



# المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان

## PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

### State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01 – 30 November 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 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, Israeli restrictions imposed on the entry of 62<sup>1</sup> essential materials and goods considering by the Israeli authorities as dual-use items\* that include hundreds of goods have undermined health, education, and sanitation services available for the people of the Gaza Strip.

Also, thousands of families live in catastrophic humanitarian conditions due to the ongoing closure. The unemployment rate reached 44%<sup>2</sup>, and more than half of the population lives in poverty as the poverty rate reached 60%<sup>3</sup> while more than 68.5% of the Gaza population suffers from food insecurity<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, 80% of the Gaza population relies on international aid<sup>5</sup>.

The Israeli occupation authorities closed the Gaza Strip crossings "Erez and Kerem Shalom" during the reporting period for 9 days: 8 days were weekends (Friday and Saturday), and one day for the Israeli elections.

<sup>1</sup>A list of prohibited items:

[http://gisha.org/UserFiles/File/LegalDocuments/procedures/merchandise/170ar\\_full\\_list.pdf](http://gisha.org/UserFiles/File/LegalDocuments/procedures/merchandise/170ar_full_list.pdf)

\* 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>2</sup> The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announces the Results of the Labor Force Survey, for the second quarter of 2022", 08 August 2022.

<sup>3</sup> The World Bank's Palestinian Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 10 May 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Fact Sheet on Food and Nutrition in Palestine, Published in November 2022:

[https://palestine.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/UNCT%20-%20Fact%20sheet%20Food%20%284%29\\_0.pdf](https://palestine.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/UNCT%20-%20Fact%20sheet%20Food%20%284%29_0.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 08 August 2022.



### 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 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), in November, the Israeli authorities allowed 44,773 Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing, while 43,236 were allowed reentry.

Group	Exit	Entry
Merchants	38420	37277
Businesspersons	195	146
Personal needs	1074	1111
Patients	1799	1661
International organizations	628	645
Arab 1948	275	278
King Hussain Bridge Travel	584	433
Prisoners' visits	99	87
Palestinians arrested at border areas or sea	0	11

**Restrictions on patients' travel:** in November, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 383 out of 1,979 patients who were referred for treatment at hospitals in Israel or the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, (i.e., 19.3% of the total permit applications), and allowed the travel of 1,596 patients.



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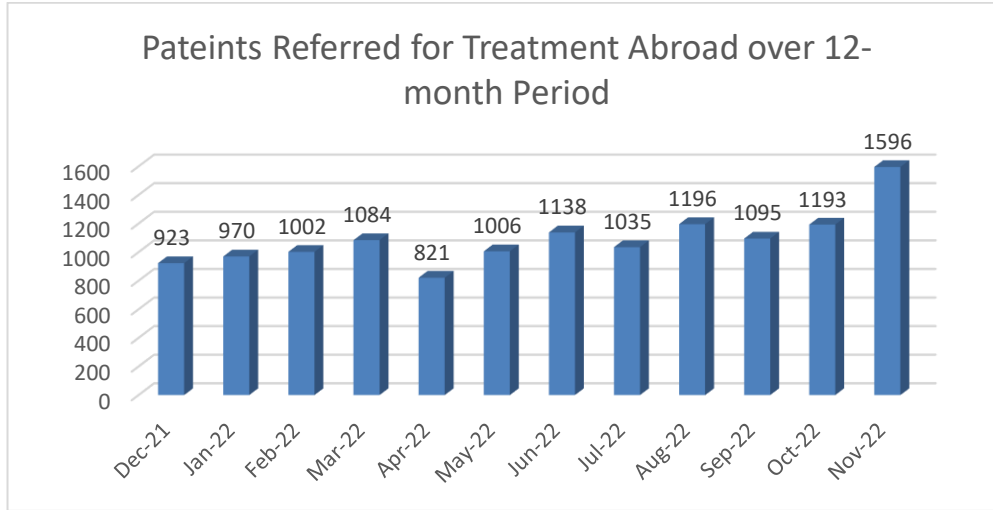
Although the Israeli authorities claim that they allow patients' travel, they refused to respond to dozens of requests filed by the Coordination and Liaison Department at the Ministry of Health for patients with serious diseases and who were referred for treatment in hospitals in Israel or the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. In November, the Israeli authorities rejected 22 applications for security reasons; did not reply to 40 applications; delayed replies (under study) to 238 permits and asked 6 patients to change companions. Additionally, 30 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.

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

Result	Number	Percentage
No reply	40	%2.02
Under study	238	%12.02
Approved	1596	%80.64
Rejected	22	%1.11
Change the companion	6	%0.30
Waiting	7	%0.35
New application	2	%0.10
Treatment available locally	5	%0.25
Hospital cancellation	33	%1.67
New appointment as the crossing was closed	30	%1.52
Total	1979	%100



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**Detainees' Visits:** The Israeli authorities have deprived family members of more than 100 Palestinian detainees out of 200 detainees from the Gaza Strip of their family visitations in the Israeli prisons for 5 years, while in November, they allowed 99 family members of Palestinian detainees to visit 56 of the detainees from the Gaza Strip held in the Israeli prisons. This violates detainees' right 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 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

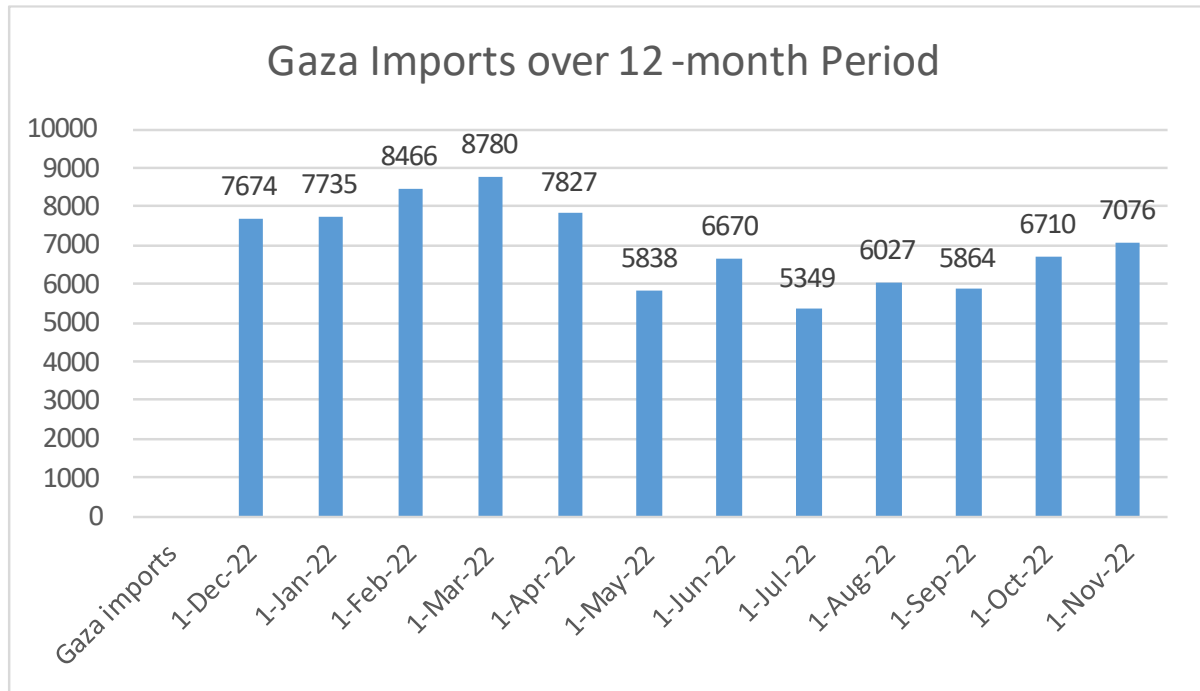
The Israeli authorities continue to impose tightened restrictions on the movement of goods entering and exiting the Gaza Strip, negatively affecting Palestinians' economic rights, exacerbating poverty, increasing the rates of unemployment and food insecurity, and undermining opportunities for investment 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,



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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 November, they allowed the entry of 7,076 truckloads via "Karem Shalom" border crossing, including 169 humanitarian aid truckloads, 387 fuel trucks and 6,520 truckloads of goods for the private sector as reported by the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza. During the reporting period, 4,547 truckloads entered via Rafah Crossing, including 446 fuel truckloads and 4,101 truckloads of goods for the private sector.



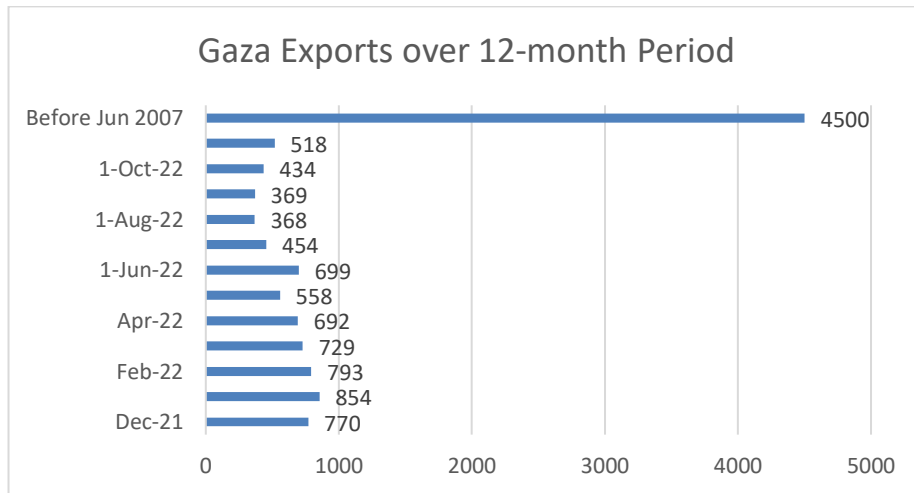
The Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the list of items classified as "dual-use." The dual-use items include 62 types and hundreds of goods and commodities that are essential to the life of the population. Imposing these restrictions caused infrastructure, economy, healthcare, and education to deteriorate severely. These items include communications equipment, pumps, big generators iron bars, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding



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roads, 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 November, in a very limited exception, the Israeli authorities allowed the exportation of 415 truckloads (302 to the West Bank, 110 to Israel, 103 to Egypt, and 3 to the outside world) 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 11.5% 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, 13,309 persons traveled from the Gaza Strip while 10,700 persons returned to the Strip. Moreover, the Egyptian authorities denied travel of 487 persons. Travelers returning to the Gaza Strip via Rafah Crossing suffer from prolonged, recurrent, and unjustified searches.



هذا المشروع بدعم من



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