

Preparation for the Elections of the Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestinian Council:

The Government resolved as follows:

1. The Government of Israel attributes great importance to orderly elections of the Chairman of the Executive Authority of the Palestinian Council (hereinafter thus, elections), towards the creation of a democratic society, which are to be held on January 9, 2005, and will accordingly act as detailed below. The international community attaches the greatest significance to these elections and has turned to Israel to support and assist, as much as possible, in order to ensure fair and efficient elections in the Palestinian Authority;
2. The IDF and the security forces will take the necessary steps to enable free elections. The aforesaid arrangements will be coordinated by authorized army commanders and will be undertaken in accordance with the essential security considerations, among which are the following actions:
 - a. The presence of IDF forces in Palestinian communities will be reduced to a necessary minimum and towards the day of elections, IDF forces will leave the Palestinian cities;
 - b. Arrangements will be made to lift roadblocks in fixed locations.
 - c. The opening hours of the Allenby Bridge Passage will be extended.
 - d. On the day of elections the passages across the seam zone will be open all day long.
 - e. Freedom of movement and passage will be allowed to all those involved in the elections: candidates, activists and campaigners.
 - f. Proper arrangements will be made for transportation of equipment for the elections, its distribution and placement near the ballot-boxes.
 - g. Joint offices will be established for Israeli-Palestinian coordination, which will attempt, inter alia, to provide immediate solutions to any problems which may arise.
 - h. Rules will be determined for the securing of the elections by the Palestinian security forces.
 - i. Presence and freedom of movement will be allowed for international and local observers.
3. In accordance with Clause 3(a) of the 1994 Law for the Implementation of the Interim Agreement for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (restriction of activity), to allow the necessary activities within the borders of the State of Israel for the implementation of the elections according to the format and restrictions which were agreed upon by the State of Israel and the PLO, according to Clause VI of Annex II of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, dated September 28, 1995, and subject to changes emanating from the growth of the Palestinian population.