

1. Headlines

- **Mortars/rockets/casualties/incursions:** Palestinian armed groups reportedly fired 1 rocket and 3 mortar shells directed towards Israel or Israeli forces this week. The previous week, Palestinian armed groups reportedly fired 3 rockets, 13 mortar shells and 1 rocket propelled grenade and reportedly planted 2 land mines.

Israeli forces reportedly launched 1 airstrike this week, as compared to reportedly firing 4 shells and carrying out 7 airstrikes and 3 incursions last week. No firefights were reported this week, as compared to one firefight reported last week.

6 Palestinians were reported killed this week as a result of Israeli fire – one Palestinian boy at sea and 5 Palestinian militants. According to Israeli forces, the latter were affiliated with Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) and were targeted by an Israeli aircraft as they attempted to fire a home made rocket. This week, 4 Palestinian workers were reported injured by Israeli forces in the so called “buffer zone” along the Gaza perimeter.

Last week, 9 Palestinians were reported injured by Israeli forces, including 5 Palestinian workers in the buffer zone, and 2 Palestinian boys aged 16 were reported killed by an explosive object, with local sources reporting that the device was a remnant of an Israeli weapon.

No Israeli casualties were reported this week; last week, one Israeli citizen was reported injured after mortars fired by Palestinian militants east of Rafah landed in Israel last week. This was the first Israeli casualty from Palestinian fire from Gaza reported since March 2010.

- **Fishermen:** 1 incident of Israeli naval vessels firing at Palestinian fishermen was reported this week, reportedly resulting in the death of a 15-year-old boy. Israeli patrol boats reportedly opened fire targeting fishing boats at sea west of Rafah; one of the boats capsized and the 15-year-old boy drowned.
1 incident was reported last week. Since January 2009, Israeli naval forces have restricted the access of Palestinian fishing boats to three nautical miles from the coast; in practice, access is sometimes restricted to as little as one nautical mile
- **Tunnel related fatalities:** No Palestinians were reported killed or injured in tunnels located beneath the Gaza-Egypt border this week or last week
- **Palestinians in the “buffer zone”:** 2 incidents of Israeli fire in the so-called “buffer zone” along the perimeter with Gaza were reported this week, resulting in 4 reported injuries of Palestinian workers collecting scrap metal.
In total, 3 incidents were reported last week, resulting in 5 reported injuries. Israel restricts access to agricultural land up to 1,000-1,500 metres from the fence, which accounts for more than 30 % of Gaza’s agricultural land.
- **Rafah border crossing:** The Rafah border crossing with Egypt was officially open 5 days this week for medical cases, students and those with visas to third countries. This week, 1,256 people were reported to have entered Gaza, 1,579 people left and 174 were denied entry to Egypt through Rafah.
Last week, 793 people reportedly entered Gaza, 1,066 left and 300 were denied entry to Egypt via Rafah. Since June 2010, there has been a significant rise in the number of people crossing weekly through Rafah: the week before the attack on the Gaza flotilla and the opening of the Rafah border 45 people left Gaza, 748 entered and 2 were refused entry to Egypt through Rafah.

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- **Power plant and electricity supply:** A total of 909,664 litres of industrial fuel was delivered this week for Gaza's power plant, which is only 26% of the 3.5 million litres of fuel needed weekly at the current maximum capacity of 80Mw. A total of 1.6 million litres of industrial fuel was transferred last week.
Daily life, as well as the provision of essential services including regular water supply, sewage treatment and removal, and the functioning of health services, continues to be negatively affected by the chronic lack of electricity.
- **Cooking gas:** Only 453 tons of cooking gas entered Gaza this week, 26% of the normal weekly level of need of 1,750 tons. Last week, 685 tons of cooking gas were reported to have entered Gaza. The overall cooking gas shortage has been a main concern for humanitarian agencies since November 2009.
- **Diesel/petrol:** No diesel or benzine were delivered to the private sector this week or last week. A near total ban on fuel imports for public sale was put in place by the Government of Israel in October 2008. Around 100,000 litres of diesel and 100,000 litres of petrol are reported to enter Gaza every day through tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border (OCHA, 4 May 2010).
- **Truckloads of supplies:** A total of 865 truckloads of supplies was allowed entry into Gaza this week (639 through Kerem Shalom crossing and 226 through Karni conveyor). This is the equivalent of 31% of the pre-blockade weekly average of all truckloads entering Gaza*. Last week, 917 truckloads were permitted entry. On 12 December, Kerem Shalom the crossing was open intermittently due to poor weather conditions.

While imports remain limited, and raw materials severely restricted, exports remain banned almost entirely except for limited truckloads of strawberries and carnations exported to the Netherlands. As a result, the scale of economic activity remains heavily dependent on local demand in Gaza, which in turn is constrained by the low purchasing power of the population and the relatively small size of the local market. Until crossings are fully opened for export, the impact of the easing of the blockade on unemployment, poverty and food insecurity rates remains limited.

**Pre-blockade weekly average (2,807 truckloads) is calculated based on the monthly average of all truckloads that entered during the first five months of 2007, before Israel's imposition of the blockade.*

- **Exports:** 26 truckloads of strawberries and 4 truckloads of carnations were allowed to be exported from Gaza this week. Last week, 15 truckloads of strawberries and 1.5 truckloads of carnations were allowed to be exported.
As the result of an agreement between Israel and the Netherlands, limited exports of flowers and strawberries resumed on 28 November 2010; a total of 33 truckloads carrying strawberries (60 tonnes) and cut flowers (229,000 stems) have since left Gaza.
Since the increased blockade restrictions on Gaza commenced in June 2007, only 708 truckloads of exports have left Gaza, all of which were strawberries and cut flowers. This compares to a monthly average of 1,086 exported truckloads from Gaza in the first five months of 2007 before the blockade.
- **Internal violence:** There were no cases of internal violence reported this or last week.

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2. Humanitarian trucks (week):

Truck originator	Total for week 12-18 Dec
UNRWA	9
ICRC	1
Water utility	3
Electrical company	3
Donations	13
Commercial	610
Karni conveyor (gravel, wheat grain, animal feed)	226
Total trucks for the week	865
Percentage of pre-blockade average first five months of 2007)	31%

3. Fuel deliveries (week)

		Diesel	Petrol	Cooking Gas
12-18 December		0	0	453 tons
	Percentage of need *	0		26%
Previous week		0		685 tons
* Fuel association 2006 estimates - ** Imports of diesel and petrol for the general public and public sector in Gaza were exceptionally authorized on 6 occasions since October 2008				

Delivery of Industrial Fuel to the Power Plant (week):

Industrial diesel	Previous week	12-18 December
	1.6 million litres	909,664 litres
Percentage of amount required to operate at maximum supply capacity of 80 MW		26%

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