

Assessment “10”
The Effect of the Israeli Occupation on Education
From (28/9/2000-6/5/2004)

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has committed itself since it took over the responsibility of education in 1994 to rise up with the educational process, and to enhance the quality of education. Increases in schools enrollment have been a major concern, a quality and capacity building within the strategic plans for the various education tends still, in spite of the hard political circumstances.

The educational process has been affected a lot during Al-Aqsa Intifada as a result of the Israeli aggressive policy on the 28th of September until now. Despite all the efforts that have been done by the Ministry and all other partners..

The Israeli aggression, sieges and incursions had the worst effect on the educational process and on the human or physical, and psychological sides. Many students, teachers and employees faced arresting, humiliating and suffering by Israeli soldiers on military check points between cities and villages in all of the Palestinian districts. Aside from the fact that many of the students were martyred, injured, and suffered difficulties on their way to or in schools, they are also subject to some psychological problems in which affected their school performance and future.

Table.1 Summary of Human Losses from 28/9/2000-6/5/2004

Case	Description	28/9/00-30/8/01	1/9/01-30/8/02	31/8/02-31/8/03	1/9/03-6/5/04	Total
Martyrs	Teachers	3	12	10	2	27
	School Students	96	154	145	70	465
	University students					195
	Employees		4	2	1	7
Detainees	Teachers	21	55	45	46	167
	School Students	71	101	140	230	542
	University Students					710
	Employees		13	5	11	29
Injuries	Teachers	-----	31	18	4	53
	School Students	2151	453	387	363	3354
	University Students	-----				1245
	Employees		5	4	3	12

The Israeli occupation had hurt the infrastructure of the educational process in many different ways and means, and the followings are facts about what is happening:

- **498 schools were disrupted and closed because of curfews, sieges and districts closures since the beginning of the new scholastic year 2002-2003. Moreover, 1289 schools were closed since the beginning of the Intifada.**
- **295 school buildings were damaged as a result of rockets and tanks shelling, since the breakout of the Intifada.**
- **9 schools are still closed, from which 3 schools are changed to military bases; as what is still happening in Usama Ibn-Al-Munqith, Banat Joher and Al-Ma'aref schools in Hebron.**
- **5.2 Million US\$ is the estimated value of the Israeli damage in Palestinian schools.**
- **4.85 Million US\$ is the estimated value of the Israeli damage in Palestinian Universities.**
- **38 schools in Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Jerusalem, & Bethlehem which had nearly 11 thousand students , were affected as a result of the Annexation & Expantion .**

The worst scenario is Nablus district, since it is suffering from tight and strict curfews and closures, almost 500 teachers couldn't reach their schools in the district. Despite all these difficulties, 9 schools challenged the hard sieges and closures, and thus the study was not completely disrupted in these schools. Also in Kufor Ain's schools (girls and boys) in Ramallah, studying was disrupted as a result of the tight curfew.

Table 2: Shows disruption in schools during April/2004

District	Disrupted schools Number	Disrupted Teachers Number	Disrupted Pupils Number	Disrupted Days Average %
S.Hebron	11	230.5	5581	0.3
Hebron	20	---	10147	0.4
Nablus	72	1248	4642	1.6
Ramallah	9	202	4698	0.2
Qabatia	12	253	6118	0.5
Jenin	6	155	3477	0.1
Bethlehem	4	84	1940	0.5
Salfeet	9	75.5	738	0.8
Qalqilya	15	379.5	10016	2.8
Rafah	12	336	8893	1.6
N.Gaza	18	----	11768	1.2
Jerusalem Suburbs	2	50	1055	0.1
Total	190	3013.5	69073	0.7

Moreover the buildings of MoEHE and its directorates offices were not safe from the hands of the Israeli soldiers who destroyed many of the MoEHE cars, computers, also stole hard disks and floppy disks containing lots of information; they also damaged the furniture and bulldoze many walls

Table 3. Shows types of physical damage from 28/9/2000-6/5/2004

Kind of Damage	Total
Shelling & breaking in schools	295
Shelling & breaking in directorates	6
Shelling & Breaking in Colleges	3
Shelling & Breaking in Universities	8
Breaking in & Damaging Head Quarters	1
Changing Schools to Military Bases	43
Schools Closure	10
Universities Closure	2
Walls& Classrooms Bulldozing	44
Schools Disruption	1125
Schools Evacuation	51
School Contents Vandalized	49
Colleges Contents Vandalized	2
Universities Contents Vandalized	8

However the financial losses were great; the following table has a summary of the damage cost divided into four domains: buildings ,educational instruments , furniture, and equipments.

- *MOEHE with support of Donors, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations made some repair in the previous districts. The amount*
- *5.2 million\$) is evaluated on the 4th of August 2003.*

Even universities and collages were not safe from the barbaric & brutal Israeli aggression.

- **The Israeli soldiers broke into Bethlehem University on Dec. 8th, 2002 they besieged it & threw poisonous gas bombs and disrupted study. They stayed there for five days. Also they damaged furniture, doors, windows, computers, and 245 books.**
- **The Israeli soldiers broke into An-Najah National University campus on Dec 14th, 2002 in Nablus city. They besieged it and obliged teachers and students to leave it. Studying was disrupted for several days.**
- **The Israeli soldiers broke into Hebron University on Jan. 14th 2003. They damaged labs, computers and closed it for 6 months.**
- **The Israeli soldiers broke into Palestine Polytechnic University on Jan. 14th 2003. They closed it for three months.**
- **The Israeli soldiers broke into Al-Quds Open University /Ramallah, Al-Azhar university/Gaza, Palestine Vocational Girls college/ Ramallah, Palestine Vocational College/ Tulkarm , BirZeit University campus.**

Table4 shows a summary of the damage cost (US \$) in the Palestinian Universities and colleges on the 15th of March 2003 distributed according to the institution:

Institution	Amount of Loss/million U.S. Dollars
Khaduri	3.6
Agriculture College/Najah University	0.25
Al-Quds University	0.45
Al-Aqsa University	0.20
Ministry Head Quarters	0.35
Total	4.85

Moreover, the Israeli violations and aggressions had affected the implementation of many educational projects and programs. MoEHE initiated five-year plan 2001/2005.

Yet, many projects were canceled or postponed due to the Israeli incursion, which forced the MoEHE to create a new emergency plan and alternative strategies to deal with circumstances of closures, curfews and to manage the MoEHE with

minimum centralized interference in daily management. MoEHE budget was reduced according to the current situation.

In addition to the mentioned violations and incursions, Israel is building now an” apartheid wall” that cuts through Palestinian districts such as Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Salfit, Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Beithlehem.

The Wall’s height is 8 meters and it’s long is 360 kilometers or more. It’s not only confiscating Palestinian land, but also affecting the educational process by adding a lot of the obstacles in front of it So Palestinian students are deprived from their right of education. It’s not only our students who are suffering of this” separation wall, but also teachers. Both of them can’t reach their schools or universities easily & safely.

For example, in Nazlet Issa School the” apartheid wall “ cuts through the village, and separates it from it’s school. So the students are forced to pass through one of the wall’s gates in order to reach their school which pushes them face to face with the aggressive Israeli soldiers everyday.

Table5 shows the number of students & teachers affected of building this Wall:

School Name	District	Number of Students
Barta Sec Boys School	Jenin	362
Barta Sec Girls School	Jenin	345
Um Al-raihan Basic co-ed School	Jenin	98
Alfarook Basic School	Jenin	85
Total Jenin		890
Nazlit Isa Secondary Boys School	Tulkarem	329
Nazlit Isa Secondary Girls School	Tulkarem	328
Baqa Alsharqia Basic Boys School	Tulkarem	389
Baqa Alsharqia Basic Girls School	Tulkarem	244
Baqa Alsharqia Sec Boys School	Tulkarem	208
Baqa Alsharqia Sec Girls School	Tulkarem	377
Total Tulkarem		1875
Aldaba,Ras Tira	Qalqilya	133
Total Qalqeelia	-----	133
General Total	-----	2898