

Activists Leave Egypt After Gaza Entry Denied

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, January 06, 2010

[Agence France Presse](#) 6 January 2010

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

CAIRO: More than 1,000 international activists have headed home after Egypt denied them passage to Gaza for a solidarity march with the besieged enclave's Palestinians, organizers said Monday. "Most participants of the Gaza Freedom March have gone home. Around 250 are still in Cairo, some will try to get into the Gaza Strip and some will go home," one of the organizers, Ann Wright, told AFP.

Egyptian authorities had banned the activists who had come to Cairo from 42 countries from entering the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing, the only entry that bypasses Israel.

They had hoped to join Palestinians for a march on New Year's Eve to mark the first anniversary of Israel's devastating war on Gaza that killed 1,400 Palestinians.

The activists had staged demonstrations and hunger strikes around Cairo to protest at Egypt's refusal to let them leave the city.

After intervention by First Lady Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt last week allowed 86 protesters to enter the Gaza Strip.

Dozens of protesters who had camped out outside the French embassy in Cairo for days have also left, embassy staff said.

Egypt had said it barred them because of the "sensitive situation" in the Gaza Strip, accusing them of trying to embarrass Cairo with their demonstrations.

The participants of the Gaza Freedom March included Irish Nobel Laureate Mairead Corrigan-Maguire, Filipino senator and activist Walden Bello, writer Alice Walker, 85-year-old Holocaust survivor Hedy Epstein and hundreds of politicians, writers, artists and activists from over 40 countries.

The original source of this article is [Agence France Presse](#)

Copyright © [Global Research](#), [Agence France Presse](#), 2010

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca