



FACT SHEET ON RESULTS OF THE ISRAELI ECONOMIC EMBARGO OF GAZA

Gaza, otherwise known as the Gaza Strip, is a part of the Palestinian Territory. It shares a common border with both Egypt and Israel.

Gaza is generally regarded as the most densely populated land mass in the world, with a population of some 1.37 million people and a population density of 3,823 persons per square kilometer. By contrast, the population density of the State of Israel is 324 persons per square kilometer.

Some 70 per cent of the people of Gaza live below the poverty level. The per capita income of Gaza is \$600, versus \$21,000 for the State of Israel.

Gaza has no functioning airports. Entry and exit from the territory is strictly controlled by both Israel and Egypt. Access to port facilities and fishing in the Mediterranean Sea is also strictly proscribed.

Gaza residents are prohibited by Israel from traveling into the West Bank part of the occupied territory of Palestine, resulting in the permanent separation of thousands of Palestinian families.

The people of Gaza suffer from an infant mortality rate of 21.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. In contrast, the infant mortality rate of Israel is 6.75 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (2007 statistics).

The economic embargo imposed on Gaza by Israel has resulted in the virtual shutdown of many businesses and industries within the territory. For instance, some 67,000 factory workers in Gaza are not unemployed because of a lack of access to building and manufacturing materials.

The periodic military attacks by Israel on Gaza electrical generating stations (often used with weapons systems supplied by the United States) have resulted in daily electricity blackouts throughout Gaza, ranging from two to ten hours of power outages daily. Facilities for water and sewage treatment in Gaza have also been severely impaired as a result of these power outages.

On December 14, 2007, the head of the World Health Organization office in Gaza, Ambrogio Manenti, termed the health situation in Gaza "intolerable", and urged medical professionals to "take a stand against the current situation, which he said was having a "negative impact on the health of the (Gaza) residents".

As a result of the embargo on humanitarian materials, including replacement parts for medical equipment, many hospital incubators and dialysis machines in Gaza hospitals are now dysfunctional because of the lack of access to replacement parts.

While Israeli military strikes are directed against numerous targets in Gaza, many human rights organizations, including the Israeli human rights group, have condemned the attacks as human rights violations and a form of "collective punishment."