

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS Occupied Palestinian Territory		الامم المتحدة مكتب لتنسيق الشؤون الانسانية للاراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة
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OCHA Weekly Briefing Notes **Update for oPt (19 – 24 November 2003)**

INSIDE: Casualties ▪ Incidents involving ambulances ▪ Curfew ▪ House demolition ▪ Land levelling/confiscation ▪ Checkpoints/roadblocks/Separation Wall/restrictions on movement ▪ Access to Schools ▪ Labour movement into Israel ▪ Other incidents

1. Casualties

Palestinians: **3 deaths**
3 injured
Israelis: **2 deaths**
1 injured

2. Incidents involving ambulances and medical teams (19-21 November)

Denial of access: **0**
Delay (between 150-180 min.): **2 incidents**
Attack/abuse of ambulances and staff: **0**
Damage/Shooting at ambulance: **0**

3. Curfews

Curfews were reported in the following locations: Khadr, the housing project in Beit Jala, as Sawahira ash Sharqiya and ash Sheik Saad (2 days), 'Asira ash Shamaliya, Sabastiya, Qarawat Bani Zeid, Yasuf and Iskaka (1 day)

4. House demolitions¹

Demolished: 2
Partially Demolished: 0

DATE	LOCATION	Completely Demolished	Partially Demolished
20 November	Yatta	2	0
TOTAL		2	0

5. Land levelling/confiscation

Gaza:

DATE	LOCATION	Dunums	Acres	Property
19 November	Gaza Middle (Al Burajj RC)	50	12.355	Olives
19 November	Gaza Middle (Netzarim area)	2	0.4942	Tomato green houses
TOTAL		52	12.8492	

6. Checkpoints/roadblocks/Separation Wall/restrictions on movement

- Tulkarm/Qalqiliya governorates:

- Last week continued to see a relaxation in the movement of the local population in both Qalqilya and Tulkarem districts at the checkpoints and the major road gates.

¹ **18 November:** After the incursion into "Block O" in Rafah, 8 houses were completely demolished and 6 houses were partially demolished.

- Ongoing construction of the Wall between Zeita and Qaffin through Nazlat Issa. According to Tulkarem DCL office, the second part of the wall is expected to be completed during January 2004. Once completed, the access gates to Baqa Ash Sharqiya and Qaffin will be open with no soldiers manning these gates.
- Officially, all agricultural gates have opening hours at 06:00, 12:00 and at 18:00 for approximately 15-20 minutes but only for farmers holding green permits. The following gates, however, have been observed closed during the week; Qalqiliya south, Zeita south, Attil, Salman and Izbat Jalud.
- The DCL office in Qalqiliya confirmed that no prohibition on farmers of Jayyous village from bringing their livestock to the meadows on the other side of the wall. Farmers will attempt to bring their livestock again to the meadows for grazing on the other side of the wall after being denied access two weeks ago.

Tulkarm/Qalqiliya:

Check Point	Status
Taybeh	Open whole week between 08:00 and 24:00, but only for holders with permits into Israel and international vehicles.
Kafriat	Open whole week for pedestrians and ambulances only. No cars with green plates are allowed through without special permits (mostly traders). The checkpoint is in principle open 24 hours, but no one uses the checkpoint after dark.
Nazlat Isa	Open whole week, but only for holders of permit into Israel. The checkpoint is open 24 hours.
Qalqiliya DCO	Open whole week for pedestrians and ambulances only. No cars with green plates are allowed through without special permits.
Jaljoulia	Open whole week for 24 hours, but only for holders of permit into Israel. For the time being only vehicles leaving the West Bank are subjects for checking.

Commercial checkpoints

Check Point	Status
Qalqiliya DCO	Back-to-back system has been operational whole week for all kinds of goods.
Taybeh	Back-to-back system has been operational whole week for all kinds of goods.

Road Gates: (selected)

Gate	Status
Anabta	Open for pedestrians only. The gate is open daily between 06:00 and 18:00. The gate functions as a back-to-back system for buses and taxis.
Qaffin	Open 24 hours. Residents from Qaffin need green permits to reach agricultural land on the other side of the wall. To date, 700 persons hold green cards.
Baqa Ash Sharqiya	Open between 04:00 and 24:00.
Ras Atiya / Ras Tira	The gate is open three times a day and only accessible for holders of green permits between 07:00 – 08:00, 12:30 – 13:30 and 16:30 – 17:30. Teachers, school children and medical staff are exempted. The gate is now manned by soldiers around the clock. The partial opening of this gate and all the other gates that surround the Israeli settlement Alfe Menashe has now led to further restricted movement of the local population, especially affecting the villagers from Ras Tira, Wadi As Rasha and Ad Daba.
Wadi As Rasha	The gate is open twice a day between 07:00 – 07:30 and 13:00 – 13:30 for holders of green permits. The consequence of the partial opening of this gate is the same as for Ras Atiya and Ras Tira.
Azzun Atma	Only open for local residents of Azzun Atma, Beit Amin and Saniria, ambulances and school children from Beit Amin. The gate is open between 06:00 – 10:00, 12:00 – 14:00 and 16:00 – 19:00. Access does not require green permits. The gate is manned by soldiers around the clock who also guard the adjacent gate into the Israeli settlement of Sha'are Tiqwa.
Jbara	Only open for school children between 07:00 – 08:00 and 13:00 – 13:30
Azzun	Open.
Habla	The gate is only open for holders of green permits (a total of 47 have received green permits in Habla) or permits into Israel. However, the gate is no longer manned by soldiers, so the local population resort to travel through Azzun when going to e.g. Qalqiliya, which is also a consequence of the new checkpoint Jaljoulia on road 55 (see previous report)
Masha (Salfit)	Open for holders of green permits and permits into Israel.

- Nablus/Jenin/Tubas governorates:

- Since 14 November crossing checkpoints has in general been easier. However, using dirt roads was more difficult due to flying checkpoints. At Ytzhaz junction near Huwwara village and at Deir Sharaf junction near Dir Sharaf village, new flying checkpoints are operating for several hours everyday day.

- **24 November:** Jannat and Haifa Street checkpoints were removed.

Nablus: (Check point opening hours: 06:00. Closed for vehicles at 18:00, for pedestrians at 20:00)

Check Point	Status
Huwwara Southern main entrance	Generally open for holders of Nablus ID-cards, students, teachers and medical doctors. On the 14 th of November the C.P was open for women over 35 and men over 50 for others with delays.
Beit Iba Western entrance, mainly for trade	Same as above.
Sarra South western entrance, 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	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. 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. Open for women over 35 and men over 50 for others with delays.
Shave Shomeron (Sabastia) North west, main road to Jenin	Closed for Palestinians unless they have special permits.
Maale Efrayim South east connecting Jericho and Nablus	Closed for Palestinians unless they have special permits. The check point continues being increasingly difficult to cross.
Hamra East, before closure regime main road to Jordan, Tobas, Jenin	Hamra is generally closed for Palestinians unless having 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). The check point continues being increasingly difficult to cross.
Zaatara (Tappouah) South, main road to Ramallah	Usually open for Palestinians holding permits. Palestinians from the Governorate of Nablus and from Nablus city can cross this checkpoint to the villages, but are not allowed to exit (southwards). Palestinians from areas south of this check point are not allowed to cross northwards. Starting on Friday 14 th of November the C.P was open for women over 35 and men over 50d for others with delays.
17 (Asera) North entrance for the villages of Asera al Shamaleh and the neighboring villages.	Open several Hours a day when the IDF is not on the C.P, closed totally for vehicles by several earth mounds. During the curfew on Asira ash Shamaliya (21 of November) the C.P was totally closed.

Awarta checkpoint: (the main commercial checkpoint in Nablus since July 2003)

Date	Status
19-24 November	Open for all goods, back to back

Check point open during day light hours only

Jenin: (Check point opening hours: 06:00. Closed for vehicles at 18:00, for pedestrians at 20:00)

Check Point	Status
Janat "Wadi Balaama" Southern entrance to Jenin City	Occasionally manned, but open for all Palestinians.
Haifa Street Western entrance to Jenin City	Close for all Palestinians unless they have special permit with delays.
Al Amn Al Watani Northern entrance of Jenin	Close for all Palestinians unless they have special permit with delays.
Salem North western entrance/ "Green Line"	Closed for Palestinians. "Military closed area".
Um Ar Rihan Western gate on the separation barrier	Closed for Palestinians living in the area behind the barrier and the "green line". After 17. October residents are ordered to obtain special permits to enter/exit.
Qaddim (Al Suweitat) South eastern entrance	Closed during most hours of the day.

Al Jalama Northern entrance/ main commercial check point	Back to back was allowed for foodstuffs only.
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Tubas: (Open during day light hours only)

Gate	Remarks
Tayasir Gate Gate to the Tubas eastern agricultural lands in the Jordan Valley	Closed for Palestinians unless holding special permits.

Ramallah governorate (Ramallah/Al-Bireh/Beituniya):

- **21 November:** Qalandiya checkpoint was relatively quiet. Only Palestinians over 50 years were permitted to cross to enter Jerusalem for the final Friday Ramadan prayers. However, if people did manage to cross Qalandiya they were unable to cross A-Ram checkpoint into Jerusalem, which was completely closed to West Bank Palestinians.
- **22 November:** The Israeli military opened the gate at An Nabi Salih to pedestrians and vehicles. This gate had been closed the previous week.
- New regulations are now in force at the Ni'lin checkpoint. Only Palestinian residents of Ni'lin and Al Midya villages are allowed to enter their villages through this checkpoint. Residents of Budrus and Qibya, who normally would use this route, must now take a longer road home via Shuqba village.
- The roadblocks at Surda remain in place despite local announcements from the Israeli military authorities that these would be removed by 24 November.
- Bulldozers have started clearing land east of the "Green Line" on Qibya land (beside Qibiya and Budrus villages, south-west Ramallah governorate) for the construction of the Elkana-Jerusalem section of the Wall. The Qibiya village council reported that some olive trees have been uprooted. On 21 November, several hundred people took part in a peaceful demonstration in Qibya/Burdus against the construction of the Wall.

Ramallah/al Bireh/ Beituniya:

Checkpoint/Gate/roadblocks	Status
Qalandiya checkpoint	Open. Access usually only permitted for West Bank/Gaza Palestinians with permits, Jerusalem ID holders, and foreign passport holders. Vehicles with West Bank registration cannot pass unless they have a special permit. Ambulances and trucks with foodstuffs are permitted to cross. Usually open daily from 6.00-21.00.
Beit El/DCO checkpoint	Open. No access for pedestrians. Vehicle access only for diplomatic/foreign/ UN/yellow plated cars, ambulances, some trucks and West Bank cars whose drivers carry permits. Usually open daily from 6.00-22.00.
Atara Bridge checkpoint/gate	Open. Vehicle & pedestrian access, although a new gate and observation tower deters many people from using this checkpoint at night.
Surda roadblock	Pedestrian access only. Earth mounds (several hundred metres apart) prevent ambulance and vehicle access. Flying military checkpoints often in operation between the earth mounds.
An Nabi Salih gate	Opened to pedestrians and vehicles on 22 November.
A-Tira roadblock	Closed. No access.
Ofra roadblock	Closed. No access.
Makkabim checkpoint	Open for Israelis, Jerusalem ID holders, foreign passport holders and only those WBGS Palestinians with permits to enter Israel.
Ni'lin checkpoint	Open for Jerusalem ID holders, foreign passport holders and only those WBGS Palestinians with permits to enter Israel. Residents of Budrus and Qibya villages are no longer permitted to use the Ni'lin access road.
Rantis checkpoint	Open for Jerusalem ID holders, foreign passport holders and only those WBGS Palestinians with permits to enter Israel.

Beituniya commercial checkpoint	Open. Goods vehicles only – back-to-back system in operation.
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Jerusalem/Jericho governorates:

- Ongoing construction of the Wall in different sections in Khallet a Nu'man, Ash Sheikh Sa'ad.
- In Sawahriya ash Sharqiya, Abu Dis the wall construction stopped for one day after the killing of the 2 Israeli security men in Sawahriya Ash Sharqiyah last Saturday November 22
- The construction in the Sur Bahir area has ceased, waiting for a ruling from the High Court.

- The construction of the wall in Eizariya will be stopped next week in one section south of Zayem Checkpoint and east of Mount olives monastery due to an appeal to the Israeli high court by 5 Palestinian families whom their lands will be cut by the construction of the Wall. 300 meters of 8 meters high concrete blocks are already installed.
- 1.5 Km of barbed wire fence was installed near al Quds University in Abu Dis.
- **21 November:** Flying check points were established on different places, especially in and around the Old City several roads were closed because of Friday prayer.
- **22 November:** Two Israeli security guards were shot dead at a construction site along the route of the Wall near Abu Dis in East Jerusalem.

Check Point	Status
Hizma CP North eastern entrance on Road 1	Open all week for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals. Palestinians without special permits denied access. UN staff requested on several occasions to show personal national passports in addition to their UN ID Card.
Az Za'ayem CP Eastern entrance of junction Road 437/Psigat Ze'ev settlement.	Open all week for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, , West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals. Palestinians without special permits denied access.
Ar Ram CP Northern entrance on Road 60 North.	Open all week for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, , West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals. Palestinians without special permits denied access except Fridays prayer above 45 years were allowed in without permit
Bir Nabala/Atarot CP Northern entrance on Road 404 / 45 Road Atarot Junction.	Open all week for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals. Palestinians without special permits denied access.
Ramot Allon CP North western entrance on Road 436/Beit Iksa village.	Open all week for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, , West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals. Palestinians without special permits denied access.
Shufat Checkpoint	Open all week for Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank Palestinians with permits and Internationals. Palestinian without special permits denied access except Fridays prayer above 45 years allowed in without permit

Jericho

Check Point	Status
DCO CP Main checkpoint off Road 1	Open all week between 0600 hrs until 2200 hrs. Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards allowed entrance on foot. Entrance with car only for ambulances and internationals and Palestinians with permits.
'Ein ad Duyuk al Foqa CP Northern entrance	Open all week between 0600 hrs until 2200 hrs. Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards allowed entrance on foot. Entrance with car only for ambulances and internationals and Palestinians with permits.
Gate opposite Allenby CP off Road 90.	Gate manned by IDF. Closed at all times. Soldiers open the gate for the Shuttle busses taking Palestinians to Allenby Border Crossing to Jordan.

Commercial Checkpoints:

Back to Back CP/DCO CP	DCO CP functions also as a Back to Back checkpoint for goods in and out of the city.
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Bethlehem/Hebron governorates:

- The easing of restrictions announced on 5 November was immediately reversed in the district of Bethlehem following the killing of the two IDF soldiers at the "Tunnels" checkpoint on route 60 on 18 November. All checkpoints were shut to all Palestinians with the restriction extending initially also to Palestinian staff working for international humanitarian agencies, including the UN. However, these initial measures are now being gradually lifted again.
- **20 November:** The turn off route 35 for Idhna closed off with earth mounds and a concrete block. The action forces the population in the western part of the district to a huge detour to go north via Suba-Kureise-Durra-Hebron-Beit Kahil-Tarqoumia.
- **20 November:** No crossing at the Beit Awwa checkpoint (where the road to Negohot settlement starts) forcing the population in the south-western part of the district to use internal secondary roads and long detours to reach areas in the north of the district and further.
- **23 November:** The IDF reinstated the earth mounds at the Fawar/Durra crossing preventing local residents from using private vehicles to travel north to Hebron and returning to the pre-restrictions regime where crossings are only allowed on foot. As the yellow gate at the Hureiz crossing remains closed, the area of Yatta is effectively closed for the movement of vehicles as there is no paved access road open.
- Work continues on the extension of the Wall's footprint in front of Ayda camp, Bethlehem

Selected checkpoints

Check Point	Status
Gilo North entrance to Bethlehem	Since 18 November checkpoint open only to expats form international humanitarian organizations. UNRWA staff denied passage on 19.11. Closed from PM on 20 until late PM on 21 preventing crossing for all but particularly denying access to Palestinians wishing to cross in order to pray at Al Aqsa.
Walaja Entrance to village, western access to Bethlehem	Since 18 November checkpoint open on 19.11 only to expats form international humanitarian organizations and "non-Muslim" UN staff, as stated by soldiers at checkpoint, only access route to Bethlehem for most of last week for Palestinians with WB ID.
Bethlehem DCO Entrance to Beit Jala	Closed as of 18.11 to all traffic and reopened on 23.11 to Palestinians with valid permits and international orgs with 07:00 to 19:00.
Container ("Wadi nar") East of Abu Dis, main transit between North and South West Bank	Since 18 November checkpoint open only to expats form international humanitarian organizations. Re-opened to Palestinians with WB IDs on 23.11 but crossing possible only on foot.
Noqedim South-east of Bethlehem on route 356 (Zatara area)	Not available to Palestinians after 18.11. Re-opened 23.11 to all
Ras Al Joura ("Abu Habla") Main entrance to Hebron	Open 06:00 to 18:00 for Palestinians but 24 hours for international humanitarian organizations and ambulances. Soldiers still resort to yellow gate to delay traffic and force Palestinians and staff of international organisations to open it. Increasing problems encountered by UN about checkpoint procedure as requests inconsistent with immunities and privileges are made by soldiers (car searches, opening of gates, request to exit vehicle, official vehicle not recognized as belonging to the UN).

Gaza crossings/checkpoints

Check point	Status
Erez	Open all the week for workers who are married and over 35 years old
Karni	Open all week
Sufa	Open for workers and inflowing construction materials, 176 workers persons crossed to Israel on 23 November
Netzarim	Closed all week
Abu Houli junction	Open daily from 03:00 – 20:00, closed for 4 hours on 21 November 1 hour on 23 November 2003
Abu al Ajin road	Closed all week
Beach road	Open all week

The enclosed areas:

- **Al Seafa.** Movement remains restricted by the IDF with the entry-exit gate opening twice daily for Seafa ID holders from 07.00 to 09.00 and 14.30 to 17.00. Motor vehicles are not allowed to enter, with the exception of international agencies that have undertaken prior coordination with the IDF
- **Al Mawasi.** IDF imposed restrictions remain, with no passage possible for Mawasi ID holders males aged 15-23 years without prior coordination. Youths aged below 15 years must be accompanied by a guardian.

7. Access to Schools:

- Teachers and students faced access difficulties and delays after the re-imposed closure on Bethlehem.
- UNRWA reported continuous disruption in teachers' access to schools in different districts due to closure, curfew and lack of permits.

8. Labour movement into Israel

West Bank:

- No further work or trade permits issued.

Gaza

Date	Israel	Erez Industrial Estate
19/11/2003	9,885	3,985
20/11/2003	9,949	3,808
21/11/2003	6,595	965
22/11/2003	795	1,208
23/11/2003	9,359	3,749
24/11/2003	7,549	2,545

9. Other incidents

Qalqiliya/Tulkarm governorates:

- **22 November:** The IDF entered Nur Shams refugee camp. Random shots were fired in the streets, no casualties reported.

Nablus/Jenin/Tubas governorates

- **20 November:** The IDF entered Balata refugee camp and had clashes with the worshipers after they left the mosque. One child was lightly injured.
- **21 November:** IDF entered the eastern part of Nablus city shooting randomly on the street lights. No injuries reported.
- **22 November:** IDF bulldozers entered the east part of Jenin city to enhance trenches in the area. Clashes took place between the IDF and the residents. As a result an 11-year old child was shot dead.t dead.

Ramallah/al Bireh/Beituniya governorates:

- Continuous search/arrest campaigns occurred during the week in Ramallah and the surrounding villages.

Hebron/Bethlehem governorates:

- **20-23 November:** Continuous incursions and search/arrest campaigns occurred.

Gaza

- **19 November:** An IDF gunboat opened random fire at a Palestinian fishing boat across from Gaza City. The IDF arrested the seven fishermen crew and towed the boat into Israel.
- 27 mortars, and 7 Qassam rocket have been fired towards the Israeli settlements of, Neve Dekalim, Netzarim, Morag, Eli Sinai and Gadid through out the reporting period.

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