

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS Occupied Palestinian Territory		الامم المتحدة مكتب لتنسيق الشؤون الإنسانية للأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة
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OCHA Weekly Briefing Notes **Update for oPt (3 – 9 December 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: **7 deaths**
18 injured
Israelis: **1 death**
0 injured

2. Incidents involving ambulances and medical teams

Denial of access: **0**
Delay (65 min.): **1** incident (Gaza)
Attack/abuse of ambulances and staff: **0**
Damage/Shooting at ambulance: **0**

3. Curfews

Curfews were reported in the following locations: Azzun Atma, Jenin, Jenin camp, Mas-ha and Zawiya (1 day).

4. House demolitions

Demolished: 4
Partially Demolished: 1

DATE	LOCATION	Completely Demolished	Partially Demolished
3 December	Rafah (Gaza)	1	0
4 December	Gaza City (Netzarim Area)	0	1
3 December	Hebron	1	0
8 December	Fuqeigis, near Negohot settlement in Hebron	1	0
	East Jerusalem	1	0
TOTAL		4	1

- **4 December:** Zeif co-educated (mixed) basic school (6-13 years old) in Hebron receives demolition orders from the IDF for three classrooms and adjacent sanitation facilities as they do not have a building permit.

5. Land levelling/confiscation

Gaza: In the last week, the IDF has circulated a requisition order to Palestinian land owners around Morag settlement, announcing a further 46.5 dunums of land will be appropriated.

Levelling

DATE	LOCATION	Dunums	Acres	Property
7 December	Khan Younis	3		Olive Crops
TOTAL		3		

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 Qalqiliya and Tulkarm districts at the checkpoints and the major road gates with the exception of the Baqa Ash Sharqiya gate (see below).
- Ongoing construction of the Wall between Zeita and Qaffin through Nazlat Isa.

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. The checkpoint is currently under reconstruction with the installation of a metal detector that pedestrians have to pass through.
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. The checkpoint was reported closed on 7 December
Qalqiliya DCO	Open whole week except from 8 December between 08:00 - 15:00
Jaljoulia	Open whole week for 24 hours, but only for holders of permit into Israel. Only vehicles leaving the West Bank are subjects for checking.

Commercial checkpoints

Check Point	Status
Qalqiliya DCO	Since 27 November, the back-to-back system has not been in use as all trucks without obstructions can enter and exit Qalqiliya in conjunction with the opening of the checkpoint. However, it was temporarily closed between 08:00 – 15:00 on 8 Dec.
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 and manned by soldiers.
Baqa Ash Sharqiya	Open between 04:00 and 24:00. There are still numerous reports of immoral behaviour at this gate towards the female population and denial of access, with the result that people are resorted to use the Qaffin gate instead. Also trucks are experiencing long waiting hours at this gate. The gate was reported closed on 6 December.
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, 12:00 – 13:00 and 16:00 – 17:00. Teachers, school children and medical staff are exempted. The gate is manned by soldiers around the clock.
Wadi As Rasha	The gate is open twice a day (07:00–07:30 and 13:00–13:30) for holders of green permits.
Azzun Atma	The gate is open between 06:30–21:00. Residents from Beit Amin and Saniria are required a green permit to enter Azzun Atma. Residents of Azzun Atma as well as ambulances, teachers and school children from Beit Amin and Saniria are still exempted. The gate is manned by soldiers around the clock who also guard the adjacent gate into the Israeli settlement of Sha'are Tiqwa. The gate was reported closed on 8 Dec. between 08:00–15:00.
Jbara	Only open for school children between 06:30 – 08:00 and 12:00 – 14:00
Azzun	Open, except from 8 December between 08:00 – 15:00
Habla	The gate is only open for holders of green permits or permit into Israel proper between 07:00 – 08:00, 12:00 – 13:00 and 16:00 – 17:00. The gate is manned by soldiers.
Masha-Salfit	Open for holders of green permits and permits into Israel proper.

- Nablus/Jenin/Tubas governorates:

- The easing of access to the checkpoints in the Nablus continued as men over 35 years old and all women were allowed to pass since last week. Dirt roads were increasingly difficult to pass due to numerous flying check points on such roads. A new check point/ flying check point continued to be manned most of the day on road 60 at the Yitzhar junction near Huwwara village and near Deir Sharaf junction west of Nablus, also at road 60.
- Flying checkpoints were erected at the junction between Qabatiya, Jenin and Birqin during the week.

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.
Beit Iba Western entrance, mainly for trade	Same as above.
Sarra South western entrance, before the closure regime main road to Qalqilya	Closed except for villagers from Sarra or Qusin, who occasionally are let through.
Qusin Internal closure between Sarra and Nablus	Open several hours a day when the IDF is not manning the check point.
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.
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.
Hamra East, before closure regime main road to Jordan, Tubas, Jenin	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).
Zaatara (Tappouah) South, main road to Ramallah	Generally open for all Palestinians. Reduced manning since two weeks back.
'17' ('Asira) North entrance for the villages of 'Asira ash-Shamaliyah and the neighboring villages.	Open a number of hours a day when the IDF is not manning the check point. Totally closed for vehicles by several earthmounds.

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

Date	Status
3-9 December	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. Open for all Palestinians.
Haifa Street Western entrance to Jenin City	Occasionally manned. Open for all Palestinians.
Al Amn Al Watani Northern entrance of Jenin	Closed for all Palestinians unless they have special permits.
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 all goods.

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. The check point continued being difficult to cross.

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

- The earth mounds in Surda were removed by the IDF on Wednesday 3 December. However, Palestinians travelling from the villages north of Surda have experienced flying checkpoints on their route into Ramallah. On the night of 3 December the IDF established a mobile checkpoint outside the Palestinian Youth Organization building denying cars coming from the new open road at Surda entrance to Ramallah.
- The construction of the Wall in Ramallah Governorate is continuing in the areas between Budrus and Rantis. Marks on stones for what locals claim are signs for the coming construction of the Wall are observed in Bil'in and Saffa.

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	Open. Vehicle & pedestrian access. The gate has been removed. The observation tower deters people from using this checkpoint at night.
An Nabi Salih gate	Closed on several occasions, last on Sunday 7 Dec. the whole day.
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 West Bank and Gaza Strip 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 West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits to enter Israel.
Beituniya commercial checkpoint	Open. Goods and ICRC vehicles only – back-to-back system in operation.

Jerusalem/Jericho governorates:

- Construction of the Wall is ongoing in different sections in Khallet a Nu'man southern of Jerusalem Ash Sheikh Sa'ad.
- The wall construction in the Sur Bahir area has ceased pending a High Court decision in Tel Aviv to decide on the continuation of the wall in East Jerusalem.
- The construction in Eizariya in one section south of Zayem Checkpoint and east of Mount olives monasteries is progressing rapidly and will not be disrupted anymore regarding the appeal from the 5 Jerusalemite families that the construction of the wall cuts them off their lands. In this location the concrete wall is 9 metres high.
- The construction of the wall in Abu Dees Al Quds University the work is progressing.

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	Open all week for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West

North western entrance on Road 436/Beit Ikksa village.	Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals. Palestinians without special permits denied access.
Shufat Refugee Camp/ Anata 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. Back to Back checkpoint will be closed every Friday from 3.00 until Sunday Morning new procedure.
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Bethlehem/Hebron governorates:

- Following the previous week's assessment of worsening access in the district of Hebron, the current one witnessed a significant improvement in the ability of Palestinians to move. The re-establishment of gates at the Halhul – Sair junction and the opening of route 356 along Wadi Sair will allow inter-district movement on private vehicles without permits. Wadi Sair had been opened once before during the intifada just after the declaration of "hudna" in August, only to be immediately reversed after a few days. Movement of buses transporting Palestinians between districts has continued along route 60, although the number of permits issued so far (12) has not matched the number requested (33).
- Over the last week 6 new permits have been released for the Hebron National Bus company to travel along route 60 from Halhul to Al Khader. This raises the total number of valid permits for buses on that route to 17; more have been requested.
- Since the opening of the Wadi Sair road (route 356) traveling times with private vehicles from Bethlehem to Hebron and vice versa have reduced to an average of one hour. Two checkpoints, Noqedim and a flying checkpoint at the end of Wadi Sair monitor Palestinian movement.
- 3 December:** The IDF removes the earth mounds at the Halhul – Sair junction across route 60 and reinstates the gates which to date have remained opened.
- 3 December:** The IDF reopens the Wadi Sair road, the old route 356, allowing Palestinian private vehicles to run to Bethlehem without the need for a permit. The road is monitored by a flying checkpoint at the end of Wadi Sair.
- 5 December:** The IDF allows traders to reopen their shops along Old Shalala street in H2. Most of the shops in this area have been closed by military order since March 2001. The area, adjacent to the Jewish settlement of Beit Hadassah, is now covered by a metal net to separate the Palestinians in the street from the Israelis Jews living on the first floor of the settlement, overlooking the street.

Selected checkpoints

Check Point	Status
Gilo North entrance to Bethlehem	Open 24 hours to international humanitarian organisations and Palestinians with permit to travel to Jerusalem. The checkpoint is now manned by the IDF. 8.11 all Palestinian workers through Gilo and Tunnels CP sent back home as Bethlehem considered under closure.
Walaja Entrance to village, western access to Bethlehem	Open 24 hours to international humanitarian organisations and Palestinians with permits.
Bethlehem DCO Entrance to Beit Jala	Open 7:00 to 19:00 hours to internationals and Palestinians with permits.
Container ("Wadi nar") East of Abu Dis, main transit between North and South West Bank	Border Police are back manning the CP since 8.11. Open 24 hours to all, including private vehicles with appropriate permit. Public transport is able to cross.
Noqedim South-east of Bethlehem on route 356	Open 24 hours to all Palestinians as well as international humanitarian organizations.

(Zatara area)	
Ras Al Joura ("Abu Habla") Main entrance to Hebron	Open from 06:00 to 18:00 to Palestinians with valid permits for route 60 or 35 and 24 hours for international humanitarian organizations and ambulances. Noticeable easing of procedure for passage of international humanitarian organizations. Yellow gate no longer used to stop traffic but closed after opening hours.

Gaza crossings/checkpoints

- **3 December:** Two IDF armoured vehicles and a bulldozer blocked the Beach road with a sand barrier for one hour for no apparent reason.
- **7 December:** The IDF finalized the construction of a new observation tower located 200 metres east of the Beach road, across from Netzarim settlement.

Check point	Status
Erez	Open - Palestinian workers married, and over 28 years old. - Closed for one hour on 4 December. - Closed for one hour and a half on 5 December.
Karni	Open.
Sufa	Open for workers and incoming construction materials; 252 workers persons crossed to Israel on 7 December.
Netzarim Junction	Closed.
Abu Houli junction	Open daily from 03:00 – 20:00. Closed for 150 minutes (16:00 – 18:30) on 5 December; Traffic on 9 December was able to move simultaneously in both directions, while traffic light control system remains in place.
Abu al Ajin road	Closed
Beach road	Open. 3 December, the IDF closed the road with a sand barrier separating the north from the middle and south for one hour.

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 male Mawasi ID holders aged 15-23 without prior coordination. Youths aged below 15 must be accompanied by a guardian.

7. Access to Schools:

- The opening hours of the gate between Ras Atiya and Ras Tira continue to create problems for the children from Ras Tira.
- As for the gate in Jbara, the irregular opening hours in the afternoon continue to cause implications for mainly the elementary school children after their classes end around 11:30, who often have to wait until one hour before being allowed through.
- **On 6-7 December**, teachers from Tulkarem were not allowed to cross the gate into Baqa Ash Sharqiya. Also in Tulkarem, the closure of the checkpoint on 7 December affected the teachers.
- UNRWA reported continuous disruption in teachers' access to schools in different districts due to closure, curfew and lack of permits.
- **6 December:** Two schools in the area of Dhahiriya, Hebron district, were entered by the IDF. In the first school, Abu Obeida basic boys school, 15 glass panels were smashed by an IDF patrol while in the second school, Al Andalus basic girls school, the IDF threw tear gas canisters and shot rubber bullets.

8. Labour movement into Israel

West Bank:

- In Hebron no permits have been released to workers over the reporting period. None have been released since the beginning of August. Numbers of active permits for traders are at 250 (these allow the single person to travel to Israel but not their vehicles)
- In Bethlehem 93 permits have been issued to workers for a total of 783 active permits. No new traders' permits have been released in Bethlehem which at the moment amount to approximately 150 active ones.
- **8 December:** The Bethlehem Labour Office states that all workers with valid permits trying to reach Jerusalem through Gilo and "Tunnels" CPs are prevented to pass.

Gaza:

Over the reporting week, the Israeli authorities have issued 12,351 permits to Palestinian agricultural and construction workers who are married and over 28. A further 1,590 permits were issued for Gaza traders.

Date	Israel	Erez Industrial Estate
03/12/2003	9,978	3,930
04/12/2003	9,249	3,885
05/12/2003	5,086	1,152
06/12/2003	253	2,024
07/12/2003	10,945	3,784
08/12/2003	11,526	3,913
09/12/2003	11,549	3,798

9. Other incidents

Qalqiliya/Tulkarm governorates:

6 December: Around 23:30, the IDF entered the town of Tulkarem and searched the office of the Governor. No damages have been reported.

7 December: Around 02:00 in the morning, the IDF entered Tulkarem refugee camp and conducted search in one house. No arrests have been reported.

7 December: On villager from Jbara was shot at by the IDF while trying to enter his land on the side of the wall with his sheep. No injuries were reported.

7 December: Around 18:00, the IDF entered the southern part of Tulkarem town and conducted several house searches. A total of 21 persons were arrested during the operation of which 19 were released soon after.

7 December: Around 12:30, the IDF entered Tulkarem refugee camp. One person was arrested.

Nablus/Jenin/Tubas governorates

- Palestinian Police is present in the streets of Nablus but not wearing uniform. This marks the first time that the Palestinian Police is allowed to carry weapons since April 2002.
- **4 December:** Around 20:00 in the evening, the IDF surrounded all the city entrances with tanks and armoured jeeps. The IDF withdrew again one hour later without entering the city.
- **4 December:** Around 03:00 in the early morning, the IDF entered Jenin City and Jenin Camp, searching several houses until 06:00. No arrests were reported.
- **8 December:** Around 02:00 in the early morning, twenty APCs entered the eastern part of Jenin city arresting Mohamed Taher Sugghi (27 years) and Raja Ghazal (20 years), both members of PFLP. Clashes occurred during the operation, but no injuries were reported. IDF left the city at 07:00.

Ramallah/al Bireh/Beituniya governorates:

- **6 December:** The IDF entered Sharafeh district in Ramallah with five jeeps. No clashes or arrests have been reported.
- **8 December:** The IDF entered Beit Rima village. No clashes or arrests reported.

Hebron/Bethlehem governorates:

- **3 December:** The IDF enters in the evening the Sidr area in Beit Jala in response to a shooting at a military patrol in the area earlier on.
- **4 December:** A search campaign by the IDF in the Old City of Hebron area, H2, results in one arrest.
- **7 December:** Search and arrest by the Israeli Army in Ayda camp, Bethlehem, resulting in the arrest of one person.

Gaza

- Sporadic exchanges of gun fire took place most evenings, particularly in central and southern Gaza.
- 17 mortars, anti tank missiles and 2 Qassam rocket were fired towards the Israeli settlements of, Neve Dekalim, Dugit, Netzarim, and Gadid. No injuries or damages were reported. Additionally one road side bomb was detonated against an IDF armoured vehicle in Rafah.
- **4 December:** An IDF tank stationed at the newly established observation post close to the Beach road fired three tank shells towards an uninhabited house, northwest of Netzarim settlement. The house sustained partial damage.
- **5 December:** Two armed alleged Hamas activists were killed when they approaching the electronic fence north of Nahal Oz area, east of Gaza City.
- **9 December:** IDF incursion into Rafah with 2 reported injuries.

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

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