

## FACTSHEET: ISRAEL'S SEPARATION WALL



### What is “The Wall”?

The wall is composed of two types of structures: 1) For urban areas, a Concrete Wall: Eight meters high, with sniper towers and “buffer zones” 30-100 meters wide for electric fences, trenches, cameras, sensors and military patrolling; and 2) For rural areas, Razor Wire and Fencing: Layers of razor wire on either side of a three meter electric fence, military patrolled roads, sand paths to trace footprints, ditches and surveillance cameras.

Construction of the Wall began in June, 2002. In December, 2003, Israel declared that 520 km of the projected 750 km would be completed by the end of 2004, with the entire “project” finished in 2005. Whether it is considered a “wall,” “barrier,” or “fence” is irrelevant because the major impacts – confiscation of Palestinian land, forced impoverishment of Palestinian communities, and coercion of Palestinians to abandon their homes and property – remains the same.

### What is the Course of the “The Wall”

In 1948, UN Resolution 181, which set forth an Israeli and Palestinian state, allocated 47 percent of historic Palestine to the Palestinian state. When fighting between Israel and its Arab neighbours ceased in 1949, the Armistice “Green Line” put only 22 percent of historic Palestine on the eastern (Palestinian) side of the line. Nevertheless, the Wall itself is being built farther east even than the Green Line. When the route of the projected wall is complete, *de facto* annexing 43.5 percent of this remaining land, only 12.4 percent of historic Palestine will remain to constitute a Palestinian state.

The length of the Green Line is approximately 320 km., while the projected length of the Wall will be 750 km. Given that the Wall runs inside the Green Line – somewhat like a concentric circle – one may question how its length could be almost double that of the Green Line. This is because the Wall plunges deep into the West Bank again and again to include Israeli colonies (“settlements”), water resources, and agricultural land on the Israeli side of the Wall. In one of many such plunges, the wall drives 22 km. east from the Green Line, approximately 41 percent of the width of the West Bank in that area.

Since the Wall plunges so frequently and so deeply into the West Bank (upon completion, only 6 percent of the Wall will be within 100 m. of the Green Line), a large number of Palestinians – approximately 250,000 people (almost 11 percent of the Palestinian population in the OTs) – will be stuck between the Wall and the Green Line. Even without an eastern portion of the Wall, 16.6 percent of the occupied West Bank will lie between the Wall and Israel-proper. Another 93,000 Palestinians will be isolated from the rest of the Palestinian areas in about a dozen small, totally surrounded, walled “enclaves.”

### Isn't the Wall intended to Secure Israel against Terror Attacks?

If Israel were truly interested in its security, it would 1) build the Wall on the Israeli side of the border between the two states, 2) refrain from building a wall on the eastern side of the West Bank, thus only blocking, rather than encircling the territory, and 3) abide by international law and withdraw completely from the Palestinian territories it occupied in 1948 and 1967. How can it serve Israel's “security” purposes if 250,000 Palestinians are actually walled in on the Israeli side of the Wall (see above)?

It is easier to understand the Wall as a mechanism to consolidate Israel's occupation, its illegal colonies, and the ongoing colonization of Palestinian land. The Wall is best understood as an annexation of land.

## How will the Wall impact the Palestinians in the West Bank?

If completed in its entirety, nearly 50 percent of the West Bank population will be affected by the Wall through loss of land, imprisonment into ghettos, or isolation into Israeli de facto annexed areas

**The “Closed Zone.”** With the completion of the first phase of the Wall, the land isolated between the Wall and the Green Line was declared a “Closed Military Zone” in October, 2003. A system of permits designed to depopulate the region of its Palestinian inhabitants, the military Order states, “No person will enter the [Closed Zone] and no one will remain there.” The Order requires Palestinian residents of the Closed Zone to obtain permits to live in their houses, farm their land, and to travel. Nothing in the Order guarantees that permits will be granted or even respected if indeed granted. Palestinians not residing in the Closed Zone but whose agricultural lands or jobs are within the Closed Zone will also be required to apply for a permit to farm their land or go to work. The Order effectively grants any Jew in the world the right to freely travel throughout the Closed Zone while denying the same rights to the Christians and Muslims who live on, farm and own the land.

**Communities Under Siege.** The fence has relocated a large amount of rich farmland and water wells to the Israeli side of the wall. In Phase 1, at least 115 Palestinian towns and villages have been directly affected by the wall which cuts them off from their land and resources. Of the 47 Palestinian towns and villages along Phase 1 of the wall's route, 21 are separated from more than half of their land by the fence. 36 groundwater wells and over 200 cisterns are isolated from their communities by the Wall, with an additional 14 wells threatened for demolition in the Wall's "buffer zone."

**An Economic Disaster.** From Phase 1 alone, the land confiscation, destruction, and severe restriction of movement will mean the loss of at least 6,500 jobs. For example, Israeli closures and the Wall around the communities in the Tulkarem district prevent residents from traveling for employment, caused the unemployment rate to swell from 18% in 2000 to 78% in the spring of 2003.

**Reduced Access to Healthcare.** When complete, the wall will significantly impair access of rural Palestinians to hospitals, particularly in Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, and East Jerusalem. 71 primary health clinics will be isolated from the rest of the West Bank.

**Losses and Damages from Phase 1.** Construction of the Wall has already led to the uprooting of about 102,000 Palestinian olive and citrus trees, and the demolition of 75 acres of greenhouses and 23 miles of irrigation pipes. The Phase 1 Wall itself rests on 15,000 dunums of confiscated land, with additional *de facto* confiscations expected when the “buffer zones” are fully installed. When complete, the Wall itself will confiscate another approximately 120,000 – 150,000 dunums, not counting its “buffer zone.”

With Phase 1, some 218 buildings were demolished in the village of Nazlat 'Isa, the majority of which were stores – an important source of income and survival for a number of communities – along with 5 homes. At least another 75 stores, 20 factories, 20 homes, and 1 primary school also have demolition orders, which are expected to be executed in the near future as the complete “buffer zone” is constructed.



The map above was chosen for its ability to print well in black and white. It does not depict many important features, e.g. the walled enclaves, land use, water resources, etc.