

Report About The Trilateral Meeting On Rafah Crossing

A trilateral meeting was held on 10 October 2005 in Jerusalem for three hours headed by James Wolfensohn. The following is the most important points agreed, disagreed and those require further discussion.

Points Agreed:

1. Study the requirements for operating the crossing (equipment), and accordingly set a date for operating the crossing.
2. Have a third party who is professional and responsible without having executive powers. The third party could supervise the performance of the Palestinian Authority at the crossing.
3. At the first stage, open the crossing for holders of Palestinian identity only.
4. Prevent the entry of foreign nationals at the first stage, but develop a list of exceptions to allow the entry of investors, diplomats and others.
5. The necessity to have security coordination to prevent terrorists from using the crossing.
6. Get the Israeli side to present to the Palestinian side the necessary information to update the population registrar (information about new borns, identity holders abroad, and a comprehensive comparison) regularly.

Points Disagreed:

1. An Israeli rejection of the third party role in Kerem Shalom for assistance and monitoring.
2. An Israeli rejection of exiting goods from Rafah crossing without giving logical reasons. The Israeli side promised to study the issue and answer at a later date.
3. An Israeli desire to prevent holders of Jerusalem I.D. cards from using Rafah crossing. There was a Palestinian rejection of this restriction. (The Israeli side said it will deal with the issue internally in Israel).
4. The Israeli side requested live broadcast of cameras and computer screens at Rafah crossing. The Palestinian side rejected this because it is a continued Israeli control, and proposed sharing the daily records at mid night with the Israeli side. The Israeli side will study the matter and come back to us with an answer¹.

Points Require Further Discussion:

1. Arrangements for the entry of goods through Kerem Shalom. Wolfensohn requested that we present to him agendas for the issues that we would like to discuss regarding Kerem Shalom providing that we specify a date for discussing the subject after Israeli holidays.
2. Who is the third party? The Israeli side rejected the EU as a third party because of the multiple nationalities. The promised Wolfensohn to study the matter and come back with the name of the third party they prefer.
3. The movement of vehicles at Rafah crossing. The Israeli side said that they do not want such a movement for security reasons. The Palestinian side will raise the issue with the Egyptian side.
4. Restrict the movement of identity holders at the crossing is a temporary arrangement. We did not agree on the time period of this temporary arrangement. Wolfensohn proposed a year and Saeb said it is a long time. The Palestinian side will report to the president and then give Wolfy his view.

Finally, Wolfensohn team will write down the agree and disagreed points with the (I,P) to present the positions of the two parties.

Wolfensohn and the Israeli side spoke about the necessity to reach a documented agreement signed by the parities in the form of a protocol.

¹ Baruch Shpeagle stated that we could select some things or certain screens that give live broadcast.