

sage

n. an aromatic plant with grayish-green leaves that are used as a culinary herb, native to southern Europe and the Mediterranean.

“Sage” is among the list of at least 55 items which the Israeli government prohibits from being brought into the Gaza Strip, according to the Gisha Legal Center for Freedom of Movement, an Israeli organisation which seeks to protect the freedom of movement of Palestinians and promotes rights guaranteed by international law. This list also includes items such as nutmeg, chocolate, toys, newspapers, and musical instruments.



Gaza is home to 1.5 million Palestinians, 75% of whom are internally-displaced refugees. Since 2006, they have been trapped by a military siege. The Israeli army has completely surrounded the Gaza Strip and controls every person and item that enters or exits the territory. The residents of Gaza are deprived of sufficient food, medicines, and regular access to basic amenities like electricity on a daily basis. According to the World Food Programme, in 2009, 44.8% of Gazans were unemployed and 85% depended on humanitarian aid to survive.

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