



February 12, 2007

General Eitan Dangot
Ministry of Defence
Government of Israel

Lt.-Gen. Pietro Pistolese
Head of Mission
EU BAM Rafah

Subject: Urgent need for complete and regular opening of the Rafah Crossing (RCP)

Gentlemen,

As you are well aware, the Agreed Principles on Rafah Crossing and their related agreements (hereinafter the "Rafah Agreements") require normal and regular operations at the RCP to be effective. Piecemeal implementation does not work. In particular, these Agreements exclude the Government of Israel from any role regarding the closing of the RCP, given that it is a Palestinian-Egyptian crossing. Yet, the policies and measures adopted by the GoI have resulted in the closing of the RCP on most days.

Not only are these policies a direct breach of the Rafah Agreements, they are also against the interests of all parties, particularly given that the sporadic and unpredictable opening of the RCP leads to large flows of passengers, making it difficult to operate the crossing securely and efficiently.

Given this situation, and the urgency and importance of opening the RCP for the people of Gaza, I hereby demand from the GoI to cease all measures and policies that are in breach of its obligations under the Rafah Agreements. In particular, such measures as preventing access by the EU BAM to the RCP through Kerem Shalom, should cease immediately. Furthermore, according the Rafah Agreements, the EU BAM should not base any decision regarding the presence of its mission on Israeli policies or demands.

We urge your immediate compliance with the obligations under the Agreements, and, in furtherance of such, for you to allow for the opening and regular operations of the RCP tomorrow morning, and every day thereafter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Saeb Erekat
Head of Negotiations Affairs Department
Palestine Liberation Organization

cc: Lt.-Gen. Keith Dayton
United States Security Coordinator