



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Israel tightens Gaza blockade amid international inaction



Proposed bill would entrench the creation and maintenance of Jewish-only towns across Israel

Israel has further tightened its blockade on the Gaza Strip and stopped fuel deliveries from entering the Palestinian enclave.

The Israeli defence ministry announced the move on Monday evening in a bid to stop balloons and kites flown into southern Israel.

The stoppage of fuel deliveries is expected to end on Sunday, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Israel had also announced plans to reduce Gaza's designated fishing zone from six nautical miles off the Gaza Strip to three.

ICSFT in special consultative status with the ECOSOC / Conseil oecuménique des Églises 150, Route de Ferney 1211, Offices: 191&192, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41227884808/ 5&6- Fax: + 41227884807
Website: www.icsft.net - Email: uncoordinator@icsft.net / info@icsft.net



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The goods crossing, known as Kerem Shalom, will remain open for food and medicine on a case-by-case basis.

Balloons and kites have become one of the legitimate forms of resistance against Israel's more than a decade-long blockade.

Israeli authorities say the hundreds of kites and balloons sent over the border fence from Gaza have caused significant damage to farms in the area.

Since May protests began along the Gaza buffer zone to end the blockade. At least 139 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, according to the Gaza health ministry.

The closed crossing is the only one between Gaza and Israel for goods transport.

A separate crossing, known as Erez, is for people - though Palestinians need an Israeli permit to cross, even if they are heading to the occupied West Bank.

Gaza's only other functioning border crossing, Rafah, is with Egypt. The Rafah crossing has been mostly kept closed in recent years, but Egypt has opened it since mid-May.

There were reports in Israeli media of Egypt moving to close the Rafah crossing, but no confirmation.

Israel carried out air strikes partially in response to the months of fires started by the kite firebombs, but also over continuing protests and clashes along the Gaza border.

Israel hit dozens of sites in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing two Palestinian teenagers.

ICSFT condemns in the strongest terms Israel's continuous illegal blockade against the population in Gaza and the persistent oppression and violent repression perpetrated on the Palestinian people. These violations of international law must urgently stop and be accordingly condemned by the international community.