

1. Headlines

- Mortars/rockets/casualties/incursions:** According to reports, 3 rockets, 1 mortar and 1 mine were directed by Palestinian armed groups from Gaza at Israeli forces this week (as compared with 5 rockets, 6 mortars, one mine and several rocket-propelled grenades reported last week). There were reports of 2 Israeli military incursions, 2 airstrikes and 6 shells (compared with 4 Israeli military incursions, 3 airstrikes and 21 shells reported last week). No firefights were reported this week, while 2 firefights were reported the week before.

No Palestinians were reportedly killed this week, but 5 Palestinians and a foreigner were reported injured. According to reports, 4 Palestinians were killed last week, and 3 were injured. No Israeli casualties were reported this week or last week.

- Fishermen:** 3 incidents of Palestinian fishermen being fired at by Israeli naval vessels were reported this week; according to reports, one fisherman was severely injured. The previous week, 1 incident was reported. Since January 2009, Israeli naval forces have restricted the access of Palestinian fishing boats to three nautical miles from the coast; in practice, access is sometimes restricted to as little as one nautical mile.
- Tunnel related fatalities:** This week, 1 Palestinian reportedly died in a tunnel collapse under the Egypt-Gaza border and 3 were wounded, including one whose leg had to be amputated following a work accident, and two who were reported injured after a gas cylinder exploded. Last week, no Palestinians reportedly died in tunnel collapses under the Egypt-Gaza border. This week, Hamas

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is reported to have closed unsafe and non-operational tunnels; 50 tunnels are said to have been closed so far. Some of the tunnels were allegedly used to smuggle the addictive drug, Tramadol, which has become widely used by young people in Gaza as an anti-depressant.

- **Palestinians in the “buffer zone”:** There were 2 reports of Israeli troops firing towards Palestinians this week. In one occurrence, Israeli soldiers reportedly fired towards Palestinians who were collecting gravel from an old settlement north of Beit Lahia; one injury was reported. In a second occurrence, Israeli soldiers allegedly fired towards people participating in a demonstration against the buffer zone east of Maghazi camp, Middle Gaza. Four people were injured, including a European national. So far in April, Israeli forces have reportedly opened fire 8 times towards people protesting in the vicinity of the “buffer zone”, in an apparent effort to disperse demonstrators as they marched towards the perimeter fence. Last week, 2 incidents were reported of Israeli troops firing towards Palestinians. Israeli forces prohibit Palestinian access to farming land along the perimeter fence by opening “warning fire” on people approaching this so-called “buffer zone”.
- **Rafah border crossing:** The Rafah border crossing was officially closed this week, however people crossed on 2 out of 7 days. During those 2 days, 40 people left and 278 entered Gaza. Last week, Rafah was officially closed, however people crossed on 2 out of 7 days, during which 19 people left and 406 entered Gaza. The Rafah crossing opens only sporadically; prior to the blockade, during the first six months of 2006, an average of 650 people crossed per day in each direction.
- **Power plant and electricity supply:** 1,045 million litres of industrial fuel were delivered this week for Gaza’s power plant. Fuel deliveries were cancelled on 19 and 20 April due to Israeli holidays. This is only 30% of the 3.5 million litres of fuel needed weekly to operate Gaza’s only power plant at the current maximum export capacity of 80Mw. Last week, 1,788 million litres of industrial fuel were transferred.

Imports of industrial fuel have steeply declined since the end of November 2009, when the European Commission handed over responsibility for buying industrial fuel needed to operate Gaza’s only power plant to the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority. Since March 3, the facility had been producing only 30 megawatts of electricity, or 38 % of its full capacity, leading to blackouts of 8 to 12 hours a day in parts of the Gaza Strip.

Oxfam’s awareness-raising campaign about the dangers of using portable generators: generators have become widely used because of the electricity crisis as a result of the blockade, and a funding gap for the purchase of the industrial fuel needed to operate Gaza’s sole power plant. However, generators are not a sustainable solution, and their misuse resulted in 75 deaths last year according to the Gazan authorities; 15 fatalities were reported in the first two months of this year alone, mainly from fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. Click here to read our press release and listen to our Podcast:

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/applications/blogs/pressoffice/?p=12352&v=newsblog>

- **Cooking gas:** 502 tons of cooking gas reportedly entered Gaza this week, 29% of the normal weekly level of need of 1,750 tons. Deliveries were cancelled on 19 and 20 April due to Israeli holidays. 955 tons of cooking gas were reported to have entered Gaza in the previous week. The overall cooking gas shortage has been a main concern for humanitarian agencies since November 2009.
- **Diesel/petrol:** 99,500 liters of diesel were delivered in Gaza for use by UNRWA this week, but no petrol. No diesel or petrol was delivered last week. Small amounts of fuel destined for the open market have been allowed into Gaza from Israel on just five occasions since a total ban on fuel imports for public sale was put in place by the Government of Israel in October 2008.

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- **Truckloads of humanitarian supplies:** 428 truckloads of humanitarian supplies were permitted entry through Kerem Shalom and the Karni conveyor during the week - the equivalent of 32% of the pre-blockade weekly average. Deliveries were cancelled on 19 and 20 April due to Israeli holidays. 696 trucks were allowed into Gaza during the previous week.

5 truckloads of glass were permitted entry into Gaza this week; 7 had been allowed in last week. Since 29 December 2009, a total of 172 truckloads of glass were imported.

This week, the Israeli authorities also allowed the entry of 10 truckloads of aluminum and 11 truckloads of wood into the Gaza Strip into Gaza for commercial use. Last week, 3 truckloads of aluminum and 3 truckloads of wood were allowed for commercial purposes - the first time since June 2007 and October 2008 respectively.

So far, a total of 50 truckloads of clothing and footwear have entered Gaza, and ten truckloads of electricity generators and cables entered for the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU), the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO) and the Palestinian Telecommunications company (PALTEL).

- **Exports:** This week, 2 truckloads of flowers were exported from the Gaza Strip. Last week, 2 truckloads of flowers were exported. In the context of a near total ban on exports, the Israeli authorities have authorised very small numbers of flowers and strawberries to be exported from Gaza after an intervention by the Dutch government. Since 10 December 2009, following a period of seven months of no exports, 117 truckloads have exited Gaza, including 84 truckloads of cut flowers and 33 truckloads of strawberries, exports which stopped on 10 February).
- **Internal Violence:** This week, a suspicious object reportedly exploded while two 15-year-old boys were playing with it in Beit Lahia, northern Gaza. According to reports, the two children and a woman passing by were slightly injured. In a separate incident, a device is said to have exploded in a house in the Zeitoun neighbourhood of Gaza City, reportedly killing one militant. Last week, an unknown assailant reportedly threw an improvised explosive device near a café in Middle Gaza.

2. Fuel deliveries (week)

		Diesel	Petrol	Cooking Gas
18-24 April		99,500 liters (UNRWA)	0	502 tons
	Percentage of need *			29%
Previous week				955 tons
* Fuel association 2006 estimates - ** Imports of diesel and petrol for the general public and public sector in Gaza were exceptionally authorized on 5 occasions since October 2008				

Delivery of Industrial fuel to the Power Plant (week):

Industrial diesel	Previous week	18-24 April
	1,788 million litres	1,045 million litres
Percentage of amount required to operate at maximum supply capacity of 80 MW		30%

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3. Household level energy supplies:

Area	Hours of Blackout For Week of 18-24 April (based on 168 hours)	% Hours of Weekly Blackout 18-24 April	% Hours of Weekly Blackout The week before	Have gas?
Beit Hanoun	35	21%	27%	Yes
Beit Lahia	35	21%	27%	Yes
Jabalia	55	32%	36%	Yes
Gaza City	54	32%	32%	Yes
Deir El Balah	55	32%	33%	Yes
El Burej	50	30%	24%	Yes
El Nusairat	50	30%	30%	Yes
El Maghazi	40	24%	21%	Yes
Khan Younis	60	36%	39%	Yes
Rafah	35	21%	19%	Yes

4. Humanitarian trucks (week):

Truck originator	Total for week 18-24 April
UNRWA	14
NGO	8
Water utility	5
Telephone company Paltel	1
Commercial	253
Karni Crossing	147
Total trucks for the week	428
Percentage of weekly average before the blockade (April 2007)	32%

5. External links to further reports

UN OCHA Protection of Civilians Weekly Report: 14-20 April

http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_protection_of_civilians_2010_04_22_english.pdf

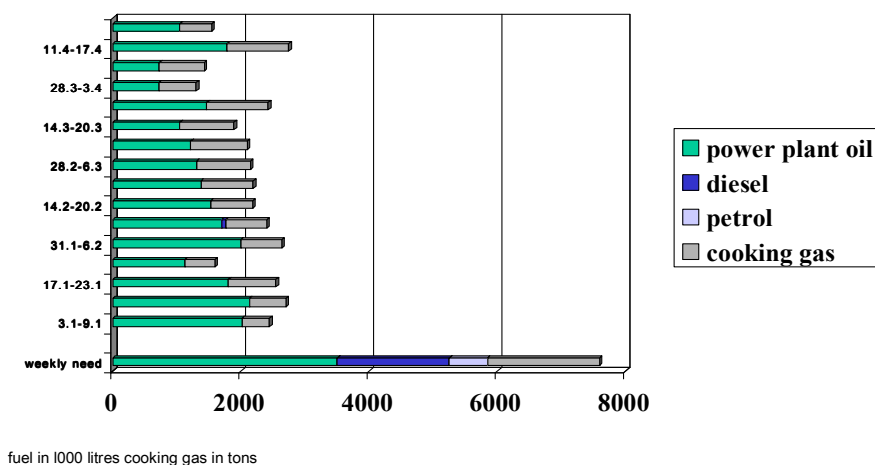
6. Contact information

Catherine Weibel, Media Lead in Jerusalem: + 972 (0) 54 639 5002 – catherine.weibel@oxfamnovib.nl
Willow Heske, Information Officer in Jerusalem: +972 (0) 57 723 4126 – wheske@oxfam.org.uk

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7. Trend Charts

Fuel passing weekly into Gaza in January, February, March and April 2010 in comparison with fuel association 2006 estimates of weekly need



Truckloads of humanitarian goods passing weekly into Gaza in January, February, March and April 2010 as compared to the pre blockade April 2007 weekly average

