



When I Tried To Enter The West Bank Today, Here's What Happened

This transcript may not be 100% accurate due to audio quality or other factors.

Dimitri Lascaris (DL): Good day everybody, it's October 21st, 2025. I'm Dimitri Lascaris for Reason2Resist coming to you from occupied Palestine. I'm actually just leaving occupied Palestine and going back into Jordan from where I came. I flew into Amman yesterday, in part to spend a few days in Amman but also wanted to spend as much time as I could in the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem. I arrived here at the Allenby Bridge at 11 a.m. this morning. And after about an hour going through a baggage checkpoint, I applied for a tourist visa and they kept me waiting for three to four hours, even though the place was empty. Yes.

Jordanian Border Official 1: English?

DL: I'm sorry?

Jordanian Border Official: English or?

DL: Yes, English. I'm from Canada.

Jordanian Border Official: Canada, okay. What's the problem?

DL: What's the problem? They said they didn't finish my application.

Jordanian Border Official: Ah okay. Have a good day, sir.

DL: Thank you, thank you. That was a Jordanian border official asking me why I am coming back. So anyways, during those three to four hours I was interrogated, not in a violent or threatening way, but it was persistent questioning for a good 20 minutes by two individuals, one of whom spoke with an impeccable American accent, the other of whom spoke with a thick Israeli accent. The American did all the questioning and at various points during the questioning they spoke to each other in Hebrew. And they wanted to know if I'd been to Israel before, why I was here, why I was coming alone, why I was coming in a time of war. At one

point I responded to that question by saying, "Well, things apparently have calmed down" and the person who was questioning said, "Well no, Hamas broke the ceasefire. And so things are flaring up again". I had to bite my tongue and not say anything, because it's crystal clear that it is Israel that's been crapping all over this ceasefire agreement. In any case, he started asking me for proof that I was a lawyer. And I pulled out a business card which said I'm a lawyer and a journalist, and he saw the word journalist and became very curious. He started asking me, What kind of journalism do you do? I said, I write about the law. And he then asked me, "Have you written anything about Palestine?" Well he didn't say Palestine. He said –

Hi, how are you doing?

Jordanian Border Official 2: Wa ‘alaykumu s-salam.

DL: I don't speak Arabic.

Jordanian Border Official 2: Okay.

DL: Thank you.

Jordanian Border Official 2: Your bag?

DL: [00:03:23] Yes. It's my bag, yes. Yes.

Jordanian Border Official 2: [00:03:25] Two.

DL: Two. Yes. Where was I? So yes, he asked me if I have written anything about Palestinians. That's what he asked me. And not wanting to lie, I said yes. He said, What have you written? And I said, Well, I wrote for example that Canada should recognize the state of Palestine. So then he asked me if I'd show him the article, and I said, Oh, you know, it's something I wrote a long time ago, I don't even know where to look. At that point he didn't ask me any questions, any further questioning about whether I'd written about Palestinians. And he eventually asked me all he wanted to ask me. He walked away along with his colleague. They disappeared for an hour and then I was approached by somebody else, a customs official or an immigration official who said to me, "here's your passport, we're closing down. They weren't able to process your application for a tourist visa before our offices closed today. If you want, you can come back tomorrow at 8a.m. and they will complete the process, but I can't assure you that you'll get a tourist visa. And it may take up to four hours for them to decide."

So I don't know whether I'm going to come back, but I probably will. I'll probably give it another shot. But this whole thing is frankly preposterous because this is the border crossing Allenby Bridge between Jordan and occupied Palestine, it goes into the West Bank, which is Palestinian territory. It's occupied Palestinian territory. And the International Court of Justice ruled last year that Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is illegal. It must

end as quickly as humanly possible. And really they have no right whatsoever, moral or legal, the Israelis, to be controlling the border of the occupied West Bank, the border between Jordan and the West Bank, and it's preposterous that they are obstructing people like me, a supporter of the Palestinian people, from coming in and providing whatever support I can to our brothers and sisters at this time of this Israeli-led genocide because they don't feel comfortable with my presence or whatever damn reason they have for not issuing me the tourist reason. Anyways I will definitely keep you posted about what I do next. Hopefully I will be able to gain entry into Palestine tomorrow when I probably will make another attempt.

Good morning Dimitri here again. It is October 22nd. It's about 8:30 a.m. here in Jordan. I'm again with my trusted taxi driver Ahmed. And we are now a few kilometers away from the Allenby bridge. Yesterday when I attempted to enter occupied Palestine I stupidly departed Amman at about eleven in the morning and by the time I went through Jordanian customs and actually got to the Israeli border facility on the other side of the Allenby Bridge it was probably 12:30 p.m. And the whole thing appears to close down at around 5 p.m. So I got up earlier this morning and I expect to be at the Israeli border facility once I get through Jordanian customs at around 9:30 or so. So hopefully this was all just a question of insufficient timing yesterday and I'll be permitted to enter. But whatever happens I'll let you know. Signing off for now.

Well, it's now about 2:30 p.m. local time. I am at the border inspection facility established by the genocidal Israeli entity on the Palestinian side of the Allenby Bridge, or as the Jordanians and Palestinians refer to it, the King Hussein Bridge. So from Israel's perspective, I suppose I'm on the territory of Israel, but from the perspective of international law, this is occupied Palestinian territory. It's the occupied West Bank to be precise. And I'm sitting on this bus because I've just been advised by an immigration official that my application for entry into the jurisdiction as a tourist has been denied. And I managed to record the part of the conversation in which he explained the basis of the denial and here's what he had to say.

DL: So just want to just to be clear – the security told you that because I'm against Israel, that that's why they're not letting me into the country?

Israeli immigration official: They recommend not to let you in, but you know your position and your ideas about Israel. So you're coming to visit Israel. Like I see like there is something is not –.

DL: Well, yes, I'm very critical of Israel.

Israeli immigration official: Yeah exactly.

DL: But I've come here many times and I respect the laws.

Israeli immigration official: You did come many times, yeah, exactly. But now they're very strict after what happened here in Israel.

DL: Right.

Israeli immigration official: I don't know what you think about it, I think about it something different, so....

DL: I understand, yeah, but it's just an opinion, right? If it's a democracy, then we should be allowed to have opinions.

Israeli immigration official: I know, it's an opinion, but, you know, your position in Canada and what you do against – I don't want to go through it, you know exactly what I mean.

DL: I understand. I just want to make sure I understand what the reasoning is for me being denied.

Israeli immigration official: The reason is your activities outside against Israel, that's all.

DL: Alright.

So just to elaborate upon what I told him, I said I'd been here many times. The first time I actually came here was 40 years ago, almost to the day, when I was an undergraduate student traveling alone. And at that time I actually was moderately pro-Israel, not because my family had any particular Zionist leanings, but just because I was taken in by the relentless pro-Israel propaganda in Canada where I grew up. And it's interesting because even though at the time I was modestly pro-Israel, certainly not critical of the country in any way, I had a similar experience to the one I had today when I tried to enter. On that occasion, I came on a flight from Larnaka to Ben Gurion Airport. I was 21 years old at the time. As I said, I was traveling by myself. I'd never been to Palestine before. And when our plane came to a stop on the tarmac at Ben Gurion Airport, we were instructed to exit the plane down a stairway onto the tarmac. They took our luggage out of the cargo bay of the aircraft, put it on the tarmac, and then we were instructed to claim our luggage. And as I was claiming my knapsack, it was everything that I was carrying with me, a large knapsack, the security official walked up to me and told me to follow him with my knapsack. He then walked over to a small truck that was parked near the aircraft. He opened up the back door and I looked inside, and all that was inside was a round table and two chairs bolted to the floor and a light bulb overhead. And he told me to sit down, closed the doors to the truck, sat across from me and proceeded to interrogate me about why I had come to what he referred to as Israel. And he repeatedly asked me if I was Arabic. He was very suspicious about the fact that I was a young man traveling alone. Clearly, he thought that I was up to no good, and my appearance didn't help. I could easily have passed for somebody of Arabic origin. And then after about 30 minutes of persistent questioning, I just broke out laughing and he got very upset with me, demanded to know why I was laughing, and I told him the truth. The reason I was laughing is because if my friends and family back home knew that I was being interrogated in this way, they would have found it ridiculous because I had a positive opinion of Israel and there was no reason for

him to be treating me this way. He didn't seem particularly happy with that explanation, and then he took me to the back of an airport to a secondary inspection area where some female Israeli soldiers poured through my knapsack. And I remember at one point it was kind of humorous. I had stuffed some clothing that desperately needed to be washed into some side pockets, socks and things like that, and when they took them out, these female soldiers were overcome by the unpleasant odor, shall we say.

Anyways, they ultimately allowed me to enter the country at that point in time. I saw things on that trip that began to change my attitude towards Israel. I saw two things that actually stood out for me. One was the humiliating way in which the Israeli military treated the Palestinians in East Jerusalem, where I stayed in a youth hostel, and the other was how hospitable and kind the Palestinians were towards me. But at that point I certainly wasn't in any way, shape or form committed to the Palestine cause. That was a longer evolution. The last time I entered Palestine was in March of last year during Ramadan and reported extensively on it from there. I must say it pains me and I'm saddened by the fact that I can't enter and be with our brothers and sisters of Palestine at this particular terrible time in their history. But at the same time I feel extremely confident that I will be able to return here one day. At that point in time, when I do come back, the Palestinian people will have achieved their liberation. And I really truly believe that in my heart.

In the interim, I thought perhaps I'd share with you some of the things that I experienced and observed while I was sitting in there today. I was there for a good three hours. And first of all, I should comment that the level of security here is insane. And when I say here I mean at this border inspection facility. So the process to get where I am now was as follows. First of all, on the Jordanian side of the King Hussein or Allenby Bridge, there is a Jordanian border inspection facility. Only certain people can go in there, people of certain nationalities, I should say, Canadians being one of them. And so I passed through a checkpoint, went in there, then they direct you to put your baggage through a metal detector, and then you have to see an immigration official who inspects your passport, then you have to pay a departure tax, then they take your passport and you sit down and you wait for a shuttle to take you to the other side. And it has to be an approved shuttle, one approved by the Israelis. So you sit there for 45 minutes to an hour, eventually somebody holding your passport comes up to you, tells you to follow them. You get on the shuttle, and you go down the road towards the Israeli side of the King Hussein Bridge. And the first thing you come across as you're approaching the bridge is another Jordanian military outpost. There you have your passports inspected again. Then you cross the bridge, and at that point you will come to a succession of four, I repeat, four separate checkpoints. And in each one there is a stop light and a barrier that has to be lifted in order for the shuttle to be able to proceed. And at each point the vehicle is inspected. At the last point, or the second last of the four checkpoints, there are security guards – or they actually were in civilian clothing, but they had machine guns. And one of them took a device and checked underneath the shuttle to ensure that there was no bomb. So then after you clear these four checkpoints, which take some time, up to an hour, then you arrive at the border inspection facility, you have to check in your bags, they inspect your passport, you put your bags through a metal detector. You don't see them again until you've actually been fully

processed. Then you go inside the facility, you put any things you have in your pocket through a metal detector, your passport is inspected. Then after that, you go to see an immigration officer in another booth. And at that point I was told, just as happened yesterday, to sit down after the immigration official ran my passport through the computer. There must have been some notation in there about me having to undergo a secondary inspection. And so I sat down a few meters away from the booth where my passport had been inspected. And I had a good bit of time at that stage, three hours, to sort of observe what was going on around me.

And before I tell you about that, I just want to comment on the levels of security here. Jordan is formally at peace with Israel, and not only is it at peace with Israel, but the leader of Jordan, this autocrat Hussein, is as abject a vassal of Washington as one could possibly imagine. On that basis alone, his regime and its military forces cannot reasonably be regarded as a threat to Israel. But on top of that, Israel is so heavily armed by the United States and other states and protected by the United States and other Western states, that if by any chance the leader of Jordan was minded to engage in any kind of military aggression against Israel, the Jordanian military would be annihilated. So there's really no security threat at all coming from the Jordanian side of the border. Now there are certainly many people within Jordan who don't share their autocrat's affection for the genocidal entity and who are seething with anger at what is being done to the Palestinian people. And in fact, recently, right here at this facility, I think it was about a couple of months ago, our Jordanian truck driver shot dead two Israeli soldiers as they call them. I prefer to call them Israeli terrorists. And so there is a threat coming from ordinary citizens and residents of Jordan who are justifiably outraged by what Israel is doing, not only to Palestinians but to other Arabs of the region. But that's purely a consequence of Israel's own insanely aggressive and barbaric behavior towards the indigenous peoples of the region. At a statewide level, at a state level, Jordan is no significant threat to Israel. And so why do I say all of this? Because we're told that the genocidal entity is supposed to be a sanctuary for the Jewish people. Well, if they require this level of security, this paranoid, extraordinary level of security at a border inspection facility right next to Jordan, how can anybody say with a straight face that this place is a sanctuary for the Jewish people? Clearly, it is a place where there are very significant threats to the Jewish inhabitants of Israel, and it's not because they're Jewish, it's because the state in which they live is a genocidal monster.

In any case, as I was sitting in that facility, I think at least on four occasions just today, and two or three times yesterday when I was here waiting for hours for nothing, I was asked by some customs official or border official if I was Palestinian. And they were clearly very interested in determining whether people seeking entry into the genocidal entity were Palestinians. That's not surprising at all. I mean, we can all see clearly to what degree the vast majority of Israeli Jews hate Palestinians and discriminate against them. But what I found interesting about this was, we're constantly told by these nutbar Zionists in Western countries that there's no such thing as a Palestinian. Palestine is a fiction, and Palestinians don't exist. They prefer to refer to Palestinians simply as Arabs. And yet I found again and again as I was in this facility that representatives of the Israeli government, civil servants and soldiers, use

the word Palestinian. So that just doesn't seem particularly consistent with this claim of the fanatical Zionists in the West that Palestinians don't exist.

Another interesting experience I had was as I was sitting there waiting to undergo a secondary inspection, a female uniformed soldier walked up to me and she said a name. I thought she said my name, but it wasn't clear, but she was clearly talking to me. She was looking at me right in the eyes, and she said, "Follow me". And I got up. She walked about 10 meters further where nobody else could hear us because there were other people sitting where I was sitting. She obviously didn't want them to hear what she was going to tell me. And she looks at me with a kind of authoritative, almost patronizing tone. And she couldn't have been more than 23 years old, so she's much younger than me. And she says to me, "So you were born in Gaza". And I said, "No, I was born in Canada". She goes, "No, no, you were born in Gaza". And I said, "No, I'm actually a Canadian citizen, and my ethnicity is Greek". And she says, "Are you sure?" And I said, "Yeah, I'm sure". So she then pulls out of her pocket a passport, it was a US passport, and she opens it up and she's looking at it and she's looking at me, and there was a photograph of somebody who vaguely resembled me, you know, he was bald like me, but otherwise, he was thinner than me, really didn't look like me at all, I thought, but she clearly had confused me for this person. And she quizzed me some more to make sure that I was telling the truth, and then she walked away and she went into some booth with a glass window. I could see inside, and she was showing them the passport, and they were all looking at me, and finally she realized that I was not the person that she was looking for. I don't know where that person was, but what struck me was just her tone. She was talking to somebody she thought was from Gaza. And it was quite obvious from her whole demeanor that she didn't feel the slightest bit of sadness, concern, responsibility, sympathy, empathy for the people of Gaza. All I needed was a few seconds of interaction with this young female soldier to come away with that strong impression.

The other thing that I saw was that as I was sitting there waiting for my secondary inspection, a Palestinian man who was seated next to me was called over to that booth where the female soldier went into. As I said, there was a big glass window between the people inside the booth and the people who were approaching the booth, and so he goes over and she slips underneath the window his passport, and he takes it away, and as he's walking away, she pulls out a little bottle and starts spraying the air in the room on the other side of the glass, immediately after he took the passport. Now I don't know, it looked like a bottle of perfume or some scented water or something. Maybe it was just a coincidence she did that immediately after handing this Palestinian man his passport. But given the levels of racism in this country, I suspect that she did that because she felt revulsion at having to interact with a Palestinian. That was just my sense.

And the last thing I want to share with you, an observation I have about this place is that I've read that this is a very important entry point for humanitarian aid trucks from Jordan, which go on from here to Gaza. Well, I could tell you, I was on that road for quite some time, you know, at various checkpoints coming into this facility from the Jordanian side, and I saw almost nothing that looked to me like a truck carrying humanitarian aid. Almost nothing. And

I see none here parked in this large facility. In any case, again, I'm quite saddened not to be able to go into Palestine at this time, but I am going to continue to report as best I can from the Jordanian side on the nefarious activities of Western militaries here and may even have an opportunity to speak to some local activists about their opposition to their government's support, the Jordanian government's support for the genocidal Israeli entity. For now I'm signing off from Palestine on October 22nd, 2025.

END

Thank you for reading this transcript. Please don't forget to donate to support our independent and non-profit journalism:

BANKKONTO:

Kontoinhaber: acTVism München e.V.
Bank: GLS Bank
IBAN: DE89430609678224073600
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

PAYPAL:

E-Mail:
PayPal@acTVism.org

PATREON:

<https://www.patreon.com/acTVism>

BETTERPLACE:

Link: [Click here](#)