

PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY 2010

JANUARY

Jan. 5: PM Salam Fayyad affirms the PA's dedication to removing Israeli settlement-produced goods from Palestinian markets in the West Bank.

Jan. 12: PM Fayyad launches the 'National Dignity Fund,' to promote Palestinian produce in local markets, strengthen their position in global markets, and to remove settlement-produced goods from the Palestinian shops.

- Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh calls on armed groups in Gaza to halt rocket attacks on Israel.

Jan. 19: UNRWA launches a 2010 emergency appeal, allocating \$73,049,589 for the West Bank and \$249,587,143 for the Gaza.

Jan. 20: Italy's Filippo Grandi is appointed Commissioner-General of UNRWA

- After meeting with Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa in Cairo, EU Special Envoy Marc Otte says that Israel's partial settlement freeze was a first step in the right direction, but "not sufficient".

Jan. 22: US Special Envoy George Mitchell tells Palestinian leaders that they must resume talks with Israel if they wanted the US help to achieve a peace treaty that would create a Palestinian State.

- Israel has reportedly paid the UN some \$10.5 million for damage during the Gaza offensive.

Jan. 25: US Special Envoy Mitchell shuttles between Jerusalem and Amman for meetings with PM Netanyahu and Pres. Abbas.

Jan. 29: Israel and the PA submit reports on their implementation of UNGA resolution 64/10 on the Goldstone report.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that PM Netanyahu has agreed to the release of hundreds of Fateh prisoners as part of efforts backed by the US and Egypt to jump start peace talks between Israel and the PA.

Jan. 31: King Abdullah II of Jordan warns that the whole world would pay the price of a failed peace between Israel and the Palestinians, adding that his country would not accept any role as an occupying power in Palestine.

FEBRUARY

Feb 4: The UN Sec.-Gen. reports to the UNGA on Israeli and Palestinian responses to the Goldstone report.

- Pres. Abbas has reportedly agreed in principle to the US proposal for indirect talks but wants a number of clarifications from the US Administration and would consult with Arab leaders prior to giving Washington his final response.

- PM Netanyahu tells a Cabinet meeting: "We will conduct negotiations without preconditions. [...] It is doubtful whether any peace agreement that is unaccompanied by solid security arrangements on the ground can last".

Feb 8: The PA announces plans to hold municipal elections on 17 July; Hamas immediately rejects the idea.

- In a *CNN* interview, Jordan's King Abdullah II, warns that US credibility was at stake, saying: "We really have to be able to move the [peace] process forward in the next month or so, especially leading to the Arab Summit, so that we don't have any confusion coming out of there". The King also strongly rules out the option of the West Bank under Jordanian control.

Feb 11: *Army Radio* reports that Israel has begun to re-route a 1.7 km section of the separation barrier near Bil'in, 2 ½ years after the Supreme Court had ordered the State to return arable land to Palestinian farmers. However, about 150,000 m² of village land still remains on the Israeli side.

Feb 12-13: The UN Palestinian Rights Committee and Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean convene an International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace in Malta.

Feb 15: In Riyadh, Sec. of State Clinton meets with Saudi King Abdullah to discuss international efforts to revive the peace process.

Feb. 21: In a newspaper interview FM Bernard Kouchner floats the idea that the international community recognize a Palestinian state before its borders are fixed in order to break a stalemate in Middle East peacemaking.

Feb 21-22: Israel announces plans to include West Bank holy sites on its national heritage list.

Feb 25: The EU High Court rules that the West Bank is not Israeli territory, and as such, Israeli goods produced there are subject to EU import duties.

- UNGA gives Israel and the Palestinians five more months to investigate the Goldstone report findings.

MARCH

March 3: The Arab League endorses Israeli-Palestinian "proximity talks" for a four-month period. Hamas condemns the move.

March 7: The PA announces measures to prevent Palestinians from working in settlements.

March 8: Saeb Erakat, Head of the PLO/PA Negotiations Affairs Department, tells *Israel Army Radio* that the US-mediated indirect talks between Israel and the Palestinians would be the last chance to keep the Middle East peace process alive, while US Middle East envoy George Mitchell issues a statement, saying: "I'm pleased that the **Israeli and Palestinian leadership have accepted indirect talks...** As we've said many times, we hope that these will lead to direct negotiations as soon as possible..."

March 9: As US Vice-President Biden visits the region the Israeli government approves 1,600 new housing units in the Ramat Shlomo settlement in Jerusalem, a move that is widely condemned, incl. by the US administration, the EU and the UN.

March 11: Saeb Erakat, Head of the PLO/PA Negotiations Affairs Department, says indirect talks with Israel would not continue unless Israeli plans to construct 1,600 settlement homes in East Jerusalem were rescinded.

- Arab League Sec.-Gen. Amr Musa tells reporters that "the talks have already stopped", adding "There cannot be talks, direct or indirect, if the recent Israeli [settlement] decisions are not cancelled".

March 16: General David Petraeus, Head of the US Central Command, tells a Senate committee that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was presenting challenges to the US ability to advance its interests in the Middle East and fomented anti-American sentiment due to a perception of US favoritism towards Israel.

March 19: After a meeting in Moscow, the Quartet issues a statement, recalling , *inter alia*, that the international community had not recognized Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem, condemning the recent Israeli announcement of 1,600 new settlement units in East Jerusalem, and calling for a complete settlement freeze. Furthermore, the Quartet also states that proximity talks were an important step towards direct negotiations and that the negotiations should lead to a mutual agreement on a two-State solution within 24 months.

March 20: UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon visits Israel and the OPT; in Ramallah, he reiterates his commitment to help the Israeli and Palestinian sides reach a settlement in the next 24 months, saying “Indirect talks are not the end result” and there are “no other alternatives” to direct negotiations.

March 22: EU FMs call for a total freeze on settlement building, as Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman visits Brussels.

March 23: US Pres. Obama meets with PM Netanyahu at the White House; the fact that no press conference is held afterwards reflects strains in their relationship since the announcement of new Israeli settlements in Jerusalem.

March 24-5: A UN Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People in Vienna discusses “Building institutions and moving forward with establishing the State of Palestine”.

March 27: At the Arab League Summit in Libya, UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon calls on the leaders to support the Palestinian-Israeli proximity talks. Pres. Abbas tells the Summit “We cannot resume indirect negotiations as long as Israel maintains its settlement policy and the status quo,” adding that “Negotiations on the borders would be absurd if Israel decides on the ground the border. [...] We have always said that Jerusalem is the jewel in the crown and the gate to peace”.

March 27: Arab leaders conclude the 22nd Arab League Summit, adopting of a declaration, which mandates the establishment of a legal committee to follow up on the “Judaization” of East Jerusalem. Leaders also agree to hold an international conference on Jerusalem.

APRIL

April 4: Ten trucks of shoes and clothes for Palestinian traders are allowed into Gaza for the first time since the Hamas takeover in June 2007.

April 5: In an interview with *The Wall Street Journal*, Jordan’s King Abdullah II says in light of the tension in the Middle East the US should be pressured to bring its full weight on the Israelis and the Palestinians to move the process forward. He added that PM Netanyahu’s settlement policy in East Jerusalem had pushed Jordanian-Israeli relations to their lowest point since the 1994 peace treaty.

April 7: During a meeting in Paris, Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, while expressing support for the Goldstone Report, says that Israel was the “principal threat to peace” in the Middle East.

April 11: Jordan’s Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communications Nabil Sharif, requesting clarification from Israel over a recently amended military order allowing Israel to remove Palestinians from the West Bank if it did not recognize their legal status, which could lead to the expulsion of thousands.

April 12: During a meeting with King Abdullah II of Jordan, US Pres. Obama urges Palestinians and Israel to start proximity talks.

- The PLO says in a statement that the new Israeli military order that allows it to expel thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank was “a new Nakba for Palestinian people.”

April 21: A JMCC poll finds that a growing number of Palestinians - 33.8% up from 20.6% in June 2009- support the establishment of a single bi-national state in which Israelis and Palestinians would have equal rights.

April 22: PA Labor Min. Ahmad Majdalani states that 7,000 fewer Palestinians working in the settlements because of a decline in the production of settlement goods and that by the end of 2010 there will be no more Palestinians working in settlements.

April 25: US Middle East Envoy George Mitchell ends a three-day mission to Israel and the OPT with no sign of any breakthrough in efforts to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, but says talks had been “positive and productive” and he would return next week.

- The PA Cabinet gives green light to local elections in the West Bank in July, while postponing elections in Gaza.

April 26: Pres. Abbas issues a decree banning the products of settlements in Palestinian markets as well as Palestinians from working in settlements.

April 27: Stating that the division among Palestinians was harming their national project, PFLP politburo member Laila Khaled calls for dismantling the PA "if that body is the cause of Palestinian division".

MAY

May 1: At a meeting of the Arab Peace Initiative Follow-up Committee in Cairo, Arab FMs give their support for indirect talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Arab League Sec.-Gen. Amr Musa stresses that there would be no automatic transition from indirect to direct talks without a complete settlement freeze.

May 2: Israeli Dep. FM Danny Ayalon calls the Palestinian settlement boycott "part of a continuous planned and budgeted campaign of incitement," while the YESHA settler Council calls it "economic terrorism."

May 4: Settlers burn a mosque in the West Bank village of Libban Ash-Sharqiyya, near Nablus, destroying holy books and prayer carpets. The attack is widely and internationally condemned.

May 9: Palestinian Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat officially declares the start of proximity talks.

May 15: Palestinians across the OPT mark the 62nd anniversary of the *Nakba* (catastrophe) with marches and rallies.

May 16: At a bonfire of Israeli products, PM Fayyad says Palestinians are "committed to a path of nonviolent resistance and defiance in the face of the settlement enterprise, and [...] are defiantly expressing our right to boycott those products and I believe it is working."

May 18: The PA launches the 'House to House Campaign,' advising against buying settlement goods and inspecting houses across the West Bank to this end.

May 19: Palestinian university student councils express their full support for the PA boycott of settlement goods.

May 22: Pres. Abbas endorses the settlement boycott publicly for the first time, says "We are not inciting against Israel. We do not want to boycott goods coming from Israel."

May 23: In Gaza City, a group of armed and masked men attacked and set fire to an UNRWA recreation facility under construction for UNRWA's annual "Summer Games" program for refugee children.

May 24: PM Netanyahu calls on the PA to stop opposing economic peace with Israel, calling the boycott of settlement goods as "a measure that will only hurt the Palestinians in the end and is another example of counter-productive Palestinian action."

May 25: Turkish FM Ahmet Davutoğlu calls on Israel to lift its blockade of Gaza and allow nine aid ships embarking from Britain, Greece, Ireland and Turkey, organized by the Free Gaza Movement, to reach Gaza.

- Israeli Vice PM Silvan Shalom threatens sanctions on the PA for its boycott of settlement products.

May 27: The PA announces a \$50 million fund to help workers quit jobs in Israeli settlements by the end of the year.

- At its two-day ministerial meeting, the OECD's accepts Israel as a member of the organization, a move strongly condemned by Palestinian civil society represented by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee

May 29: The Aid flotilla to Gaza begins its journey from international waters off the coast of Cyprus.

May 31: Israeli navy fighters intercept six ships of the Gaza aid flotilla; aboard the “Mavi Marmara”, the largest ship carrying some 600 people, forces kill 9 Turkish participants and injure many others. The attack is internationally condemned.

JUNE

June 1: The UNSC condemns acts resulting in loss of life and injuries during Israel’s attack on the Gaza aid flotilla a day earlier.

June 2: The UNCHR decides to dispatch fact-finding mission to probe the flotilla attack.

- UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon demands that Israel immediately lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip and indicated he may eventually launch his own probe of the deadly commando raid on activists’ aid flotilla.

- Following the Israeli raid on the Gaza aid flotilla, Egypt decides to ease restrictions on the Rafah crossing.

June 5: Israeli forces intercept the “Rachel Corrie” ship with hundreds of tons of humanitarian aid and bring it to Ashdod.

June 6: UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon proposes an international panel to investigate the Gaza aid flotilla incident.

June 8: PA Finance Min. Abu Libdeh stresses that the boycott only affects settlement products, not goods produced in Israel, and affirms the PA’s desire to maintain ties with the Israeli market. He declares that the PA is “interested in peace and cooperation with [Israel], therefore we will not participate in any boycott against the Israeli economy as a whole.”

June 11: The PA decides to postpone local elections that had been scheduled for 17 July in the West Bank, without giving an official reason.

- The Land of Israel right-wing parliamentary bloc submits a bill to outlaw homegrown and international boycotts against Israel.

June 13: Arab League Sec.-Gen. Amr Musa visits Gaza, calling for an end to the blockade.

June 14: Israel appoints a committee to inquire into the Gaza aid flotilla raid, headed by retired Israeli Supreme Court Judge, Jacob Turkel and including Shabtai Rosen, Professor of International Law at Bar Ilan University and retired Maj.-Gen. Amos Horev, as well as two foreign observers: David Trimble, a Northern Ireland politician and Nobel Peace Prize winner, and Canadian jurist Ken Watkin.

- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights announces members of a panel to monitor Israeli and Palestinian follow-up to Goldstone Report.

June 20: Israel formally announces an eased blockade of Gaza that could significantly increase the flow of overland goods and allow into Gaza humanitarian aid, food and building supplies.

June 24: The PA rejects calls by PM Netanyahu to start direct peace talks without a full freeze of settlement activities.

June 28: PM Fayyad launches the Shop-to-Shop Campaign aimed at removing all settlement products from Palestinian market shelves by the end of the year with the help of 650 volunteers and under the supervision of the Min. of Economy.

- Masked Palestinian gunmen set fire to an UNRWA children’s summer camp in Gaza.

JULY

July 1: US Special Envoy George Mitchell arrives in Ramallah for ongoing talks on borders and security in a bid to convince Pres. Abbas to return to direct negotiations with Israel.

- A two-day UN African Meeting on the Question of Palestine opens in Rabat under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

July 5: Israel publishes a list of consumer goods allowed into Gaza under a policy to ease its blockade. Still banned are desperately needed construction materials, weapons and materials to make them, as well as travel and exports.

July 7: Pres. Abbas says he wants an Israeli "signal" on the key issues of security and borders before heeding US calls for a resumption of direct peace talks.

July 8: After meeting with Quartet Representative Tony Blair, Arab League Sec.-Gen. Amr Musa says indirect talks were failing and that he saw no chance for a shift to direct negotiations.

- Pres. Obama tells Israeli *Channel 2* TV that it may be possible to achieve a Middle East peace deal in the next few years, urging Israel to seize the chance, saying "We probably won't have a better opportunity than we have right now."

- New PCBS data estimates the number of Palestinians living in the WBSG at 4.05 million (2.51 million in the West Bank, 1.54 million in Gaza).

July 11: The Eiland Commission's report states mistakes had been committed at all levels of command during the Gaza flotilla operation.

July 18: After agreeing with the US Special Envoy Mitchell on a push for direct talks, Pres. Mubarak meets separately with PM Netanyahu and Pres. Abbas in Cairo.

- Touring Gaza, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ashton urges Israel to open the territory's blockaded borders.

- The Israeli Cabinet approves an amendment to the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law that would require all prospective citizens living in Israel illegally to swear allegiance to a "Jewish democratic state", a provision that makes it impossible for Palestinians to obtain Israeli citizenship.

July 19: Israel submits report on Operation Cast Lead to the UN, saying its army was taking steps to reduce civilian casualties and restrict the use of white phosphorus

July 22: The PA Min. of Economy announces 31 July as the deadline for Palestinian merchants to clear their shops of settlement goods or to face fines and 2-5 years in prison.

- The US State Dept. announces that it would upgrade its diplomatic relations with the PA by granting the PLO mission in Washington the status of a "general delegation", like in most European countries, which would give it diplomatic immunity and allow it to fly the PLO flag.

July 23: The UN Human Rights Council names panel of three experts to investigate the Gaza aid flotilla raid: Judge Karl T. Hudson-Phillips (Trinidad and Tobago), Sir Desmond de Silva (UK), and Mary Shanthi Dairiam (Malaysia).

July 26: PM Netanyahu says the settlement construction moratorium will not be extended beyond September 2010.

July 27: During a visit to Turkey, UK PM David Cameron describes Gaza as a "prison camp" and appeals to the Israeli Government to allow the free flow of humanitarian goods and people in and out of the Strip.

July 29: Pres. Abbas tells a meeting of the Arab Peace Initiative Follow-up Committee in Cairo "When I receive written assurances [about] accepting the 1967 border and halting the settlement [building], I will go immediately to the direct talks."

- The Arab League in Cairo endorses in principle the move to direct talks, when Pres. Abbas decided that the conditions were right to proceed. Sec.-Gen. Amr Musa says the League's requirements for supporting direct talks are: a clear timeframe, specific terms of reference and a monitoring mechanism. Hamas rejects the Arab League's decision, with Ismail Radwan saying, "This committee is not authorized to make concessions over the rights of our people."

July 30: The UNGA adopts a resolution recognizing access to water and sanitation as a human right. Palestinian officials say the decision effectively adds another violation of human rights to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

AUGUST

Aug. 2: Five rockets from the Sinai desert in Egypt struck Israel's and Jordan's Red Sea neighbouring port resorts of Eilat and Aqaba, killing a Jordanian and injuring three others.

- UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon announces the establishment of a Panel of Inquiry on the flotilla incident of 31 May 2010, led by former PM of New Zealand, Geoffrey Palmer, and outgoing Pres. of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, as Vice-Chair, and including one Israeli and one Turkish member.

Aug. 15: PFLP and DFLP join Hamas in calling on Pres. Abbas not to bow to US pressure to resume direct peace talks with Israel, which they described as dangerous.

Aug. 17: The Lebanese Parliament adopts a law lifting former restrictions on employment for Palestinian refugees, who can now work in any field open to foreigners (i.e., except as doctors, lawyers, police or in the army).

Aug. 20: The US invites Israel and the Palestinians to resume direct peace negotiations in Washington on 2 September. The decision to move to direct talks is internationally welcomed.

Aug. 23: Wafa reports a major victory for the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, the Norwegian Government announced that it had divested from Israeli billionaire Lev Leviev's company, Africa Israel Investments, and its construction subsidiary, Danya Cebus, due to their construction of settlements in the OPT.

- B'Tselem warns that 95% of the water pumped into the Gaza Strip was polluted and unfit for drinking.

Aug. 24: PLC members from different factions express concern at the decision to engage in direct negotiations with Israel, with Mustapha Barghouthi stating in an open letter that they "are more dangerous than the Camp David talks, since they are not based on the cessation of settlement activity, have no clear guidelines and can only lead to a dangerous failure".

Aug. 26: Over 50 Israeli actors and playwrights sign a letter addressed to the managements of six Israeli theaters protesting plans to stage productions in a new performing arts center scheduled to open in the Ariel settlement

Aug. 29: In an interview on the sidelines of a conference in Slovenia, Arab League Sec.-Gen. Musa says "We are hoping that [direct peace] talks will succeed but we are all very pessimistic about the viability of the peace process because of the past experience."

Aug. 31: Four Israeli settlers are shot dead in their car near Kiryat Arba settlement near Hebron. Hamas claims responsibility.

- Over 150 Israeli academics state in an open letter that they would no longer lecture or work in West Bank settlements.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2: At a White House ceremony, direct talks between Palestinians and Israelis are launched by US Pres. Obama, PM Netanyahu, Pres. Abbas, Pres. Mubarak and King Abdallah. Sec. of State Hillary Clinton says they should be "without preconditions." The parties start four days of meetings to lay down a framework for discussion of final status issues (borders, settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, water and security), with a timeframe of 12 months.

Sept. 14: After regional meetings between the parties, US Pres. Obama, PM Netanyahu, Pres. Abbas, Pres. Mubarak and King Abdallah meet in Sharm Esh-Sheikh to continue direct negotiations.

Sept. 16: World Bank report says the PA was well-positioned to establish a state if current economic growth is sustained, but that external financial aid remained the primary driver and that Israeli restrictions continued to undermine the viability of the economy.

Sept. 21: At its meeting in New York, the Middle East Quartet urges for the continuation of the settlement moratorium.

- During its annual meeting, the AHLC calls on donors to meet the PA's 2010 recurrent financing requirements.

Sept. 22: The UNHRC Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the 31 May incident onboard the Gaza aid flotilla issues its report, which concludes that Israeli forces violated international law, "including international humanitarian and human rights law", during and after their lethal attack. A week later, the UNCRRC adopts resolutions on follow-up to the reports.

Sept. 23: Addressing the UNGA, US Pres. Obama calls on Israel to extend settlement freeze.

Sept. 27: Settlement construction resumes across the West Bank as the 10-month partial freeze on settlement expansion expired the previous day. The US expresses "disappointment" at PM Netanyahu's decision not to extend the moratorium.

OCTOBER

Oct. 2: The joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and Fateh's Central Committee, chaired by Pres. Abbas, decides to suspend direct peace talks with Israel until the Israeli Government freezes settlement construction in the Palestinian territories.

Oct. 8: The Arab League Follow-up Committee meets in Sirte and endorses Pres. Abbas' decision to suspend peace talks until Israel freezes its settlement policies, while voicing hope that US will continue to exert pressure on Israel to implement such a freeze. Pres. Abbas calls into question the need for "the Palestinian Authority's continued existence if the efforts to establish an independent Palestinian state fail."

Oct. 10: Israeli cabinet approves law requiring non-Jews to swear loyalty to Jewish state; Palestinians call the loyalty oath a declaration of apartheid, racism and as attempt at ethnic cleansing.

Oct. 11: During a Knesset session, PM Netanyahu offers an extension to a settlement construction moratorium if the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state. The Palestinian leadership rejects the proposal.

Oct. 23: The *Voice of Palestine* quotes Yasser Abed Rabbo as saying that the Palestinian leadership was considering the possibility of re-examining the agreements the PLO had signed with Israel, including the Oslo Accords since "the situation in which one side will be bound by the agreements forever while the other side violates them to the point of annulling them entirely cannot continue."

Oct. 29: Israeli PM Netanyahu calls a recent UNESCO decision to define Al-Ibrahimi in Hebron and Bilal bin Rabah Mosque/Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem as Palestinian "absurd." The UNESCO board had voted 44 to one, with 12 abstentions, to reaffirm the site was "an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories and that any unilateral action by the Israeli authorities is to be considered a violation of international law."

NOVEMBER

Nov. 10: In Damascus, Fateh and Hamas agree to resume reconciliation talks after Eid al-Adha.

Nov. 13: US offers Israel incentive package (reportedly the supply of 20 F-35 fighter jets to Israel in a \$3 billion deal) stipulating settlement construction moratorium for 90 days, excluding Jerusalem.

Nov. 15: PLO negotiations chief Saeb Erekat says Palestinians might turn to the UN for recognition of a Palestinian State along the 1967 borders if the US does not pressure Israel on settlements

Nov. 22: EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton says that Israel has failed to live up to its commitments on easing the Gaza blockade, made in the wake of the international outcry caused by its violent attack at the flotilla trying to break the siege in late May, and that there were not enough goods flowing in to meet the humanitarian and reconstruction needs. She also urges Israel to allow exports out of Gaza and to let in construction material that the local United Nations agency (UNRWA) wants to use to rebuild schools.

- The Knesset passes a law stating that any withdrawal from “sovereign Israeli territory” must first be approved by the Knesset by a two-thirds majority, failing which a national referendum will be necessary. Saeb Erekat comments the move, saying “the Israeli leadership, yet again, is making a mockery of international law.”

Nov. 30: Five months after Israel had agreed to ease the situation in Gaza, 22 international human rights and humanitarian groups state in a report that there had been no real signs of improvement. Israel had failed to accelerate the flow of construction materials.