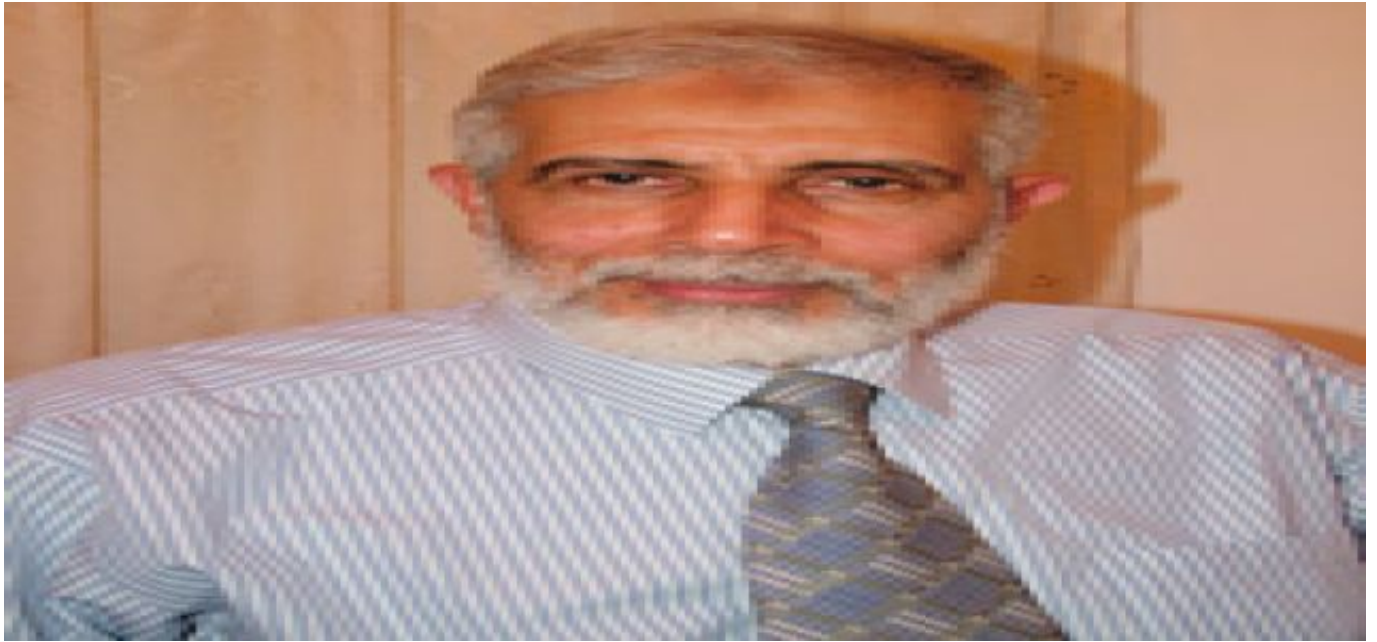


## Mahmud Ezzat: Rafah Border Crossing Natural Channel for Palestinian Pilgrims



In an exclusive statement to Ikhwanweb, Muslim Brotherhood Secretary-General Mahmoud Ezzat stressed the necessity of allowing the trapped Palestinian Pilgrims to return home through the Rafah crossing border, saying it is “the natural crossing channel” according to mutual agreements between Egypt and Palestine.

“It is essential for Egypt to help them cross Rafah which is not against any international agreement. Leaving them in such tough circumstances contradicts with the freedom of worship, as it is inconvenient to turn their Hajj journey to a nightmare,” the group’s leader told Ikhwanweb.

Dr. Mahmoud Concluded saying, “I do not expect that the Egyptian authorities will prevent them from that because this is the least Egypt should do for them.”

This statement comes after news about some two thousand Palestinian Pilgrims who arrived in Egypt on Saturday and protested Egyptian demands that they return to the Gaza Strip through an Israeli-controlled border crossing instead of Rafah crossing, from which they left to Mecca. Now, pilgrims complain unbelievable humanitarian conditions being stranded while Egypt remains reluctant.