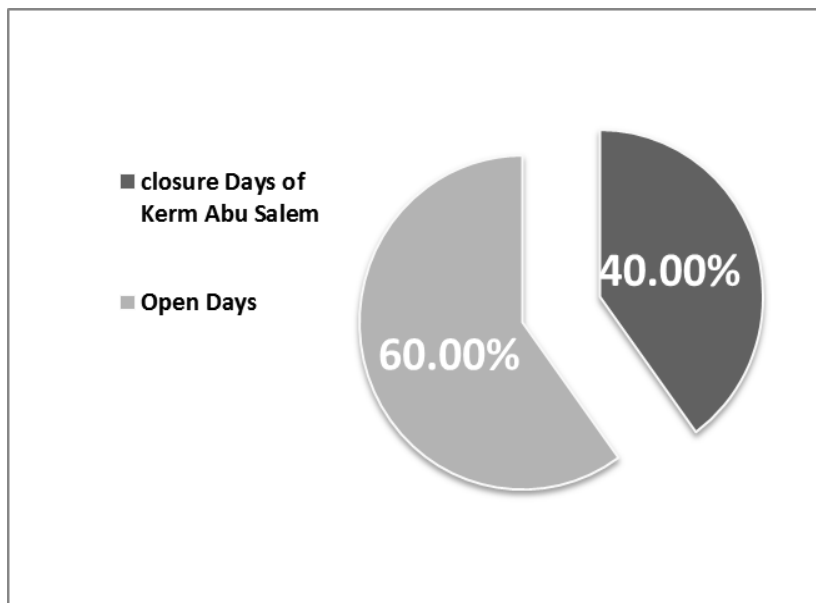


State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01-30 April 2017

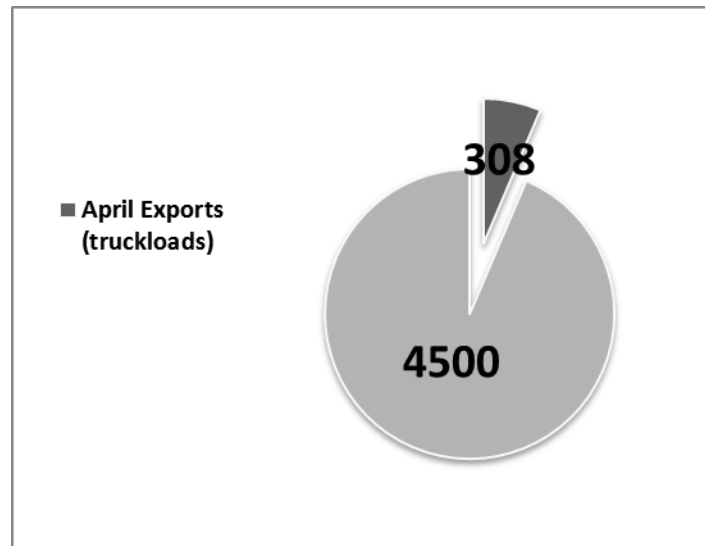
The Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 10th consecutive year continues, and in April the crossings surrounding the Gaza Strip witnessed further restrictions, refuting the Israeli claims of easing the closure.

- **Restrictions on Goods Movement**
 - **Closure of the sole commercial crossing: the Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened**

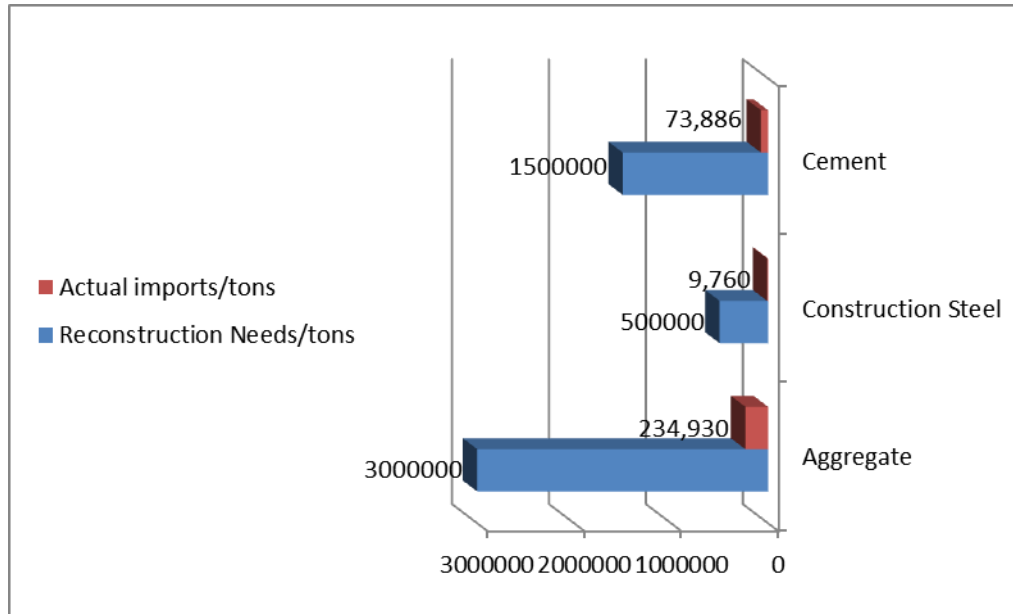
restrictions on the entry of 400 types of goods into the Gaza Strip, most of them are of basic goods and raw materials. The movement of goods from and into the Gaza Strip faced many obstacles, including closure of the sole commercial crossing for 12 days (40 % of the total period). During the days it was open, the Israeli authorities allowed the entry of 16,198 truckloads; an average of 540 truckloads daily. However, the number of truckloads allowed to enter into the Gaza Strip was 18,617, an average of 600 truckloads.



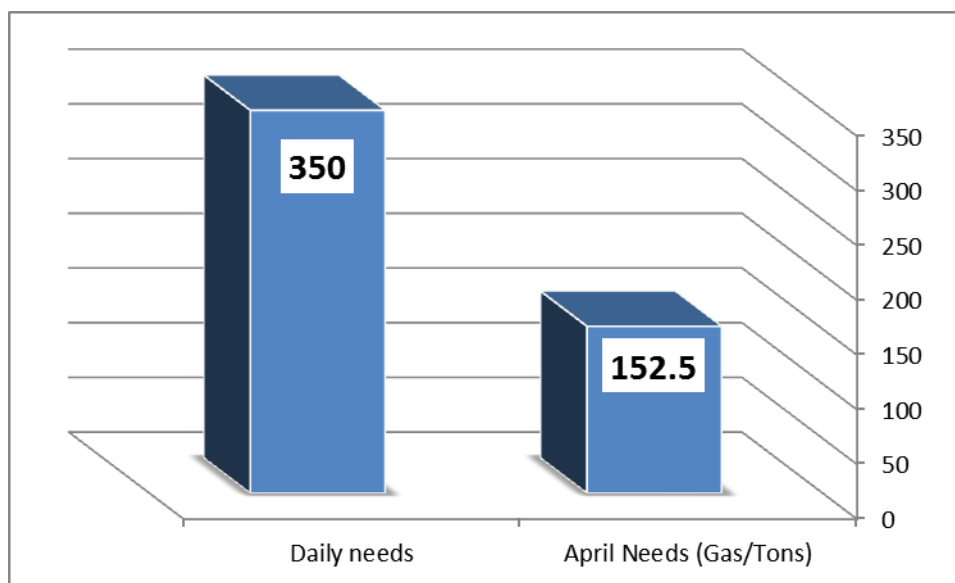
- **Continued ban on exports:** the Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza exports. In a limited exception, they allowed 308 truckloads for exportation in March; most of which were agricultural. They allowed 304 agricultural truckloads and 27 truckloads of fish, furniture, aluminum scrap, clothes and spices. The rate of Gaza Strip exports in March constituted only 7.2% 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 73,886 tons of cement; 9,760 construction steel; and 234,930 construction aggregates (consecutively constituting 4.9 %; 1.9% and 7.8% of the total needs for the Gaza reconstruction.) \

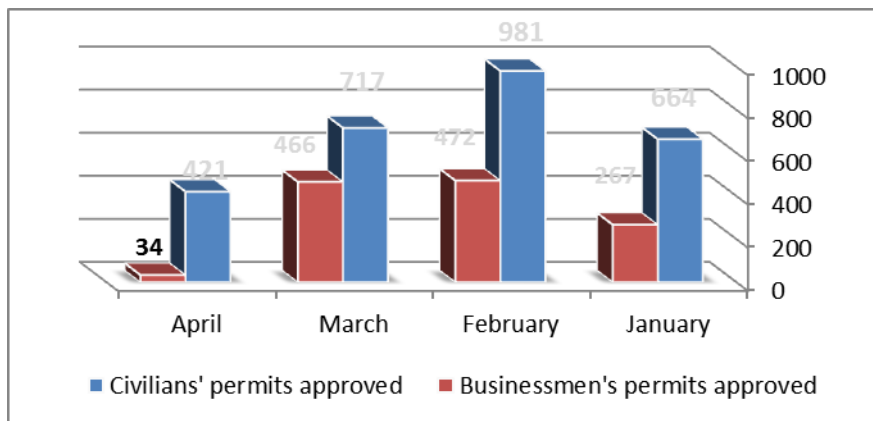


- **Ongoing crisis of cooking gas:** the Israeli authorities continued to decrease the entry of cooking gas into the Gaza Strip as only 4,577 tons of cooking gas were allowed; a daily average of 152.5 tons. According to the General Petroleum Corporation in Gaza (EGPC), this amount represents 43.5% of 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.

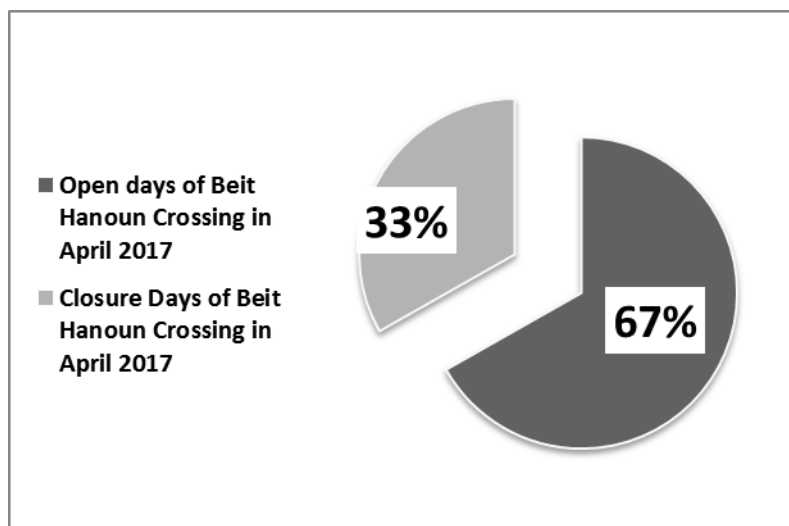


- **Restrictions on the Movement of Persons:**

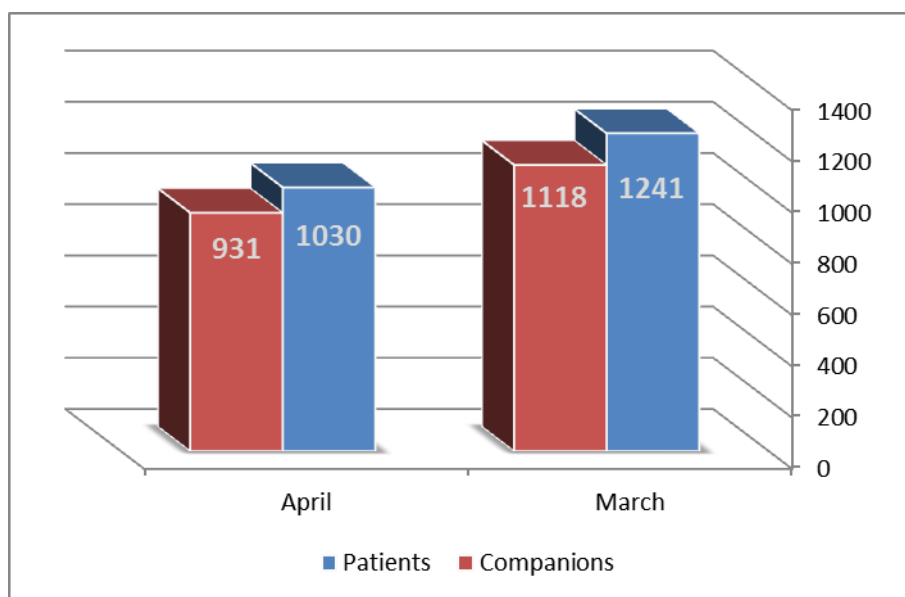
- The Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the Gaza population. The rate of rejected permits to cross the Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing increased, so the limited categories that were allowed to travel through the crossing decreased. According to the General Authority of Civil Affairs (GACA), in April, 421 permits were approved Comparing with 717 permits in March and 981 in February. In addition, 664 permits were approved in January. Regarding businessmen's permits, 34 permits were approved in April comparing with 466 in March and 472 in February. Moreover, 267 permits for businessmen were approved in January.



- According to GACA in April, 3,934 Palestinians and 506 foreigners were allowed to leave the Gaza Strip while 3,557 Palestinians and 458 foreigners were allowed to enter. A decrease of 11% was noticed in April comparing with March when 4,413 Palestinians were allowed to leave while there was a decrease of 34.3% in the number of foreigners leaving the Gaza Strip as they were 697. Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing was closed for 10 days (4 days of which were partially open only for urgent cases); constituting 33.3% of the month.



- **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 April, Israel allowed the entry of 1,030 patients and 931 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 April, there was a decrease of 17% 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 16.7% 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.)

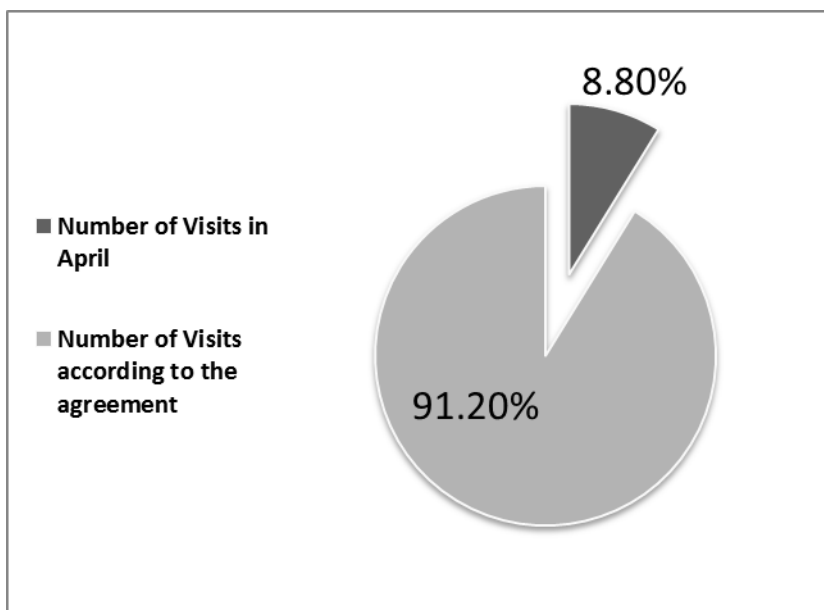
- **Prisoners' Visits:**

In April, The Israeli authorities allowed 111 family members of prisoners divided into 2 groups to visit 62 of their relatives in the Israeli prisons according to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza. On Monday, 10 April 2017, and Monday, 17 April 2017, the Israeli authorities banned the prisoners' families from visiting their sons under the pretext of closing the Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing due to the Jewish holidays. A decline of 27.4% was noticed in April in the number of prisoners' families who were allowed to visit comparing with March when 153 relatives were allowed to visit.

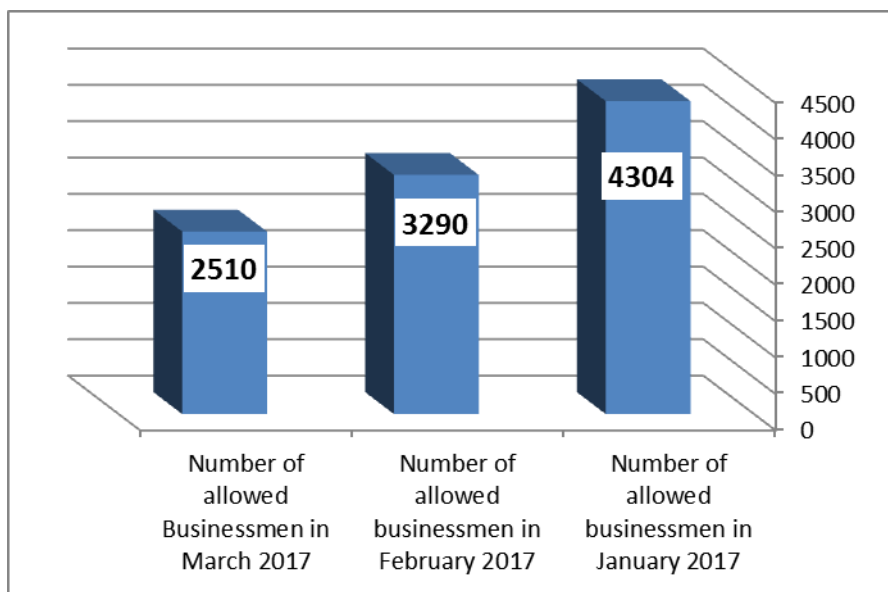
Family Visits to Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails in April 2017

Day	Number of visitors	Number of children	Number of visited prisoners	Prison
03 April 2017	44	16	23	Ramon
24 April 2017	67	18	39	Nafha

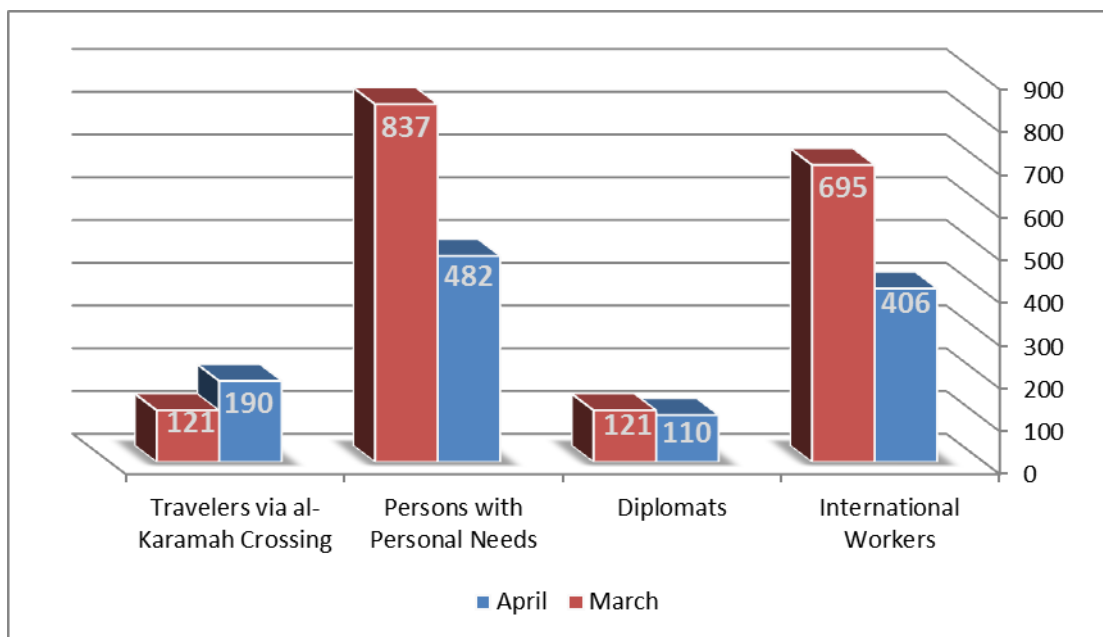
- The above table shows that the number of visitors is limited compared with the number of visits allowed under the prisoners' deal. According to the agreement, each prisoner has the right to two family visits a month. With 350 prisoners in Israeli prisons, the number of visits should reach 700 monthly. However, the Israeli forces only allowed 62 visits (8.8%). The same applies to the number of family members who are allowed to visit their relatives; the number of these members mounted to 111 in April whereas the number should be 1,400 persons in case each prisoner is visited by 2 members of his family twice a month (7.9%). The families were subjected to arbitrary practices, obstacles and immoral and degrading treatment.



- **The Israeli authorities continued to prevent worshippers from performing prayers in al-Aqsa Mosque:** for the fifth month consecutively, Gaza elderly people were prevented from performing prayers in al-Aqsa Mosque. This refutes the Israeli authorities' persistent claims of easing the movement of Palestinians residing in the Gaza Strip.
- **Number of businessmen who are allowed to travel declined:** the Israeli authorities allowed 1,253 businessmen to travel via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing in April. This number decreased from last month with a rate of 49.9% as 3,290 businessmen were allowed in addition to a decline of 61.9% comparing with February when 3,290 were allowed and 70.8% comparing with January when 4,304 were allowed.



- **Other categories:** According to GACA, Israel allowed the entry of 405 international workers (a decrease of 41.5% comparing with March when 695 international workers entered); 482 persons with personal needs (42.2% decrease comparing with March when 873 entered); 110 diplomats (a decrease of 9% comparing with March when 1201 were allowed) and 190 travelers via al-Karama (Allenby) crossing. 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.



- **Rafah International Crossing Point:**

During the reporting period, Rafah International Crossing Point was totally closed in April (30 days) a result of the Egyptian internal situation and the deteriorating security situation in north Sinai. 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.