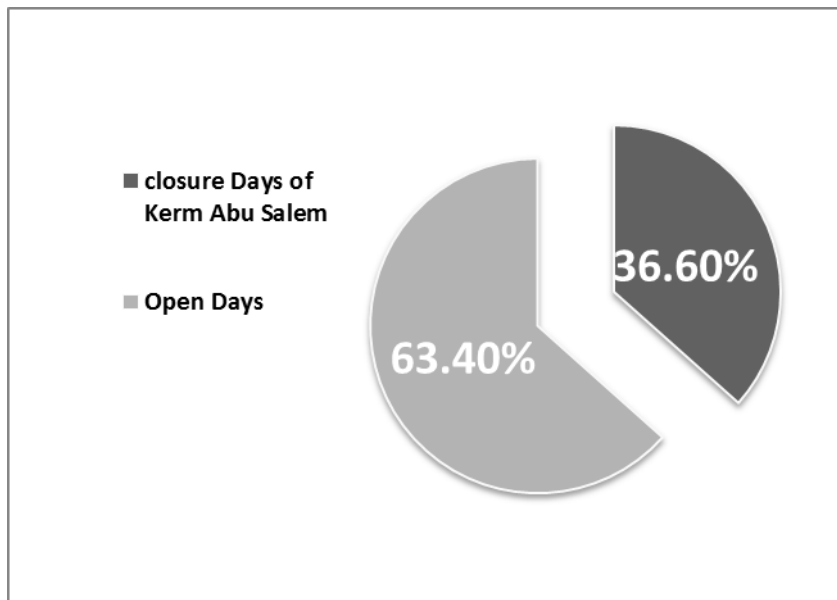


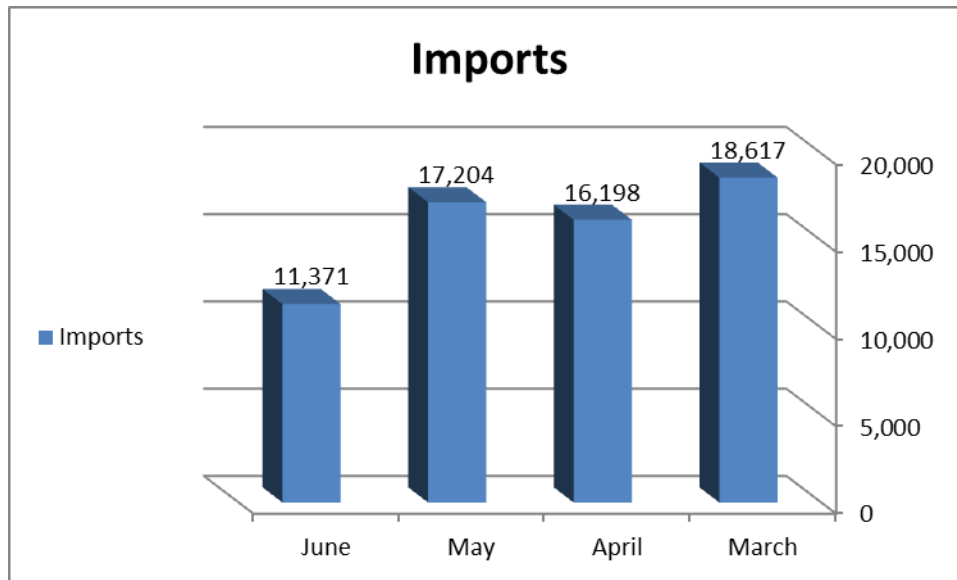
## State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01-30 June 2017

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

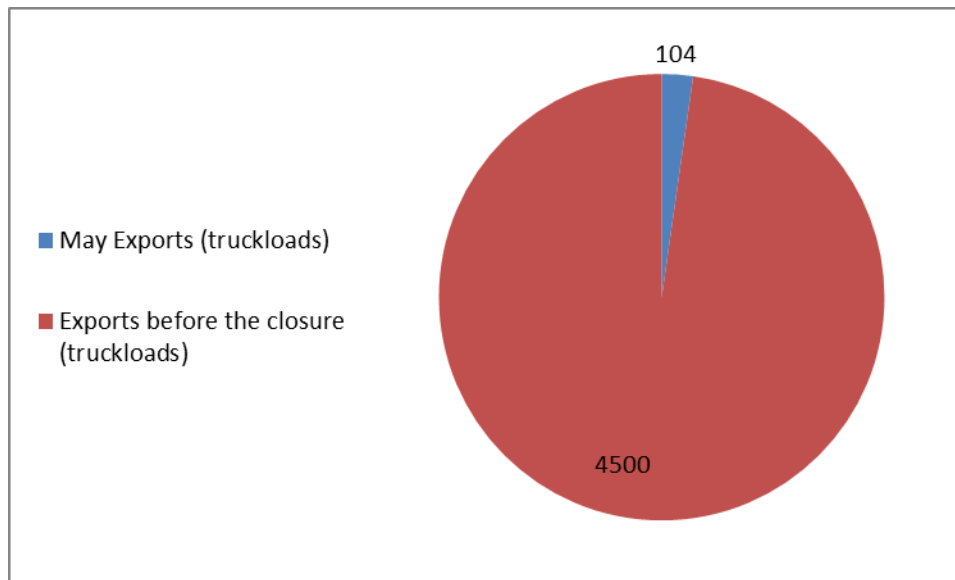
- **Restrictions on Goods Movement**

During the reporting period, Israel closed Karm Abu Salem, which is the sole commercial crossing, for 11 days (36.6 % of the total period). During the days it was open, the Israeli authorities allowed the entry of 11,371 truckloads; an average of 379 truckloads daily. The imports in June increased at a rate of 33.9% compared with May. The number of truckloads allowed to enter into the Gaza Strip in May was 17,204 truckloads. Moreover, the imports recorded a decline in April at a rate of 29.7%, during which the number of truckloads allowed to enter into the Gaza Strip was truckloads16,198 and a decline of 38.9% comparing with March when 18,617 truckloads.

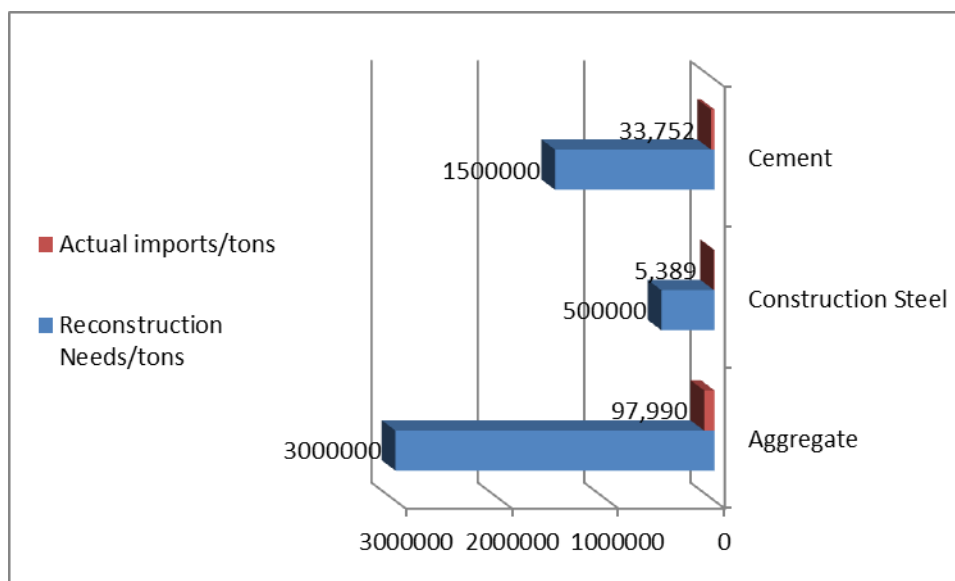




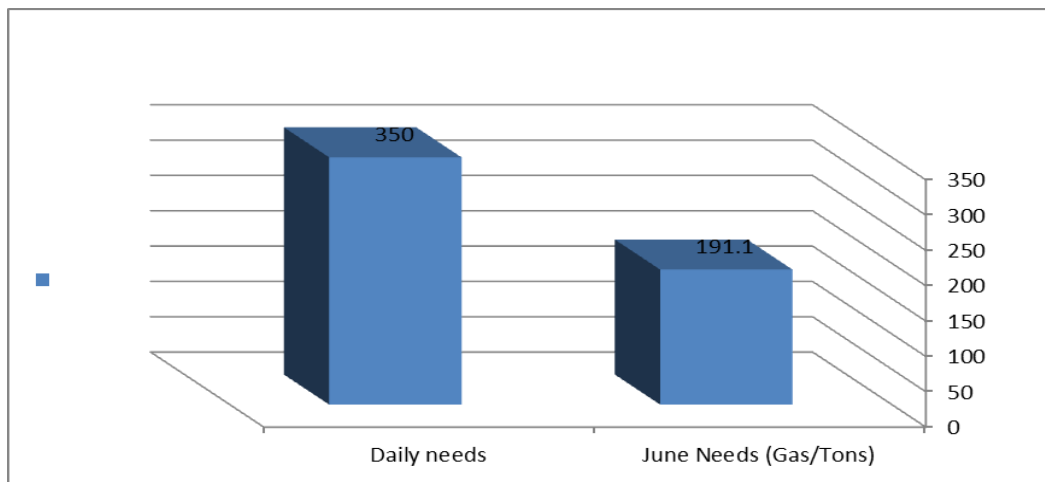
- Ongoing Restrictions on imports:** the Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of 400 types of goods into the Gaza Strip, most of them are of basic goods and raw materials claiming that they are "dual-use materials". The Israeli forces put hundreds of basic goods 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 104 truckloads for exportation in June; most of which were agricultural. They allowed 91 agricultural truckloads and 13 others of fish, furniture, aluminum scrap, clothes and spices. The rate of Gaza Strip exports in June declined at 55.1% compared with May during which the Israeli forces allowed the exportation of 232 truckloads. Moreover, the exports' rate declined at 66.2% comparing with April when 308 truckloads were exported. The exports in June equal only 2.3% 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 33,752 tons of cement; 5,389 tons of construction steel; and 97,990 tons of construction aggregates (consecutively constituting 2.2%; 1% and 3.2% of the total needs for the Gaza reconstruction.)

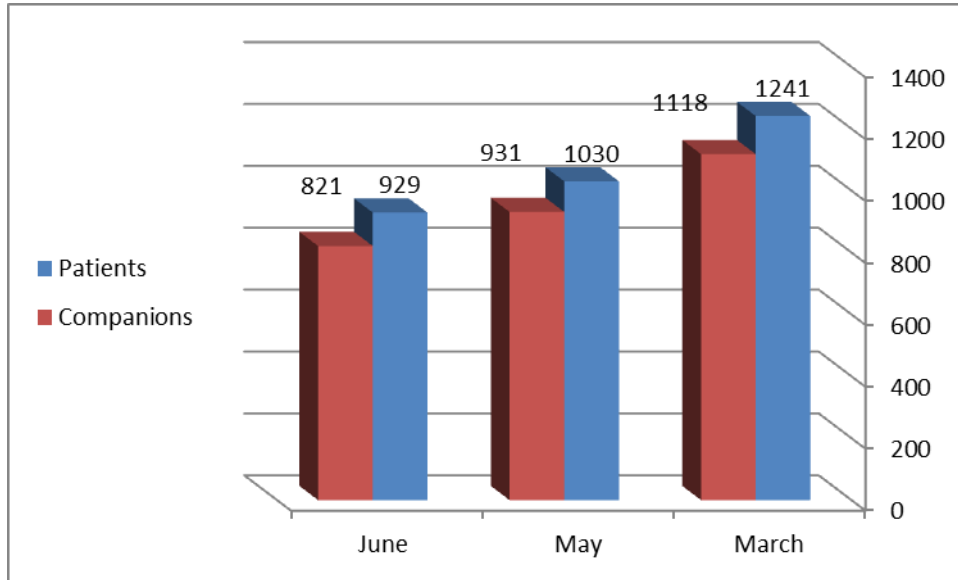


- **Ongoing crisis of cooking gas:** the Israeli authorities continued to decrease the entry of cooking gas into the Gaza Strip as only 5,733 tons of cooking gas were allowed; a daily average of 191.1 tons. According to the General Petroleum Corporation in Gaza (EGPC), this amount represents 54.6% of 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 June, Israel allowed the entry of 929 patients and 821 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 June, there was a decrease of 10% in the number of patients allowed to travel via the Beit Hanoun Crossing comparing with May when 1,033 patients were allowed and a decrease of 26.1% comparing with March when 1,241 patients were allowed. Meanwhile, there was a decrease of 12.4% noticed in the number of companions comparing with May when 938 companions were allowed while there was a decrease of 28.9% comparing with March when 1,118 patients 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.)

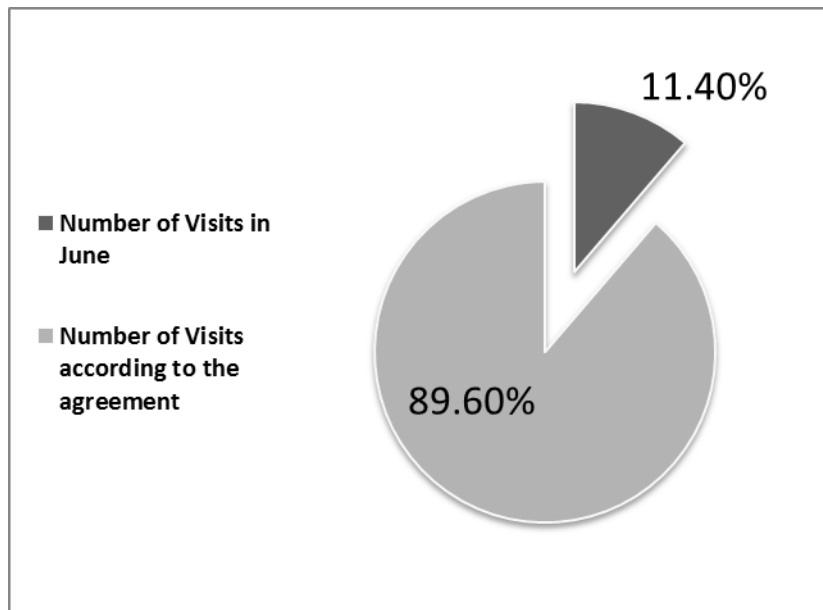
#### • Prisoners' Visits:

In June, the Israeli authorities allowed 131 family members of prisoners divided into 3 groups to visit 80 of their relatives in the Israeli prisons according to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza.

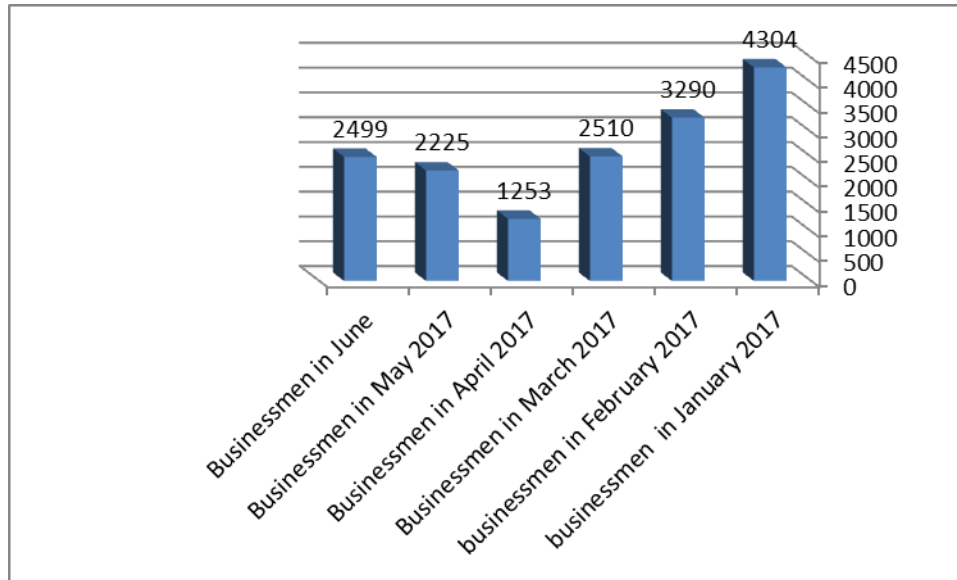
#### Family Visits to Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails in June 2017

Day	Number of visitors	Number of children	Number of visited prisoners	Prison
05 June 2017	53	19	29	Rimon
19 June 2017	23	5	15	Nafha
26 June 2017	55	36	7	Nafha

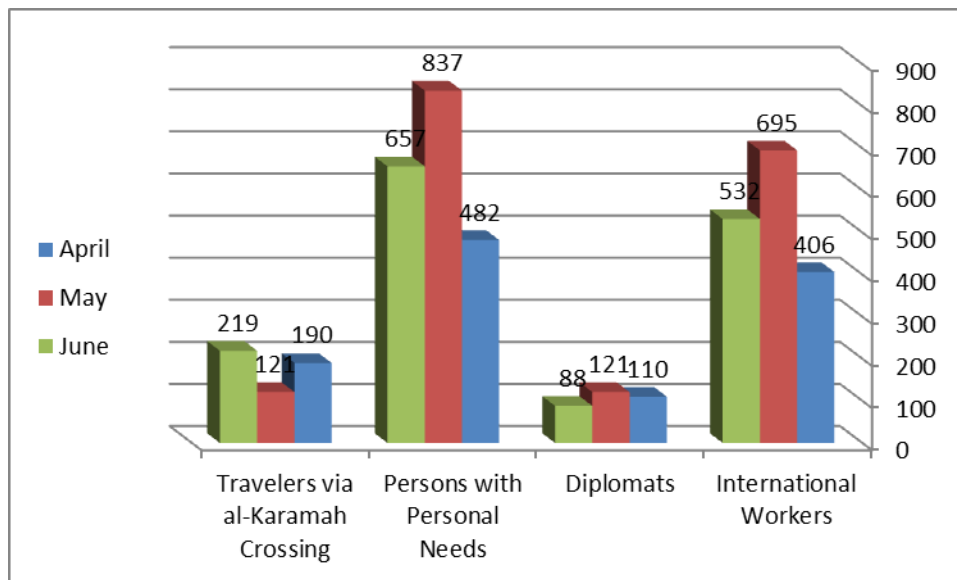
- The above table shows that the number of visitors is limited compared with the number of visits allowed under the prisoners' deal. According to the agreement, each prisoner has the right to two family visits a month. With 350 prisoners in Israeli prisons, the number of visits should reach 700 monthly. However, the Israeli forces only allowed 103 visits (14.7%). The same applies to the number of family members who are allowed to visit their relatives; the number of these members mounted to 131 in June whereas the number should be 1,400 persons in case each prisoner is visited by 2 members of his family twice a month (9.3%). 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 2,499 businessmen to travel via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing in June. This number increased comparing with the last month at a rate of 10.9% as 2,225 businessmen were allowed but an increase of 50.1% compared with April when 1,253 were allowed. The rate of businessmen allowed recorded a decline of 1% comparing with March when 2,510 businessmen were allowed and decline of 24% comparing with February when 3,290 were allowed. Moreover, the rate decreased at a rate of 41.9% comparing with January as 4,304 businessmen were allowed to travel.



- **Other categories:** According to GACA, Israel allowed the entry of 532 international workers (a decline of 27.3% comparing with May when 732 international workers entered); 88 diplomats (a decline of 33.3% comparing with May when 132 were allowed); 657 persons with personal needs (9.1% decline comparing with May when 743 entered); and 219 travelers via al-Karama (Allenby) crossing (increase of 17.8% comparing with May when 180 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.



- Rafah International Crossing Point:**

During the reporting period, Rafah International Crossing Point closed in June (30 days) as since the beginning of 2017, it was open 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.