



Access and Protection

Context:

In November, the United Nations and participating NGOs appealed for more than US\$453 million for emergency humanitarian assistance to meet increasing Palestinian needs in 2007. The largest emergency appeal ever launched in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) is borne out of the continued fiscal crisis facing the Palestinian Authority (PA), rising poverty and increasing movement restrictions on the Palestinian population by the Government of Israel (GoI).

A ceasefire was declared at the end of November in the Gaza Strip following five months of Israeli military operations. The deal came after a month of increased hostilities in the Gaza Strip including a six-day long Israel Defense Forces (IDF) incursion into the Palestinian town of Beit Hanoun which resulted in high numbers of Palestinian civilian deaths and extensive damage to infrastructure. On 8 November a barrage of IDF artillery shells hit six Palestinian homes in Beit Hanoun, killing 19 Palestinian civilians and injuring more than 54 others. A special session of the UN Human Rights Council on 17 November called for a high level fact-finding commission to be sent to Beit Hanoun to investigate the incident.

In the West Bank, IDF operations and Israeli settler violence continued, resulting in Palestinian casualties and increasing numbers of Palestinian arrests in the West Bank. A general strike of PA employees also continued during November in the West Bank in protest against the non-payment of their salaries. Agreements were made in November with some of the striking groups, reducing the impact of the strike.

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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, including East Jerusalem, 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 humanitarian indicators. 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 2002¹. 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).



Key Humanitarian Issues

Protection:

In November, 138 Palestinians were killed in the oPt during the ongoing conflict with Israel; the second highest monthly figure since early 2005. Of these fatalities, 121 occurred in the Gaza Strip and 17 in the West Bank. A further 491 Palestinians were injured. In November, three Israelis were killed and 30 injured. During November, 83 Palestinian homes were demolished (33 in the West Bank and 50 in the Gaza Strip), and more than 198 damaged by the IDF.

Gaza Strip

- **High casualties:** The majority of the Palestinians killed and injured were in the Gaza Strip (121 killed and 332 injured). These figures include two Palestinian ambulance workers who were killed and another injured by the IDF during a six-day incursion in northern Gaza. One IDF soldier was killed and another ten injured in hostilities in the Gaza Strip – four of the soldiers were injured by two female Palestinian suicide bombers.
- **Continued hostilities:** During November, the IDF fired 255 artillery shells and five tank shells into the Gaza Strip. The Israel Air Force (IAF) conducted 93 air strikes throughout the Gaza Strip. On three occasions Palestinians congregated in large numbers around the houses that the IDF had warned to be evacuated as air strikes were imminent, leading the IDF to call off the air strikes. Palestinian homemade rockets continued to be fired into Israel. At least 283 homemade rockets were fired during the month (compared to 73 in October) killing two Israeli civilians and injuring 11 others.
- **Beit Hanoun:** From 1 to 7 November the IDF launched a military incursion codenamed ‘Autumn Clouds’ into the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. The offensive left at least 68 Palestinians dead – including five children and five women – and injured more than 150. One IDF soldier was killed and another one injured in the incursion. Extensive damage to homes and civilian infrastructure, as well as shortages of food, water and medical supplies were reported during the six days. The day after the withdrawal of IDF soldiers, 19 Palestinian civilians were killed (including eight children and six women) and 54 injured when 12 IDF artillery shells hit six Palestinian homes.
- **Gaza Airport:** The terminal building at the Gaza International Airport has been severely damaged. The IDF deployed at the airport at the end of June and withdrew following the declaration of the ceasefire. OCHA field officers report extensive damage to the terminal - roofing tiles have been torn down from the ceiling, water pipes have been dug up in places,

airport authority papers are discarded everywhere and broken glass covers the floor.

- **Internal insecurity:** Two ICRC international staff were kidnapped by a group of Palestinian armed men. Both were released unharmed nine hours later. Palestinian internal violence continued in the Gaza Strip leaving 14 Palestinians dead, including one child, and 35 injured.

West Bank

- **Continued violence:** 17 Palestinians were killed and 159 injured in the conflict with Israel, mostly in search and arrest campaigns and armed confrontations with IDF soldiers. The IDF conducted more than 581 search operations during November and detained/arrested some 543 Palestinians throughout the West Bank (an increase on the previous months). Nine Israelis were injured in the West Bank (four settlers and five Police/Border Police Officers).
- **IDF activity:** IDF soldiers used tear gas and sound bombs against students of Jabal Johar Elementary School located in H2/Hebron, forcing the school to shut down for one day. The IDF also, until further notice, shut down a branch of the Orphan Care Society in Bethlehem city and entered a media office and the “Al Bir wa el Ihsan” charitable association in Tulkarm, confiscating equipment and causing damage to the furniture.
- **Settler violence:** On 18 November, thousands of Israeli settlers and supporters entered H2/Hebron for a Jewish celebration. Acts of violence were carried out, causing injury to two internationals and three Palestinians. On the same day the IDF prevented Muslims from entering the Ibrahimi Mosque, keeping it open for Jewish worshippers only. Settlers from the Havot Ma'on outpost also chased Palestinian students from Tuba and Umm Faqqara as they were going to school in Twani. The same group of settlers entered Tuba and attacked Palestinian property. Israeli settlers from the Neve Daniyel settlement uprooted 100 olive trees on land belonging to the Palestinian village of Al Khader.
- **Internal insecurity:** One Palestinian was killed and one injured in internal Palestinian violence. Records of Al Ahli Hospital in the city of Hebron have indicated a sharp increase in the number of injuries resulting from fights and quarrels in Hebron governorate while unknown persons set a parked ICRC vehicle on fire in Qalqiliya city.



Access

Humanitarian access throughout the oPt in November 2006 continued to be obstructed, costing organisations time, money and manpower. In the West Bank, international organisations filed 79 incident reports involving delay or denials of access at IDF checkpoints.

Gaza Strip

- Access for people: Erez crossing remained closed for Palestinian workers and was open for only limited humanitarian movement; some 290 Palestinian traders have been given permission to cross Erez by Israeli authorities. Rafah crossing on the border with Egypt opened for only six days in November, trapping Palestinian travellers including medical patients and students on the Egyptian side of the border for weeks on end as they waited to return to the Gaza Strip.
- Access for goods and humanitarian aid: The principal Karni crossing point was open for 24 days in November leading to a daily average number of truckloads of imported goods into the Gaza Strip of 216 and an average of 31 truckloads of exported goods each day.
- Shortages of electricity in the Gaza Strip: During November, seven transformers were installed in the Gaza Strip power plant to replace the ones destroyed by an IAF air strike on 28 June. The plant is now producing 55-60 mW – about 40% of the capacity prior to the air strike.

West Bank

- Internal movement: In the West Bank, Palestinian internal access continued to deteriorate. The number of IDF physical obstacles controlling Palestinian movement now stands at 540. The number of manned checkpoints has increased from 59 to 84 since January 2006. During November, the IDF closed 'Asira ash Shamaliya checkpoint and road (north of Nablus city) for Palestinians. The checkpoint is now only open for humanitarian organisations and emergency cases. Until 20 November, the IDF continued to impose age restrictions on movement south of Nablus for Palestinian men from Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarm, between the ages of 18-25 years unless they had acquired a special permit from the IDF. On 22 November age restrictions were re-imposed on Palestinian men between the age of 16 and 35 years from Jenin governorate travelling southwards.
- External closure: Over a three-day period Palestinians, even those with valid permits, were prevented from entering East Jerusalem or Israel through IDF checkpoints to access jobs, services or religious sites. Limited exceptions were made for staff of UN and international organisations and emergency medical cases.



Protection of Civilians

I. Casualties

In November 2006, 138 Palestinians including 28 children were killed during the ongoing conflict with Israel and 491 injured (Figures 1 and 2).² The majority of the casualties occurred in the Gaza Strip (121 fatalities and 332 injuries) during IAF air strikes, IDF shelling of the northern areas and confrontations with IDF soldiers inside the Gaza Strip. Most casualties were reported in the areas of Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun (North Gaza) including two Palestinian ambulance workers from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS). The ambulance workers were killed on 3 November when their ambulance was dispatched to Beit Lahia and came under IDF fire while evacuating a patient.

In the West Bank, 17 Palestinians were killed and 159 injured during IDF military operations including search and arrest campaigns, as well as in confrontations with IDF soldiers in the northern and central West Bank.

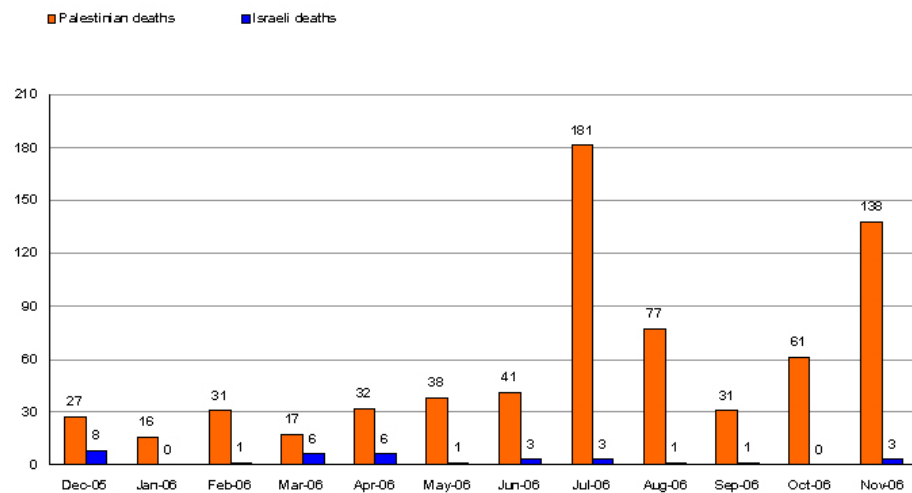
Three Israelis were killed in November including one IDF soldier in the Gaza Strip and two Israeli civilians who were killed inside Israel by homemade rockets fired from the Gaza Strip. Another 30 Israelis, including 15 members of the security forces, were injured.

Three internationals were also injured in the West Bank. On 18 November, two internationals were injured in Hebron when they were attacked by Israeli settlers as thousands of settlers and supporters gathered in H2/Hebron for a Jewish celebration. One international was also injured by the IDF in connection with a demonstration against the Barrier construction in Bil'in (Ramallah)

During the first eleven months of 2006, 663 Palestinians, including 124 children as well as 25 Israelis were killed in direct conflict-related incidents in the oPt and Israel. By comparison, 216 Palestinians and 47 Israelis were killed throughout all of 2005.

*“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*

Figure 1: Palestinian and Israeli conflict related deaths

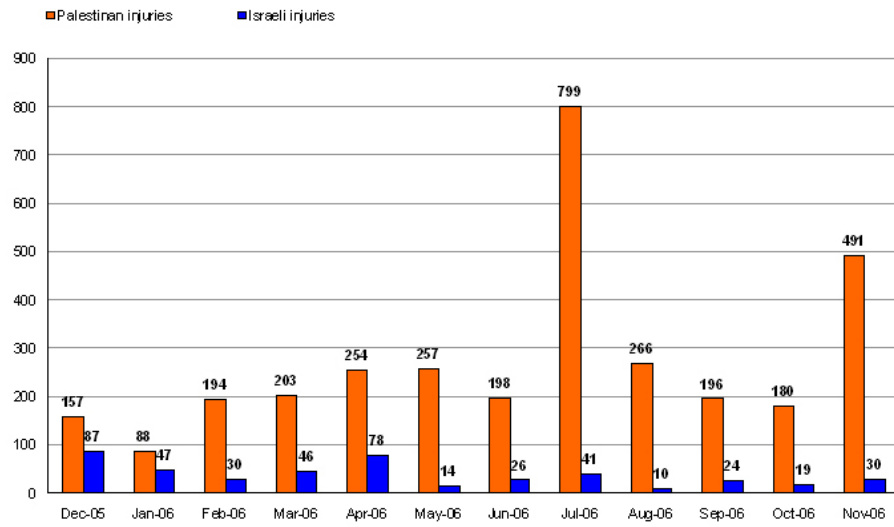


Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

*“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 2: Palestinian and Israeli conflict related injuries

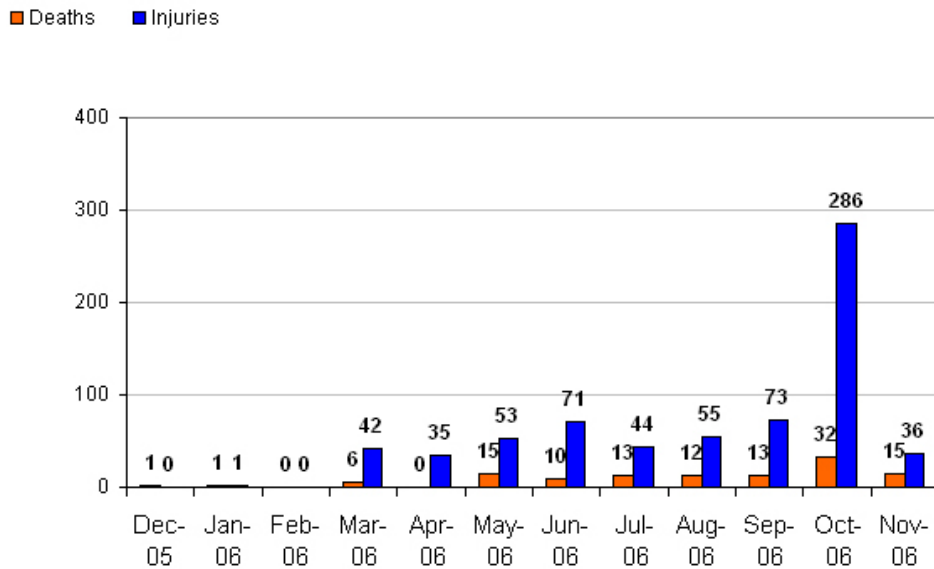


Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

Casualties from Palestinian internal violence

Lawlessness and internal fighting continued in the oPt in November, though at decreased levels compared to October (Figure 3). In the Gaza Strip, 14 Palestinians were killed and 35 others injured in predominately inter-factional fighting, between the Hamas-dominated Executive Support Force (ESF) and the Fatah-dominated Preventive Security Forces (PSF). One Palestinian was killed and another Palestinian injured in internal fighting in the West Bank.

Figure 3: Palestinian deaths and injuries from internal violence³



Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes



2. Palestinian shelter and property

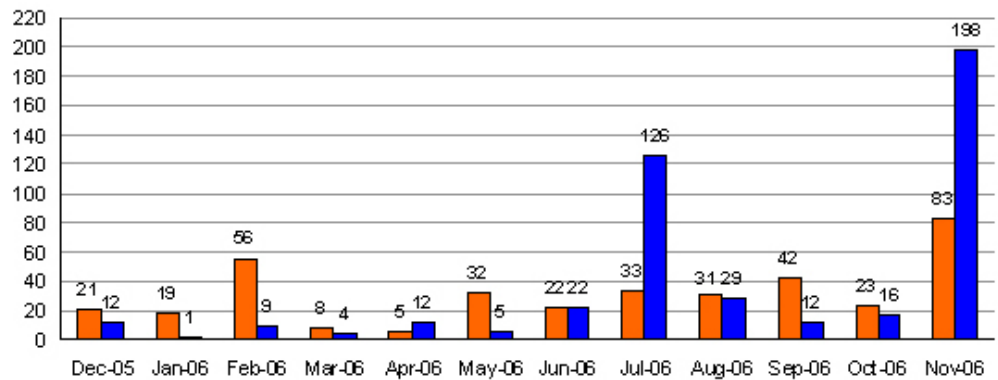
Eighty-three Palestinian structures were demolished and at least 198 damaged in November. These are the highest recorded monthly figures since January 2005.

The majority of the demolitions (50) occurred in the Gaza Strip during IDF ground incursions, artillery shelling and IAF air strikes. According to Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, during the IDF incursion into Beit Hanoun between 1 and 7 November, 18 Palestinian homes, an 850 year-old mosque and an NGO building were demolished, and more than 150 houses, 16 public institutions and nine shops were damaged. Further assessments are still underway.

In the West Bank, 33 structures were demolished – the majority for reportedly being built without permits. Demolitions were carried out in Jenin, Salfit, Bethlehem, Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Jerusalem, and Qalqiliya governorates.

Figure 4: Palestinian structures demolished and damaged

■ Structures demolished
■ Structures damaged



Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

3. Natural resources

Land requisitions

The IDF requisitioned more than 1,328 dunums (132.8 ha) of Palestinian land in the West Bank in November (Figure 5). The land was requisitioned from the village of Anata in Jerusalem. According to the Village Council the land was confiscated to expand Almon settlement near Ma'ale Adummim.

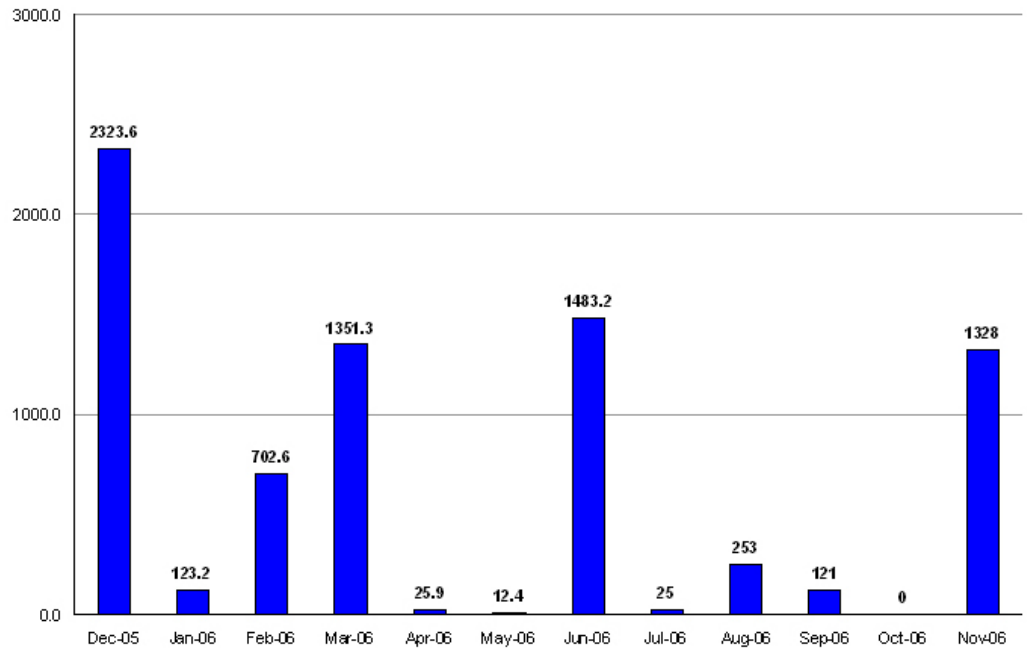
On 8 November, an Israeli court ordered 71 Palestinians from 13 Bedouin families to immediately vacate land near Deir Nidham in Ramallah governorate on the grounds that the land is Israeli 'State Land'.⁴ The Bedouins moved to the area in 1969 from south Hebron. According to the Bedouin families, the land belongs to a Palestinian living in the US.

“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)



*“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)⁵



Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

*“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.*

Olive harvest

OCHA field offices recorded more than 14 incidents of Israeli settlers harassing and disrupting Palestinians picking olives in the West Bank in November. Israeli settlers from Itamar, Elon Moreh, Shaout Rahel, Talmon, Yitzhar, Genot Shomron, Bracha and Tel Rumeida settlements physically prevented Palestinians from picking olives on land close to settlements. During the incidents, Palestinians were physically assaulted or held by the settlers, olive trees were damaged and picking equipment stolen. OCHA field offices noted continued intervention on the part of Israeli authorities during the incidents. Nevertheless OCHA recorded six incidents where the IDF prevented Palestinians access to farm land including in the closed areas between the Barrier and the Green Line.

*“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)*

Land levelling

During November, the IDF began to level land and install a fence south of Ázzun Átma (Qalqiliya). The IDF also levelled land in the village of Wad Rahhal, east of Bethlehem for construction of the Barrier. Israeli civilian contractors began levelling Palestinian land belonging to the village of Artas, close to Efrata settlement for the construction of the Barrier. Israeli settlers from Newe Daniyyel uprooted 100 olive trees from land belonging to Al Khader village situated close to the settlement. The trees were planted by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC). In addition, Israeli settlers from Ma'on settlement in Hebron governorate prevented Palestinian farmers accompanied by peace activists from ploughing land located in the vicinity of the settlement.

In the Gaza Strip, the IDF levelled land and uprooted trees in connection with ongoing military operations in Beit Hanoun. OCHA reports indicate that more than 130 dunums (13 ha) of agricultural land containing olive and citrus trees was levelled.

Access for water tankers and transporters

A WaSH MP survey (survey No. 37), conducted during November 2006, surveyed 42 Palestinian communities in Hebron, Jenin, and Tulkarm. The report found that the delivery of tankered water to Palestinian communities in the West Bank was delayed by IDF permanent and flying checkpoints on four occasions and on one occasion access for a water tanker was denied by the IDF. Since the beginning of the second intifada, the price of tankered water to the 42 surveyed communities has increased by between 40 % and 150 %.



Movement of goods and people

I. 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

Palestinians with West Bank IDs and valid permits were prevented from entering East Jerusalem and Israel on three closure days by the Israeli authorities. Since 12 March, Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip have been prevented from entering Israel except senior traders holding special permits and emergency humanitarian cases (Figure 6). According to the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, 280 permits for traders have been issued since 1 October to ‘senior’ traders who are over 35 years old, married with children.

“Increase in the number of work permits for Palestinian workers in Israel”

GoI Bertini Commitment (2002)

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

	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06
Workers to Israel	1,502	707	3,698	1,161	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traders to Israel	73	42	155	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	93

Source: OCHA, Weekly Briefing Notes

2. West Bank

Palestinian movement within the West Bank

Physical obstacles

At the end of November 2006 there were 540 physical obstacles on roads throughout the West Bank set up by the IDF to restrict Palestinian movement. Of the physical obstacles in the West Bank, 84 are manned (73 checkpoints and 11 partial checkpoints) and 456 unmanned including earthmounds (215), road gates (82), road blocks (64), earthwalls (16), trenches (12), and road barriers (67). Throughout 2006, there has been a steady increase in the number of physical obstacles (an additional 65 obstacles). In particular there has been an increase in the number of manned checkpoints during 2006 (59 to 84).

The IDF also closed ‘Asira ash Shamaliya checkpoint and road (north of Nablus city) for Palestinians in November. The checkpoint is now only open for humanitarian organisations and emergency cases.

The 15 November Agreement on Movement and Access (AMA) between the GoI and PA 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.”

Flying checkpoints

A total of 573 flying checkpoints were observed by OCHA field staff in November. By comparison, OCHA observed 272 flying checkpoints in November 2005, representing an increase of more than 100% (Figure 7). Flying checkpoints were most frequently observed in Hebron governorate followed by Bethlehem and Qalqiliya. 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.

Curfews

In the West Bank, the IDF imposed two curfews, each lasting for six hours on Tulkarm city (Tulkarm) and Huwwara village (Nablus) in connection with a military operation and Palestinian stone throwing respectively.

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

	No. of physical obstacles ⁵			IDF imposed curfew ⁶		Average no. of flying 'random' checkpoints observed each week ⁷
	Total	Manned	Unmanned	No. of Incidents	No. of hours	
Nov 05	402	59	343	13	173	272
Dec 05	396	63	334	9	254	494
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
Oct 06	542	83	459	1	3	443
Nov 06	540	84	456	2	12	573

Source: OCHA field observations and Weekly Briefing Notes

IDF search and arrest campaigns in the West Bank

A total of 581 search and arrest campaigns were carried out by the IDF in November throughout the West Bank, the third highest monthly figure in 2006. The number of Palestinians detained and arrested by Israeli authorities in November rose to 543, the second highest number in 2006. As a comparison, 234 search and arrest campaigns, resulting in 255 arrests, were carried out in November 2005. Both these figures represent an increase of more than 100% (Figure 8).

IDF search and arrest campaigns in November were most frequent in Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jenin and Nablus governorates. Thirteen Palestinians were killed and more than 90 others were injured in connection with search and arrest campaigns and stone throwing in the West Bank throughout the month.

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

	IDF search and arrest campaigns ⁸	
	No. of Incidents	No. of arrests/ detentions
Nov 05	234	255
Dec 05	217	382
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
Sep 06	610	348
Oct 06	471	325
Nov 06	581	543

Source: OCHA Weekly Briefing Notes

3. Gaza Strip

Curfew

In connection with a military operation in Beit Hanoun, Gaza Strip, the IDF imposed a curfew on the town from 1 to 6 November, lasting for 144 hours. The strict curfew enforced by more than 70 IDF armoured vehicles was lifted every second day – and on 4 November for women only – for three to four hours. A “humanitarian corridor” was opened on 2 November so that much-needed humanitarian supplies could reach Beit Hanoun residents who were mostly without water and electricity.

Erez crossing

Since the start of IDF operations in the Gaza Strip in late June, all movement through Erez crossing has been severely restricted. Erez crossing had previously been closed for Palestinian labourers since 12 March and only opened for limited humanitarian cases. The crossing is open for internationals.

Karni crossing

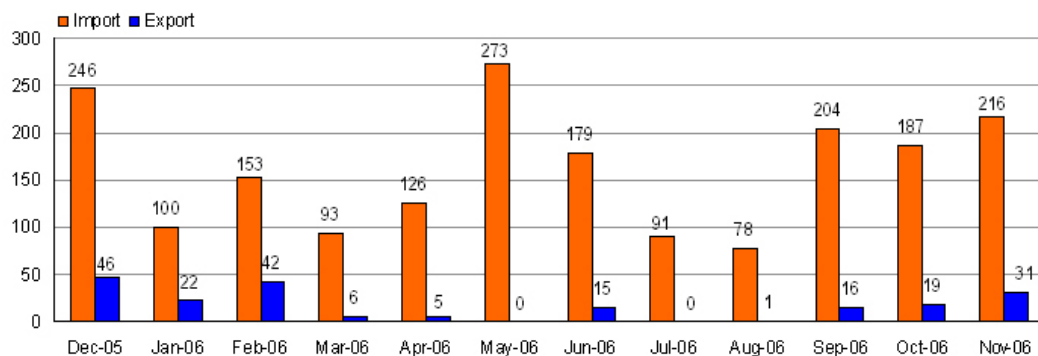
Karni crossing, situated on the border with Israel, is the crossing point for commercial goods entering the Gaza Strip, all goods leaving the Gaza Strip, and most humanitarian supplies.

The overall operation of Karni improved in November compared to the earlier months of 2006. While the crossing was open for 24 working days during November, it only opened on 142 out of 345 scheduled working hours.

A total of 807 truckloads were exported from the Gaza Strip or a daily average of 31 (Figure 9). An additional 187 truckloads of empty boxes, crates, and one container were processed through Karni crossing. The number of trucks exporting goods is well below the target of 150 per day by the end of 2005 rising to 400 per day by the end of 2006. November's figure of 31 trucks exported per day is only 21% of the minimum (2005) target.

In November, a total of 5,621 truckloads of commercial and humanitarian goods were imported into the Gaza Strip, an average of 216 truckloads per day, the highest monthly average since May 2006.

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



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

Kerem Shalom crossing

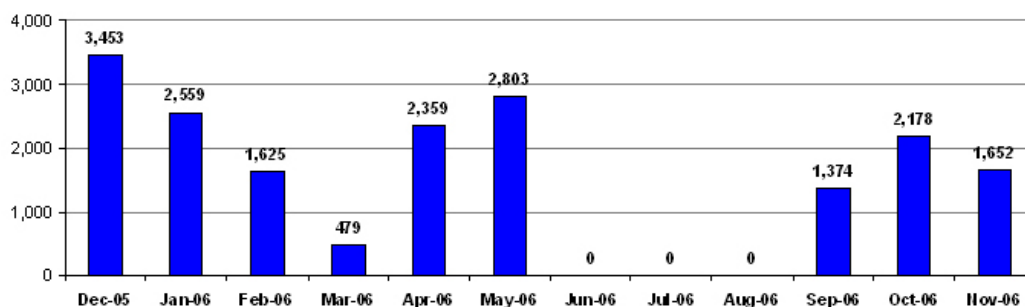
Kerem Shalom crossing on the Gaza-Israel-Egyptian border has been periodically used for humanitarian supplies entering the Gaza Strip since it became operational in late March 2006. Kerem Shalom remained closed following 25 June until it reopened on 28 August. In November, Kerem Shalom was open for humanitarian supplies for nine days.

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.

During November, Sufa crossing was open for 19 days, allowing 1,652 truckloads – equalling 66,088 tone – of gravel to be imported.

Figure 10: Sufa crossing – total imported truckloads of gravel¹⁰



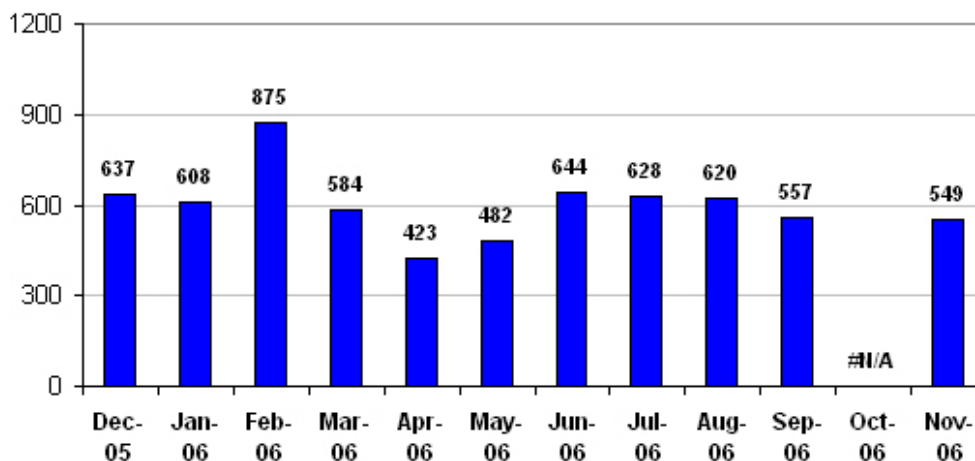
Source: Palestinian Ministry of Finance, data obtained from UNSCO

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 via the Nahal Oz energy pipelines. The import of fuel into the Gaza Strip from Israel became more critical following the bombing by the IAF of the Gaza Strip’s only power plant on 28 June.

The Nahal Oz energy pipelines remained open throughout most of November (26 days). During November, 549 truckloads of fuel were imported through Nahal Oz (Figure 11).

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



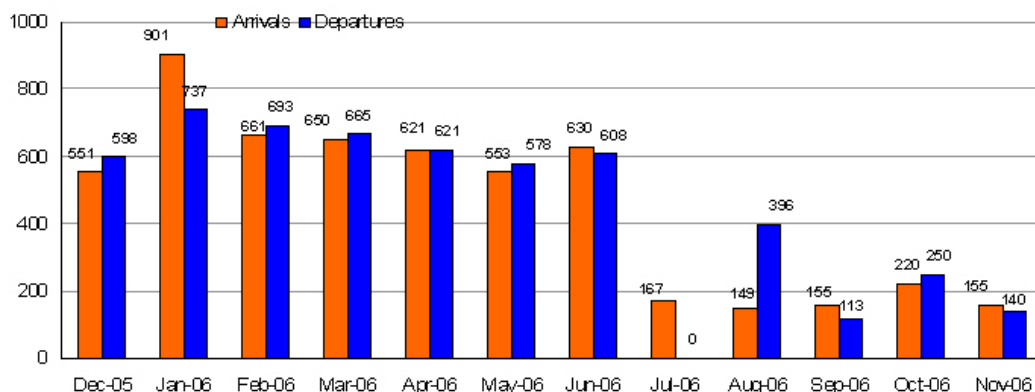
Source: Palestine General Petroleum Company

Rafah crossing

Rafah passenger crossing is the point of access for Gazans travelling abroad and is located on the border with Egypt. Since 25 June, the IDF has closed Rafah for regular movement, trapping returning Palestinian travellers, including medical patients, on the Egyptian side of the border for weeks on end. Announcements about the opening of the terminal are made only hours in advance, preventing people from planning their trip and creating uncertainty as to whether people will be able to cross into and out of the Gaza Strip given the limited opening hours.

The crossing was open for only six days in November (open for 52 out of 330 scheduled operating hours) under the observation of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) allowing 4,187 Palestinians to leave the Gaza Strip and 4,657 to cross into the Gaza Strip. The limited operation of the crossing point in November led to an average daily number of Palestinians entering the Gaza Strip of 155 and an average number of persons exiting the Gaza Strip of 140, lower than the October figures and well below the figures in the first half of 2006 (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Rafah passenger crossing - average daily crossing

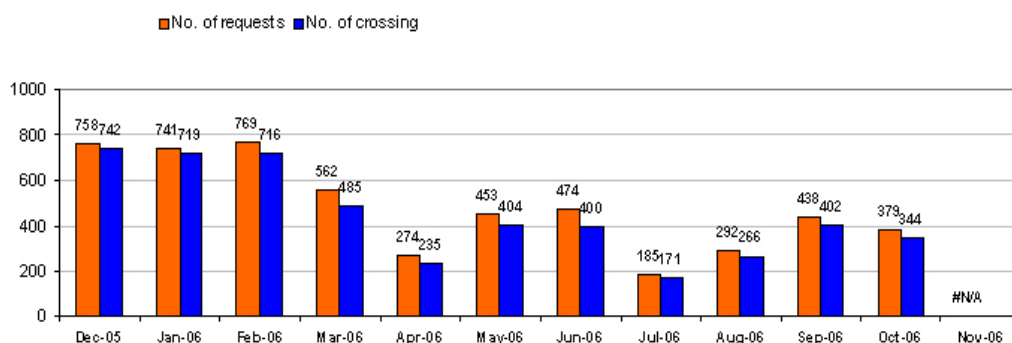


Source: Palestinian Passport and Border Police and from May 2006 EU BAM.

Movement of medical cases from the Gaza Strip

Palestinians from the Gaza Strip referred for medical treatment abroad by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) have to travel through Erez or Rafah crossings. Since 25 June, the number of people permitted to cross has declined as the IDF has imposed stricter criteria on patients eligible for permits. WHO has not received data on patients' access from MoH for November. (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Erez crossing – medical referrals crossing



Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

Access for Palestinian fishing off the Gaza Strip

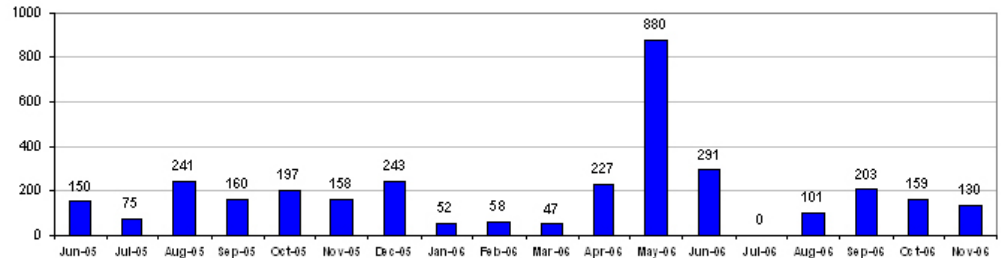
In January 2005 the Israeli authorities permitted Palestinian fishing up to ten nautical miles from the Gaza Strip coastline compared to six nautical miles previously. This fishing area still falls short of the Bertini Commitment benchmark of 12 nautical miles. Palestinian fishing is also prohibited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



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

On 25 June, the Israeli authorities banned fishing off the Gaza Strip coastline. Approximately 3,000 licensed fishermen were affected. Another approximately 35,000 people are reliant on fishing for their livelihoods. On October 24, the Israeli DCL informed OCHA that the Gaza fishermen are allowed to fish next to Gaza City and Deir al Balah areas only, and only six nautical miles into the sea. During November, fishermen have been allowed to fish all along the Gaza Strip coast, but still only six nautical miles into the sea.

Figure 14: Gaza fishing - total fishing catch in tonnes



Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture/Department of Fisheries

Humanitarian assistance

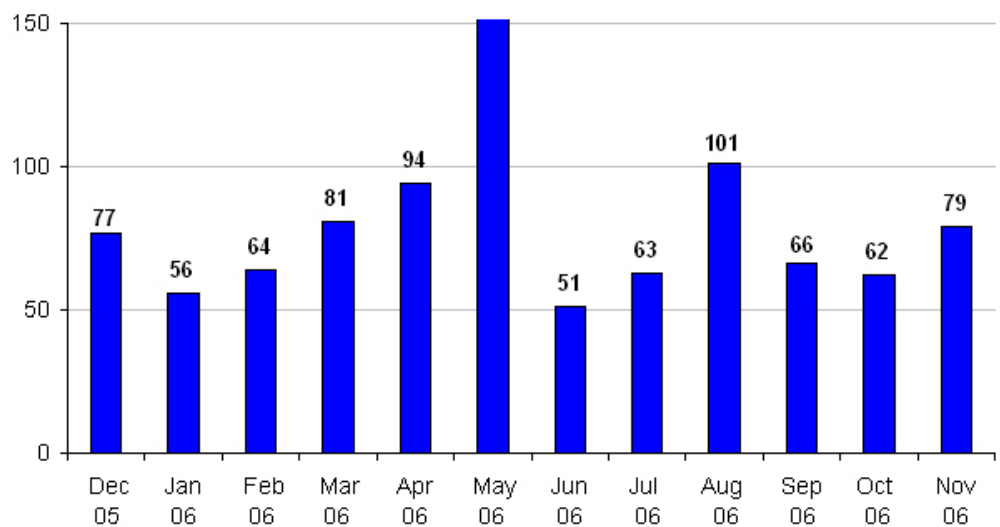
Humanitarian access

In November, humanitarian organisations including the UN, reported 79 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.

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.

“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)

Figure 15: Humanitarian access incidents



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)



Humanitarian supplies into the Gaza Strip

The majority of international humanitarian relief supplies enter the Gaza Strip through Karni crossing.

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

In November, WFP moved 1835.15 tons of peas, canned fish, wheat flour and vegetable oil through Karni, Kerem Shalom and Sufa crossings. UNICEF moved two shipments of schoolbags, remedial folders, copybooks, stationary and medicines.

During the month UNRWA imported a total of 262 containers (80 containers through Karni crossing, and 182 containers through Sufa crossing.) In November, Karni crossing was closed to container traffic for 17 days necessitating container transport through Sufa crossing.

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

Containers imported through Sufa can not be exported through the same crossing, but have to be transported to Karni to be exported. This incurs an extra cost of 500 NIS per container on UNRWA, not including the demurrage charges on empties. Estimated storage, demurrage and transport costs for the 2006 is USD 1,530,169. At the end of November, UNRWA had 396 empty containers in the Gaza Strip waiting to leave through Karni crossing. This is the highest monthly figure in 2006. The impact of the Karni closures is not only financial - it has also disrupted UNRWA's plans and punctual delivery of services, including emergency food aid.

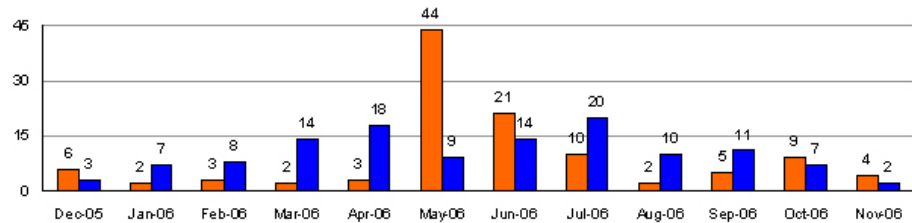
*“Ambulance access: (1) Palestinian ambulances will wait no more than 30 minutes at any checkpoints; and (2) Effective mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that Palestinians seeking critical medical services (child delivery, dialysis, chemotherapy etc) can quickly pass all checkpoints.”
GoI Bertini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

Ambulance incidents in the West Bank

Four denials and two delays in access (in excess of 30 minutes) were reported by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in the West Bank (Figure 16). In addition, on 8 November an ambulance was shot at by the IDF when on its way to evacuate injured Palestinians in Al Yamoon village, Jenin governorate. Two live bullets hit the ambulance but no injuries were reported.

Figure 16: Ambulance incidents in the West Bank

■ Denial of access ■ Delay of access



Source: Palestine Red Crescent Society



Endnotes

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. OCHA began to monitor Palestinian internal violence systematically from March 2006.
4. In the early 1980s, the IDF reinterpreted operating land law in the West Bank (predominately the Ottoman Land Code) to allow the Commander of the IDF in region to declare as 'State Land' uncultivated and unregistered Palestinian land. Between 1980 and 1984 approximately 800,000 dunums of the West Bank was declared as State Land, at times without the knowledge of West Bank farmers who had possessed the land for decades. See, OCHA/UNRWA, Barrier Update No. 6, January 2006.
5. Exact reporting periods for the number of physical obstacles are as follows: November 2005 (as of 30 November), December 2005 (as of 29 December), January 2006 (as of 2 February), February 2006 (as of 6 March), March 2006 (as of 3 April), April 2006 (as of 1 May), May 2006 (as of 30 May), June 2006 (as of 27 June), August 2006 (as of 22 August), September 2006 (as of 4 October), October 2006 (4 – 31 October), and November 2006 (1 November – 5 December).
6. Exact reporting periods for IDF imposed curfew: November 2005 (2 – 29 November), December 2005 (30 November – 3 January 2006), January 2006 (4 – 31 January), February 2006 (1 – 28 February), March 2006 (1 – 28 March), April 2006 (29 March – 2 May), May 2006 (3 -30 May), June 2006 (31 May – 27 June), July 2006 (27 June – 1 August), August 2006 (2 – 29 August), September 2006 (30 August – 3 October), October 2006 (4 – 31 October), and November 2006 (1 November – 5 December).
7. Exact reporting periods for the number of flying checkpoints: November 2005 (2 – 29 November), December 2005 (30 November – 3 January 2006), January 2006 (4 – 31 January), February 2006 (1 – 28 February), March 2006 (1 – 28 March), April 2006 (29 March – 2 May), May 2006 (3 -30 May), June 2006 (31 May – 27 June), July 2006 (27 June – 1 August), August 2006 (2 – 29 August), September 2006 (30 August – 3 October), October 2006 (4 – 31 October), and November 2006 (1 November – 5 December).
8. Exact reporting periods for the number of search and arrest campaigns and arrests/detentions: November 2005 (2 – 29 November), December 2005 (30 November – 3 January 2006), January 2006 (4 – 31 January), February 2006 (1 – 28 February), March 2006 (1 – 28 March), April 2006 (29 March – 2 May), May 2006 (3 -30 May), June 2006 (31 May – 27 June), July 2006 (27 June – 1 August), August 2006 (2 – 29 August), September 2006 (30 August – 3 October), October 2006 (4 – 31 October), and November 2006 (1 November – 5 December).
9. One truckload equals 40 tonnes.