

1. Headlines

- **Mortars/rockets/casualties/incursions:** Palestinian armed groups reportedly fired 3 rockets, 13 mortar shells and 1 rocket propelled grenade and reportedly planted 2 land mines directed towards Israeli forces this week. The previous week, Palestinian armed groups reportedly fired 2 rockets and 6 mortar shells.

Israeli forces reportedly fired 4 shells, launched 7 airstrikes and conducted 3 incursions this week, as compared to 22 shells and 3 incursions reported last week.

One firefight was reported this week, as compared to 3 firefights reported last week.

9 Palestinians were reported injured this week as a result of Israeli fire, including 5 Palestinian workers in the so called “buffer zone” along the Gaza perimeter. In one incident, three Palestinians were reported injured after the Israeli army fired shells in the direction of open fields in Gaza and hit a house. Another Palestinian was injured after an Israeli aircraft reportedly fired missiles targeting Hamas military training camps.

Last week, 2 Palestinians were reported killed and 14 were reported injured, including 13 Palestinian workers in the buffer zone.

2 Palestinian boys aged 16 were reported killed by an explosive object this week; local sources reported that the device was a remnant of an Israeli weapon.

One Israeli citizen was reported injured after mortars fired by Palestinian militants east of Rafah landed in Israel. This is 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. No incidents were 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. No injuries were reported after an Israeli aircraft reportedly fired a missile targeting the tunnels area east of Rafah. Last week, 1 Palestinian was reportedly killed due to electric shock in a tunnel.
- **Palestinians in the “buffer zone”:** 3 incidents of Israeli fire in the so-called “buffer zone” along the perimeter with Gaza were reported this week; the three incidents resulted in a total of 5 reported injuries of Palestinian farmers and of Palestinian workers collecting scrap metal. In total, 12 incidents were reported last week, resulting in 14 reported injuries including of two boys aged 15 and 17. 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, 793 people were reported to have entered Gaza, 1,066 people left and 300 were denied entry to Egypt through Rafah.
Last week, 3,020 people reportedly entered Gaza, 1,575 left and 532 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 1.6 million litres of industrial fuel was delivered this week for Gaza's power plant, which is only 46% of the 3.5 million litres of fuel needed weekly at the current maximum capacity of 80Mw. A total of 1.2 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 685 tons of cooking gas entered Gaza this week, 39% of the normal weekly level of need of 1,750 tons. Last week, only 355 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 917 truckloads of supplies was allowed entry into Gaza this week (710 through Kerem Shalom crossing and 207 through Karni crossing). This is the equivalent of 32% of the pre-blockade weekly average of all truckloads entering Gaza*. Last week, 868 truckloads were permitted entry.

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.

Wheat reserves inside Gaza remain extremely low, due to the limited operation of the conveyor belt at Karni Crossing. Although this week the facility operated on two days, instead of one, for the transfer of wheat, availability of wheat flour at the local market remains limited. Four of the seven mills in Gaza were forced to shut down. As of 13 December, there were some 1,120 tonnes of grain available at seven mills in the Gaza Strip and 20 tonnes of wheat flour at the local market, quantities that cover the population's needs for less than two days. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), there are over 500 truckloads (19,540 tonnes) of wheat delayed and waiting to enter Gaza. The decline of wheat reserves began on July 2010, following the resumption of the import of gravel for international projects through the same conveyor belt used for the transfer of wheat, thus reducing the time allocated for wheat transfer (OCHA, 14 December 2010).

**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:** 15 truckloads of strawberries and 1.5 truckloads of carnations were allowed to be exported from Gaza this week. Last week, 7 truckloads of strawberries and 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

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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.
- **High-speed winds cause extensive damage in Gaza:** During the week, both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were hit by high-speed winds, causing extensive damage. In the Gaza Strip an unknown number of houses sustained damage, many losing their zinc panel roofs. Roofs in Gaza are often constructed from zinc panels due to ongoing Israeli restrictions on the entry of construction materials, and due to economic hardship. According to the local Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Gaza, the winds destroyed or severely damaged some 200 animal shelters and approximately 1,000 of the existing 8,000 greenhouses, with losses estimated at three million dollars. In addition, according to the fishermen's syndicate in Gaza, some 15 fishing boats were damaged or destroyed and the equipment of 70 boats was damaged (OCHA, 14 December 2010).

2. Humanitarian trucks (week):

Truck originator	Total for week 5-11 Dec
Karni Crossing (wheat grain, animal feed)	207
Total trucks for the week	917
Percentage of pre-blockade average first five months of 2007)	32%

3. Fuel deliveries (week)

		Diesel	Petrol	Cooking Gas
5-11 Dec		0	0	685 tons
	Percentage of need *	0		39%
Previous week		0		335 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	5-11 Dec
	1.2 million litres	1.6 million litres
Percentage of amount required to operate at maximum supply capacity of 80 MW		46%

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