



المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01 – 31 December 2022

In 2022, the Israeli occupation maintained an illegal and inhuman closure on the Gaza Strip for 16 years in a row, inflicting serious indicators at the level of humanitarian situation in the Strip. The economic and social rights of the Gaza population deteriorated due to the serious and long-term impact of the Israeli occupation policies that undermined the opportunities of reviving Gaza Strip's economy and deliberately destroyed it during recurrent aggressions.

The Israeli occupation authorities continue to restrict the freedom of movement at Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing, banning most of the Gaza Strip population from travelling via the Crossing, and only allowing limited numbers within specific categories, including patients referred for treatment abroad, Palestinians with Israeli citizenship, foreign journalists, international humanitarian organizations' staff, traders, businessmen, workers, families of detainees in Israeli prisons, and travelers through King Hussein Bridge.

Moreover, The Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of 62^{1*} essential items considered by the Israeli authorities as "dual -use items" that include hundreds of goods and commodities. This thereby undermined the quality of health, education, and sanitation services available for the Gaza Strip population. Also in 2022, the ban remained on the Gaza Strip exports to the West Bank, Israel and outside world, but for a limited exception, only very limited quantities of Gaza products were allowed for exportation; most of them were mostly agricultural goods.

Also, thousands of families in the Gaza Strip live in catastrophic humanitarian conditions due to the ongoing closure. The unemployment rate reached 47%², and more than half of the population lives in poverty as the poverty rate reached 60%³ while more than 68.5% of the

¹ A list of prohibited items:

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.

² The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announces the Results of the Labour Force Survey, for the third quarter of 2022", 08 November 2022: <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=4353>

³ The World Bank's Palestinian Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 10 May 2022: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/westbankandgaza/publication/economic-monitoring-report-to-the-ad-hoc-liaison-committee-may-2022>



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Gaza population suffer from food insecurity⁴. Additionally, 80% of the Gaza population relies on international aid⁵.

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. These restrictions include all categories allowed to travel at a very narrow range: patients referred for treatment abroad, Palestinian citizens holding Israeli citizenship, foreign journalists, international humanitarian organizations' staff, merchants, businessmen and workers, families of detainees in Israeli prisons and travelers via King Hussein Bridge.

In December, the Israeli authorities prevented 377 Christians from the Gaza Strip to travel to the West Bank, and denied their access to holy places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem to celebrate Christmas⁶. Such restrictions deprive the Gaza Strip population 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) December data, Israeli authorities allowed 45,592 Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip via "Erez" Crossing, while 49,500 were allowed reentry.

Table 1: Individuals' Movement at Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing in December 2022, GACA data		
Group	Exit	Entry
Merchants	39568	43478
Businesspersons	249	231
Personal needs	967	937
Patients	1709	1764

⁴ 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

⁵ Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Paragraph 46, 08 August 2022: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdbex72d2_en.pdf

⁶ PCHR's press release, Dozens of Gaza Christians Denied Right to Travel and Access to Places of Worship to Perform their Religious Rites, 25 December 2022, <https://pchrgaza.org/en/dozens-of-gaza-christians-denied-right-to-travel-and-access-to-places-of-worship-to-perform-their-religious-rites/>



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International organizations	490	382
Arab 1948	241	314
King Hussain Bridge Travel	419	445
Christian occasions	323	275
Prisoners' visits	0	0
Palestinians arrested at borders or sea	0	2

Restrictions on patients' travel:

In December, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 375 out of 1,807 patients who were referred for treatment in hospitals in Israel or the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, (i.e., 20.7% of the total permit applications), and allowed the travel of 1,432 patients.

Although the Israeli authorities claim that they would 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 December, the Israeli authorities rejected 77 permit requests for security reasons; did not reply to 122 requests; delayed replies (under study) to 154 permits and returned one patient. Additionally, 1 patient was 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 December 2022,

Result	Number	Percentage
No reply	122	%3.3
Under study	154	%21.7
Approved	1432	%69.2
Rejected	77	%0.5
Returned	1	%0.1
New hospital appointment	1	%2.2
Treatment available locally	2	%0.3

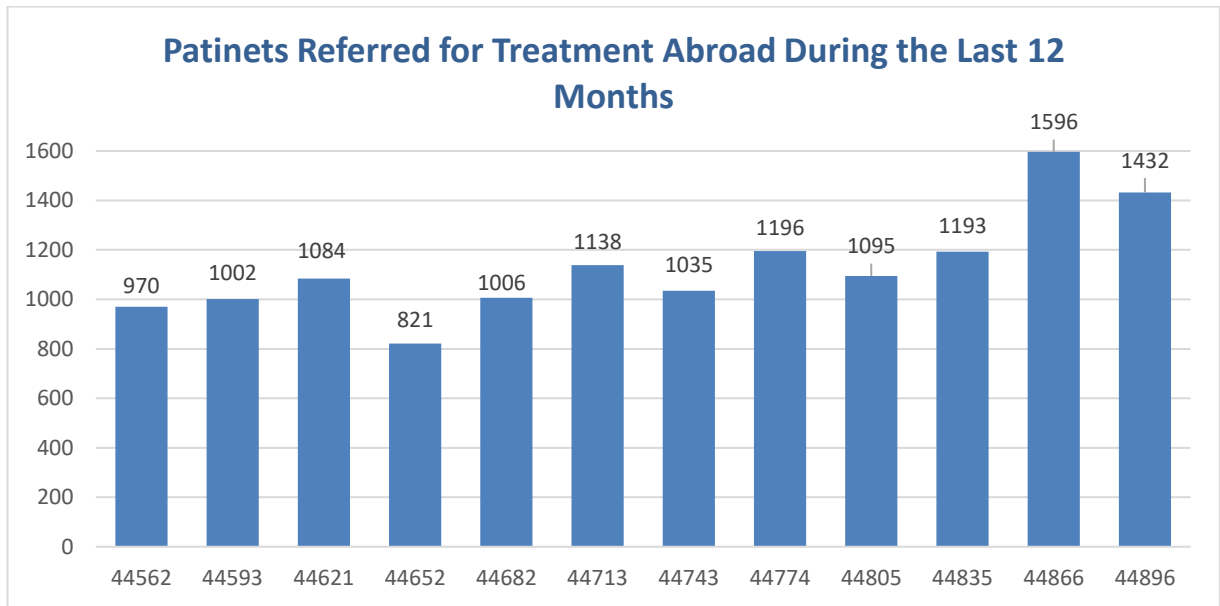


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Hospital cancellation	18	%2.1
Total	1979	%100

Coordination and Liaison Department at the Ministry of Health



Detainees' Visits:

In December 2022, the Israeli authorities stopped the program that allows families of detainees from Gaza Strip to visit detainees in Israeli prisons and continued to deprive more than 100 family members of Palestinian detainees out of 200 detainees from the Gaza Strip of their family visitations in the Israeli prisons for 5 years. 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 visitors, especially near relatives, at regular intervals and as frequently as possible, particularly in cases of death or serious illness of relatives.



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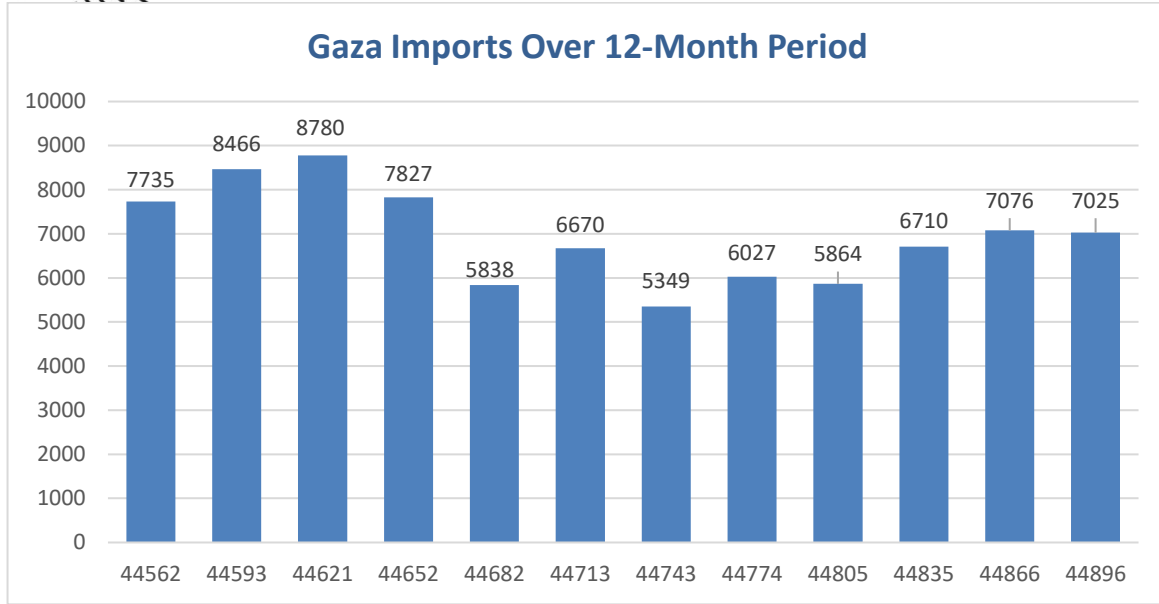
Restrictions on Movement of Goods

The Israeli authorities continue to impose tightened restrictions on the movement of goods and commodities entering and exiting the Gaza Strip, causing a deterioration in the population's economic rights, exacerbating poverty, increasing the rates of unemployment and food insecurity, and undermining opportunities for investment and development of the Gaza Strip economy. This constitutes 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.

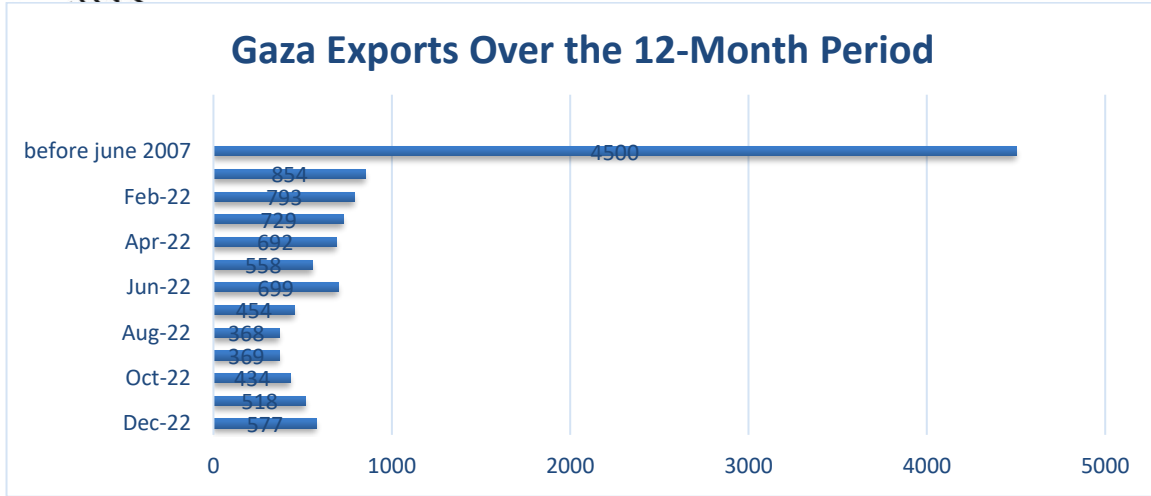
Gaza Strip Imports:

The Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the list of items classified as "dual use." The dual-use items include 62 types of 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 dramatically. 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.

Although the Israeli authorities maintained tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip, in December, they allowed the entry of 7025 truckloads, including 283 humanitarian aid truckloads, 486 fuel trucks and 6274 truckloads of goods for the private sector as reported by the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza. During the reporting period, 4115 truckloads entered via Rafah Crossing, including 462 fuel truckloads and 3653 truckloads of goods for the private sector.



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 December, the Israeli authorities allowed the export of 577 truckloads (400 to the West Bank, 176 to Israel, 1 to outside world, and 148 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 12.8% 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 December, 13,259 persons traveled from the Gaza Strip while 132,805 persons returned to the Strip. Moreover, the Egyptian authorities denied travel of 375 persons. Travelers returning to the Gaza Strip via Rafah Crossing suffer from prolonged, recurrent, and unjustified searches.

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