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Gaza: civilians collectively paying the price of the closure

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is deeply concerned about the ongoing closure of commercial crossings into the Gaza Strip. Since 5 November, the shipment of food, medicine, fuel and gas has been fully suspended, due to these closures.

"The closure of commercial crossings aggravates the already precarious situation in the Gaza Strip, seriously affecting most of its population," states the ICRC Head of Mission in Israel and the Palestinian occupied territories. Katharina Ritz.

The closure came after dozens of home-made rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip into Israel, following an incursion into the Strip carried out by the Israeli Defence Force last week.

"In fact, since Israel imposed an embargo on the Gaza Strip in 2007, the humanitarian situation there has continued to worsen. Any additional restrictive measures, in particular those affecting the flow of essential supplies into the Gaza Strip, can only make the life of the Gazan population ever harder," says Katharina Ritz. "No matter what political or security considerations may be behind such measures, the innocent civilian population must be spared from collectively paying the price," she says.

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