

OCHA Weekly Briefing Notes Update for oPt (24 – 30 December 2003)

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1. Casualties

Palestinians: **11 deaths**
 128 injured

Israelis: **4 deaths**
 25 injured (approximately)

Internationals: 1 Injured

2. Incidents involving ambulances and medical teams

Denial of access: **5** incidents
Delay (40 min – 7 hrs.): **8** incidents

3. Curfews

Curfews were reported in the following locations: Balata refugee camp and Beit Furik (3 days), Nablus, Nablus Old City, and Jaba (2 days), Jamma'in, Kaf ad Dik, Kafr Malik and Hebron H2 (1 day), Deir Ghassana and Beit Rima (few hours).

4. House demolitions/Demolition Orders

Demolished: 7 houses and 1 2-storey house
Partially demolished: 1 4-storey house

- **29 December:** IDF handed over demolition orders for 6 houses in Al Burj village.

DATE	LOCATION	Completely Demolished	Partially Demolished	Damaged
24/12/2003	Deir al Balah	4	0	0
25/12/2003	Deir al Balah	1	0	0
26/12/2003	Beit Furik	1	0	0
28/12/2003	Balata Refugee Camp	2-storey house	0	0
29/12/2003	Balata Refugee Camp	0	4-storey house	0
30/12/2003	Dahyet as Salam (Jerusalem)	1	0	0
TOTAL		7 houses and a 2-storey house	1 4-storey house	0

5. Land levelling/confiscation

- **24 December:** IDF confiscated 300 dunums (74 acres) in Nabi Salih (Ramallah governorate) for the expansion of Haramish settlement.
- **24 December:** Hebron, IDF bulldozed 30 dunums (7.413 acres) in Bani Salim northwest of Kharsina settlement. In addition 50 dunums (12.355 acres) north of Kiryat Arba settlement.
- **29 December:** Hebron, IDF bulldozed land in Wadi an Nasara near Kharsina settlement.
- **Since 21 December** ongoing land levelling near Gilo checkpoint. So far it's not clear whether the area levelled is for the wall path or for the construction of a commercial back-to-back system.
- **Over the past week**, bulldozers started uprooting olive trees covering an area of approximately 200 dunums (49.42 acres) between the "Green Line" and the Wall belonging to the villagers of Akkaba. No confiscation orders were handed to the villagers.

Gaza:

Date	Location	Dunums	Acres	Properties
24/12/2003	Deir Al Balah	50	12.355	Guava, Olive and citrus
25/12/2003	Deir Al Balah	20	4.942	Olive
27/12/2003	Deir Al Balah	40	9.884	Olive
TOTAL		110	27.181	

6. Checkpoints/roadblocks/Separation Wall/restrictions on movement**- Tulkarm/Qalqiliya governorates:**

- Flying checkpoints were erected in various places during the period 24-28 December closing all entrances to Tulkarm following the bus-stop bomb in Tel Aviv on 25 December. Access was only allowed for teachers, students and medical staff. Qalqiliya district however remained open during the reporting week.
- Trucks bringing supplies through Baqa Ash Sharqiya gate continue to encounter delays, as the truck drivers are demanded to unload the trucks for checks.
- 25 December:** Following the military order that was signed on 11 December by General Moshe Kaplinsky, a huge sign has been erected in front of Kafriat checkpoint informing Israeli citizens that they are no longer allowed to cross the checkpoint into Tulkarm governorate for "security reasons". The restriction also applies to Taybeh checkpoint through which only specific groups (officials and medical staff) are allowed with prior co-ordination with the Israeli DCL. The number of Palestinians residing in Israel who enter Tulkarm for shopping dropped over the past couple of weeks with an average of 50-60 per day against 200-300 per day before the Intifada.
- Last week, it was reported on a new observed trend in Tulkarm district where teachers, medical staff and suppliers were occasionally requested green permits when crossing the various Wall gates. Tulkarm DCL office confirmed that these groups of people are not required to obtain green permits and there are no plans to introduce this procedure.
- As reported previously, the following agricultural gates remained closed during the week: Qalqiliya south, Zeita south, Attil, Salman, Isla, Jayyous south and Izbat Jalud.
- Construction of the Wall between Zeita and Qaffin through Nazlat Issa is in the final stages of completion.

Tulkarm/Qalqiliya:

Check Point	Status
Taybeh	In principle 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. However, following the incident in Tel Aviv on 25 December all permits into Israel have been suspended.
Kafriat	The checkpoint has been closed since 27 December following the incident in Tel Aviv. Only teachers, students and ambulances were able to cross the checkpoint.
Qalqiliya DCO	The checkpoint has been open during the whole week for both pedestrians and vehicles.
Jaljoulia	Open whole week 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. However, following the incident in Tel Aviv on 25 December, all permits into Israel have been suspended. Still, only vehicles leaving the West Bank are subjects to checks.

Commercial checkpoints

Check Point	Status
Qalqiliya DCO	Operational
Taybeh	The back-to-back system has only been operational for essential supplies such as food and gas after the incident in Tel Aviv on 25 December.

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 27 December prohibiting all movement across the gate.
Qaffin	Open 24 hours and manned by soldiers and only accessible for holders of green permits, except from residents of Nazlat Isa, Nazlat Abu Nar, Baqa Ash Sharqiya, and 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. Local residents of Nazlat Isa, Nazlat Abu Nar and Baqa Ash Sharqiya are not required green permits together with teachers, suppliers and medical staff.
Ras Atiya /	The gate is open three times a day and only accessible for holders of green permits between 07:00 –

Ras Tira	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 between 07:00 – 07:30 and 13:00 – 13:30 for holders of green permits. On 30 December, the gate has been reported closed.
Azzun Atma	The gate is open between 06:30 – 21:00. Residents from Beit Amin and Saniria are still 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.
Jbara	Only open for school children between 07:00 – 08:00 and 12:30 – 14:00.
Azzun	The gate was open during the whole week. However, the gate was reported closed on 28 December between 08:00 and 10:00.
Habla	The gate is only open for holders of green cards between 07:00 – 08:00, 12:00 – 13:00 and 16:00 – 17:00 and teachers and ambulances. The gate is manned by soldiers. However, 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:

- Flying check points were erected at the junction between Qabatiya, Jenin and Birqin during the week. Starting from 25 December almost all the check points at the entrances of Jenin city were manned.
- 25 December:** A new gate was installed at the entrance of Bardala village east of Tubas.
- 26 December:** A huge earth mound was placed at the Governor's compound (Muqata'a) dividing Nablus city into two. A checkpoint was erected at the Amman Road.
- 26 December:** New earth mounds were placed at the entrances of Beit Furik and Beit Dajjan villages east of Nablus. All roads including dirt tracks to the villages are closed.
- 26 December:** UNRWA mobile health clinic was unable to reach Nassariya due to a long delay at a flying checkpoint at Jit Junction.
- 27-30 December:** The majority of check points in the Governorate of Nablus were closed for Palestinians.
- 29 December:** 7 UNRWA vehicles with 13 staff members including a mobile health team were delayed at Huwwara checkpoint for more than one hour and a half. Also an UNRWA mini-bus with 23 staff members was delayed for two hours at Hamra checkpoint.

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. Closed for all Palestinians except medical personnel and ambulances since 27 December
Beit Iba Western entrance, mainly for trade	Same as Huwwara
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. Closed for all Palestinians except medical personnel and ambulances since 27 December
Qusin Internal closure between Sarra and Nablus	Open several hours a day when the IDF is not manning the check point. Closed for all Palestinians except medical personnel and ambulances since 27 December. The check point was permanently manned 27 December.
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 delays. Closed for all Palestinians except medical personnel and ambulances since 27 December.
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	Closed for Palestinians unless having special permits, or coming from these villages: Frush Beit Dajjan, Al Jiftlik, Bardala, Kardala, Ein Shibli, Al Nassaria and Al

road to Jordan, Tobas, Jenin	Aqrabania (from which villagers occasionally are let through).
Zaatara (Tappouah) South, main road to Ramallah	Closed for all Palestinians except medical personnel and ambulances since 27 December.
"17" ('Asira) North entrance for the villages of 'Asira ash-Shamaliyah and the neighboring villages.	Totally closed for vehicles by several earth mounds. Closed for all Palestinians except medical personnel and ambulances since 27 December. The check point was permanently manned 27 December.

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

Date	Status	Remarks
24.12.	Open for all goods, back to back.	No trade was allowed through the check points of Huwwara and Beit Iba
25.12	N/A	Due to the incursions in Nablus during the last week, information could not be obtained from the Nablus Chamber of Commerce.
26.12	N/A	Due to the incursions in Nablus during the last week, information could not be obtained from the Nablus Chamber of Commerce.
27.12.	Closed for all goods	Gas and fuel was allowed entry through Beit Iba
28.12.	Open for food stuffs only.	Gas and fuel was allowed entry through
29.12	N/A	Due to the incursions in Nablus during the last week, information could not be obtained from the Nablus Chamber of Commerce.
30.12.	N/A	Due to the incursions in Nablus during the last week, information could not be obtained from the Nablus Chamber of Commerce.

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	Open for all Palestinians/ occasionally manned. From 25.12 the check point was permanently manned and exceedingly difficult to pass.
Haifa Street Western entrance to Jenin City	Open for all Palestinians/ occasionally manned. From 25.12 the check point was permanently manned and exceedingly difficult to pass.
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 of these areas are were ordered to obtain special permits to enter/exit.
Qaddim (Al Suweitat) South eastern entrance	Closed during most hours of the day. From 25 December the check point was permanently manned and difficult to pass.

Open during day light hours only.

Al Jalama Northern entrance/ main commercial	Back to back was allowed for all goods.
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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/al-Bireh/Beituniya governorates:

Checkpoint/Gate/roadblocks	Status
Qalandiya checkpoint	Open. Access usually only permitted for West Bank/Gaza Palestinians with special permits, Jerusalem ID holders, and foreign passport holders. Vehicles with West Bank registration cannot cross without a special permit. Ambulances and trucks with foodstuffs are permitted to cross. Usually open daily from 06.00-21.00.
Beit El/DCO checkpoint	Open only for diplomatic/foreign/ UN/yellow plated cars, ambulances, some trucks and West Bank cars with special permits. No access for pedestrians. Usually open daily from 06.00-22.00.
Atara Bridge checkpoint/gate	Open for all vehicle & pedestrian. The gate has been replaced by flying checkpoints from time to time.
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. Back to back transportation. Gate was closed on 30 December in the morning hours and a flying checkpoint was erected.

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, internationals and Palestinians with special permits into 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, International and Palestinians with special permits into Israel.

Beituniya commercial checkpoint	Open for goods and ICRC 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 southern of Jerusalem, Ash Sheikh Sa'ad and Sur Bahir.
- 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.
- Preparations for the Wall construction opposite Az Za'ayem checkpoint started.

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.
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 Ikksa 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:

- Movement was eased during the period 19-25 December in conjunction with the Christmas holiday. However, following the Tel Aviv incident on 25 December, a total closure was imposed and flying checkpoints were seen in various areas. In Bethlehem 1077 special permits were issued for Christian Palestinians to visit their relatives and these permits are still valid.
- **28 December:** Only 9 permits were renewed for the busses of Hebron National Bus Company, which provides transportation between Hebron and Bethlehem.
- **30 December:** IDF erected a wire fence on the western side of Gilo checkpoint.

Selected checkpoints in Behlehem/Hebron

Check Point	Status
Gilo North entrance to Bethlehem	Open 24 hours to international humanitarian organizations during the whole week. 25-28 December it is closed for all Palestinians following the incident in Tel Aviv on 25 December.
Walaja Entrance to village, western access to Bethlehem	Open from 0800-2000 hours to international humanitarian organisations and Palestinians. Checkpoint was closed on 25 December for all Palestinians following the incident in Tel Aviv on 25 December.
Bethlehem DCO Entrance to Beit Jala	Open 07:00 to 19:00 hours to internationals and Palestinians. Checkpoint was closed on 25 and 26 December.
Container ("Wadi nar") East of Abu Dis, main transit between North and South West Bank	This week Border Police manned the CP. Open 24 hours for all Palestinians. Private Palestinian vehicles with special permits were allowed to cross the checkpoint. Open to public transport buses that have valid permits. Long delays were reported. On 26 and 27 checkpoint was closed following Tel Aviv incident on 25 December.
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") Main entrance to Hebron	Closed for all vehicles after the opening of the Halhul bridge on 12 December.

Gaza crossings/checkpoints

Check point	Status
Erez	Open except for 26 and 27 December where it was completely closed.
Karni	Open during the week except for 24 December.
Sufa	Open, but closed completely on 26 and 27 December 2003. It was reopened on 28 December for workers and inflowing construction materials.
Netzarim Junction	Closed since 08 October.
Abu Houli junction	Open daily from 03:00 – 20:00. Closed for several hours on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25 Dec (16:00 – 19:00) - 26 Dec (15:00 – 17:00) - 28 Dec (07:10 – 08:15)
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. On 26 and 30 December IDF closed the gate completely.
- **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. Motor vehicles are not allowed to enter, with the exception of international agencies that have undertaken prior coordination with the IDF. On 23 December the IDF closed Tel Es-Sultan checkpoint and re-opened it again on 29 December for Al Mawassi residents only.

7. Access to Schools:

- 24 December: Three schools were closed in Hebron due to the imposed curfew in H2 area.
- 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).
- In the village of Jbara, the opening hours in the afternoon continue to cause problems for mainly the elementary school children. On 28 December, teachers from Jbara who work in Tulkarm were not allowed to return to Jbara village after school hours, and as a result they were forced to stay overnight in Tulkarm.
- **27 December:** IDF forced students in Nablus to leave their schools.
- **29 December:** IDF entered one school in Tulkarm and conducted a search campaign during class hours. No incidents were reported.
- 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:

- All work, travel and trade permits were suspended in the Tulkarm/Qalqiliya districts following the Tel Aviv incident on 25 December.
- All work, and trade permits were suspended in Bethlehem/Hebron districts. Travel permits are still valid for Palestinian private vehicles.

Gaza

- The number of permits for the workers inside Israel has decreased as the permits of the people aged between 28 and 35 were cancelled. Permits to enter Israel have now been issued to 11,300 Palestinian agricultural and construction labourers and 1,877 merchants.

Date	Israel	Erez Industrial Estate
24/12/2003	12,693	3,782
25/12/2003	12,785	3,094
26/12/2003	0	803
27/12/2003	0	1,858
28/12/2003	5,375	3,866
29/12/2003	10,088	3,857
30/12/2003	10,099	3,790

9. Other incidents

Gaza

- **25 December:** Five Palestinians including 2 Islamic Jihad activists and 3 by passers were killed when 2 Israeli helicopters fired several missiles towards a car in Gaza.
- **30 December:** An IAF helicopter fired two missiles at a vehicle in Gaza city neighborhood of Al Shaihk Radwa in which Israel confirmed that it was an assassination attempt against alleged Hamas activists. Eleven people were injured, nine of them were bystanders.
- 45 mortars, 32 home made rockets and 1 anti tanks missile have been fired towards the Israeli settlements and northern towns of Negev, Sederot, Neve Dekalim, Dugit, Netzarim, and Gadid. No injuries were reported.

Nablus/Jenin/Tubas governorates

- The military operation that started in Balata camp on 16 December ended on 24 December. Daily incursions into Nablus city took place between 26-29 December. Clashes, arrests and house searches intensified on 30 December as all of Nablus City was under curfew. The internal closures inside Nablus city that had been re-enforced since 23 December continued causing traffic chaos interrupting the daily life in the city. The villages of Beit Dajjan and Beit Furik were totally sealed off by new closures at all entrances.
- Incursions and arrest campaigns continued in Jenin governorate. Strict closure was imposed on the city 25 December.

Tulkare/Qalqiliya governorates

- Continuous military operations and arrest campaigns took place on 24 and 25 December in Tulkarm governorate.

Hebron/Bethlehem governorates:

- **25 December:** Israeli settlers beat Palestinians in Ash shuhada street east south of Yatta.
- **25 December:** Israeli settlers install new outposts near Ma'on settlement east of Yatta.
- **30 December:** One Palestinian was hospitalised after Israeli settlers beat him near Halhul.

Israel:

- **25 December:** A Palestinian blew up himself at a bus stop in Petah Tikva, killing himself and four Israelis and injuring twenty.

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

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