



UNITED NATIONS

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
occupied Palestinian territory

THE MONTHLY HUMANITARIAN MONITOR

MARCH 2011

March Overview

With the highest number of Palestinian casualties by Israeli forces in a single month since the end of the “Cast Lead” offensive, the violent repression of demonstrators by Hamas security forces in Gaza, the killing of an Israeli settler family and a subsequent wave of settler attacks against Palestinians and their property throughout the West Bank, the events of March 2011 continued to point to the heightened vulnerability of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

In Gaza, a one-week cycle of attacks and counter-attacks characterized by intense Israeli air strikes and shelling, and increased Palestinian rocket and mortar fire into southern Israel, resulted in the deaths of 15 Palestinians, including six civilians and the injury of 47 civilians, as well as the injury of three Israelis civilians. Human rights organizations have raised concerns that a number of the attacks by both sides resulting in civilian injuries and deaths were indiscriminate and therefore unlawful under international human rights law (IHL). Another concern relates to the continuous storage of weaponry and explosives in or in the vicinity of residential areas by Palestinian armed factions exposing the civilian population to Israeli attacks against these military targets.

In the West Bank, five members of an Israeli family, including three children, were stabbed to death while asleep in their home in the settlement of Itamar in the Nablus district. After the killings Israeli forces conducted an extensive search operation in the



Photo by Omar Abulhaj, OCHA

Mujahed, 17 years old, was injured with live ammunition by Israeli Border Police, Qatanna village, Jerusalem District, March 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Escalation of hostilities in Gaza and southern Israel.....	2
Concerns over Israeli forces shooting of Palestinian children near the Barrier in Qatanna village	6
Concerns over the excessive use of force against demonstrators by Hamas security forces.....	8
Gaza Strip: Karni crossing shuts down.....	8
New municipal decision on the curriculum taught in East Jerusalem schools.....	10
Annex: Monthly Summary Tables.....	12

nearby Palestinian village of 'Awarta, and all males under 40 were interrogated. Although no one has (so far) been charged with a crime, or has claimed responsibility for the attack, dozens of Palestinians have reportedly been arrested in connection with the Itamar killings. The village was placed under curfew for five days, during which people could not leave their homes to buy food, and children could not attend school. Ambulances trying to reach the village to help those injured in clashes with Israeli forces and Israeli settlers were delayed from entry.

Israeli settler rioting and violence, which had already been elevated after the demolitions of a number of structures in a settlement outpost by the Israeli authorities, sharply increased throughout the West Bank following the killing of the settler family. Overall, March had the highest number of settler-related incidents resulting in injuries (32) or property damage (56 incidents) recorded by OCHA in recent months, with over forty percent of these incidents occurring in the three days after the killings in Itamar. The continued lack of law enforcement on Israeli settlers, and the resultant lack of accountability with regard to settler violence remains a key concern.

There are serious concerns regarding the protection of children in villages located within close proximity to the Barrier. This month, Israeli forces shot and injured two children with live ammunition in the village of Qattana. Both children suffered from multiple live-bullet wounds in one or more of their limbs, as well as to their torso. These injuries form part of a larger pattern of confrontations and shootings affecting Palestinian children in this village and elsewhere in the West Bank.

Human rights organizations have also expressed concerns over the excessive use of force against demonstrators by Hamas security forces during the 15 March demonstrations in support of national unity held in Gaza, during which Gaza authorities forcibly dispersed with batons, injuring dozens of people. In addition, the Hamas authorities reportedly pursued and attacked journalists, reporters, and

press photographers who were present at the scene, and confiscated a number of cameras. In the days that followed, security forces entered the offices of several media outlets, and confiscated video tapes and footage.

The protection crisis affecting the civilian population in the oPt and Israel can be alleviated if all sides to the conflict abide by their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. All parties to the conflict must refrain from targeting civilians. Weapons used must be limited to military objectives and locating military objectives within densely populated areas must be avoided to the greatest extent possible. All parties to the conflict must also take special precautionary measures when using force in situations involving children and respect the right of people to freedom of opinion, expression and peaceful assembly. Alleged violations of these norms must be investigated and those responsible be held accountable.

Escalation of hostilities in Gaza and southern Israel

Allegations of indiscriminate attacks affecting civilians

March 2011 witnessed some of the most intense fighting in Gaza and southern Israel since the end of the "Cast Lead" offensive in January 2009, resulting in the highest number of casualties rate among Palestinians in a single month (deaths and injuries combined) since then. Overall, a total of 15 Palestinians, including six civilians, were killed, and another 55 Palestinians, including 47 civilians, and three Israelis civilians were injured. Most of the events took place between 16 and 23 March in a cycle of attacks and retaliations, entailing extensive Israeli airstrikes and shelling of numerous targets within Gaza, as well as increased Palestinian rocket and mortar fire into southern Israel.

Human rights organizations -- Palestinian, Israeli and international -- have raised concerns that attacks by both sides amounted to indiscriminate attacks, unlawful under international humanitarian



Mahmoud H., 11 years old, pointing to the landing site of an Israeli mortar shell in Shujai'ya neighborhood, Gaza City, March 2011

"Mahmoud and I were playing soccer when there was a very loud explosion. I ran away and saw him falling to the ground. I came back a few minutes later and was told that he was badly injured and taken to the hospital. He died. I am too scared to play soccer again in this place. Drones are heard all day and night."

- Mahmoud Fares Hararah, 11 years old, pointing at the landing site of an Israeli mortar shell in Shujai'ya neighborhood, Gaza City

law (IHL). Indiscriminate attacks are defined as those 'which are not directed at a specific military objective'; or 'which employ a method or means of combat which cannot be directed at a specific military objective'; or 'the effects of which cannot be limited as required by international humanitarian law'.¹

One particular incident that raised concerns was on 22 March, when Israeli troops fired a number of mortar rounds that struck a densely populated residential area in the Shuja'iya neighborhood, east of Gaza City, killing four civilians, including two children, as well as injuring 11 civilians, including nine children. Three of the fatalities and seven of the injuries were from the same extended family.

According to Israeli media, an initial inquiry by the Israeli army indicated that although the mortar fire targeted a group of militants located in an adjacent agricultural area, some of the shells deviated and hit the residential area.² Several reports have indicated

that the type of mortar used in this incident is known as 'Keshet'. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), 'while the *Keshet* is considered more accurate than regular mortars... they have a blast radius of between 60 and 75 meters'. Taking into account the characteristics of the area, the above-mentioned attack 'appeared to be indiscriminate', HRW said.³

During the "Cast Lead" offensive between 24 and 32 Palestinian civilians were killed by the Israeli army when several mortars of the same type struck a densely populated area next to an UNRWA school in the Jabalya refugee camp (Al Fakhura street).⁴ More recently, in January 2011, an Israeli soldier was killed, reportedly after being mistakenly hit by a *Keshet* mortar fired by Israeli troops. Because of these incidents, following this month's killings, the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem wrote to the IDF Military Advocate General demanding the prohibition of mortar-shell fire in populated areas.⁵

In the course of this month's escalation, Palestinian armed groups fired tens of rudimentary rockets and mortar shells at various areas in southern Israel in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip, as well as a number of *Grad* rockets at more distant sites, such as Be'er Sheva and Ashdod cities. As a result, three Israeli civilians were injured. The fact that the majority of the rockets and mortars fell either in residential areas, or in open fields in the outskirts of such areas, indicates that these attacks were indiscriminate. The relatively low number of casualties as a result of these attacks is, to some extent, due to the fact that Israeli localities affected by firing from Gaza are equipped with alarm systems, which allow civilians to seek refuge before the landing of a rocket.

Also this month, at least six additional Palestinian civilians, including an infant girl, were injured in two separate incidents when projectiles fired by Palestinian factions fall short and struck a factory and a private home. The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) called on the authorities in Gaza to investigate these cases.⁶ PCHR also expressed concern over the fact that armed factions continue to store weapons and explosives in or in the vicinity of residential areas.

Under international humanitarian law (IHL), 'each party to the conflict must, to the extent possible, avoid locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas,' and 'remove civilian persons and objectives under its control from the vicinity of military objectives.'⁷ Violation of this obligation by one party to an armed conflict does not release the other side from its obligations towards the civilian population.

Sharp rise in settler violence following the killing of family in Itamar settlement

On 11 March 2011, five members of an Israeli family, including two boys of eleven and three years of age, and a three-month-old infant girl, were stabbed to death while sleeping in their home in Itamar settlement in the Nablus governorate. Nobody has

claimed responsibility for the attack, and while the Israeli authorities have arrested dozens of Palestinians, no one has so far been charged.

In the aftermath of the Itamar killings, Israeli forces deployed throughout the West Bank in an effort to contain attempts by Israeli settlers to attack Palestinians and their property. Despite this presence, numerous settler attacks, resulting in Palestinian injuries and property damage, were recorded throughout the West Bank in the days following the incident. Immediately after the killings, Israeli settlers rioted in the nearby village of 'Awarta, setting fire to tires and assaulting an 18-year-old Palestinian. Multiple incidents of stone-throwing and vandalism towards agricultural property were reported.⁸ Two of the incidents of note during this period occurred on 21 March in the Hebron district: in one of them, an Israeli settler opened fire at a funeral procession in the town of Beit Ummar injuring two men; in the other incident, a 30-year-old Palestinian man was stabbed and seriously injured by Israeli settlers while in an area close to At Tuwani village.

The week prior to the Itamar killings witnessed another, albeit smaller surge in settler violence in the context of a "day of rage" declared by settler groups on 3 March to protest the demolition of a number of structures in the Havat Gilad settlement outpost by the Israeli authorities in late February. This wave entailed attacks on Palestinians and their property, along with the blocking of major roads and intersections throughout the West Bank. These attacks occurred in the context of the 'price tag' strategy wherein Israeli settlers attack Palestinian communities in retaliation for the Israeli authorities efforts to dismantle settlement outpost structures.

Overall, during the month, OCHA recorded a total of 79 Israeli settler attacks that resulted in either injuries (23 incidents and 32 injuries) or damage to Palestinian property (56 incidents). This is the single largest monthly total of settler-related incidents resulting in casualties or property damage recorded

by OCHA since October 2010 (80), during the olive harvest, and is over three times the monthly average of this type of incident in the previous two months (25) and in 2010 (27). Forty-one (41) percent of the March total occurred in the three days following the killings in Itamar settlement.

Israeli settler violence is a key factor undermining the physical security and livelihoods of Palestinians in many areas throughout the West Bank. OCHA has identified 22 communities with a combined population of nearly 76,000 people, as being highly vulnerable to settler violence.⁹ An additional 61

SEVERE IMPACT OF ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITY ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN 'AWARTA VILLAGE

Following the attack at Itamar settlement, the nearby village of 'Awarta, with a population of roughly 7,000, has been the site of intense Israeli military activity, in the context of search operations to apprehend the assailants, with serious impact on its civilian population.

Immediately following the killings, Israeli forces searched homes and ordered all males under 40 to gather at one of the village's schools and the mosque for interrogation. The village was placed under curfew for a period of four days, during which time people were not allowed to leave their homes to buy food, children were not allowed to attend school, and ambulances entering the village, to transport those who had been injured in clashes with Israeli forces, were delayed. While some villagers broke the curfew to buy food and other items, others reportedly ran out of food, fuel, and medicine; the Nablus Governor's office distributed bread and non-food items to village residents as a result. The village was placed under curfew another time, for one day, on 22 March 2011. In total, during the period, at least 400 Palestinians from the village have been interrogated, and dozens arrested. According to the village council, some 50 people, including eight children, are still being held.

Information from the YMCA Rehabilitation Program suggests a wide range of negative psycho-social affects on residents of the village, particularly children, stemming from the recent Israeli military activity in the village. According to the organization, residents report that many children are suffering from nightmares, bedwetting, anxiety, regular bouts of crying, constant fear and inability to concentrate, after seeing family members violently arrested or beaten, having their homes forcibly entered by armed soldiers at all hours of the day, and seeing the contents of their home overturned and, often, damaged during intensive searches by Israeli military forces. Parents have reported extreme frustration, anger and feelings of helplessness over not being able to protect their children from such violence, or from arbitrary detention.

For example, in one case reported to YMCA staff, the Israeli army forcibly entered the home of a family whose son had been killed by Israeli settlers one year ago, destroyed much of the contents of the home, physically assaulted young men in the home, who were subsequently handcuffed, blindfolded and detained on the ground; these events occurred in front of the young men's parents and younger siblings, all of whom, according to YMCA, have been seriously psychologically affected by the incident. In another incident reported to the organization, a young man was physically assaulted by soldiers in front of his children and his mother. When his mother attempted to intervene to protect him, she was also physically assaulted. Both the mother and son were subsequently handcuffed and detained in front of the house in the cold. According to YMCA, the two were later transferred to hospital for medical care.

[Intensive military operations, including mass detentions, continue to take place in the village as of the time of writing.]

communities (pop. 173,000) have been identified as being moderately vulnerable.¹⁰

A continuing problem vis-à-vis settler violence is the Israeli authorities' failure to adequately enforce the rule of law. Key concerns are that Israeli forces often fail to intervene to stop attacks while they are being carried out and that follow-up to complaints filed by Palestinians is inadequate or poorly conducted. The Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din, which is monitoring the Israeli authorities' enforcement of the rule of law on Israeli settlers, has found that over 90 per cent of complaints regarding settler violence filed with the Israeli police in recent years have been closed without indictment.¹¹

Since at least the early 1980s, Israeli settler violence against Palestinian civilians has been identified as a problem by the Israeli authorities. In 1981, the Israeli Ministry of Justice established a commission, the Karp Commission, which investigated allegations of serious crimes committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank. Among the conclusions of the Commission were that the Israeli police force and the IDF failed to act to prevent or intervene to stop attacks against Palestinians and their property and failed to thoroughly investigate complaints of such actions.¹² Over 10 years later, the Shamgar Commission, established following the 1994 massacre of 29 Palestinian worshippers by Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, noted the failure of law enforcement agencies to reform their practices following the Karp Commission report and noted that there had been

no real improvement in the situation since its findings were released.¹³ The absence of law enforcement against

settlers was again raised in 2005 by Advocate Talia Sasson in her report, which was commissioned by the Israeli Prime Minister, on the construction of unauthorized settlement outposts.¹⁴

Under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, Israel is responsible for ensuring public order and safety and protecting the civilian population in the occupied territory. As the occupying force in the West Bank, responsibility for implementing this obligation falls on the IDF. In the absence of effective Israeli law enforcement, along with increasingly aggressive settler activity, there is concern that the situation may deteriorate further, resulting in increasing numbers of civilian casualties and related damage.

Concerns over Israeli forces shooting of Palestinian children near the Barrier in Qatanna village

On 21 and 22 March 2011, Israeli forces shot and injured two children (14 and 17 years old) with live ammunition in the West Bank village of Qatanna (Jerusalem governorate). Both children suffered from multiple live-bullet wounds in one or more of their limbs, as well as to their torso. Both incidents occurred in the context of stone-throwing incidents by Palestinian boys at Israeli Border Police posted at the Barrier.

These injuries form part of a larger pattern of confrontations and shootings affecting Palestinian children in this village and elsewhere in the West Bank. OCHA has recorded a total of ten children injured by live fire in Qatanna, in similar circumstances, since January 2009.¹⁵ Some of these children have been subsequently arrested by Israeli military forces and imprisoned on the charge of stone-throwing. In addition, there are indications that the

number of casualties in Qatanna village has been under-reported, so the total number of children injured in this context may be higher: according to Qatanna's

village council, the use of live ammunition, as well as tear-gas and rubber-coated-metal bullets, by Israeli forces is common in the area, and that there

“On 1 April 2011, another child from the village, a 13-year-old boy, was shot and injured with live ammunition by Israeli Border Police while grazing sheep in proximity to the Barrier.”

have been at least ten Palestinians injured from live ammunition in 2011 alone.¹⁶ These shootings usually occur during the course of stone-throwing incidents by Palestinian children and youth against Israeli Border Police positioned along the Barrier. However, testimonies given to OCHA by the village council, as well as by the two children injured in March and their parents, indicate that Israeli security forces deployed in the area often taunt and goad the children into confrontations and stone-throwing (*see box*).

In the first three months of 2011, OCHA recorded the injury of nine children by live ammunition in the West Bank, fired by Israeli military forces or

Border Police; of these, eight were in areas adjacent to the Barrier, four in Qatanna village and four in Beituniya village (Ramallah governorate). According to the Israeli Civil Administration, six Border Police officers have been injured by stones thrown by children in Qatanna and Beituniya villages.

These events give rise to serious concerns regarding the protection of children and highlight the need for investigations into the specific circumstances of the shootings. Such investigations should be prompt, independent, impartial and effective, and, should any wrongdoing on the part of the Israeli Border Police be found, those responsible should be held accountable.

TESTIMONIES OF CHILDREN SHOT AND INJURED IN QATTANA, GIVEN TO OCHA ON 31 MARCH 2011

-Yehia, 14 years old

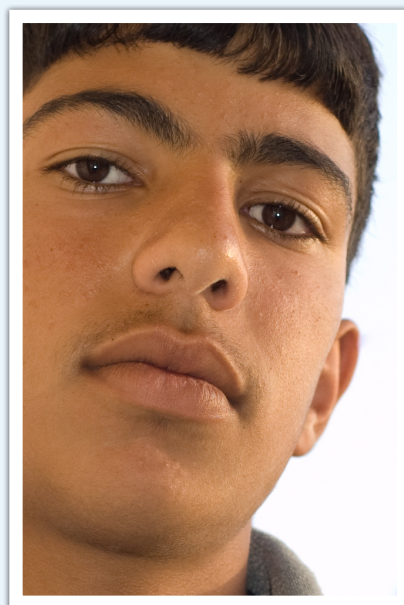
"On 21 March, I left school with a group of friends at about 1:30pm. The Border Police were parked at the fence, which is very close to the school. We went to throw stones at them. As we got close, before I could throw any stones, I was shot with three bullets—both of my legs were injured (one of them in two different places), as well as my arm and in my side. After I was shot, the Border Police did not try help, but that's to be expected, after all, they were the ones that shot me...my friends carried me away, and then I was taken to the hospital. One of the bullets remains in my knee; the doctors are worried about possible complications should they try to remove it."

- Mujahed, 17 years old

"In the afternoon of 22 March, I was playing football with some of my friends just outside of my family's home when we heard the sound of Israeli Border Police on a loudspeaker coming from the area beyond the fence (the Barrier). We were no more than 150 meters from the fence, and we could hear the sound of tear gas and sound grenades being fired, and smell tear gas. The Border Police were using loudspeakers—taunting us with curses, daring us to go out and meet them. We looked up (the Barrier is on the hill), and although we couldn't immediately see the Border Police, we knew who it was, and my friends and I climbed up to throw stones at them. They were hidden behind some of the trees in the area, and began shooting at us. I was shot twice with live ammunition, once through the hand, and once in my back. They tried to arrest me, but my four friends carried me away. I'm worried all the time that they will come looking for me, and that I will be arrested...both of my older brothers have been sentenced to three years in prison for throwing stones; one was arrested from our home on his eighteenth birthday."

The Border Police come here very often—maybe every other day, or sometimes even daily. This is the second time I've been shot with live ammunition—the first time I was shot was in March 2009. At that time, I had initially left school for a period of one month, but when I tried to go back, I kept having dizzy spells and bouts of nausea. In the end I dropped out of school completely, and haven't been back since."

Note: Mujahed was arrested two days after this interview.



Yehia, 14 years old, was injured with live ammunition by Israeli Border Police, Qatanna village, Jerusalem District. March 2011

Photo by Omar Abulhaj, OCHA

Concerns over the excessive use of force against demonstrators by Hamas security forces

Rallies in support of national unity held across oPt

Throughout the oPt, tens of thousands of Palestinians demonstrated on 15 March, calling for the end of the division between Hamas and Fatah. With regard to those held in Gaza City, Palestinian human rights organizations voiced concerns over the excessive use of force by the local security forces against protesters in demonstrations that took place in the Square of the Unknown Soldiers and Al Kateeba Square. According to Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and Al Dameer Association for Human Rights, demonstrators were forcibly dispersed with batons, and dozens of people were injured to varying degrees. Approximately 50 protesters were detained, some of whom were later released.

Additionally, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights reported that several journalists were physically and verbally attacked and that police pursued journalists, reporters, and press photographers, who were present at the scene, and confiscated a number of cameras. In the following days, security forces entered several press establishments and reportedly confiscated tapes and footage. Demonstrations continued to take place at various locations, including Al Azhar and Al Quds universities in Gaza City. Many of these resulted in clashes, between different groups of protestors, that were broken up by Gaza security forces. A number of protestors were detained and later released.

While demonstrations were held also across various West Bank cities, these were relatively peaceful. The main exception was in Ramallah City where five people were injured in physical confrontations between pro-Fateh protestors and other protestors, and five people were reportedly arrested.

Under international human rights law everyone has the right to liberty and security of person, to freedom of opinion and expression, and to peaceful assembly;¹⁷ While not bound by specific treaties, under customary law, an authority exercising government-like functions, such as Hamas in the Gaza Strip, has the duty to take measures to ensure respect for these rights and investigate alleged violations.

Gaza Strip: Karni crossing shuts down

Limited capacity of the Kerem Shalom crossing remains of concern

At the beginning of the month, the conveyer belt at the Karni Crossing was shut down for an indefinite period, as announced earlier this year. The Israeli authorities have justified this on security grounds, as a precautionary measure to reduce Israeli personnel exposure to the risk of Palestinian attack. Although alternative facilities have been developed at the Kerem Shalom crossing, its facilities have limited capacities, and are insufficient to meet actual needs. Kerem Shalom's limited capacity and higher operational costs have also raised humanitarian concerns.

With regard to grains, the PA Crossing Coordination Committee estimates that 250 truckloads of wheat and animal feed are required each week to meet demand in Gaza, whereas the capacity of the new conveyer belt at Kerem Shalom is 150-200 truckloads per week. The shortfall in wheat, as well as the lower prices of flour produced elsewhere, have led agencies providing food assistance in Gaza to import part of their flour requirements instead of purchasing locally.

March recorded the lowest amount of wheat imports since the beginning of 2010. This was the result of two factors: a two-week strike by transportation companies in Gaza protesting the closure of Karni,

and the subsequent allocation of a significant part of the new facility's resources to the transfer of much needed animal feed. As a result, wheat reserves in Gaza were down to five days as of the end of the reporting period, as opposed to the usual three to four weeks – one the lowest records in wheat stocks in recent months.

Furthermore, according to WFP, because of its more distant location, the transfer of wheat through Kerem Shalom Crossing is approximately 20 percent more expensive than through Karni Crossing, due to higher transportation costs. This increase is expected to further affect the competitiveness of local mills, vis-à-vis international competitors. Additionally, while the prices of bread and wheat flour are regulated by the local authorities, the higher transportation costs may also ultimately translate into higher consumer prices. This would have a particularly negative effect on more than half of the Gaza households that are food insecure.

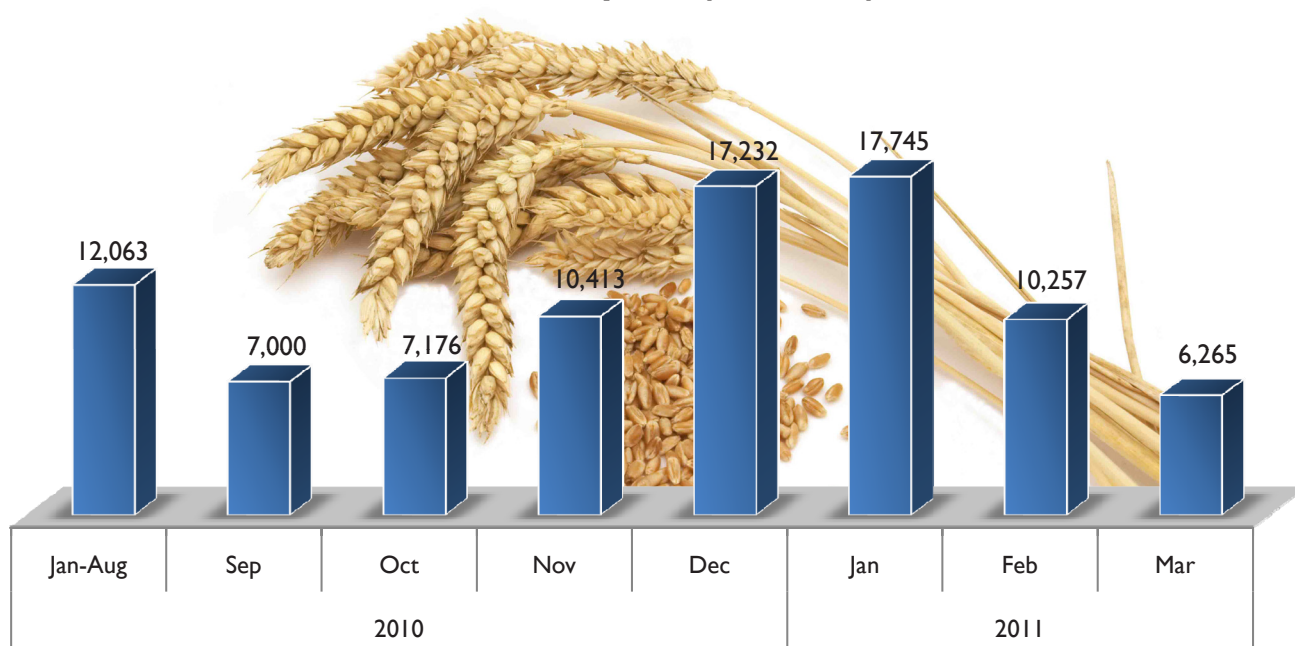
An additional facility at Kerem Shalom for the transfer of aggregates is expected to become operational soon. This should increase the crossing's capacity by up to 500 truckloads of aggregates a week for projects being implemented

by international organizations and approved by the Israeli authorities. While this represents an increase compared to the amounts previously transferred through Karni, it remains insufficient to meet needs. UNRWA, for example, estimates that implementation of just 35 percent of its construction programme, if approved, would require the fulltime use of this facility for over eight months.

As a temporary measure, during March, the Israeli authorities allowed the transfer of some 51,000 tonnes of aggregates for authorized projects through the Sufa Crossing, which was formally shut down in September 2008.

The large scale implementation of projects which are required to meet Gaza's enormous housing and infrastructure needs necessitates the sustained opening of Sufa and Karni crossings.¹⁸ Implementation of these projects will also provide much needed job opportunities in the private sector. Despite some reactivation observed since the easing of the blockade in June 2010, the employment rate recorded in the fourth quarter of 2010 was 37.4 percent, less than two percentage points more than the rate in the second quarter, and one of the highest in the world.

Wheat Imports (in Tonnes)



Source: WFP

New municipal decision on the curriculum taught in East Jerusalem schools

On 7 March, East Jerusalem private and semi-public schools were notified by the Municipality of Jerusalem that, starting from the 2011-2012 school year, they would be prevented from acquiring textbooks from any source other than the Municipality itself, as is already the case with the schools fully funded by the Municipality.

All Palestinian schools in East Jerusalem use the unified curriculum developed by the Palestinian Authority since 2000. However, in municipal schools the Municipality removes content deemed problematic from the textbooks, such as topics related to Palestinian national identity and history.

Although the details of the new provision will only be provided at a later stage, representatives of the private and semi-public schools in East Jerusalem believe this municipal decision will oblige them to conform to the amended curriculum already in use in municipal schools. In addition, there is widespread concern among Palestinian educational bodies in East Jerusalem that this is the first step towards the gradual replacement of the Palestinian curriculum with the Israeli syllabus, undermining pupils' national identity.

In addition, East Jerusalem schools are also concerned that a lack of compliance with this new decision will mean forfeiting the financial support they currently receive from the Municipality. Without such subsidies, private and semi-public schools will have to raise their tuition fees, imposing a high financial burden on the pupils' families, from whom taxes are being taken to pay for municipal schooling, and who are already paying for an education that – both according to international law and Israeli national law- should be made available without cost.¹⁹

This is one of the most significant attempts by the Israeli authorities to intervene in the curriculum taught in East Jerusalem schools since 1967, when a new syllabus was imposed on Palestinian schools. This step was strongly opposed by parents and staff and in 1974 the previously-used Jordanian curriculum was reinstated.

Every child has the right to education. Stemming from this right is the duty of states to ensure that “the form and substance of education, including curricula and teaching methods, have to be acceptable (e.g. relevant, culturally appropriate and of good quality) to students and, in appropriate cases, to parents”.²⁰

END NOTES

1. International Committee of the Red Cross, *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, Volume I: Rules, Rule 12, p. 40.
2. Amos Harel and Avi Issascharov, "The south on the verge of eruption", *Ha'aretz*, 23 March 2011.
3. Human Rights Watch, Press Release, 24 March 2011.
4. Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict ('Goldstone Report'), Chapter 10; B'Tselem, 'Stop mortar fire at populated areas in Gaza Strip', 23 March 2011.
5. Ibid.
6. Press release, 29 March 2011.
7. *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, Ibid, Rules 23 and 24.
8. The most significant of these occurred in 'Awarta village, where settlers leveled and fenced in at least 20 dunums of land belonging to 35 farmers from the village. In a separate incident, Israeli settlers vandalized three water tanks and uprooted about 100 olive seedlings belonging to three farmers from the same village.
9. See OCHA Fact Sheet, "Israeli Settler Violence and the Evacuation of Outposts," November 2009.
10. OCHA also identified 26 road junctions and road segments, where movement of Palestinians is likely to be disrupted or blocked by settler activity during a wide-scale evacuation.
11. See Yesh Din Data Sheet, "Law Enforcement upon Israeli Civilians in the West Bank" February 2011,
12. See B'Tselem, *Handling of Complaints by Israeli Police Force*, available online at: http://www.btselem.org/english/Settler_Violence/Police.asp and Yesh Din, pgs. 39 – 31.
13. Yesh Din, *A Semblance of Law*, 2006, pg. 34.
14. Advocate Talia Sasson, *Summary of the Opinion Concerning Unauthorized Outposts*, 31 March 2005, p. 31. Sasson's report makes clear that there is a problem in terms of enforcing the law on Israeli settlers in the West Bank. According to Sasson, IDF soldiers are ignorant of their law enforcement responsibilities in this regard. Moreover, they are not interested in assuming such roles. In the Executive Summary of the opinion, she notes: "The attitude towards law breaking settlers is mostly forgiving. The result is a large increase in law violations.
15. Since January 2009, OCHA has recorded eight Palestinian children killed and 65 others injured by live ammunition shot by Israeli security forces in the West Bank. Roughly half of these (39) were in incidents that were either directly or indirectly related to the Barrier—either during organized demonstrations, or in clashes or other incidents that occurred within the Barrier's vicinity.
16. Most of these are yet unverified by OCHA, which has so far confirmed only four injuries in 2011.
17. Articles 19 and 21, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
18. For further analysis on these needs see OCHA, *Easing the Blockade, Assessing the humanitarian impact on the population of the Gaza Strip*, March 2011.
19. For example, in the Frères school, according to its director Dr. Suleiman Rabadi, the tuition fees would increase from 6.000 NIS to 11.200 NIS per pupil per year.
20. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 13 (Twenty-first session, 1999).

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), Al Haq, Badil, Save the Children (UK), Defence for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI-PS), Oxfam GB, Palestine Hydrology Group (PHG), Campaign for the Right to Enter, Action Against Hunger (ACF),

MORE INFORMATION: Omar Abulhaj, abulhaj@un.org, +972 (0)2 5829962

Annex: Monthly Indicator Tables

Conflict-related casualties and violence¹

Direct Israeli-Palestinian conflict related casualties	2010											2011		
	Total 2010	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Palestinian deaths														
Gaza	72	4	4	3	14	5	2	11	3	3	13	3	5	15
West Bank	15	4	1	1	1	1	0	3	3	0	0	7	0	0
Total	87	8	5	4	15	6	2	14	6	3	13	10	5	15
Of whom are civilians ²	35	5	1	4	5	3	0	9	1	0	2	8	1	6
Of whom are female	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Palestinian injuries														
Gaza	283	39	12	41	16	44	8	15	24	26	38	12	45	55
West Bank	1256	363	107	77	88	41	38	133	123	61	67	131	89	149
Total	1539	402	119	118	104	85	46	148	147	87	105	143	134	204
Of whom are civilians	1500	401	117	115	102	80	44	147	147	87	93	143	121	196
Of whom are female	125	20	6	20	6	4	4	2	23	13	12	16	3	11
Israeli deaths														
Israel, Gaza and West Bank	8	2	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Of whom are civilians	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Of whom are female	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israeli injuries														
Israel, Gaza and West Bank	176	59	10	17	21	0	11	12	5	7	5	5	3	13
Of whom are civilians	45	8	2	5	4	0	1	7	2	4	1	1	0	5
Of whom are female	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0

Tunnel-related casualties ³	2010											2011		
	Total 2010	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Deaths	46	2	6	9	5	1	3	4	3	2	1	3	0	8
Injuries	89	2	13	14	5	9	0	20	3	2	2	8	6	10

Source: OCHA

Israeli-settler related incidents resulting in casualties or property damage	2010											2011		
	Total 2010	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Incidents leading to Palestinian casualties ⁴	79	8	7	11	6	5	6	4	13	2	3	8	4	22
Incidents leading to Palestinian property/land damages	219	14	26	18	14	17	15	19	47	11	16	21	17	55
Incidents leading to Israeli Casualties	32	7	2	2	3	1	1	4	1	2	0	1	0	1
Incidents leading to Israeli Property/land damages ⁵	83	3	21	7	6	1	1	8	7	15	4	0	1	3

Source: OCHA

Search and Arrest

	2010											2011		
	2010 Monthly Average	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Search Campaigns (West Bank)	397	339	370	511	343	366	376	330	453	281	385	393	387	381
Palestinians detained (West Bank)	275	468	244	332	224	150	215	308	245	183	175	274	305	320

Source: OCHA


Palestinians under Israeli custody (occupation related)⁶

	2010											2011		
	2010 Monthly Average	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total as of the end of the month	6219	6631	6484	6338	6252	6157	6011	5936	5847	5741	5672	5642	5550	NA
of whom are women	31	32	30	30	29	32	32	30	30	33	33	30	31	NA
of whom are administrative detainees ⁷	218	237	222	213	203	199	189	212	213	205	204	219	214	NA
of whom are detained until the conclusion of legal proceedings	940	1150	1120	1046	938	850	806	781	737	719	683	621	632	NA


Source: Israeli Prison Service (through B'Tselem)

Demolition of Structures

Structures demolished⁸

	2010											2011		
	Total 2010	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total West Bank	459	4	10	0	18	143	49	8	25	34	84	28	69	78
of which in Area C	368	4	9	0	6	130	48	1	23	17	62	15	68	77
of which in East Jerusalem	91	0	1	0	12	13	1	7	2	17	22	13	1	1

People Displaced due to demolitions or evictions⁹

		2010										2011			
		Total 2010	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total West Bank		664	0	13	0	0	166	55	0	39	53	139	70	104	153
of whom were displaced in Area C		533	0	13	0	0	141	40	0	39	38	85	55	104	149
of whom were displaced in East Jerusalem		131	0	0	0	0	25	15	0	0	15	54	15	0	4

Source: Displacement Working Group

Child Protection

Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict

	2010											2011		
	Total 2010	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
West Bank	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaza Strip	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4

Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict

West Bank	282	54	40	18	32	11	15	26	24	31	5	15	30	37
Gaza Strip	46	4	2	7	3	10	0	0	5	5	7	1	12	20

Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict

oPt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict

oPt	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Israel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Number of Palestinian children held in detention by Israeli authorities

In Israel and oPt	289 (mon ave)	342	335	305	291	284	286	269	256	228	213	221	216	NA
-------------------	---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Number of Palestinian children displaced by demolitions

West Bank	294	0	9	0	0	89	28	0	24	33	59	40	104	63
-----------	-----	---	---	---	---	----	----	---	----	----	----	----	-----	----

Number of incidents resulting in the disruption of schools¹⁹

oPt	24	3	1	3	3	1	0	3	2	1	3	3	2	NA
-----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Source: OCHA, DWG, Defence for Children International, Israel Palestine Working Group on grave violations affecting children in armed conflict

Access

Internal West Bank movement obstacles

	2010											2011		
	2010 Monthly Average	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Permanently staffed checkpoints ¹¹	71	69	69	69	65	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	62	62
Partially staffed checkpoints ¹²	21	20	20	20	26	25	25	25	25	23	25	24	26	26
Unstaffed obstacles ¹³	519	461	461	461	418	416	411	419	420	424	425	428	428	428
Total	611	550	550	550	509	505	500	508	509	511	514	516	516	516
Flying Checkpoints ¹⁴	414	468	250	294	439	402	190	758	421	414	513	366	503	454

Source: OCHA

Access to healthcare - Gaza

	2010											2011		
	2010 Monthly Average	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Applications for permits to leave Gaza through Erez Crossing ¹⁵	970	1029	1047	1225	1090	947	919	626	976	821	895	935	899	975
of which approved	757	780	760	894	864	789	770	532	744	650	690	744	784	744
of which denied	54	23	40	155	134	95	87	14	21	17	15	22	21	21
of which delayed ¹⁶	158	226	247	176	92	63	62	80	211	154	190	169	94	211

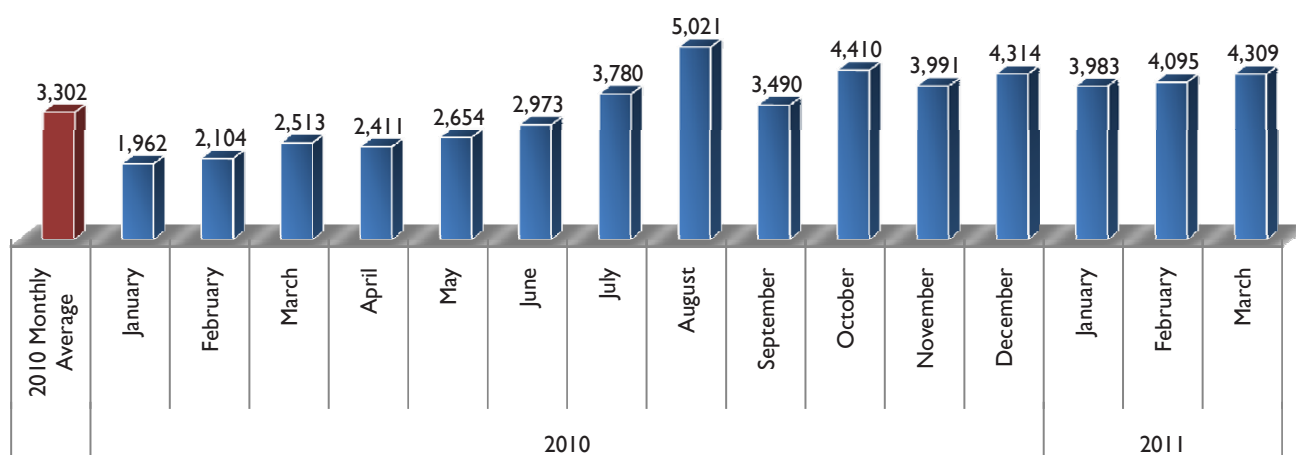
Source: WHO

Movement of humanitarian staff, West Bank

	2010											2011		
	2010 Monthly Average	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Incidents of delayed or denied access at WB checkpoint ¹⁷	44	59	35	45	38	44	38	41	38	25	60	44	31	31
Of which occurred at Jerusalem checkpoint	32	43	26	37	29	35	26	25	23	14	40	40	22	20
Number of staff days lost due to checkpoint incidents	29	40	10	57	24	18	14	18	31	26	54	60	29	18










Source: OCHA

Truckloads of goods entering Gaza from Israel



Source: Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, Gaza

Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP): CAP 2010 and 2011 funding status as of 17 March 2011

Cluster	CAP 2010		CAP 2011	
	Total request in million \$	% of funds received	Total request in million \$	% of funds received
 Agriculture	46.6	24%	39.5	5%
 Cash for Work and Cash Assistance	193	34%	183.8	4%
 Coordination and Support Services	23.3	94%	21.1	1%
 Education	24	17%	16.9	1%
 Food Security	183.2	64%	204.1	12%
 Health and Nutrition	22.2	87%	22.2	4%
 Protection	55.4	54%	42.2	5%
 Shelter and Non-food items	17	65%	21.9	0%
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	38.6	39%	33.8	3%
Total	603.3	52%	585.6	9%

Source: OCHA

Monthly Indicator Notes and Clarifications

Casualties

1. **Conflict-related casualties:** includes all casualties that occurred in violent incidents immediately related to the Israeli occupation and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, such as military operations, search and arrest campaigns, clashes during demonstrations, attacks involving Israeli settlers, etc. These figures exclude other related casualties such as those in the context of access delays, the explosion of unexploded ordnance, reckless handling of weapons, collapse of tunnels, and internal Palestinian violence.
2. **Civilians:** includes people who, according to the information available at the time of publication, did not fulfill a “continuous combatant function” as part of an organized armed group, regardless of the circumstances of their injury or killing. Figures in this category should not be considered comprehensive, as unconfirmed or disputed cases are excluded.
3. **Tunnel related casualties:** figures in this category may overlap with those under conflict-related casualties, as it includes casualties in the context of Israeli attacks targeting tunnels, as well as those resulting from tunnel collapses and other accidents.

Israeli settler-related violence

4. **Incidents resulting in casualties:** includes all violent incidents involving Israeli settlers and Palestinians, including those in which the injury was caused by a member of the Israeli security forces during an intervention in such an incident.
5. **Incidents resulting in property damage/losses:** *ibid.*

Search and Arrest

6. **Palestinians in Israeli custody:** includes all Palestinians from the oPt held by the Israeli authorities at the end of each month, whether in Israel or in the West Bank, in connection to an offense related to the Israeli occupation and classified by the Israeli authorities as a “security detainee/prisoner”. Therefore it excludes Palestinians held in connection to a “regular” criminal offense.
7. **Administrative detainees:** Palestinians held by the Israeli authorities without charge or trial, allegedly for preventive purposes.

Demolitions

8. **Structures demolished:** includes all Palestinian-owned structures in the oPt demolished by the Israeli authorities, regardless of their specific use (residential or non-residential) or the grounds on which the demolition was carried out (lack of building permit, military operation or punishment).
9. **People displaced due to demolitions:** includes all persons that were living in structures demolished by the Israeli authorities, regardless of the place in which they relocated following the demolition.
10. **People affected by demolitions:** includes all people that benefited from a demolished structure (as a source of income, to receive a service, etc), excluding those displaced.

Access West Bank

11. **Permanently staffed checkpoints:** staffed by Israeli security personnel, excluding checkpoints located on the Green Line and ‘agricultural gates’ along the Barrier.
12. **Partially staffed checkpoints:** checkpoint infrastructure staffed on an ad-hoc basis.
13. **Unstaffed obstacles:** includes roadblocks, earthmounds, earth walls, road gates, road barriers, and trenches. For historical reasons, this figure excludes obstacles located within the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron City (H2).
14. **‘Flying’ or random checkpoints:** checkpoints deployed on an ad hoc basis in places without pre-existing infrastructure.

Access to health

15. **Applications for permits to leave Gaza through Erez:** includes only the applications submitted for travel scheduled within the reporting period.
16. **Delayed applications:** includes applications regarding which no answer was received by the date of the medical appointment, thus forcing the patient to restart the application process.

Movement of humanitarian staff

17. **Incidents of delayed or denied access at a WB checkpoint:** includes incidents affecting local or international staff of humanitarian organizations, both UN and international NGOs.

Imports to Gaza

18. **Truckloads by type:** for historical reasons this figure excludes truckloads carrying all types of fuel.

Child Protection

19. Attacks include the targeting of schools that cause the total or partial destruction of such facilities. Other interferences to the normal operation of the facility may also be reported, such as the occupation, shelling, targeting for propaganda of, or otherwise causing harm to school facilities or its personnel.