“The issue is not security but rather the creation of an atmosphere for silent transfer, to create a situation where we ourselves reach the conclusion that our lives are unlivable. We will not live the Nakba twice...we are staying here, we are not leaving.”
Jamal Der’awi, Nu’man village

- The Wall and ‘disengagement’ plan are the culmination of 70 years of Zionist policy. The Palestinian ghettos that exist today serve a dual purpose: to exert severe economic and social pressure on the Palestinian population in order to force them to leave; and to allow complete control of the Palestinian population who remain in order to facilitate the expansion of the Jewish settlements onto their confiscated land.
- As Arieen Sharon said in 1988, “you cannot dump people in trucks and go far. I prefer to pursue a policy of creating circumstances that will convince people to leave.”

A Typology of West Bank Ghettos:

2007 has seen the near-completion of the six ghettos:

- The Northern Ghetto - Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Nablus
- The Central Ghetto - Salit and Ramallah.
- The Southern Ghetto - Hebron and Bethlehem
- The Jordan Valley
- The Gaza Strip
- Jerusalem

-West Bank ghettos: 78 localities in 27 enclaves with 266,442 Palestinian residents surrounded by barbed wire, walls and control towers.
- The physical restrictions, coupled with the Occupation’s control of the planning system mean that there is no possibility that these centres can expand to meet the needs of the Palestinian population.
- Roadblocks and checkpoints make movement between the ghettos extremely difficult for Palestinians and in many cases actually impossible, with deleterious effects on social relations, education and commercial activity.

-Type 1: Encircled and controlled: Villages and suburbs walled from three sides and tightly controlled from the fourth side with the imposition of severe movement restrictions.
-Type 2: Between the Wall and the green line: Villages and population centres to the west of the Wall and to the east of the Green Line. Access is only possible through gates with restricted opening hours and systematic search procedures.
-Type 3: Under immediate threat of expulsion: Almost all of these villages are affected either by type 1 or type 2 isolation. However, the inhabitants of these villages face imminent destruction of their homes, displacement and transfer.

Encircled and Controlled:

-60 localities in 17 enclaves affecting 257,265 persons residing east of the Wall. Within the six ghettos, there are two types of enclaves:
  a. Cluster of small villages surrounded by the Wall from all sides. This affects the villages around Jerusalem.
  b. Individually isolated villages surrounded by the Wall with no free access to the rest of the West Bank, like Qalqilya.
- 1 access gate. Gates can be opened or closed on the individual whim of the Occupation forces manning the gate.
  In certain cases, access to the population centre is possible only through a fortified tunnel underneath an apartheid road, which is a highway built for use by Jewish settlers, and off bounds to Palestinians.
- In many areas, the Wall cuts across traditional access roads and population centres are effectively separated from each other.

- Unemployment has soared and many have been forced to relocate within Palestine or left the country altogether. In many places, commercial activity has halted.

- The time and cost of travel have increased sharply. Education is a problem and pupils and students are sometimes denied passage altogether under various pretexts. Isolation has also had a serious impact on the health system, causing difficulties for those seeking medical treatment.

**Between the Wall and the Green Line:**

- **17 localities in 10 enclaves affecting 8,557 persons.** Access is only possible through gates with restricted opening hours and systematic search procedures.

- The following **six restrictions** are in force at the access points:

  1. No person can enter these areas unless it is recorded in his ID that he or she resides in the area, and children under 16 must show birth certificates.

  2. Ambulances, doctors, teachers, technicians, human rights NGOs and humanitarian groups cannot enter these areas without previous coordination with Occupation authorities (DCO) or having a special permit.

  3. Building, agricultural expansion or even maintenance activity is forbidden without a permit, which is almost impossible to obtain.

  4. Humiliating control measures are strictly implemented causing serious delays to travel. Physical attacks, forced removal of clothing, confiscation of personal belongings and sexual harassment are commonplace.

  5. Persons wishing to pass are restricted in the amount of food products they are allowed to bring across the access point. Pesticides, medical and agricultural products are banned under security pretexts.

  6. Gate opening hours are often not respected, and access points are frequently closed for arbitrary periods ranging between one hour and a full week, during which time residents are stranded. Permits can be denied or torn up on any pretext at the discretion of the Occupation forces stationed on the access point.

- Most of the affected villages lack basic services and infrastructure and are dependent on nearby city centres for health, educational facilities and family ties. They are cut off from services and the isolation has a disastrous effect on social relations.

- At the social level, families have become stranded and a special permit is needed even for emergency visits.

- Isolation results in massive social pressure on activities that require movement between areas, such as marriage. The net result of this pressure is severe psychological strain affecting the whole of Palestinian society.

**Under Immediate Threat of Expulsion:**

- **14 localities affecting 6,314 people.** Almost all of the villages are subject to type 1 or type 2 isolation. The exception is Ein Jwara, which is not completely isolated, but nonetheless under immediate threat of demolition.

- The Occupation does not recognize the legality of the residents or the title deeds to their properties. The Occupation considers their land to belong to the Israeli state. They have no development master plans and all requests for construction permits are refused.

"**The Wall – the Ongoing Nakba**” initiative aims to highlight the continuity of the Israeli project of ethnic cleansing from the 1948 Nakba to today’s apartheid and expulsion policies. In 1948, 531 Palestinian localities were destroyed to clear the land for Jewish settlement. This policy of razing and re-settlement continues today with the threatened West Bank villages, whose land the Israeli state aims to annex.

- For tables listing all areas and their populations, see the report: "Palestinian Towns and Villages: Between Isolation and Expulsion."