

## The Separation and Expansion Wall

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Introduction: Israel's wall is being built in such a way as to divide Palestinian population centers from their adjacent agricultural land and water resources, isolating Palestinian population centers from one another and restricting not only freedom of movement of individuals but also worsening an already crippled Palestinian economy. The wall separates Palestinians from Palestinians and serves to secure illegal settlements built on occupied land. The most evident exploitation of Israel's breach of convention is the implementation of new borders within the West Bank (including east Jerusalem), an occupied territory. This effective annexation of land alongside the violations of basic human rights highlights Israel's selfish and destructive policies.

### Land & Population:

- The wall will annex 45% of the west Bank isolating Palestinian communities into cantons, enclaves and "military zones," leaving all Palestinians to live on **12% of historical Palestine**.
- 16% of Palestinians will be outside the wall including 200,000 east Jerusalem residents who will be totally isolated from the rest of the West Bank.
- 274,000 Palestinians living in 122 villages and towns will live in closed areas between the wall and the Green Line (that are completely surrounded by the wall).
- 161,000 will live in enclaves in enclaves, 96,000 will be inside the "depth barrier" and 17,000 in closed areas.
- 400,000 others will find themselves living east of the wall but would need to get to their farms, jobs and services. (Palestinians must apply for permits to access their own land: Of 1200 farmers who applied for permits in 2003 300 permits were issued 25% of which were issued to dead or absent Palestinians.)

674,000  
approximately 30%  
of Palestinians in the  
West Bank will be  
directly harmed by  
the wall

### The Route "annexing illegal settlements":

- 98% of the settler population will be included in the de facto annexed areas.
- 54 Israeli illegal settlements containing 142,000 settlers will fall in the area between the wall and the Green Line.

The majority of the Israeli settlers will live within the same zone of the wall as the Palestinians for whom the wall was designed to separate. However, unlike the Palestinians living in this 'closed zone' between the wall and the Green Line, the settlers will be able to legally cross to the other side of the wall, courtesy of their exclusive Israeli government built by-pass roads.

The Wall's total length will reach 730km. (454 miles) and costs 2.7 million USD per kilometer

- Only **11% of the walls' length runs along the 1949 Armistice Line AKA Green Line**.
- The wall not only runs inside the Green Line but folds in on itself to **create 12 separate enclaves** (areas where people will be completely surrounded by the wall.)
- At some places the wall extends up to **22.5 KM (14miles) east in order to annex the large illegal settlements** in the heart of the West Bank such as the settlements of Ariel and Qedumim.

### Structure & Legality:

- There are two structures to this wall: 1. **Concrete Wall**: Eight meters high with armed watchtowers and "buffer zones" 30-100 meters, wide for electric fences, trenches, cameras, sensors and military patrolling.
- 2. **Razor Wire**: Layers of razor wire military patrolled roads, sand paths to trace footprints, ditches, surveillance cameras and in the middle a three meter high electric fence.

The 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 Hague Regulations and Fourth Geneva Convention prohibit collective punishment, and acts of aggression against the resident population of occupied territories. Additionally an occupying force is obligated to ensure that safety and dignity of the resident population is sustained while protecting their private property.

- Hague regulations violated: Section II and III Articles 23(g), 50, 52 and 55 which prohibit the destruction of 'enemy's property,' private property cannot be confiscated "no general penalty shall be inflicted upon the population on account of the acts of individuals for which they cannot be regarded as jointly or severally responsible."

- Geneva Convention Articles 52 and 53 prohibits the creation of unemployment or restricting the opportunities offered to workers... also it prohibits any destruction of personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons.
- The wall also violates the Oslo Agreement: "The two sides view the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit, the integrity and the status of which will be preserved during the interim period."
- UN Security Council Resolution 681 (1990) confirmed that the **Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable to the Occupied Territories and thus Israel's compliance mandatory**.

### The Humanitarian Impact:

More Palestinians are unable to reach their land to harvest crops, for animals to graze and earn money to buy food. The damage caused by the **destruction of land and property for the Wall's construction is irreversible** and undermines Palestinians ability to ever recover even if the political situation allows conditions to improve. Residents are being cut off from schools, universities and specialized medical care. Once military orders that restrict entry into the closed areas between the Green Line and the Wall are applied to the new parts of the wall, thousands of Palestinians are likely to be forced out from their homes and land.

- **80% unemployment** rate in locations near Green Line, **30% higher than the rest of the West Bank**.
- In the first phase alone construction of the wall has

Israel has confiscated 36 groundwater wells and at least 14 other wells risk demolition in the wall's "buffer zone".....  
The Wall will isolate 31 artesian wells.....  
Only 5 locations out of 52 target locations are connected to the Israeli National Water Network.

1. Uprooted 100,000 trees
2. Destroyed 35,000 meters of irrigation networks
3. Damaged 11,400 dunums (2850 acres) of agricultural land
4. 280 homes and businesses were demolished in just the first stage
5. 69.2% of government clinics are isolated by the wall, 15.4% of NGO clinics, 11.5% of UNRWA clinics and 3.8% of private ones.
- \* 74.6% of teachers trapped on the west side of the wall are finding difficulties arriving at schools and universities while 45.3% of teachers living on the eastern side have reported these same difficulties.
- \* 7. 51% of Palestinian students are using alternative and often dangerous roads in order to make it to their schools and universities, while close to 8% are changing schools.
8. 37% of university and school students have been absent due to closures in areas close to Green Line.

Sources: [nad-plo.org](http://nad-plo.org), [reliefweb.int/hic-opt/](http://reliefweb.int/hic-opt/), [Stopthewall.org](http://Stopthewall.org), [hdiip.org](http://hdiip.org), [pcbs.org](http://pcbs.org)

# ISRAEL'S "SECURITY" WALL: ANOTHER LAND GRAB

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Israel's goal in building the "security" wall is twofold: (1) to confiscate Palestinian land in order to facilitate further colony expansion and unilaterally redraw geopolitical borders and (2) to encourage an exodus of Palestinians by denying them the ability to earn a living from their land, by denying them adequate water resources, and by restricting freedom of movement to such extent as to make remaining in the town or village an unviable option.

