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OCHA Weekly Briefing Notes
Update for oPt (19 – 25 May 2004)

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1. **Casualties**

Palestinians: **36 deaths**
 121 injured
 Israelis: **0 deaths**
 3 injured

Sources: OCHA FCU, PRCS, IDF website, Israeli MoFA.

2. **Incidents involving ambulances and medical teams**

Denial of access: **15** incidents (mainly in al Zaitoun area and Rafah)
 Delay (up to 120 hours): **8** incidents
 Shooting/Shelling/Damage to Ambulance: **5** incidents

Sources: OCHA FCU, PRCS, MoH

3. **Curfews**

- Over the reporting period, Tel As-Sultan, As Salam and Al Barazil areas in Rafah were placed under siege. On 24 May, siege on Al Sultan area was lifted and on 25 May, siege on Al Barazil area was lifted.

Curfews were reported in the following locations:

Date	Location	Number of days/hours
20 May	Qalqiliya town	1 day
22 May	Ya'bad, Jenin	1 day
22 May	Rantis, Ramallah	3 hours
23 May	North West of Kfar Darom settlement, Gaza Strip	1.5 hours

Sources: OCHA FCU, UNRWA

4. **House demolitions/Demolition Orders**

- From 19 May until 23 May:** a total of 117 buildings demolished and 50 partially demolished in the Tel Sultan, Brazil and Salam quarters of Rafah were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. As a result 379 families (2066 people) made homeless.
- At least 1,000 people sought shelter at 2 UNRWA Schools which have been transferred by UNRWA into a shelter home for people made homeless in Rafah.
- 18 May:** Demolition orders were issued in Hizma for two houses due to lack of building permits.

Sources: OCHA FCU, UNRWA

5. **Land levelling/Confiscation¹**

West Bank:

- 25 May:** The IDF distributed military orders to confiscate 480 dunums of lands in the areas of Beit Baer, Beit Awa, A-Sika, Al-Majd, and Um Shukaf in the south-western part of Hebron district.

¹ 4 dunums = 1 acre

- A copy of military order T/02/04 (a map attached to it), which was issued by IDF on 11 May was provided to local municipalities during the week to seize and control approximately 380 dunum of land stretching from the group of villages known as At Ta'mir, south east of Bethlehem, through Bethlehem and Beit Sahur. It appears from the map annex that the area will be used for the construction of a new bypass road linking the Israeli settlements in the east of the district (Teqoa, Ma'ale Amos) to the municipality of Jerusalem.

Gaza:

- **19 May:** An IDF bulldozer levelled 20 dunums of cultivated land northern East part of Rafah next to Morag settlement.
- **21 May:** IDF bulldozers destroyed 25 green houses and uprooted olive trees in Zurub area west of the Rafah Refugee Camp.

Sources: OCHA FCU

6. Closure²/Restrictions on movement

Tulkarm/Qalqiliya governorates:

- The general movement across the checkpoints in the governorates of Tulkarm and Qalqiliya has been relatively relaxed with no additional restrictions. In Salfit district, movement between the villages is still hampered by a variety of closures, blocking the main roads.
- Flying checkpoints were established occasionally, and one in particular between Ba'la junction and Anabta causing major delays in the movement. Movement into Israel across the "Green Line" is still imposed despite the increase in the traders' permits number.
- No major incidents reported regarding the barrier gates apart from long delays reported at Azzun Atma, Habla and Jayyous south.

Nablus/Jenin/Tubas governorates:

- Major delays occurred at checkpoints around Nablus, especially students and young people.
- **19 May:** Flying checkpoints were erected at the entrances of Araba, Jaba'a, Al Zababda and the southern entrance of Jenin city.
- **22 May:** Flying checkpoints were established in the eastern parts of Nablus city.
- **22 May:** Around 12:00 IDF closed Tayasir, Maale Efrayim and Hamra checkpoints in the Jordan Valley for Palestinians following a suicide attack at Hamra checkpoint on the same day, and the closure continued over the next day.

Ramallah/al-Bireh/Beituniya governorates:

- **18 and 21 May:** The IDF closed Qalandiya checkpoint for two hours after clashes erupted between IDF and children throwing stones.
- **23 May:** The IDF searched cars and IDs throughout the day at Atara partial checkpoint, long delays were experienced.

Jerusalem/Jericho governorates:

- **21 May:** Palestinian males under the age of 45 were denied entrance to Al Aqsa Mosque by Israeli Security forces.
- **20 and 23 May:** Several flying checkpoints were established around Jerusalem, causing delays of traffic.
- Ongoing replacement of the fence with 8-meter concrete slabs barrier at Qalandia Airport few meters north to the checkpoint and along the Airport airfield and adjacent to the Palestinian houses.
- Construction of the Barrier is continuing in different sections from Khallet an Nu'man northwards near Har Hommah settlement, Ash Sheikh Sa'ad, Sur Baher, Sawahriya ash Sharqiya, Abu Dis and Al 'Eizariya.
- The construction of the Barrier in Al 'Eizariya east towards Mount of Olives near Beit Fagi monastery is moving rapidly and will close the remaining section of the passage from al 'Eizariya to the Mount of Olives.
- The construction of the Barrier opposite Al Quds University is moving rapidly.
- The construction of the Barrier ongoing opposite az Za'yem Checkpoint with land levelling east of the valley towards Ma'ale Adumim settlement.
- Land levelling for the construction of the Barrier in the north western villages Biddu, Bet Duquq, Beit Ijza, Al Qubeiba and Qatanna has continued throughout the week.

² For a reference West Bank checkpoint map please check the following link: http://www.reliefweb.int/hic-opt/maps/Closure/mar/checkpoints_march04.pdf

Bethlehem/Hebron governorates:

- **22 - 25 May:** The urban salient of Beit Jala, Beit Sahur and Bethlehem in Bethlehem district was placed under closure with IDF units monitoring transit within the area at Al Khader, Sidr, Beit Jala; Noqedim checkpoint was closed on Sunday for vehicular transit. An additional IDF checkpoint was set up on the road leading from route 60 to the area of Beit Jala which remains to date in place. Access to Bethlehem via Gilo, Wadi Nar ("Container") and Noqedim CPs improved by 25 May.
- Palestinians using public transportation only can travel between Hebron and Bethlehem districts using bypass roads, and internally via Beit Fajjar for Palestinian-plated vehicles. Passage through Wadi Sa'ir (route 356) remains closed.

Gaza

- IDF set up a new military observation tower south of the road of Kissufim, west of Hill number 86 in the area of Al Qarara in Khan Younis.

The enclosed areas in Gaza:

As-Seafa: Movement remains restricted by the IDF with the entry-exit gate opening twice daily for As-Seafa ID holders from 06:30 to 08:30 and 14:00 to 16:30. Motor vehicles are not allowed to enter since November 2000, with the exception of international agencies that have undertaken prior coordination with the IDF.

- Since 17 April: As-Seafa gate was closed; with additional movement restrictions imposed.
- Since 22 April IDF is allowing 3-4 people to go in and out, for one time only with prior coordination in order to bring food in.
- Since 29 April: IDF started to irregularly (*open the gate not on time*) allow the schools students to cross in and out, in addition to the 3-4 people mentioned above.

Al-Mawassi: IDF imposed restrictions remain, with the entry-exit gate at **Tuffah checkpoint** opening twice daily for Al Mawassi ID holders from 07.00 to 09.00 and 14.30 to 17.00. No passage is possible for male Al Mawassi 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.

- Tal As-Sultan checkpoint was closed all the week.
- Since May 2004, people aged below 30 years, required to have prior coordination to move though Al Tuffah checkpoint.
- 19 May: At Tuffah checkpoint was closed.

Kfar Darom. The Palestinian area adjacent to Kfar Darom settlement was declared a Closed Military Zone following a suicide attack on 27 February 2004. Since 20/7/2002 no vehicular movement was allowed as the IDF erected a fence around the area. Movement restricted by the IDF with the entry-exit gate opening four times daily for Al Ma'ni ID holders from 06:30 to 07:30, 10:30 to 11:30, 13:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 17:00.

Sources: OCHA FCU, UNSCO, UNRWA

7. Education

- **Ramallah:**
 - **20 May:** At around 14.00 while children were leaving a primary school at Al Sharafeh neighborhood, the IDF start shooting in the air and scaring the children by speeding in their jeep.
- **Jerusalem/Jericho:**
 - Teachers from Tubas and Nablus districts working in Jericho have repeatedly been harassed, delayed and sometimes denied access at the Tayasir and Hamra checkpoints.
- **Bethlehem/Hebron:**
 - **19 May:** Al Mansur School in Yatta was surrounded by IDF during an incursion aimed at arresting an alleged Palestinian militant. All schoolchildren were sent home.
 - **23 May:** The IDF entered the UNRWA Basic Boys and Girls school in Fawwar camp with four pupils injured in confrontations in the camp.
- **Gaza:**
 - During the reporting period, due to the IDF incursion in Rafah, both UNRWA and PA schools were disrupted.
 - IDF troops caused damage to UNRWA Rafah Elementary School, a big hole in the eastern boundary wall was reported damaged as well as the main water pipes, doors, school records, teaching were destroyed.

Sources: OCHA FCU, UNRWA

8. Labour movement to Israel

West Bank:

Tulkarm/Qalqilya:

- A total of 140 trader permits were issued over the course of the week for both Tulkarm and Qalqilya (70 in each governorate). Still, no new or renewed work permits issued into Israel.

Jerusalem/Jericho

- No work permits have been issued to Jericho since mid May.
- The total quota number for commercial trade permits to the municipality is 300. This month – from May 09 to 08 June – a total number of 91 out of a request for 110 permits were approved.

Gaza:

- 11,429 workers holding valid work permits were not allowed to cross to Israel due to the closure imposed since 22 March 2004. Erez industrial estate was subsequently closed on 17 April 2004; as a result the 2,149 workers with valid permits could not reach their jobs.
- **24 May:** 77 Palestinian business owners were allowed to enter Erez industrial zone.

Sources: OCHA FCU, UNSCO, PMG

9. Other:

- Jericho: Settlers from the settlement of Yatif have lately harassed, hindered farmers access to their fields, as well as killing parts of the farmers livestock. Verbal threats as well as shooting in the air to scare locals away were reported.
- **19 May:** IDF re-allowed the Gaza fishermen to resume fishing after one week of full closure.
- **20 May:** In the early morning hours IDF entered Jenin refugee camp and Jenin city, conducted search campaign. During the campaign IDF entered UNRWA field office in Jenin camp and held an UNRWA official for several hours

END

Appendix: Checkpoints Status 19 – 25 May 2004

Checkpoints:

Check Point	Status
Tulkarm/Qalqiliya	
Taybeh	The checkpoint has been operational during the week for Palestinians with valid permits (basically only traders) and international organisations. The opening hours of the checkpoint have been from 08:00 to 17:00.
Kafriat	The checkpoint has been operational during the week for Tulkarm residents and other Palestinians with valid permits and international organisations.
Qalqiliya DCO	The checkpoint has been un-manned since Friday, 21 May. The checkpoint was closed most of the day on Thursday, 20 May when a military operation took place in Qalqiliya town.
Jaljoulia	The checkpoint was operational over the course of the week, however, access is only granted for holders of permit into Israel and in principle residents of Ras Tira, Ad Daba, Wadi Ar Rasha, Ramadin and Arab Abu Farda. Ambulances need prior co-ordination with DCL. Still, only vehicles leaving the West Bank are subjects for security checks.
Deir Ballout	The movement restrictions on this checkpoint continued over the course of this week. With several hours of delay, only villagers from Deir Ballout, As Zawiya and Rafat have been allowed to cross. The checkpoint is also a daily crossing point for villagers coming from e.g. Masha, Biddya and Qarana Bani Hassan.
Nablus	
Huwwara Southern main entrance	Generally open for holders of Nablus ID-cards over 35 years old, students, teachers and medical doctors.
Beit Iba Western entrance, mainly for trade	Generally open for holders of Nablus ID-cards over 35 years old, students, teachers and medical doctors. Major delays for students and young people.
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	Close by a gate and an earth mound since the mid of March, forcing people to go through Beit Iba check point.
Al Tur Southern checkpoint connecting the Samaritan district of Jarzim with Nablus city	Only open for Samaritans. The gate is occasionally open 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.
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. 22 May at noon and 23 May the checkpoint was closed for Palestinians.
Hamra East, before closure regime main road to Jordan, Tobas, Jenin	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 Aqrabania (villagers are occasionally let through). 22 May at noon and 23 May the checkpoint was closed for Palestinians.
Zaatara (Tappouah) South, main road to Ramallah	Generally open, occasionally manned.
Salem Main entrance to Salem, Deir Al Hatab and 'Azmout villages	Since 11 March IDF closed the checkpoint forcing the residents to use Beit Furik checkpoint instead.
"17" ('Asira) North entrance for the villages of 'Asira ash-Shamaliyah and the neighboring villages.	Closed for all Palestinians except medical personnel and ambulances since 27 December.
Jenin	
Al Jalama Main entrance to Israel	Open 24 hours for Palestinians with permits.
Dahiat Sabah al Khayr "al Amn al Watani" Northern entrance of Jenin	Open for traders and workers with permits to Israel between 07:00-19:00
Salem	Closed for Palestinians: "Military closed area".

North western entrance/ "Green Line"	
Qaddim (Al Suweitat) South eastern entrance	Closed by earth mound. Partially manned.
Tubas	
Bisan Main entrance to Israel	Open for Palestinians with permits.
Tayasir Gate Gate to the Tubas eastern agricultural lands in the Jordan Valley	Closed for Palestinians unless holding special permits. 22 May at noon and 23 May the checkpoint was closed for Palestinians.
Ramallah/Al Bireh/Beituniya	
Qalandiya checkpoint	Open. Ramallah/Al Bireh residents, Jerusalem ID holders, and foreign passport holders have access without permits. Other West Bank and Gaza Palestinians need permits to cross. 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 6.00-22.00.
Beit El/DCO checkpoint	Open. No access for pedestrians. Vehicle access only for diplomatic/foreign/ UN/yellow plated cars, ambulances. West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with special permits allowed crossing in vehicles. Usually open daily from 6.00-22.00.
Atara Bridge	Open. A semi-permanent checkpoint was operating on the bridge every day.
An Nabi Salih gate (partial)	Checkpoint was operating every day. Long delays sometimes experienced.
At Tayba	Open. Palestinians do not need permits to cross this checkpoint.
Makkabim checkpoint	Usually 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	Usually open for Jerusalem ID holders, foreign passport holders and WBGS Palestinians with permits to enter Israel. Checkpoint at entrance to Ni'lin village: Usually only residents of Ni'lin and Al Midya and people with special permits can access the western villages through this checkpoint.
Rantis checkpoint	Usually open for Jerusalem ID holders, foreign passport holders and West Bank/Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits to enter Israel.
Jerusalem	
Hizma North eastern entrance on Road 1.	Open for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and internationals.
Az Za'ayem Eastern entrance of junction Road 437/Psigat Ze'ev settlement.	Open for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals.
Ar Ram Northern entrance on Road 60 North.	Open for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals. UN staff requested on several occasions to show personal national passports in addition to their UN ID Card.
Bir Nabala/Atarot Northern entrance on Road 404 / 45 Road Atarot Junction.	Open for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals. Numerous incidents reported in which the Border Police demands national ID cards for and or National passports from UN employees.
Ramot Alon North western entrance on Road 436	Open all week for Israelis, Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians with permits and Internationals.
Shufat Refugee Camp/ Anata Checkpoint	Open for Palestinians with Jerusalem ID cards, West Bank Palestinians with permits and Internationals.
Container ("Wadi nar") East of Abu Dis, main transit Between North and South West Bank	Open for Palestinian vehicles with proper permits, international organizations and Palestinian pedestrian traffic from 19 May to afternoon 21 May. Closed for almost all traffic since 21 May, with the exception of humanitarian reasons, international organizations and a low number of Palestinian pedestrians. Palestinians have therefore tried to bypass the checkpoint going down the path 70m west of the checkpoint, sometimes chased by the soldiers. Soldiers at the checkpoint still refuse to open and close the gate for cars passing, including ambulances and international organizations.
Jericho	
DCO Main checkpoint off Road 1	Open for Jerusalem ID card holders, internationals and residents of Jericho. West Bank ID holders are only allowed exiting the city unless they have a permit, or if they are on their way to Allenby Border Crossing.
'Ein ad Duyuk al Foqa Northern entrance	Closed most of the week for all Palestinians, except for Jericho residents entering the city. Open for Palestinian WB ID card holders, Jerusalem ID card holders and internationals.
Gate opposite Allenby CHECKPOINT 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.
Bethlehem	

Gilo North entrance to Bethlehem	Open 24 hours for humanitarian organizations. No Palestinian plated cars allowed. Border Police continue to request additional identification from both local and international UN staff. The local staff of the UN and international organizations was allowed to pass. Palestinians with permits are not allowed to cross.
Ein Yalow Entrance to village	Opened 24 hours and only for Israeli plated cars and international organizations. Only Palestinians with Jerusalem IDs and Palestinians who work for UN and international organizations were allowed to cross.
Beit Jala DCO Entrance to Beit Jala	Closed since 03 March.
Noqedim South-east of Bethlehem on route 356 (Zatara area)	Open 24 hours for all vehicles, the checkpoint has not been manned since 14 May.
Tunnels Route 60 at Har Gilo	Open 24 hours for humanitarian organizations and Palestinians with permits.
Settlers' Checkpoint - Efrata Southern entrance to settlement	Open 24 hours and only to settlers. Checkpoint manned by settlers.
Efrata Connecting route 60 to 356	Open 24 hours; random checks took place, restrictions apply to Palestinians without permits as the checkpoint is on a bypass road requiring permits.
Gush Etzion On bypass road 60, at Etzion turn	The checkpoint is in the process of being re-structured. The physical structure has been removed but random checks are reported.
Wadi Fukin Crossing to Israel on 375, Green Line	Closed to Palestinians.
Al Jaba Crossing to Israel on 367, Green Line	Closed to Palestinians.
Avnot On road 90, along Dead Sea, near Ein Gedi	On bypass road No. 90, no Palestinian plated vehicles are allowed to travel on it.
Hebron	
Beit Awwa At road entrance to Negohot settlement, on route 354	Closed to all Palestinian traffic. Families living close to the settlement of Negohot unable to use road with vehicles. Coordination with DCL required for access of service providers.
Ras Al Joura At crossing Between routes 35 and 60, north of Hebron	Open 24 hours for international organizations and Palestinians with permits. The gate into Hebron remained closed during the reporting period as the Halhoul – Hebron access route was open.
Tarqumiya Entrance for commercial goods (back-to-back), west of Hebron on route 35 for both Hebron and Bethlehem districts	Open from 07:00 to 16:30 Sunday to Thursday, Friday open until 14:00, closed on Saturdays. Transit allowed only for merchants, humanitarian cases and families of prisoners.
Shima On Route 60, east of Samoa	Closed to Palestinians.
Prayers Road, H2 Access to area of Ibrahimi Mosque	Closed to Palestinians.
Shohada street, H2 Western entrance to Shohada street	Open to Palestinians living beyond it and in Tel Rumeida area and in accordance with a list held by the IDF. Access possible only on foot.
Ibrahimi Mosque, H2 Access to the Mosque	Allowed for Palestinians going to pray after undergoing a body search.
Bab Al Baladiyye , H2 (formerly Shalala street) Next to settlement of Beit Romano	Closed to Palestinians in the direction of Shuhada street.
Qarantina, H2 Junction with Shohada street	Closed to Palestinians
Bab Al-Khan, H2 Entrance to Avraham Avinu settlement	Closed to Palestinians in the direction of Shuhada street and north towards the souq.
Tel Rumeida, H2 Beginning of street leading to settlement	Open only to Palestinians on foot living between it and the settlement
Gaza Crossings/Checkpoints	
Erez	- Since 22 March, Erez checkpoint has been closed to Palestinians, Open only for foreign nationals and diplomats.
Erez Industrial Estate	- Since 18 April, Erez Industrial Zone has been closed. On 24 May 2004, 77 Palestinian business owners were allowed to enter.

Karni	- Since 11 May 2004, closed; on 24 May, IDF permitted humanitarian aid goods to enter.
Sufa	- Closed since 11 May.
Netzarim Junction	Closed since 08 October.
Abu Houli junction	Many frequent closures were reported, the checkpoint was open as follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 May 2004, from 3:00 -07:30, 10:30 -14:00, 16:00 -20:00. - 21 May 2004, 03:00 -20:00 - 22 May 2004, 03:00 -10:30, 11:45 – 20:00. - 24 May 2004, 03:00 -11:45
Abu al Ajin road	Closed.
Beach road	Open all week.
West Morag Junction	Closed
Al Muntar Junction	Closed
Rafah Passenger Terminal	Since 16 April 2004, Rafah Terminal is closed to male and female Palestinians aged 16 – 35 years to depart to Egypt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since 17 March 2004, Closed. - On 23 May 2004, the terminal was reopened from arrivals only. - On 24 May 2004, the terminal was closed both direction

Commercial checkpoints:

Tulkarm/Qalqiliya	
Qalqiliya DCO	The back-to-back system has not been in use since all trucks have had full access to Qalqiliya town.
Taybeh	The back-to-back system has been operational for all kind of commodities during the week.
Nablus Awarta checkpoint (the main commercial checkpoint in Nablus since July 2003), Open during day light hours only	
Awarta checkpoint	Open for incoming and outgoing goods.
Jenin	
Al Jalama Northern entrance/ main commercial	Open for incoming goods with delays. Closed for outgoing goods.
Beituniya	
Beituniya commercial checkpoint	Checkpoint now closes at 17.00 weekdays, 13.00 on Fridays and closed Saturdays. Open for commercial goods (back-to-back system in operation), ICRC and UN vehicles only.
Jericho	
Back to Back checkpoint/DCO checkpoint	Open between 0800 hrs to 1800 hrs.

Road Gates

Gate	Status
Tulkarm/Qalqiliya	
Anabta	The gate is permanently 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. Commercial traffic has been operating during the week.
Azzun	The gate has been open during the whole reporting period.