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## مجموعة الرقابة الفلسطينية



### PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP

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#### TREND ANALYSIS

#### ISRAELI SEPARATION WALL ACTIVITY SINCE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

In Resolution A/ES-10/14 adopted on 8 December 2003, the United Nations General Assembly requested the International Court of Justice to urgently render an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of a Wall being built by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around Jerusalem.

On 18 December 2003, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced that "Israel will greatly accelerate the construction of the security fence" in his speech given at the Herzliya Conference. Since the announcement, construction is proceeding more rapidly along the entire the route of the separation wall.

This Trend Analysis outlines the current status of Israeli separation wall construction and implementation of the permit system in the Closed Zone, between the separation wall and the Green Line, since the date of the request for the advisory opinion. It updates three earlier Trend Analyses:

- *Separation Wall "Closed Zone": Implementation of Permit System, October 2003*, dated 30 October 2003;
- *Israeli Separation Wall Activity Since United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003*, dated 12 November 2003; and
- *Israeli Separation Wall Activity Update*, dated 10 December 2003.

## Summary of Trends

With completion of construction of the separation wall in a number of areas, including double-walled areas and the creation of non-contiguous enclaves, access to basic social services such as health and education has been severed in a number of communities.

Throughout the period covered in this Trend Analysis, there has been a significant increase in land confiscation and land leveling for construction of the separation wall in the western, northern and eastern West Bank. For instance, a large number of land confiscation orders have been issued in the Jerusalem area.

House demolition orders and house demolitions have occurred at an increased rate along the route and in the environs of the separation wall, including in the Closed Zone. House demolitions in smaller villages, such as Aqaba in the northeastern West Bank, in which 12 of a total of 18 structures have received demolition orders, threaten the continued existence of communities. Furthermore, in the Closed Zone near the settlement of Alfe Menashe, where 1200 Palestinians live, 16 homes are under the threat of demolition.

Construction of the separation wall has accelerated in the city of Jerusalem, creating clearer lines of *de facto* annexation. The socio-economic impacts of the separation wall where it has been completed in other areas of the West Bank are increasingly apparent in the areas of current construction.

The measures instituted in the Closed Zone continue to be unpredictable and unreliable. New requirements for permits for the Closed Zone have now been put in place by the Israeli army necessitating Palestinians to procure land documents and apply for an Israeli security magnetic identification card. There are no clear criteria for the granting of permits. The opening times of separation wall gates fluctuate and procedures are applied haphazardly and depend on the whim of Israeli soldiers.

There is evidence to suggest that Palestinians living within double-walled areas and the Closed Zone have been considering the viability of remaining in areas that can no longer support the economic, social and cultural well-being of communities. This has led to forced migration of Palestinians to larger cities, where modern educational facilities are available and employment is more secure.

### **A. STATUS OF SEPARATION WALL CONSTRUCTION**

To date 186 km of the separation wall has been completed in the northern, eastern and central (Jerusalem) West Bank and an additional 25 km is currently under construction. As well, 381 km of the separation wall has been approved for construction and an additional 196 km can be projected or has been recommended by the Israeli military. The total length of the separation wall according to these figures based on the latest calculations will be 788 km.

### 1. Separation Wall Completed to Date

Six sections of the separation wall have been completed to date.

a. Salem-Mutilla:	31 km
b. Jordan River/Mutilla	9 km
c. Salem-Masha (Qalqilya/Salfit):	126 km
d. Ramallah/Jerusalem:	9 km
e. Bet Sahur/Bethlehem/Jerusalem (South):	10 km
f. Abu Dis/ Eizariya	1 km

**Total:** **186 km**

### 2. Separation Wall Currently Under Construction

There are three sections of the separation wall currently under construction.

a. Abu Dis/Eizariya:	14 km
b. Mutilla-Mehola (Jordan River)	6 km
c. Rantis	5 km

**Total:** **25 km**

### 3. Trajectory of Separation Wall Approved

There are six sections of the separation wall that have been approved for immediate construction. The Jerusalem area enclaves have been approved and announced around the suburbs of Jib-Bir Nabala, Ar Ram, Anata, Hizma, Shu'fat Refugee Camp and around Al Walaja.

a. Masha-Ariel-Ramallah:	132 km
b. Mutilla-Tayasir (Jordan Valley):	14 km
c. Gilo (Bethlehem)-Um Daraj (Hebron):	129 km
d. Double Walled Areas	
(i) Qibya:	25 km
(ii) Bet Ur:	42 km
e. Internal Jerusalem enclaves	
(i) Jib:	17 km
(ii) Al Walaja:	5 km
f. Ar Ram-Anata:	17 km

**Total:** **381 km**

### 4. Projected Trajectory of Separation Wall

There is an additional projected section of the separation wall in the Jordan Valley. The Eastern separation wall will run 196 km from the village of Tayasir to the Hebron Hills.

## 5. Correlation of Separation Wall to Green Line

Of the total separation wall length calculated to date (788 km), only 6 per cent will be located within 100 meters of the Green Line, and that almost entirely on Occupied Palestinian Territory. Of the separation wall constructed to date, only 22 per cent is located within 100 meters of the Green Line, and that almost entirely on Occupied Palestinian Territory, as follows:

- a. 41 km of the separation wall are within 100 m of the Green Line.
- b. 3 km of the separation wall are within 100 m and 200 m of the Green Line.
- c. 17 km of the separation wall are within 200 m and 1000 m of the Green Line
- d. 124 km of the separation wall are within 1000 m and 8000 m of the Green Line

## 6. Land Taken by Separation Wall

If all 788 km of the separation wall are completed, then more than 43.5 per cent of the West Bank will have been taken by Israel and will be located outside the separation wall. This will leave 56.5 per cent of the West Bank as enclosed Palestinian areas. Of this figure, 2 per cent of the West Bank will be inside enclaves.

- a. To date, the completed section of the separation wall from Salem to Masha (Salfit) has appropriated 95 square km of land, or 1.6 per cent of the West Bank.
- b. The next approved phase of separation wall construction (around Ariel, Adummim and Hebron) will take an additional 661 square km of land. This is almost an additional 11.4 per cent of the West Bank, bringing the total land outside the already constructed and approved western sections of the separation wall to 13 per cent of the West Bank.
- c. If the recommended sections of the Eastern separation wall are completed, another approximately 1,786 square km of land, or 30.5 per cent of the West Bank, will be appropriated. This will bring the total area outside the separation wall to 2541 square km, or 43.5 per cent of the West Bank, leaving 56.5 per cent as walled-in Palestinian areas.
- d. The Jerusalem area separation wall will take approximately 336 square km over a length of 145 km, which includes the settlement blocs of Giv'on, Adummim and Etzion West.

## 7. Population Excluded by Separation Wall

Currently, about 13,500 Palestinians are outside the separation wall, but the number will rise to 343,300 if all sections are completed.

- a. There are currently 15 Palestinian villages with approximately 13,500 residents located outside the completed sections of the separation wall.
- b. There will be an additional 60 Palestinian villages and towns located outside the sections of the separation wall that are under construction or that have been approved. The total number of 75 villages and towns constitute 13 per cent of all recognized West Bank Palestinian localities. The total number of inhabitants will be nearly 336,000 (some 65 per cent made up of East Jerusalem residents), comprising about 14.5 per cent of the Palestinian population of the West Bank.

- c. With inclusion of the Jordan Valley sections, there will be a total of 91 Palestinian villages and towns located outside the separation wall. This will bring the total number of inhabitants located outside the separation wall to 343,300, comprising 14.9 per cent of the Palestinian population of the West Bank.
- d. In addition, 156 Palestinian towns and villages have been directly affected by the separation wall because they have been cut off from their land. The inhabitants of these towns and villages number 522,000, comprising 22.6 per cent of the Palestinian population of the West Bank. Altogether, the number of Palestinians who will be located outside the separation wall or who will have lost land to the other side of the separation wall will be 865,300, or 37.5 per cent of the Palestinian population of the West Bank.

## **B. SEPARATION WALL LAND CONFISCATION AND HOUSE DEMOLITIONS**

### **8. City of Jerusalem (Governorate of Jerusalem)**

Separation wall construction continues in Abu Dis, Al Sawahira, Al Eizariya, Al Tur and Al Shayyah. Construction of the separation wall was completed in Al Adyara area (near the Faji Monastery) on 5 January, and one portion of the separation wall was completed in Al Eizariya on 17 December. Additionally, the Israeli army began leveling land in Sur Bahir on 13 February, and construction of the separation wall was begun on 17 February. The next day, the Israeli army closed the only road leading to the village of Sur Bahir, restricting access to a dairy factory and a cement factory in the village. The closure of the road will also prevent engineers from accessing a wastewater pump in the area that requires daily maintenance and supervision, and serves as the primary irrigation source for agricultural land in the area.

On 19 December, Israeli authorities issued land confiscation orders for 8,000 *dunums* (2,000 acres) from Beit 'Anan, an estimated two-thirds of the village lands, for construction of the separation wall. On 6 January, Palestinian residents of Beit Surik and Beit 'Anan received land confiscation orders for 2,500 *dunums* (625 acres) and 400 *dunums* (100 acres), respectively. On 15 January, the Israeli authorities issued confiscation orders for 107 *dunums* (26.75 acres) of land from Shu'fat refugee camp and the town of 'Anata. On 28 January, the Israeli army confiscated 2,000 *dunums* (500 acres) of land belonging to the villages of Beit Iksa and Beit Surik. Land confiscation orders were also issued to residents of Liqya, Biddu, Qibya, and Al Qubeiba, and an additional 45 *dunums* (11.25 acres) of land was confiscated from Al Eizariya.

On 12 December, Israeli authorities demolished a house and a gas station in the Jabal al Mukabbir neighborhood for separation wall construction. On 21 December, several residents of the villages of Liqya, Beit Anan, Qatanna and Biddu received land confiscation orders and 20 house demolition orders. On 22 December, Israeli authorities delivered verbal notices of eviction and demolition to residents of the area southeast of 'Anata village, in addition to orders for the demolition of 20 sheep pens. On 28 and 29 January, the Israeli army issued eviction orders to 14 households belonging to the Arab Jahalin Bedouins in Dahiyat Salaam and Anata, notifying residents that they had 72 hours to vacate their homes before demolition.

### **9. Villages of Nahalin and Al Khas, and the Town of Husan (Governorate of Bethlehem)**

Land has been leveled for construction of the separation wall between the village of Nahhalin and the town of Husan, in addition to land belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church near checkpoint 300, separating Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

On 28 January, the Israeli army issued a military order changing the route of the separation wall passing through the village of Al Khas and confiscating 541 *dunums* (135.25 acres) of land. The confiscation of land will isolate 40 Palestinian houses that will be situated outside the separation wall. Prior to this, on 14 January, the Israeli army destroyed a privately owned livestock ranch consisting of 400 *dunums* (100 acres) of land for construction of the separation wall.

### **10. Villages of Rantis, Shuqba, Qibya, Budrus, Beit Liqya and Midya (Governorate of Ramallah/El Bireh)**

Land leveling continues in the villages of Rantis, Shuqba, and Qibya for construction of the separation wall. On 14 December, additional land was leveled in the village of Qibya for the construction of an Israeli settler bypass road and an additional 500 *dunums* (125 acres) of land was confiscated from the village of Rantis on 18 January. By 15 December, land leveling activities had reached the entrance of the village of Budrus, where trees had been already marked for uprooting. On the same day, the Israeli Land Department posted signs warning farmers from the village of Midya from entering and working their land, as the lands were being prepared for leveling. On 17 February, construction of the separation wall began in the village of Midya. On 31 December, land leveling and uprooting of trees began in the area of Budrus and Ni'lin.

On 16 December, the Israeli authorities delivered confiscation orders with attached maps to the Palestinian Ministry of Civil Affairs in Ramallah for confiscation of land stretching from Beit Sira to Beit Nuba for construction of the separation wall. On the same day, the Israeli army, entered the village of Beit Liqya, west of Ramallah, and notified house owners located south of the village to vacate their houses by the next day as they would be demolished for construction of the separation wall. The next day, the Israeli army raided the village of Beit Liqya again and posted orders announcing the confiscation of 2,100 *dunums* (525 acres) of land.

On 8 January 2004, Israeli authorities confiscated 1,500 *dunums* (375 acres) of land from the town of Beituniya, south of Ramallah, for construction of the separation wall. One month later, on 11 February, Israeli bulldozers began leveling agricultural land along the Israeli settler bypass road west of Beituniya.

On 15 January, Israeli authorities issued confiscation orders for 41 *dunums* (10.25 acres) of land from Beit Ur al Foqa for construction of the separation wall. The confiscation of this land will deny 400 students access to their schools in nearby towns and isolate 8 families from the village. On 9 February, the Israeli army began erecting barbed wire fences as part of the double-walled section of the separation wall, beginning at the adjacent Israeli settlement of Huron on land confiscated from the village of Beit Ur al Foqa, extending to the north and the west and separating the villages of Saffa from Bil'in, and then continuing westwards towards the Green Line.

### **11. Villages of Al Mughayyir and Raba, the Town of Tubas, the Village of ‘Aqaba (Governorate of Jenin), and the Villages of Bardala and ‘Ein al Beida (Governorate of Jericho)**

On 20 December, the Israeli army began leveling land in the northern area of the village of Bardala for construction of the eastern portion of the separation wall and, on 28 December, Israeli bulldozers leveled land east of the village of Al Mutilla in preparation for construction of the separation wall. On 31 December, the Israeli army sealed off pasturelands near the village of Raba, leveled land and destroyed water cisterns. On 18 February, the Israeli army confiscated an additional 100 *dunums* (25 acres) of land from the area of Tubas as a result of a recent rerouting of the trajectory of the separation wall.

At the beginning of the year, the village of Bardala was enclosed by the Israeli army through the construction of military watchtowers, and the Israeli army began digging a ditch along the Jordan River to the village of ‘Ein al Beida on 9 January. Construction of the separation wall began on 11 January along Al Buqe’a plateau, east of the town of Tubas. On 13 February, the Israeli military issued confiscation orders for 141 *dunums* (35.25 acres) of land in Al Mughayyir, in addition to the 2,500 *dunums* (625 acres) of land that have already been confiscated from the village for construction of the eastern portion of the separation wall.

On the morning of 23 December, the Israeli army sealed off the area around the village of Al ‘Aqaba and demolished 2 houses in the village, measuring 350 square meters and 70 square meters. Residents had no prior warning of the demolitions. The houses were included in demolition orders for a total of 12 structures, including houses, a kindergarten and a mosque, issued on 22 October 2003 for construction of the separation wall. The demolition orders were appealed at the Israeli military court, but the appeal was rejected and no time was set for the demolitions. Residents have applied for licenses for both the mosque and kindergarten, but it is likely that these will be refused as building licenses are very rarely issued for locations in Area C. Additionally, on 23 January in the village of Jalbun, the Israeli army demolished 2 houses, measuring 120-150 square meters each, a livestock barracks and a cement block factory because of their proximity to the separation wall.

### **12. Villages of Irtah and Far’un (Governorate of Tulkarem)**

On 18 December, the Israeli army began leveling an estimated area of 100 *dunums* (25 acres) of land in Far’un village. On 12 January, the Israeli army completed leveling approximately 500 *dunums* (125 acres) of land located between the village of Irtah and Far’un, south of the city of Tulkarem, and land leveling south of the village of Far’un was begun. On 9 February, the Israeli army leveled 150 *dunums* (37.5 acres) of olive groves from land belonging to Kafr al Labad. On 23 January, the Israeli army dug a road on land belonging to the village of Far’un and demolished 2 houses because of their proximity to the separation wall being constructed in the area.

### **13. Villages of ‘Azzun ‘Atma, Wad Irsha, Ras Tira and Dab’a (Governorate of Qalqilya)**

On 26 December, the Israeli army warned several civilians in the village of ‘Azzun ‘Atma (located behind the separation wall) that 10 houses and storehouses would be demolished. At the beginning of this year, the Israeli army issued 2 demolition orders and 7 stop work orders to the Arab Ramadin Bedouin, housing approximately 40 people. In nearby Wad Irsha, villagers received 5 demolition

orders for houses in April 2003. There are a total of 22 homes in the village. Roughly 300 Arab Ramadin Bedouin and 100 Abu Farda Bedouin live in the Closed Zone near the Alfe Menashe settlement, along with the villages of Wad Irsha, Ras Tira and Dab'a, with a total population of 1,200 people. In February 2004, the Israeli military court rejected an appeal by homeowners in Wad Irsha against the demolitions and now the case will be moved to the Israeli High Court of Justice. In the case of the Arab Ramadin, as of 10 February, 3 of the stop work orders were changed to demolition orders, bringing the total to 5 demolition orders and 4 stop work orders in an area with approximately 35 homes. In nearby Abu Fardi, there are 2 stop work orders in an area of 10 homes.

### **C. SEPARATION WALL “CLOSED ZONE” PERMIT SYSTEM**

#### **14. Village of Ras Tira (Governorate of Qalqilya)**

Permits for Permanent Residence in the Closed Zone: As of January 2004, all of the current residents of Ras Tira had been granted permanent residency permits. However, residents who had not received permits in October 2003 were unable to leave the Closed Zone and visit or work in the neighboring villages of Ras 'Atiya and Habla or the city of Qalqilya during November and December. Additionally, those residents who are studying abroad or living in other villages outside of Ras Tira still have not received their residency permits. This will prove problematic as, for example, if a resident of Ras Tira marries and moves to another West Bank village or city, they will not be permitted to enter the Closed Zone unless they obtain a permit from the Israeli Civil Administration.

#### **15. Village of Dab'a (Governorate of Qalqilya)**

Closure of Gates: Currently, the opening times for the Dab'a gates are 7:00-8:15 am, 12:30-1:45 pm and 4:00-5:15 pm. Villagers report that these times can vary, and if the Israeli army reports any problems in the area, all gates close, as was the case on 11 January 2004.

In December, a doctor was not allowed to cross the Ras Atiya gate in order to care for a sick child in Dab'a. The parents were forced to bring the sick child to the gate in order to receive an injection from the doctor at the gate.

Rising Local Tension: In January 2004, the mayor of Dab'a received a phone call from an officer from the Israeli Civil Administration warning him that the Israeli army would shoot any person, including children, who came too close a distance to the separation wall. The officer was responding to allegations that two schoolchildren dug a hole and crawled under the separation wall in December 2003.

Settlement Construction: On 27 November 2003, the Israeli military announced a series of measures that would “ease conditions” in the Qalqilya area. One of these measures included the announcement of the re-routing of Alfe Menashe settlement traffic to a new feeder road that will be constructed, connecting Alfe Menashe to the new bypass road that will connect the Shomron settlement bloc to the Nirit settlement. This new bypass road, measuring 22 meters wide, will cross through the village of Dab'a.

## **16. Village of 'Azzun 'Atma (Governorate of Qalqilya)**

Permits for Vehicles in the Closed Zone: Trucks carrying bread, poultry and other basic supplies are not permitted to enter through the gate. All supplies to the village are received via the “back-to-back” system, where goods are off-loaded from one truck and then on-loaded onto another truck on the other side of the gate, significantly increasing transportation costs. Additionally, taxis are not permitted to cross the gate, so passengers must walk the 1 to 2 km from the gate to the village or to their farms. There have also been reports of both physical and verbal assaults by Israeli soldiers stationed at the gate.

## **17. Village of Wad Irsha (Governorate of Qalqilya)**

Permits for Permanent Residence in the Closed Zone: All Wad Irsha residents have been issued permanent residency permits.

Closure of Gates: The daily lives of the 46 schoolchildren from the Arab Ramadin village, located approximately 100 meters from the village of Wad Irsha, have been severely disrupted. Until the beginning of January 2004, the Bedouin schoolchildren were permitted to use two small Israeli army controlled gates along the separation wall. In order to pass through these gates, the children would form a group and were escorted along the separation wall by the Israeli army, and allowed to enter and exit only twice each day. At the beginning of January, both of these gates were sealed shut by the Israeli army and re-opened two weeks later. During that time, the children had to travel a much longer distance, roughly 7 km round-trip daily, in order to reach their schools. Due to the fact that there are no service taxis in the Closed Zone and since private taxis are too expensive for most villagers, children had to walk down the main road to the Ras Atiya gate and then to their schools in Habla.

## **18. Village of Jayyus (Governorate of Qalqilya)**

Closure of Gates: The gates are opened twice daily—at 8:30 am and again at 7:00 pm. People often have to wait for the gates to be unlocked. Jayyus farmers report that Israeli soldiers often change the opening times of the gates without notifying residents. For instance, during one week in December 2003, gates were opened at 8:00. The following week, the opening time was changed to 7:30 am without notice, causing farmers to miss the gate opening.

De-populating the Closed Zone: Ali Abu Shareb, his wife and 7 children are the only Jayyus family living on the western side of the separation wall. Their home was separated from the rest of the village as a result of construction of the separation wall. In early January 2004, an Israeli officer from the Civil Administration visited them and informed them that they would have to move to the eastern side of the separation wall or they would encircle the house with a fence, preventing the sheep from grazing. To date, the family has been permitted to use the southern agricultural gate twice daily in order for their children to attend school inside the village. The southern gate has been closed for over a month for the rest of the Jayyus villagers, forcing farmers to travel several more kilometers daily in order to use the other agricultural gate in Jayyus.

## 19. City of Qalqilya (Governorate of Qalqilya)

Permits to Access Land in the Closed Zone: At the beginning of the Closed Zone permit system in October 2003, the Qalqilya municipality followed-up regularly on permits initially delivered to them by the Israeli Civil Administration, and applied for permits on behalf of farmers. At the time, only 300 farmers received permits, with a total of 75 per cent of farmers not receiving permits. Since then, Israeli officers have been encouraging Palestinians to go individually to the Civil Administration to apply for permits. Civil Administration officers visit farmers on their farms and give them their mobile numbers and encourage them to apply independently. This is creating tension within the community, as those who apply individually are looked upon with suspicion by others. Israeli authorities are encouraging these “one-on-one” relations reminiscent of the “pre-DCO period”. Those in possession of permits sometimes do not admit to having them, so actual numbers now will be more difficult to determine. To date, approximately 40 per cent of those in need of permits have received them.

New Regulations for Obtaining Closed Zone Permits: As of 20 January 2004, the Israeli army is requiring all Palestinians applying for permits to access the Closed Zone to obtain land approval documents issued by the Israeli Civil Administration and a magnetic identification card issued by the Israeli General Security Services. In order to fulfill these requirements, Palestinians must carry out the following:

1. Obtain an Israeli issued Land Approval Document (LAD) issued in the year 2004 from the Israeli Civil Administration, which states that the applicant owns land behind the separation wall. The Israeli Civil Administration does not accept documents that are issued by the Palestinian Authority. In order to obtain the LAD, Palestinians must:
  - a) Prepare a document of inheritance that includes announcing their claim of ownership in local newspapers for 1 week and then appearing before a judge in court with two witnesses. After the document of inheritance is ready, Palestinians return to the court in order for the court to verify that the land is not sold or mortgaged.
  - b) Prove the “consistency of the name”. Palestinian land documentation and census was taken during Jordanian rule. The official registration name at the time was the three names of grandfathers and does not necessarily include the family name. However, Israeli documentation procedures only include the names of two grandfathers. As a result, documentation is inconsistent. In order to remedy this, the applicant must swear before the court regarding the discrepancy in name.
  - c) Obtain a document from the municipality verifying that all of the above-mentioned information is true.
  - d) Submit all of these papers to the Israeli Civil Administration and wait for an answer regarding the LAD.
2. If the LAD is obtained, the applicant must then apply for a magnetic identification card, which constitutes security clearance from the Israeli General Security Services. This process usually takes between 2 to 3 weeks.
3. If the LAD and the magnetic identification card are obtained, the farmer/landowner may then apply for a permit and wait for an answer, which is at the discretion of the Israeli General Security Services.

Closure of Gates/Checkpoints: As part of a series of measures to ease closure restrictions announced by the Israeli Civil Administration on 27 November 2003, the main DCO checkpoint was opened to taxis and other vehicles on a 24-hour basis. As of 1 January 2004, there are no longer Israeli soldiers stationed at the checkpoint. This, however, provides little relief on movement restrictions, as Israeli soldiers return frequently, almost daily, and re-impose the checkpoint. After passing the DCO checkpoint, if Palestinians want to travel towards the west, they will immediately face a checkpoint on the Route 55 by-pass road (a distance of approximately 200 meters) from the DCO checkpoint. This checkpoint, the Jarjouliya checkpoint, was moved an additional 3 km further into the West Bank on 5 November 2003. At this checkpoint, Palestinians are asked for permits to Israel and, without one, they are not permitted to cross the checkpoint. If they own land in this area, they will not be able to access it, as Closed Zone access permits are not honored at this checkpoint (only Closed Zone residency permits for Dab'a, Ras Tira, and Wad Irsha are valid at this checkpoint). Although cars are permitted through the checkpoint, trucks have not been permitted to access agricultural land. Consequently, trucks cannot transport produce from farms in the southern area to markets. There have been reports that farmers have been chased out of these areas, as well as in the north, by Israeli army jeeps.

In the future, the separation wall will permanently seal the Jarjouliya checkpoint and settlers will use a new bypass road that will run through the south of Qalqilya and will further isolate and contain the villages of Ras Atiya, Dab'a, Ras Tira and Habla. Additionally, another permanent checkpoint will soon be established near Immatin, east of the bypass road. As a result, movement of people and goods between Nablus and Qalqilya will be controlled and possibly re-routed to the north in order to bypass the Shomron and Kedumim settlements. Instead of Israeli soldiers controlling the DCO checkpoint, there is a permanent checkpoint just to the west where the road will be eventually sealed by the separation wall, and there will soon be a permanent checkpoint to the east. At present, there are 'flying' checkpoints set up to the east to control movement towards Nablus.

The Qalqilya northern gate has been closed since 4 October 2003. Since then, the roughly 280 families who depend on this area for their livelihood have been denied access. Only 2 vehicles have been granted permits in this area and one was not renewed. Since the DCO checkpoint was opened, farmers might be able to access their land in this area, but this requires walking several kilometers, going through the DCO checkpoint and around towards the Zufin settlement. The Israeli army patrols the road, so if farmers are not in possession of a Closed Zone permit and are stopped, they will be turned back. As a result, many of the farmers are dismantling and selling their greenhouses. Others are rented out as storage pens for sheep, as access for grazing is also limited and farmers cannot afford to maintain their greenhouses.

Construction of Tunnel: Construction of a tunnel between the village of Habla and the city of Qalqilya, under the Qalqilya-Kedumim road, began on 11 January 2004 and is expected to be completed within 3 months. The Israeli army will control passage through the tunnel. Since movement between the two areas will be underground, Palestinian access to 800 *dunums* (200 acres) of agricultural land in the southern region of Qalqilya will be cut. Three hundred families depend on this land for their livelihood.

## **20. Village of Qaffin (Governorate of Tulkarem)**

Population: 9000

Location: Qaffin is situated to the east of the separation wall, but approximately two-thirds of its land, 6000 *dunums* (1,500 acres) of mostly olive trees, is to the west of the separation wall.

Permits to Access Land in the Closed Zone: There is an agricultural gate separating Qaffin from its land in the Closed Zone and the villages of Baqa Sharqiya, Nazlat Issa and Abu Nar. Residents of Qaffin must apply for permits to access their land. In early October, 300 individuals received permits to access their land in the Closed Zone. A few weeks later, another 300 farmers received permits. Approximately 700 Qaffin families have either lost land or their land has now been isolated as a result of the separation wall. As a result, approximately 2000 people require permits to access their land. Qaffin has an unemployment rate of over 80 per cent. As is the case in many West Bank villages prior to the *Intifada*, the majority of Qaffin residents worked inside Israel.

Farmers from Qaffin received Closed Zone permits that were valid for only one month. Israeli authorities did not renew their permits, the reason given being that there are mostly olive trees in the Closed Zone and, since the olive season is in October and November, farmers do not require permits when the season is over.

## **21. Village of Zayta (Governorate of Tulkarem)**

Permits to Access Land in the Closed Zone: By the end of December 2003, the majority of farmers had still not received permits to access the Closed Zone. One farmer and his family were separated from the rest of the village as a result of construction of the separation wall. In August 2003, 75 year-old Zikrallah Aqad was forced to move his 3 children into the village to live with relatives on the eastern side of the separation wall in order for them to attend school. As farming is the sole source of income for Zikrallah and his family, he and his eldest daughter have remained on his 7 *dunums* (1.75 acres) farm. In September, Zikrallah's electricity was cut as a result of construction of the separation wall and he remained without it for more than 20 days. During that time, the mayor of Zayta made several pleas to the Israeli Civil Administration in order for the electricity to be repaired. Finally, the Palestinian Electricity Company was permitted to enter the area and repair the wires.

Life is becoming increasingly difficult for Zikrallah as he now must travel several kilometers in order to reach his own village and the road that he uses will eventually be cut as a result of construction of the separation wall in the area. Despite several pleas by the mayor of Zayta and Zikrallah to the Israeli Civil Administration to install a gate for Zikrallah in order for his family to remain together, no changes have occurred. Zikrallah was visited by an Israeli officer in September 2003 who told him that no gate or special facilities would be made for him.

Closure of Gates/Checkpoint: Despite Israeli media reports of the easing of conditions in the area and the opening of the area for residents from neighboring villages (it was reported that the separation wall currently under construction closer to the Green line, separating Baqa Sharqiya from Baqa Gharbiya, would be used instead of the separation wall constructed 3 km deeper into the West Bank) there have been no changes on the ground, including the easing of passage through gates. On the

contrary, villagers report an increased use of tear gas and both physical and verbal harassment by the Israeli army at the gates.

## **22. Village of Khirbet Jubara (Governorate of Tulkarem)**

Permits for Permanent Residence in the Closed Zone: The majority of residents had previously refused to obtain permits or accept permits that had been unilaterally issued by Israeli authorities. However, during the second week of November 2003, after punitive denial of movement, 30 individuals accepted permanent residency permits. Then again, on 20 December, the remaining villagers who had refused permits were held at the Tulkarem checkpoint until they agreed to accept them. Additionally, those who were rejected permits for “security reasons” were granted residency permits, but permits were only valid for three months, while the other villagers received residency permits valid for one year.

## **23. Village of Mutilla (Governorate of Jenin)**

Closure: In early December 2003, several hundred olive trees belonging to villagers from Mutilla were uprooted. Farmers were not permitted to collect the trees for re-planting. An area of 300 meters from construction of the separation wall is considered a closed military area, preventing villagers from tending their olive trees.