

# MOCK CHECKPOINT

(Preview Version)

The final version of this "action blueprint" will be a part of a forthcoming module in the **Palestine Freedom Project's Palestine Activism Handbook** series. See [www.pfproject.org](http://www.pfproject.org) for details.



*A mock checkpoint at Earham University*

## OBJECTIVES:

Theatrically depict aspects of Palestinian hardship in Occupied Territories

## DURATION:

Flexible. Can be an all-day event, depending on location. Can be broken into shifts. Action effectiveness increases with duration.

## SETTING:

Outdoor areas with high pedestrian traffic are best, and particularly realistic in hot weather. Possible locations include town squares, outside major public or university buildings, community centers, theatres, walkways. Action should be conducted in areas in which pedestrians can be engaged while still allowing limited free movement. The ability for pedestrians to see, hear, and interact with participants is key. Some highly-desirable locations may draw pressure from law enforcement or other officials, particularly when the free flow of pedestrians is being impeded. Indoor variations are possible, but less realistic, and more prone to being shut down (see "Implementation" for tips on how to respond).

## MATERIALS:

- Cardboard/obviously fake toy guns (preferably M-16 or Uzi – see image template on back of this page)
- Mock IDF uniforms (green fatigues, helmet/cap/beret, computer, IDF or Israeli flag insignia (color printouts attached with safety pins, or iron-on lettering are effective – see back of page)
- Palestinian costumes: kuffiyeh for men, hijab for women, pillows for "pregnant" women, Palestinian flag T-shirt also possible
- Optional: banners and signs, cardboard/toy ambulances (with flashing red light)
- Optional sound amplification (megaphones/bullhorns are best)

## PERSONNEL:

- 2-4 "IDF soldiers"
- 3+ "Palestinians" (can rotate roles if short on numbers – may include individuals waiting in line, pregnant women, detained men, students, workers, wounded people, merchants, campaigning politicians not endorsed by Israel – larger number waiting in line increase visual impact)
- Optional plainclothes participants "planted" as pedestrians to achieve various effects

## IMPLEMENTATION:

- Those in the role of IDF are outfitted in military fatigues, tote cardboard guns and demand passersby pedestrians display ID (university or other). Scripted or ad-libbed scenes are staged depicting various common checkpoint scenarios.

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### IMPLEMENTATION, cont'd:

- Scenarios can include body searches, men forced to lift shirts, workers prevented from reaching jobs, students from schools/colleges, wounded/pregnant individuals from hospitals, ambulances from destinations, merchants from transporting wares, detentions, taunting/harassment, beatings, and many others. It is suggested to have general scripts prepared in advance and conduct one or more rehearsals. Scripts can be drawn from anecdotal accounts; many excellent accounts can be found at [www.palestinemonitor.org](http://www.palestinemonitor.org) and [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org).
- In the event you are ordered to disperse, comply while remaining in character. Prepare script to explain departure, i.e., “we’re closing the checkpoint now – go home and maybe we’ll let you through tomorrow”.
- In high-risk locations, skits should be short, yet dramatically intense and as informative as possible.

### FOLLOW-UP STRATEGY/COALITION BUILDING/ACTION LINK:

- Distribute flyers, literature, organizational information; promote other actions
- Optional speaker at conclusion of checkpoint demonstration (eyewitness anecdotes, etc)
- Action couples well with Torture Tactics, Mock Wall, and House Demolition actions.

### IMAGE RESOURCES



*An M-16 rifle (actual size is approximate 40 inches long)*



*IDF Insignia*



*IDF written in Hebrew*