

## OCHA Weekly Briefing Notes No. 23

### Humanitarian Update for oPt (08-14 October 2003)

#### Casualties

Palestinians: **9 deaths**  
91 injured  
Israelis: **1 death**  
4 injured

#### Incidents involving ambulances and medical teams

Denial of access: **6** incidents  
Delay up to 160 mins: **11** cases  
Attack/abuse of ambulances and staff: **1** incident  
Shooting at ambulance: **3** incident  
Detention of ambulance staff: **0**  
(Source: MoH, PRCS,)

#### Closures/Curfews

The IDF closure of the West Bank continued and was reinforced after the Haifa bombing on 04 October and during the Yum Kippur holiday. Curfews were reported in the following locations: Jenin town and refugee camp (5 days), Al Mughayyir (4 days), Beita (2 days), Camp No.1 (2 days), Tulkarm (2 days), Deir Abu Mash'al (2 days), Qalqiliya, Sanniriya, 'Azzun, Al Jab'a, Beit Amin, Abu Qash, Abu Shukheidim, Al Mazra'a al Qibliya, Bir Zeit, , Silwad, Surda and 'Azzun 'Atma (1 day).

#### House demolitions

**Demolished: 100**

**Partially demolished: 106**

DATE	LOCATION	Completely Demolished	Partially Demolished
08/10/2003	Silwan	1	0
8/10/2003	Rafah	0	1
08/10/2003	Khan Yunis	0	4
9/10/2003	Rafah	1	1
10/10/2003	Urif	1	0
10/10/2003	Rafah		
11/10/2003	Rafah	93	99
12/10/2003	Khan Yunis	0	1
14/10/2003	Rafah	4*	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>106</b>

\* This is an initial number as the IDF's military operation in Rafah is still on going, and no one can approach the area

#### Demolition orders

**None**

#### Land levelling/confiscation

##### West Bank

- **04 October:** (Hebron) 4 dunums were confiscated at the western entrance of Husan village. The land has been used to set up a military observation tower to monitor the entrance of the village.
- The levelling of land between Zeita and Qaffin through Nazlat Isa resumed during the course of the week in preparation for construction of the wall. In Nazlat Isa, the IDF has started to remove the leftover from the houses that were demolished in August.

## Gaza

Date	Area	Property	Crop
08/10/2003	Khan Younis	86 dunums	Olives
12/10/2003	Khan Younis	3 dunums	Dates and Olives
14/10/2003	Deir al Balah	15 dunums*	Olives
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>104 dunums</b>	

### Checkpoints/roadblocks/Separation Wall/restrictions on movement

09 October: IDF announced that no Palestinian vehicles are allowed to travel on C roads from 09-12 October 2003 in Nablus, Jenin, Qalqiliya and Tulkarem.

#### - Tulkarm/Qalqiliya governorates:

All checkpoints were reported closed for the local population in both districts from since 8 October 2003. In Tulkarem, the Kafriat checkpoint has been supported by road blocks making it physically impossible to cross. At Taybeh and Nazlat Isa checkpoints are only open for Internationals. Also in Tulkarem, it is no longer possible to travel to Ar Ras and Gbara from Kafriat as massive road blocks have been put up to hinder any kind of access.

All gates have been reported closed in both districts since 04 October 2003 after the Haifa bombing. According to the DCL LO in Qalqiliya, the gates will now remain closed indefinitely as a result of the latest bombing at the DCO checkpoint in Tulkarem. Apart from affecting the harvest, the closure has also created further isolation for many villages, e.g. Qaffin, Baqa Ash Sharqiya, Ras Tira, Habla, Gbara, Ar Ras, etc.

The southern gate of Zeita village was reported open on 13 October between 09:00-09:10, 12:00-12:10 and 18:00-18:10. The gate has been closed otherwise.

Originally, the IDF had announced that they in conjunction with the harvest (which started approximately two weeks ago and will last until mid-November) would extend the opening hours of the gates to facilitate the harvest. Following the latest incident in Tulkarem, this decision has now been reversed.

#### - Nablus/Jenin governorates:

##### Nablus:

Check Point	Status
Huwwara Southern main entrance to Nablus city	Generally open only for holders of Nablus ID-cards, students, teachers and medical doctors. These groups were however denied entry during the period except from a partial easing 12. and 14.10.
Beit Iba Western entrance to Nablus city, mainly for trade	Same as above.
Sarra South western entrance to Nablus city, before the closure regime main road to Qalqiliya	Closed except for villagers from Sarra or Qusin, who occasionally are let through.
Qusin Internal closure between Sarra and Nablus city	Same as above.
Al Tur Southern checkpoint connecting the Samaritan district of Jarzim with Nablus city	Only open for Samaritans. The gate is occasionally closed for vehicles.
Beit Furik Eastern gate and checkpoint to Nablus city. After the closure regime main gateway between Nablus and the Jordan valley	Occasionally open for villagers from Beit Furik, Beit Dajjan, Azmout, Deir al Hatab and Salem. Teachers with IDs from Ministry of Education (about 70) are usually let through but with serious delays.
Shave Shomeron (Sabastia) North west, main road to Jenin	Closed for Palestinians unless they have special permits.
Maale Efrayim South east connecting Nablus and Jericho	Closed for Palestinians unless they have special permits.
Hamra East, before closure regime main road to Jordan, Gov's of Tubas and Jenin	Since 05.10, the check point has been increasingly difficult to enter for UN and NGOs alike. Hamra is generally closed for Palestinians unless holding special permits, or coming from these villages: Frush Beit Dajan, Al Jiftlik, Bardala, Kardala, Ein Shibli, Al Nassaria and Al Aqrabania (from which villagers occasionally are let through).
Zaatara (Tappouah)	Usually open for Palestinians holding permits. Palestinians from the Governorate

South, main road to Ramallah	of Nablus can enter their villages and Nablus City through the check point, but are not allowed to exit (southwards). Palestinians from areas south of this check point are not allowed to enter northwards.
Awarta South, main commercial check point into Nablus city since July 2003	Back to back was closed. Some goods were let through Huwwara and Beit Iba in stead.

#### **Jenin:**

Check point	Status
Janat "Wadi Balaama" Southern entrance to Jenin city	The check point was closed for Palestinians, including special permit holders.
Haifa Street Western entrance to Jenin city	The check point was closed for Palestinians, including special permit holders.
Al Amn al Watani Northern entrance to Jenin city	The check point was closed for Palestinians, including special permit holders.
Salem Western entrance the Governorate "on the green line"	Closed for Palestinians. "Military closed area".
Al Jalama Northern entrance to the Governorate "on the green line"	Closed during the periods of curfew.
Qaddim (Al Suweitat) South east entrance to Jenin city	Occasionally open during easings of the curfew. This check point was effectively the only in/outlet to Jenin during he period
Um Ar Raihan On the separation fence (west)	Open only for people living in the area behind the barrier.
Ya'bad Main entrance to the village of Ya'bad	Generally open. Occasionally manned by IDF
Al Kufair South eastern entrance to the Governorate from Tubas	Generally open. Occasionally manned by IDF

#### **Bethlehem/Hebron governorates:**

Earthmounds have been replaced by metal gates at the Halhul – Sair crossing on route 60 and these gates are currently locked for any traffic.

#### **Gaza crossings/checkpoints**

Check point	Status
Erez	Closed all week to Palestinian labourers
Karni	Open all week
Sufa	Closed all week
Netzarim	Closed all week
Abu Houli junction	Partially open, every day (10:00 – 13:00)
Abu al Ajin road	Closed

#### **Access to Schools:**

- From 12 October an onward, teachers from Tulkarem have not been able to reach the schools in Nazlat Isa and Baya Ash Sharqiya due to the closures
- UNRWA reported continuous disruption in teachers' access to schools in different districts due to closure and curfew.

#### **Labor movement into Israel**

#### **West Bank:**

All work permits in Tulkarm/Qalqiliya governorates are still suspended.

#### **Gaza**

Date	Israel	Erez Industrial Estate
08/10/03	0	3,575
09/10/03	0	3,615
10/10/03	0	1,028
11/10/03	0	1,797

12/10/03	0	3,711
13/10/03	0	3,637
14/10/03	0	3,785

### **Other incidents**

#### **Gaza**

- 6 Incursions occurred in Gaza: 2 in Rafah, 2 in Khan Yunis and 2 in Deir al Balah. In one of the most destructive raids during the three-year-old Palestinian Intifada, at least 1,952 people have been left homeless when more than 80 IDF tanks, bulldozers and military vehicles backed by helicopters invaded the southern Gaza town of Rafah shortly after Thursday midnight. During the IDF incursion which lasted from 9 to 11 October, 93 homes have been totally demolished along with another 99 buildings which sustained partial damages. Eight Palestinians were killed and another 83 were reported wounded, most when an IAF helicopter fired a missile at a crowd. The IDF is still dividing the Gaza strip into 4 cantons and conducting small incursion into Bait Hanoun, Khan Younis and Dair Al Balah.
- 4 Water wells have been completely destroyed in Beit Hanoun, and two in Deir al Balah.
- In the reporting period, 8 Mortars, 10 rocket missiles have been fired towards Israeli settlements of Gadid, Gani Tal, Neve Dekalim and the Sederot.

#### **Bethlehem/Hebron governorates:**

- **11 October:** settlers from Bet Iyen kidnapped three Palestinians harvesting olives near al Jaba' village. The three men were released the same day.

#### **Qalqiliya/Tulkarm governorates:**

- **08 October:** Peace activists were gathered at the northern part of the gate in Jayyous to support the farmers in gaining access to their land. During the demonstration, the IDF started to throw tear gas when the activists refused to vacate the area. Five (5) activists were reported arrested. The demonstration resumed the following day on 9 October where it came into new clashes between the IDF and another three activists were arrested (source: PHG).
- **09 October:** IDF opened fire on villagers in Izbat Abukhmaish east of Tulkarm. No casualties reported.
- **14 October:** IDF entered Tulkarem with five tanks and 4 jeeps and placed the city under curfew; all shops have been closed most of the day. 5 people were injured as a result of shootings. The IDF surrounded all entrances of Tulkarem refugee camp and clashes between young people and the IDF have been observed. Curfew is still in force, and the IDF is still present in both the refugee camp and in Tulkarm city.

#### **Nablus/Jenin governorates**

- **08 October:** Three IDF soldiers were wounded, one critically, after being attacked by Palestinian gunmen in the village of Huwwara, one kilometre south of Nablus city.
- **09 October:** IDF entered Nablus city at 02:00 and set up an "interrogation centre" inside the Camp No.1 ('Ein beit el Ma Camp), where approximately thirty Palestinians were interrogated before being set free at 11:00. Five Palestinians sustained minor injuries after clashes during the operation.
- **14 October:** IDF entered the Balata camp and the eastern part of Nablus city, Al Jabal ash-Shamali, carrying out house arrests. One house in the eastern part of Nablus was badly damaged by fire arms and explosives during the operation.

*(Source: OCHA field units, UNRWA, PRCS, MoH, Israeli MoFA & IDF web sites, Al Mizan, PCHR)*

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