

DR CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party
for the South East of England

Minister Carl Bildt
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
SE-103 39 Stockholm
Sweden

25 September 2009

Dear Minister Bildt,

I am writing because I have recently heard that the Israeli Government has introduced several new policies restricting the movement of foreigners visiting the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Israel.

The first policy is that foreigners entering the West Bank through Allenby crossing have been issued visas for the 'Palestinian Authority only'. In some cases, visitors have been told that they must apply to the Civil Administration for a permit to leave the West Bank and enter Israel.

The second policy is that foreigners entering Israel through Ben Gurion Airport have been required to sign statements committing themselves not to enter Palestinian National Authority controlled areas of the West Bank under penalty of legal action.

These restrictions have the potential to contribute further to the isolation and fragmentation of the oPt and to severely impede access of foreign nationals who have family, work, business or academic ties in the West bank, with serious implications for the already precarious socio-economic situation.

In addition, both these policies are almost certainly in violation of Interim Agreements concluded between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as well as International Law.

For these reasons, I urge you to do all in your power, as Foreign Minister of the country currently holding the EU Presidency, to ensure that these illegal policies are halted immediately.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience about the measures you intend to take.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Lucas MEP