



المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01 – 30 November 2021

For 15 years, the Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose closure on the Gaza Strip, a flagrant violation of the international humanitarian law, as Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits collective punishment against civilians. The Israeli closure deepened the humanitarian and living crises in the Gaza Strip, as the Gaza unemployment rate reached 45% (i.e. 217,100 are unemployed), 63% of which is among youth.¹ Also, more than half of the Gaza population lives in poverty as the poverty rate reached 53% according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, more than 62.2% of the Gaza population who suffer from food insecurity according to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA.)

As for commercial crossings, although the occupation authorities allowed the entry of construction materials not within the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM),² they maintain unprecedented restrictions on the import of thousands of goods into the Gaza Strip, including construction materials necessary for the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the latest Israeli offensive, and the equipment and materials needed to repair the massive damage caused to the water and sanitation facilities and electricity networks by the offensive. Moreover, IOF continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of 62 items classified as "dual-use items"³ that include hundreds of major goods and essential materials, which are essential for the population. The ban on the entry exacerbates the Gaza Strip's crises across various sectors, including infrastructure, economic, health, and education.

As for 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, the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, and abroad.

¹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Results on the Labor Force Survey, Second Quarter (April - June 2021) Round . 8/8/2021.

² An international monitoring mechanism agreed upon by the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli government, and the United Nations. GRM entails restrictions on the import of items classified by Israel as "dual-use" to the Gaza Strip for the reconstruction purposes following the Israeli military offensive on Gaza in 2014.

³ Israeli authorities claim that these items, although used for civilian purposes, could be used to develop the combat capabilities of the Palestinian armed groups.



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Restrictions on the Movement of Persons:

- Patients: In November, Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 683 patients out of 1,628 patients (i.e. 41.9% of the total permit applications), who were referred for treatment in Israeli hospitals or in the West Bank hospitals, including occupied East Jerusalem.

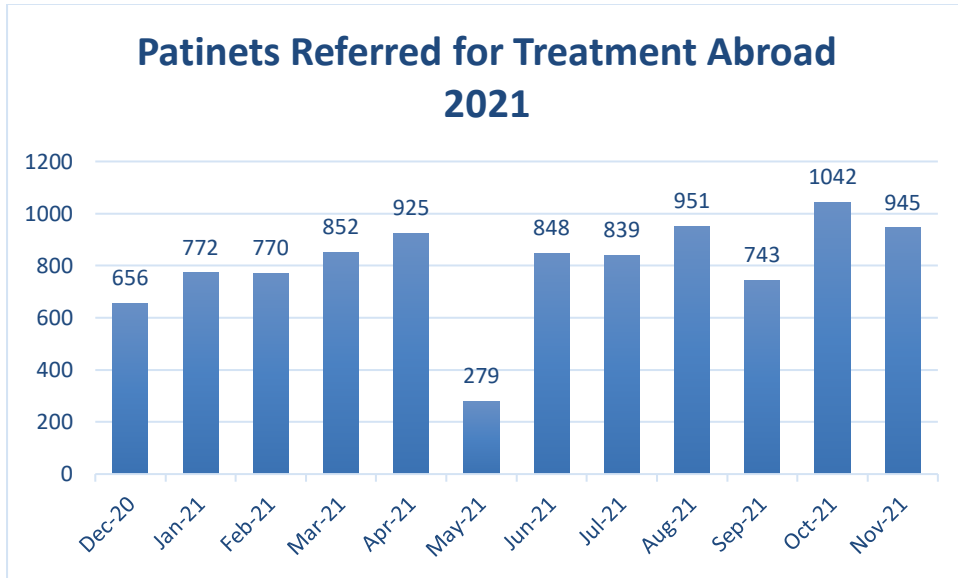
The Israeli authorities rejected 9 applications for security reasons (0.5%), did not reply to 15 applications (0.9%); delayed replies (allegedly for security check) to 627 permits (38.5%); asked one patient to change his companion (0.06%); and ask 14 patients to book a new appointment in a new hospital (0.86%).

Table no. (1): Statistics of the results of travel requests for treatment in Nov. 2021, the General Authority for Civil Affairs

No.	Result	Number	Percentage
1	No reply	15	0.92%
2	Under security check	627	38.51%
3	Approved	945	58.05%
4	Rejected	9	0.55%
5	Change the companion	1	0.06%
6	New request	14	0.86%
7	Treatment available in Gaza	4	0.25%
8	Hospital cancelled the appointment	13	0.80%
	Total	1628	



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- The Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on items that can be carried by travelers via Erez, primarily no electronic and electric devices, food, and cosmetics are allowed, as well as wheeled luggage.
- According to GACA November data, Israeli authorities allowed 17289 Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip via “Erez” Crossing, including 945 patients and 633 for personal needs, 17277 businesspeople, 401 businesspeople who hold “BMC” permits, 491 foreign international organizations’ staff; and 661 from Arabs holding Israeli ID cards. Meanwhile, 19859 were allowed entry to the Gaza Strip, including 895 patients and 517 persons for personal needs, 16019 businesspeople, 383 businesspeople who hold “BMC” permits, 524 foreign international organizations’ staff, 163 King Hussein Bridge, 208 Arabs holding Israeli ID cards, and 14 released prisoners.
- **Prisoners’ Visits:** In November, the Israeli authorities banned family visits to Palestinians 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.

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

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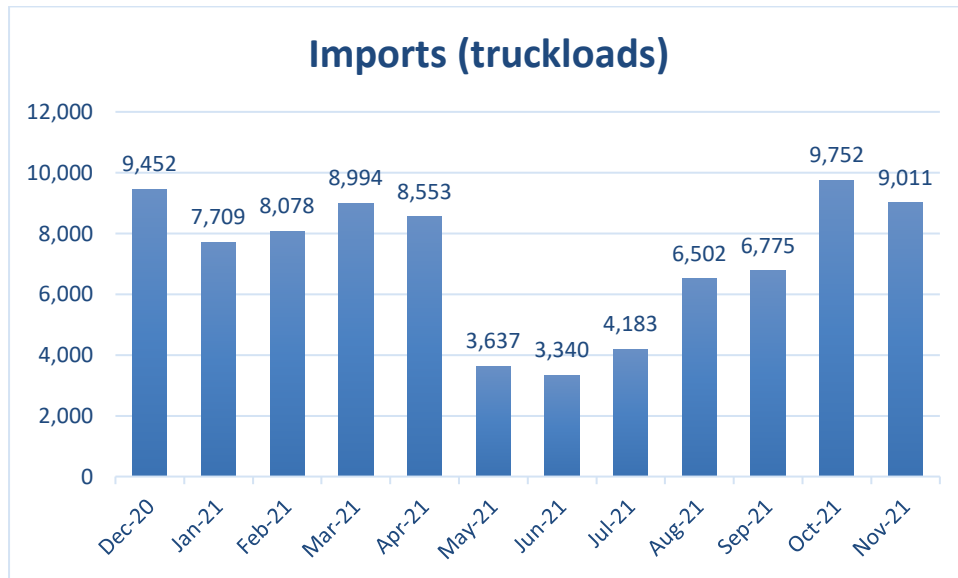


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severely. These items include communications equipment, pumps, big generators iron bars, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding rods used in welding, various types of wood, UPS devices that protect the electric devices from

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 November, they allowed the entry of 9,011 truckloads via "Karem Shalom" border crossing, including 358 humanitarian aid truckloads, 350 fuel trucks and 8303 truckloads of goods for the private sector as reported by the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza.
- During the reporting period, 1955 truckloads entered via Rafah Crossing, including 523 fuel truckloads and 1432 truckloads of goods for the private sector.



- The process of submitting applications by the Gaza Strip residents to import goods classified by the Israeli authorities as “dual-use items” is very complex and ambiguous. A person from the Gaza Strip should send a request to the Palestinian Coordination Committee for the Entry of Goods, which refers the request to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Office at “Erez” Crossing. Afterwards, the goods are classified and sent to the relevant Israeli officer to examine it. Moreover, the Palestinian merchant must complete the transaction with the Israeli seller or broker and pay for it in full as a first step towards submitting a request for import. If the response is positive, the coordination for the entry of goods is allowed through the Karm Abu Salem crossing. A number of merchants and contractors said to PCHR

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that the abovementioned measures are very Imports (truckloads) complicated as the Israeli authorities deliberately delay responses to applications for months. Additionally, in many cases, the Israeli forces stationed at (Karm Abu Salem crossing

return the goods that had been already approved entry. This inflicts heavy losses on merchants who pay large sums of money for the storage and demurrage charges and to contractors who are legally obliged to deliver their orders on time.

- **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 November, the Israeli authorities allowed the export of 625 truckloads (323 to the West Bank, 197 to Israel, and 105 truckloads abroad, including 87 scrap truckloads) 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 13.8% 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 November, 11923 persons traveled from the Gaza Strip while 8477 persons returned to the Strip. Moreover, the Egyptian authorities denied travel of 902 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 November 2021, the Crossing and Borders Authority

Type	Departures	Arrivals	Denied Travel
Egyptian nationals	535	318	56



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Visas	657	272	38
Residence permits	2022	1220	94
Students	608	312	45
Patients	3162	2524	341
Visitors	4830	3679	328
Foreigners	109	152	0
Total	11923	8477	902

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