

While imports of cooking gas have slightly increased over the past months, imports of industrial fuel have steeply declined since the European Commission handed over responsibility for buying industrial fuel needed to operate Gaza's only power plant to the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, at the end of November 2009. This has deepened the electricity crisis in Gaza and caused blackouts of up to 12 hours a day.

Power cuts have been a staple of Gazan life in recent years. The levels of production of the power plant were reduced after the destruction of six electric transformers by Israeli aircrafts in June 2006, following the capture of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. They were further reduced by the blockade imposed on Gaza by Israeli authorities in June 2007, which reduced the amounts of industrial fuel permitted entry into Gaza. While 3.5 million litres are needed weekly to operate the power plant at full capacity, Israeli authorities capped the amount of industrial fuel allowed entry to only 2.2 million litres each week. This led to electricity cuts of four to eight hours a day. The blockade also severely restricted the import of much-needed spare parts and materials needed to repair the worn-out power plant, and of electrical-related materials to fix the electricity distribution system. This resulted in frequent technical failures which increase the incidence of power cuts. Gaza's only power plant provides between a quarter and a third of Gaza's electricity.

### 1. Headlines

- Mortars/rockets/casualties/incursions:** According to reports, 5 rockets, 6 mortars, one mine and several rocket-propelled grenades were directed by Palestinian armed groups from Gaza at Israeli forces or towns this week (as compared with 5 rockets, 20 mortars and 2 rocket-propelled grenades reported the week prior). There were reports of 4 Israeli military incursions, 3 airstrikes and 21 shells (compared with 3 Israeli military incursions, 1 airstrike and 1 shell reported in the previous week). 2 firefights were reported this week, while no firefights were reported the week before.

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According to reports, 4 Palestinians were killed this week, including a militant who was reportedly shot by Israeli soldiers after attempting to plant an improvised explosive device (IED) between Karni and Nahal Oz crossings, and two militants who were reportedly killed when an IED they were planting east of Al Bureij camp exploded prematurely. 3 Palestinians were reported injured. According to reports, no Palestinians were killed last week, but 4 were reported injured, including three who were walking on the street in Beit Hanoun when a rocket fired by Palestinian militants fell on a house nearby. No Israeli casualties were reported this week or last week.

Included in this week's figures are one Palestinian militant who was killed and two Palestinians militants who were reportedly injured by Israeli soldiers on 13 April during clashes which erupted after the militants attacked Israeli troops which had entered about 350m into Middle Gaza, southeast of Al Bureij camp.

Thus far in 2010, 15 Palestinians, three Israeli soldiers and one foreign worker have reportedly been killed and another 63 Palestinians, including 51 civilians, and four Israeli soldiers have been reported injured in the context of Palestinian - Israeli conflict in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel (OCHA, 13 April 2010).

- **Fishermen:** 1 incident of Palestinian fishermen being fired at by Israeli naval vessels was reported this week. The previous week, no such incidents were 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, no Palestinians reportedly died in tunnels under the Egypt-Gaza border. Last week, one 17-year old Palestinian reportedly died in a tunnel collapse under the Egypt-Gaza border, and Egyptian forces reportedly discovered and destroyed 4 tunnels.
- **Palestinians in the "buffer zone":** There were 2 reports of Israeli troops firing towards Palestinians this week in the so-called "buffer zone". In one occurrence, soldiers are said to have fired towards people participating in a demonstration against the buffer zone in an attempt to disperse them. In the second incident, Israeli soldiers reportedly opened fire targeting youngsters who had approached the border and thrown stones after participating to a demonstration near Nahal Oz crossing; one injury was recorded.  
Last week, 3 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 the 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, 19 people left and 406 entered Gaza. Last week, Rafah was officially closed, however people crossed on 5 out of 7 days, during which 22 people left and 387 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 each way per day.
- **Power plant and electricity supply:** 1,788 million litres were delivered this week, a huge improvement as compared to the past weeks. Yet this is still only represents 51% 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. Deliveries recently reached at an all-time low as last week, only 731,350 million litres of industrial fuel were transferred, and the week before 721,660 litres only.

The power plant had to shut down on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 April after fuel supplies ran out. This situation triggered longer scheduled rolling blackouts of up to 16 hours for 2.5 days in different areas in Gaza, with the exception of Rafah area, which receives the bulk of its electricity from Egypt and experiences 4 - 8 hours of electricity cuts per day (OCHA, 13 April). Imports of

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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 (see table above). Since March 3, the facility had been producing only 30 megawatts of electricity, or 38% of its full capacity, leading to blackouts of eight to 12 hours a day in parts of the Gaza Strip.

In light of the protracted electricity crisis, the reliance on portable generators for household use has reportedly expanded, resulting in a parallel increase in generator - related accidents. During the reporting period, one accident resulting in the injury of three persons was reported. Local sources indicate that 17 people have died and 36 others have been injured in the first three months of 2010 and another 62 throughout 2009 in similar accidents (OCHA, 13 April 2010). In this context, Oxfam launched during the reporting period a campaign to raise public awareness about the safe use of generators inside houses in the Gaza Strip.

- **Cooking gas:** 955 tons of cooking gas reportedly entered Gaza this week, 55% of the normal weekly level of need of 1,750 tons. 581 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:** No petrol or diesel were delivered in Gaza this week, just as no petrol and no diesel had been 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.
- **Truckloads of humanitarian supplies:** 696 truckloads of humanitarian supplies were permitted entry through Kerem Shalom and the Karni conveyor during the week - the equivalent of 52% of the pre-blockade weekly average. 480 trucks were allowed into Gaza during the previous week.

14 truckloads of glass were permitted entry into Gaza this week; 7 had been allowed in the week before. Since 29 December 2009, a total of 163 truckloads of glass were imported.

On 15 April, the Israeli authorities allowed the entry of 3 truckloads of aluminum and 3 truckloads of wood into the Gaza Strip. This the first time that aluminum and wood are allowed into Gaza for commercial purposes since June 2007 and October 2008, respectively.

- **Exports:** This week, 2 truckloads of flowers were exported from the Gaza Strip. Last week, 4 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. During the 2009 winter season, only 2% of strawberries and 9% of cut flowers of Gaza's total export potential were permitted to leave, representing the third "lost season" in terms of profit and return of the investments (FAO). Since 10 December 2009, following a period of seven months of no exports, 115 truckloads, have exited Gaza, including 82 truckloads of cut flowers and 33 truckloads of strawberries, exports of which stopped on 10 February).
- **Internal Violence:** This week, an unknown assailant reportedly threw an improvised explosive device near a café on Salah El Din road, close to the main entrance of Nuseirat camp in Middle Gaza. Last week, no incident was reported.

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## 2. Fuel deliveries (week)

		Diesel	Petrol	Cooking Gas
11-17 April		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>955 tons</b>
	Percentage of need *			<b>55%</b>
Previous week				698 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	11-17 April
	731,350 million litres	<b>1,788 million litres</b>
<b>Percentage of amount required to operate at maximum supply capacity of 80 MW</b>		<b>51%</b>

## 3. Household level energy supplies:

Area	Hours of Blackout For Week of 11-17 April (based on 168 hours)	% Hours of Weekly Blackout 11-17 April	% Hours of Weekly Blackout The week before	Have gas?
Beit Hanoun	<b>45</b>	<b>27%</b>	18%	Yes
Beit Lahia	<b>45</b>	<b>27%</b>	18%	Yes
Jabalia	<b>60</b>	<b>36%</b>	42%	Yes
Gaza City	<b>54</b>	<b>32%</b>	38%	Yes
Deir El Balah	<b>56</b>	<b>33%</b>	33%	Yes
El Burej	<b>40</b>	<b>24%</b>	30%	Yes
El Nusairat	<b>50</b>	<b>30%</b>	54%	Yes
El Maghazi	<b>35</b>	<b>21%</b>	36%	Yes
Khan Younis	<b>65</b>	<b>39%</b>	54%	Yes
Rafah	<b>32</b>	<b>19%</b>	12%	Yes

## 4. Humanitarian trucks (week):

Truck originator	Total for week 11-17 April
UNRWA	15
WFP	13
NGO	19
Water utility	5
Electricity company	5
Telephone company Paltel	3
Commercial	424
Karni Crossing	212
<b>Total trucks for the week</b>	<b>696</b>
Percentage of weekly average before the blockade (April 2007)	<b>52%</b>

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## 5. External links to further reports

**UN OCHA Protection of Civilians Weekly Report: 31 March – 13 April**

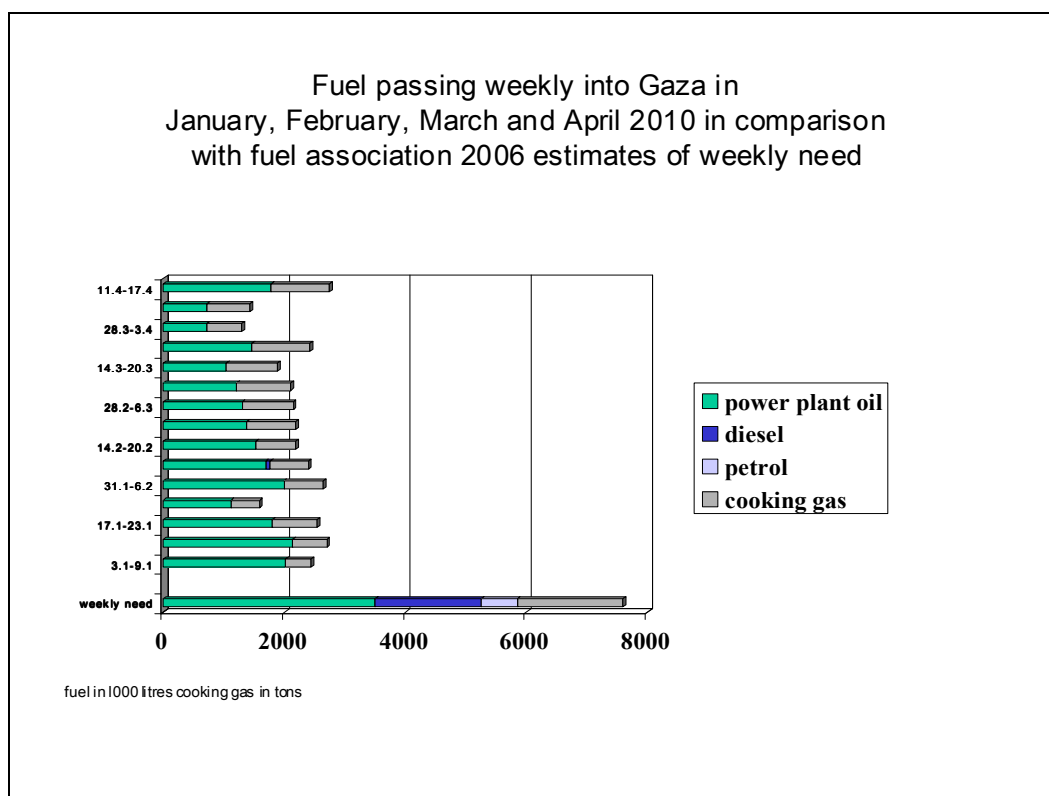
[http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha\\_opt\\_protection\\_of\\_civilians\\_2010\\_04\\_15\\_english.pdf](http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_protection_of_civilians_2010_04_15_english.pdf)

## 6. Contact information

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## 7. Trend Charts



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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

