



## Resources for Americans Traveling to Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza

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The United States expects ALL citizens traveling abroad to be treated fairly and consistently, regardless of their original heritage. However, mistreatment of American citizens, especially of Arab descent, traveling to Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza continues to be a regular problem.

Over this past summer, Israel introduced the “PA only” stamp intended to limit or prohibit individuals visiting the West Bank from crossing into Israel or Jerusalem. If issued a “PA Only” stamp, American citizens visiting the West Bank could be prevented from accessing the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, or the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. This policy is in violation of international law, as well as the 1951 bilateral treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation that codified reciprocal US-Israeli treatment of citizens.

AAI maintains regular contact with the Department of State about this issue and recently sent a formal letter to **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton** about the “PA Only” stamp and other discriminatory practices against American citizens. A copy of the AAI letter to Secretary Clinton and the response from State Department Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs can be accessed at [www.aaiusa.org](http://www.aaiusa.org)

If you have recently traveled to Israel, the West Bank or Gaza and experienced harassment or unnecessary delays at border crossings, or were denied entry, please let us know! It is vital for the Department of State to have documented evidence of harassment of U.S. citizens to present when addressing this issue with their official counterparts.

**Contact Omar Baddar at [obaddar@aaiusa.org](mailto:obaddar@aaiusa.org) for help filing an official report or passing along your stories to the State Department.**

Learn more about resources available through the State Department:

Information about Denial of Entry into Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is available through the website of the Jerusalem Consulate (under U.S. Citizens Services)  
<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/index.html>

Link to background on issue of denied entry from Jerusalem Consulate website  
<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/border-crossings.html>

‘Refusal of Entry Information Sheet’  
<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/pdfs/allenbydenialform.pdf>

The Consul General strongly encourages anyone denied entry into Israel or the West Bank to complete the Denial of Entry Form and submit it via e-mail to **JerusalemACS@state.gov** in order to track cases.