



State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings

01 - 31 March 2022

For 15 years, the Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose illegal and inhuman closure on the Gaza Strip in March, leading to a catastrophic deterioration of the humanitarian conditions of 2 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, which is the most densely populated area in the world. The Israeli closure deepened the humanitarian and living crises of thousands of families in the Gaza Strip, as more than half of the Gaza population lives in poverty as the poverty rate reached 53%. Also, the Gaza unemployment rate reached 47% (i.e., 230,100 are unemployed), 74% of whom is among youth.¹ Meanwhile, more than 68.5% of the Gaza population suffer from food insecurity.²

Restrictions on Individuals' Movement:

The Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose tight restrictions on limited groups that were allowed passage after a thorough security check. Even though the Israeli occupation authorities declared they will allow patients' travel, they refused to respond to dozens of permit requests applied by the Health Ministry's Coordination and Liaison Department on behalf of patients with serious diseases, whose treatment is not available at the Gaza hospitals, and referred abroad for treatment in the hospitals in Israel and the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem.

Patients: In March, the Palestinian Ministry of Health decreased the number of referred patients to the extent possible and only referred patients of serious cases. However, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 583 patients out of 1,667 patients (i.e., 34.9% of the total permit applications), who were referred for treatment in Israeli hospitals or in the West Bank hospitals, including occupied East Jerusalem, and allowed the travel of 1,084 patients.

¹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Results on the Labor Force Survey for 2021, 15 February 2022.

² WFP Palestine Country Brief, September 2021: https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000132703/download/?_ga=2.21059519.525544524.1645352914-1455307423.1643703786



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The Israeli authorities rejected 12 applications for security reasons (0.72%); did not reply to 36 applications (2.16%); delayed replies (under review) to 504 permits (30.23%); and asked 2 patients to book a new appointment in a new hospital (0.12%).

Table no. (1): Statistics of the results of travel requests for treatment in March 2022, the General Authority for Civil Affairs³

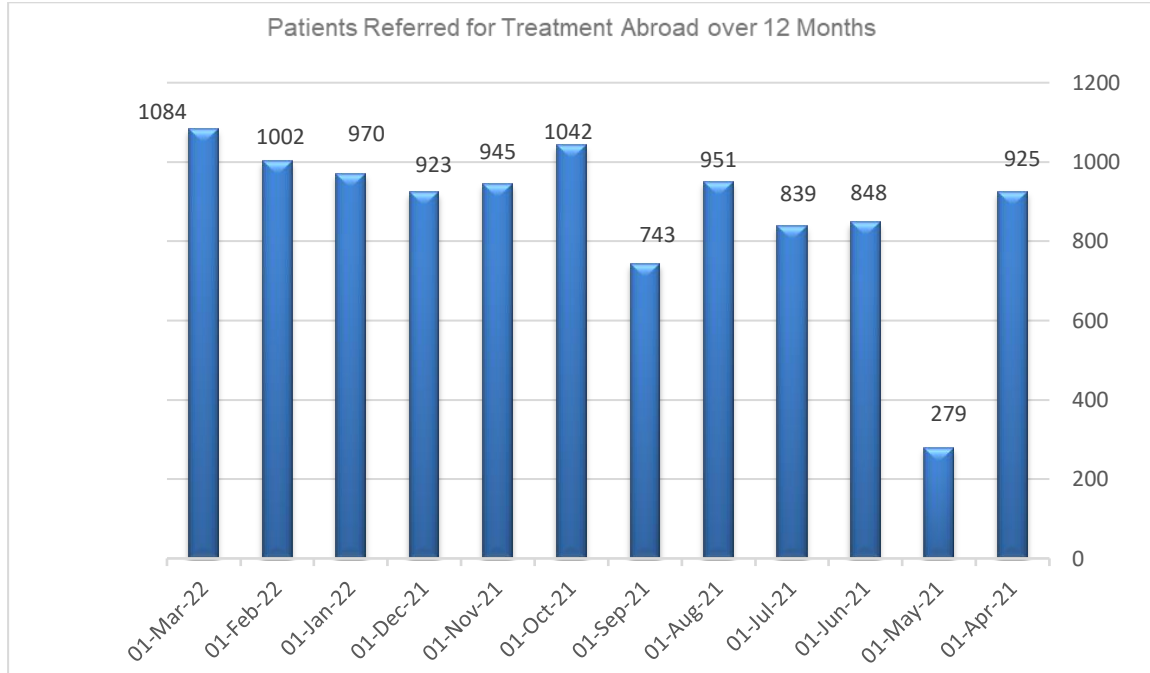
No.	Result	Number	Percentage
1.	Approved	1084	65.03%
2.	No reply	36	2.16%
3.	Under security check	504	30.23%
4.	Rejected	12	0.72%
5.	Change the companion	7	0.42%
6.	Waiting the interview	4	0.24%
7.	New appointment	2	0.12%
8.	New application	1	0.06%
9.	Relatives in breach of permit	2	0.12%
10.	Hospital cancellation	15	0.90%
11.	Total	1667	100%

³ GACA Data



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- Despite restrictions on the movement of persons and the continued ban on most of Gaza Strip residents' travel via Beit Hannoun "Erez" Crossing, the Israeli authorities has began for several months to increase travel permits granted to categories allowed to travel via the crossing, as they began issuing permits for businesspeople under the category of "merchants" and "economic needs."
- According to GACA March data, Israeli authorities allowed 31,768 Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip via "Erez" Crossing, including 1084 patients and 1047 for personal needs, 26,846 businesspeople, 280 businesspeople who hold "BMC" permits, 645 foreign international organizations' staff; 234 from Arabs holding Israeli ID cards; and 366 travelling via King Hussein Bridge. Meanwhile, 32,577 were allowed entry to the Gaza Strip, including 1076 patients and 970 persons for personal needs, 27,887 businesspeople, 204 businesspeople who hold "BMC" permits, 678 foreign

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غزة - شارع جمال عبد الناصر "الثلاثيني" - مجمع الرويا - الطابق 12 - مقابل جامعة الأزهر وبيجوار الهلال الأحمر - د. حيد عبد الشافي
ص. ب 1328 تليفون 2825893 / 08 2824776 فاكس 2835288

Gaza- Jamal 'Abdel Nasser "al-Thalathini" Street - Al-Roya Building- Floor 12 - Opposite to al-Azhar University - Near
Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) -Dr. Haidar 'Abdel Shafi
PO Box 1328 Tel/: 08 - 2824776 / 2825893 Fax 2835288 E-mail: pchr@pchrgaza.org - Web page: www.pchrgaza.org



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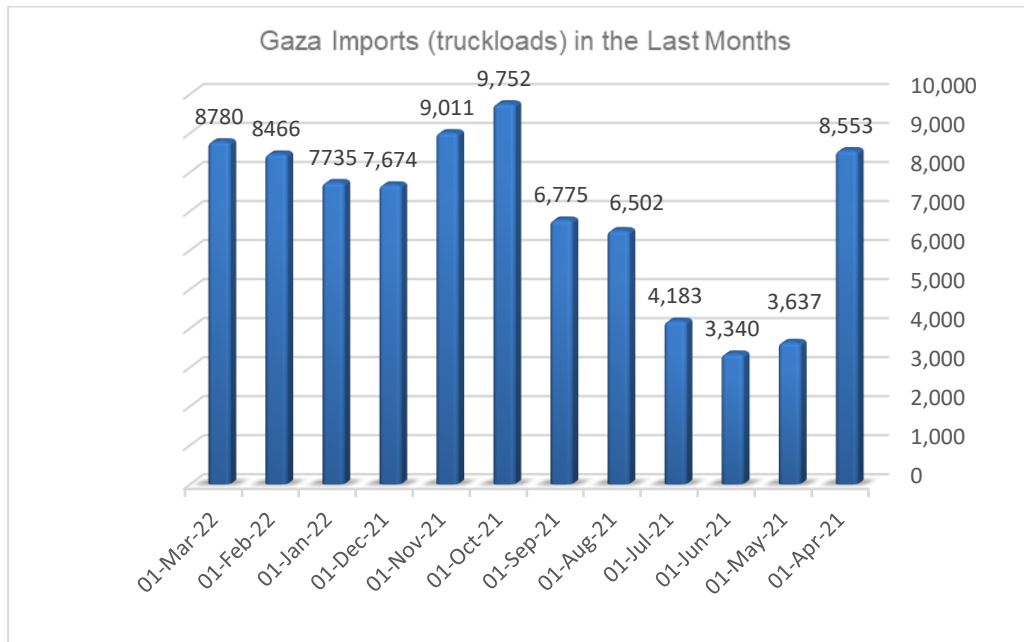
international organizations' staff, 316 King Hussein Bridge, 231 Arabs holding Israeli ID cards, and 6 released prisoners, and 7 persons who were detained within the Gaza sea or the border area.

- Prisoners' Visits: In March, the Israeli authorities allowed (37) members of Palestinian families to visit their sons in the Israeli jails after they were deprived of visitation rights for 2 years. On contrast, the Israeli authorities continue to prevent dozens of families from visiting their sons in Israeli prisons. This violates the right of detainees to be in contact with their families through family visits, which is a fundamental right under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, under which Article 116 says that every internee shall be allowed to receive visitors, especially near relatives, at regular intervals and as frequently as Possible, particularly in cases of death or serious illness of relatives. In the latest statistics, there is a total of 210 prisoners, from the Gaza Strip, detained in the Israeli jails, according to the Palestinian Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners Affairs Commission.

Restrictions on Movement of Goods

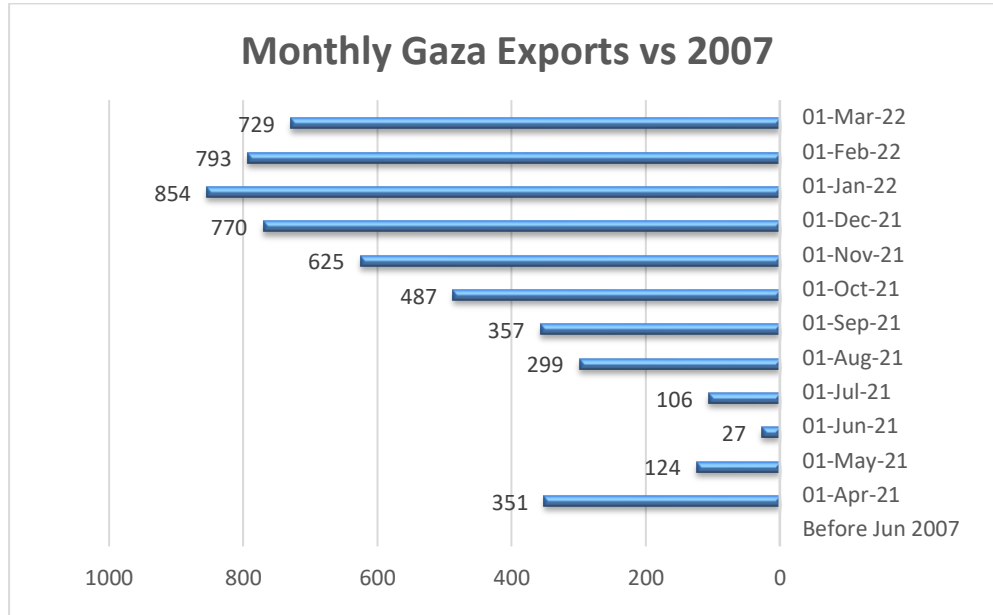
- The Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the list of items classified as "dual-use." The dual-use items include 62 types and hundreds of goods and commodities that are essential to the life of the population. Imposing these restrictions caused infrastructure, economy, healthcare, and education to deteriorate severely. These items include communications equipment, pumps, big generators iron bars, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding rods, various types of wood, UPS devices that protect the electric devices from breaking down when the electricity suddenly cuts off, X-ray machines, cranes and heavy vehicles, elevators, types of batteries and several types of fertilizers.

- Israel maintained tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip. In March, they allowed the entry of 8780 truckloads via "Karem Shalom" border crossing, including 436 humanitarian aid truckloads, 482 fuel trucks and 7862 truckloads of goods for the private sector as reported by the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza.
- During the reporting period, 2460 truckloads entered via Rafah Crossing, including 613 fuel truckloads and 1847 truckloads of goods for the private sector.



- **Gaza Strip exports:** Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip exports. However, in a limited exception, they allowed the export of very limited types of goods; most of which are exported to the West Bank and the rest are exported to Israel and other countries. In March, the Israeli authorities allowed the export of 729 truckloads (401 to the West Bank, 312 to Israel, and 16 truckloads abroad) according to the Ministry of National Economy. Those truckloads included agricultural products, fish, furniture, animal skin, aluminum scrap, clothes, and furniture. The

exports during the reporting period constitute only 16.2% of Gaza's total monthly exports before closure was imposed in June 2007 (4500 truckloads/month).



• **Movement at Rafah Border Crossing:** According to the Crossing and Borders Authority in Gaza, in March, 11,714 persons traveled from the Gaza Strip while 11,646 persons returned to the Strip. Moreover, the Egyptian authorities denied travel of 827 persons. Travelers returning to the Gaza Strip via Rafah Crossing suffer from prolonged, recurrent, and unjustified searches.

Table No. (2): individuals' movement at Rafah Crossing in December 2021, the Crossing and Borders Authority

Type	Departures	Arrivals	Denied Travel
Egyptian nationals	338	342	44
Visas	367	376	17
Residence permits	1739	1474	102
Students	391	464	30
Patients	2627	2888	261



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Visitors	4311	5401	369
Foreigners	162	168	0
Umrah performers	1779	533	4
Total	11714	11646	827