



State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings

1 – 30 April 2022

In April, the Israeli occupation authorities imposed a total closure of crossings in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip between 20 – 24 April, except for humanitarian cases for patients and internationals. All other groups were disallowed travel, including workers and businesspersons, as the occupation authorities used the security situation as a pretext to impose collective punishment measures against Palestinians, and put extra pressure on the Gaza Strip fragile economy.

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.

- According to the **General Authority for Civil Affairs' April data**, Israeli authorities allowed 28,603 Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip via "Erez" Crossing, while 31,263 were allowed reentry. It should be noted that the Israeli authorities allow approximately 12 thousand 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	24845	21263
Businesspersons	168	87
Personal needs	513	525
Patients	821	921
International organizations	301	272
Arab 1948	158	199
King Hussein Bridge Travel	126	129
Chrisitan Palestinains Easter Permit	551	390
Prisoners' vistis	51	51



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Palestinians arrested at border areas or sea	0	15
Released prisoners	0	1

- **Prisoners' Visits:** In April, the Israeli authorities allowed 51 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.
- **Restrictions on patients' travel:** in April, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 612 patients out of 1,433 patients (i.e., 42.7% 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 821 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.
- The Israeli authorities rejected 54 applications for security reasons; did not reply to 52 applications; delayed replies (under review) to 492 permits and asked 5 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, while 2 patients died waiting for their appointment for travel to receive medical treatment.



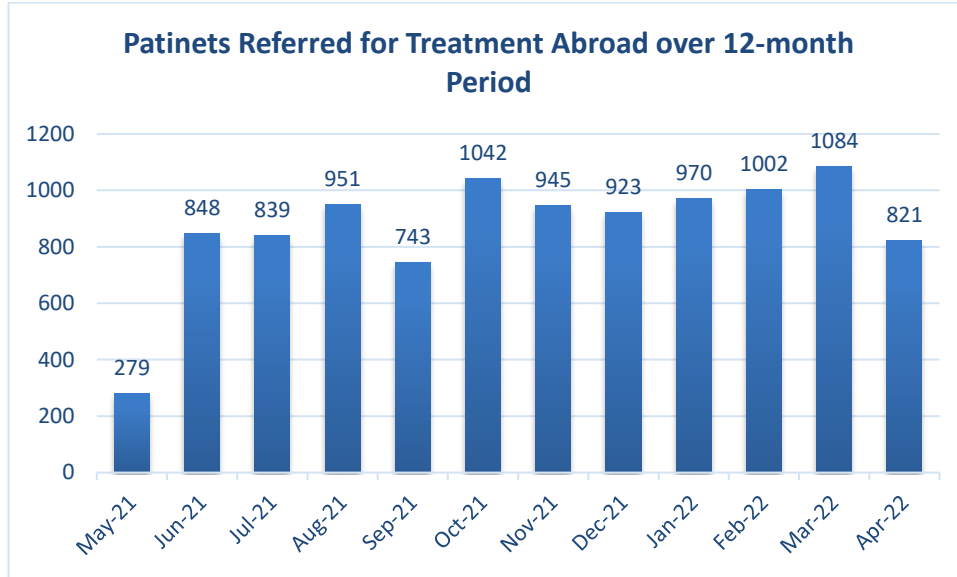
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Table no. (2): Statistics of the results of travel requests for treatment in April 2022, the General Authority for Civil Affairs¹

Result	Number	Percentage
No reply	52	%3.63
Under study	492	%34.33
Approved	821	%57.29
Rejected	4	%0.28
Change the companion	5	%0.35
Returned	3	%0.21
Treatment available locally	4	%0.24
New appointment	2	%0.14
New application	3	%0.21
Relatives in breach of permit	3	%0.21
Hospital cancellation	36	%0.49
Death	2	%0.14
New medical report	7	%0.49
Total	1433	%100

¹ GACA Data



Restrictions on Movement of Goods

The Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the list of items classified as “dual-use.”² 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.

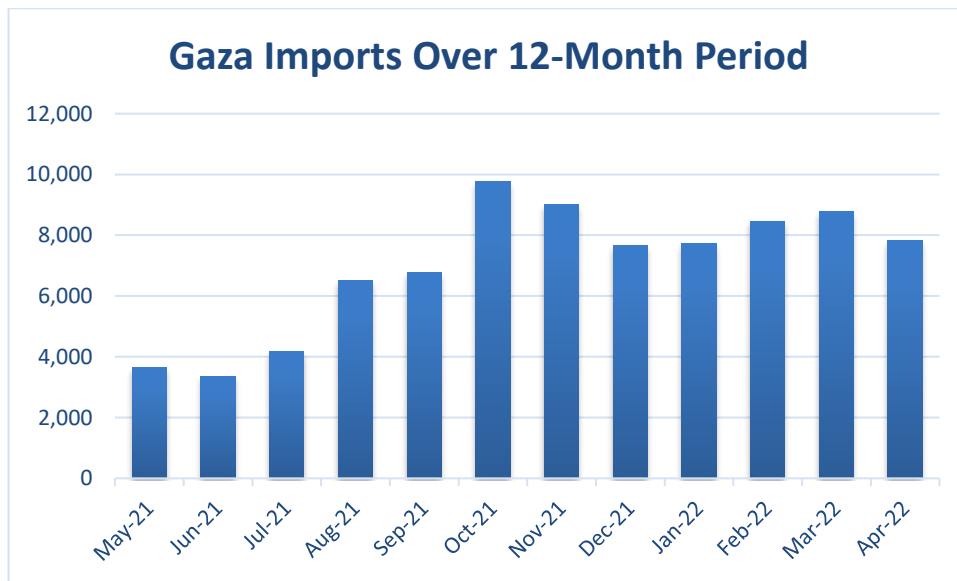
² Israeli occupation claims that these materials although used for civilian purposes, they can be used to advance combat capabilities of Palestinian armed groups



- **Gaza Strip Imports:**

Israel maintained tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip. In April, they allowed the entry of 5911 truckloads via "Karem Shalom" border crossing, including 336 humanitarian aid truckloads, 385 fuel trucks and 5190 truckloads of goods for the private sector as reported by the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza.

During the reporting period, 1916 truckloads entered via Rafah Crossing, including 478 fuel truckloads and 1438 truckloads of goods for the private sector.



- **Gaza Strip exports:** This month, the Israeli authorities allowed the export of 692 truckloads (252 to the West Bank, 249 to Israel, and 191 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).



- **Movement at Rafah Border Crossing:** According to the Crossing and Borders Authority in Gaza, in April, 7750 persons traveled from the Gaza Strip while 9,009 persons returned to the Strip. Moreover, the Egyptian authorities denied travel of 323 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 December 2021, the Crossing and Borders Authority

Type	Departures	Arrivals	Denied Travel
Egyptian nationals	188	226	44
Visas	178	237	17
Residence permits	986	933	33
Students	129	307	15
Patients	1405	1582	98



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Visitors	2942	3645	137
Foreigners	81	105	0
Umrah performers	1841	1974	9
Total	7750	9009	323