



المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01 – 31 May 2022

For 15 years, the Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose illegal and inhuman closure on the Gaza Strip. In May, they used the security situation as a pretext to impose collective punishment measures against Palestinians and to tighten the closure on the Strip, as they closed Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing for 13 days to limited groups that were allowed passage via the crossing. As for commercial crossings, the Israeli occupation authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of 62 items classified as "dual-use items" that include hundreds of major goods and essential materials. This deteriorates the social and economic rights in the Gaza Strip.

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. Similarly, the Israeli restrictions on items that can be carried by travelers via Erez remained in place, primarily no electronic and electric devices, food, and cosmetics are allowed, as well as wheeled luggage. It is worth noting that the Israeli occupation authorities closed Erez Crossing from 03 to 15 May 2022.

- According to the General Authority for Civil Affairs' May data, Israeli authorities allowed 24,881 Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip via "Erez" Crossing, while 19,157 were allowed reentry. It should be noted that the Israeli authorities allow approximately 12,000 Palestinian workers who hold permits under the businesspersons or economic needs criteria to enter Israel. This allows Israeli employers to hire Palestinian workforce without obligations to these workers under law.

Group	Exit	Entry
Merchants	20561	15128
Businesspersons	138	88
Personal needs	514	476
Pateints	1006	957
Interntional organizations	513	594
Arab 1948	252	183
King Hussainn Bridge Travel	294	204
Chriстан Palestinians Easter Permit	349	443
Prisoners' visits	44	44
Palestinains arrested at border areas or sea	0	9

Prisoners' Visits: In May, the Israeli authorities allowed 44 members of Palestinian families to visit their sons in the Israeli jails after they were deprived of visitation rights for 2 years. On contrast,



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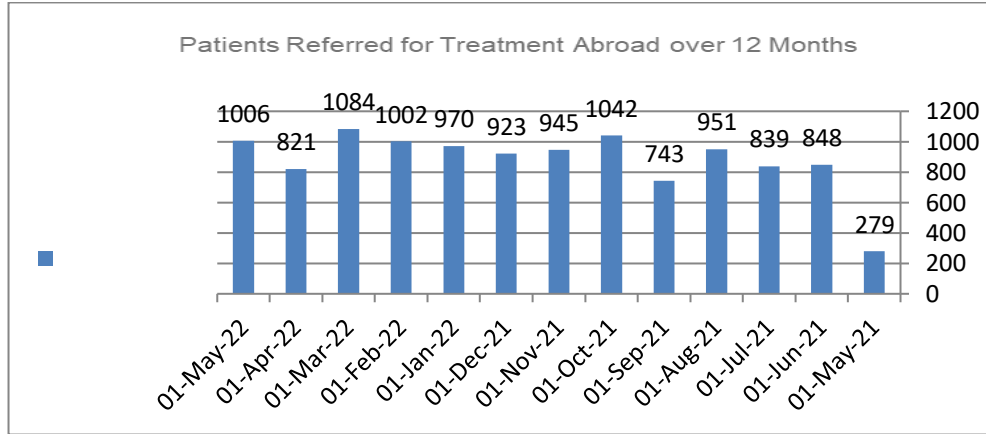
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the Israeli authorities continue to prevent dozens of families from visiting their sons in Israeli prisons. This violates the right of detainees to be in contact with their families through family visits, which is a fundamental right under international 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.

Restrictions on patients' travel: in May, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 692 patients out of 1,698 patients (i.e., 40.7% 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 1006 patients. Despite the Israeli authorities claim that they would allow patients' travel via crossings, they refused to respond to dozens of requests filed by the Coordination Department at the Ministry of Health for patients with critical illnesses, whose treatment is unavailable in the Gaza Strip, and were referred for treatment in Israeli hospitals or in the West Bank hospitals, including occupied East Jerusalem. In May, the Israeli authorities rejected 9 applications for security reasons; did not reply to 42 applications; delayed replies (under review) to 563 permits and asked 12 patients to change companions, and required 2 others to book a new appointment at the hospital. Additionally, 7 patients were required to present new medical reports.

Table no. (2): Statistics of the results of travel requests for treatment in May 2022, the General Authority for Civil Affairs

Result	Number	Percentage
No reply	42	2.47%
Under study	563	33.16%
Approved	1006	59.25%
Rejected	9	0.53%
Change the companion	12	0.71%
Treatment available locally	26	0.24%
New appointment	2	0.12%
New application	4	0.24%
Relatives in breach of permit	1	0.06%
Hospital cancellation	21	1.24%
Incompliant	1	0.06%
New medical report	7	0.41%
Total	1698	100%



Restrictions on Movement of Goods

The Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the list of items classified as "dual-use."¹ 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

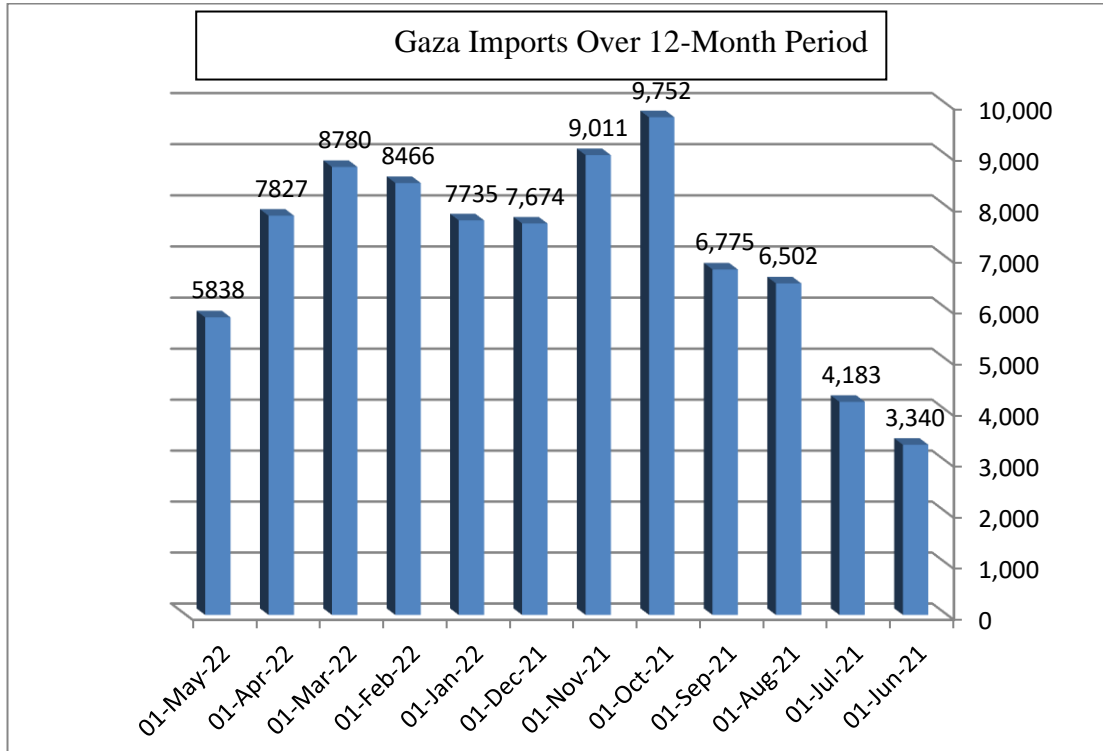
• Gaza Strip Imports:

Israel maintained tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip. In May, they allowed the entry of 5838 truckloads via "Karem Shalom" border crossing, including 213 humanitarian aid truckloads, 479 fuel trucks and 5146 truckloads of goods for the private sector as reported by the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza. During the reporting period, 1899 truckloads entered via Rafah Crossing, including 446 fuel truckloads and 1453 truckloads of goods for the private sector.

¹ Israeli occupation claims that these materials although used for civilian purposes, they can be used to advance combat capabilities of Palestinian armed groups



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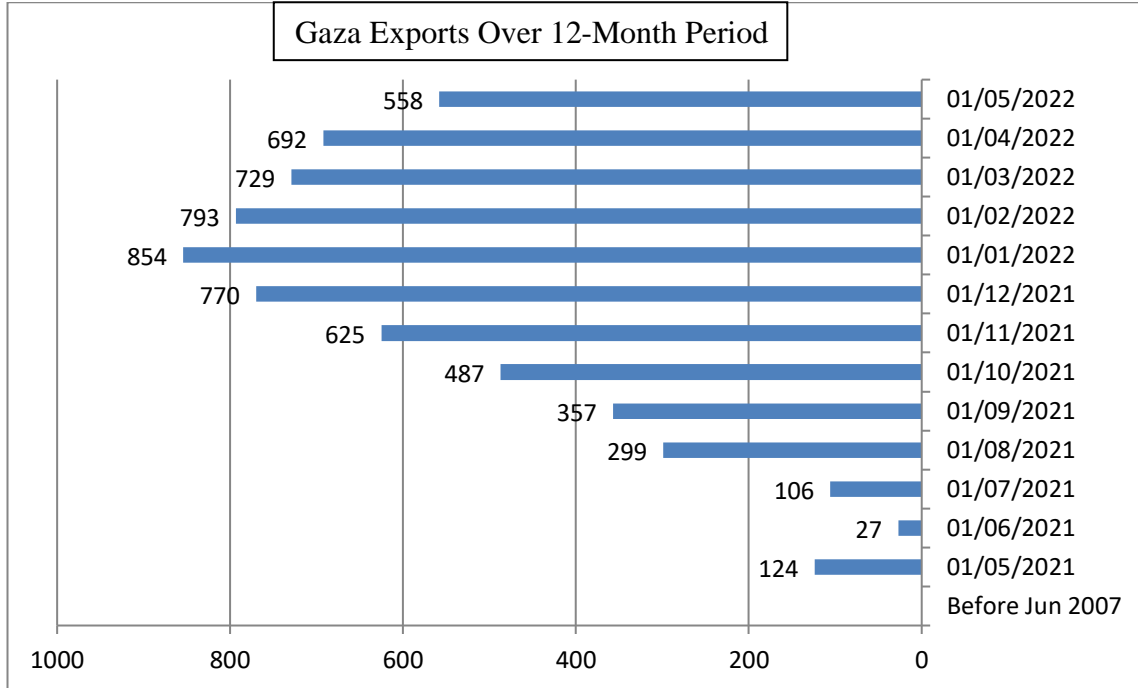


Gaza Strip exports: This month, the Israeli authorities allowed the export of 558 truckloads (278 to the West Bank, 280 to Israel, and 13 truckloads abroad) according to the Ministry of National Economy. Those truckloads included agricultural products, fish, furniture, animal skin, aluminum scrap, clothes, and furniture. The exports during the reporting period constitute only 15.37% of Gaza's total monthly exports before closure was imposed in June 2007 (4500 truckloads/month).



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Movement at Rafah Border Crossing: According to the Crossing and Borders Authority in Gaza, in May, 9871 persons traveled from the Gaza Strip while 6,639 persons returned to the Strip. Moreover, the Egyptian authorities denied travel of 662 persons. Travelers returning to the Gaza Strip via Rafah Crossing suffer from prolonged, recurrent, and unjustified searches.

Table No. (3): individuals' movement at Rafah Crossing in May 2022, the Crossing and Borders Authority

Type	Departures	Arrivals	Denied Travel
Egyptian nationals	292	118	14
Visas	425	246	17
Residence permits	2031	1095	102
Students	523	175	50
Patients	2656	1012	223
Visitors	3837	2795	256
Foreigners	105	160	0
Umrah performers	2	1038	0
Total	9871	6639	662



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