

The 'Green Line' between Israel and the West Bank is based on the UN-brokered armistice agreements of 1949. Israel crossed the Green Line to occupy the West Bank and East Jerusalem as well as the Gaza Strip during the 1967 Arab-Israeli

towns like Qalqilya.² A total of 160 Israeli settlements with a population of 393,500 (87% of the settler population) are on the Israeli side of the Wall.

Palestinian communities have found themselves placed in shrinking enclaves,

leave the tiny Strip through two Israeli-controlled border crossings.

The Wall and checkpoints in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip barrier affect approximately 47% of the total Palestinian population. They relegate the Palestinian

Cementing the Occupation

Israel's Illegal Wall Puts Palestine Behind Bars

War that broke out on June 5. UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967), which Israel accepted, called for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces, based on the principle of the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war." Instead, Israel used the intervening years to settle some 400,000 Israelis in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

THE WARPATH OF THE WALL

In June 2002, continuing its utter disregard for the international community, Israel began construction of the Wall on Palestinian land *inside of*, and not on, the Green Line, citing the pretext of security. However, the Wall's path betrays its real purpose: the illegal annexation of as many settlements as possible to Israel. The Wall juts up to 13 miles into the West Bank, demolishing Palestinian homes and grabbing Palestinian land and water resources.¹ It is twice as long as the 1967 border, snaking around and isolating major Palestinian

isolated from their lands and segregated from neighboring communities. The 132,000 Palestinians who are isolated by the Wall or contained in Israeli-controlled "closed areas" cannot enter or leave their communities without permission from Israeli soldiers.

CUTTING OFF THE EASTERN WEST BANK, ISOLATING GAZA

The Wall plan also includes the appropriation of Palestinian territory in the eastern West Bank (the Jordan Valley). In this fertile region alongside the border with Jordan, Israeli checkpoints and settlements completely dominate the Palestinian population. The Israeli land seizures alongside the West Bank's border with Israel in the west and with Jordan in the east will *de facto* annex to Israel nearly 37% of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in defiance of international law.

The total isolation of the Gaza Strip from the rest of the world receives little attention, although its barrier predates the Wall in the West Bank. Most of the barrier encircling the Gaza Strip runs along the border, but approximately 9,000 Palestinians are trapped in tiny enclaves controlled by Israeli soldiers.³ Meanwhile, the entire Palestinian population of Gaza is cut off by air, land, and sea, and can only enter and

people to ghetto-like enclaves on 12% of their historic land (see chart on reverse).

ACCESS DENIED

The Wall isolates and appropriates some of the most fertile areas available to Palestinians. The loss of these resources



Caterpillar bulldozer in Jayyus destroys an olive grove. Photo by Christoph Gocke.

has deepened the humanitarian crisis in a population highly dependent on agriculture, grazing and access to water.

Palestinians can only reach lands and communities isolated by the Wall by presenting special permits at a limited number of gates and checkpoints controlled by Israeli soldiers. Issuance of permits is subject to security clearance from Israeli soldiers and proof of land ownership. The application process for land title documents and permits is long, tedious and expensive and Palestinian applications are often denied without reason.⁴

Palestinians who lack permits are prohibited from accessing their lands and

COMPONENTS OF THE WALL

Generally, the Wall consists of two types of structures. In urban areas, the Wall consists of 25-foot high slabs of concrete. In agricultural areas, the Wall consists of a central electrified fence (10 ft. high) surrounded by razor wire.

The path of the Wall also features 100-300 ft. wide 'buffer zone' including military surveillance paths, ditches, and electrical fencing.

END THE OCCUPATION

US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION

The US Campaign is a diverse coalition of over 200 groups working for freedom from occupation and equal rights for all by challenging US policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Campaign is based on human rights and international law, providing a non-sectarian framework for everyone who supports its *Call to Action*. Its strategy is to inform, educate, and mobilize the public so as to change the US role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

	Wall and Western Segregation Zone	Eastern Segregation Zone (Jordan Valley)	The Barrier in the Gaza Strip	Totals
Length	400 m	Not applicable	63 m	463 m
Length on the border	78 m (19%)	Not applicable	43 m (68%)	121 m (26%)
Area Appropriated	218 m ² (10% of West Bank)	600 m ² (27% of West Bank)	36 m ² (27% of Gaza)	854 m ² (37%)
Agricultural Lands Appropriated	104 m ²	376 m ²	32 m ²	512 m ²
Water Resources Appropriated	30 wells; 32 springs	105 wells; 30 springs	25 wells	170 wells; 62 springs
Palestinian Population Isolated	90,000 (55 communities)	42,000 (42 communities)	9,000 (4 communities)	141,000 (101 communities)
Palestinian Population Otherwise Affected	550,000 (172 communities)	N/A	900,000 (47 communities)	1,450,000 (219 communities)
Total Palestinian population*	2,336,354		1,363,513	3,699,767

Source: The Applied Research Institute—Jerusalem (ARIJ), April 2005. * Figures from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (www.pcbs.gov.ps); m = mile.

may lose the only source of income for their families. In addition, Israel uses centuries old Ottoman land laws to acquire Palestinian land: if properties are not cultivated for three consecutive years Israel can confiscate the lands without compensation to the owner.⁵ As the Wall project enters its third year, increasing amounts of Palestinian land are under threat of outright confiscation by Israel.

THE WALL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

In July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) passed an advisory opinion that reaffirms that Israel's Wall is illegal.⁶ The Court based its decision on existing international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Hague Regulations, various human rights treaties, and UN Security Council resolutions.

The Court confirmed that the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip, including East Jerusalem, are territories under occupation by Israel (Para. 78), making all Israeli settlements and population transfers illegal in line with the Fourth Geneva Convention (Para. 120).

The ICJ believes that the Wall is an attempt to connect settlements and settlers to Israel, (Para. 119) creating 'facts on the ground' and de facto annexing Palestinian land, which will have a significant impact on future negotiations regarding borders (Para. 121).

The Wall results in the violation of Palestinian human rights including the right to freedom of movement, work, health, education, and an adequate standard of living. The ICJ opinion upholds the Palestinian people's right to self-determination (Para. 118), which they are prevented from exercising by the wall's disruption of the territorial integrity and unity of the population (Para. 122). 'Self-defense' or 'state of necessity' can not be used as justification for violating this right and other international legal principles (Para. 142) and

therefore Israel must cease construction, dismantle portions of the wall already built, and compensate those whose property has been destroyed (Para. 145). It also calls on other states to refrain from supporting Israel in building the Wall (Para. 146).

SNAPSHOT FROM JAYYUS

Jayyus village has been heavily impacted by the Wall, which has isolated 70% of the village's lands, including vast agricultural areas and six wells. Most Jayyus residents have been denied permits and are thus cut off from their lands. Furthermore, in December 2004, Israel began using CAT bulldozers to confiscate more land for the enlargement of a nearby settlement.⁷

Tawfiq Salim—just one of the many affected farmers—has seen his land destroyed as a result of the Wall. In December 2004, CAT bulldozers uprooted 750 of his olive trees, which then were taken to Israel to be sold. Tawfiq was devastated: "I depended on my olive trees for everything."⁸

US POLICY ON THE WALL

The US Administration has never challenged Israel's Wall project. It still provides over \$3 billion in direct aid to Israel every year. This aid allows Israel to flaunt international law and construct the Wall. The US also provides crucial political and diplomatic support for the Wall.⁹ On October 14, 2003, the US vetoed a UN Security Council Resolution declaring the Wall illegal.¹⁰ It was in response to this veto that the General Assembly asked the ICJ to consider the case and issue an advisory opinion.

The US House of Representatives has acted to undermine the ICJ decision by passing House Resolution 713 deploring the Court's decision.¹¹ In the Senate, 46 senators co-sponsored a similar bill that has not yet come to a vote.

Private US corporations also contribute to the construction of the wall. One such

company is Caterpillar, which sells the Israeli army bulldozers used to demolish Palestinian homes and clear land for the Wall's construction in spite of the company's commitment to uphold human rights under its own Code of Conduct.¹²

In April 2004, President George W. Bush exchanged letters of support with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Bush implicitly endorsed the route of the Wall as a permanent boundary. This is a direct violation of international law and of the ICJ's call for all other states to refrain from supporting Israel's construction of the Wall.

ENDNOTES

1 All statistics here about the Wall come from the Applied Research Institute—Jerusalem (ARIJ). These figures reflect the status of the wall in April 2005, and are based on the completed Wall up to that date, and projections for its continuation, as based on the Israeli cabinet decision of February 20, 2005.

2 "Barrier to Peace: Assessment of Israel's 'New' Wall Route," PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, March 2005, www.nad-plo.org.

3 ARIJ, "Israel's Segregation Wall: Isolation and Ghettoization in the Holy Land," available at: http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=549.

4 B'tselem, "Not All it Seems: Preventing Palestinians Access to their Lands West of the Separation Barrier in the Tulkarm-Qalqilya Area," available at: http://www.btselem.org/Download/200406_Qalqilya_Tulkarm_Barrier_Eng.pdf.

5 Israel's Absentee Property Law of 1967.

6 Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Advisory Opinion July 9, 2004 para. 78.

7 For more information on Jayyus, see: http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=473 and David Bloom, "West Bank Apartheid: Israeli Settlement Expansion in Jayyus," *ZNet*, December 15, 2004.

8 Steven Erlanger, "Peace? West Bank Mayor Has Other Worries," *New York Times*, December 30, 2004.

9 For more information on the US-Israeli relationship see the US Campaign's fact sheet at: http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/us_policy.pdf.

10 Schlomo Shamir, "U.S. vetoes UN resolution on W. Bank security fence," *Ha'aretz*, 16 October 2003, available at: <http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=350348>.

11 H Res 713 (108th congress).

12 For more on Caterpillar's complicity in the occupation see www.catdestroyshomes.org.

This fact sheet was produced in cooperation with The Applied Research Institute—Jerusalem (ARIJ). For more information and to see a full map of the route, see www.stopthewall.org, www.arij.org, www.btselem.org, and www.nad-plo.org.