

Minister Jim O'Callaghan
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration.
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Dear Minister O'Callaghan,

I am writing to you as a concerned Irish citizen, to raise urgent questions regarding the protocols in place at Irish ports of entry, particularly concerning specifically Israeli citizens—who may be involved in, or complicit in, war crimes or crimes against humanity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Gaza.

As we have witnessed 7 Irish citizens were abducted by Israeli forces in Greek waters recently with our Presidents sister being part of the same flotilla.

I understand that, per current immigration policy, Israeli citizens are not visa-required for short stays in Ireland and are allowed free movement with the same checks as normal tourists entering the country.

However, I am deeply concerned that without specific screening mechanisms, individuals who have participated in actions described as violations of international law by international human rights organisations could potentially enter the State.

It is most concerning that no specific targeted screening is in place currently to see if Israelis entering the country are members of the Israeli Defence Forces or if they have partaken in war crimes, leading towards a Public Safety issue where that the person's presence could pose a threat to national security or public safety.

This is a serious issue that I hope can be addressed by our security services as with the current situation in the Middle East and Irish Citizens being kidnapped from International waters, it is with no doubt putting Irish Citizens lives at risk, wherever they are in the world, especially here at home.

Ireland has a legal and moral obligation to adhere to its international commitments, including:

The Geneva Conventions, ensuring accountability for war crimes and not providing safe haven to perpetrators.

Immigration officers under the Immigration Act 2004 can refuse entry to non-EEA nationals if their presence is contrary to public policy or poses a threat to national security, which applies to suspected perpetrators of serious crimes.

We are asking on the Minister to commit to these steps and more if needed to protect the safety and security of Irish citizens.

Strict Screening: Implement robust vetting procedures to identify any individuals—including dual nationals—seeking entry who have served in units of the Israeli Defence Forces, who engaged in actions that violate international humanitarian law.

Investigate and Exclude: Investigate individuals who have potentially participated in war crimes and if evidence suggests involvement in war crimes or crimes against humanity, where membership of the Israeli Defence Forces would lead us to believe this to be a possibility, deny entry or remove them from Ireland.

Transparency: Assure the public that the government is taking active measures to prevent the entry of any person posing a threat to international peace and security including members of the Israeli Defence Forces especially those who have been on active duty over the duration of the genocide that is being committed by Israel. Individuals who have engaged in acts that constitute crimes against humanity in any way such as starvation or the targeting of civilians, must be held accountable.

Ireland has a proud history of upholding peace and adhering to the Geneva Conventions. Allowing individuals who have committed serious breaches of international humanitarian law to enter our country undermines our commitment.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your response regarding the actions being taken.

Yours sincerely,

[YourName]