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Amin Abu Warda, Nablus

Yousef Abu Mustapha, 24, stands for hours in front of his little grocery store on the main street of Balata refugee camp, waiting for an end to his suffering. He has been separated from his wife and child for two and a half years because they are in Jordan and cannot come to the West Bank while he cannot see them in Jordan. All efforts to unite the family have failed because of the Israeli policies.

The Israeli authorities have refused to grant his wife legal residency until she obtains family reunification. She has had to return to Jordan with her only child, Nael, who is three years old. When the Al Aqsa Intifada started, reunification became impossible.

Yousef suffers every day and the only way to communicate with his family is by phone. He begins to cry when he speaks of his son.

The restrictions imposed on Palestinian mobility have laid a heavy burden on many Palestinian families especially when the wife is in Jordan and has not been granted family reunification. The Israeli occupation forbids her to stay the West Bank and if she does so illegally, she can be deported in which case family reunification in the future would be out of the question.

One bride had to wait for three days at the checkpoint until she was allowed to go to her new home. She finally arrived on the wedding day itself, too exhausted to enjoy it. When the uncle of Samr Khweira, from Nablus, died in Jordan last year, Israel would not allow his body to be buried in Palestine. He was buried like a stranger.