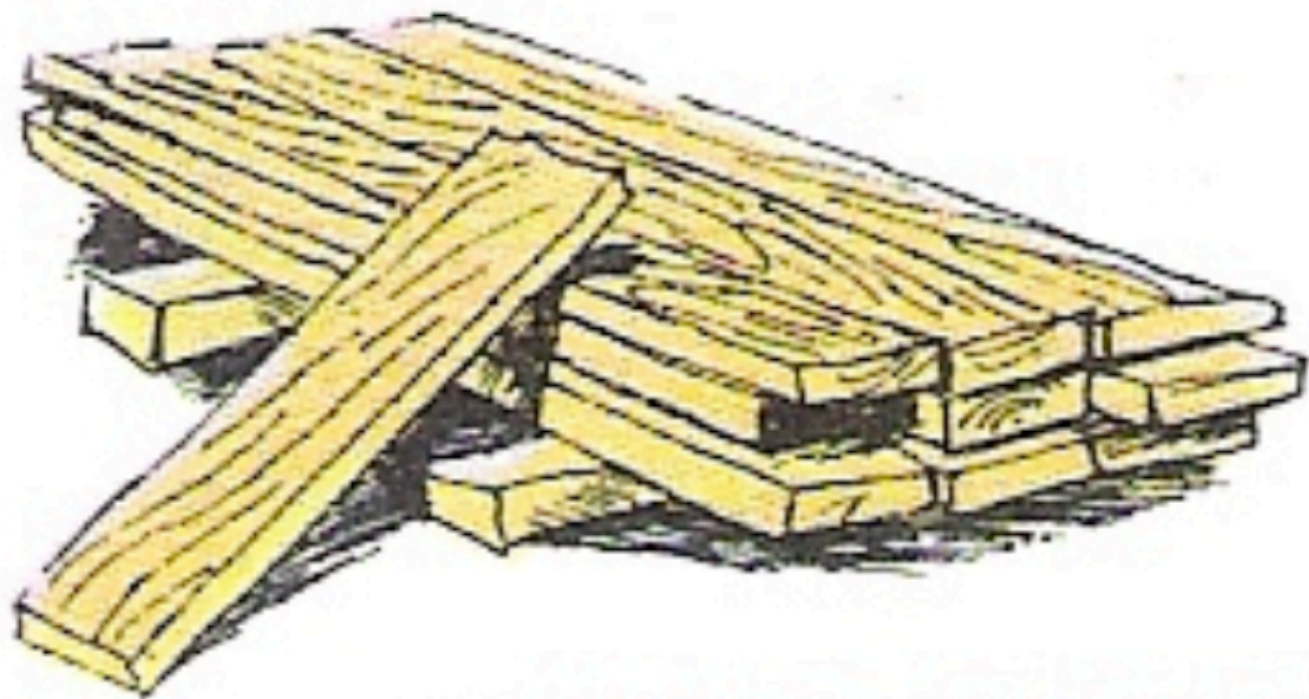


wood

n. the hard fibrous material that forms the main substance of the trunk or branches of a tree or shrub.

“Wood for construction” 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. Cement, iron, plaster, and tar, essential for the reconstruction of hundreds of damaged and destroyed buildings in Gaza, are also on the list.



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. During the 2008-2009 attacks on Gaza, the Israeli army completely destroyed at least 470 houses and partially destroyed another 3,000 to 4,000 houses. 1,100 Gazans were left homeless after the attacks and continue to live in makeshift shacks, often with no electricity or running water.

John Ging, the Director of Operations of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza, which borders on the Mediterranean Sea, recently called upon the international community to break the siege on the Gaza Strip by sending ships loaded with desperately needed supplies.

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