

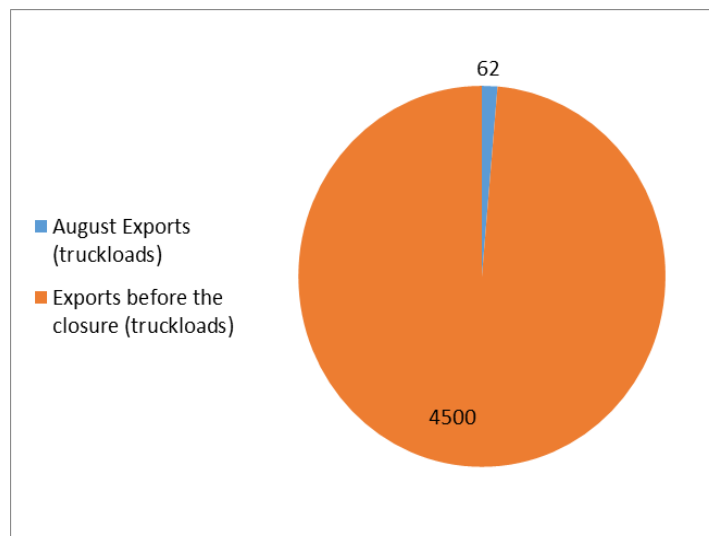
State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings 01-31 August 2017

The Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 11th consecutive year continues, and in August the crossings surrounding the Gaza Strip witnessed further restrictions, refuting the Israeli claims of easing the closure.

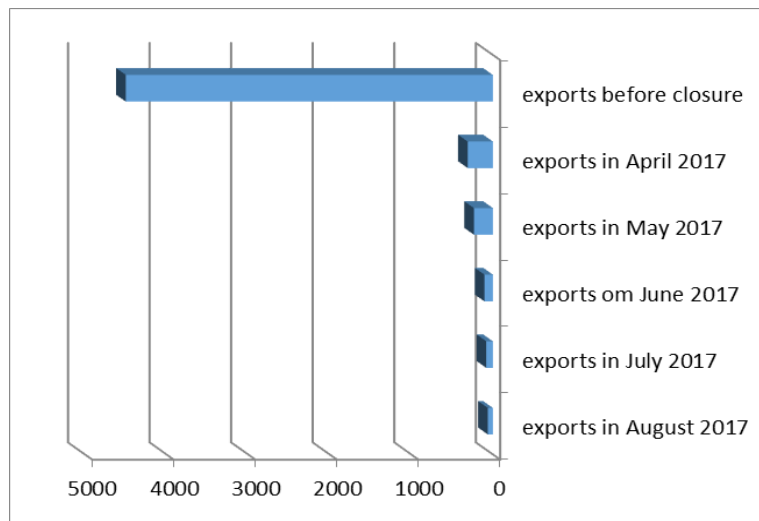
- **Restrictions on Goods Movement**

- **Continued ban on exports:**

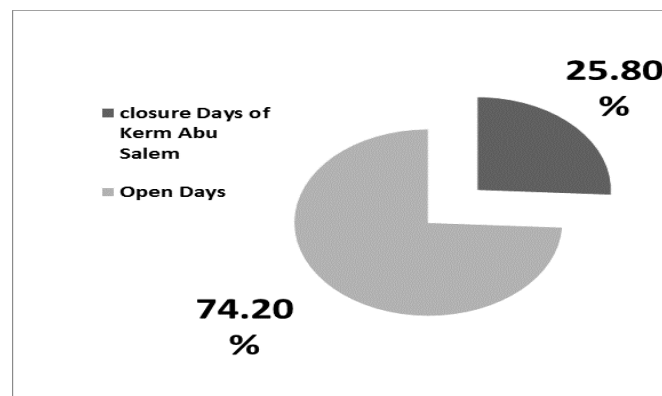
- The Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip exports. In a limited exception, they allowed the exportation of limited amounts of goods; most of which are exported to the West Bank and little amounts are exported to Israel and other counties.
- In August, the Israeli authorities allowed the exportation of 62 truckloads; most of which were agricultural (37 truckloads) and 25 other truckloads of fish, furniture, aluminum scrap, clothes and spices. The exports in August constitute only 1.3% of the total exports before June 2007.



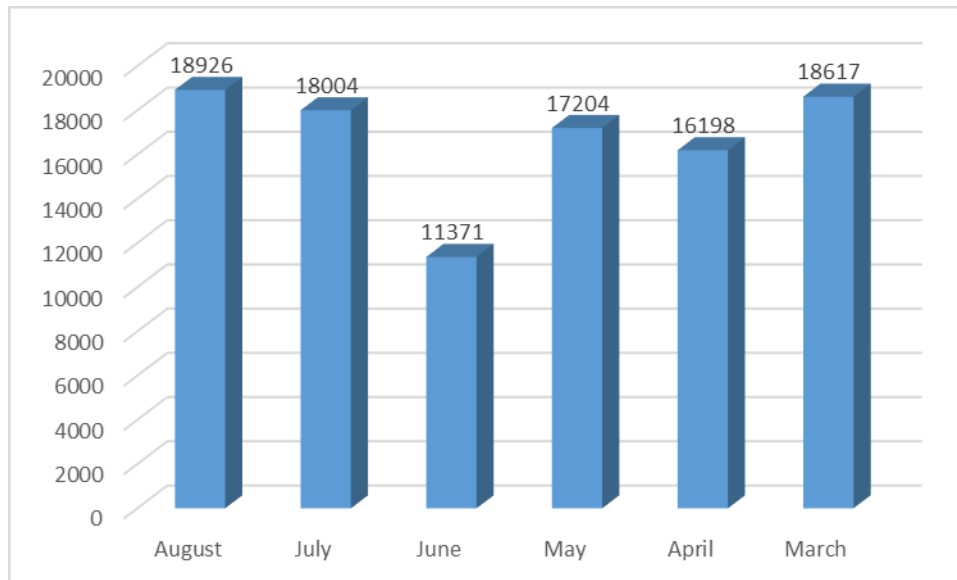
- The rate of Gaza Strip exports in August declined at 23.4% compared with July when the Israeli forces allowed the exportation of 81 truckloads. Moreover, the exports' rate declined at 40.3% comparing with June when 104 truckloads were exported. Meanwhile, the rate recorded a decline of 73.2% comparing with exports in May when 232 truckloads were allowed for exportation. Moreover, the exports' rate declined at 79.8% comparing with April when 308 truckloads were exported.



- During the reporting period, Israel closed Karm Abu Salem, which is the sole commercial crossing, for 8 days (25.8 % of the total period). During the days it was open, the Israeli authorities allowed the entry of 18,926 truckloads; an average of 610 truckloads daily.



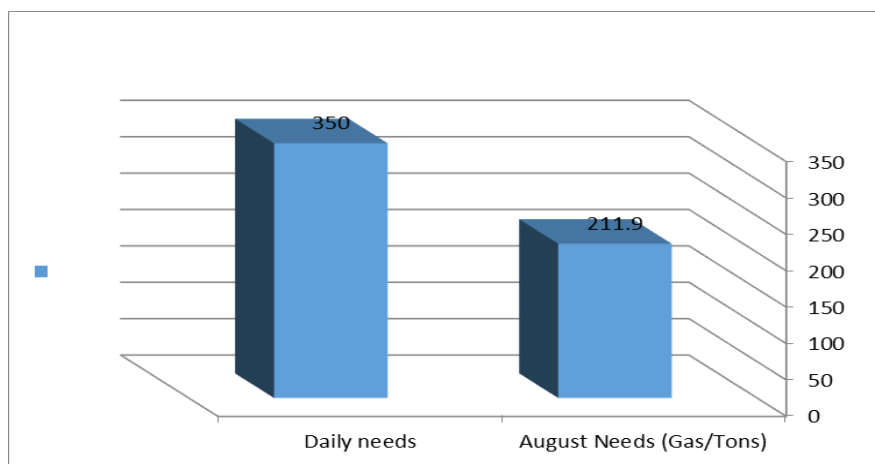
- **Ongoing Restrictions on imports:** the Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip, claiming that they are "dual-use materials". The Israeli forces put 118 types of goods on the list of the "dual-use materials" most of them include hundreds goods and basic goods. For example, the type of communication equipment alone includes dozens of goods.



- The items on the "dual-use goods" list are essential to the life of the population, so imposing restrictions on importing them contribute to the deterioration of infrastructure and the deterioration of economic, health and education conditions. These items include communications equipment, pumps, large generators, iron bars, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding rods used in welding, 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, types of batteries and several types of fertilizers.
- The process of submitting applications by the Gaza Strip population to obtain goods classified by the Israeli authorities as dual-use goods is very complex and ambiguous. Those residing the Gaza Strip should send a request to the Palestinian Coordination Committee of for the Entry of Goods that refers the request to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Office at "Erez" crossing. After that, the good will be classified and sent to the relevant Israeli officer to check it. Moreover, the Palestinian trader should close the transaction with the Israeli seller or broker and pay for it to

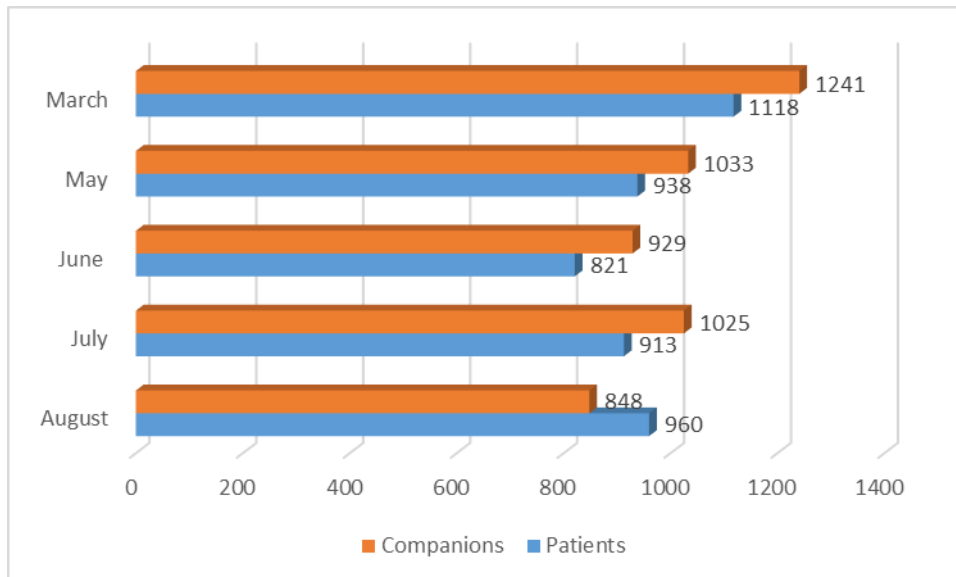
submit the request. If the response was positive, the coordination of the entry of goods will be allowed through the Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shaloum) crossing. A number of traders and contractors stressed to PCHR that the abovementioned measures are very complicated as the Israeli authorities deliberately delay responses to applications for months. Additionally, in many cases, the Israeli authorities stationed at (Kerem Shaloum) crossing return the goods that had been already approved on to enter. This inflicts heavy losses on traders who pay large amount of money for the storage and demurrage charges and to contractors who undertake to deliver their projects on time.

- **Restrictions on the entry of construction materials:** the Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the entry of construction materials. According to the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza, the Israeli authorities allowed the entry of 56,540 tons of cement; 14,422 tons of construction steel; and 214,670 tons of construction aggregates. The Gaza Strip's populations' needs of cement are met by the amounts supplied from Egypt. The deterioration of economic situations has also contributed to reducing material demand in construction
- **Ongoing crisis of cooking gas:** the Israeli authorities continued to decrease the entry of cooking gas into the Gaza Strip as only 6,571 tons of cooking gas were allowed; a daily average of 211.9 tons. According to the General Petroleum Corporation in Gaza (EGPC), this amount represents 60.5% of the actual daily needs of the population, which is 350 tons. As a result, people were forced to wait for a long time, exceeding 3 months, to refill half of a gas cylinder.



- **Restrictions on the Movement of Persons:**

- **Patients:** During the reporting period, the Israeli authorities stationed at Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing obstructed the travel of dozens of patients referred for medical treatment in the Israeli hospitals or the West Bank under various pretexts, including security reasons, changing the companions, waiting for a new appointment and awaiting an Israeli reply following security interviews. In August, Israel allowed the entry of 960 patients and 848 companions. It should be mentioned that the number of patients allowed traveling monthly via Beit Hanoun Crossing represents only half of the number of patients who applied for permits to travel via the Crossing. In August, there was a decrease of 6.3% in the number of patients allowed to travel via the Beit Hanoun Crossing comparing with July when 1,025 patients were allowed. Meanwhile, there was a decrease of 24.1% noticed in the number of companions comparing with March when 1,118 companions were allowed.



- It should be mentioned that according to the Coordination and Liaison Department in the Ministry of Health, the number of patients who applied for permits to travel via Beit Hanoun

Crossing in 2016 was 26,280 applications; 16,277 were approved (61.9% of the total applications.) It should be noted that the filed applications requesting permits were for patients who are only emergency cases according to the classification of the Israeli authorities (i.e. suffering from life threatening diseases). The Israeli authorities also deprive patients with non-life-threatening diseases, such as blindness and amputation, of traveling for treatment, claiming that their cases are not that urgent and does not require saving a life.

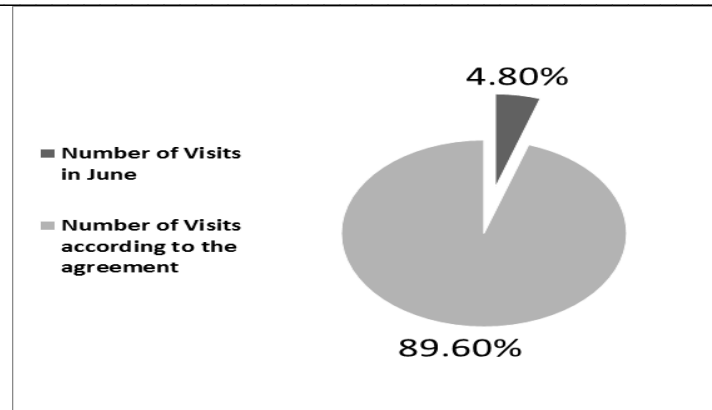
• **Prisoners' Visits:**

In August, the Israeli authorities allowed 65 family members of prisoners divided into 4 groups to visit 34 of their relatives in the Israeli prisons according to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza.

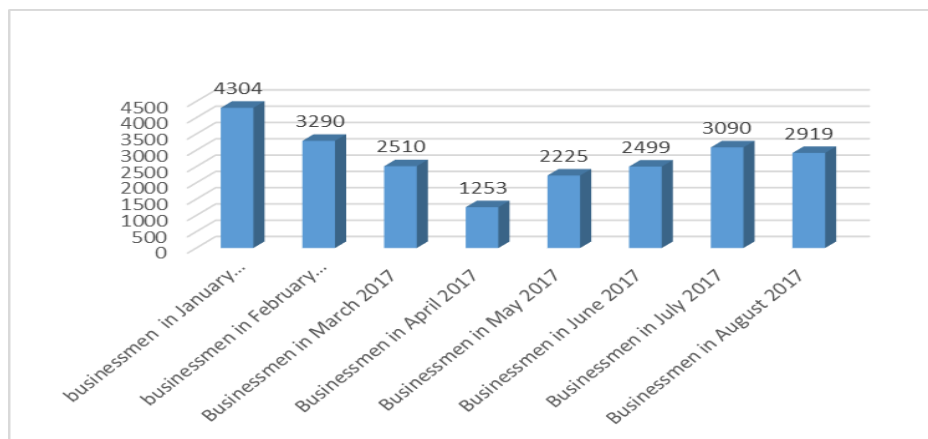
Family Visits to Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails in August 2017

Day	Number of visitors	Number of children	Number of visited prisoners	Prison
07 August 2017	24	7	12	Rimon
14 August 2017	3	-	2	Eshel
22 August 2017	31	11	16	Nafha
28 August 2017	7	-	4	Rimon

- The above table shows that the number of visitors is limited compared with the number of visits allowed under the prisoners' deal. According to the agreement, each prisoner has the right to two family visits a month. With 350 prisoners in Israeli prisons, the number of visits should reach 700 monthly. However, the Israeli forces only allowed 34 visits (4.8%). The same applies to the number of family members who are allowed to visit their relatives; the number of these members mounted to 65 in August whereas the number should be 1,400 persons in case each prisoner is visited by 2 members of his family twice a month (4.6%). The families were subjected to arbitrary practices, obstacles and immoral and degrading treatment.

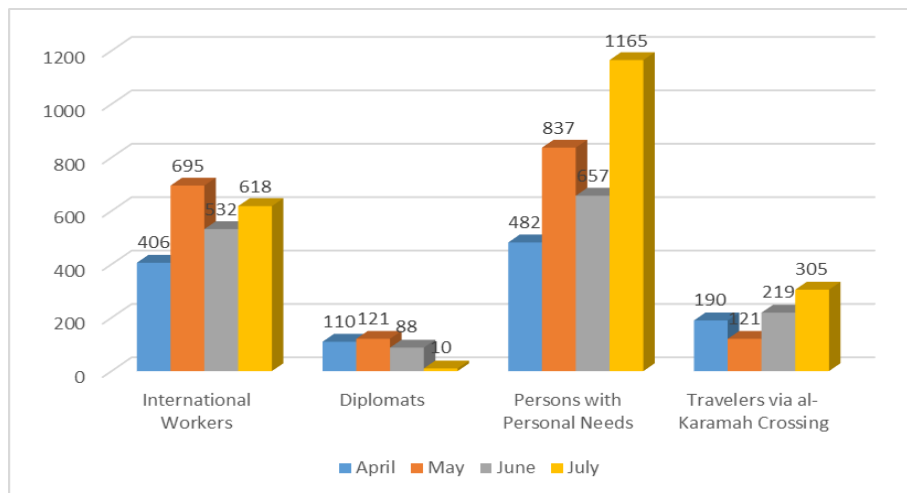


- **Number of businessmen who are allowed to travel declined:** the Israeli authorities allowed 2,919 businessmen to travel via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing in August. This number decreased comparing with the July at a rate of 5.5%% when 3,090 businessmen were allowed to travel. This number also decreased comparing with the January at a rate of 32.1%% when 4,304 businessmen were allowed to travel.



- **Other categories:** According to GACA, Israel allowed the entry of 693 international workers (a decline of 5.3% comparing with May when 732 international workers entered); 7 diplomats (a decline of 92% comparing with June when 88 were allowed and a decline of 94.6% comparing with May when 132 diplomats entered); 1,010 persons with personal needs (a decline of 13.3% comparing with July); and 262 travelers via al-Karama (Allenby) crossing (a decrease of 14% comparing with July). It should be mentioned that these statistics do not represent the number of persons allowed to enter as the permit holders are far less than the passing times due to passing many times via the crossing with the same permit in one month.

- **Worshippers Denied Access to Al-Aqsa Mosque:** the Israeli authorities continue to deny the elderly worshippers access to al-Aqsa Mosque for performing prayers. This refutes the Israeli continued claims about easing the movement of the Gaza population.



- **Rafah International Crossing Point**

During the reporting period, Rafah International Crossing Point was closed during August for 25 days as a result of the Egyptian internal situation and the deteriorating security situation in north Sinai. The crossing was opened only for 6 days during which, 6,002 persons were allowed to leave the Gaza Strip, including 3,342 pilgrims while 2,394 returned. The Egyptian authorities returned 204 persons, including 10 pilgrims, and prevented them from travelling without any reasons. In August, the number of civilians who were able to travel was 30,000 (8.8%) out of the number of civilians registering to travel according to the Gaza Crossings and Border Authority.

This unveiled the reality of the situation in the Gaza Strip in light of the collective punishment policy and Israeli closure imposed on all the surrounding border crossings, especially Beit Hanoun Crossing, which is totally under the Israeli control.