interrogations, two (UK) were allowed to enter the country and three were denied entry on 'security grounds'. The three (S Africa, Italy, Australia) intend to challenge this decision in the Israeli courts. Now they expect to spend Christmas in jail, rather than in Bethlehem.

The group are experienced peace campaigners who were on their way to the "Celebrating Non-Violence" conference to be held in the Palestinian town early next week. All five have worked previously as international observers in the Palestinian territories.

Spokesperson Charlotte Carson states: "Our colleagues are being stopped from attending a conference about non-violent activism because they are non-violent activists. Clearly, Israel is afraid of the power of non-violence."

The detained are all members of Access for Peace in the Middle East, a pressure group that intends to challenge the criminalisation of peace workers and the deliberate isolation of Palestinians from international observation and assistance.

Robin Horsell, a UK-based South African who formerly campaigned against apartheid gave his reasons for making this legal challenge:

"Israel gives spurious grounds for deportation or refusal of entry. But the real reason is our support for human rights and justice. We hope this legal challenge

sets a precedent that in future will allow international citizens full access to Palestinian lands.”

This campaign is supported by many prominent peace campaigners, including Jews for Justice for Palestinians, Nonviolence International, George Monbiot, AngieZelter, Jeremy Hardy and European Jews for a Just Peace.

Notes:

Since 2000, the Israeli authorities have denied entry to the Occupied Palestinian Territories to hundreds of international citizens who intend to work with grassroots organisations such as the [International Solidarity Movement](#), Christian Peacemaker Teams, the International Women’s Peace Service, and many other NGOs that provide humanitarian assistance to the occupied civilian population.

Israel calls itself ‘the only democracy in the Middle East’, yet its practice of obstructing the passage of hundreds of observers and peace activists calls its democratic credentials into question.

According to the Palestinian Red Crescent organisation (the equivalent of the Red Cross), during the last five years 3754 Palestinian men, women and children have died from Israeli military action. The vast majority of these casualties have been civilians.

For more information, contact: Charlotte: +44 (0) 7768 305897 [charlotte@ism-london.org](mailto:charlotte@ism-london.org)

or Roger +44 (0) 7785 792107 [info@ism-london.org](mailto:info@ism-london.org)

## CASE 2

*(Email message received 26/12/2005)*

My Name is T.M.

I came to Israel/Palestine to attend the conference Celebrating Non Violent

Resistance in Bethlehem from the 27th -31st of December. This conference has been organised by the Holy Land Trust and Non Violence International and there are many exciting speakers from the Civil Rights and Non Violence Movements.

On arrival at Ben Gurion Airport at 5am on 25th December I was refused entry and detained. I am currently resisting deportation along with other peace activists who are also trying to attend the conference in the hope that our legal appeals against our refusal will be successful.

I am committed to peaceful, non violent support for the Palestinian people as they try to live as normally as possible under occupation.

Could you please support me by e-mailing, faxing or calling your MP, MSP and the Israeli Ministry of Interior. Minister Mr Avrahaam Poraz [sar@moin.gov.il](mailto:sar@moin.gov.il)

Director Mr Mordechay Mordechay [mankal@moin.gov.il](mailto:mankal@moin.gov.il)

Spokesperson Ms Tova Ellinson [doover@moin.gov.il](mailto:doover@moin.gov.il)

Public Relations Ms Nechama Pluga-Zecharia [pniot@moin.gov.il](mailto:pniot@moin.gov.il)

Please ask for an explanation for my detention and also the detention of other peace activists trying to attend this conference?

Thank you very much

T.M.

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### CASE 3

Source: [http://www.livejournal.com/users/masha\\_camp/](http://www.livejournal.com/users/masha_camp/)

**Fri, Dec. 2nd, 2005, 11:39 pm**

**Human Rights Worker refuses deportation;  
Threatened by Police Officer**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At 01:15 on Thursday morning, Andrew Macdonald, a Human Rights Worker from the ISM, refused deportation from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, Israel. The refusal is a

protest against the State of Israel's policy of deporting Human Rights Workers from the Occupied Territories of Palestine.

After the refusal, a police officer from the Special Operations Unit, threatened Andrew, saying that they were going to drug him and use handcuffs and leg shackles to force him on the next available plane. They also threatened to put him in jail for two months if he would not comply. Currently, Andrew is being held at the Tzohar Detention Center near the Rafah crossing to Gaza.

The arrest took place last Thursday at 15:00 in Tel Rumeida, Hebron. Andrew had just finished escorting Palestinian children to school. ISM together with the Tel Rumeida Project provides an international presence in Tel Rumeida that supports the daily Palestinian non-violent struggle against attacks from Hebron's violent settler community.

Andrew Macdonald's own comment is: "Something very odd is happening here. In order to eject people from Israel, they are snatching people out of Palestine, and forcing them into Israel. It's not for Israelis to decide who can stay in Palestine, it's for Palestinians to decide."

For more details:

ISM Media Office : +972 2 297 1824

ISM website : <http://www.palsolidarity.org>

Tel Rumeida Project : <http://www.telrumeidaproject.org>

[Link](#)

## CASE 4

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: A.M.

To:

Sent: Mon, 26 Dec 2005 21:26:19 +0100

Subject: FW: Don't deny entry to peace activists, please.

This is the mail I've sent to the 4 members of Israeli Government.

Este es el correo electrónico que he mandado a los 4 miembros del gobierno de Israel, pidiendo que dejen entrar a los activistas de paz y que liberen a los que están en prisión.

Por favor, agradecería me mandárais e-mails de parlamentarios españoles y catalanes para poder dirigirme también a ellos. Gracias.

Un fuerte abrazo,

A.M.

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From: A.M.

To: [sar@moin.gov.il](mailto:sar@moin.gov.il)

CC:

Subject: Don't deny entry to peace activists, please.

Date: Mon, 26 Dec 2005 21:01:28 +0100

Mr. Poraz,

I know that you are denying entry to Israel of Peace nonviolent activists. As far as I know, for example, in July, Caravan of Rights, Caravan for Palestine, among which, myself.

In August, several women who wanted to attend Women in Black Conference, then other activists for nonviolent ISM, and now are in prison some which wanted to attend the conference Celebrating Non Violent Resistance in Bethlehem and have preferred prison than being deported, amongst which, Theresa McDermott.

Would you please let peace nonviolent activists that are only willing to help you all to make peace, enter in Israel without lying about the purpose of the travel, which myself had to do in entering and leaving Israel some days ago?????

We are nonviolent peacekeepers and DO NOT WANT TO LIE about the purpose of our travel. Please free immediately those peaceful activists and GIVE INSTRUCTIONS to your army not to prevent nonviolent people enter in Israel. It will be good for everybody.

SHALOM, SALAM, PEACE, PAIX, PACE, PAZ, PAU.....

A.M.

Barcelona, Spain

P.S. When I come back to Israel in the near future, I prefer going to prison

if prevented, than lying, and so, many of us.

## CASE 5

-----Original Message-----

From: Charlotte ISM [mailto:charlotte@ism-london.org.uk]  
Sent: 21 December 2005 22:22  
To: [info@ism-london.org.uk](mailto:info@ism-london.org.uk)  
Subject: URGENT - Fax/email ministry of interior Thursday morning

please forward this widely

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URGENT - Stop the Isolation of Palestine from international support

Three human rights campaigners on their way to the conference  
'Celebrating  
Non-Violence' in Bethlehem have been denied entry at Ben Gurion airport.

They were stopped on Tuesday morning for 'security reasons'. Israeli  
courts  
will make their decision tomorrow as to whether they can enter.

This is an important opportunity to challenge this policy and maybe even  
set  
a legal precedent allowing internationals freer access to the Occupied  
Territories.

They were completely honest about their reasons for coming to Palestine,  
and  
about their past involvement with ISM and non-violent activism.

Please demand to know why Israel wants to deport peacemakers.

PLEASE FAX OR EMAIL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Fax: 972-2-670-1628

Minister Mr. Avraham Poraz <[sar@moin.gov.il](mailto:sar@moin.gov.il)>  
Director Mr. Mordechai Mordechai <[mankal@moin.gov.il](mailto:mankal@moin.gov.il)>  
Spokesperson Ms. Tova Ellinson <[dover@moin.gov.il](mailto:dover@moin.gov.il)>  
Public Relations Ms. Nechama Plugha-Zecharia <[pniot@moin.gov.il](mailto:pniot@moin.gov.il)>

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Don't forget to visit [www.ism-london.org.uk](http://www.ism-london.org.uk)

## CASE 6

### **Europese Karavaan voor Gerechtigheid naar Palestina**

Van het in Israël gevestigde IPCRI, nieuwsdienst inzake Paleslijnen en Israël, ontvingen we eveneens een bericht over het ingrijpen van het ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken van Israël en het optreden van het Israëlische leger tegen de Karavaan voor Gerechtigheid bij de grenspost met Jordanië.

### **Israeli authorities bar 120 Europeans access to Occupied Territories**

[http://www.vredessite.nl/nieuws/2005/karavaan\\_ipcri\\_2107.html](http://www.vredessite.nl/nieuws/2005/karavaan_ipcri_2107.html)

ICPRI  
July 21, 2005  
By Gershon Baskin

For the last couple of days, the Israeli Occupation Authorities have continued to deny the 120-member European solidarity group entering the Palestinian territories through Al-Karama crossing that connects the Jordanian territories with the West bank.

Worthy to note that the European group set out two weeks ago from Strasbourg in France crossing a large number of European and Arab countries in the hope to enter the Palestinian territories to show their support to the Palestinian refugees and their opposition to the Israeli-erected Apartheid wall.

The Israeli Authorities on their turn barred the group that has been waiting in the Jordanian side for two days from entering the Palestinian territories in the West Bank allowing only three French supporters out of 120 to reach the city of Ramallah in the West bank.

The rest of the European supporters hope to be allowed access to the Palestinian territories to take part in the activities on support of the Palestinian people who have been under colonial Israeli occupation for almost half a century.

The Israeli Occupation forces (IOF) have full control over the crossings connecting the Palestinian occupied territories with the neighboring countries and thus can at any time cut the Palestinians

off from the rest of the world. Let aside, the checkpoints that the IOF sets up on the roads connecting the Palestinian cities and villages. The IOF can at its own sweet will lock or unlock the checkpoints turning the Palestinian cities and villages into disconnected cantons, the Palestinians cannot move out of or into them.

### **The Wall**

The European group through their visit to the Palestinian territories wishes to call upon the international community to provide the Palestinian population with international protection from the Israeli bloody attacks against them, and to implement the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) ruling, which illegalize the Apartheid Wall erected by Israel in Palestinian-owned lands and called to remove it [...]

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## **Europese Karavaan voor Gerechtigheid naar Palestina**

# **Ambassadeur vraagt Israël om opheldering over tegenhouden Vredeskaravaan**

[http://www.vredessite.nl/nieuws/2005/karavaan\\_ambassadeur\\_2507.html](http://www.vredessite.nl/nieuws/2005/karavaan_ambassadeur_2507.html)

Persbericht Nederlands Palestina Komitee  
25 juli 2005

De Nederlandse Ambassade in Tel Aviv heeft de Israëliische autoriteiten om opheldering verzocht over de reden waarom de deelnemers aan de "Caravan for Palestine" de doorgang is geweigerd. De Ambassade secretaris, mr. Adriaan Beenen heeft dat aan Sonja Zimmermann van het Nederlands Palestina Komitee laten weten.

De Europese Vredeskaravaan naar Palestina, de Karavaan voor het internationaal recht, is op de grens bij de Allenby brug op 19 en 20 juli in de problemen gekomen. Aan de Karavaan, die op 5 juli uit Straatsburg is vertrokken, namen meer dan 150 vredesactivisten deel. Bij bepleiten uitvoering van het internationaal recht. De Karavaan, die met uitsluitend vreedzame bedoelingen naar Jeruzalem wilde gaan, heeft meer dan 20 uur op de grens moeten doorbrengen. Uiteindelijk is de passagiers de toegang geweigerd.

Op hardhandige wijze werden zij uit een hal gehaald en met een te groot aantal de bus in geduwd, getrokken en geslagen. Een deel van hen - waaronder de bus - had al toestemming gekregen om Israël binnen te gaan. Die werd alsnog ingetrokken. [.....]

## CASE 6

(persbericht 14 juli 2005)

### GRONINGSE VREDESACTIVISTE GEARRSTEERD IN ISRAEL

Sinds vrijdag 9 juli zit de 46-jarige vredesactiviste Christine Grefer (Groningen) in detentie op de internationale luchthaven Ben Goerion in Tel Aviv. De Israelische autoriteiten hebben haar direct na aankomst gearresteerd, omdat zij een gevaar voor de staatsveiligheid zou zijn - overigens zonder deze beschuldiging toe te lichten.

Grefer was op weg naar bezet Palestijns gebied, waar zij gedurende zes weken als vrijwilligster voor de International Solidarity Movement zou deelnemen aan vreedzame demonstraties tegen de bouw van de omstreden Apartheidsmuur door Israël. De Israelische autoriteiten wilden Grefer onmiddellijk op een vliegtuig terug zetten, maar Grefer tekende hiertegen protest aan. Zij is van mening dat vredesactivisme een politieke uiting is en geen reden kan zijn om iemand de toegang tot een land te weigeren. Met een beroepsprocedure hoopt Grefer alsnog toegang tot Israël te krijgen, zodat zij haar werk kan doen.

Zoals bekend heeft het Internationaal Gerechtshof in Den Haag bepaald dat de muur die Israël op de westelijke Jordanoever optrekt, in strijd is met het internationale recht. Volgens het Internationaal Gerechtshof dient Israël de bouw van de muur onmiddellijk te staken, reeds gebouwde delen af te breken en de Palestijnen te compenseren voor geleden schade. Israël heeft inmiddels laten weten zich niets van het advies van het Gerechtshof te zullen aantrekken. Deze week nog zullen naar verwachting de Verenigde Naties zich uitspreken over de omstreden muur.

Christine Grefer is afgestudeerd theologe en docente sociale wetenschappen. Zij werkt momenteel voor een Groningse hogeschool en is al jaren actief in mensenrechtenorganisaties. Vorig jaar werkte zij gedurende vier weken voor de International Solidarity Movement in Nablus, waar zij zich vooral bezighield met het vastleggen van schendingen van de mensenrechten door Israelische militairen bij militaire controleposten. Deze activiteiten vormen ongetwijfeld de reden om haar nu de toegang tot Israël te ontzeggen. Vorig jaar heeft het Israelische Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken een richtlijn opgesteld dat leden van de International Solidarity Movement aan

de grens moeten worden teruggestuurd. Volgens de International Solidarity Movement zijn de afgelopen maand al 12 internationale vredesactivisten op de luchthaven Ben Goerion tegengehouden. Meestal krijgen zij niet de tijd om een beroepsprocedure aan te tekenen.

In afwachting van de behandeling van haar beroep (dat een tot drie weken op zich kan laten wachten) wordt Grefer vastgehouden in het detentiecentrum op de luchthaven Ben Goerion. Zij verblijft momenteel samen met twee anderen in een vierpersoonscel van ongeveer 2,5 bij 3 meter.

+++++

### **Rechtszaak Christine Grefer 22 juli Tel Aviv**

*Steungroep Christine Grefer - 15.07.2004 20:29*

Christine's zaak komt op 22 juli om 12.00 uur voor het District Court in Tel Aviv. Tijdens deze zitting zal besloten worden of Christine wel of niet Israël (en daarmee Palestina) in mag om deel te nemen aan protesten tegen de Apartheidsmuur die Israël bouwt in Palestina. Christine zit sinds 9 juli vast in het detentiecentrum op het vliegveld Ben Goerion.



*Christine (spandoek rechts - midden) vorig jaar in Qalqiliya*

Het is een openbare zitting, en we roepen iedereen op die in Israël of Palestina is te komen. Dit laat zien dat Christine niet alleen staat.

Een van ons heeft Christine gisteravond en vanochtend kort gesproken. Het gaat goed, ook met de twee andere arrestanten van ISM. Om het gebrek aan beweging (ze worden niet gelucht) te compenseren, hebben de vrouwen besloten gezamenlijk yoga- en grondoefeningen te doen. De drie zitten samen op een cel van 2,5 bij 3 op het vliegveld Ben Goerion in Tel Aviv.

Vandaag was de eerste rechtzitting van Ann Peter, een van de twee andere arrestanten, die al sinds midden juni vast zit. De rechters hebben geoordeeld dat de Staat Israël geheim bewijs moet leveren voor de regionale rechtbank, die dan moet besluiten of Ann al dan niet toegelaten wordt. De datum van haar volgende rechtszaak is nog niet bepaald.

Ann's juridische groep kwam daarna op bezoek in de gevangenis en heeft toen ook even met Christine en Jaime kunnen praten. Er zijn bewegingsdetectoren langs het raam en dus konden ze geen chocola naar binnen gooien, maar ze hebben wel een paar minuten heen en weer gebabbeld. De bewakers spraken een van de advocaten er later op aan dat ze mensen naar het detentiecentrum had meegenomen die het overheidsbestuur blokkeren.

Het Israëlische Knessetlid Roman Bronfman heeft de drie activistes ook opgezocht, om te praten over zijn pogingen het 'no-entry' beleid voor ISM-vrijwilligers en andere vredesactivisten te veranderen. Bronfman heeft gevraagd om een gesprek met de directeur van de Israëlische binnenlandse veiligheidsdienst Shin Beit ('Shabak'), Avi Dichter. Het is deze geheime dienst die op basis van geheim bewijsmateriaal besluit wie wel en niet Israël binnenkomt. Ook tijdens de komende rechtszaken mogen de arrestanten en hun advocaten het bewijs niet inzien.

Christine moet haar juridische kosten zelf betalen en deze kunnen hoog oplopen, zeker als de kosten van de rechtszaak en de eventuele deportatie zelf erbij komen zoals in Ann's zaak geëist wordt. Vanaf woensdag 21 juli kan er daarom geld gestort op giro 2327890 t.n.v. F. Mols, Groesbeek, o.v.v. Steungroep Christine Grefer.

# The Nation.

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COMMENT | posted July 14, 2004 (web only)

## Fighting Israel's Wall

ANN PETTER

The International Court of Justice has ruled Israel's "Separation Wall" illegal and has called on Israel to dismantle the wall. Nineteen days ago I came to Israel to protest that wall and to bear witness to its devastating effects on the Palestinian population. Instead I was detained by Israel police upon arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport and have since been held in immigration detention awaiting deportation. I have been labeled a threat to "security," and the judge has called my camera a weapon. It seems to me the only threat I pose to Israel is a public relations one.

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I have been asked, Why did I come from outside Israel to participate in political activity here? The first and simplest answer is because it is the right thing to do. The international community needs to insist on justice for all, for the sake of all. Secondly, I came from outside Israel to engage in political activity here because my country, the United States, bears the greatest responsibility for perpetuating the violence here.

The United States gives more foreign aid to Israel than to all African countries combined and crucial political support for nearly all of its policies concerning Palestinians, even those that violate international law, as does construction of the wall. I came to Israel because my tax money pays for Apache helicopters and tank shells like the ones recently shot at a peaceful protest in Gaza, and because the labels on the tear-gas containers we pick up in demonstrations say "Made in Pennsylvania." My taxes are sent to Israel in violation of US laws. The US Foreign Military Assistance Act prohibits military assistance to any country that has a pattern of consistently violating human rights.

During a visit to the West Bank a year ago I saw that the wall is being built primarily inside the West Bank on Palestinian land, cutting off thousands of Palestinians from their farmland, trapping many in enclaves and devastating the Palestinian economy. With that knowledge, I returned here to say the exact same thing that the ICJ has now declared.

I intended to join a march organized by the International Solidarity Movement, a Palestinian-led movement working for Palestinian self-determination and to end the Israeli occupation. Through nonviolent actions, the ISM volunteers bear witness to the effects of military occupation. We act where our governments fail to act. We report what the international media fail to report.

For daring to witness and report the brutal effects the wall is taking on the Palestinian population, I have been deemed a "security threat" by the State of Israel, denied entry to both Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, and threatened with expulsion. My first appeal to challenge my deportation was denied yesterday. However, because I know that my efforts to stand against human rights violations like the construction of the wall are supported by international law, I am appealing this decision to the Israeli Supreme Court and will remain in prison until my case is reviewed there.

From Ben Gurion's detention center I have experienced first-hand a scaled-down version of the system of injustice experienced daily by Palestinians, who call on us to pay attention to the prison walls being built around them. In light of the decision made by the International Court of Justice, and in light of America's ongoing support of Israel's defiance of international law, I urge people to answer the call and participate in bringing to the world the Palestinian voices calling for freedom and justice.

This article can be found on the web at

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20040719/petter>

## CASE 8

**Betreff:**Round trip to Tel Aviv: 24 hrs of Kafka live

**Datum:**Mon, 5 Apr 2004 11:06:11 +0200

Hi folks,

this mail was originally supposed to come from Jerusalem, announcing another series of the usual mails from my trips.

It is not.

I just came back from the airport after having been denied entry to Israel.

It can be said in just this one sentence, but I feel the urge to share the details. Right now I am in a mess, still trying to organize what had happened, still in a haze, not really believing this bad trip.

So this mail is to prepare you for more to come. I will draw the blanket tightly over my head, try to get some sleep and hope to wake up to find that Palm Sunday 2004 was just a dream. If not, I send you detailed reports. For my colleagues from media school, it will be plenty of material to practice.

See you later,  
I.S.

**Betreff:**Prologue: preparation and plans  
**Datum:**Mon, 5 Apr 2004 15:03:01 +0200

Okay, let's start to get it over with.

I have been to the Middle East before, on various occasions: to work with the Red Crescent, to visit a colleague, to meet the chancellor of the Patriarch (and on that occasion accidentally bumping into a meeting of Catholic bishops from all over the world - these three days belonging to the best memories of my life!). I had explored possibilities of humanitarian contributions for the Christian communities, such as meeting with nuns who run a school for traumatized children and teaching occasional workshops, and sponsoring seed money for an employment project for women to make and sell the typical Palestinian embroideries.

And then there were the peace activists of International Solidarity Movement (I-S-M). A Palestinian-led group consisting mostly of Internationals (Jews among them) that advocates non-violent resistance against the occupation. Mind: "non-violent". They don't have a political program but rather try to ensure human rights, they cooperate with Jewish and Israeli human rights groups, and all these volunteer human rights observers are in fact doing the work an official UN delegation should do. I cannot go into details here, they have a website: [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org)

Well, last fall I got arrested, another story I won't repeat here. Detained without being given a reason or the chance to contact my embassy or anyone else. Then a big fuss at the airport, my baggage searched repeatedly, but all there was aside from my personal belongings were rosaries, crosses, handicrafts, candles and other holyland items. A fuss big enough to keep me from going back there too soon. I didn't file official complaints either, feeling they would only add to the troubles.

But I did want to go back there for Easter. There is a procession on Palm Sunday, with children carrying palm twigs in memory of Jesus coming to Jerusalem and the people hailing him with "Hosanna".

On Good Friday there is another event: Jesus and all the people staying with him in spite of the crowd shouting "Crucify!" walk all the way passing all the stations to the cross. They are all in historical costumes, and when I had happened to see this procession three years ago and took a photo, it disturbed me that it didn't have just Jesus, his cross and the Roman soldiers on it, but also Israeli police. But then - some things seem to remain the same.

This time I had bought a new camera, especially for that occasion, in order to take more and better pictures.

Aside from Easter, I had wanted to meet the priest of Taybeh as well as two colleagues. Note: Israeli colleagues.

The priest is launching a project to boost the economy in the Christian communities through Caritas, and I had translated the proposal into German. They want to sell a gift basket with various agricultural products and a glass lamp - the "lamp of peace" - that works on olive oil. I wanted to buy such a lamp and learn more about the project.

Those were my plans.

If I would meet peace activists, I would surely not run away from them, but didn't plan to actively seek them. These days they are very busy with demonstrations against the Wall, the land confiscations and expropriations and uprooting of trees. From what I read, the soldiers are pretty violent on them. With teargas, soundbombs and rubber-coated steel bullets that can cause severe injuries. I don't feel up to that.

I was careful to not have big correspondence on these plans and meetings, as I could not be sure my e-mails weren't monitored. And, after all, if they detain me without giving a reason, they might send me back at the border without a reason! Just because they can.

Packing my things, I found an old t-shirt that said: "Berlin - free at last", and the date Nov 9th 1989. On a hunch I decided to take it, but carefully turned inside-out. They check all your baggage and may see something as simple as a shirt as a "security risk". Why? The Berlin Wall had fallen, and they build a new one. The other t-shirt I had found, saying "Solidarität mit Solidarnosc", would definitely have been too much.

Who is stronger on the long run, tanks or t-shirts?

Sorry if I still sound a bit incoherent and too lengthy. I am still not quite myself yet.

With my next mail we'll go directly to Tel Aviv.

Stay tuned!

I.S.

**Betreff:**warm welcome on Palm Sunday

**Datum:**Mon, 5 Apr 2004 20:18:50 +0200

Let's zoom in now to Sunday morning in Tel Aviv.

Arriving at Ben Gurion airport, I was lucky to get on the first bus to the terminal. That meant not having to face long waiting lines at the passport control yet. It was about a quarter past two.

I was confident to get it over with pretty fast, with or without security interrogation, and soon be on the bus to Jerusalem. After all, I hadn't done anything wrong in the legal sense, not even complained about my bad experiences last time.

So I was in a good mood, already picturing myself in my favourite internet café in Jerusalem, laughing away my concerns, joking about my paranoia. But then the girl behind the counter, after having typed something from my passport, made a phonecall.

In no time, two or three seconds at most, some guy stood beside me, more security folks, and finally I had a welcome committee of four security people to take me to that shabby office.

I was ordered to wait. They were waiting for my baggage. Of course no one told me why.

What else is new. Welcome home!

Still I was in a good mood. They would do their checks, find nothing suspicious, maybe ask more details about the purpose of my visit and let me go. A nuisance, but you have to take it into account when going to the roots of Christianity. Haven't I been through it before!

I was taken to another room that looked vaguely familiar - from special checks before departure. Not only to take luggage apart, but also do body searches. The air condition was on, and I was freezing. The room was bustling with activity, several tables with baggage to be checked, security personnel checking everything with powder probes. Some faces vaguely familiar - and one face that I had definitely seen before. Was that the Secret Service guy from half a year ago? But that had been at another place. Maybe this was one of the police staff hassling me on my departure.

After two hours I had to ask permission to go to the bathroom, secretly making jokes to myself about another sample of "Pees in the Middle East", the safest ones in the world, under police supervision, this time the officer choosing which cubicle and checking the room for hidden bombs before I was allowed in.

About two hours had passed. I had seen my things being unpacked, checked, some items taken to another room, some items held under my nose: "What is this???", then everything was somehow stuffed back into the bag, and still I was waiting.

Finally, around 16.30 or 17 h, the next delegation came to pick me up. Who knows, some day I might be addicted to security interrogations, but not yet.

At least they don't surprise me any more.  
Details in the next part.

**Betreff:**friend or foe?

**Datum:**Tue, 6 Apr 2004 08:33:49 +0200

The welcome party at the airport had thus lasted from 14.30 to about 17h.

Now I had my baggage back, thoroughly checked and in a mess. Obviously these two new security officers had been called in specially. Please follow us now across the arrival hall of the airport, up some stairs, through narrow corridors, more stairs, another narrow corridor and into an office.

One has short grey hair and seems even likeable. Or just playing "good cop"? He is in charge. The other one is taller, dark and younger. We even laugh and joke a bit when it comes to who carries my bag.

In the office, he sits behind the desk and casually puts his cigarettes on the table. The younger one brings water. An almost cozy atmosphere. I am confident that I will spend the night in Jerusalem.

The name of my new friend is Shaul, if I get the spelling right. He is nice and tells me he wants to "get the picture". He suggests an agreement: "I will ask you questions, and you answer honestly. If you don't want to answer, just say so, but if you do, don't lie!"

Fair enough.

I was calm and confident and he was doing his job, so why make life hard for any of us.

"Just doing my job? That's what the Nazis said. No, it's not just doing my job".

A bait? I let it pass without comment.

He asked whether I had been to Israel before, and how many times. I answered, yes (didn't he have it all in his records anyway!), a couple of times.

"What were you doing here, and why did you come this time?"

I mentioned the Red Crescent, the colleagues I have and possibly would meet, even had proof with me: one was the book with one chapter carrying my name, a write-up from a workshop I taught at that institute of Tel Hai college.

The other was a printout of a short e-mail from the other colleague, a professor in Haifa mentioning that he and his wife would be happy to meet me - with the whole nine yards of his academic titles and functions in the signature line. This time I came especially for the Easter celebrations in Jerusalem.

He then asked directly about I-S-M.

Not really a big surprise.

I said, "what's wrong with them? My impression is that they are nonviolent idealistic peace activists, doing no harm".

"Are you a member?"

"Do they have membership, with cards and all? I met some of them", I admitted, "and i don't see anything wrong with them."

"Are you a member?"

"No" (after all, I don't have a membership card or something the like. Would

the rooster call now, because I had been with them before and still receive their messages? I felt lousy, hiding something where in fact there is nothing to hide).

He wanted me to tell more about them, but I politely refused. Shaul seemed to be so different from Ziv, the Secret Service man I had encountered half a year ago, but still: he was doing a similar job. What chance did I have to change his mind about a bunch of idealistic Internationals? I took one small move:

"Look, I think I know what's on your mind. I heard about these two suicide bombers who were said to be members. But I-S-M would never ever encourage violent acts! Imagine I went to a foreign country, claiming to belong to some Israeli organization and doing wrong in their name - would you like it?? I don't even know whether the two bombers claimed to be I-S-M or whether it was ascribed to them. Anyway, they'd never encourage violence".

The conversation was still going lightly, not really unpleasant. Strange - this guy was really likeable!

Very soon Shaul had said:

"You got detained last time, in a taxi. Why did you come back?"

"Oh, so you have all the records? You are right, that was not exactly a pleasant experience. Especially when noone told me why. They did wrong by arresting me, but I didn't complain, hoping it never happens again". Maybe it was in that context that I reminded him of Salomo, who had not asked for wealth but for wisdom, his justice bringing along the longest peace period ever in the Middle East, 30 years as far as I know. Salomo who had talked about not retaliating but doing good to the enemies in order to give them a chance to reconsider.

On one occasion he told me:

"I know how you feel! I was held for ten hours when I was travelling to the US - just because my parents came from Egypt! For no other reason, nothing I had said or done, just because I was born in Egypt!"

Was that an explanation for his occasional Arabic words? I felt he had thrown them as baits, but I never reacted. After all, this wasn't a restaurant but a security office, and weren't here for fun. So better be cautious.

Too bad, he sure would have had interesting stories to tell. But I wasn't in a position to ask him to tell me more.

At a certain point he asked why I didn't get angry.

Sure, anger is easy to deal with: you can fight, "strike back", and angry words can be used against you if you are in a weak position. But I wasn't even angry, and I told him so, acknowledging that he had to do his job, so why make life harder. He didn't understand how I could be - and feel - so calm. But I really felt this guy was not out to get me in the first place, and if so, it was because he had to. Had we met somewhere else, we would have talked and joked for hours, and that's what I told him when he asked what impression I had of him. But I added that I am well aware that he doesn't spend all this time with me because of my pretty blue eyes, and that I am at his mercy. He laughed. "Blue eyes, brown eyes... no, you are not at my mercy. You just have to answer my questions."

"I do answer your questions, and I am at your mercy because you are the one to decide where I go from here!"

"So why don't you get angry?"

"You want me to throw a tantrum? Sorry, I really don't feel like it. As I told you before, I don't want to make life harder. Or easier, for that matter. True, if I were angry and use abusive language, the decision would be easier for you. But that's not how I feel. I don't envy you your job, it is like a dentist's: noone really loves going to the dentist." He smiled and nodded "And still people go to the dentist".

I began to wonder what he was getting at, which information he was missing. After all, i had told him why I came. (Sorry that this mail is getting so long, but this may give you a sense of the time I spent there). Why didn't he just tell me to go, either to Jerusalem, or, in the worst case, that I was persona non grata, for whatever reason? Why waste hours if a decision is already taken?

It was tiring to feel something was expected but I had no idea what it was. Shaul had mentioned that he had "lost his innocence in (...), in 82. One mistake that cost 40 lives". Looked like still painful memories. I wanted to know more about what happened, but felt this could have been perceived as intrusion. Whatever he alluded to - it must have had something to do with trusting the wrong people. And now he asked me to trust him. "Walk with me in the dark!"

I had no idea what he meant.

"Look, I would not have had to come. They could have sent you back just like that, but I wanted to see you, to get the picture. You are a beautiful woman, and you are bright, you tell me what brings you here, but the story fits too well. I don't see what's going on inside you. I want names!"

Names?

Names of people who later would get in trouble just because I mentioned their names????

Didn't he have the names of my colleagues? Wasn't that enough?

He wanted more personal information, "get the real picture, your life story".

I was confused. I had had about four hours of sleep the night before, had taken the long journey, and for hours I was held at the airport. I was exhausted. And desperate for not knowing what he expected, not knowing the magic word I would have to pronounce to get me out of there. Helpless.

No, not angry.

Tears welled up, and I didn't try to hold them back. Then the sobbing started, and I just let it happen. I thought of the nuns who had asked me to never mention their names at the airport (they are Americans), thought of the hassles even the nonviolent Christian communities have to endure, just for being Palestinian Christians. Yes, I allowed myself the luxury of healthy heartfelt weeping, although I am beyond weeping since many years. I did not want to give names of any of these! He assured me this was not what he wanted. He wanted personal information.

We were running in circles, not really understanding each other. I did believe it when he said he wanted to help me, but didn't understand what he wanted

me to do in order to help with this.

"You sense a trap in everything, feel like walking on thin ice, but you have to trust me!"

"What do you want me to do?"

"Answer my questions."

"Don't I do that all the time? I don't know what you expect, so please tell me!"

"Walk in the dark with me!"

"I feel I am somehow lost in the dark!"

Running in circles.

Reaching out for each other, but failing to reach each other.

Looking back, I still think that basically he is a good guy and meant well, but I still have no idea what I should have done. The personal information he had asked me for I had given. What exactly did he want?

Finally, after more than two hours and several phonecalls he answered in Hebrew, we went back through the narrow corridors, back to the general security office. Not as enemies, partly even having enjoyed the conversation and an occasional laughter. But somehow not having built the bridge he had talked about. Failed.

We could have become friends had we met somewhere else where we could have exchanged experiences of trusting the wrong people and being let down. But we had met in a security office, not some bar or internet café.

I had no idea what his decision would be.

We had spent more than two hours together, and I felt he had had expectations I was unable to meet because I didn't know them.

Still I had not given up hope yet to be released to go to Jerusalem. I had some confidence he would not really let me down. Didn't he sense I was no danger? I did trust him so far.

It was 19.15 by now, and I had to sit and wait in front of the police office. Not knowing how long and for whom or for what.

**Betreff:**puppet on their strings

**Datum:**Tue, 6 Apr 2004 09:49:32 +0200

You read about my arrival in Tel Aviv around 14.15 on Sunday afternoon and the welcome i got, and you might have read about the two-hour interrogation.

By 19.15 I was back at the arrival hall of the airport, sitting in front of the police office, not knowing what would happen next.

Wait.

Would Shaul speak the word of deliverance, give green light to let me go?

It would be late when i would arrive in Jerusalem, and with Easter ahead it might not be as easy as usual to find accommodation. But the Notre Dame is so huge and open 24 hours that there was still a chance to get a room there.

It was cold, and I was freezing.

After half an hour waiting, I asked what was going on, and why I was still held.

"We are waiting for a call from Security".

Wait.

I was a mental mess and felt the urge to talk to a human being who would take me for what I am: a human being.

Fortunately they had given back my cellphone, and I called the embassy.

I got a tape, pointing out that this number was only to be used for emergencies.

Dammit, this was an emergency! I left a message.

Five minutes later I called again.

The gentleman told me they could do nothing for me, and obviously it happens again and again that Swiss citizens have problems at the Israeli border.

His answer was well-rehearsed routine - we cannot do anything for you, you have to contact the Israeli embassy in Switzerland.

So it happens more frequently and never gets publicized.

Dealt with in one sentence: "Denied entry", and that's it.

Swept under the rug, just routine.

The holidays taken, the flight tickets paid for, without any return on those investments, just because the authorities deny entry.

Waiting. Freezing.

Happiness is having some emergency food in my baggage.

Happiness is having my cellphone with the number of my Israeli colleague whom I hadn't dared to tell yet that I was coming.

Last time he had got that surprise call from Ziv, the Secret Service guy who asked him about me.

This time he got another surprise call, from me.

He offered help, if possible. They could call him, and where was I, who was holding me. The acoustics was bad as another flight had arrived, with all the passengers standing in front of the passport control booths. I only could tell him that I was sitting in that arrival hall in front of the police office, not knowing what my fate would be. In an attempt of grim humour I asked him what his bet would be, would we have a chance to meet and share grain bars again, or would they send me back?

That was just an attempt to keep my nostrils above water. In fact I was desperate - and crying. There I was, having had in mind to spend Easter in Jerusalem, meeting familiar faces from the guesthouse of the Patriarchate my "home" in Jerusalem, familiar faces at the internet café or in the Christian quarters where I would do the usual holyland articles shopping, maybe go to Taybeh again, meet that professor I respect so much in Haifa and possibly do an interview with him, inquiring about that Caritas project - and by then I was held at the airport for more than six hours, obviously regarded as a "security risk".

About 20 minutes past eight, I dared again to ask the officer at the desk what was going on.

"The "Ministry of Interior" will come in a moment. Wait."

"Ministry of Interior"???

What on earth was he talking about?

What did I do to get me that kind of attention??  
For what kind of monster were they mistaking me?  
Folks, I am not kidding. I am well aware this sounds too crazy to believe.  
But it is the truth.

Finally, around 20.30, some guy with a badge hanging from his neck showed up and told me, just in passing:

"You cannot enter Israel".

I said:

"Wait a minute. What is going on?"

He was already going and only stopped for a second to tell me that he was from the Ministry of Interior, and they had decided that I was denied entry.

Off he was.

What now?

More waiting.

More calls, to my Israeli contact, to one of my daughters. It is so humiliating: a mother should comfort her children, not vice versa! The embassy had already told me that they'd do nothing.

Can you imagine how it feels to be just a puppet, not knowing what string they would pull next?

I was not given any more information, all I had to do was wait.

They had the power.

And they had my passport.

**Betreff:**jail bird

**Datum:**Tue, 6 Apr 2004 12:21:48 +0200

Dear friends and foes, have you ever met or talked to someone who has spent time in prison? No?

I have to correct that. There is at least one.

Me.

Around 20.30 I had been told "you cannot enter Israel", and around 21.45 the next string was pulled:

Two guys arrived with my passport to pick me up.

"Where are you taking me?"

They were not exactly friendly or talkative, as if fearing violent protest.

"We take you to a place where you can stay till your plane will leave".

The German word "Ausschaffungshaft" crossed my mind.

"Does that mean you are taking me to jail?"

"Oh no, no jail! It is like a hotel, only simpler, you can rest and have a shower".

What chance did I have to protest. I had heard of others who would refuse to fasten their seatbelts on the plane, in order to fight deportation. That

would only lead to more attention and "prove" that I would be dangerous.

Looking back, I realize only now that I should have taken with me the phone number of some Israeli lawyer, but now it is too late.

They took me to a building where I met a lady in the same position as I was. She had flown all the way from Canada! Now she was about to be packed on the plane to Jordan. Canada - Netherlands - Jordan - Tel Aviv, and now all she wanted was going home.

I asked her whether she had been here before.

"No, it is my first time - and it will be the last!!"

I don't know how much time she had taken off from her work at home, what her plans had been or what her flight ticket had cost. What a waste of her time and money! And the money she would have spent in Israel. I doubt she will talk much in favour of that country when she returns home. Don't these so-called "security measures" create more problems than they solve?

She seemed down and desperate as this experience obviously was new and unexpected to her, so I told her to at least spend some pleasant days in Jordan. I heard tell they had beautiful spas by the Dead Sea. That I had been to Ein Gedi, a spa on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea (our conversation was, of course, monitored, as we were constantly watched, so why not give them an indirect message:) "If Israel doesn't want your money, why not spend it in Jordan? I have never been there, but heard there are good places. Allow yourself some rest after all that stress, those Dead Sea spas are really fun!"

(It may look as if I only thought in terms of money, which this is not the case at all. But for some people it is the only language they understand, and Israel does have economic problems, to a large extent due to sharp drop in tourism business).

She was taken to her plane, and I was shown the cell where I had to spend the time before my departure.

Four bunks, plastic mattresses without covers, woolen blankets. A toilet, a shower, a washbasin. Remnants of food someone had left behind. Bright light. Windows made of that thick bulletproof glass used in banks. Cold.

The guard searching my bag, taking away my cellphones, camera and lighter, ordering me to sign a receipt. In Hebrew. I don't feel like signing things I don't understand and let him translate. I write the English next to the Hebrew and also write that I only sign for the English.

The rest of the stuff I can take to the cell, the heavy door closes and of course there is no way to get out.

And no way to turn off these bright lights.

With a sort of silly delight I realize that I have the other camera still in my bag, he hasn't seen it. But is there a way to take a photo of this cell? I don't have any real privacy, he could show up anytime at that window. What would be a good angle to avoid being caught in the act?

Are there surveillance cameras?

I do take the risk, only to get me the silly triumph of taking two silly photos without them knowing. How silly you can get under pressure.

It is so damned cold in that cell that I don't feel like having a shower.

Luxury is having a towel of your own to cover the part of that plastic mattress

where you lay your head. Luxury is being alone in a four-bunk cell so you can have more than one blanket to keep you from shivering.

Around three o'clock in the morning, a young guard told me I had twenty minutes to get ready. I got up, brushed my teeth, looking exactly like the mess I felt. Found a place by the door to bang on, in order to tell him to please let me out.

While waiting for my transport, we were chatting a little. After all, it was not this guy's personal fault. He was part of the system, and like the young police officers at the airport, he didn't know why I was there. I could have been a drug dealer or a killer, for all they knew.

He was from Russia, 25 years old, the age of my oldest daughter. He grew up after Gorbatshev, but, yes, his parents did remember KGB times. No, this was not a prison at all! It was built as a special service for people like me who sometimes had to stay for as long as three days and had no place to go.

Son, I thought, I am not thinking of Russian conditions, I am thinking of the way civilized Middle Europeans are treated by The Only Democracy in the Middle East! What crime am I guilty of? I had seen Swiss jails, only as a visitor of course, but they look definitely more comfortable.

Finally I was escorted to the minibus back to the airport. The chief guardian turned on music. Pleasant voices, country music, and how the chorus fit: "... you say it best/ when you say nothing at all..."! I didn't feel like I was having a say in what happened to me either. Say nothing at all. You have a snowball's chance in hell anyway.

They drove directly to the plane, taking out my luggage to be put on board directly. Next stop was at the gangway. I had a window seat in a row all by myself and couldn't keep from crying again. I hadn't seen my passport, hadn't seen whether it had that stamp in it that meant I was banned from further entry for 10 years. What on earth was the crime they seemed to accuse me of???

They have custody of all the sites that are so important for Christians. Was I banned from ever coming back to Jerusalem, or Bethlehem or Nazareth? (As for my Israeli colleagues - they can travel, so there is at least a chance to see them again). Or was this just turning another notch up in giving me enough nuisance to discourage any further visits? Like Shaul had wondered why I had come back after having had these unpleasant experiences of being detained last time?

We landed in Zurich from where I started almost 24 hours ago, and still the VIP treatment was not over yet.

A friendly gentleman with a printout from an e-mail in his hand was to welcome me and stay with me until I had passed the passport control, just to make sure I got back to where I started. Smalltalking on the way, I asked him how often he had to accompany that kind of passengers specifically from Israel. "About once a month".

Once a month, a Swiss citizen finds his time and money wasted, once a month

a Swiss citizen has this unpleasant un-welcome. I never heard or read about it, and it seems to go on and on and on. Do you remember the picture of the three monkeys I sent you half a year ago? Will you refuse to see, hear and talk like the monkeys, or will you help raising awareness?

I am aware that my mails were too long and probably too boring for you to read. Nevertheless, they were important for me to write, and I thank all of you who did stay with me. I start to feel like a human being again, now the story is told, and now I am ready to call in the legal cavalry. I want to know at least what the charges are.

That ugly red stamp in my passport even carries an involuntary joke in its spelling.

It says:

"Entery denied".

Dysentery thus?

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## CASE 9

# Kafka läßt grüßen

## Verhörmethoden am Flughafen von Tel Aviv im Juni 2004

### Eine persönliche Aufzeichnung von L.A.

Seit 2002 gehöre ich der International Solidarity Movement an, bekannt als ISM, die sich vor Ort und international mit gewaltfreien Widerstand für ein Ende der israelischen Besatzung einsetzt als Voraussetzung für einen gerechten Frieden zwischen Israel und Palästina.

Ich war mehrere Male in Palästina, in der Westbank und auch im Gazastreifen, um an gewaltlosen Protesten und Demonstrationen gegen die Besatzung teilzunehmen.

Das letzte Mal hielt ich mich im Juni/Juli 2004 in der Westbank auf. Hier der Bericht über meine Erfahrung im Flughafengebäude.

Im Juni 2004 landete ich in Tel Aviv. In einem Nebenraum des Flughafengebäudes wurde mein Gepäck in tausend Einzelteile auseinandergenommen.

Sechs! Sicherheitsleute tanzten um meinem Rucksack herum, jede Schachtel

wurde viele Male hin-und hergedreht, geöffnet, dann wieder zugemacht, wieder geöffnet... Jedes einzelne Gepäckstück wurde mit wichtigem Gestus in ein verstecktes Hinterzimmer getragen, manchmal wurde das gleiche Gepäckstück von einer anderen Person nochmals in den hinteren Raum gebracht. Es ist schwierig herauszufinden, ob hinter diesem Durchsuchungschaos ein System steckt oder wirkliches Chaos.

..

Jede Naht meiner Hosen, Jacken und Blusen wird gründlich untersucht. Ob meine Kontrolleure hoffen, vielleicht bei mir einen unsichtbaren Draht aufzuspüren, der eventuell mit einem tief in der Erde vergrabenen Handy der Hamas verbunden ist, um so eine unsichtbare Minibombe explodieren zu lassen, die vielleicht in meinem linken Zeh eingenäht ist? Denn die Dame, die meinen Körper abtastet – mit der vorhergehenden Aufforderung, meinen Oberkörper zu entblößen - ist besonders an meinen krummen und ausgetreten Füßen interessiert, auf die sie immer wieder schaut. Vielleicht ist sie eine Fußfetischistin? Weiß der Teufel!

Nach der langwierigen Untersuchung meines Körpers und meines Gepäcks werde ich zu einem Verhör in einen kleinen Raum geführt, der von einem der endlosen, schmalen Kellergänge abgeht, die ich mit dem Verhörbeamten des Innenministeriums durchwandere. Rostige Eisenrohre durchziehen diese graulichtigen Gänge, unsere Schritte hallen auf dem Betonboden. „Like the Stasi“ meint mein Verhörer und grinst mich vielsagend an. Er wirkt sehr sympathisch, locker, hat ein weiches Gesicht. In den politischen Büchern, die ich gelesen habe, stand viel von diesen Vertrauen erweckenden Kumpeltypen, die die Verhörten in die Versuchung bringen, sich zu öffnen, nicht mehr auf das aufzupassen, was sie sagen. Ich bin nicht allein mit ihm. Ein anderer Sicherheitsbeamter begleitet ihn, ein bulliger Hüne, der während des Verhörs mit unbeweglicher Miene schweigend dasitzt, das Alter Ego meines Vernehmers.

Kaum trete ich in den Raum ein, wird schnell der Schlüssel an der Tür herumgedreht. Ich bin eingesperrt.

Das Verhör beginnt. Die erste Frage lautet, ob ich weiß, was der Name ISM bedeuten würde. Ich gebe vor, nie etwas darüber gehört zu haben und frage nach, ob das eine Organisation sei oder so etwas ähnliches. Saul, so heißt mein Verhörer, verrät mir, daß diese Bewegung Militäroperationen in den besetzten Gebieten verhindere, die der Sicherheit von Israelis dienen.

Ausserdem sei diese Organisation sehr gefährlich, da sie mit Terroristen zusammenarbeiten würde. In ihren Reihen hätte es zwei Selbstmordattentäter gegeben.( Nach dem Selbstmordattentat muslimischer Briten wurde ein Zusammenhang zwischen der Solidaritätsbewegung und dem Terrorismus von dem israelischen Staat konstruiert, um die Arbeit von ISM zu kriminalisieren.)

„Die Mitglieder von ISM werden in ihren Trainingslehrgängen sogar darin geschult, wie sie sich bei Verhören wie diesen hier zu verhalten haben“ regt er sich auf. „Gehörst Du zu ISM?“ fragt er mich plötzlich. Ich spiele die Empörte. Nein, mit so einer schrecklichen Bewegung will ich nichts zu tun haben, ereifere ich mich und forsche dabei in Sauls Gesicht. Ob er mir glaubt?

Dann die Frage, warum ich nach Israel geflogen sei, warum ich allein gekommen sei, was ich in Israel machen will, wo ich übernachtete...Ich gebe vor, daß mich Israel immer fasziniert hätte, die Religion etc... und ich mich treiben lassen möchte im Land, da ich eine Globetrotterin und Einzelgängerin sei und sehr neugierig.

Ich werde gefragt, ob ich arabische Freunde und Bekannte in Deutschland habe, ob deutsche Freunde von mir arabische Kontakte hätten, ob ich Kontakt hätte zu israelischen Arabern...Mir schwirrt der Kopf, aber ich rede mich heraus, gebe nichts zu. Ich muß daran denken, wie privilegiert ich trotz meiner Lage bin. Ich werde nicht geschlagen, mir wird während der Befragung kein stinkender Sack über den Kopf gestülpt, der vorher in Urin und Kot getaucht wurde, wie es den PalästinenserInnen geschieht, die vernommen werden. Ich werde nicht in schmerzhaften Positionen an einen Stuhl gebunden, nicht unter quälenden Schlafentzug gesetzt, um etwas zuzugeben, was ich nicht getan habe. Mir werden sogar Essen und Trinken angeboten.

Als Saul, so heißt mein Vernehmer, von mir nichts erfährt, was für ihn von Interesse sein könnte,greift er zu erfundenen Behauptungen, um mich zu verunsichern und einzuschüchtern. So behauptet er, daß ich im November 2003 im Gazastreifen gewesen sei „es steht in meinen Akten“, versichert er mir. Er greift wohl spontan zu dieser Behauptung,da er meinen israelischen Paßstempel vom November 2003 gesehen hat und aus dieser Tatsache heraus seinen Vorwurf konstruiert. Ich wäre gern zu dieser Zeit in den Gazastreifen gefahren, aber fast niemand durfte zu dieser Zeit Gaza betreten. Ich war dort im Dezember 2002, was Saul nicht zu wissen schien und wohnte mit anderen Internationalen in einem Haus in Rafah, das in der israelischen Schußlinie stand und von Zerstörung bedroht war.

Mein Vernehmer beharrt darauf, dass ich im November 2003 im Gazastreifen gewesen sei. Ich verneine wiederholt und sage ihm, daß fast kein Ausländer durch den Erez-Checkpoint nach Gaza einreisen dürfe. Ich hatte zuviel gesagt. „Woher weißt Du, daß es dort einen Checkpoint gibt?“ „Ich lese doch Zeitung und sehe fern“ rufe ich aus. Saul ändert seine Taktik. Wenn ich nicht selbst am Checkpoint Erez gewesen sei, muß es eine Doppelgängerin von mir sein, die meinen Paß gestohlen hat, sagt er zu mir. „Unmöglich“ rufe ich aus, „ich hatte meinen Paß immer bei mir!“

Ich bin hellwach und auf der Hut. Zu welchen abstrusen Behauptungen greift er jetzt? Die Situation ist so absurd, daß ich fast schon gespannt auf seine nächsten Lügen warte. Er beschwert sich plötzlich, daß ich mich weigern würde, mit ihm zusammenzuarbeiten. „Babette, Babette“ seufzt er zu mir hin „was sollen wir (!) bloß mit Dir machen?“ Ich gebe zu, daß die Situation für ihn sehr schwierig sei und schaue ihn treuherzig an. „Nicht nur schwierig, viel mehr als das,“ er schüttelt in gespielter Besorgnis seinen Kopf. „Ich glaube, wir können Dich nicht ins Land lassen, wenn Du weiterhin nicht bereit bist, mit uns zu kooperieren.“ Mit uns? Auf einmal entsteht aus einem Vernehmer der ganze Staat Israel, dem ich mich verweigere.

Sein Kopf schießt vor, als er auf einmal sagt, daß er ein Foto von mir hätte – er zeigt auf einen Tresor im Zimmer, in dem das Foto liegen soll. Darauf sei ich abgebildet, als ich am Erez-Checkpoint auf die Einreise nach Gaza wartete, vergangenen November 2003. „So kostbar bin ich, dass ich sogar im Tresor gelandet bin?“ lache ich ihn an. Ob ich das Foto sehen möchte? Und ob ich will, ich möchte schließlich wissen, wie meine Doppelgängerin aussieht. „Du willst das Foto wirklich sehen?“ wiederholt er.

Er lehnt sich zurück, fixiert mich, fragt wieder, warum ich nicht mit ihm zusammenarbeiten will, um davon abzulenken, daß es gar kein Foto von mir gibt. Und wiederholt die freundliche Drohung, mich abzuschieben, wenn ich weiterhin nicht kooperieren will. Er könne Stunden, ja Tage mit mir im Keller verbringen, er hätte alle Zeit der Welt, um auf meine richtigen Antworten zu warten.

Dann fordert er mich plötzlich auf, den Inhalt meines Portemonnaies vor ihm auszuschütten und alle Zettel vor ihm auszubreiten. Auf einem der Zettel steht ein erfundener Name, als Tarnung, dahinter die Telefonnummer des ISM-Büros in Ramallah. „Wer ist Ida Marquardt?“ fragt er ungehalten, „das ist doch eine israelische oder palästinensische Nummer!“ Ich sage ihm, dass das eine israelische Freundin sei und denke

mir im stillen, daß ich jetzt geliefert bin, falls er die Nummer anruft. Er ruft nicht an und ich freue mich über soviel Dummheit. Er will andere Namen wissen von Freunden in Israel. Ich nenne ihm den Namen einer real existierenden Freundin, die in Tel Aviv wohnt. Als er den Namen gehört hat, geht er aus dem Raum, um zu telefonieren, kommt nach kurzer Zeit zurück und fragt mich, ob ich wüßte, mit wem ich da eigentlich befreundet sei. Ich stelle mich dumm, verneine, denn die Freundin ist eine bekannte Friedensaktivistin, fünfundsiebzig Jahre alt, furchtlos, die sich seit vielen Jahren für ein selbstbestimmtes Palästina einsetzt, die keine Angst vor Repressionen mehr hat von Seiten des israelischen Staates, da sie schon so viele erlebt hat. Sie legt immer großen Wert darauf, daß ich sie als Kontaktadresse in Israel angebe.

Ich weiß nicht, ob Saul blufft, ob er tatsächlich nach meiner Freundin geforscht hat. Wenn er wirklich herausgefunden hat, wer sie ist, werde ich sicherlich aus Tel Aviv abgeschoben, denn dann gehöre ich – aus der Sicht meines Verhörers und des Innenministeriums - zu den Feinden Israels und bin ein Sicherheitsrisiko.

Ich nehme mir vor, mich im Flugzeug schreiend auf den Boden zu werfen, damit ich nicht auf meinem Sitz festgeschnallt werden kann, falls ich abgeschoben werde. Sie sollen es nicht leicht mit mir haben. Ich will ihnen, den Leuten von der Sicherheitsbehörde, so viele Schwierigkeiten wie möglich machen. Sollen sie mich ins Gefängnis schicken für meine nicht begangenen Untaten gegen ihren Staat, ich habe ja Zeit. In der Haft werde ich versuchen, zusammen mit einem Anwalt und der Unterstützung der ISM, gegen die ungerechte Behandlung zu kämpfen. Schließlich gehöre ich zu einer Graswurzelbewegung, die sich unter anderem in der Tradition Martin Luther King und Mahatma Gandhi sieht, die mit gewaltlosen Mitteln gegen Diskriminierung, Unterdrückung und Kolonialismus vorgeht, um den PalästinenserInnen zu ihrem Recht zu verhelfen.

Saul verläßt mit mir die langen Kellergänge, verschwindet für einige Zeit im Flughafengebäude, um mir später mitzuteilen, daß ich das Land betreten darf.

Ich kann denjenigen nur raten, die wie ich in eine ähnliche Situation kommen sollten, nicht den Humor zu verlieren, sich nicht einschüchtern oder provozieren zu lassen, vor allen Dingen keine Angst zu haben

während dieser absurden Verhöre, freundlich-distanziert zu bleiben und sich nicht so leicht abschieben zu lassen.

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## CASE 10

*Relaas van M.V., Nederlandse activiste voor Palestina:*

Er is veel documentatie in de zin van persoonlijk verhalen ed. Een van de meest interessante is het verhaal dat deze zomer rond ging over een vreemde spray/douche aan de Allembly brug. Men wilde niet uitleggen wat het was, maar ik heb er van verschillende mensen over gehoord.

Mijn eigen 'interessante' ervaringen, behalve de gewone veiligheidsvragen, zijn er 3:

- Toen ik in december 2002 met Transavia naar Tel Aviv vloog, werd ik al op Schiphol ondervraagd door een Nederlands veiligheidsman die duidelijk door de Israelis getraind was. Ik vertelde dat ik naar mijn vrijwilligersbaantje in Ramallah ging en ik kreeg een oranje sticker (rood is echt gevaarlijk, oranje een versie daaronder) en werd in Tel Aviv opgewacht aan de voet van de vliegtuigtrap door weer een veiligheidsman. Hij vroeg me wat ik ging doen en heette me na enige minuten welkom in Israel. Toen werd ik er bij de paspoortcontrole weer uitgehaald. Weer dezelfde vragen. Naar het hoofd paspoortcontrole, weer dezelfde vragen. Toen mocht ik er door.
- Mei 2003 stond ik aan de grens Aqaba/Eilat. Daar mochten ik en een andere Nederlandse vrouw na een telefoontje naar het Israelische Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken niet naar binnen omdat we geen 'vrijwilligersvisum' hadden. Dit zouden we kunnen krijgen bij de Israelische ambassade in Amman, maar dat was natuurlijk niet waar. Die vrouw heeft het nog geprobeerd bij de ambassade in Nederland, maar ook die trok zijn handen ervan af.
- September 2003 vloog ik vanaf Tel Aviv naar Londen. Ik werd anderhalf uur ondervraagd over alles wat ik in de afgelopen drie jaar gedaan had.
- Maart 2004 stond ik aan de grens Ta'ba/Eilat. Na een verhaal over een bezoek aan vrienden in Jerusalem, dacht de paspoortcontrole dat ik illegaal kwam werken in Israel. Een telefoontje naar het Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken liet zien dat ik in Gaza was geweest en een keer ruzie had gehad met soldaten. Ik werd niet meer gevraagd om uitleg, maar zonder pardon de grens terug over gezet vanwege security reasons.

Alle keren is natuurlijk mijn tas helemaal overhoop gehaald, zowel bij binnenkomst als weggaan.

Ik ken veel mensen die behoorlijk nachtmerrie verhalen hebben over grenscontroles. Van uren wachten, tot deportaties, tot gestolen spullen, etc

etc. Als je wilt, kan ik proberen om er wat te verzamelen. Wanneer is de uiterlijke deadline?

/M

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## CASE 11

>X-XS4ALL-DNSBL-Checked: mxzilla2.xs4all.nl checked 81.19.226.10 against  
>DNS blacklists  
>X-XS4ALL-Pad: empty  
>X-Authentication-Warning: inform.antenna.dk: majordom set sender to  
>owner-aktielijst@majordomo.antenna.nl using -f  
>User-Agent: Microsoft-Outlook-Express-Macintosh-Edition/5.02.2106  
>Date: Mon, 09 Jun 2003 14:13:38 -0700  
>Subject: [Aktielijst] Activiste en onderzoekster toegang geweigerd door Isra  
>ël  
>From: IS <[info@internationalesocialisten.org](mailto:info@internationalesocialisten.org)>  
>To: <[aktielijst@antenna.nl](mailto:aktielijst@antenna.nl)>, <[wereldcrisis@ddh.nl](mailto:wereldcrisis@ddh.nl)>,  
> <[wereldcrisislokaal@ddh.nl](mailto:wereldcrisislokaal@ddh.nl)>  
>X-MIME-Autoconverted: from quoted-printable to 8bit by inform.antenna.dk  
>id h59CDws15001  
>Sender: [owner-aktielijst@majordomo.antenna.nl](mailto:owner-aktielijst@majordomo.antenna.nl)  
>Reply-To: IS <[info@internationalesocialisten.org](mailto:info@internationalesocialisten.org)>  
>  
>Activiste en onderzoekster Miriyam Aouragh op vernederende wijze behandeld  
>en toegang geweigerd door Israël  
>  
>De afgelopen maanden is gebleken dat Israël de grenzen aan het verleggen is  
>van haar bloedige onderdrukkingsapparaat. Met het vermoorden van  
>vredesactivisten zoals Rachel Corrie lijken de slachtoffers in deze Intifada  
>een internationaler gezicht te krijgen.  
>Om solidariteit met de Palestijnen te blokkeren en ongewenste getuigen van  
>het Israëlische bezettingssysteem buiten de deur te houden worden onder het  
>aloude Osecurity-excuus<sup>1</sup> nu ook op grote schaal buitenlanders aan de grens  
>vastgehouden, teruggestuurd en zelfs in bezet Palestina opgepakt en  
>gedepoteerd. De wijze waarop deze ontoelaatbare procedures worden  
>uitgevoerd, gaan gepaard met intimidatie, vernedering en opsluiting.  
>  
>Activiste en wetenschappelijk onderzoekster aan de UvA Miriyam Aouragh  
>tevens lid van de Internationale Socialisten is afgelopen weken tot twee  
>keer toe de toegang door Israël geweigerd.  
>Miryam doet als cultureel antropologe promotieonderzoek naar de invloed van  
>internet op het leven en de identiteit van Palestijnen. Om veldonderzoek te  
>verrichten en op uitnodiging van de Universiteit van Tel Aviv wilde zij half  
>mei afreizen via Schiphol. Daar werd ze al drie uur lang ondervraagd door  
>Israëlische beveiligingsmensen voordat ze op het vliegtuig mocht. Eenmaal  
>aangekomen op Ben Gurion Airport werd Miriyam opnieuw langdurig  
>ondervraagd en op vernederende wijze behandeld. Ze werd zelfs een nacht in  
>een cel opgesloten en vervolgens op het vliegtuig terug naar Nederland

>gezet.  
>Ook een nieuwe poging een week later om via Amman (Jordanië) de grens te  
>passeren kon rekenen op langdurige ondervraging. Opnieuw werd de toegang  
>geweigerd. Op dit moment verblijft Miriyam noodgedwongen nog steeds in  
>Amman, in afwachting van mogelijkheden om verder te reizen en haar onderzoek  
>voort te zetten.  
>  
>Deze schandalige behandeling past in de door Israël verder opgeschroefde  
>Oveiligheidsmaatregelen<sup>1</sup> die ook andere Nederlanders recent hebben  
>ondervonden. Zo werd schrijfster en aankomend senator voor de SP Anja  
>Meulenbelt onlangs lange tijd vastgehouden in Gaza. Inmiddels heeft  
>SP-tweedekamerlid Harry van Bommel kamervragen over de kwestie gesteld.  
>  
>Een verklaring door Miriyam vanuit Amman is te vinden op de site van de IS:  
><http://www.internationalesocialisten.org>  
>Solidariteitsbetuigingen aan Miriyam kunnen worden gemaïld naar:  
>[info@internationalesocialisten.org](mailto:info@internationalesocialisten.org)

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## CASE 12

X-XS4ALL-To: <K.W.>  
From: "B.A."  
To: "K.W.>  
Subject: Entry denied  
Date: Wed, 8 May 2002 18:40:16 +0100  
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200

Beste K,

Afgelopen zondag 5 mei vloog ik vanaf Manchester via Frankfurt naar Tel Aviv. Lufthansa-vlucht LH0690 arriveerde daar om 3.50 uur in de morgen van 6 mei. Ik verwachtte een hoop impertinente vragen bij de paspoort controle, maar niet dat mij de toegang geweigerd zou worden. Op vragen van de - zeer jeugdige - veiligheidsbeambten wat het doel van mijn verblijf was, antwoordde ik waarheidsgetrouw, dat ik als arts een tijdlang in Palestijnse ziekenhuizen zou gaan werken. Ik had een koffer vol medische spullen en handboeken van het Internationale Rode Kruis over de behandelingen van oorlogsgewonden, dus het had geen zin om te zeggen, dat ik als toerist kwam.

Na een uur van vragen door verschillende veiligheidsmensen, kreeg ik te horen, dat het ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken had besloten mij de toegang te weigeren. Geen beroep mogelijk. De redenen: "security" o.i.d. Ik kreeg het stempel "ENTRY DENIED" in mijn paspoort. Mijn bagage werd binnenstebuiten gekeerd, de battery-charger van mijn digitale camera werd gekonfiskeerd, omdat men niet de mogelijkheid had op dat moment om deze door te lichten. Daarna werd ik door de politie opgesloten in een cel op de luchthaven, waar op dat moment ook twee Poolse economische migranten, op zoek naar werk in de landbouw, zaten. Op de muur veel graffiti. De helft - meest in Oost-Europese talen - was afkomstig

van mensen die waarschijnlijk op economische gronden de toegang was geweigerd, de andere helft was van vredesactivisten, die ofwel de toegang geweigerd was, of gedeporteerd werden vanwege hun activiteiten in de bezette gebieden. De meest recente was een bericht van 5 mensen (1 Zweed en 4 Amerikanen), die gedeporteerd werden vanwege hun akties rondom de Geboortekerk in Bethlehem.

Het werd me niet toegestaan om te bellen of contact op te nemen met de Nederlandse ambassade of een Israelische advocaat.

Na 10 uur in de cel werd ik op het vliegtuig terug naar Frankfurt gezet. De Lufthansa had daar een fax ontvangen met de mededeling dat mij om "political/security reasons" de toegang tot Israel was ontzegd.

Het spreekt voor zich dat ik erg teleurgesteld ben. Ik voel me behoorlijk machteloos. Ik vraag me af, waarom dit gebeurd is.

Door een stom toeval belandde ik in 1988 op de computerlijst van twijfelachtige figuren. Het was tijdens de eerste Intifada. Ik was met een Palestijnse vriend, R., die voor de PRCS werkte, bezig om medische spullen af te leveren bij een aantal klinieken in de buurt van Nablus. Tegen het vallen van de avond werd onze auto gestopt bij een Israelisch checkpoint. De soldaten zagen de medische spullen in de auto en dat was blijkbaar genoeg om gearresteerd te worden. Ik werd een paar uur vastgehouden en daarna vrijgelaten, maar R., die al eerder in Israelisch gevangenissen had gezeten, belandde voor 4-5 maanden in administratieve detentie.

Sinds die tijd had ik altijd problemen, wanneer ik Israel binnenkwam, maar er werd me nooit de toegang ontzegd, ook niet toen ik in begin 1990 een aantal maanden met P. in het Ahli Arab ziekenhuis in Gaza City werkte.

Ik ben sinds 1990 niet teruggeweest in Israel en de Bezette Gebieden. Ik heb artikelen op het internet gepubliceerd over de rol van Sharon bij de massamoord in Sabra en Shatila en ik heb gezegd, dat ik bereid was om te getuigen in België in de zaak tegen Sharon. Misschien heeft dit een rol gespeeld bij de beslissing om mij de toegang te ontzeggen. Misschien is de politieke situatie momenteel van dien aard, dat de Israelis er alles aan doen, om uitingen van internationale sympathie voor de Palestijnen de kop in te drukken. Als Israel er al geen moeite mee heeft om een VN-onderzoekscommissie met VIPs de toegang te ontzeggen, dan helemaal niet als het om 'small fish' als mij gaat.

Maar toch wil ik me niet onbetuigd laten. Ik wil eerst proberen om uit te zoeken, of het zin heeft om de Nederlandse ambassade in Tel Aviv te benaderen, zodat deze om opheldering kan vragen bij de Israelische autoriteiten en wellicht enige druk kan uitoefenen. Ik heb wat dat betreft geen enkele illusie, maar wil het wel proberen.

Daarom wil ik met T. in contact komen. Hij woont nu al jarenlang in Palestina en moet in staat zijn om mij praktisch advies te geven. Ik heb al lang niet meer met T. gecommuniceerd. Mijn vraag aan jou, Kees. Heb je T.'s email-adres of telefoonnummer? Ik zou het waarderen, als je mij dit wilt toesturen.

Als het geen zin heeft om de ambassade om hulp te vragen, dan ben ik van plan om de British Medical Association/British Medical Journal te benaderen. Het blad van de BMA had eerder een artikelje gepubliceerd over mijn voornemen om als arts een tijd in Palestijnse ziekenhuizen te gaan werken. Ik denk dat ze zeker geïnteresseerd zijn in het verhaal van een arts, die wordt verhinderd om zijn "duty of care" (waaraan hier erg wordt gehecht) uit te oefenen. De BMA is hier in de UK een grote organisatie.

Trouwens, op de muur van de cel in Ben Gurion airport liet ik mijn eigen bericht achter: "6.5.02. Today I was denied the right of entry into this country. I was denied the right to give humanitarian

assistance to the Palestinian people. My duty as a doctor is to give help to those in need, irrespective of race, creed or religion. My nationality is Dutch, but my heart is with all those who crave for justice, dignity and freedom. That giving medical help is considered as a security threat shows there is justice in the struggle of the Palestinian people against occupation and for freedom and selfdetermination."

Laat me weten, K. of je T.'s email-adres/telefoonnummer heb.  
Met vriendelijke groet,

B.

P.S. Ik ben nu van plan om een aantal weken naar Libanon te gaan om te zien wat ik kan doen voor de PRCS daar.

+++++

## CASE 13

### **Kontrolle an der Allenbybrücke: „Ready fire Gas!“ ?? (Auszüge aus 2 Berichten)**

1. Als wir durch den 1. Kontrollpunkt durch waren – eine elektronische Sperre, wo alle ihre Jacken, Schuhe, Gürtel, den Schmuck und alle metallischen Gegenstände abzulegen hatten – wurden wir mit einer neuen Prozedur konfrontiert. Man brachte uns in eine Art Kammer, in der sich nur eine einzige Person aufhalten durfte. Der Raum war etwa 5m lang 5m breit und voll mit Spiegeln ausgestattet, an der Decke hing eine Kamera, die aufs Gesicht gerichtet war.

Dieser Raum muss von jedem einzeln betreten werden, jeder hat sich eine Minute darin aufzuhalten. Dabei ertönt aus dem Apparat eine Stimme: „Ready fire gas!“ und dann wird man eine Weile lang mit einer Art Gas besprüht, wobei man in den Pausen zwischen den einzelnen Sprühvorgängen ein sonderbares Geräusch hört, das dem ähnelt, das von Panzerketten verursacht wird. ...

Ich fühlte mich, als ob ich vergewaltigt worden wäre, als ich aus diesem schrecklichen Ort herauskam. Während dieser einen Minute konnte ich mir ein Bild davon machen, was sich der menschliche Verstand alles ausdenken kann, um Menschen zu erniedrigen.

Und ich fragte mich: Mit was für einer Substanz wurden wir besprüht? Als ich den Raum verlassen hatte, macht mir die Soldatin, die draußen auf mich wartete, einen Vermerk in den Pass. Ich weiß nicht, was damit festgehalten werden sollte ...

Neugierig fragte ich die Soldatin: „Womit sprüht ihr uns da ein?“ Sie gab keine Antwort. Als ich weiter vorne meinen Pass abgab, wandte ich mich auf englisch an eine andere Soldatin: „what kind of gas are you using in the machine?“ „It’s water.“ Dann fragt sie ihre Kollegin und die sagt: „it is air!“ Ich insistierte: „Es ist weder Wasser noch Luft. Was für ein Gas ist das denn?“ Die Soldatin antwortet mir aufgebracht: „Das weiß ich nicht!“ Ich darauf: „Das ist gegen die Menschenrechte. Ihr müsst mir sagen, was ihr auf meinen Körper sprüht.“

Quelle: Bericht einer Palästinenserin vom 28.12.04 aus „il manifesto“, Campo antiimperialista.

2. Ausschnitt aus einem Brief von D.M., Australien, kurz vor Weihnachten (*for the original English message, see below, SZ*)

„...Ich wollte Weihnachten in der Geburtskirche in Bethlehem sein.. Ich verließ also Jordanien und näherte mich der israelischen Grenze ....nun kannst du verstehen, dass ich sehr aufgeregt an der Grenze ankam.“

Aber die Aufregung verschwand schnell und Unbehagen machte sich breit, als ich auf die israelische Seite der Grenze kam. Ich konnte fühlen, dass hier irgend etwas nicht in Ordnung war. Ich habe niemals in meinem Leben ein so raffiniertes Sicherheitssystem gesehen. Sobald wir ankamen, wurde von allen Reisenden sofort das Gepäck weggenommen, ohne zu erklären, wo es hinget und wann wir es wieder bekommen. Dann wurden wir durch einen Metalldetektor gescheucht und unsere Handtaschen sehr genau durchgesehen, was noch recht normal schien. So wie die Kontrolle bevor man an Bord eines Flugzeuges geht ...Aber dann endete das Normale. Wir mussten dann durch eine Maschine gehen, die ein bisschen wie Dr. Who's Tardis (?) aussieht. Es ist ein glänzender, großer, komischer Apparat, in den man geradewegs hineingeht. Man muss seine Beine heben, um über ein paar unerklärliche Hindernisse zu steigen. Dann wird einem gesagt, man müsse ein paar Sekunden still stehen. In diesem Augenblick wird ein Schwall Rauch vom Boden aus mit lautem Geräusch über den ganzen Körper gesprüht, als ob man geföhnt und dann mit einer gigantischen Sprayflasche angesprüht würde. Ich beobachtet die Leute, wie sie vor mir in diese komische Maschine gingen und mit Rauch geföhnt wurden. Es gab keine Zeichen, keine Instruktionen und Erklärungen, was das für eine Maschine ist und was sie macht. Ich konnte nicht glauben, dass die Leute da rein und rausgingen, ohne eine Frage zu stellen.

Natürlich konnte ich nicht an mich halten und fragte einen israelischen Wärter, der die wartende Schlange beaufsichtigte: „Was ist das?“ Er gab mir zu verstehen, dass er kein Englisch spricht. Ich wurde nervös und bekam schwitzende Hände, als ich dran war, dort hinein zu gehen und nicht zu wissen, was es ist und was dort mit mir geschieht. Ich machte nur die vor mir gehenden Leute bei dem Hindernislauf nach. Dann kam mit großer Kraft ein Schwall Luft, hob meine Kleider hoch und blies meine Haare zurück ...

Da ich wegen des Rauches hustete und spuckte, versuchte ich nun die Aufsichtsperson auf der anderen Seite zu fragen: „Wofür ist das?“ Sie verstand meine Frage, hatte aber keine Erklärung. Sie zuckte nur mit den Schultern: „Ich weiß nicht“. Ich bedrängte sie nicht, aber als ich mich noch einmal umdrehte, um mir diese Maschine noch einmal anzusehen, bemerkte ich ein Feld mit vier Quadraten an der Seite. Ich schaute näher hin und sah Bilder von mir von verschiedenen Seiten. „Oh, es nimmt Fotos auf!“ sagte ich zu der Person. Sie zuckte wieder mit den Schultern und antwortete nicht. Es war klar, dies war nur ein Teil der Maschine – aber es erklärte nicht den anderen Teil mit dem Schwall.....

Noch ganz bestürzt ging ich dann und stellte mich ans Ende einer Schlange mit wartenden Ausländern an ...

Dies alles bestätigte mir mein anfängliches Gefühl, dass hier im heiligen Land etwas schrecklich falsch ist: die seltsame Maschine, die Mädchen mit den Gewehren, die Fragen ....

(Aus dem Englischen: Ellen Rohlf's)

Ein dritter Zeuge berichtete ER persönlich, er habe einen der Aufseher, einen palästinensischen Hilfsarbeiter, gefragt. Er sagte aus Spaß, das sei eine „Wasch- und Dampfbügeleisenanlage“ –....

\*\*\*\*\*

Ontvangen: 7 november 2005

**Sent:** Thursday, January 06, 2005 5:18 PM

**Subject:** [The Pilgrim] Letter to my mother from the Holy Land - the border

Dear Mum,

Here I am in Jerusalem; the heart of the holy land!

I have a feeling that you are more excited than I am that I'm

finally here! I remember when I first told you I was planning to come here over our weekly post-shopping coffee and carrot cake.

Your gentle face was solemn and eyes full of fear as I revealed my plans to go back to Iraq. But you were strong enough to accept this and you didn't ask me not to go. But when I told you I would leave in time to make it to Bethlehem for Christmas I watched your face transform and your eyes light up. It was as if the joy that news gave you almost made up for the worry of me going to Baghdad at such a dangerous time.

“Oh well, that's okay then!” you announced after I explained the plan. You don't know how much relief that gave me. So if my coming here to the holy land resulted in your blessing for my work in Iraq, then it obviously must be a special place for you.

I think you know the holy land well, Mum. You read the Bible every day so the events and places that make this place famous are familiar to you. And there's even the area named after you: 'Mt Carmel'. I can't wait to go there to get a postcard for you.

I'll do that as part of my pilgrimage. I hope to visit all the places that have meaning to me. To walk as a pilgrim in the final footsteps of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa in old Jerusalem, sail on the Sea of Galilee, walk the streets of Nazareth and of course attend midnight mass at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve!

Wow - imagine all this Mum! I was so happy for the both of us last week as I left Jordan to approach the Israeli border.

But I was also nervous.

You see I didn't tell you about my other plans, not in detail anyway, so I'll tell you more now. As well as spending time exploring Israel and visiting the sacred sites there dear to us both, I also plan to enter the Palestinian Occupied Territories to see what is happening there and see what I might be able to do to respond.

I know you don't watch the news and have no interest in politics, but I think you have an idea that things are not good in the holy land. You would have heard all the well-known

phrases associated with the conflict: The PLO, Zionists, Yasser Arafat, Ariel Sharon, suicide bombers, military violence, shooting of civilians, bull-dozing of houses and a peace process that doesn't seem to be getting anyone anywhere.

I'm not sure why, but in the last few years, Mum, I've heard more clearly than ever the cries of the Palestinian people who live under a harsh occupation and the pain of the Israeli mothers who have lost their children to suicide bombs. Now I want to respond.

Forgive me for not telling you my plans earlier, but I wasn't really sure how it would all pan out. I'm still not sure. It's just that I feel that the crisis in the holy land is at the heart of so much angst and animosity between people all around the world. I wanted to see it for myself, to see if I can make sense of any of it, to understand both sides of the conflict and then maybe a way forward. This is what I meant when I said I was going to do some 'peace work' here. I'm not exactly sure where that might take me, what situations I might face and who I might meet, but I promise to tell you everything from now on. You know you can trust me not to do anything (too) silly!

So you can imagine how my feelings were all mixed up when I arrived at the border – on one hand a sense of excitement at the thought of Galilee along with an uneasy foreboding at the thought of a West Bank military check point.

But the excitement quickly faded and uneasiness took over as soon as I arrived at the Israeli side of the border crossing. I could feel that something was definitely not right. I have never seen such a sophisticated security system in my life. As soon as we arrived, our luggage was instantly taken from all travellers with no explanation of where it might be going or when we might see it again.

We were then ushered through the metal detector gates and our handbags scanned, which seemed quite normal, just the same as boarding a plane or entering a high security building. But anything normal ended there. We then had to walk through a machine that looks a bit like Dr Who's Tardis. It's a shiny, tall contraption that you walk right into. You have to lift your legs high to step over a few unexplained barriers and are then told to stand still for a few seconds. At this point gushes of smoky air are blown up onto your body from the floor with a loud noise as

if you are being blow dried and then sprayed with a gigantic bottle of hair spray. One by one I watched the people in front of me walk into the tardis machine to be blow dried with smokey air. There was no sign, no instructions and no explanation of what the machine was and what it did. I couldn't believe they walked in an out without question.

Of course I couldn't help myself; I quietly asked an Israeli guard keeping watch on the queue: "What is this?" He motioned to me that he couldn't speak English. A bit nervous, I started to get sweaty palms as it was my turn to step into this strange machine not knowing what it was and what it might do to me. I just copied the people in front as I stepped through the obstacle course, got gushed with a force of air that lifted my clothes and blowed my hair back like a model on a photo shoot..

As I coughed and spluttered with the smoke I had to try one more time. I asked the guard on the other side: "what is this for?" She understood my question, but had no explanation. She just shrugged her shoulders: "I don't know." I didn't press her, but as I turned back to take one more look at the machine I noticed a panel with four squares on the side. I looked closer and saw pictures of myself from different angles. "Oh," I said to the guard, "It takes pictures?" She shrugged again offering no answer. It was obvious that was one part of the machine's role, but it did not explain the free blow wave!

Still bewildered, I walked over to join the queue of foreigners at the visa counter. It was a long queue and moving slowly, so I ate my lunch as I stood there inching a few centimetres every 20 minutes or so, and closely observing the process.

From what I could see, each person was asked a series of questions. Some were invited through the gate, but I noticed that a few, including three French-speaking men, were asked to stand aside and wait.

My stomach churned with butterflies. You see Mum, Israel is very careful about who it lets into the country. It's because of the volatile situation that they have this extreme security and are known to often refuse people at the borders. I know it's hard for you to understand why anyone would think your daughter could hurt anyone, but I'm afraid, for them, I am suspicious. I had been warned that I would get hard questioning about the

reasons for my travel to Israel. My Iraqi visas, along with Syrian ones and the blood stains from when I was shot at by soldiers in Fallujah would make my passport quite interesting for them.

The counter was staffed by young girls in khaki-green army uniforms. I was amazed at their youth. They and the other immigration staff buzzing around the place could not have been more than 19 or 20. I was so relieved that there were so many young girls around. I dreaded the thought of being questioned by a big macho Israeli soldier with an aggressive attitude that might provoke me.

I tried to stay positive and told myself I must stay calm. I breathed deeply and repeated a: ‘stay calm under all circumstances’ mantra in my head. Getting angry was not going to help. I decided I could easily explain my work in Iraq and would focus on my plans to be a pilgrim in Israel.

When I finally reached the counter I was all smiles. The young girl in army uniform and gun on her hip started the questions: “Have you been to Israel before?” No. “Why are you coming to Israel?” I am a pilgrim.

“A what?” she asked.

“A pilgrim. I am doing a pilgrimage.” I said excitedly.

“What is a pilgrim?” she asked.

I was stunned. Here I was at an immigration counter at the gateway to the holy land where thousands of people come from all over the world every year as a pilgrim and she didn’t know the word.

I patiently explained: “A Christian pilgrim visits the holy sites where Jesus was, you know?” I said showing her the cross around my neck. She nodded and understood immediately. I was relieved since this was my only chance of getting a visa with no problems.

She looked through my passport, looked at me, asked a few more questions and just when I thought the state of Israel would welcome this Christian pilgrim with dollars to spend exploring the holy sites, I heard the inevitable. “Please sit down,” she

said. “We will come back to you.”

I decided not to question why I was asked to step aside, took a deep breathe and continued my ‘stay calm’ mantra.

It worked so well, that I fell asleep in the plastic chairs of the waiting area. I was woken an hour or so later by a young soldier-girl shaking my soldiers.

“Can you follow that man,” she asked.

I screwed up my eyes to focus on the man she was pointing to. My heart sank: it was the big macho Israeli soldier I had pictured in my nightmares. He glared in my direction, but without making eye contact impatiently made a hand signal for me to follow him. Still half asleep, I grabbed my stuff and quickly followed as he turned his back on me and started walking quickly across the crowded auditorium.

I hate to tell you this Mum, but that was the beginning of a six-hour ordeal that made me so sad I wanted to turn around, go back to Jordan and never come back here.

It confirmed my initial feeling that something is terribly wrong: the strange machines, the girls with guns, the questions. I sensed so much fear and anger and I had not even passed the immigration counter!

I don’t want to make you sad, but I want you to know: all is not well in the holy land. I’ll tell you what happened next.

Love D.

#### **CASE 14**

Let me travel in peace

By Semih D. Idiz

I am the diplomatic editor for the Turkish network CNN Turk. I was in Israel recently to attend a conference at Ben-Gurion University. Following that I had the pleasure of interviewing your

foreign minister, Silvan Shalom, on December 30. On finishing my duties I headed for Ben-Gurion Airport at 3:30 A.M. on December 31 to catch my 6:45 A.M. flight back to Turkey. Having been to Israel before, I was prepared for the security procedures, including the cross questioning by security officials there. Turkey, like Israel, also suffers from terrorism, so I am hardly in a position to object to this. I also travel frequently to the U.S. and Europe, so it is not as if I am a novice in this business.

But I feel bound by duty to object this time, seeing as the whole procedure at the airport took on a surreal - and I must say incomprehensible - turn as two young people, a girl and a boy, started what can only be characterized as an amateur police cross examination that became stupider and more pointless as time went on, and said more about Israel than me. Another young lad, also on the security staff, came up to where we were standing and started talking to me in Arabic, assuming I was an Arab. I told him his assumption was not only radically wrong, but hid an unpleasant prejudice, but I doubt if he understood what I meant. He tried to cover his mistake with platitudes about a wonderful holiday he spent in Turkey.

My having explained time and again why I was in Israel, including showing my name printed in the official program of the conference at Ben-Gurion University, plus telling them that only hours before that I had interviewed the foreign minister of Israel, was to no avail. Nor was the fact that I dropped the names of influential Israeli friends - including ambassadors and journalists - or that my passport is full of European visas and also has a valid American visa. These kids were determined in their pointless exercise.

Among the many stupidities I was subjected to during the more

than two hours that I was kept there was being asked to recite my presentation at Ben-Gurion University. The questions they asked following this showed they had no inkling of what I was talking about, which merely spurred them on to further heights of Pavlovian suspicion. Eventually, having run out of pointless questions, I was subjected to the tour de force: "Why do I live in Ankara?" Why would a Turkish diplomatic editor for a major Turkish network live in Ankara anyway?

My better judgment told me not to create a scene. However I did think that if this is how a well-known person from a friendly country - who just happened to have interviewed the foreign minister of the land just a few hours previously - is treated, then God help the rest. It is Israel's privilege to treat its visitors as it likes, of course. By the same token, it is my privilege as a Turkish citizen to complain about a treatment, which after the first hour started to defy logic and included a rifling through my personal belongings down to my dirty underwear, and a near strip search.

I realize of course that all I can do in this case is to write this letter - on the advice of my Israeli friends - and lobby the Turkish authorities to reciprocate in kind toward selected Israeli tourists or officials coming to Turkey; of which, as your know, there is no shortage. This I will naturally do. I wonder if an Israelis grilled in the pointless way that I was would have my patience. Something tells me not ...

## **CASE 15**

Last update - 03:56 26/06/2005

# Ben-Gurion officials taking laptops from travelers more often

By [Zohar Blumenkrantz](#)

Security officers at Ben Gurion Airport have tightened rules on passengers carrying laptop computers on to foreign airlines and have stopped laptops being allowed into the passenger cabins of planes taking off from the airport.

The issue came up at a closed door meeting last week between the head of the security division at the Airports Authority, Avi Ramon, and the panel of foreign airlines operating in Israel.

Lately there have been cases where security officials have made passengers leave laptops behind, with passengers told they would receive them when they reach their foreign destination, to be sent separately. But on a number of occasions the laptops "disappeared" on their way overseas to the owners. The meeting between the security officials and the foreign airlines was about who would take responsibility for such cases.

Airports Authority director general Gabi Ophir said that there is no ban on passengers carrying laptops. "But due to security, objects that cannot be fully examined with the existing instruments before reaching the departure lounge checkout point are separated from the passenger for further examination by the airlines."

Ophir said the security division tries to finish the security checks before the flight and enable passengers to take their computers on board with them.

"But in a very small number of cases, there has been a need to take the personal computer for further checks, because of various security alerts."

He said the meeting with the foreign airlines panel was meant to request that one specific airline, which had ceased transporting laptops that had been taken from passengers, to resume doing so.

Ophir further noted that "The authority is very sensitive to the entire issue of separating possessions from their owners, even if there is a clearcut security need."

He said the authority and its security division were making "every effort" to find professional solutions to minimize the number of cases when a possession is removed from its owner.

The foreign airlines say there are indications of an increase in the number of laptops being taken from passengers and there are now four to five cases a month.

A panel source said the airlines "are aware of the problem" from the security demands made in Israel and are looking for solutions.

"The airlines face the problem of how to deliver the laptop to the passenger, " he added, "even though formally it is not their responsibility because the laptops have not been checked in, and are not part of the passenger's belongings on board."

The foreign airline representative said one possible solution is for the airlines to send the laptops to an address provided by the passenger, but without taking responsibility for the machine, meaning the passenger signs a waiver absolving the airline of responsibility for the machine.

And, said the representative, when selling tickets out of Israel, travel agents should make it their practice to inform passengers of possible delays in getting their laptops out of the country."

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/hasen/objects/pages/PrintArticleEn.jhtml?itemNo=466002

## **CASE 16**

*Information received from the Ireland – Palestine Solidarity Campaign:*

- >
- > In response to your request for information,
- > consider the following collections of stories, mostly abstracted
- > from Ha'aretz:
- >
- > Palestinian citizens of Israel: discriminatory treatment at Ben Gurion
- > airport
- > <http://www.corkpsc.org/db.php?tid=1295>
- >
- > Security practices at Tel Aviv airport:: anti-Arab racism and other
- > nastiness
- > <http://www.corkpsc.org/db.php?tid=1054>
- >
- > Security practices at Tel Aviv airport:: confiscation of laptops
- > <http://www.corkpsc.org/db.php?tid=714>
- >
- > Israeli attacks/restrictions on foreign reporters and/or witnesses
- > (including aggression at Ben-Gurion airport)
- > <http://www.corkpsc.org/db.php?tid=193>
- >
- > Looking at these lists of stories just now, I see the following

headlines:

- >
- > \* An Open Letter from Shora Esamilian from Israeli Airport Detention
- > \* French journalist turned back while trying to enter West Bank
- > \* Israel ready to expel BBC reporter
- > \* In Catch 22 Ruling, Israeli Judge Silences Jewish American Activist
- > \* British journalist, activist deported
- > \* Israel to deport UK journalist
- > \* Journalist faces deportation from Israel after losing appeal
- > \* Court to rule tomorrow on British journalist's entry
- > \* Held at gunpoint in Nablus -- a story about an Irish BBC journalist
- > \* Israel to deport U.K. writer with ties to ISM
- > \* Two peace activists refused entry ask court to overturn ban
- > \* Court to rule today on detained ISM activist
- > \* U.S. Peace Activist Remains in Detention After Hearing
- > \* Journalists Seeking to Cover Israeli Actions In Occupied Territories Often Thwarted
- >
- > And so on ... there are many such stories in the above lists of stories.
- > The full text of most if not all these stories is available online
- > through the web-addresses given above.

## CASE 17

[www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com)

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Last update - 13:52 10/04/2005

## It's lucky he didn't bring a violin

By [Zvi Bar'el](#)

Ashraf Rady did not expect that his lecture on liberalism in Egypt would be received with such profound interest by the Israeli security checkers at Ben- Gurion Airport's Terminal 3. Perhaps these questioners just wanted to check how remote they are from Egyptian liberalism?

Perhaps when they interrogated him about his friends in Israel they just wanted to become a part of this circle of friends?

One can understand why, "for security reasons," they stripped him and poked into his underwear and all of his baggage. But it is impossible to understand why they quizzed him over and over about the content of his lecture, about the lectures of other participants in the conference organized by the Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy at Ben-Gurion University, and about the places they visited. It is also incomprehensible why they insisted on checking the telephone numbers saved in the memory of his cell phone, despite the fact that he explained that the device only works in Egypt. It's lucky that Rady did not have a violin with him.

Perhaps the Herzog Center made a big mistake by not inviting the checkers to the conference on liberal discourse in the Middle East. These checkers certainly could have learned a thing or two. If they had been invited, they definitely would have understood, "Why did the Herzog Center decide to specifically invite you to the conference?" as they asked Rady.

So here is the answer, dear checkers. The Herzog Center recruits and operates Egyptian spies, and within hours turns them into terrorists. Even worse, it does this in collaboration with the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Otherwise, how can one explain the fact that these dangerous terrorists receive entry visas to Israel? The most hidden secret is that all of this activity is designed to perpetuate the cold peace with Egypt and other Arab states - and perhaps to undermine it completely. Because, after a respected researcher and journalist like Ashraf Rady is treated this way by the checkers, why should other Egyptian journalists or academics want to come?

So what - it's just Egypt, a famous enemy state. But one can also note the abusive treatment by Ben-Gurion Airport checkers of the important Turkish journalist Semih Idiz, the diplomatic editor of CNN Turk. He was also foolish enough to agree to come to a conference the Herzog Center organized in December 2004 on "New Media in the Middle East." He also underwent a process of abuse at Ben-Gurion Airport reserved for the select few who come to Israel from a Muslim state, even if the state is Israel's closest friend in the Middle East.

Idiz didn't hesitate to voice his opinion about the intellectual abilities of the security checkers who interrogated him about his lecture. He could allow himself this, because he is Turkish. Immediately upon his return to Turkey, the Israeli Foreign Ministry was compelled to apologize to him.

Rady is "just" an Egyptian, someone who has visited Israel many times and has participated in conferences. He is a gentle-spirited person who feels it is important to promote peace between Israel and Egypt. So how

could he raise a fuss about the humiliation he suffered when two weeks later the Israeli foreign minister is slated to visit Egypt?

Silvan Shalom claims credit, to some extent justifiably, for the warming trend in relations between Israel and Egypt. He hopes to forge a breakthrough in relations with Arab states - not only on the diplomatic level, but also in relations with the Egyptian public in particular and the Arab public in general. This is undoubtedly an important goal and one that will be difficult to achieve.

So here is a new challenge for the foreign minister. Instead of yielding to the checkers and their bosses, who allow themselves every stupidity in the name of security, he can initiate new procedures. These new procedures should allow visitors from Arab or Muslim states who receive entry visas from his ministry to enjoy the respect that such a visa should entail. If not, the Foreign Ministry should make it clear to every Israeli institution: Please coordinate the visits of guests from Arab states with the checkers at the airport.

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## CASE 18

www.haaretz.com

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Last update - 01:56 21/06/2004

## U.K. journalist Peter Hounam to fight ban on entry to Israel

By [Yossi Melman](#)

British journalist Peter Hounam said he would use legal means to

fight the decision by Interior Minister Avraham Poraz to bar him from entering Israel. In a phone conversation from England, Hounam told Haaretz that his attorneys had asked the Justice Ministry last week whether he would be allowed to enter the country. He said he was interested in covering the petition by nuclear whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu to the High Court of Justice concerning limitations imposed on him by the Israeli defense establishment.

Hounam said he has yet to receive official word of the decision, calling it "stupid." He added that an atmosphere of paranoia had taken hold of the Israeli security establishment, which was once again blowing the case out of all proportion.

Nevertheless, Hounam said he would not attempt to travel to Israel should he not be granted permission to enter.

Hounam noted that he is the second journalist working for The Sunday Times who has been denied entry to Israel. In April, a colleague of Lebanese descent, who in the past had come to Israel several times to cover various events, was not granted entry. Hounam argued that such actions against the newspaper harmed freedom of expression, and created the impression that the Israeli establishment was trying to fight against one of Great Britain's most important papers.

According to Hounam, The Sunday Times has asked the British Foreign Office to bring up the issue with representatives of the Israeli government.

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## **CASE 19**

(email 7 November 2005)

Dear Ms. ....,

In answer to your inquiry about entering the West Bank from Jordan. I have translated this message from a friend into English (below).

"Ich hab ja jetzt dreimal an der Grenze Schwierigkeiten gehabt, bei der letzten Einreise so massive, dass mich eigentlich nur die handschriftliche Einladung (auf hebräisch) einer befreundeten israelischen Familie gerettet hat, also dass ich nur so einreisen konnte. Ich hätte schon auf das „urgent“ reagiert, wenn es nicht hieße „well documented“. Ich kann das nur aus der Erinnerung reproduzieren. Reicht das?

I have had difficulties at the border three times, and the last entry was so massive that only the handwritten invitation, in Hebrew, of a family with whom I am acquainted, helped me to enter. I can only reproduce this from memory."

As far as my own experience is concerned, I go to Palestine regularly, my husband's family is there and I carry an American passport, am Jewish with a Jewish name to which I added his. Getting in is not difficult but getting out is sometimes so infuriating, interrogation and stupid questions. However, last time, for the Women in Black Conference, it went extremely easily. There were 750 of us and I guess they did not want to have bad publicity at the border (at that time I went through Ben Gurion Airport).

I did send the message to others but have not yet heard anything from them. One woman, an Australian, had extreme questioning before getting in, finally.

Hope this is of help.

Best wishes,

P.A.

**CASE 20**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** IWPS Hares (+972)(0)9-251-6644  
Shammai Leibowitz 064-414-505; 03-670-4170

### **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST SEEKING JUSTICE IN ISRAELI COURT FACES DEPORTATION**

**HEARING IN TEL AVIV DISTRICT COURT,  
11:30 A.M. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2002**

Angie Zelter, a founder of International Women's Peace Service-Palestine was stopped at the airport on Sunday when she attempted to comply with an order to appear as a witness in an Israeli court proceeding. Zelter, a British citizen, was to appear at the trial of Frank Karmel, which was scheduled for December 31 at the Russian Compound court in Jerusalem. Ms. Zelter was attacked by Karmel, a settler from Avraha Avino in Hebron on August 29, 2001, while attempting to stop teenage Israeli girls from throwing stones at an elderly Palestinian man. Karmel hit Zelter on the head, wrestled a camera off her neck and smashed it to pieces, spat at her and verbally abused her as she witnessed and photographed the attack on the Palestinian man.

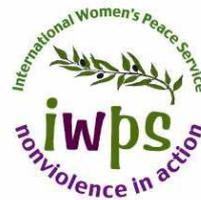
However, when she arrived at Ben Gurion Airport on Sunday afternoon, Zelter was told that she was not allowed to enter Israel for "security reasons" and that there was no record of her pending court case. She was detained and placed in a holding cell at the airport police station and told that she would be immediately put on a flight back to Britain. The UK consulate, which has followed the case of Frank Karmel, intervened to stop the deportation temporarily. However, late Monday afternoon, Karmel's

attorney accepted a plea bargain. Zelter was told that there was no longer any need for her to testify, and she would be summarily deported. Police attempted to physically put her on a plane back to London, but Zelter argued so profusely that the flight crew refused to have her on board. Zelter then contacted attorney Shammai Leibowitz who filed a petition to stay the deportation order so that Zelter can witness the plea and sentencing of the person who attacked her.

Zelter was anxious to appear in court in order to spotlight the impunity with which settlers routinely flout Israeli and international law. Most cases of violence against Palestinians by Israeli settlers in the West Bank are not prosecuted; even murders of Palestinians by settlers have been dropped for “lack of evidence.” Zelter hoped, by vigorously pursuing the prosecution of this incident, to encourage others to hold Israeli settlers, who are living in Palestine in violation of international law, accountable under Israeli law for the violence they routinely perpetrate in an effort to drive Palestinians from their land.

When she was attacked by Karmel, Zelter was volunteering with the Christian Peacemaker Teams, an international human rights organization. Since then, Zelter helped to found IWPS, which is supporting local efforts toward nonviolent peacemaking in the Salfit District, a fertile area which has the second highest settlement population in the West Bank. “Angie cooperated with Israeli security forces to ensure protection for Palestinians during the recent olive harvest, so it is ironic that she is now being called a security threat,” said Arik Asherman of Rabbis for Human Rights, which works closely with IWPS. Zelter’s long-time peace work is the subject of a documentary currently being produced for British television. Israeli authorities have refused to tell Zelter or her attorney what the “security reasons” for her being denied entry are.

**Zelter’s appeal will be heard in the Tel Aviv District Court on Tuesday, December 31, 2002 at 11:30 a.m.** Hopefully, this will enable her to be in Jerusalem for the Karmel plea hearing at 2:00 p.m.



**URGENT PRESS RELEASE**

**URGENT PRESS RELEASE**

**URGENT PRESS RELEASE**

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

31<sup>st</sup> December 2003

**Contact: IWPS (+972)(0)9-251-6644  
Shammai Leibowitz (lawyer) 064-414-505; 03-670-4170**

## **PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, CALLED A THREAT TO THE STATE, TO BE FORCIBLY DEPORTED**

After being detained at the airport, bundled up in a blanket and forced on to a plane which refused to take her, Angie Zelter, a prominent nonviolent peace and human rights activist has today lost her deportation hearing in the Tel Aviv District Court. She was supported by numerous Israeli citizens, among them Arik Asherman of Rabbis for Human Rights, who were threatened with arrest for trying to prevent the forcible removal of Zelter. Zelter wants to stay and fight the deportation ruling. However, she has now been taken from the court to await another attempt to force her onto a plane. The courtroom was overrun by police, who sought to oust Zelter's Israeli supporters, and prevent access to knowledge about what will happen to Zelter.

Zelter is a longtime peace and justice activist from the UK. In her home she is renowned as a founder of Trident Ploughshares, a prominent anti-nuclear organization. Her newest project is the International Women's Peace Service-Palestine, a nonviolent human rights monitoring and intervention organization. Zelter's long-time peace work is the subject of a documentary currently being produced for British television. Like Uri Avnery and Felicia Langer, Zelter was a recipient in 2001 of the Right Livelihood award, often called the "Alternative Nobel Prize".

**The reasons for Zelter's impending deportation must be made public.** If Zelter is forced against her will to return to Britain with no legitimate reason, it will reveal that Israel does not adhere to the rule of law in its policies towards nonviolent internationals who support justice for Palestinians.

**Zelter must be allowed to remain in Israel in order to appeal this ruling in Israel's High Court.**

For more information:

[www.womenspeacepalestine.org](http://www.womenspeacepalestine.org)

[www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org)

[www.rightlivelihood.se](http://www.rightlivelihood.se)

### **Report of Deportation of Angie Zelter written in London, on 4/1/03.**

This brief report is to give the essential facts and background so that IWPS TMs and Volunteers know what actually happened as some reports going out have been a little inaccurate.

I arrived at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv on 29<sup>th</sup> December. I arrived on an Austrian Airlines ticket, via Vienna on a flight that started from Heathrow in London. I had booked a ticket back for 6 weeks later but it was the kind of ticket that I could change the date of return on at a cost of a further 50 pounds.

I have always got into Israel before by saying the truth - that I am going to visit and stay with old Jewish Israeli friends in Jerusalem. Although I often have other reasons for coming in as well I usually decide not to give them all. Although I was coming back specifically at this particular time to attend a court hearing against a Hebron settler who attacked me in the summer of 2001 I decided to use the reason that had served me so well in the past - especially as it was true that I would be staying with them as usual. My friend came to meet me at the airport because we both realized there might be trouble getting me in because I was delayed by 24 hours (while my computer was being checked as I refused to go without it) when I left the country in November and I was told I was on a 'list' now.

My friend and I arranged that if there was any trouble I should just say my friend was awaiting me and could be questioned.

I arrived at the passport control and saw that each booth had an airport security person sitting down but was backed up by two standing soldiers who were peering at everything the passport controller was doing. I gave in my passport and when asked why I was coming in I replied, as usual, that I was visiting my friends and gave them their name and address. All three of the people in the booth looked at a computer screen - a triumphant smile passed over the face of the passport controller and almost immediately a man appeared at my side and told me to go with him. I was led to the police station where I asked what was happening and they said I would not be let in to Israel. I asked why, that my friend was waiting outside and would they please contact her (they did do this although they never told me they had). I then also said that I was due to go to court on the 31<sup>st</sup> December to be a witness in a case and that Judge Dotan had asked that I return to Israel to do this and this was why I had chosen to return to Israel at this time otherwise I would have been home with my family as it was the holiday season. I could not find the court document (it was in my rucksack and I did not find it until I was in the cell and then the police refused to take it!) so asked them to contact the UK Consulate who could verify that I had to be in court. They did contact the Consul and the Consul did get them the documents they required the next day.

The police then led me to the special room where they do intensive searches of luggage and where I had been before when my computer and luggage were thoroughly checked on the way out. They took the camera, leads and computer and said these would be checked and then sent back to London in about 4 days. I said that was unacceptable because I was sure that when the Consulate had explained everything they would release me and I needed the computer to access email while at my friends house in Jerusalem. Nevertheless the computer was packed up and disappeared (it was returned to me in the cell two days later and appears to be unharmed). My other luggage was checked efficiently and kindly and I was given hot drinks.

I was asked no more questions nor was I told what was happening to me. Whenever I asked they either said they did not know or that I was a security risk. I was taken out with my luggage to a holding cell about 3 hours after landing and placed in a cell with a Mongolian woman who spoke no English (or Hebrew) and who had been there for 3 days (she was still there when I

left as there are not very frequent flights back to Mongolia and she was told her flight back would be on the 6<sup>th</sup> January!).

Conditions were reasonable - food was handed in 3 times a day and when we were let out to go to the toilet we could get cold or hot water and tea bags/coffee powder and sugar was available, but there was no access to fresh air or exercise - it was 24 hour lockup. I was allowed my luggage in the cell so had a change of clothes and could wash quickly in the sink when going to the loo. There was nothing in the cells except 4 bunk beds with one blanket each and one large wastepaper bin. We were next to the outside hangar dealing with luggage so there was a terrible racket going on most of the day and night. The Mongolian woman was upset and I let her use my mobile phone and also taught her some exercises and we swapped songs - this lifted our spirits. I kept the phone hidden and managed to make a few calls to my friend, the house, the Consulate and to the lawyer that Kate recommended.

I was told by the lawyer not to sign anything or to go on a plane because he was trying to get me into court to argue against the deportation. However, I was put under quite a bit of pressure to go without any fuss. At various times I was told I had no right to go to court, that my lawyer was in big trouble and I would not be allowed to see him, that if I resisted I would be hurt and would go to prison where the conditions were terrible. The next day I was told I would be put on the 4 o'clock Austrian Airlines plane back to Vienna. I explained I would not go willingly, that I would scream if they hurt me and that they had no right not to let me go to court and explain why I was why in Israel, that I was not a security threat and that I would be committing a crime if I did not go to the court to give evidence on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The police then told me that the settler had settled out of court and I was not needed in court anymore and therefore had no valid reason for being in the country. Later that day 6 policemen/women came into the cell where I was sitting on the floor (there being no chairs) with no shoes or socks on. They told me to come out and get on the plane and I said no thank-you, I was waiting for my lawyer and they had no right to deport me against my will and without a court order. They said they would take me by force and that it could hurt me. I said there was no reason for them to hurt me as I was completely nonviolent. They then proceeded to pick me up and drag me out of the cell. I went completely limp and yelled when they started to hurt me, one of the men was forcing my arms and hands into really agonizing positions, I was crying by this time and making quite a racket - they found this embarrassing as they were trying to get me through where some workers were handling the luggage. My clothes were pulled almost completely off me and one of the policewomen said I should be ashamed at how I looked crying and with my body exposed and that I should stand up and behave decently. Another said it was rude of me to lie there and talk - that I should treat him with respect and get up. They then got a blanket and dragged me onto it and then 4 of them carried me into a waiting vehicle and drove me to the plane where I was bundled onto the floor of the plane in front of the Austrian Airlines staff. I think they thought I would just get up and sit quietly in the plane but I began to sit up and shouted out to all the passengers (who soon began to get out of their seats to see what was going on) that I was being forced to leave Israel when I had in fact been invited back to give evidence against an armed settler etc etc - I then went on to explain what was going on in the West Bank and how violent the settlers were and how there was no access to the courts for the Palestinians ..... as all the passengers at this time were listening to me and I was obviously not going to stop - they dragged me off the plane.

This was the incident that in the court case the next day and in the records that the Austrian Airlines have on me now is explained as me being violent.

I was returned to the cell and left after being told that if I continued to make a fuss like this I would be taken to prison and that a psychiatrist would be sent to examine me. I made a few calls. My phone battery then ran out - I asked for it to be recharged and almost got away with it but when the police officer found out who I was he returned it to me saying I was not allowed to recharge it.

The next day - the 31<sup>st</sup> - I did not know what was going to happen as I was out of contact with everyone. I was told by the police that I was going to be put on a plane home and to get ready and I just refused politely saying I was expecting my lawyer to get me to court to argue against deportation and that was my right and I would not go willingly until that had been done.

Around 11 a.m. I was suddenly told I was being taken to Tel Aviv Court - but not told why. I thought it might be the settler case.....but I was eventually taken into a court where I was surrounded by about 40 lovely Israeli Jewish supporters, many of whom are friends of IWPS or people we had worked with during the olive harvest including Shelly, Susy, and Harriet plus Arik Asherman and of course my dear friend, Aura, from Jerusalem. They surrounded me with love and support and introduced me to the lawyer Shamai Liebowitz who had about 5 minutes to explain what might happen. A Judge came in and the proceedings started - I interrupted straight away to ask for translation - the Judge said she would translate what was necessary but this was not very satisfactory. Shamai explained briefly about the settler case being the reason for my coming into the country and how outrageous it was I should be treated this way ..... the Judge said that the State of Israel did not welcome me. I got up at this point and said that there were plenty of Israelis who did welcome me and there was a chorus from the court agreeing, so she said well of course she would welcome me personally but the State of Israel did not and so she could do nothing, so I asked who was the State of Israel? A bit more discussion clarified that we did want to fight the case and so the court was adjourned for me to find the money for the court costs (1,600 shekels). I was taken to the bank and changed 300 pounds and handed over the 1,600 to Shamai who explained that his fees would be 3,800 shekels.

The court case was a kangaroo court. Judge Ruth Eliaz. just accepted the prosecution's case who had said I was a security risk and included a large dossier of my work with ISM over two years, they said I had resisted being deported in a violent manner (completely untrue) and I was not allowed to go into the witness stand. I was therefore told that my entrance to Israel was denied and the Judge left the room.

Shamai then said we should appeal to the High Court but the police tried to get me out of the court, saying they wanted to get me on the 4p.m. flight to Vienna. This was when all the Israelis in the court stood around me and refused to leave voluntarily. The police said they would all be arrested but they refused to go. This gave us enough time to lodge an appeal to the High Court on the deportation and also to lodge a stay on the deportation until the appeal could be heard. This last was heard by a Judge later that afternoon and was turned down. Meanwhile, around 4 p.m. (so the police knew they would not be able to get me to the plane on time) around 10 bulky policemen came in and began to remove the Israelis (some were screaming with the pain inflicted on them) and then managed to get hold of me (also screaming with the pain) and take me out of the building and into the police car and back to the cell.

Shamai managed to get a visit to me that evening to inform me that the stay to the deportation had not been allowed but that the appeal against the

deportation was filed. He suggested that he file several civil suits on my behalf as it was rare for cases to go ahead against settlers and that as the settler had pleaded guilty we should use this for a strong case for proper compensation, to make him pay for having assaulted me, and showing that there was a rule of law, that few Palestinian cases got this far and that any Palestinian who had assaulted me would have faced a long time in jail. He therefore suggested 1) that the settler be sued for proper compensation, 2) that the District Attorney be sued for having told me to come and be a witness and then failing to let me know that the case had been settled and I was not needed and thus wasting my time, the costs of two airfares (the Sept and Dec hearings) and having been humiliated and hurt in the resulting deportation, 3) that the police be sued for hurting and humiliating me by forcing me onto a plane after having lied to me about not having the right to go to court. [These cases have now - Sept 04 - been heard and I have had compensation for the camera destruction by the settler and for the airfare].

The next day I was collected by the police and taken to an Austrian Airlines plane that had been delayed by one and a half hours waiting for me (don't know why they did not collect me earlier). The plane was empty and as I walked into it accompanied by the police I saw the pilot and three airline staff and asked them if they know that I was being deported, they said yes, I checked that my ticket was all the way to London and again they said yes. I was taken to the back of the plane where a Shabak agent was waiting. I was put in the back corner by the window, a seat was left empty next to me and the Shabak agent sat next to the aisle. He never looked me in the eye, never drank or ate and just sat looking straight ahead the whole time and then followed me out of the plane where I lost sight of him.

As I left the plane I still had no tickets to London (I had been given my passport stamped with ENTRY DENIED along with the original return ticket for February). I therefore asked the staff where the tickets were and they said to go to the service desk. The delay meant that many people had lost their connecting flights and there was in fact no flight out to London until the next morning. I was told at the desk that there was no place for me and I would have to pay an extra 50 pounds to change my original ticket and wait for the next morning. I told my whole story and said that I would not pay anything extra, the Israeli State should do that, I was then informed that a lot was written on the computer by my name - that I had a violent record and would have to wait until the morning until he could speak to the supervisor who would decide whether I could be let on a plane at all. I eventually found a sympathetic member of staff who believed my story and slipped me a voucher for a hotel, dinner and breakfast and advised me to check in straight away (it was around 10p.m. by this time) - I had more hassle with being asked to pay 50 quid but again managed to get them to waive it. Finally I got to the hotel across the way and had a meal and got some sleep and arrived back safe and sound in London where I was met by peace movement and WIB-London friends.

## **CASE 21**

### **TESTIMONIES FROM LUXEMBOURG**

**TESTIMONY 1:**  
G. H., Nommern

## Luxembourg

profession : Kindergarten school teacher

reason why I went to Israel-Palestine : I am a member of the Comité p  
Juste au Proche-Orient-Luxembourg and wanted to participate in a non  
protest march along the Wall within the occupied Palestinian territorie  
August 2004

Arrival at Ben Gourion Airport, end of July 2004

Normally you take your luggage, show your passport and leave an airp  
Ben Gourion Airport.

A lot of employe(e)s especially work there interviewing people about t  
motivations visiting Israel.

Why do you come to Israel? What do you want to do here? Whom do  
here? Why have you been to Marocco, to Egypt,...?

My first interview trying to enter the “wholy land” lasted for more tha  
hour, nearly three quarters of an hour.

The woman, interviewing me, left twice, once with my passport, a sec  
with a paper of our lux. Ministry allowing me entering the occupied te  
which is forbidden she'd explained to me at the beginning of our spec  
Finally I got the permission to enter, promising, I would stay in the un  
Jenin and would not travel around.

In fact, I want to participate on a freedom march along the wall from J  
Jerusalem, but I couldn't tell this at the airport, cause some people tell  
honestly arriving at the airport, had been sent home.

Leaving Ben Gourion Airport

Wanting to leave after the march, I hoped, would be easier, but I knew  
israelian army had taken many photographs of the pacifists walking al  
The first interview only lasted 20 minutes, after this a body-check by a  
separated room and a dress-check.

Again a little interview and I could go to the ultimate passport control.  
I really felt released after all this and thought, I can leave soon.

I showed my passport to the lady behind the desktop and one minute la  
“highly” armed, told me, that I have to come with him.

He took my passport and my flying ticket ( I noticed that the same hap  
Canadian woman, who had participated on the march),showed me a pl  
down and disappeared.

Two other people, an old Palestinian man and an old Palestinian woma  
waiting there as well.

They told me, this is usual for them.

I waited a quarter of an hour, my plane was about to leave, nothing hap  
I knocked at the door, where the man had disappeared, telling my plan  
in 5 minutes.

I have to sit down and wait, was the answer.

Finally a man came, asking me to follow him, they would do a body-c  
I answered, that I already had had a body-check, but he said, he's doin  
told.

So I went for a second body-check, knowing my plane has left now sir  
minutes.

After the body-check, I was told, it's too late checking in my luggage

myself and that they will do it for me (how nice) and then a woman started shouting at me ( she really shouted) that I had to hurry up otherwise I'd miss my plane.

We run through the airport, (hopefully during the running, I remember I didn't have neither my passport nor my flying ticket), they were handed to me in the last moment, before a normal car took me to the plane.

Nearly half an hour past departure time, I entered the plane.

Thinking back, especially on this moment, when this man enormously grabbed my arm from behind ! ( I hadn't noticed him coming) telling me I had to hurry up, is a bad way of intimidation.

I really felt like I'm arrested now.

My luggage didn't arrive in Frankfurt ( I got it back a day later). Unfortunately my key of my car and my house have been inside, but that was my fault.

Inside my luggage, I found a battery charger, which isn't mine and I noticed that somebody in the airport had taken a photo with my camera.

So everything had been checked without my presence, but maybe this is the luggage you check in.

## **CASE 22**

Testimony 2 :

C.G., Esch-Alzette

Luxembourg

Profession: school teacher

*coordinateur du projet « Briser l'isolement 2 » en Palestine en août 2004, Luxembourg, septembre 2004*

### **April 2004:**

En tant que membre du Comité pour une Paix Juste au Proche-Orient, Luxembourg, j'ai participé à une mission civile en Palestine du 5 au 16 avril 2004, ensemble avec des Français et des Belges de différentes associations engagées pour la paix et la justice. Nous étions 10 personnes et nous voulions nous informer sur place de la situation et prendre contact avec des organisations israéliennes et palestiniennes telles Gush Shalom, Israeli Committee against House Demolitions, Yesh Gwul, Pengon, HDIP ... Comme nous voulions nous rendre dans les territoires occupés, nous nous fîmes passer les uns pour des pèlerins, les autres pour des touristes. Dès que les personnes responsables du contrôle des passeports de l'aéroport Ben Gourion avaient fait passer mon passeport sous leur ordinateur, ils faisaient appeler des employés de la « sécurité » qui m'emmenaient dans une salle près du hall d'entrée. Je fus scruté, les bras écartés, millimètre par millimètre, les bras écartés, mes bagages furent scrutés un à un, on me somma d'allumer mon téléphone portable avec mon mot de passe, ils amenaient téléphone et caméra dans une pièce voisine. Cela durait 2 heures et demie. A ce moment deux personnages du Ministère de la Défense entraient. Ils portaient des

badges qui les identifiaient. Ils m'amenaient dans un coin du hall, faisaient ouvrir une porte avec une carte et m'amenaient à travers de longs couloirs avec plein de portes des deux côtés jusqu'à une petite pièce sans fenêtre. Là j'avais droit pendant plus d'une heure à un interrogatoire. Les questions portaient sur le pourquoi de ma venue en Israël, si j'avais l'intention de me rendre dans les territoires, si je connaissais des palestiniens, ce que je pensais du conflit, si au Luxembourg j'étais membre d'organisations, lesquelles ? si j'allais à des manifestations, lesquelles ? Ils me faisaient savoir qu'au premier mensonge, ils allaient me renvoyer d'où je venais. J'arrivais à me tenir à ma thèse du tourisme, malgré le fait que j'étais impressionné, voir intimidé. J'étais content de savoir que mes compagnons secrets m'attendaient dehors et que je ne pouvais pas disparaître. Finalement je pus quitter l'aéroport : après 4 heures. Je m'interroge jusqu'à aujourd'hui par quelles voies les agents avaient pu savoir que je m'engageais effectivement pour les droits des Palestiniens (oui je participais à l'organisation de manifestations contre le Mur, contre l'occupation dans mon pays ; où était-ce seulement mon look : cheveux longs etc)

J'allais rester une semaine de plus dans les territoires que les autres participants. Je reprenais l'avion du retour le 23 avril. Depuis Jérusalem, je pris un taxi d'un Palestinien, citoyen israélien. Avant de pouvoir entrer dans la périphérie de l'aéroport, notre voiture fut déjà arrêtée, bagages fouillés, début d'interrogatoire : Le chauffeur me dit que cela était systématique pour les passagers qui venaient avec un chauffeur non-juif. Il me déposa devant l'entrée de l'aéroport et dès que j'entrai, je me vis encerclé par cinq hommes de la « sécurité » et je fus interrogé. Depuis ce moment je fut accompagné tout le temps par un agent : pour les bagages, les billets... Avant le check in je fus amené à deux reprises à une station de police : on scrutait mon passeport, on entrait des données dans les ordinateurs. Je demandais s'il y avait un problème : pas de réponse. Il m'était difficile de ne pas me sentir criminel (quoi que je n'avais rien fait d'illégal). Finalement, après de longues attentes, un agent m'accompagna au guichet à l'entrée du hall de départ : c'était le guichet pour diplomates (tiens !), de nouveau de nombreuses données furent entrées dans l'ordinateur et finalement on me dit que je pouvais passer. Ouf, j'étais à l'intérieur, assez en émoi et je me retirais au fond dans une pièce pour fumeurs pour fumer une cigarette. A peine ressorti, j'entendais une voix dans les hauts-parleurs qui résonnaient à travers le grand hall : « Mr. [C.G], come immediately to... ». Et peu après un agent venait me chercher et me reconduisit de nouveau à l'extérieur du hall au bureau de la police . On demandait de nouveau mon passeport, on me fit de nouveau attendre, sans me donner d'explication claire. On s'acharnait de nouveau sur l'ordinateur. Peu de temps avant le départ de l'avion on me faisait finalement passer dans le hall de départ et je pus prendre l'avion.

Sachant que je n'avais rien fait de contraire à ce qui était légal dans un Etat démocratique, j'avais l'impression que derrière tout ce scénario existait la volonté de me décourager, de me faire peur.

P.S. il faut noter encore que chaque membre de notre groupe était en possession d'une accréditation du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères luxembourgeois certifiant que nous devions nous rendre dans les territoires palestiniens pour visiter des projets de coopération. Nous ne les montrions pas à l'arrivée à l'aéroport évidemment. Une fois à Jérusalem, les 10 participants voulaient rejoindre Zababdeh, près de Jénine, au nord de la Cisjordanie, par le nord. A quelques kilomètres de Jénine, nous fumes arrêtés à un checkpoint de l'armée. On nous fit attendre 4 heures en plein soleil et malgré les attestations ministérielles on nous refusa l'accès : un groupe de jeunes palestiniens de Zababdeh que nous connaissions nous attendait en vain. Les attestations ministérielles signés ne servaient strictement à rien. (il existe des photos de notre attente au checkpoint arborant les attestations)

## **July-August 2004**

Je pris l'avion pour Israël le 28 juillet pour me rendre à Jénine où notre organisation, avec le soutien du Ministère de la Coopération, comptait organiser différents ateliers d'été pour des jeunes de Zababdeh et du camp de Jénine. Cette fois encore, dès que l'agent de contrôle des passeports entra mon passeport dans l'ordinateur, son expression de visage changea et j'eus droit à un contrôle et interrogatoire minutieux. Je vous envoie ici le rapport que j'avais fait en 2004 après mon retour :

### **Le départ**

Un dernier mot sur le départ et le passage à l'aéroport Ben Gourion à Tel Aviv. En ce qui concerne ma personne, j'ai l'habitude entre temps : Dès que les employés de l'aéroport font enregistrer les données de mon passeport dans leur ordinateur, j'ai droit à un traitement spécial. Et ceci concerne aussi les personnes qui voyagent avec moi : même s'ils ont déjà passé les contrôles, ils sont renvoyés pour être questionnés et fouillés par les agents de la sécurité. J'en conclus que le seul fait d'avoir publié des articles critiques envers la politique israélienne suffit pour être mis sur la liste rouge. Par après les questions tournent autour des sujets suivants : Pourquoi tu viens ? Connais-tu des arabes ? Que penses-tu du conflit ? Dans quelles organisations es-tu au Luxembourg ? A quelles manifestations vas-tu ? Suivent les fouilles physiques où l'on m'a sommé de rester les bras écartés pendant 10 minutes. Les bagages sont emmenés dans une petite pièce où l'on nous interdit l'accès : quand je disais à l'agent que je connaissais mon droit d'être présent au moment de la fouille de mes bagages, elle me somma : «Your only right is to sit down ! » De même suis-je sommé d'entrer le code de mon portable et les photos dans mon appareil digital sont contrôlées. Dès qu'ils ramènent nos bagages, c'est la fouille minutieuse de chaque petit objet qui

commence, en notre présence : un simple crayon est passé trois fois au crible. Si on a la chance de ne pas être emmenés pour un interrogatoire, on peut être sûr de rester accompagné tout le temps, d'être amené à différents guichets et postes de police à l'intérieur de l'aéroport où à chaque fois ils entrent des données dans leur ordinateurs.

La quasi-totalité des personnes qui ont participé à la marche contre le mur se sont vus traitées de la même manière. La « sécurité » connaissait assurément tous leurs noms et leurs bagages ne sont jamais arrivés à destination avec le même vol, mais seulement quelques jours plus tard. La même chose est arrivée à Dhikra et à Georgette.

Rappelons que cette fois aussi, avant le début du projet, nous avons été arrêtés à deux au checkpoint de Hamra, au sud de Jénine, et interdits de nous rendre à l'université, malgré nos papiers du Ministère de la Coopération et ceci sur ordre du DCO de Jéricho. Et c'est uniquement suite à l'intervention du Consulat de Belgique que ce même commandement a finalement donné son accord après 3.15 heures d'attente. On n'a pas oublié comment en avril 2004 les douze personnes faisant partie de la mission, tous en possession d'une accréditation du Ministère luxembourgeois, furent interdits d'accès après 4 heures d'attente au checkpoint Jalame, au nord de Jénine.

Citons à ce sujet encore un exemple parmi d'autres : au moment de la mission d'avril, nous avons bien connu Evelyne Lernout, une fille belge travaillant pour Oxfam dans les territoires occupés. Cela fait maintenant une demi année qu'on lui refuse le droit d'entrée, aussi bien à travers Ben Gourion que par la vallée du Jourdain. La seule explication invoquée : « pour raisons de sécurité ». Entre temps l'avocate israélienne Léa Tsemel a porté le cas d'Evelyne devant un tribunal.

Je ne nie pas avoir senti un certain agacement en observant , lors de l'arrivée à Vienne, avec quelle délicatesse et rapidité les passagers israéliens ont été traités à leur arrivée en Europe.



# Restrictions on entry into territories under the control of the Palestinian Authorities

by Israeli\_Government  
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## Welcome to the State of Israel

### Information on entry into territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority

1. We would like to bring to your attention, that entry into the territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority, in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria (Area A), is forbidden without the attainment of prior written authorization.
2. **Entry into the aforementioned territories, without prior authorization, may result in legal measures being taken against you, including deportation and refusal of future re-entry into the State of Israel.**
3. Those interested in entering the Gaza Strip via the "Erez" crossing are required to fill out a form requesting entry (into the territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority) and to submit it to the Foreign Relations Office in the Coordination & Liaison Administration in the Gaza Strip, situated at "Erez" crossing.
4. Requests will be processed with the utmost effort to authorize them within 5 working days.
5. Additional information can be obtained at the Foreign Relations Office in the Coordination & Liaison Administration in the Gaza Strip reachable by telephone (08-674-1556) or by facsimile (08-689-2613).
6. The submission of a request to authorize entry into the above mentioned areas does not constitute permission to do so, until written authorization has been received.

### مرحبا بكم في دولة إسرائيل

الدخول الى المناطق التي تخضع لمسؤولية السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية

1. تسهلا لإقامتكم في إسرائيل نسترعي انتباهكم إلى منع الدخول بدون إذن إلى مناطق السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية في قطاع غزة والأراضي الواقعة تحت مسؤولية السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية في منطقة يهودا والسامرة (الضفة الغربية) - مناطق (أ).
2. **إن دخول المناطق المذكورة بدون إذن من شأنه تعريض المخالفين للملاحقة القضائية بما فيها الإبعاد عن دولة إسرائيل ومنع إمكان العودة إليها مستقبلا.**
3. على الراغبين في دخول منطقة قطاع غزة عن طريق معبر (إيرز) تعبئة نموذج طلب الدخول إلى مناطق السلطة الوطنية وتقديمه إلى مكتب الأجانب الكائن بمقر الارتباط في منطقة قطاع غزة.
4. وسيتم الاعتناء بالطلب والسعي للرد عليه خلال 5 أيام عمل.
5. للحصول على مزيد من التفاصيل يرجى الاتصال بمكتب الأجانب في مقر الارتباط على الهاتف رقم 08-6741556 أو على الفاكس رقم 08-6892613.
6. لا يجوز اعتبار مجرد تقديم طلب تنسيق المرور إذنا بدخول المنطقة إذ يجب انتظار ورود الرد على الطلب خطيا.