



# المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01 – 31 August 2022

The Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose an illegal and inhuman closure on the Gaza Strip for 16 years in a row. During the reporting period, IOF closed all the Gaza Strip crossings for 12 days; 6 of them during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, isolating Gaza Strip population from the outside world, prevented individuals' movement, and the importation and exportation of goods and commodities. On the fourth day of the closure, IOF launched a military offensive that killed 49 Palestinians, including 17 children and 4 women, and wounded 337 others.<sup>1</sup>

The closure of the crossings, especially Kerem Shalom crossing during the aggression has aggravated the humanitarian conditions of the Gaza Strip's civilian population as all vital service sectors ceased operation, particularly the power plant due to lack of fuel supplies necessary for its operation. As a result, the level of health, water and sanitation services declined. <sup>2</sup>This falls under the Israeli occupation authorities' collective punishment policy against civilians in a blatant violation of Article 33 of 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, prohibits collective penalties against civilians.

The closure of Beit Hanoun 'Erez' during the aggression had deprived hundreds of patients from receiving treatment abroad in the hospitals they are referred to in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israel due to lack of treatment at the Strip's hospitals. As a result, patients' health conditions aggravated, putting the lives of tens of them at risk.

Moreover, IOF continue to prevent the entry of 62 types of hundreds of essential materials and goods considering them as "dual-use items"; thus, the economic conditions of the Gaza Strip deteriorate as more than half of the population lives in poverty, recording a rate of 53% while more than 64.4% of the Gaza population suffer from food insecurity<sup>3</sup>.

### Restrictions on Individuals' Movement:

<sup>1</sup> PCHR statistics.

<sup>2</sup> Gaza Strip Faces Israeli Offensive with frail Healthcare System and Acute Power Shortage, press release <https://pchrgaza.org/en/gaza-strip-faces-israeli-offensive-with-frail-healthcare-system-and-acute-power-shortage/>

<sup>3</sup> (WFP) Palestine Country Brief, June 2022: [https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000141238/download/?\\_ga=2.83881430.1762346914.1661075359-1455307423.1643703786](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000141238/download/?_ga=2.83881430.1762346914.1661075359-1455307423.1643703786)



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The Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose tight restrictions on limited groups that were allowed passage through Beit Hanoun “Erez” Crossing after a thorough security check. This deprives Palestinians of their right to movement guaranteed under Article 12

of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). 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’ (GACA) August data, Israeli authorities allowed 35,166 Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip via “Erez” Crossing, while 34,097 were allowed reentry.

Group	Exit	Entry
Merchants	30130	29344
Businesspersons	104	87
Personal needs	894	913
Patients	1232	1146
International organizations	370	391
Arab 1948	304	328
King Hussain Bridge Travel	811	610
Prisoners' visits	127	127
Palestinians arrested at borders or sea	3	5

**Restrictions on patients’ travel:** the Israeli occupation authorities’ closure of Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing designated for individuals’ movement during the 6-day offensive prevented hundreds of patients from receiving or resuming their medical treatment in the hospitals in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, or Israel, deteriorating their health conditions. About 100 patients daily travel via Erez crossing; most of them are cancer patients who are being treated according to scheduled appointments (treatment protocol) and any delay in receiving treatment would endanger their lives. This constitutes



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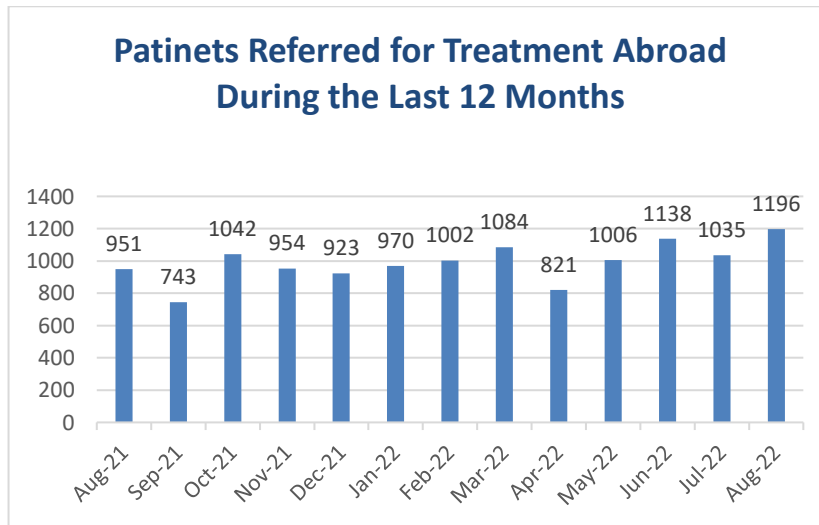
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a violation of Israel's obligations under Article 21 of the Fourth Geneva Convention to respect and protect conveying the wounded and sick civilians.

In August, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 862 out of 2,085 patients (i.e., 41% of the total permit applications), who were referred for treatment in hospitals in Israel or the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, and allowed the travel of 1196 patients. Also, the Israeli authorities rejected 29 applications for security reasons; did not reply to 272 applications; delayed replies (under review) to 535 permits and asked 9 patients to change accompaniers. Additionally, 3 patients were asked to wait for an interview. This deprives patients of enjoying their right to the highest attainable standard of health that is guaranteed under Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights.

**Table (2): Statistics of the results of travel requests for treatment in August 2022, GACA**

Result	Number	Percentage
No reply	272	%13.22
Under study	535	%26.00
Approved	1196	%58.11
Rejected	29	%1.41
Change the companion	9	0.44%
Treatment available locally	3	%0.15
New application	1	%0.05
Relatives in breach of permit	2	%0.10
Hospital cancellation	11	%0.53
Total	2058	%100



**Detainees' Visits:** In August, the Israeli authorities allowed 127 members of Palestinian detainees' families to visit 73 out of 200 detainees held in the Israeli prisons while the Israeli authorities continue to prevent tens of detainees' families from visiting. 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.

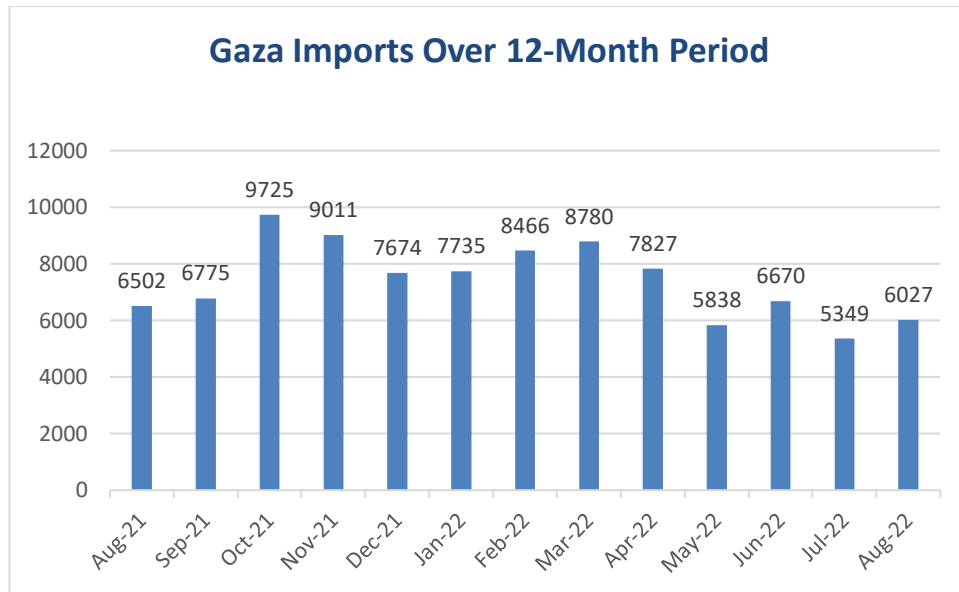
#### Restrictions on Movement of Good

The Israeli authorities completely prevented the movement of goods via Kerem Shalom crossing during the aggression and banned the imports, primarily the basic commodities, including cooking gas and the fuel necessary for the operation of the only power plant in the Gaza Strip. During the same period, they denied Gaza exports to the outside world. This constitutes a violation of the international law and Article 55 of the Fourth Geneva Convention under which Israel is placed under an obligation to ensure to the fullest extent

of the means available to it the food and medical supplies of the population and in particular to import the necessary foodstuffs, medical supplies and others if the resources of the occupied territory are inadequate.

### Gaza Strip Imports:

Although Israeli authorities maintained tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip in August, they allowed the entry of 6,027 truckloads via "Karem Shalom" border crossing, including 324 humanitarian aid truckloads, 475 fuel trucks and 5228 truckloads of goods for the private sector as reported by the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza. During the reporting period, 4035 truckloads entered via Rafah Crossing, including 432 fuel truckloads and 3603 truckloads of goods for the private sector.



The Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the list of items classified as "dual-use."<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> Israeli occupation authorities claim that although these materials are used for civilian purposes, they can be used to advance combat capabilities of Palestinian armed groups

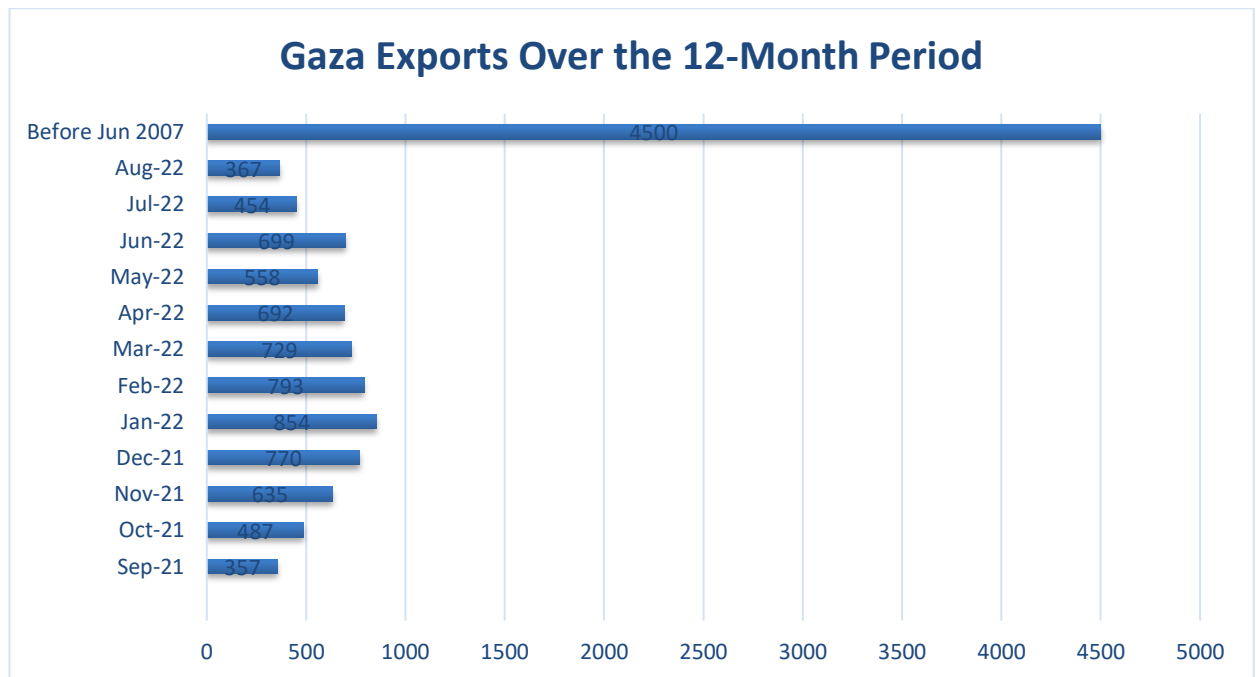


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caused infrastructure, economy, healthcare, and education to deteriorate severely. These items include communications equipment, pumps, big generators iron bars, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding rods, various types of wood, 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 exports:** IOF impose tightened restrictions on the exports of the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, including Jerusalem, or Israel and the outside world. In August, the Israeli authorities allowed the export of 367 truckloads (65 to the West Bank, 126 to Israel, 0 truckload abroad, and 176 to Egypt) according to the Ministry of National Economy. Those truckloads included agricultural products, furniture, animal skin, aluminum scrap, clothes, and furniture. The exports during the reporting period constitute only 8.1% of Gaza's total monthly exports before closure was imposed in June 2007 (4500 truckloads/month). It is noteworthy that in August, the Israeli authorities prevented fish exportation to the West Bank, inflicting losses to fishermen and affecting their social, health and educational conditions.





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**Movement at Rafah Border Crossing:** According to the Crossing and Borders Authority in Gaza, in August, 17,898 persons traveled from the Gaza Strip while 14,084 persons returned to the Strip. Moreover, the Egyptian authorities denied travel of 482 persons. Travelers returning to the Gaza Strip via Rafah Crossing suffer from prolonged, recurrent, and unjustified searches.

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