

Fact Sheet: Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign

The Grassroots
Palestinian Anti-
Apartheid Wall Campaign

www.stopthewall.org

The Apartheid Wall

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.
- When completed, the Wall will de facto **annex some 47% of the West Bank**, isolating communities into Bantustans, ghettos and "military zones".
- The Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including almost **1.5 million refugees**, will be living 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 faced with 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; in the past year Israel has been expanding this barrier as well as building a new "**Iron Wall**".

The Apartheid Wall's Location and Costs

- The Wall's total length will be some **730 km**.
- Currently, the Wall is being built in the districts of Qalqiliya, Tulkarem, Jenin, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron. The Jordan Valley is almost completely isolated from the rest of the West Bank.
- 92 Palestinian villages and communities totaling a population of **361,000 will be isolated** as follows:
- Villages surrounded by Wall, settlements and settler roads - 349,679 Palestinians.
- Villages isolated between Wall and Green Line - 5,015 Palestinians
- Villages isolated and residents threatened with expulsion - 6,305 Palestinians.
- The Wall has destroyed a large amount of Palestinian farmland and usurped water supplies, including the biggest aquifer in the West Bank.
- The Apartheid Wall costs approximately \$3.7 million per kilometer.
- In November 2000 Barak 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. By the end of 2006, some 60% of the Wall has already been completed.

Apartheid Wall as a Network

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

In other places, the Wall consists of layers of 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 lands between the Apartheid Wall and the Green Line have been declared by the Occupation as a "seam zone" whereby all residents and land owners 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 - are to control all Palestinian movement.
- **48** tunnels will connect 22 small ghettos inside 3 main ghettos.
- **538** checkpoints or other military obstructions in 3 ghettos, trenches, roadblocks, metal gates under Occupation control.
- **1,270km** of settler roads connect settlements and settlement blocks 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 Qalqiliya (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 ground-water wells** and at least another 14 wells are threatened for 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 70% of its land - isolated behind the Apartheid Wall.
- North of Salfit, the annexation of the Ariel 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.
- Immanuel finger surrounds 14 villages with 28,470 people on three sides with one gate controlled by the Occupation in the east. Ariel finger will surround 3 villages with 12,500 people, leaving only one access point in the north of the ghetto.

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 and Hebron by continuing south of East Jerusalem in both the east and west.
- In Bethlehem and Hebron concrete walls are coming right up to 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 **annexes 18,000 dunums** from Hebron district, threatening cattle rearing and thus the main of source livelihood in the area.
- The Wall has isolated 20 communities of 3,000 people along with their water resources and grazing land.

Jordan Valley:

- Since 2000 the Valley is **surrounded with 6 checkpoints** controlling all access.
- The Occupation announced in February 2006 a plan to **annex 28.5%** of the Valley.
- 24 villages with a population of 52,000 are annexed, 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 1.3 million people in 365 km² is one of the most densely populated places on the globe. It is a prison, completely surrounded, for years now, by walls and razor wire.
- Extensive destruction of land and homes has been taking place in Rafah in order to clear way for a 3 km long Iron Wall and its "military zone" along the Egyptian border. 35 Palestinians have been killed and 2000 dunums of land razed for the eight meter Iron Wall.
- Revealing the true intentions behind the "disengagement from Gaza", Israel is building a second Wall **to imprison Gaza** and seal the Palestinian population in Gaza into a prison fortress.

International Position

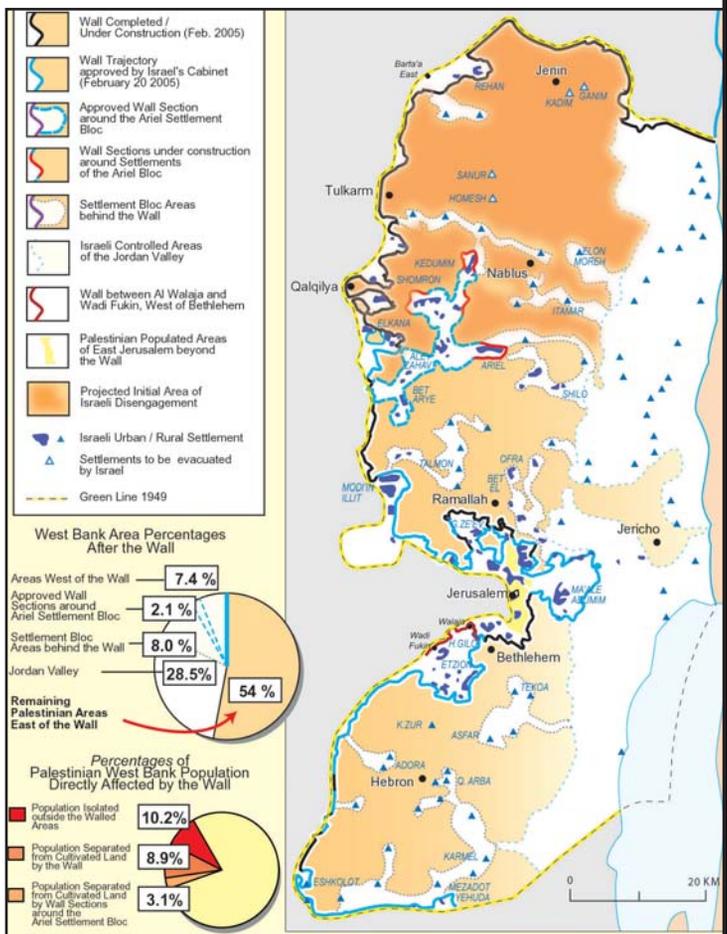
- On July 9, 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled that the Apartheid Wall, Israeli settlement policies and occupation **violate international law** and must be ended. It reminded the international community that it was obliged to enforce international law and in no way support the existing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

- In 2004 the German government granted funding for Israeli industrial zones in Jenin, and USAID for zones in Tulkarem. Both involve confiscation of land behind the Wall and sustainability of the **Bantustan project**.
- In January 2005, the USA announced it would provide over \$100 million for the hi-tech gates and checkpoints necessary to maintain full regulation of the West Bank by the Occupation Forces.
- After two years of complete silence, in December 2006, the UN General Assembly has followed the call of the ICJ and approved a plan to create a register for "damages" caused by the Apartheid Wall. Bypassing completely the Palestinian people, the register, in its current form, risks to be a **token gesture** that allows the UN to appear to implement its responsibilities and further institutionalizes its failure to engage in meaningful efforts to implement the requirements of its own law and its highest judicial body - the dismantling of the Wall.

"Disengagement" and "Development":



- 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.
- Instead of dismantling settlements, the Occupation has announced in 2007 to **build a new settlement** in the Jordan Valley. The international community for its part contributes to the project with their sham of "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 - such as in Eretz close to the Gaza Strip - will be labour intensive industries dependant upon a **cheap Palestinian workforce**.
- 9-12 industrial zones are planned to guarantee **the sustainability of the ghettos**. 3 are already under construction, and are to exploit around 40,000 Palestinian workers for less than 1500 NIS a month (around \$350) on annexed land.



Coordination of the worldwide efforts is crucial, please contact mobilize@stopthewall.org and visit: www.stopthewall.org