1. The land, air and sea blockade on the Gaza Strip is still ongoing. The blockade, imposed by Israel following the Hamas takeover of Gaza

**FIVE YEARS OF BLOCKADE: THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP**

**June 2012**

**ACCESS TO FISHING AREAS**

Since 2009, the Israeli naval forces have prevented fishermen from accessing sea areas beyond three nautical miles from Gaza’s coast, where the main sardine shoals are found. This has severely undermined the livelihoods of 35,000 people.

**SEWAGE**

The import restrictions have impeded the expansion and upgrading of Gaza’s sewage infrastructure. Nearly 90 million litres of untreated or partially treated sewage are discharged into the sea every day. The contamination of seawater poses a serious health hazard.

**ACCESS TO FARMING LAND**

Farmland located within 500 meters from the perimeter fence is totally inaccessible, while access to areas up to 1500 meters is risky due to frequent ‘warning shots’ by the Israeli army.

An estimated 75,000 metric tonnes of produce are lost each year as result of limited access.

**TUNNELS**

The blockade has led to a proliferation of tunnels, where thousands of workers risk their lives every day smuggling restricted goods. The volume of construction materials entering through tunnels is four times larger than through the official crossings.

**MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE: EREZ CROSSING**

Daily average of travelers out of Gaza

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