

Solidarity is the Key: Heading Back to Gaza

- Meanwhile, the situation is the same at the other crossings – primarily Erez. On Saturday, Israel turned away an Italian marathon runner, preventing him from completing the Gaza leg of his 540-kilometer “Run For Love” from Jerusalem, scheduled to conclude at the pinnacle of Mount Sinai in Egypt.

Max Calderan, a four-time marathon champion, had planned to run the Gaza portion of the five-day marathon in coordination with the UN refugee agency, UNRWA. However, despite having been told by Israeli authorities initially that he could go into Gaza, he was barred at the last minute.

Responding to the decision to refuse Calderan’s entry, UNRWA Spokesperson Christopher Gunness said, “It seems that marathon runners have now joined the list of banned items. Light bulbs, detergent, building materials and now marathon men. And to make matters worse, we had young athletes – disabled children – waiting to run with Max inside Gaza. Parents everywhere will surely find this a bewildering decision.”