

# DEPLOYING THE BASEL SMART CARD AT BORDER CHECKPOINTS

TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION, ISRAEL POLICE HEADQUARTERS



The Basel system imprints biometric data on smart cards, which Israel can then issue for use at its border crossing-points at the Palestinian Authority areas, for purposes of identification, oversight and control. The identity of persons passing through the checkpoints is examined automatically, without human intervention.

Special facilities register the biometric data (e.g. fingerprints) on each card and issue it to the correct holder, after which the card remains valid for a period of two years. The Basel network includes all units involved in registering Palestinians' personal data and issuing them Israeli documentation. Such units are found at the Coordinator of Activities in the Territories; the Department for Administration,

Coordination and Liaison [with the Palestinian Authority]; in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF); and, geographically, at the Erez crossing point from the Gaza Strip, in Judea and Samaria, and at IDF regional commands.

An automated crossing-point using these cards and operated by IDF Southern Command will be installed at the Magen 12 checkpoint, where Palestinian workers cross from the Gaza Strip to the Erez industrial park. The new smart cards will also come into use at those manned IDF checkpoints that are equipped to handle biometric data and to read and inscribe smart cards. The cards will not replace the IDF's current rules and procedures for checkpoint operations but only supply an additional identification element.

## Advantages of Automated Identity Checking:

The two chief goals of the introduction of the new cards are to minimize the amount of time each Palestinian has to spend passing through the battery of security and identity checks at checkpoints, and thus permit a much faster flow of people than at present (to the relief of Palestinians and Israeli soldiers alike), and to do so without any weakening of security. A secondary benefit is that the fingerprints on the cards are also readable by standard, non-Basel equipment and so can be used by the regular police to check the identity of workers residing illegally within Israel's borders.