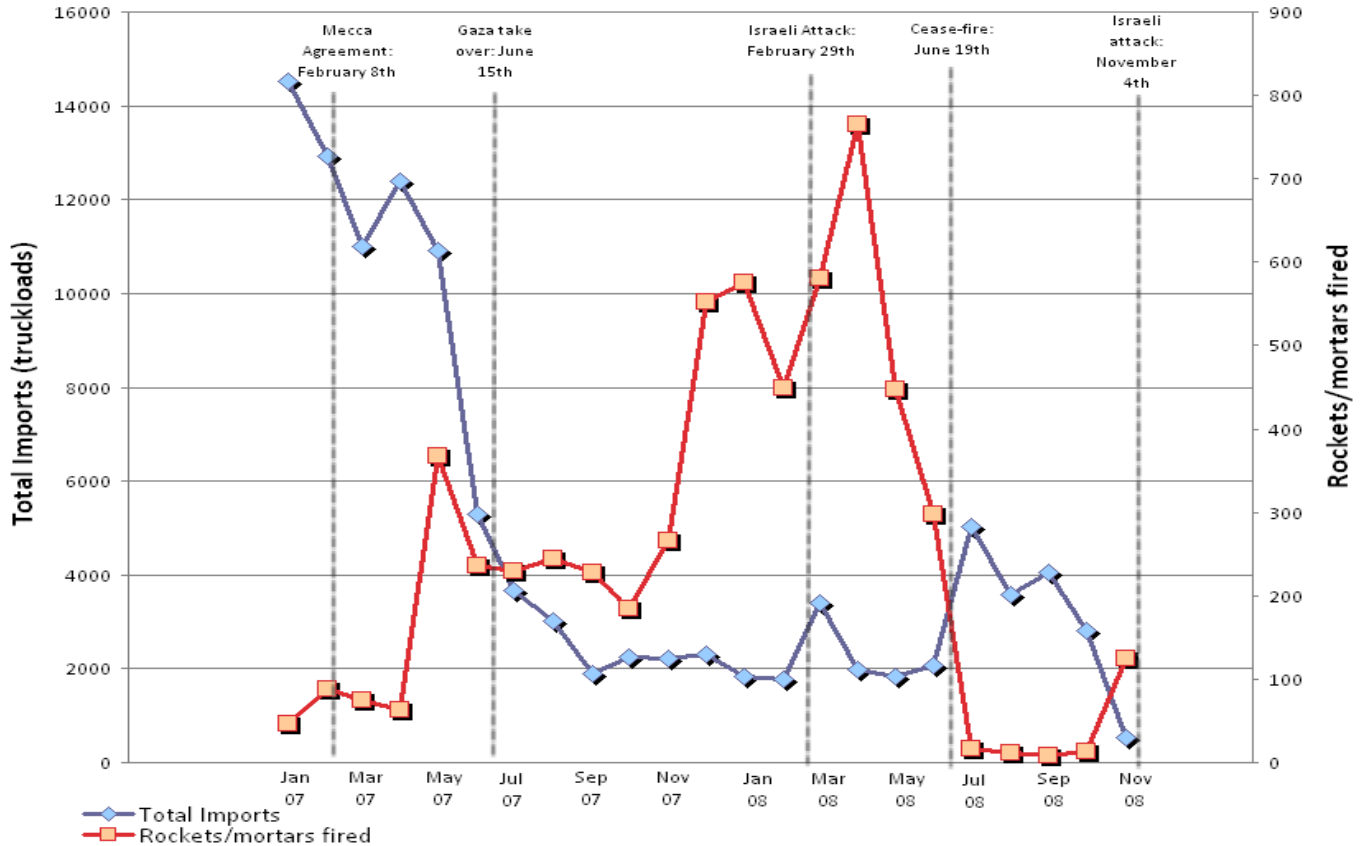


The June 2008 Gaza Ceasefire

In an indirect ceasefire agreement signed on June 19, 2008, Israel and Hamas agreed to cease all military activities in and around Gaza and to end the Gaza siege. This report briefly outlines the implementation of that agreement in the lead up to the recent war. Our analysis is based on publicly available data from UN sources.



Import of goods into Gaza – Rockets and mortars fired from Gaza

1 – Cessation of military activities and the siege

In the first half of 2007 (prior to the Hamas takeover of Gaza), an average of 17 Palestinians were killed per month in Gaza.¹ During the entire period, a total of two Israelis were killed in southern Israel². In June 2007, Hamas took complete control of the Strip, routing Fatah’s security forces. Soon after, Israel initiated a tight siege of the territory and three months later, designated the Gaza Strip a “hostile entity.” Rockets into Israel intensified as well as Israel’s attacks on the Strip. From July 2007 to June 2008,

¹ These are fatalities resulting directly from the conflict and occupation of the oPt. These include fatalities caused in military operations, artillery shelling, search and arrest campaigns, demonstrations, targeted killing, settler violence, Palestinian attacks on Israelis, etc.

² Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/?module=displaysection§ion_id=9&static=0&format=html

average monthly conflict-related fatalities in Gaza and its vicinity rose to 49 Palestinians, while Israeli deaths for the whole period dropped to one³.

Hamas and Israel reached a ceasefire agreement on June 19, 2008. Though the exact terms are disputed, the basic agreement was that Palestinians in Gaza would cease rocket and mortar fire into Israel. In exchange, Israel would end targeted assassinations and incursions into the Strip, as well as lift the siege of Gaza.

For the twelve months before the June 2008 ceasefire, an average of 402 projectiles (including rockets and mortars) hit Israel per month. From July-October 2008, average combined mortar and rocket fire fell to 12 projectiles per month and there were no Israeli incursions into the Gaza Strip.

However, despite the 97% drop in attacks, the truce did not do much to ease the siege of Gaza. Imports increased only marginally. In January 2007, 14,520 truckloads were imported into Gaza. In the first half of 2007, on average, 11,176 commercial truckloads were imported into Gaza on a monthly basis⁴. This average reflects pre-existing restrictions on the movement of goods into Gaza. In particular, Israel further reduced imports into Gaza after the signing of the Mecca Agreement between the Palestinian factions in February 2007, and the formation of the Palestinian national unity government. From July 2007 to June 2008, on average, 2,353 commercial truckloads were imported into Gaza, an 84% drop from imports in January 2007. Nothing was exported⁵. During the first four months of the truce, on average, 3,866 truckloads were imported into Gaza on a monthly basis⁶. This was still only 27% of the amount of goods entering in January 2007 (14,520 truckloads).

In the five months after the ceasefire, from June 19 to the end of October 2008, one Palestinian was killed by Israeli fire while there were no Israeli fatalities. Israel attacked the Strip on November 4th, killing 6 Palestinians and effectively ending the cease-fire.

2 - Movement of people to and from Gaza

In the first half of 2007, an average of 247 Palestinians entered the territory daily through Rafah and 279 exited⁷. From July 2007 to June 2008, no Palestinians entered or exited the Strip through the Rafah border crossing. However on January 23, 2008, Palestinians breached the border wall with Egypt, allowing thousands of people to cross the border in search of essential supplies. The border was resealed on February 3rd and movement of people restricted once again. After the June 2008 ceasefire, the number of Palestinians entering and exiting Gaza at the Rafah crossing with Egypt increased slightly, with 108

³ Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/?module=displaysection§ion_id=9&static=0&format=html

⁴ Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/HM_July07_02.pdf

⁵ source: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/Humanitarian_Monitor_Feb_08.pdf and http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_humanitarian_monitor_table_2008_07_english.pdf

⁶ Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_humanitarian_monitor_table_2008_10_english.pdf

⁷ Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/HM_Sep07.pdf

people leaving in August 2008, but this number decreased soon after to only one in October 2008⁸ (see the table below for more info).

	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08
Rafah - daily crossings out	7	14	108	89	1
Rafah - daily crossings in	13	18	35	26	37
Erez - daily crossings in/out of Israel	2	10	11	11	10

Israel also banned the movement of Palestinians through Erez, the sole passenger crossing to/from Israel and the West Bank, save for very rare medical cases. In the first half of 2007, an average of 270 Palestinians moved in and out of Israel daily through Erez⁹. Following Hamas' take over of the Strip, this figure reduced to less than 10¹⁰. After the June 2008 ceasefire, the numbers continued low, at around 10 crossings a day¹¹.

⁸ Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_humanitarian_monitor_table_2008_10_english.pdf

⁹ Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/Humanitarian_Monitor_Dec_07.pdf

¹⁰ Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_humanitarian_monitor_table_2008_10_english.pdf

¹¹ Source: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_humanitarian_monitor_table_2008_10_english.pdf