

Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign Fact Sheet

Palestinian Grassroots
Anti-Apartheid
Wall Campaign

www.stophthewall.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, enclaves 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 **historic Palestine**.
- **Nearly 16%** 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 residents 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 the residents 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, and Bethlehem by some 250 bulldozers while measurements in preparation for the Wall are taking place across the West Bank.
- The Apartheid Wall costs some **\$3.4 billion**, approximately \$4.7 million per kilometer.
- 245 km 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.
- In addition to the Wall, some communities in the "first phase" have been closed-off by an "**Isolation Barrier**", ensuring they are surrounded on all sides.
- The Israeli military has created "gates" in the Apartheid Wall; however these do not provide any guarantee for farmers to access their land but instead strengthen Israel's strangling system of permits and checkpoints where Palestinians are beaten, detained, shot at and humiliated.



- Occupation Forces have begun construction of 24 "tunnels" throughout the West Bank. These will form the only points of connection within the **ghettoized West Bank**. They will be under the full control and regulation of the Occupation.

Creating Ghettos



The Wall in all of its forms encircles regions with the highest Palestinian population density into three ghettos in the West Bank while Jewish-only settlements and "bypass" roads further divide these areas. The isolation from basic services in many

of these areas along with the loss of land, markets, and resources, equates to the inability for 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. In the northeast, the Wall extends from Jenin to Salfit, merging with the other portion of the Wall to form a ghetto in the north.
- Within the "first phase", 16 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 for demolition in the Wall's "**buffer zone**".
- The lands between the Apartheid Wall and the Green Line have been declared by Israel as a "**seam zone**" whereby all residents and land owners must obtain a permit to remain in their homes and on their lands. This translates into the de facto annexation of 3% of the West Bank in the "first phase" alone.

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.

Jerusalem:

- The Apartheid Wall in Jerusalem encircles the holy city and the ring of settler colonies around it, furthering the **isolation of Jerusalem** from the West Bank.
- At the same time, the Apartheid 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 which will be built on the annexed lands. This seeks to enlarge the number of Jewish settlers in the area in the project to change the demography of Jerusalem.
- This portion is nearing completion in the north towards Ramallah and is under construction in various parts of the east and the south towards Bethlehem.
- 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**.

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; being completely surrounded, for years now, by walls and razor wire it is an obvious **prison** for all of its residents.
- Over the last year, extensive destruction to 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 released plans to build a second Wall to imprison Gaza in March 2005. Work is due to begin in April 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.
- In January, 2005, the UN issues a plan to create register offices for "damages" caused by the Apartheid Wall. The emphasis on the humanitarian consequences of the Apartheid project raises serious concerns that this will end up as purely a compensation issue, risking normalization and the legitimacy of the Wall.

"Modifications" and "Disengagement":

- The so-called "disengagement" and "modifications" form part of Israel's overall strategy for the complete colonization of the West Bank and the expulsion or enslavement of the Palestinian population. Disengagement claims to be about the dismantling of settlements - In reality:
- It amounts to the evacuation of settlements in the Gaza Strip and of 4 minor settlements in the West Bank near Jenin, while concurrently Israel has announced the annexation of all the other approximately 200 settlements in the Occupied West Bank and Jerusalem. In addition, Israel is expanding and constructing new settlements in Tulkarem, Bethlehem and Qalqiliya.
- It proposes to construct a further 500 km of Jewish-only roads reinforcing the overall apartheid road network in the West Bank. Palestinian areas become nothing more than enclosed islands, totally isolated among the settlements and their road system.
- Includes construction of CBIZ (Cross Border Industrial Zones): that will be completed on 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 labor intensive industries dependant upon cheap Palestinian labor.

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

Timeline

- 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.
- In September 2002, the first public map of the Wall, consisting of only a portion of the northern part, was made available to the public.
- In mid-March 2003 the Israeli government announced to alter the Wall's path to include Ariel and Immanuel settlements as a part of the settlers' council proposal.
- The following week, Sharon declares the expansion of the Wall by building a wall within and along the entire Jordan Valley, bringing the settlements in this area under total Israeli control.
- May 15, 2002 Ehud Barak states: "There is no explanation as to why Israel cannot build a bigger, ten-times longer fence [than the one in the Gaza Strip], and close off Israel and the settlement blocs [in the West Bank]."
- In July 2003 the Israeli defense Ministry announced the completion of the "first phase" of the Wall, a total of 145 km.
- On October 2nd, 2003 Israel issued military orders declaring all lands west of the Wall's "first phase" as a "seam zone", forcing a permit system that institutionalizes the de facto annexation of these lands.
- In July 2004, the ICJ reaches its verdict that the Wall is illegal and should be dismantled immediately.
- In February 2005 Israeli Cabinet presents "modifications" plans of the Wall to the world meant to divert the discussion from the Apartheid Wall itself to its route - both remain illegal and criminal in any form.
- In February 2005 World Bank plans to finance construction of Apartheid Wall's gates.
- In February 2005 UN submits a report on the Wall which deals with it as a "humanitarian" issue.
- On March 13th, UN Secretary-General visits Palestine. He fails to call on Israel to abide by international law and dismantle the illegal Apartheid Wall.

Below: The so-called "disengagement" from the West Bank will steal 47% of the territory (map takes into account Israeli cabinet "modifications" Feb 2005).

