



## Access and Protection

### Context:

The Israeli military operation inside the Gaza Strip continued in August for the third consecutive month despite renewed international efforts to bring about an end to hostilities and to address the humanitarian needs arising from the current violence. In the West Bank, the humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate, in particular with the tightening and enforcement of the closure regime restricting Palestinian movement within the West Bank. For the second month in a row, lengthy periods of external closure (covering 20 days) were imposed on the West Bank which meant that Palestinians with valid permits were prevented from entering East Jerusalem and Israel.

### Key Humanitarian Issues:

#### Protection:

Seventy-seven (77) Palestinians were killed in the oPt in August 2006 during the ongoing conflict with Israel, the second highest monthly figure over the last 12 months. In the oPt, a further 266 Palestinians were injured. This figure is largely comparable to the previous 12 months although a significant decline to the July injury figure (799).

#### Gaza Strip

- The majority of the Palestinians killed in August were in the Gaza Strip (61) in connection with the IDF military operation code named 'Operation Summer Rains'. This operation, that began on 28 June following an attack by Palestinian militants on an Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) observation post, continued throughout August although the intensity of IDF operations, including artillery shelling, air strikes and ground incursions, declined. Palestinian home made rockets continued to be fired into Israel but at a significantly reduced number to the July figure (70 compared to 330). The fate of an IDF soldier held captive by Palestinian militants for over two months remains uncertain.

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This report monitors the protection of civilians (Palestinian and Israeli casualties and Palestinian shelter, property and natural resources), the movement of goods and persons in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and humanitarian access throughout the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). It uses UN Security Council resolutions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international humanitarian law (IHL) as the standard for monitoring. This report also monitors the Bertini Commitments – the humanitarian commitments given by the Government of Israel (GoI) to Ms. Caroline Bertini, Personal Humanitarian Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, in August 2002.<sup>1</sup> IHL obligates parties to a conflict to ensure the safety of civilians and refrain from targeting public and private property not of military necessity during hostilities. As an occupying power, Israel has the primary responsibility for the welfare of civilians under its control especially for providing adequate food, medicine and health services (Articles 55, 56 and 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949).



- Although all UNRWA shelters in the Gaza Strip have closed, UNRWA continues to provide relocation allowances to over 800 families who have fled their homes in the north and south for safe areas. In addition, UNRWA is providing tents, water, and other services to approximately 300 people from the As Shouka area in the southern Gaza Strip who are tending to their livestock yet are unable to return to their normal areas of residence.

## West Bank

- Violence continued at similar increased levels to July 2006 throughout the West Bank (16 Palestinians killed and 120 injured in the conflict with Israel). The IDF also conducted over 474 search and arrest campaigns during August and detained/arrested some 370 Palestinians throughout the West Bank.
- In August 2006, four medical clinics and hospitals in the West Bank were searched by the IDF. Six charitable institutions in the West Bank were searched by the IDF, and had their computers and files confiscated.

- For the third consecutive month, Palestinian fisherman continued to be prevented from fishing off the Gaza Strip coastline. An estimated 35,000 Gazans are dependant on the fishing industry in a climate of already high poverty and unemployment levels.

## West Bank

- In the West Bank, Palestinian internal movement continued to deteriorate. The number of physical obstacles controlling Palestinian movement by the IDF increased again to 547, the highest number of physical obstacles in 2006, and an overall increase of 47% in the last 12 months.
- Throughout August, the IDF continued to prohibit the movement of all Palestinian males from Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarm, between the ages of 16-30 years south of Nablus unless they acquire a special permit from the IDF. It is estimated that over 105,000 men have been affected by this closure.

## Access:

Humanitarian access throughout the oPt continued to be problematic in August 2006. Humanitarian organisations filed 99 access incident reports in the West Bank and erratic operating procedures at Erez crossing continued to cause significant delays for UN personnel entering and exiting the Gaza Strip. The closure of the principal Karni crossing point throughout much of August forced UN agencies to use alternative crossing points to ensure that aid supplies reached the Gaza Strip.

## Gaza Strip

- The principal Karni crossing point was closed for 15 full days in August leading to a daily average number of truckloads of imported goods of 73, the second lowest average over the last 12 months.



## Protection of Civilians

### I. Casualties

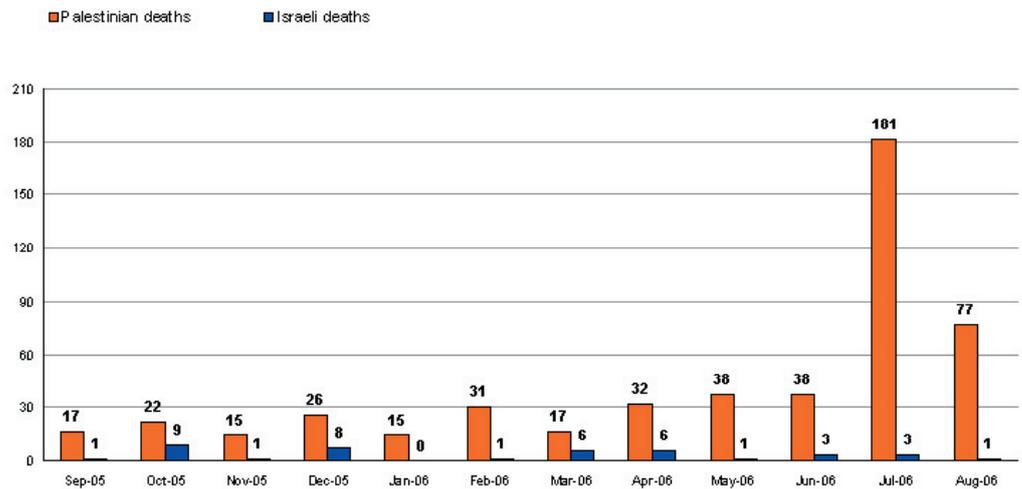
In August, 77 Palestinians including 13 children were killed during the ongoing conflict with Israel, the second highest monthly figure since September 2005 (Figures 1 and 2).<sup>2</sup> Sixty-one (61) of these fatalities occurred in the Gaza Strip during targeted Israel Air Force (IAF) air strikes, IDF shelling of the northern areas and confrontations with IDF Special Forces Units inside the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, 16 Palestinians were killed during IDF military operations including search and arrest campaigns, as well as confrontations with IDF Special Forces in the northern and central West Bank. Palestinian injuries also remained high in August (266) with 120 Palestinian injured reported in the West Bank, and 146 in the Gaza Strip. During the same period, one IDF soldier was killed in the West Bank at a checkpoint and ten Israelis, including four IDF soldiers, were injured.

Since the beginning of the year, 429 Palestinians and 21 Israelis have been killed and 2,246 Palestinians and 293 Israelis injured in direct conflict-related incidents.

*“The civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against dangers arising from military operations... The civilian population must not be the object of attacks. Acts or threats of violence, the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.”  
Protocol I Addition to the Geneva Conventions, Article 51*

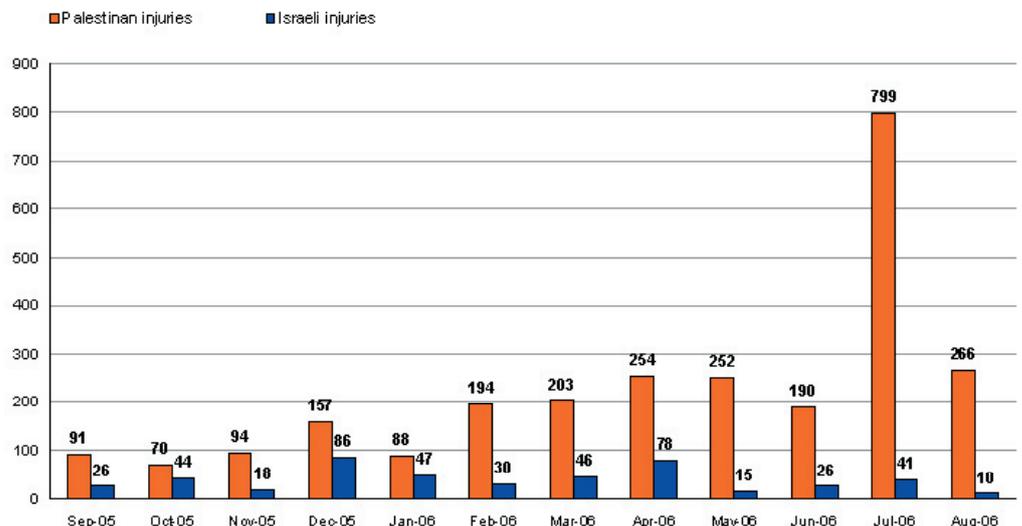
*“Stressing the need for all concerned to ensure the safety of civilians and to respect the universally accepted norms of international humanitarian law.”  
UN Security Council Resolution 1405 (2002)*

Figure 1: Palestinian and Israeli conflict related deaths



Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

Figure 2: Palestinian and Israeli conflict related injuries

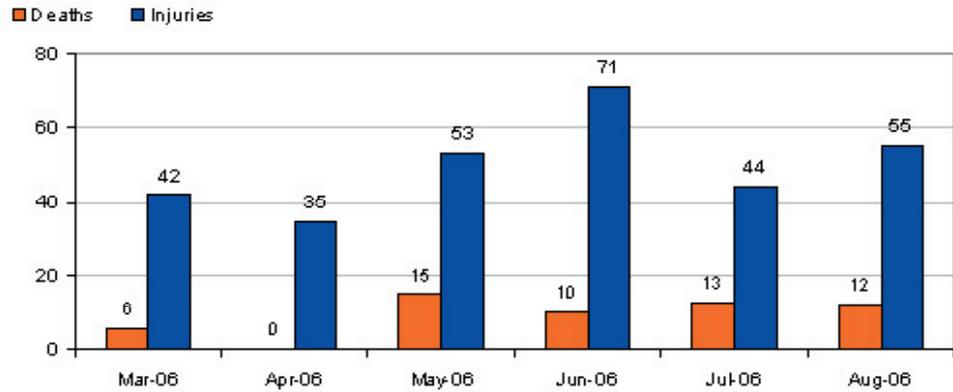


Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

### Casualties from Palestinian internal violence

Lawlessness and internal fighting have continued in the Gaza Strip in August (Figure 3). Eleven (11) Palestinians were killed, including one child, and 55 others injured in predominately inter-factional fighting, between the Hamas-dominated Executive Support Force (ESF) and Fatah-dominated Preventive Security Forces (PSF). In the West Bank, one Palestinian was killed by Palestinians militants who accused him of being a collaborator with Israel.

Figure 3: Palestinian deaths and injuries from internal violence<sup>3</sup>



Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

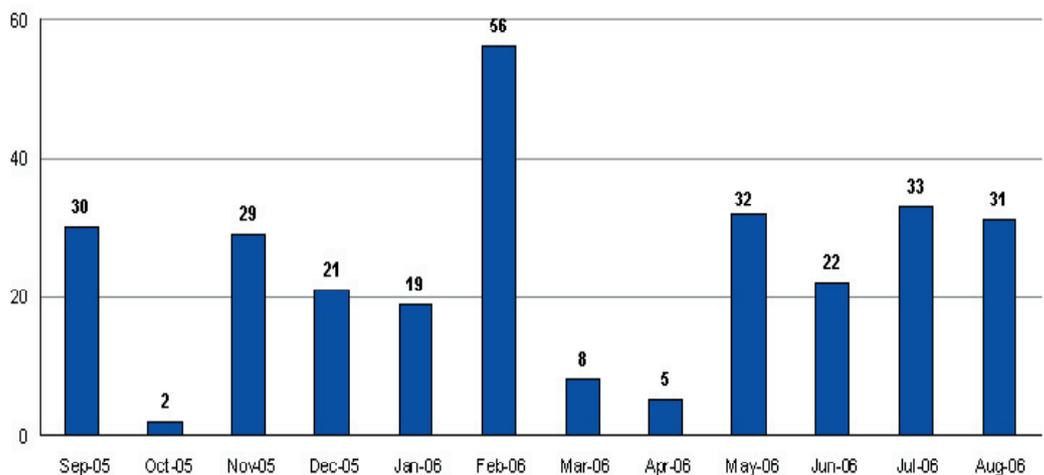
## 2. Palestinian shelter and property

*“Calls on Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, and insists, in particular, on its obligation not to undertake demolition of homes contrary to that law.”*

UN Security Council Resolution 1544 (2004)

Thirty-one (31) Palestinian structures demolished in August. The majority of the demolitions occurred in the Gaza Strip during IDF ground incursions, artillery shelling and IAF air strikes. In the West Bank, the majority of buildings were demolished by Israeli authorities for reportedly being built without permits.

Figure 4: Palestinian structures demolished



Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes



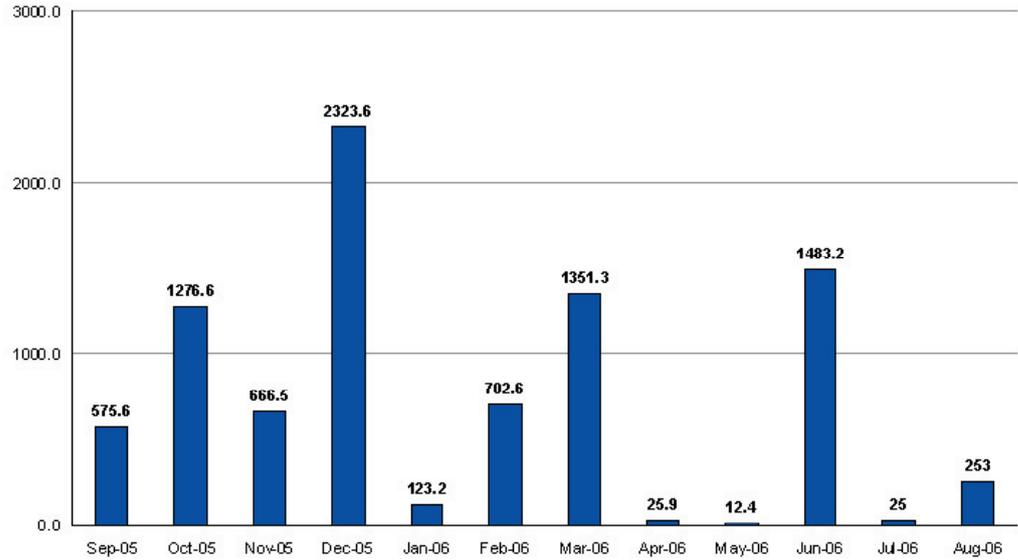
### 3. Natural resources

#### Land requisitions

The IDF requisitioned more than 253 dunums (25.3 hectares) of Palestinian land in the West Bank in August 2006 (Figure 5). The land was requisitioned in Qalqilya, Hebron and Bethlehem governorates to build a new military base, to establish 'road protection' and to construct a terminal.

*"Private property...must be respected ... [and] cannot be confiscated."  
Obligations of the Military Authorities in Occupied Territories, Art.46, Section III, Hague Regulations 1907*

Figure 5: Palestinian land requisitioned by the IDF (in dunums)



Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

#### Land levelling

Israeli authorities also continued to level land in Qalqilya, Salfit, Ramallah/AI Bireh, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron governorates for the construction of the Barrier including in Ramallah where 150 olive trees were uprooted. In Nablus, Tulkarm Ramallah/AI Bireh governorates, land was also levelled to erect security fences around Israeli settlements while in Bethlehem and Hebron governorates land was levelled to build terminals and a new tunnel.

*"Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations."  
Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 53.*

In the Gaza Strip, the IDF levelled land and uprooted trees in connection with ongoing military operations. OCHA estimates that more than 900 dunums of land was levelled. Additional information on land levelling is unavailable this month as a result of the general strike of PA employees which began in early September.

#### Access for water tankers and transporters

According to a 2005 survey by Water and Sanitation, Hygiene (WaSH) Monitoring Program, 200 Palestinian communities are not connected to water networks and in 11 other communities over half of the households are not connected to a network. A WaSH MP survey (survey No. 37), conducted in the second half of July and August 2006, found that the delivery of tankered water to 14 Palestinian communities in the West Bank was delayed by IDF permanent and flying checkpoints and on two occasions access for a water tanker was denied by the IDF.

*"Problems related to water deliveries to Palestinian towns and villages will be addressed to ensure that daily water deliveries in proper quantities can be supplied by Palestinian water tankers,"  
GoI Bertini Commitment (2002)*



## Movement of goods and people

### 1. Palestinian access to employment in Israel

*“Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.”  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 23*

*“Increase in the number of work permits for Palestinian workers in Israel”  
Gol Bertini Commitment (2002)*

Palestinians with West Bank IDs and valid permits were prevented from entering East Jerusalem and Israel on 20 external closure days in August by the Israeli authorities. Since 12 March, Palestinian workers and traders from the Gaza Strip with valid permits have not been permitted access to Israel via Erez crossing (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Erez crossing – average daily labour movement from the Gaza Strip to Israel

	Jun 05	Jul 05	Aug 05	Sep 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06
Workers to Israel	3,588	1,767	281	137	0	1,200	1,502	707	3,698	1,161	0	0	0	0	0
Traders to Israel	362	175	168	120	0	104	73	42	155	56	0	0	0	0	0

Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

### 2. West Bank

#### Palestinian movement within the West Bank

In the West Bank, restrictions on Palestinian movement have steadily increased in 2006 (Figure 7). At the end of August there were 547 physical obstacles throughout the West Bank imposed by the IDF to restrict Palestinian movement. These obstacles include checkpoints, earth mounds, road gates, road blocks, earth walls, trenches and fences. There has been an increase in the number of physical obstacles during 2006 (an additional 72 obstacles). This is despite the 15 November Agreement on Movement and Access (AMA) between the Gol and PA which stated that “the ongoing work between Israel and the US to establish an agreed list of obstacles to movement and develop a plan to reduce them [the number of obstacles] to the maximum extent possible will be accelerated so that the work can be completed by December 31.”

An average of 162 flying checkpoints were observed by OCHA field staff each week in August, a figure slightly lower than July average but comparatively high to other months (Figure 7). Flying checkpoints severely disrupt Palestinian movement as they are often deployed on key transit roads during morning and evening peak travelling times. Delays of more than one hour are regularly reported at flying checkpoints and their unpredictable nature means that Palestinians are unable to make travel plans.

The number of curfews imposed by the IDF in the West Bank, as well as the number of hours under curfew for the Palestinian population, decreased in August compared to the previous months.

Figure 7: Palestinian movement within the West Bank – physical obstacles, curfews, and flying checkpoints

	No. of physical obstacles <sup>4</sup>			IDF imposed curfew <sup>5</sup>		Average no. of flying ‘random’ checkpoints observed each week <sup>6</sup>
	Total	Manned	Unmanned	No. of Incidents	No. of hours	
Jan 06	475	59	416	1	12	96
Feb 06	487	60	427	3	79	121
Mar 06	505	63	442	9	111	142
Apr 06	504	66	438	6	58	138
May 06	519	71	448	9	118.5	127
Jun 06	526	76	450	3	26	142
Jul 06	540	77	463	4	30	182
Aug 06	547	79	468	2	6	162

Source: OCHA field observations and Weekly Briefing Notes



### IDF search and arrest campaigns in the West Bank

The number of IDF search and arrest campaigns carried on in August throughout the West Bank was at a similar level to the two previous months. However, the actual number of Palestinians detained and arrested by Israeli authorities in August decreased to the lowest number so far in 2006 (Figure 8). As in the two previous months, IDF search and arrest campaigns in the West Bank have resulted in Palestinian casualties including ‘wanted’ Palestinians as well as Palestinian stone throwers. During August, at least five (5) Palestinians were killed and 39 injured in connection with search and arrest campaigns.

Figure 8: IDF search and arrest campaigns in the West Bank

	IDF search and arrest campaigns <sup>7</sup>	
	No. of Incidents	No. of arrests/ detentions
Jan 06	284	440
Feb 06	339	474
Mar 06	352	393
Apr 06	513	575
May 06	360	400
Jun 06	471	406
Jul 06	601	549
Aug 06	474	370

Source: OCHA Weekly Briefing Notes

## 3. Gaza Strip

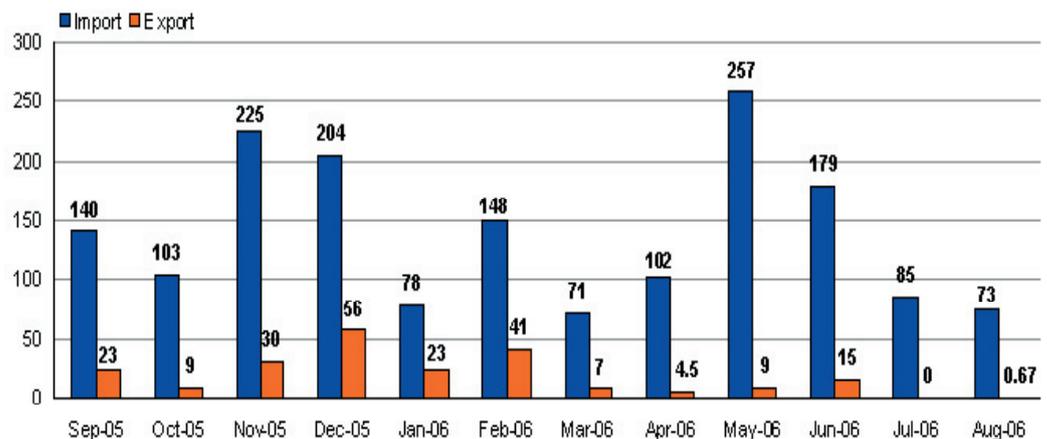
### Karni crossing

Karni crossing is situated on the border with Israel. Most humanitarian supplies and commercial goods entering the Gaza Strip and all goods leaving the Gaza Strip, pass through Karni. During August, Karni was closed for 15 full days (excluding Saturdays).<sup>8</sup> By the end of August, Karni has been completely closed for 44% of the year.

Karni is frequently open for less than the scheduled number of working hours or for imports only, a trend that had been observed in the preceding months and significantly impacts the daily flow of goods through the crossing, especially exports.

The frequent closure of Karni crossing is reflected in the low average daily number of imported goods into the Gaza Strip in August (73 trucks), the second lowest average over the last 12 months (Figure 9). The average daily number of exported truckloads through Karni decreased even further in August, as compared to May and June (no exported goods passed through Karni in July 2006) and remains well below the goal set by the AMA of 150 daily truckloads by end of 2005 and 400 by end of 2006. In August, a total of 19.5 trucks with exported goods were allowed to leave the Gaza Strip, the equivalent of a daily average of 0.67 truckloads.

Figure 9: Karni crossing – average daily truckloads (imports and exports)



Source: Palestinian Ministry of National Economy and from May 2006 data provided by PalTrade.

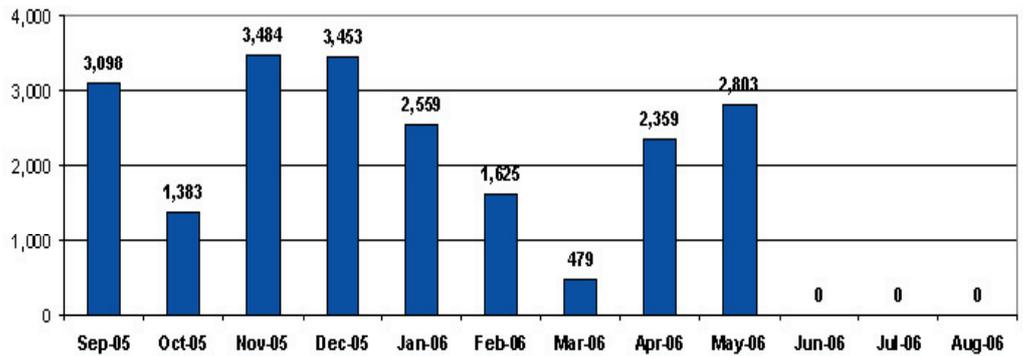
**Kerem Shalom crossing**

Kerem Shalom crossing on the Gaza-Israel-Egyptian border has been periodically used for humanitarian supplies entering the Gaza Strip since it became operational in late March 2006. Kerem Shalom remained closed following the 25 June attack throughout July and most of August (it reopened on 28 August and stayed open until the end of August for limited humanitarian supplies, allowing 25 truck carrying flour and rice to cross).

**Sufa crossing**

Sufa crossing borders Israel and is situated northeast of Rafah crossing in the southern Gaza Strip. Sufa is used for the import of construction materials, in particular gravel, and periodic humanitarian supplies from the UN agencies. Sufa closed on 21 June for security reasons and remained closed until 27 August when it was reopened for humanitarian supplies. The crossing remained closed for building materials throughout August. The closure of the crossing for ten consecutive weeks has significantly impacted Gaza’s construction industry including infrastructure projects. UNDP reported in early August that USD 70 million worth of infrastructure projects have been adversely affected due to the shortage of construction materials in the Gaza Strip. The lack of building material available on the local market has severely hindered the construction and development of UNRWA’s infrastructure projects. School repairs, shelter construction, improvements to sewage networks, along with the construction of specialised training facilities for students in seven courses at the Gaza Training Centre have – amongst other projects – been delayed due to lack of building material.

Figure 10: Sufa crossing – total imported truckloads of gravel<sup>9</sup>

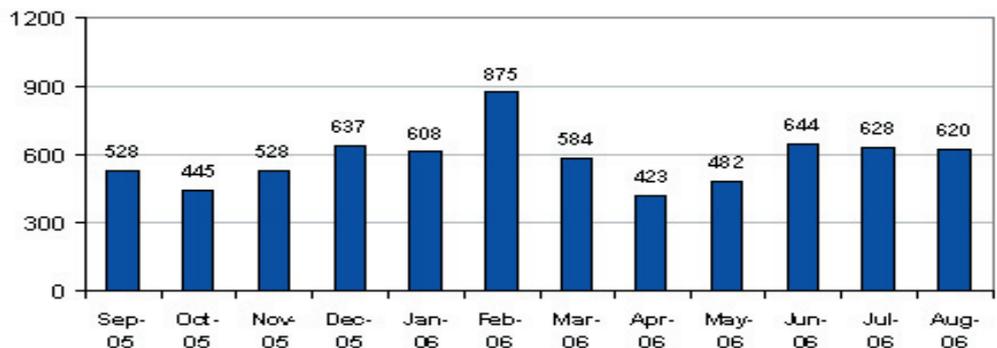


Source: Palestinian Ministry of Finance, data obtained from UNSCO

**Nahal Oz energy pipelines**

The Palestine General Petroleum Company (PGPC), a company owned by the PA, imports fuel (including benzene, diesel, kerosene and cooking gas) into the Gaza Strip through its Israeli counterpart, Dor Energy, via the Nahal Oz energy pipelines. These pipelines are usually open six days per week but were closed for six days in August by the Israeli authorities for security reasons (Figure 11). The import of fuel into the Gaza Strip from Israel became more critical following the bombing by the IAF of Gaza’s only power plant on 28 June.

Figure 11: Nahal Oz pipelines – total imported truckloads of fuel (excluding industrial gasoline)

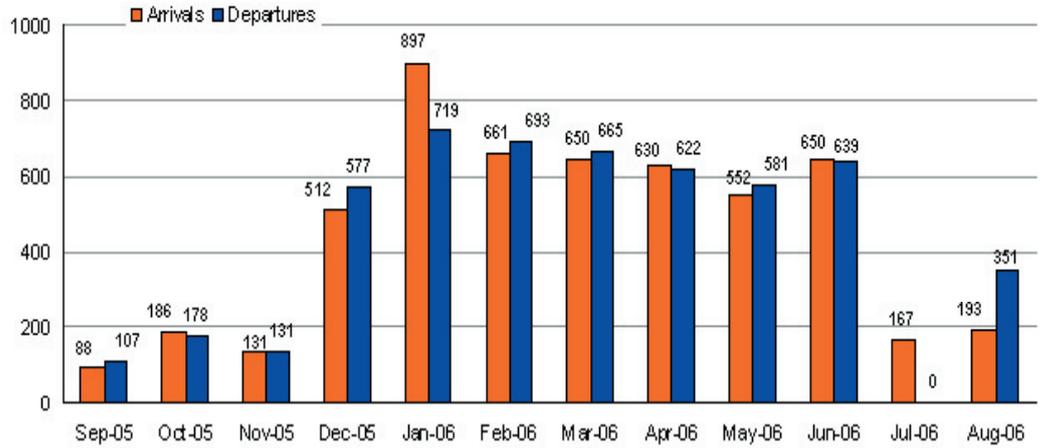


Source: Palestine General Petroleum Company

**Rafah crossing**

Rafah passenger crossing is the point of access for Gazans travelling overseas and is located on the Gazan border with Egypt. Since 25 June, Rafah has been closed for regular movement. The crossing opened on 11 and 12 August to allow the 4,161 Palestinians to leave the Gaza Strip. On 19, 25 and 26 August Rafah terminal was open for traffic in both directions and during these three days, 5,986 Palestinians arrived, and 6,716 Palestinians left the Gaza Strip. The limited operation of the crossing point in August lead to daily average number of Palestinians entering the Gaza Strip of 193 and an average number of persons exiting the Gaza Strip of 351 (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Rafah passenger crossing - average daily crossing

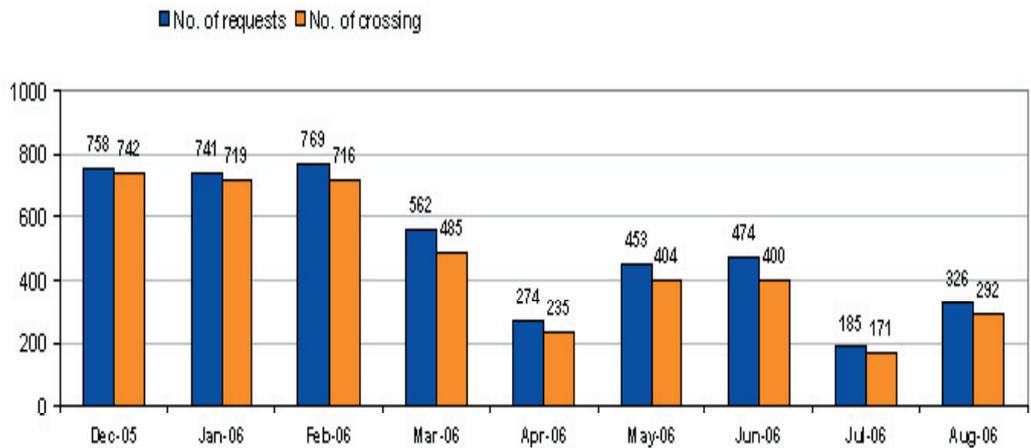


Source: Palestinian Passport and Border Police and from May 2006 EU BAM.

**Movement of medical cases from the Gaza Strip**

Palestinians who are referred for medical treatment abroad by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) from the Gaza Strip have to travel through Erez or Rafah crossings. According to WHO, in August 318 requests were made for medical treatment in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Israel of which 92.9% (292) crossed through Erez. Generally, following the 25 June attack, the number of people permitted to cross has dramatically declined as IDF has imposed stricter criteria on patients eligible for permits (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Erez crossing – medical referrals crossing



Source: World Health Organization (WHO)



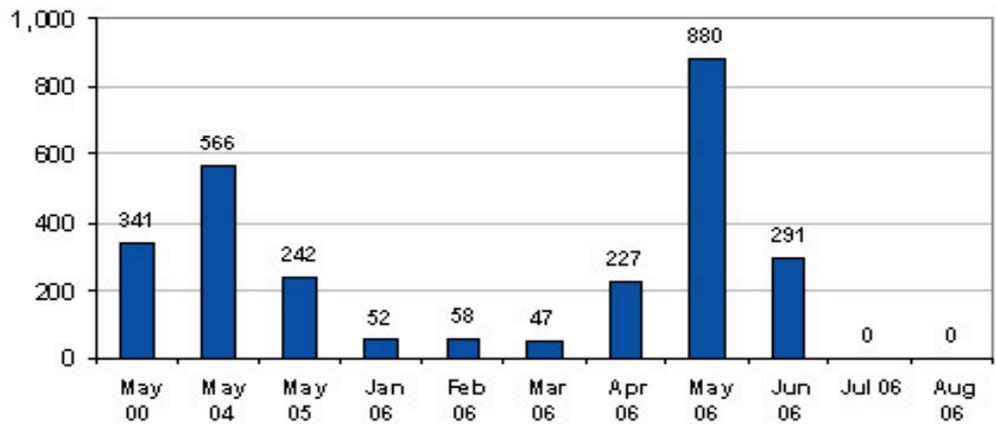
*“The fishing zone for Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza Strip will be extended to 12 nautical miles.”  
GoI Bertini Commitment (2002)*

### Access for Palestinian fishing off the Gaza Strip

Since January 2005, the Israeli authorities have permitted Palestinian fishing up to ten nautical miles from the Gaza Strip coastline compared to six nautical miles previously. This fishing area still falls short of the Bertini Commitment benchmark of 12 nautical miles. Palestinian fishing is also prohibited one nautical mile north of the border with Egypt and one and a half nautical miles south of the border with Israel.

However, since 25 June, the Israeli authorities have prevented fishing off the Gaza Strip coastline, resulting in no fish being available in the local markets in August. Approximately 35,000 people are reliant on fishing for their livelihoods.

Figure 14: Gaza fishing - total fishing catch in tonnes



Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture/Department of Fisheries

## Humanitarian assistance

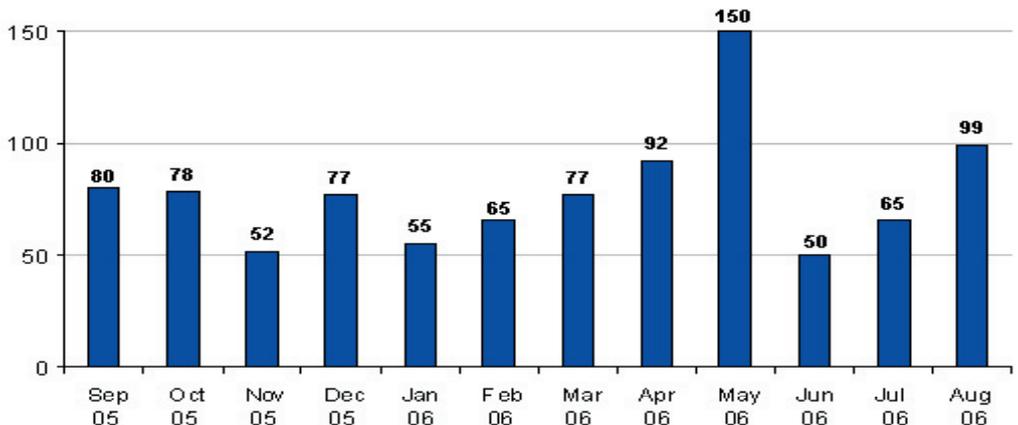
### Humanitarian access

*“Urges all those concerned as set forth in international humanitarian law...to allow full unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to all people in need of assistance, and to make available, as far as possible, all necessary facilities for their operations, and to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and the United Nations and its associated personnel and their assets.”  
UN Security Council Resolution 1502 (2003)*

In August, humanitarian organisations including the UN, reported 99 access incidents throughout the West Bank (Figure 15). Incidents involving access restrictions include where the delivery of aid/and or movement of personnel was obstructed by the IDF or Israeli Border Police at fixed or mobile checkpoints. Twenty-four (24) of the incidents occurred at entrances to and around Jerusalem.

International humanitarian organisations require prior coordination with Israeli authorities to enter and leave the Gaza Strip through Erez crossing. On 14 February and 7 May, the IDF introduced new procedures at Erez crossing for internationals leaving the Gaza Strip. Since 25 June, the movement of all non-diplomatic UN personnel has required prior coordination with the Israeli authorities to both enter and exit the Gaza Strip.

Figure 15: Humanitarian access incidents in the West Bank



Source: ACIS forms and UNRWA Operations West Bank monthly reports

*“Facilitation of International Organisations: (1) Israel will fully facilitate the assistance activities of international organisations with particular reference to UNRWA; (2) Israel agrees to review and strengthen the liaison arrangements between international agencies and the IDF to facilitate assistance activities; and (3) Israel will improve the situation at checkpoints, including the deployment of more experienced IDF personnel.”  
GoI Bertini Commitment (2002)*



*“Increased shipments will be allowed at Karni crossing in the Gaza Strip.”  
GoI Bertini Commitment (2002)*

### Humanitarian supplies into the Gaza Strip

The majority of international humanitarian relief supplies enter the Gaza Strip through Karni crossing. In addition to the regular programme which feeds over 80,000. In August, UNRWA was only able to import 152 containers of food and export 158 containers. At the end of August, UNRWA had 123 empty containers in the Gaza Strip waiting to leave through Karni compared to 203 at the end of June. UNRWA reports that at the end of August, the costs of additional storage, transport and demurrage charges since the beginning of 2006 associated with closures of Karni had reached nearly \$1 million. The impact of the Karni closures has not only had financial implications, but has disrupted the Agency’s plans and punctual delivery of its services, including emergency food aid.

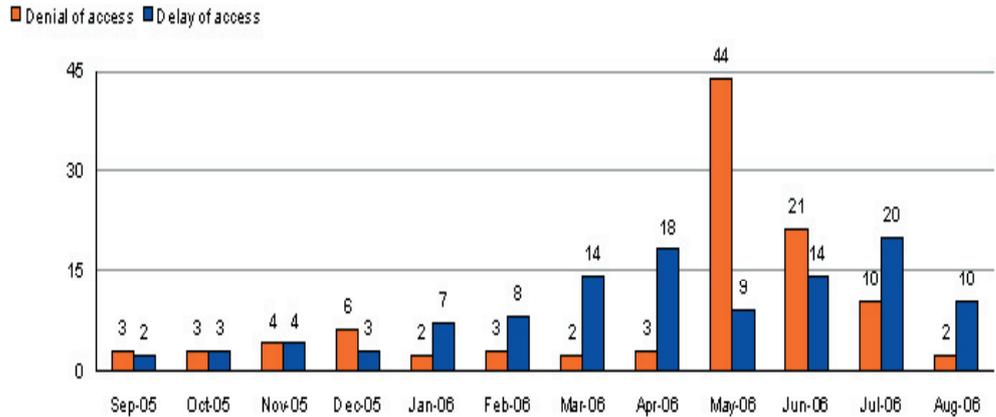
In August WFP received 1777.2 tons of peas, sugar and wheat flour through Karni and Sufa crossings. During the same period UNICEF received 342 science and math kits, 5900 vials of DTP Vaccines, and 6400 vials of Hepatitis B Vaccine DNA.

### Ambulance incidents in the West Bank

Two denials of access and ten delays in access (in excess of 30 minutes) were reported by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in the West Bank (Figure 16). All of the incidents occurred in the Northern West Bank (Jenin, Nablus) or at the entrances to Jerusalem.

*“Emphasizes the urgency of access of medical and humanitarian organisations to the Palestinian civilian population.” UN Security Council Resolution 1405 (2002)*

Figure 16: Ambulance incidents in the West Bank



*“Ambulance access: (1) Palestinian ambulances will wait no more than 30 minutes at any checkpoints; and (2) Effective mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that Palestinians seeking critical medical services (child delivery, dialysis, chemotherapy etc) can quickly pass all checkpoints.”  
GoI Bertini Commitment (2002)*

Source: Palestine Red Crescent Society

### Endnotes

- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Ms Bertini to address the humanitarian needs arising from the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict since September 2000. Ms. Bertini was requested to assess the nature and scale of the humanitarian needs, and to clarify the respective responsibilities of all actors involved. This report, in part, monitors the humanitarian commitments given or confirmed by the GoI to Ms. Bertini during a mission to the region between 12 and 19 August 2002.
- The figures reported are ‘direct conflict related casualties’ and do not include casualties indirectly related to the conflict such as incidents involving unexploded ordnances, traffic accidents between Israelis and Palestinians in the oPt, deaths after medical access was denied at checkpoints or during curfews/military operations. The figures also do not include casualties when the circumstances remain unclear or are in dispute. In August, an additional nine Palestinians were killed and 13 injured in indirect conflict related incidents.
- OCHA began to monitor Palestinian internal violence systematically from March 2006.
- Exact reporting periods for the number of physical obstacles are as follows: January (as of 2 February), February (as of 6 March), March (as of 3 April), April (as of 1 May); May (as of 30 May), June (as of 27 June), (as of 25 July), and August (as of 22 August).
- Exact reporting periods for IDF imposed curfew: January (4 – 31 January), February (1 – 28 February), March (1 – 28 March), April (29 March – 02 May) and May (03 -30 May), June (31 May – 27 June), July (27 June – 1 August), and August (2 – 29 August).
- Exact reporting periods for the number of flying checkpoints: January (4 – 31 January), February (1 – 28 February), March (1 – 28 March), April (29 March – 02 May), May (03 -30 May), June (31 May – 27 June), July (27 June – 1 August), and August (2 – 29 August).
- Exact reporting periods for IDF search and arrest campaigns: January (4 – 31 January), February (1 – 28 February), March (1 – 28 March), April (29 March – 02 May) and May (03 -30 May), June (31 May – 27 June), July (27 June – 1 August) and August (2 – 29 August).
- This figure includes days when Karni was completely closed excluding Saturdays (when Karni is scheduled to be closed) except when a Saturday falls over a comprehensive closure period i.e. Karni was closed on the preceding Friday and following Sunday.
- One truckload equals 40 tonnes.