



OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS  
occupied Palestinian territory

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## Humanitarian Monitoring Report – August 2005 Bertini Commitments

The Humanitarian Monitoring Report is produced monthly by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It draws on information from the Access, Closure and Information System (ACIS) and other data sources that humanitarian agencies have submitted to OCHA. The report is provided to the Task Force on Project Implementation (TFPI) as a basis for discussions with the government of Israel. It is available on the website [www.ochaopt.org](http://www.ochaopt.org).

### Context

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Ms Catherine Bertini as his Personal Humanitarian Envoy to address the humanitarian needs arising from the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict since September 2000. Ms Bertini was requested to assess the nature and scale of the humanitarian needs, and to clarify the respective responsibilities of all actors involved.

This report monitors the humanitarian commitments made by the government of Israel to Ms Bertini during a mission to the region from 12 to 19 August 2002. The mission concluded that there were serious humanitarian problems linked to the ongoing conflict and, specifically, to the measures implemented by the government of Israel to safeguard its citizens from Palestinian attacks.

These security measures, including curfews, closures and roadblocks, led to a crisis of access and mobility, instigating a drastic decline in the Palestinian economy. A large part of the Palestinian population has difficulty accessing basic services such as health and education. Humanitarian service providers, such as UN agencies, non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) ambulances, have experienced problems providing assistance and services to beneficiaries.

### Commitments made by Israel

#### Health

- Ambulances will wait no more than 30 minutes at checkpoints.
- Mechanisms will be set in place to ensure patients, seeking critical medical services (such as child delivery, dialysis and chemotherapy), can pass all checkpoints quickly.

#### Water

- Problems relating to water deliveries in Palestinian towns and villages will be addressed to ensure that daily provision of adequate amounts of water can be supplied by Palestinian water tankers.

#### Facilitation for International Humanitarian Organisations

- The government of Israel will fully facilitate the activities of international organisations, with particular reference to UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).
- The government of Israel agreed to review and strengthen the liaison arrangements between international agencies and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

#### Additional Commitments

On previous occasions, the government of Israel has made the following commitments, which were confirmed to the mission:

- The fishing zone for Palestinian boats off the Gaza Strip coast will be extended to 12 nautical miles.
- Olive farmers will be allowed access to their fields.
- Increased shipments will be allowed at Karni crossing, the Gaza Strip.
- The number of permits for Palestinian workers in Israel will be increased.

## Executive Summary

### Health

Palestinian ambulance operators reported a total of at least 24 access incidents in August 2005 (compared to 18 in July 2005), in which the provision of first aid and/or medical evacuations were delayed, obstructed and/or prevented by the IDF. A further two incidents were reported by the Palestinian MoH in the Gaza Strip though have not been included in the total because delay times were not known.<sup>1</sup> The number of incidents reported a year ago in August 2004 was 31. The majority of the reports were from the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank where Israel imposed additional movement restrictions during the disengagement.

### Water

Closure measures, including checkpoints and earth mounds, continue to have a severe affect on water transport; closures often result in the inability of water tankers to reach their destination.

### Facilitation for International Humanitarian Organisations

In August 2005, international relief agencies filed at least 88 reports (compared to 71 in July 2005) in which the delivery of aid and/or the movement of personnel were obstructed by the IDF or Israeli Border Police. Most incidents reported included delays and disrespect by the Israeli forces of international humanitarian organisations' mandates, privileges and immunities. In August 2004, 108 incidents were reported.

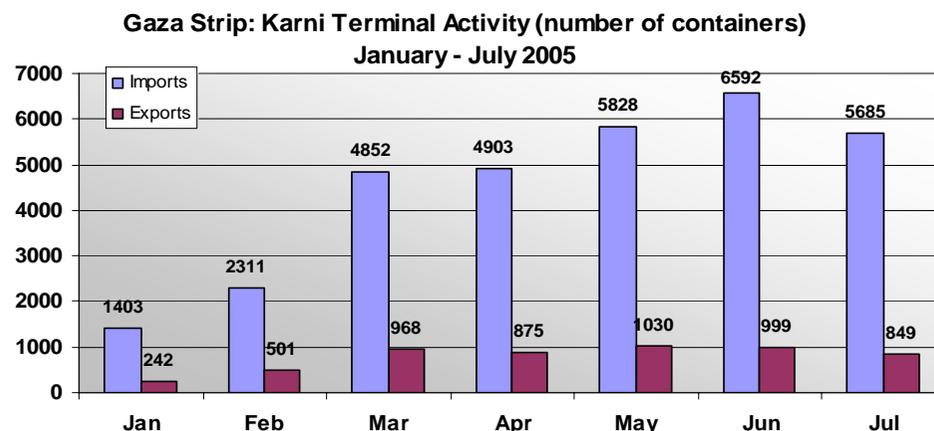
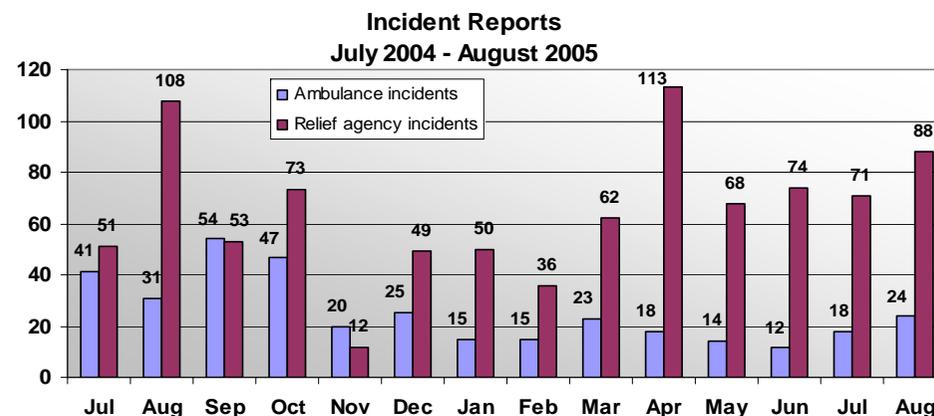
### Additional commitments

The total number of containers entering and exiting goods at Karni in August 2005 is currently not available.

The average daily crossing (accounting for the days entrance could have been permitted and excluding weekends days: Friday and Saturday) for Palestinian workers, traders and those entering Erez industrial estate in July 2005 was: 281 workers; 168 traders; 201 Erez industrial estate. This is compared to 1,767, 175 and 233 respectively in July 2005.

Gaza Strip fishermen are consistently denied the right to fish up to the 12 nautical mile limit, as was agreed by the Israeli government.

<sup>1</sup> In order for delays to ambulance providers to be reported under the Bertini Commitments they must in excess of 30 minutes.



HUMANITARIAN MONITORING REPORT (BERTINI COMMITMENTS) – August 2005

Commitment	Benchmarks	Status	Remarks
<p><b>1. Health</b></p> <p>Palestinian ambulances will wait no more than 30 minutes at any checkpoints. [government of Israel commitment to Bertini mission, 12 to 19 August 2002]</p> <p>Effective mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that Palestinians seeking critical medical services (child delivery, dialysis, chemotherapy, etc) can quickly pass all checkpoints. [government of Israel commitment to Bertini mission, 12 to 19 August 2002]</p>	<p>Instructions issued to all checkpoint commanders concerning maximum time for ambulance delay at checkpoints.</p> <p>Palestinian MoH, PRCS, UNRWA and medical facilities no longer report ambulance delays at checkpoints.</p> <p>Mechanisms established and Palestinian public informed.</p> <p>No more reported instances of Palestinians in need of critical medical services being denied passage at checkpoints.</p>	<p><i>West Bank and the Gaza Strip: 24 incidents<sup>2</sup></i> Palestinian ambulance operators reported a total of at least 24 access incidents in August 2005 (compared to 18 in July 2005), in which the provision of first aid and/or medical evacuations were delayed, obstructed and/or prevented by Israeli forces.</p> <p><i>Ambulance Access Denials</i> Of the 24 incidents reported, at least 15 included humanitarian access denials, including the ones noted below: 4 August: A PRCS team was denied access to Jenin Refugee Camp 7 and 10 August: A PRCS team was denied access at Al Tufah checkpoint, the Gaza Strip 19 August: A PRCS team was denied access at Shavei Shomron checkpoint, Nablus.</p> <p><i>Ambulance Delays</i> There were 9 documented incidents of delays, in excess of 30 minutes, including the incidents noted below: 8, 9 and 19 August: PRCS teams were delayed at Al Tufah checkpoint, the Gaza Strip. The combined waiting time from these three incidents amounts to approximately 13 hours.</p>	<p>In addition to those incidents noted in the status column, on 17 August and another unreported date in August the Palestinian MoH reported that its ambulance services were hampered, by internal closures imposed in the Gaza Strip.</p>
Commitment	Benchmarks	Status	Remarks
<p><b>2. Water</b></p> <p>Problems related to water deliveries to Palestinian towns and villages will be addressed to ensure that daily water deliveries in proper quantities can be supplied by Palestinian water tankers.</p>	<p>Instructions issued to all checkpoints allowing for the easy transfer of water tankers through all checkpoints.</p> <p>The IDF removes barriers that prevent the access by water tankers to villages that rely on transported</p>	<p>Closure measures, including checkpoints and earth mounds, continue to have a severe affect on water transport; closures often result in the inability of water tankers to reach their destination.</p>	

<sup>2</sup> Data primarily from the PRCS and Palestinian MoH.

<p>[government of Israel commitment to Bertini mission, 12 to 19 August 2002]</p>	<p>water. No reports on lack of water or delay/stoppage of water tankers at checkpoints</p>		
Commitment	Benchmarks	Status	Remarks
<p><b>3. Facilitation for International Humanitarian Organisations</b></p> <p>Israel will fully facilitate the assistance activities of international organisations with particular reference to UNRWA.</p> <p>[government of Israel commitment to Bertini mission, 12 to 19 August 2002]</p> <p>Israel agrees to review and strengthen the liaison arrangements between international agencies and the IDF to facilitate assistance activities.</p> <p>[government of Israel commitment to Bertini mission, 12 to 19 August 2002]</p> <p>Israel will improve the situation at checkpoints, including the deployment of more experienced IDF personnel.</p>	<p>Free access for all international staff of international organisations throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and at international crossings, at all times.</p> <p>Free access for all Palestinian staff of international organisations throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at all times.</p> <p>No delays/ stoppage of international organisations' transport of development and humanitarian goods at any point (that is, at international borders, borders between Israel and the West Bank or the Gaza Strip, within the West Bank or the Gaza Strip) at any time.</p> <p>Palestinian drivers (with either Jerusalem or West Bank IDs) allowed to drive humanitarian vehicles for international organisations, in particular UNRWA, WFP and ICRC.</p>	<p>In August 2005, international relief agencies filed at least 88 reports<sup>3</sup> (compared to 71 in July 2005) in which the delivery of aid and/or the movement of personnel were obstructed by the IDF or Israeli Border Police. Most incidents reported included delays and disrespect by the Israeli forces of international humanitarian organisations' mandates, privileges and immunities</p> <p><i>Access by UNRWA staff</i></p> <p>UNRWA, the largest humanitarian organisation operating in the oPt, reported all of the received reports in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in which there were access problems.</p> <p>In the West Bank, 82 incidents involving delay and/or denial of access at fixed and mobile checkpoints, predominantly those located at the entrances to Jerusalem and at the gates into the West Bank Barrier. In total, 394 staff members were affected and 494 working hours were lost compared to 336 and 334 reported respectively in July 2005.</p> <p>In the Gaza Strip, a further six incidents of closure, three denials and three delays, affecting access were reported by UNRWA. All incidents took place at Abu Holi checkpoint and in total 764 staff members were either delayed or did not reach their duty stations.</p>	<p>UN staff members continued to report incidents where IDF soldiers at checkpoints refused to cooperate with DCL officers and/or accept the validity of UN identity cards, insisting instead that UN staff show another form of identification.</p>

<sup>3</sup> These figures apply only to the humanitarian aid organisations that reported incidents at checkpoints to OCHA.

HUMANITARIAN MONITORING REPORT (BERTINI COMMITMENTS) – August 2005

Commitment	Benchmarks	Status	Remarks														
<p><b>4. Additional Commitments</b></p> <p>The fishing zone for Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza Strip coast will be extended to 12 nautical miles.</p>	<p>Procedures will be established that provide direct access by international organisations to operational and command structures within the IDF.</p> <p>Extension of fishing zone fully implemented.</p> <p>No arrests of fishermen or confiscation of fishing boats within the 12 nautical mile zone.</p>	<p>The fishing catch in August 2005<sup>4</sup>, 241 tonnes, was significantly lower than during the same month last year but higher than in August 2000. Since January 2005, the Israeli authorities have permitted Palestinian fishing up to 10 nautical miles from the Gaza Strip coastline compared to 6 nautical miles previously. Under the Oslo Accords, Gaza Strip fishermen are entitled to fish 20 nautical miles from the coast.</p> <p>Fishing is still prohibited for the Al Mawassi – Khan Younis wharf and fishing from the Rafah wharf in Al Mawassi is subject to additional restrictions.<sup>5</sup> Fishermen, boats, equipment and catch are inspected and only three traders are allowed to enter Al Mawassi to purchase the catch. Most fishing happens off the Gaza Strip wharf.</p>															
<p>An increase in shipments at Karni crossing, the Gaza Strip.</p>	<p>Quantifiable increase in humanitarian aid shipments permitted through the crossing.</p>	<p>The total number of containers entering and exiting goods at Karni in August 2005 is not currently available.</p> <p>The total number of containers<sup>6</sup> entering the Gaza Strip at Karni for the first seven months of the 2005 is as follows.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="920 954 1462 1145"> <tr> <td>January 2005</td> <td>1,403 imports; 242 exports</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 2005</td> <td>2,311 imports; 501 exports</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 2005</td> <td>4,852 imports; 968 exports</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 2005</td> <td>4,903 imports; 875 exports</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 2005</td> <td>5,828 imports; 1,030 exports</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 2005</td> <td>6,592 imports; 999 exports</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 2005</td> <td>5,685 imports; 849 exports</td> </tr> </table>	January 2005	1,403 imports; 242 exports	February 2005	2,311 imports; 501 exports	March 2005	4,852 imports; 968 exports	April 2005	4,903 imports; 875 exports	May 2005	5,828 imports; 1,030 exports	June 2005	6,592 imports; 999 exports	July 2005	5,685 imports; 849 exports	<p>Most goods imported into the Gaza Strip and all exported goods pass through Karni crossing<sup>7</sup>. A higher demand for imported goods reflects the decline in the Gaza Strip's local productive capacity since September 2000.</p>
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<sup>4</sup> Data from the Rafah wharf is not yet available. The total for August 2005 is likely to be higher than stated here. Since the July 2005 report, 4.5 tonnes of catch has been added to the total July catch after the data from the Rafah wharf became available.

<sup>5</sup> Fisherman can only access the wharf during opening hours (8-11 am and 3-5:30 pm) and are not allowed on the shore at other times. Fishing is limited to eight nautical miles off the coastline and the area three kilometres north of the wharf along the coastline and two nautical miles north of the Egyptian border.

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of National Economy data obtained by UNSCO and OCHA.

<sup>7</sup> The other three commercial crossings are Rafah, Sufa and Nahal Oz.

HUMANITARIAN MONITORING REPORT (BERTINI COMMITMENTS) – August 2005

<p>Increase in the number of work permits for workers in Israel from the Gaza Strip.</p>	<p>Quantifiable increase in the number of work permits issued for workers in to work inside Israel.</p>	<p>The average daily crossing, accounting for days when entrance could have been permitted and excluding weekends (Friday and Saturday<sup>8</sup>), for Palestinian workers, traders and those entering Erez Industrial Estate of the eight months of 2005 is as follows<sup>9</sup>:</p> <table data-bbox="929 304 1713 528"> <tr> <td>January 2005</td> <td>49 workers; 17 traders; 9 Erez Industrial Estate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 2005</td> <td>390 workers; 70 traders; 278 Erez Industrial Estate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 2005</td> <td>1,451 workers; 158 traders; 537 Erez Industrial Estate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 2005</td> <td>3,200 workers; 224 traders; 487 Erez Industrial Estate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 2005</td> <td>2,067 workers; 103 traders; 259 Erez Industrial Estate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 2005</td> <td>3,588 workers; 362 traders; 458 Erez Industrial Estate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 2005</td> <td>1,767 workers; 175 traders; 233 Erez Industrial Estate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 2005</td> <td>281 workers; 168 traders; 201 Erez Industrial Estate</td> </tr> </table>	January 2005	49 workers; 17 traders; 9 Erez Industrial Estate	February 2005	390 workers; 70 traders; 278 Erez Industrial Estate	March 2005	1,451 workers; 158 traders; 537 Erez Industrial Estate	April 2005	3,200 workers; 224 traders; 487 Erez Industrial Estate	May 2005	2,067 workers; 103 traders; 259 Erez Industrial Estate	June 2005	3,588 workers; 362 traders; 458 Erez Industrial Estate	July 2005	1,767 workers; 175 traders; 233 Erez Industrial Estate	August 2005	281 workers; 168 traders; 201 Erez Industrial Estate	<p>The crossing re-opened on 31 July 2005 following a closure between 13-30 July 2005. The crossing was closed again on 13 August, coinciding with the Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip. Only a very limited number of workers and traders to Israel were allowed access after 13 August and only a few factory owners were allowed access to Erez Industrial Estate. Not since January 2005 has there been lesser movement of workers and merchants to Israel.</p>
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<sup>8</sup> Weekend figures are excluded because, in general, fewer crossings are recorded on Fridays and Saturdays.

<sup>9</sup> National Security Forces data obtained by UNSCO.