

Tamer is a 39-year-old photojournalist from Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip, working for the Associated Press (AP).

His sight has been deteriorating since he was diagnosed with a congenital eye condition in 2017. Tamer has required extensive treatments and investigations, not all available in the Gaza Strip.

Before May this year, Tamer had received permits from Israel to reach health care in Jordan and at Hadassah Ein Karim Hospital in Jerusalem. While in Jordan, he saw his mother for the first time in nearly 20 years. She is Palestinian and lives in Al-Lydd but has been unable to visit her family in Gaza because of having Israeli citizenship.

"At Hadassah, they told me I would need surgery for my right eye as well, but it would only be possible after my left eye improved... I had smooth access to Hadassah up until May... After that, I lost four appointments. My last application for 1 August was not approved in time for my appointment."

## Table 1: History of Tamer's applications for an Israeli medical permit and outcomes

## Date of application

Hospital
Response
21/02/2019
Hadassah Ein Karim
Denied
09/09/2019
Hadassah Ein Karim
Denied
07/10/2019
Jordan by Shuttle
Approved

WHO EMRO  $\mid$  "I'm a photographer, so my work depends on my sight."

Hadassah Ein Karim	
Approved	
14/02/2021	
Hadassah Ein Karim	
Approved	
01/03/2021	
Hadassah Ein Karim	
Approved	
22/03/2021	
Hadassah Ein Karim	
Approved	

18/04/2021
Hadassah Ein Karim
Approved
26/04/2021
Hadassah Ein Karim
Approved
24/05/2021
Hadassah Ein Karim
Delayed
13/06/2021
Hadassah Ein Karim

WHO EMRO | "I'm a photographer, so my work depends on my sight."

My children are young, and my wife has supported me through all this. The kids see their father stay home rather than the active father they knew before – who was working, who took them out, who took them down to the beach. I'm not able to do any of those things with them now."

As a photojournalist, Tamer worries about his work and his future.

"I'm so afraid of losing my sight. If I lose that, I won't be able to work, and my work is like the air I breathe. The wait is unbearable."

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