



# المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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## State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings

01 – 31 October 2022

The Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose an illegal and inhuman closure on the Gaza Strip for 16 years in a row, affecting the lives of more than 2 million Palestinians and depriving most of them of freedom of movement and access to the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory and outside world. The ongoing closure has undermined health, education, and sanitation services available for the people of the Gaza Strip while the restrictions imposed on individuals' movement denied thousands of patients from receiving the medical treatment that is not available at the Gaza Strip's hospitals.

Moreover, IOF continue to prevent the entry of 62 essential materials and goods considering them as "dual-use items"; thus, the economic conditions of the Gaza Strip population deteriorate, and thousands of families live in catastrophic humanitarian conditions due to the ongoing closure. The unemployment rate reached 44%<sup>1</sup>, and more than half of the population lives in poverty as the poverty rate reached 60%<sup>2</sup> while more than 68.5% of the Gaza population suffers from food insecurity<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, 80% of the Gaza population relies on international aid<sup>4</sup>.

The Israeli occupation authorities closed the Gaza Strip crossings "Erez and Kerem Shalom" during the reporting period for 15 days: 9 days were weekends (Friday and Saturday), and 6 days coincided the Jewish holidays.

### Restrictions on Individuals' Movement:

The Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose tight restrictions at Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing, denying most of the Gaza Strip population to travel and allowing only limited categories after going through security checks. This deprives citizens of their right to movement guaranteed by Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Similarly, the Israeli restrictions on items that can be carried by travelers

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<sup>1</sup> The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announces the Results of the Labour Force Survey, for the second quarter of 2022", 08 August 2022,

<sup>2</sup> The World Bank's Palestinian Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 10 May 2022.

<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)

<sup>4</sup> Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 08 August 2022.



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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) October data, the Israeli authorities allowed 41,369 Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing, while 37,324 were allowed reentry.

Table 1: Individuals' Movement via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing in October 2022, GACA data		
Group	Exit	Entry
Merchants	36704	32903
Businesspersons	107	110
Personal needs	735	744
Patients	1388	1166
International organizations	507	584
Arab 1948	209	202
King Hussain Bridge Travel	447	436
Prisoners' visits	52	52
Palestinians arrested at borders or sea	0	5

**Restrictions on patients' travel:** in October, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 530 out of 1,723 patients who were referred for treatment at hospitals in Israel or the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, (i.e., 30.7% of the total permit applications), and allowed the travel of 1,193 patients. Although the Israeli authorities claim that they allow patients' travel, they refused to respond to dozens of requests filed by the Coordination and Liaison Department at the Ministry of Health for patients with serious diseases and who were referred for treatment in hospitals in Israel or the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. In October, the Israeli authorities rejected 10 applications for security reasons; did not reply to 58 applications; delayed replies (under study) to 374 permits and asked 2 patients to change companions. Additionally, 39 patients were asked to obtain a new hospital appointment. 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.

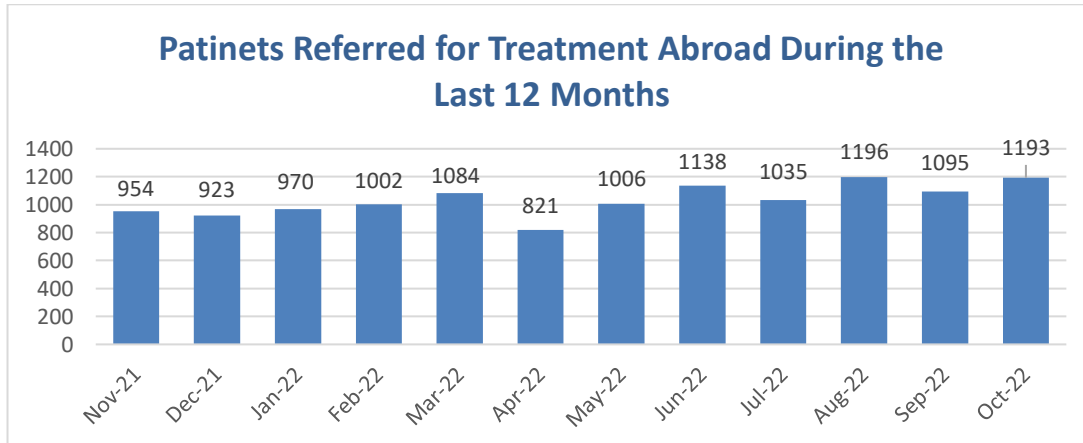


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Table (2): Statistics of the results of travel requests for treatment in October 2022, GACA

Result	Number	Percentage
No reply	58	%3.3
Under study	374	%21.7
Approved	1193	%69.2
Rejected	10	%0.5
Change the companion	2	%0.1
Waiting	2	%0.1
New application	39	%2.2
Treatment available locally	6	%0.3
Hospital cancellation	37	%2.1
New medical report	2	%0.1
Total	1723	%100



**Detainees' Visits:** The Israeli authorities have deprived more than family members of 100 Palestinian detainees out of 200 detainees from the Gaza Strip of their family visitations in the Israeli prisons for 5 years, while in October, they allowed 52 family members of Palestinian detainees to visit 28 detainees from the Gaza Strip held in the Israeli prisons. This violates the right of detainees to be in contact with their families through family visits that is a guaranteed under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly Article 116 which provides that every internee shall be allowed to receive



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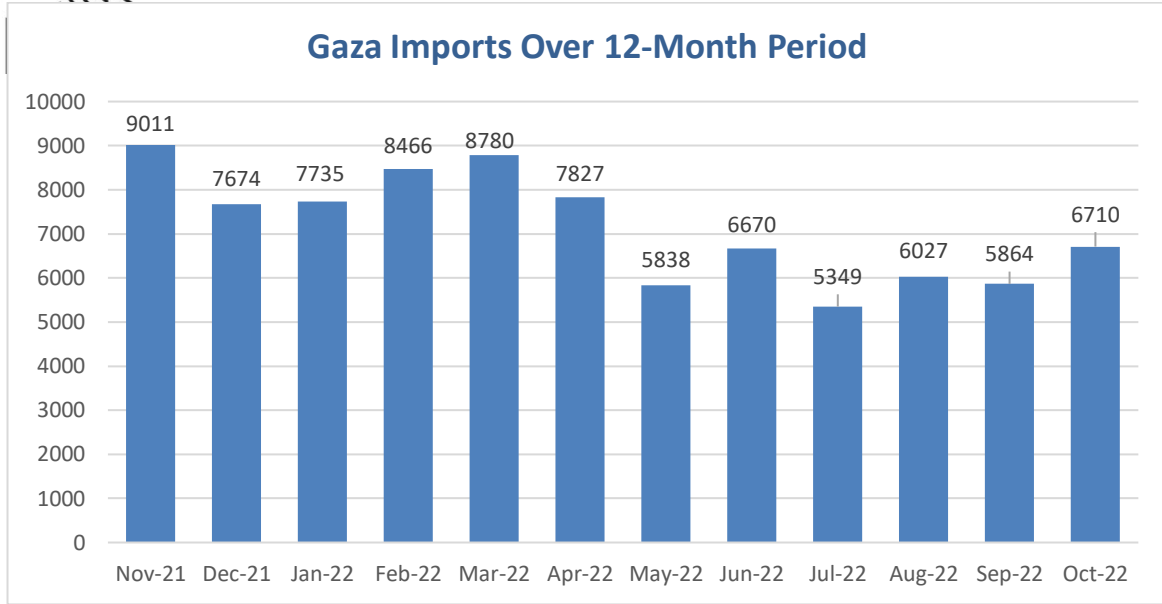
visitors, especially near relatives, at regular intervals and as frequently as possible, particularly in cases of death or serious illness of relatives.

### Restrictions on Movement of Goods

The Israeli authorities continue to impose tightened restrictions on the movement of goods entering and exiting the Gaza Strip, negatively affecting Palestinians' economic rights, exacerbating poverty, increasing the rates of unemployment and food insecurity, and undermining opportunities for investment and development of the Palestinian economy. This constitutes as a violation of international law, which obliges the occupying power under Article 55 of the Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure, to the fullest extent of the means available to it, the food and medical supplies of the population; it should, in particular, bring in the necessary foodstuffs, medical stores and other articles 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 October, they allowed the entry of 6710 truckloads via "Karem Shalom" border crossing, including 420 humanitarian aid truckloads, 504 fuel trucks and 5786 truckloads of goods for the private sector as reported by the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza. During the reporting period, 4824 truckloads entered via Rafah Crossing, including 476 fuel truckloads and 4348 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>5</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 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.<sup>6</sup>

**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 October in a very limited exception, the Israeli authorities allowed the exportation of 434 truckloads (174 to the West Bank, 112 to Israel, and 148 to Egypt with no truckloads to the outside world) according to the Ministry of National Economy. Those truckloads included agricultural

<sup>5</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.

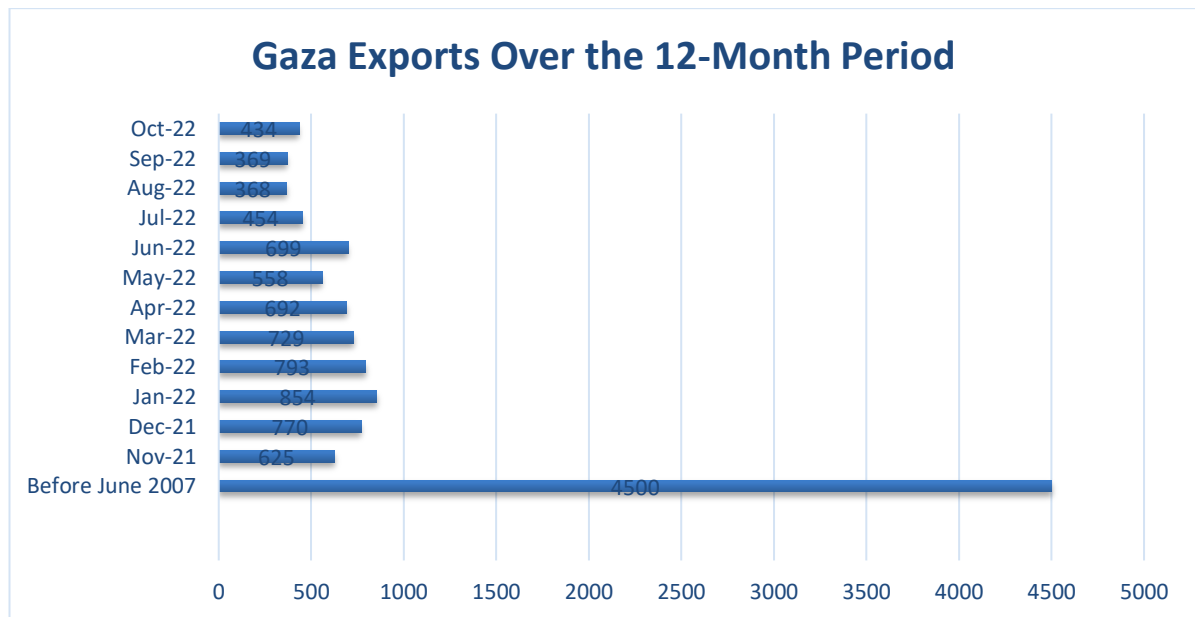
<sup>6</sup> List of banned items:

[https://gisha.org/UserFiles/File/LegalDocuments/procedures/merchandise/170\\_2\\_EN.pdf](https://gisha.org/UserFiles/File/LegalDocuments/procedures/merchandise/170_2_EN.pdf)



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products, furniture, animal skin, aluminum scrap, clothes, and furniture. The exports during the reporting period constitute only 9.6% 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 October, 13,307 persons traveled from the Gaza Strip while 9,231 persons returned to the Strip. Moreover, the Egyptian authorities denied travel of 474 persons.



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Travelers returning to the Gaza Strip via Rafah Crossing suffer from prolonged, recurrent, and unjustified searches.

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