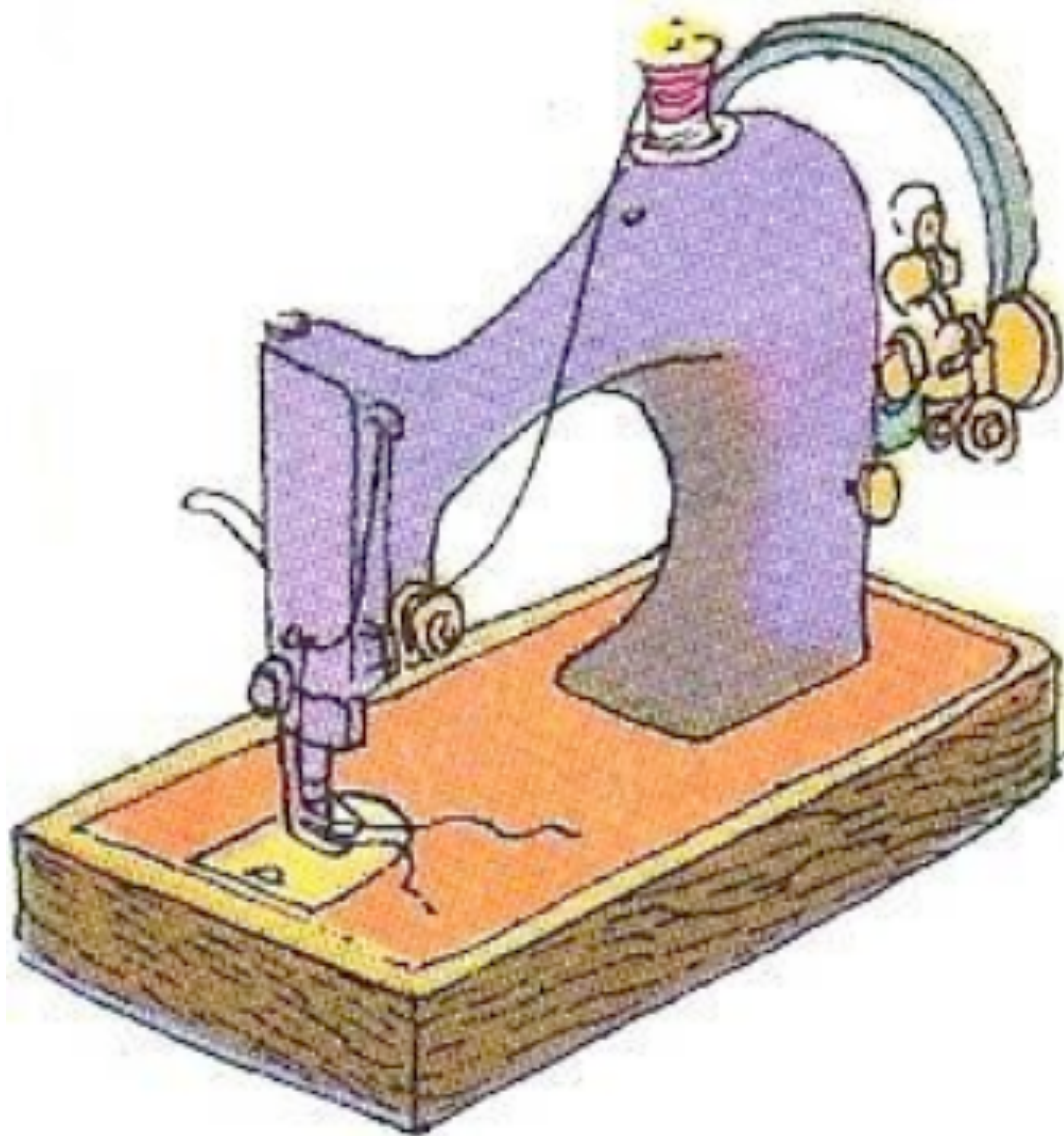


sewing machine

n. a machine with a mechanically driven needle for sewing or stitching cloth.

“Sewing machines and spare parts” are 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 coriander, chocolate, fishing rods, toys, musical instruments, and newspapers.



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. Among other things, Israel prohibits the entry of materials needed to rebuild the 39 schools and 1 university damaged during its brutal attack on Gaza in 2008-2009. The residents of Gaza are also 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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