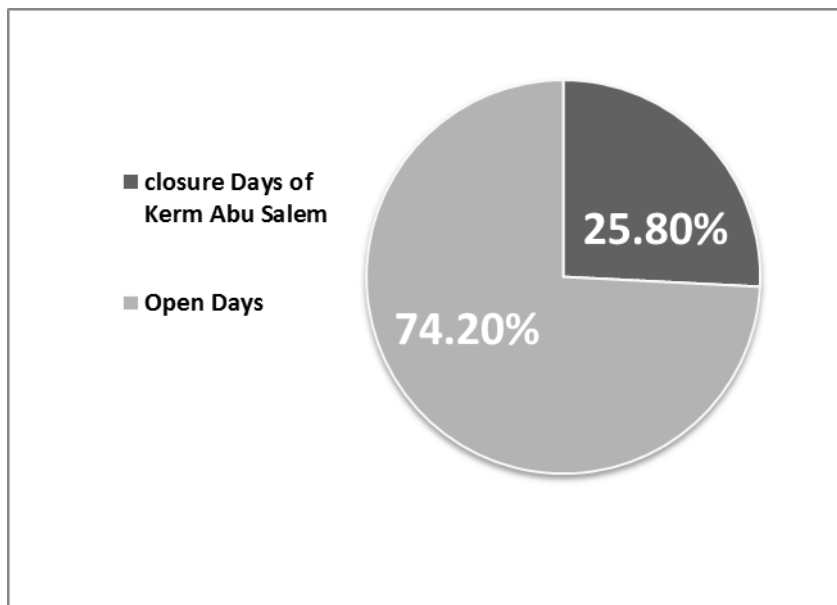


## State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01-31 July 2017

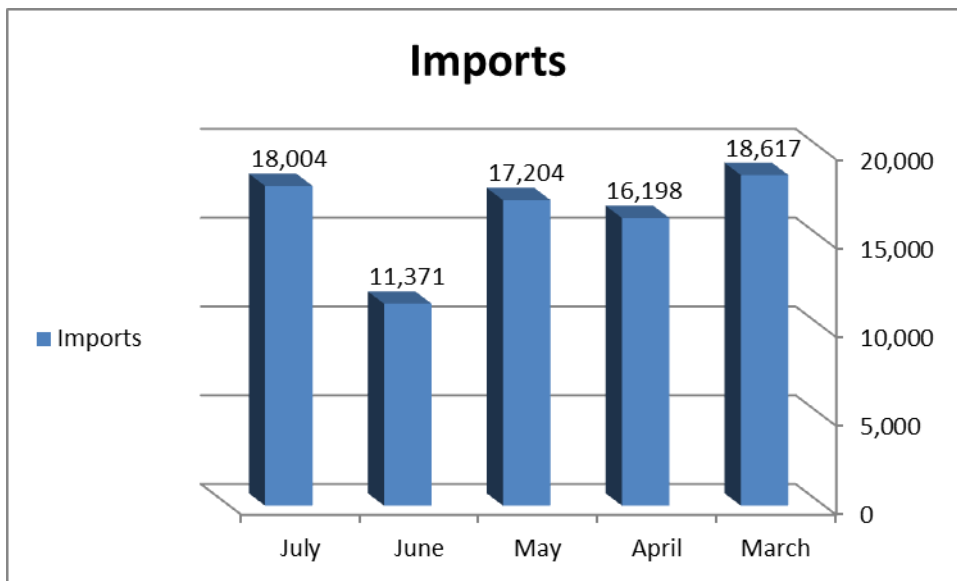
The Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year continues, and in July the crossings surrounding the Gaza Strip witnessed further restrictions, refuting the Israeli claims of easing the closure.

### ▪ Restrictions on Goods Movement

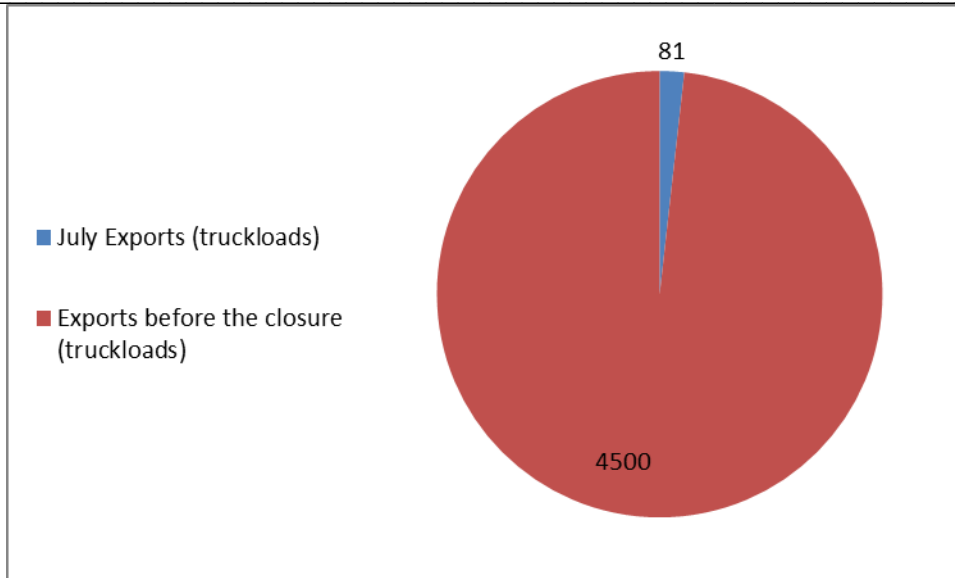
During the reporting period, Israel closed Karm Abu Salem, which is the sole commercial crossing, for 8 days (25.8 % of the total period). During the days it was open, the Israeli authorities allowed the entry of 18,004 truckloads; an average of 580 truckloads daily.



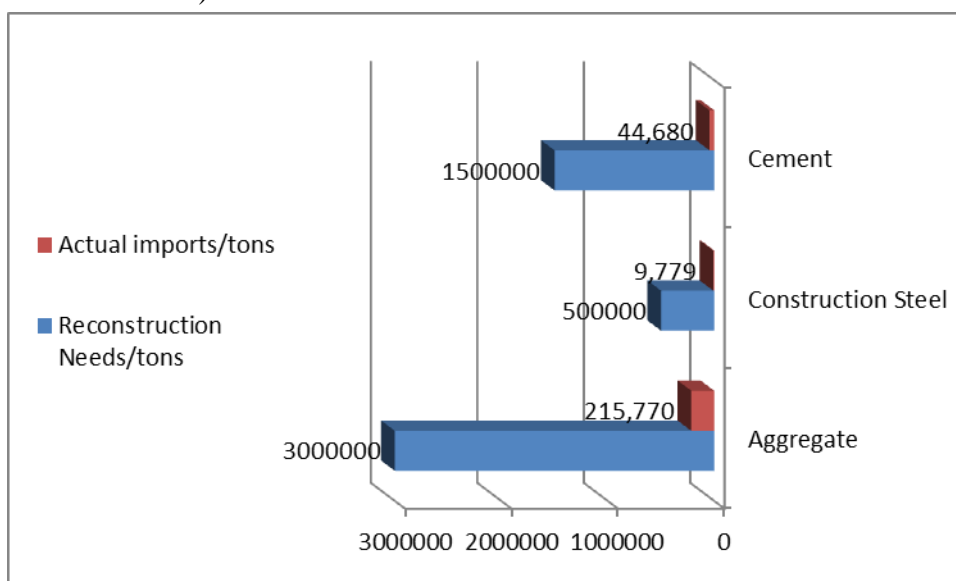
- **Ongoing Restrictions on imports:** the Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of 400 types of goods into the Gaza Strip, most of them are of basic goods and raw materials claiming that they are "dual-use materials". The Israeli forces put hundreds of basic goods on the list of the "dual-use materials" such as cement, construction aggregate, concrete, iron bars, pumps, large power generators, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding rods used in welding, various types of woods, UPS devices that protect the electric devices from damage when the electricity cuts suddenly, X-ray machines, cranes and heavy equipment, types of batteries and several kinds of fertilizers. These materials are essential to the lives of the population and not listed on any international list as having military uses.



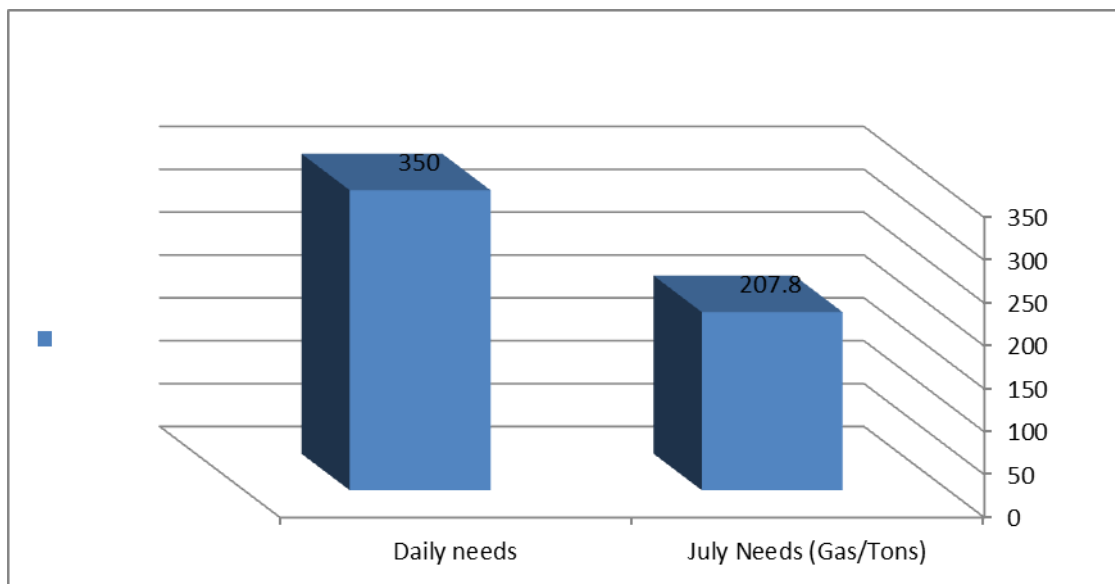
- **Continued ban on exports:** the Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip exports. In a limited exception, they allowed 81 truckloads for exportation in July; most of which were agricultural. They allowed 60 agricultural truckloads and 21 others of fish, furniture, aluminum scrap, clothes and spices. The rate of Gaza Strip exports in July declined at 22.1% compared with June when the Israeli forces allowed the exportation of 104 truckloads. Moreover, the exports' rate declined at 65% comparing with May when 232 truckloads were exported. Meanwhile, the rate recorded a decline of 73.7% comparing with exports in April when 308 truckloads were allowed for exportation. The exports in July equal only 1.8% of the total exports before June 2007.



- Restrictions on the entry of construction materials:** the Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the entry of construction materials. According to the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza, the Israeli authorities allowed the entry of 44,680 tons of cement; 9,779 tons of construction steel; and 215,770 tons of construction aggregates (consecutively constituting 2.9%; 1.9% and 7.1% of the total needs for the Gaza reconstruction.)

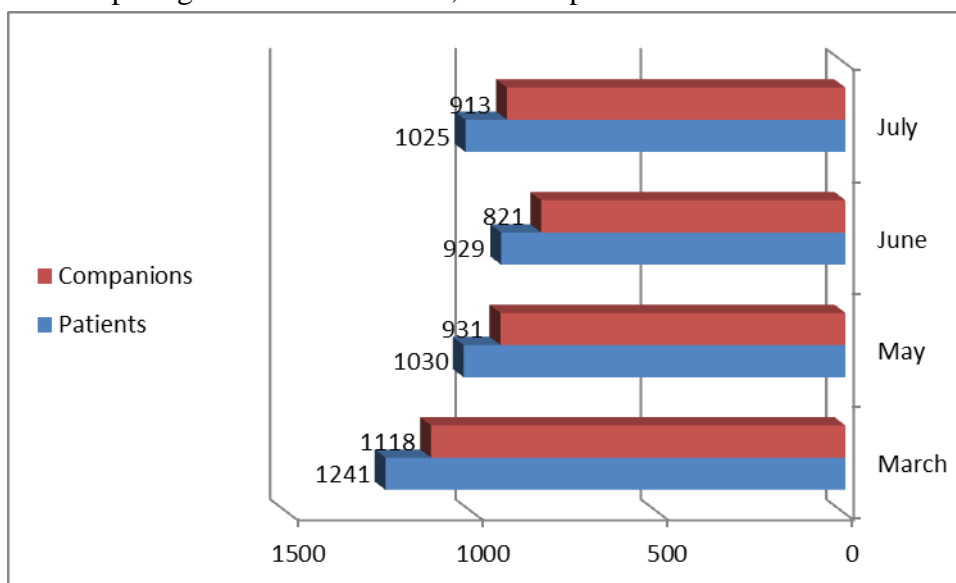


- **Ongoing crisis of cooking gas:** the Israeli authorities continued to decrease the entry of cooking gas into the Gaza Strip as only 6,444 tons of cooking gas were allowed; a daily average of 207.8 tons. According to the General Petroleum Corporation in Gaza (EGPC), this amount represents 59.3% of the actual daily needs of the population, which is 350 tons. As a result, people were forced to wait for a long time, exceeding 3 months, to refill half of a gas cylinder.



- **Restrictions on the Movement of Persons:**
  - **Patients:** During the reporting period, the Israeli authorities stationed at Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing obstructed the travel of dozens of patients referred for medical treatment in the Israeli hospitals or the West Bank under various pretexts, including security reasons, changing the companions, waiting for a new appointment and awaiting an Israeli reply following security interviews. In July, Israel allowed the entry of 1,025 patients and 913 companions. It should be mentioned that the number of patients allowed traveling monthly via Beit Hanoun Crossing represents only half of the number of patients who applied for permits to travel via the Crossing. In July, there was a decrease of 17.4% in the number of

patients allowed to travel via the Beit Hanoun Crossing comparing with March when 1,241 patients were allowed. Meanwhile, there was a decrease of 18.3% noticed in the number of companions comparing with March when 1,118 companions were allowed.



- It should be mentioned that according to the Coordination and Liaison Department in the Ministry of Health, the number of patients who applied for permits to travel via Beit Hanoun Crossing in 2016 was 26,280 applications; 16,277 were approved (61.9% of the total applications.)

#### Prisoners' Visits:

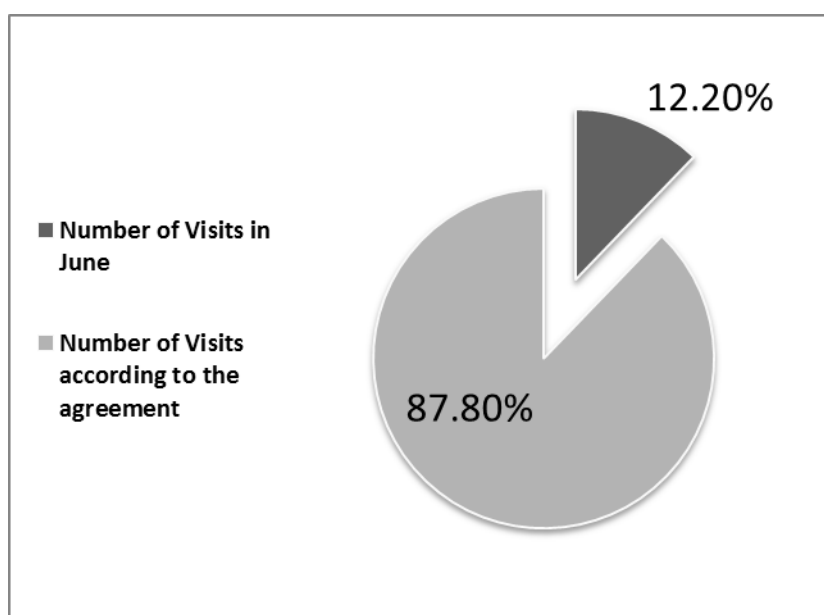
In July, the Israeli authorities allowed 149 family members of prisoners divided into 5 groups to visit 86 of their relatives in the Israeli prisons according to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza.

#### Family Visits to Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails in July 2017

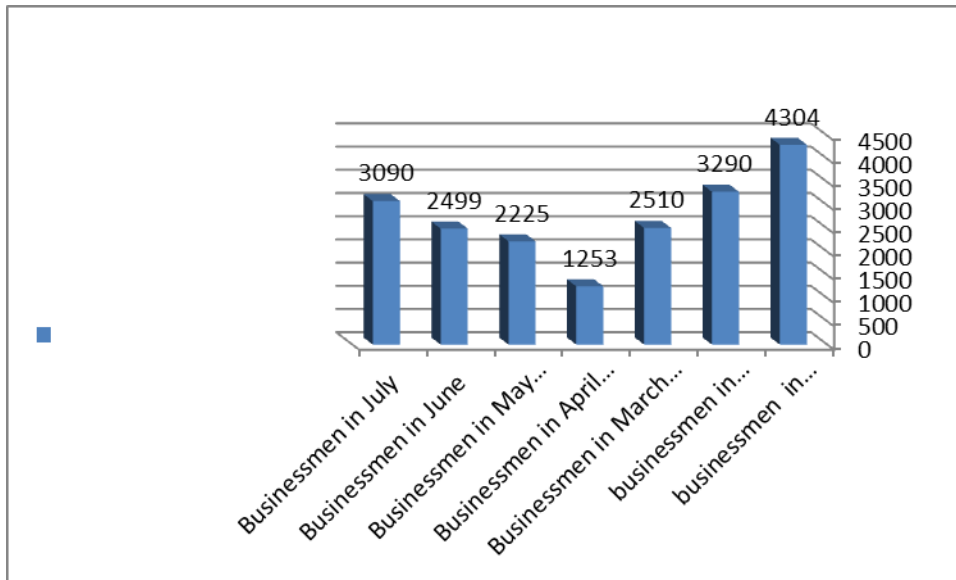
Day	Number of visitors	Number of children	Number of visited prisoners	Prison
03 July 2017	13	4	7	Rimon
10 July 2017	14	1	9	Eshel

17 July 2017	52	17	29	Nafha
24 July 2017	31	9	18	Rimon
31 July 2017	39	13	23	Nafha

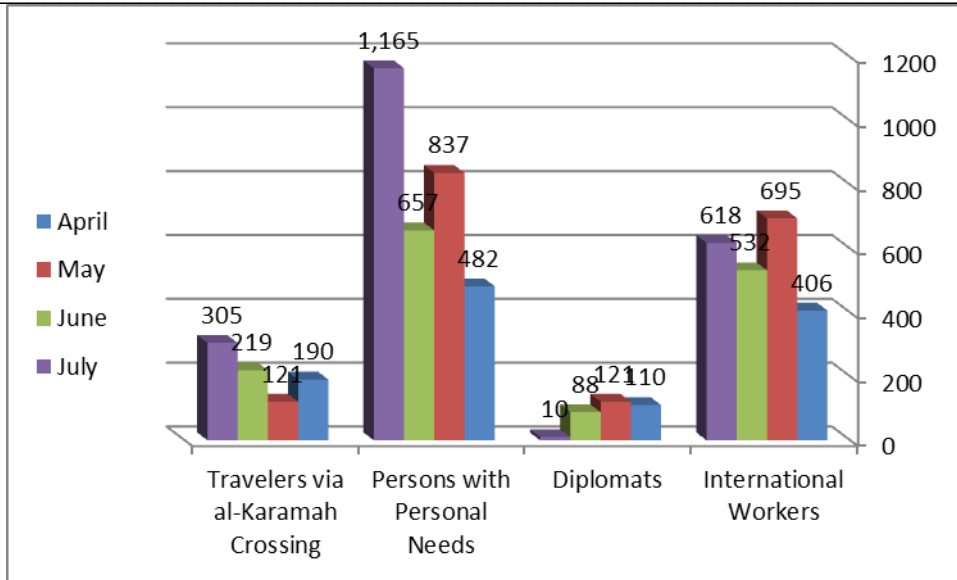
- The above table shows that the number of visitors is limited compared with the number of visits allowed under the prisoners' deal. According to the agreement, each prisoner has the right to two family visits a month. With 350 prisoners in Israeli prisons, the number of visits should reach 700 monthly. However, the Israeli forces only allowed 86 visits (12.2%). The same applies to the number of family members who are allowed to visit their relatives; the number of these members mounted to 149 in July whereas the number should be 1,400 persons in case each prisoner is visited by 2 members of his family twice a month (10.6%). The families were subjected to arbitrary practices, obstacles and immoral and degrading treatment.



- **Number of businessmen who are allowed to travel declined:** the Israeli authorities allowed 3,090 businessmen to travel via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing in June. This number increased comparing with the January at a rate of 28.2% when 4,304 businessmen were allowed to travel.



- **Other categories:** According to GACA, Israel allowed the entry of 618 international workers (a decline of 15.5% comparing with May when 732 international workers entered); 10 diplomats (a decline of 88.7% comparing with June when 88 were allowed and a decline of 92.4% comparing with May when 132 diplomats entered); 1,165 persons with personal needs; and 219 travelers via al-Karama (Allenby) crossing (increase of 17.8% comparing with May when 305 persons were allowed to travel). Following 6 month of banning elderly persons from performing prayers in al-Aqsa Mosque, 90 persons were allowed It should be mentioned that these statistics do not represent the number of persons allowed to enter as the permit holders are far less than the passing times due to passing many times via the crossing with the same permit in one month.
- **Worshippers Denied Access to Al-Aqsa Mosque:** the Israeli authorities prevented again the elderly worshippers from performing prayers in al-Aqsa Mosque after allowing limited numbers to perform prayers in the Mosque during Ramadan. This refutes the Israeli continued claims about easing the movement of the Gaza population.



▪ **Rafah International Crossing Point:**

During the reporting period, Rafah International Crossing Point closed in July (31 days) as since the beginning of 2017, it was open only for 10 days. According to the Ministry of Interior in Gaza, 20,000 persons registered to travel but unable to leave the Gaza Strip due to the ongoing closure of Rafah crossing. All of those are in desperate need for travel, including patients, whose medication is not available in the Gaza Strip, students studying in universities abroad, and those who have permanent residencies or visas to other countries in addition to thousands of civilians who want to travel but not registered due to closing the registration. This unveiled the reality of the situation in the Gaza Strip in light of the collective punishment policy and Israeli closure imposed on all the surrounding border crossings, especially Beit Hanoun Crossing, which is totally under the Israeli control.