

Humanitarian Update — Gaza

24-30 May 2002

General

The situation in the Gaza Strip during the reporting period was mainly characterized by incidents in Rafah on the Egyptian-Gaza border and on the by-pass road leading to the settlement of Netzarim. On 30 May, 12 people were wounded in Al-Qassas in Rafah after Israeli tanks entered the area. Two Palestinian women were killed in Wadi Gaza on 25 May. A number of commercial buildings and private houses were destroyed in the Zaytoun neighbourhood of Gaza city, with 35 dunums of agricultural land levelled east of Gaza city.

The total number of Palestinian killed in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the current uprising now stands at 613, with 9276 wounded.

Closures

Vehicular movement throughout the Gaza Strip remains highly restricted. The crossing between Road No. 4 south of Gaza city and the by-pass road to Netzarim settlement has been closed since 2 May. All traffic is diverted through the coastal road.

The traffic between the central and southern parts of the Strip is channelled through Abu Houli checkpoint, all other roads being closed. From 24 - 30 May, the checkpoint opened for 40 hours and 20 minutes out of 168 hours, some 2 hours and 35 minutes less than the previous week. During opening hours, passage is authorised in one direction only to allow for IDF and settler traffic, causing long traffic jams. On 29 - 30 May delays of up to eight hours were reported on the short distance between Deir El Balah and Khan Younis.

In the Seafa enclave in the north of the Strip, the IDF is still imposing movement restrictions and night curfews on the 180 residents. In al-Mawasi area in the south of the Strip, some residents have been unable to return since a blockade was imposed on 12 May, following the killing of a settler. A curfew was also imposed on 27 and 28 May, while new magnetic cards were distributed.

Karmi crossing was closed for six days until 28 May, when the import/export of goods resumed.