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OCHA Weekly Briefing Notes **Update for oPt (16 – 23 December 2003)**

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

1. Casualties

Palestinians: **20 deaths**
110 injured

Israelis: **2 deaths**
3 injured

2. Incidents involving ambulances and medical teams

Denial of access: **6**
Delay (180 min.): **8** incidents
Attack/abuse of ambulances and staff: **2**
Attack/abuse of patient: **1** incident
Detention of Medical staff: **1** incident
Detention of Patient: **1** incident
Damage/Shooting at ambulance: **1** incident

3. Curfews

Curfews were reported in the following locations: Balata refugee camp (5 days), Husan (2 days), Madma, Jaba, Huwwara, Sanur, Maythalun, Marda, ad Dahya, Wadi Ezzedin, Jenin, Silat ad Daher (1 day).

4. House demolitions

Demolished: 35 houses, 1 building with 14 flats and 1 gas station
Partially Demolished: 10
Damaged: 178

DATE	LOCATION	Completely Demolished	Partially Demolished	Damaged
18 December	Beit Hanina	2	0	0
18 December	Rafah	1 house (three-storey house)	0	0
20 December	Tulkarm	0	0	1
21 December	Rafah	7	0	0
22 December	Halhul	1 Gas Station	0	0
23 December	Silwad	2	0	0
23 December	Al 'Ezariya (Bethany)	2	0	0
23 December	Al Aqaba	2	0	0
23 December	Rafah	19 houses and 1 building with 14 flats	10	177
TOTAL		35 houses, 1 building with 14 flats and 1 Gas Station	10	178 slight damages

5. Land levelling/confiscation

- 17 December:** Israeli DCL handed the Palestinian DCL confiscation orders for the area between Qatanna and Beit Sira in the Ramallah governorate in conjunction with the projected Wall path as published in the IDF map on 23 October.
- 17 December:** 10 dunums (2.471 acres) were bulldozed in Yatta city in Hebron governorate to expand road 60 about 30 meters wide.

- **18 December:** 60 dunums (14.826 acres) of agricultural land planted with olive trees were bulldozed between Wadi Fuqin village and Bitar Illit settlement to expand the settlement. No notification or confiscation orders were submitted.
- **18 December:** The mayor of Tarqummiya was verbally informed by the IDF that 300 dunums (74 acres) of the village land close to the Telem settlement will be confiscated. About 20 families will be affected.
- **22 December:** IDF bulldozed 5 dunums (1.24 acres) near the entrance of Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron.

Gaza:

Date	Location	Dunums	Acres	Properties
19/12/2003	Rafah	1	0.2471	Cucumbers
21/12/2003	Deir al Balah	10	2.471	Almonds
TOTAL		11	2.7181	

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

- Tulkarm/Qalqiliya governorates:

- The past three weeks have seen a new trend in the requirements of green permits in Tulkarem district. In principle, medical staff, teachers and suppliers have been exempted from the green permit requirements, but more frequently now they are requested to show these permits when trying to cross the various gates. Last week, medical employees were denied access at the Baqa Ash Sharqiya gate. During this week truck transporting gas were denied access through the gate due to the lack of the green permits in Nazlat Isa.
- **20 December:** Flying checkpoints were erected in various places in Tulkarm district. All entrances to were closed prohibiting all movement.
- Construction of the Wall between Zeita and Qaffin through Nazlat Issa is in the final stages of completion.
- The following agricultural gates have been reported closed during the week; Qalqilya south, Zeita south, Attil, Salman, Isla, Jayyous south and Izbat Jalud.

Tulkarm/Qalqiliya:

Check Point	Status
Taybeh	Open whole week between 08:00 and 24:00, but only for holders of permits into Israel and international vehicles. The checkpoint is still under reconstruction.
Kafriat	Open whole week for pedestrians and ambulances only. No cars with green plates are allowed to cross without special permits (mostly traders). The checkpoint is in principle open 24 hours, but no one uses the checkpoint after dark.
Qalqilya DCO	The checkpoint has been open during the whole week for both pedestrians and vehicles. The IDF has resumed the checking of people's ID following a short period of completely free passage without checks.
Jaljoulia	Open whole week for 24 hours, but only for holders of permit into Israel and residents of Ras Tira, Ad Daba, Wadi Ar Rasha, Ramadin and Arab Abu Farda. For the time being only vehicles leaving the West Bank are subjects for security checks.

Commercial checkpoints

Check Point	Status
Qalqilya DCO	Operational
Taybeh	Operational

Road Gates: (selected)

Gate	Status
Anabta	The gate is closed for vehicles but open for pedestrians and therefore it functions as a back-to-back system for buses and taxis between 08:00 and 18:00. A flying checkpoint was established in front of the gate on 20 December.
Qaffin	Open 24 hours, manned by soldiers and only accessible for holders of green permits, except from residents of Nazlat Isa, Nazlat Abu Nar, Baqa Ash Sharqiya, and in principle medical staff and teachers.
Baqa Ash Sharqiya	Open between 04:00 and 24:00, manned by soldiers. Due to past occurrences (as earlier reported) of inappropriate body search at this gate, female commuters continue to opt to detour through Qaffin gate in the absence of female soldiers at this gate.
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. Access for the water truck from Kfar Thulth providing water to Ras Tira and Ad Daba was granted on 16 December and onward. The permission for the truck is currently valid for three months.
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.

Azzun Atma	The gate is open between 06:30 – 21:00. The current procedure requires that residents from Beit Amin and Saniria are required to carry 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.
Jbara	Only open for school children between 07:00 – 08:00 and 12:30 – 14:00.
Azzun	Open all week.
Habla	The gate is only open for holders of green permits between 07:00 – 08:00, 12:00 – 13:00 and 16:00 – 17:00 and teachers and ambulances. PRCS ambulances from Qalqilya need prior co-ordination with IDF through ICRC before access is granted. Teachers from Qalqilya barely use this gate any more due to irregular opening hours and difficulties at Jaljoulia checkpoint. More frequently teachers travel through Azzun to reach the schools in Habla.

- Nablus/Jenin/Tubas governorates:

- Despite the closure in the eastern part of Nablus, men older 35 years and all women were cross the Beit Iba check point. Dirt roads continued being difficult to pass due to numerous flying check points.
- **17 December:** Settlers re-built an outpost which was removed by the IDF last week in Yitzhar settlement in.
- **23 December:** IDF closed the main road leading to the eastern part of Nablus with earth mounds, road blocks and a tank prohibiting access to the eastern part of the city.
- Flying checkpoints continued to be seen at the junction between Qabatiya, Jenin and Birqin during the week.

Nablus: (Checkpoint 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. 23.12 closed for all Palestinians.
Beit Iba Western entrance, mainly for trade	Generally open for holders of Nablus ID-cards, students, teachers and medical doctors.
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	Usually open some 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, Tobas, Jenin	Closed for Palestinians unless having special permits, or residing in 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 three weeks back. Manned 23.12.
"17" ('Asira) North entrance for the villages of 'Asira ash-Shamaliyah and the neighboring villages.	Usually open some hours a day when the IDF is not manning the check point. Totally closed for vehicles by several earth mounds.

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

Date	Status	Remarks
16.12-22.12	Open for all goods, back to back.	
23.12.03	Closed for all goods.	Some trade was allowed through Beit Iba check point.

Checkpoint 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 Riham 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.

Open during day light hours only.

Al Jalama Northern entrance/ main commercial	Back to back was allowed. 2.12.03 the check point was closed because of the curfew.
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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. The check point continued being difficult to cross.

- Ramallah/al-Bireh/Beituniya governorates:

- Residents of the northern villages trying to reach Ramallah and Bir Zeit are still facing difficulties. People are forced to use dirt roads or a detour to reach road 465 in order to reach Ramallah and Bir Zeit.
- 21 December:** IDF closed the road between Rammun and At-Taybeh villages disabling people from Deir Dibwan and Rammun to reach at Taybeh and visa versa.
- 21 December:** A flying checkpoint was erected at 'Ein Arik road.
- 22 December:** Palestinians removed the road barriers at the entrance of at Taybeh village. Flying checkpoints were checking Palestinians' ID cards and cars.

Ramallah governorate (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. The gate has been removed, flying checkpoints established from time to time. The observation tower deters many people from using this crossing at night.
An Nabi Salih gate	Closed most of the time with no regular opening hours. When the gate is open it is usually manned by soldiers. Flying checkpoints have been established on R465 opposite the gate.
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 West Bank and Gaza Strip 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, Qibya, Deir Qaddis and Kharbatha Bani Harith 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. Checkpoint was closed on 18 December.
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Jerusalem/Jericho governorates:

- Ongoing construction of the Wall in different sections in Khallet a Nu'man southern of Jerusalem and in Ash Sheikh Sa'ad.
- The construction in al Eizariya wall is rapid, where 9-meter concrete blocks are being installed to finalise the remaining section of the passage from al Eizariya to the Mound of Olives.
- 9-meter concrete block are compiled near Abu Dis junction.
- The construction of 1.5 Km of barbed-wire fence near to Al Quds University in Abu Dis is in progress.

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.
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 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.

Jericho

Check Point	Status
DCO 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 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:

- **16 December:** a new gate at the entrance of Beit Ummar was installed.
- **17 December:** Concrete block near Rachel's tomb were removed and were re-installed the following day.
- **20 December:** IDF closed the entrance of Idna on road 35 with an earth mound restricting people movement in the villages.
- **21 December:** IDF bulldozed land on the eastern side of Gilo checkpoint for the construction of the wall.

Selected checkpoints in Behtlehem/Hebron

Check Point	Status
Gilo North entrance to Bethlehem	Open 24 hours to international humanitarian organisations and Palestinians with special permits into Israel.
Walaja Entrance to village, western access to Bethlehem	Open from 0800-2000 hours to international humanitarian organisations and Palestinians. Checkpoint was closed on 16 December for all traffic.
Bethlehem DCO Entrance to Beit Jala	Open 7:00 to 19:00 hours to internationals and Palestinians.
Container ("Wadi nar") East of Abu Dis, main transit between North and South West Bank	The Israeli Army have taken over temporarily the responsibility to over the checkpoint as the Border Police unit has gone for training. Open 24 hours to all Palestinians but no Palestinian-plated private vehicles allowed through without special permits. Open to public transport buses with valid permits.
Noqedim South-east of Bethlehem on route 356 (Zatara area)	Open 24 hours to all Palestinians as well as international humanitarian organizations.
Ras Al Joura ("Abu Habla")	Closed for all vehicles after the opening of the Halhul bridge on 12 December.

Main entrance to Hebron	
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Gaza crossings/checkpoints

Check point	Status
Erez	Open but closed for 2 hours on 20 December 2003.
Karni	Open.
Sufa	Open for labourers and inflowing construction materials, 262 workers persons crossed to Israel on 18 December.
Netzarim Junction	Closed.
Abu Houli junction	Open daily from 03:00 – 20:00. Closed for several hours on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 19 Dec (13:00 – 15: 00); - 20 Dec (09:00 – 10:00). - 22 Dec (15:15 – 20:30) closed again at 21:00 till 03:00 December 23.
Abu al Ajin road	Closed
Beach road	Open
Rafah crossing	Open

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 school children on their way back to Ras Tira from their classes in Ras Atiya (17 pupils) and Habla (13 pupils). Also in the village of Jbara, the opening hours in the afternoon continue to cause problems for mainly the elementary school children.
- **16 December:** Schools in Huwwara were ordered to close and students were sent home due to the curfew.
- **21 December:** IDF entered Silat ad Daher school in Jenin and searched the class rooms.
- **23 December:** IDF entered the school of Ras Atiya for no apparent reason.
- UNRWA reported continuous disruption in teachers' access to schools in different districts due to closure, curfew and lack of permits.

8. Labour movement to Israel

West Bank:

- According to Palestinian DCL, a total of 400 work permits into Israel were issued in Tulkarem.
- 22 December: 100 additional work permits were issued Hebron for a total of 800. The number of trade permits reached 1000 this month. Most of the permits issued are valid for two weeks.
- In Bethlehem, 40 new trade permits were issued. The total number of valid permits is 240. 81 work permits were issued for a total of 981 valid work permits.

Gaza

Date	Israel	Erez Industrial Estate
16/12/2003	11,964	3,772
17/12/2003	12,304	3,966
18/12/2003	11,327	3,866
19/12/2003	4505	878
20/12/2003	235	1,902
21/12/2003	12,679	3,721
22/12/2003	12,120	3,887
23/12/2003	12,770	3,876

9. Other incidents

Gaza

- Ongoing military operation in Rafah. As a result of the incursion 9 were killed and 39 injured. 19 houses with 25 families (151 people) are homeless. A building with 14 flats was completely demolished making 17 families (90 people) homeless. Additional 10 houses were partially damage making 16 families (88 people) homeless. 177 were slightly damaged as well.
- Sporadic exchanges of gun fire took place most evenings, particularly in central and southern Gaza.

- **17 December:** Two explosive devices were detonated near an IDF observation tower at the Rafah border.
- **22 December:** Two IDF officers were killed evening in a clash with an armed Palestinian on the Kissufim Road in the central Gaza Strip.

Nablus/Jenin/Tubas governorates

- Ongoing military operation in Balata refugee camp. Since 16 December **6** deaths and **43** injuries were recorded.
- Continuous arrest campaigns continued almost every night in Nablus governorate
- Arrest campaigns were carried out in Jenin and Tubas governorates.

Tulkare/Qalqiliya governorates

- Continuous military operations and arrests took place during the week in Tulkarm governorate.
- 20 December: 1 person returning to Tulkarm town through at Taybeh gate was allegedly beaten and was hospitalised. Another person was allegedly beaten resulting in an eye injury.

Hebron/Bethlehem governorates:

- **19 December:** Two Israeli settlers were wounded on the Hussan bypass road when stones were thrown at their vehicle.
- **22 December:** Palestinians fired at an IDF military vehicle travelling on Route 160 in Hebron. An IDF Border Policeman was moderately wounded in the attack, and was taken to a hospital for medical treatment

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

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