

Israel should provide Gazans with the freedom to choose emigration

written by Moshe Fuzaylov | 05.06.2025

The world has witnessed the horrors that can unfold when poverty, oppression, and terrorism converge in a closed and hopeless environment. Indeed, the people of Gaza have lived for years in unrelenting misery, devoid of any real prospect for a better future.

Out of this abyss, a rare and historic opportunity has emerged, perhaps the most consequential since the founding of the State of Israel. This is a humanitarian, strategic, and diplomatic initiative to enable the voluntary emigration of up to one million Palestinians from Gaza to countries across the globe.

This initiative is neither naive nor detached from reality. It is grounded in empirical data. According to public opinion surveys conducted by Palestinian pollster Dr. Khalil Shikaki, approximately 49% of Gazans wish to emigrate. Among educated youth, this exceeds 54%. Many are even willing to leave without official documents, driven by profound despair and a genuine yearning for a better future.

Creating the framework

Israel's role is to provide the practical framework that enables these individuals to exercise their right to choose – to choose a life beyond endless conflict and stagnation, to exit the status of perpetual refugees, and to enter a future of dignity and opportunity. The plan rests on five core pillars: freedom, rehabilitation, partnership, legitimacy, and discretion.

This is not just a humanitarian gesture; it is a strategic maneuver with far-reaching implications. The departure of hundreds of thousands from Gaza will significantly ease overpopulation, diminish the recruitment base for terror organizations, strip the Arab world of its long-standing “refugee card” against Israel, and challenge the two-state solution, which long has rested on an unviable status quo.

The role of international cooperation

International cooperation will be critical to success. Destination countries may include nations in Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Canada, and even the Middle East. Families must be offered comprehensive support: departure grants, housing assistance, vocational training, and community integration services.

International organizations such as the UN, the International Organization for Migration, and countries like the UAE, Egypt, the US, Cyprus, and Saudi Arabia can serve as essential partners. Washington should play a key diplomatic role in advancing the plan.

The goal is not merely to transform Gaza but to spark hope across the Arab world and redefine regional thinking. The enclave must be released from its function as a “black pawn” in the diplomatic chessboard and transformed into a living example of what is possible when moral courage meets strategic vision, especially after a brutal conflict.

Again, the solution here is not forced “transfer” or “expulsion” but rather a moral, legal, and diplomatic plan that will allow Gazans to attain what has been denied to them all their lives: the freedom to choose, the freedom to build a future outside the cycles of statelessness, violence, and despair.

In the end, history will remember the leaders who recognized this moment and chose liberty over another war, dignity over hatred, and civilian empowerment over the containment of enemies. This is not only Israel’s moral responsibility. It is also its strategic prerogative – to reshape reality for itself and the entire region.

Published in The Jerusalem Post, June 5, 2025.