



Apartheid Wall

Land Theft and Forced Expulsion

The Wall is not being built on, or in most cases near the 1967 Green Line, but rather cuts deep into the West Bank, expanding Israel's **theft of Palestinian land** and resources. In total, 85% of the Wall is located in the West Bank.

When completed, the Wall will de facto **annex some 46% of the West Bank**, isolating communities into Bantustans, ghettos and "military zones".

This means that the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including almost **1.5 million refugees**, will be encircled on only 12% of mandate Palestine.

Some 12% of Palestinians in the West Bank will be "outside" the Wall in the de facto annexed areas by Israel and in unbearable living conditions - the loss of land, markets, movement and livelihoods - and will face expulsion. This includes over **200,000 Palestinians** of East Jerusalem, who will be totally isolated from the rest of the West Bank. 98% of the settler population will be included in the de facto annexed areas.

The Wall is not a new "idea" - since 1994 the Gaza Strip has been surrounded by a barrier which cuts off Palestinians there from the rest of the world.

The Apartheid Wall's Location and Costs

In November 2000 Israeli Prime Minister Barak (Labour Party) approved the first project to build a "barrier". Construction of the Wall, including land confiscation and the **uprooting of trees**, began in June 2002 west of Jenin.

As of October 2009, 60% of the Wall has been completed. Construction is ongoing in the districts of Qalqilya, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron. The Jordan Valley is almost completely isolated from the rest of the West Bank.

The Wall's total length will be some **760 km**.

The **cost of the** Wall is now estimated at \$2.1 billion. Each km costs approximately \$2 million. In addition, the Occupation has spent NIS 2 billion to construct alternative roads and tunnels.

The Wall has destroyed a large amount of Palestinian farmland and usurped water supplies, including the biggest aquifer in the West Bank.

78 Palestinian villages and communities with a total population of **266,442 will be isolated** as follows:

- Villages surrounded by Wall, settlements and settler roads - 257,265 Palestinians.
- Villages isolated between Wall and Green Line - 8,557 Palestinians
- Villages isolated and residents threatened with expulsion - 6,314 Palestinians.

The so-called "disengagement", "modifications", "convergence" and "development" are all part of the Israeli rhetoric that hides the overall strategy for the complete **colonization of the West Bank** and the expulsion or enslavement of the Palestinian population.

The "modification" of the path of the Wall, far from being a benefit for the local population, often only returns a fraction of what was stolen. It also serves to distract from the ICJ ruling, which calls for the dismantling of the Wall, not the rerouting of small sections. In addition, these modifications often ensure that the lands that remain isolated behind the Wall cannot be accessed by their owners, effectively annexing them.

Instead of dismantling settlements, the Occupation continues to expand settlements, in particular those located around Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Apartheid Wall as a Network

The concrete Wall is present in Bethlehem, parts of Ramallah, Qalqilya, parts of Tulkarm and throughout the Jerusalem envelope. It is 8 meters high - twice the height of the Berlin Wall - with watchtowers and a "buffer zone" 30-100 meters wide for electric fences, trenches, cameras, sensors, and military patrols.

In other places, the Wall consists of layers of fencing and razor wire, military patrol roads, sand paths to trace footprints, ditches and surveillance cameras.

The Apartheid Wall's "buffer zone" paves the way for **large-scale demolitions** and the expulsion of nearby residents, as in many places the Wall is located just meters away from homes, shops, and schools. The land between the Apartheid Wall and the Green Line has been declared a "seam zone", and all residents and landowners in this area must obtain a permit to remain in their homes and on their lands.

The Occupation has created agricultural "gates" in the Wall; these do not provide any guarantee that farmers will have access to their lands but instead strengthen Israel's strangling system of permits and checkpoints where Palestinians are beaten, detained, shot at and humiliated.

34 fortified checkpoints - 3 main terminals, 9 commercial terminals, and 22 terminals for cars and workers - control all Palestinian movement.

44 tunnels will connect 22 small ghettos inside 3 main ghettos.

634 checkpoints or other military obstructions including trenches, roadblocks, metal gates under Occupation control.

1,661 km of settler roads connect settlements and settlement blocs and complement the Wall system.



Creating Ghettos

The ghettoization project in all of its forms imprisons the Palestinian population and, in many places, isolates it from basic services. This, along with the loss of land, markets, and resources, results in the inability of communities to sustain themselves adequately and with dignity.

Northern Ghetto:

The northwestern part from Jenin to Qalqilya (the "first phase" of 145 km) is complete while continuing south until Salfit. From there it merges with the other portion of the Wall to form a ghetto in the north.

Within the "first phase", 13 villages west of the Wall have been **de facto annexed** to Israel and some 50 villages are separated from their lands.

Also in the "first phase", Israel has confiscated **36 groundwater wells** and at least another 14 wells are threatened with demolition in the Wall's "buffer zone".

Central Ghetto:

Salfit, the most fertile area of the West Bank known as the "food basket", will lose more than 50% of its land – isolated behind the Apartheid Wall.

North of Salfit, the Ariel settlement bloc cuts into 22km of the West Bank, separating the Central Ghetto from the North. This annexes 2% of the West Bank.

The Wall winds 22km into the West Bank to annex the settlement blocs creating two fingers: Immanuel and Ariel. The route of the two creates small, isolated Palestinian ghettos. Communities like 'Izbat Abu Adam, Dar Abu Basal and Wadi Qana are isolated inside the settlement blocs themselves. Another three villages, Az Zawiyah, Deir Ballut and Rafat, east of the Ariel Finger, are to be surrounded on four sides by the Wall and connected to the rest of the West Bank by tunnel. More than a dozen villages located along the route of the Wall will collectively lose thousands of dunums of productive land.



Jerusalem:

The Wall encircles the Holy City and the ring of settler colonies around it, furthering Jerusalem's isolation from the West Bank.

The Wall rips through villages and neighborhoods, separating families, cutting social and economic ties, and ghettoizing areas stolen by the Zionist project in its plans for Jerusalem as the future capital of Israel.

New settlements are under construction around Jerusalem **built on the annexed lands**. This seeks to enlarge the number of Jewish settlers in the area in the project to change the city's demography.

Some 25 villages and neighbourhoods will be completely isolated from the rest of Jerusalem and the West Bank and squeezed into **five different ghettos**.

The Wall in Jerusalem is almost completed. Only small parts in the north and east of the city are still under construction.

The Jerusalem district will, in total, lose 90% of its land when the Wall is completed. It is a central component of the plan to **ethnically cleanse** Palestinians from Jerusalem.

Southern Ghetto/Bethlehem/Hebron:

In the southern West Bank the Apartheid Wall encircles Bethlehem by continuing south of East Jerusalem in both the east and west. With the land isolated by the Wall, annexed for settlements, and closed under various pretexts, only 13% of the Bethlehem district is available for Palestinian use.

In Bethlehem and Hebron concrete walls surround the main holy sites, Rachel's Tomb and Abraham's Mosque respectively. Rachel's Tomb is already inaccessible to Palestinians and is being annexed.

The Wall isolates thousands of dunums from Hebron district, threatening cattle rearing, which is a main source livelihood in the area.

Jordan Valley:

Since 2000 the Valley **has been surrounded with 6 checkpoints** controlling all access.

The Occupation announced in February 2006 a plan to **annex 28.5%** of the Valley, including 24 villages with a population of 52,000 along with their water resources and the

Eastern aquifer.

200,000 people living in the Tubas and Nablus regions who own land or have family in the Jordan Valley are **denied access**.

Gaza Strip:

The Gaza Strip, with a population of some 1.5 million people in 365 km² is one of the most densely populated places on the globe. It is a prison that has been completely surrounded for years by walls and razor wire.

The Wall in Gaza extends to about 55 kilometers starting from northwest of Beit Lahia until southeast of Rafah. Along the Wall runs a "buffer zone" which ranges, since the Gaza assault, between 300 – 600 meters. Anyone approaching the buffer zone runs the risk of being shot.

The consequences of the buffer zone have been severe. 25% of the most fertile agricultural lands in Gaza are not useable. 15% of Gaza farmers are deprived of work, joining the ranks of the unemployed and becoming dependent on the food aid.

International Position

On July 9, 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the Apartheid Wall, Israeli settlement policies and occupation **violate international law** and must be ended. It reminded the international community that it was obliged to enforce international law and in no way support the existing situation.

Despite the ruling of the ICJ, neither states nor international bodies have taken any serious steps towards ensuring that the ICJ recommendations are implemented.



"International Development Aid":

In fact, the international community contributes to the Wall project with their sham "development" discourse and projects. Farming communities are to be transformed in cheap labour. The construction of CBIZ (Cross Border Industrial Zones) will use stolen lands located outside the ghettos defined by the Apartheid Wall, the settlements and the road system. These zones provide vital economic sustainability to the Israeli project.

Israeli-owned industrial zones will be labour intensive industries dependant upon a **cheap Palestinian workforce**. Joint industrial zones foster normalization and guarantee **the sustainability of the ghettos**.

In February 2009 the German government signed a contract for the Jalama (Jenin) industrial zone, and April of the same year USAID announced it would fund construction of the sewage system. For the Jordan Valley, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) published a new feasibility study for the Jericho and industrial and agro-industrial area in June 2009, while in April the French signed a contract to build an industrial zone in Bethlehem. These projects ensure the sustainability of the **Bantustan project created by the Wall, and are based on the assumption that the assumption that the Wall is to persist**.



Repression of popular resistance

Popular resistance to the Wall, which consists of demonstrations and various means of direct action, began with the first demolitions in 2002 and has continued ever since.

Repression by Israeli forces has been severe. There have been 16 people killed, half of them under 18. Thousands more have been injured, and hundreds arrested. From 2008 – 2009 in the village of Ni'lin, for instance, nearly 500 were injured by Israeli fire, and more than 70 have been arrested.

The first wave of killings and serious repression lasted for a year and began in 2004 with the killing of 5 people in Biddu, which had organized mass demonstrations against the construction of the Wall. In 2005, 3 children were shot dead in Beit Liqya. A similar wave of killings occurred during 2008-2009, when Occupation forces killed 5 in Ni'lin and 1 in Bil'in, again in response to ongoing resistance.