



ISRAEL GOVERNMENT PLANS TO LIMIT MIGRANT WORKERS

On January 2010, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced the government's plans to limit the number of migrant workers in Israel. The plan was presented after the government approved a decision to impose harsher penalties on Israelis who employ or transport migrant workers. He cited that "the massive entry of migrant workers into Israel in recent years has created problems with security, drugs and mainly, in the job market and decreased wages". These problems have prevented the government from taking care of its own citizens who must enter the job market in order to improve their standard of living. This announcement comes amid the Israeli government's intensified efforts to track down and deport undocumented foreign workers and their families in Israel.

The Prime Minister said that the plan will not cover refugees who go to Israel seeking asylum, many of whom are prohibited from working but are often employed in hotels and restaurants for less than minimal wages and substandard living conditions.

A total of 4,466 OFWs were deployed to Israel in 2009, majority of whom are caregivers. Based on the DFA Report to Congress for January to June 2008, there were about 39,000 Filipinos in Israel comprising of 31,000 temporary migrants, 7,000 irregular workers and 1,000 permanent migrants.