

## مجموعة الرقابة الفلسطينية



### PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP

## TREND ANALYSIS

### ISRAEL'S CONTINUED WALL CONSTRUCTION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY: WALL ACTIVITY SINCE 27 FEBRUARY 2005

#### Introduction

One year ago today – on 09 July 2004 – the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued its Advisory Opinion concerning the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*.

Since then, Israel has continued construction of the Wall, confiscating thousands of *dunums* of Palestinian land, destroying or isolating Palestinian civilians from hundreds of other *dunums*, and separating Palestinian civilians from one another and their sources of livelihood. The revised route of the Wall approved by the Israeli government on 20 February 2005 leaves nearly all portions of the Wall's path in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, contrary to the ICJ opinion.

This Trend Analysis updates six earlier PMG Trend Analyses and covers activity surrounding the Wall and its associated regime since the last update of 27 February 2005.<sup>1</sup> It features select information indicative of trends and represents only a portion of Israel's Wall activity during that period.

#### Background

Paragraph 163 of the ICJ opinion stated:

Israel is under an obligation to terminate its breaches of international law; it is under an obligation to cease forthwith the works of construction of the Wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated, and to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto ....

In resolution ES-10/15, adopted during its Tenth Emergency Special Session on 20 July 2004, the UN General Assembly demanded "that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations as mentioned in the Advisory Opinion". The resolution further requested that the UN Secretary-General establish a register of damages in connection with Israel's legal obligation to make reparations for the injuries caused as a result of construction of the Wall. Though the UN Secretary-General presented in January 2005 a proposed structure for the registry, to date, there has been no discernible action taken to establish the registry.

<sup>1</sup> For past PMG Wall Trend Analyses, see <http://www.nad-plo.org/>.

## Summary of Trends

- Wall construction occurred in 6 of 10 West Bank governorates in the period since 27 February. During the same period, the Israeli military issued **orders for the confiscation of over 3,000 dunums (750 acres) of West Bank land for Wall construction**. The Israeli military issued orders for confiscation of over 1,900 *dunums* (475 acres) of additional West Bank land for other purposes, including road construction and for building fences around Israeli settlements, expanding, in some cases, the perimeters of the settlements.
- Ongoing Wall construction, along with “roads and tunnels” work, reveals Israel’s intention to continue to expand and consolidate control over the Occupied West Bank, including Occupied Palestinian East Jerusalem, effectively **pre-empting the possibility of a two-state solution**.
- Land levelling began in several areas for the portion of the Wall designed to encompass the Ariel settlement bloc.
- Access to the “Closed Zone” is **increasingly restricted**. Those applying for permits are required to submit numerous official documents before their application is considered. At Ras ‘Atiya Wall gate in the Qalqiliya Governorate, the Israeli military has implemented new, computerized procedures wherein **civilians are photographed and must submit to a finger scan**.
- The Israeli authorities have closed a number of Wall gates. While some gates are being opened for extended periods of time, the **increased travel times required to access the reduced number of gates** eliminates any alleged benefit to Palestinian civilians of the extended gate hours.
- Increasing numbers of Palestinian farmers report that they are **no longer able to cultivate their land** in the Closed Zone, either due to their inability to obtain permits or because of arduous procedures required for accessing the land, such as erratic Wall gate openings, lengthy travel times and increased transportation and production costs. Additionally, several hundred *dunums* of land cultivated with olive trees in the Closed Zone in the Tulkarem Governorate were **damaged by fire** in May and June.
- The February 2005 approved route of the Wall increases the land area of Israeli-controlled Jerusalem by a net of 3 square kilometres. In so doing, Israel is creating **additional “facts on the ground” in order to pre-empt a negotiated solution on Jerusalem**.
- Since February 2005, the Israeli military has **confiscated** over 770 *dunums* (192.5 acres) of Palestinian land in the Bethlehem Governorate for Wall construction. Additionally, the Israeli military has carried out a number of **house demolitions** and issued numerous **Evacuation Orders** and **Stop Work Orders** along the Wall’s approved path in the western Bethlehem Governorate. Given that the land threatened with confiscation and isolation in this area is of intense cash crop cultivation, the Wall will have a **severe impact on the socio-economic viability of the region**.
- **Implementation of Israel’s “Roads and Tunnels” plan continued** throughout the reporting period. The plan creates a segregated West Bank road system – one for Israeli settlers and one for Palestinians. It substitutes Palestinian territorial contiguity with “transportation contiguity”, institutionalises the regime of internal closures, and **facilitates the continued presence of the Wall regime** by diverting Palestinian traffic away from Israeli settlements, settler-only bypass roads and from areas west of the wall. The Wall and Israel’s closure of roads have already resulted in increased travel distances and transportation costs for Palestinian civilians. In many cases, the plan will worsen the situation. Increased distances, slower travel times, and, frequently, rougher roads will decrease the competitiveness of Palestinian products regionally and require Palestinian civilians to pay extra and unnecessary costs for goods and services, **severely prejudicing the socio-economic viability of a Palestinian state**.
- Deteriorating living conditions, including a poor economic situation in numerous Wall-adjacent areas, is **prompting shifts in population** as Palestinian civilians re-locate in search of better opportunities and access to basic services such as health and education.

## A. WALL CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED ACTIVITY BY GOVERNORATE

### 1. Governorate of Jerusalem<sup>2</sup>

Wall construction continued to take place throughout the Jerusalem Governorate since 27 February. In the north-west, construction took place from the village of Beit Surik to Biddu, and in the areas of Al Judeira, Bir Nabala, and Beit Hanina. In the north, construction occurred between Qalandiya checkpoint and the areas of Dahiyat al Barid and Ar Ram, between Ar Ram and the Israeli settlement of Neve Ya'acov, and in Dahiyat al Aqbat. To the north-east, construction occurred from the village of Hizma to 'Anata and along the Hizma-Jaba' road. To the south-east, construction took place in the area of Al 'Eizariya to Ash Shayyah, near Al Quds University, and in the town of As Sawahira ash Sharqiya.

In the Jerusalem Governorate, the Wall isolates the Palestinian population to its west from other areas of the West Bank. Residents of Jerusalem's north-west (e.g. Bir Nabala, Al Jib, Al Judeira) and north-east villages (e.g. Jab'a, Anata village, Anata refugee camp, Hizma) are being separated from one another and from the city itself, which historically has served as an economic and social hub.

- Since 27 February, the Israeli army has confiscated over 350 *dunums* (87.5 acres) of Palestinian land in the Jerusalem Governorate for Wall construction.<sup>3</sup>
- In order to locate the Ma'ale Adumim settlement bloc outside of the Wall, the February 2005 approved Wall path extends 13 kilometres beyond the 1967 boundary.
- On 06 March, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected the petition from the village of Beit Surik (population 3,592) to freeze construction of the Wall in the area. 15% of Beit Surik's village land will be de-facto annexed by Israel as a result of the Wall.
- No decision has been issued yet by the Israeli High Court concerning the petition against Wall construction filed by residents of Ar Ram.
- Throughout the period, the Israeli army continued to close the Wall gate in the town of Abu Dis with cement blocks, completely preventing civilians from crossing.

#### *Other Activity*

- Extensive construction work, including large-scale land levelling and placement of a number of structures, has occurred at Qalandiya checkpoint. According to Israeli media reports and statements by Israeli military officials, the construction is for a new checkpoint terminal. Though this new terminal resembles an international crossing point in size and infrastructure, and is referred to as a "border crossing" by Israeli authorities, it is located 8 km from the 1967 border inside Occupied Palestinian Territory. The terminal, which is scheduled to open in August 2005, will reportedly contain 7 lanes for pedestrian traffic and 4 for vehicular traffic. Offices of the Israeli Civil Administration will also reportedly be located there.
- Israeli media reports from May indicated that the Municipality of Jerusalem intends to demolish over 88 Palestinian-owned structures – home to some 1,000 Palestinian civilians – in the area of Al Bustan in Silwan. In November 2004, Uri Shitreet, Jerusalem Municipality Engineer, ordered the demolition of all structures in the area as their existence allegedly violates the Municipal plan.<sup>4</sup> As of mid-June, 64 Palestinian-owned structures in the area of Al Bustan had been issued demolition orders. Affected residents have appealed these orders. On 07 June, the Mayor of Jerusalem released a press statement on the issue, but it gave no indication that the demolition orders had, or would be, repealed. The court case is still in progress.
- Construction continued near Za'im on the tunnel portion of the "Ring Road", designed to link Jerusalem-area Israeli settlements and sever contiguity between Palestinian neighbourhoods.

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<sup>2</sup> For more details on Wall construction by Governorate, see Annex.

<sup>3</sup> Military Orders, nos. T/02/05, T/81/05, T/54/05, T/62/05 and C/73/05, on file at the PMG.

<sup>4</sup> Copy of letter on file at the PMG.

## 2. Governorate of Ramallah and El Bireh

Wall construction took place in the areas of Al Midya to Budrus, Al Midya to Ni'lin, Bil'in to Saffa, in the village of Beit Liqya, and in the town of Beituniya.

*Budrus:* Construction continues to the southwest of the village on agricultural land containing olive trees and other cultivations. A petition to the Israeli High Court filed by village residents protesting Wall construction was rejected in late May.

*Bil'in:* Land levelling continues to the west of the village. On 31 May, the Israeli army uprooted 200 olive trees belonging to civilians in the village of Bil'in as a result of land levelling for the Wall.

*Saffa:* Following a 21 day suspension, construction was resumed on 07 May for the segment of the Wall stretching from Saffa to Bil'in.

*Wall-related Killings:* On 04 May, Israeli soldiers positioned near the area of Wall construction in the village of Beit Liqya opened fire towards a number of children, allegedly for throwing stones, killing *Jamal Jaber Ibrahim Assi*, 14 years old, and *Oday Mufid Mahmoud Assi*, 15 years old.

*Other Activity:* In March, the Israeli army issued military orders for confiscation of some 1,560 *dunums* (390 acres) of land belonging to the villages of Kharbatha al Misbah, Beit Ur al Foqa, Beit Ur at Tahta, At Tira, Ein Arik, Deir Ibzi, Beit Liqya, and Beit Annan.<sup>5</sup> According to village residents, the Israeli army informed them that the land confiscation is for a road that will link villages in the area.

## 3. Governorate of Tulkarem

Construction of the Jubara tunnel continues. The tunnel is designed to re-direct Palestinian traffic under Road 557, creating a "Palestinian-free" direct access point to Israel for settlers from the settlements of Avne Hefetz and Enav, who use Road 557 daily.

### *Other Activity*

- On 31 March, the Israeli military issued orders for the confiscation of 279.3 *dunums* (69.8 acres) of Palestinian land belonging to the villages of Shufa, Kafr al Labbad and Beit Lid. The Israeli military informed affected village residents that the confiscation is for construction of fences surrounding the Israeli settlements of Avne Hefetz and Enav, significantly expanding the perimeters of these 2 settlements.<sup>6</sup>

## 4. Governorate of Qalqiliya

In April, the Israeli military issued order no. T/65/05 confiscating 224 *dunums* (56 acres) of land belonging to Kafr Thulth and Azzun for construction of the Wall to the east of the two villages. In May, village residents filed a petition with the Israeli High Court protesting construction of the Wall in the area, which resulted in the repeal of the above mentioned military order. A decision by the Court is expected in mid-July.

- On 05 July, the Israeli military distributed order no. T/95/05 for confiscation of 189 *dunums* (47.25 acres) of land for Wall construction. A portion of this land belongs to Immatin (The remainder belongs to Deir Istiya in the Salfit Governorate).
- On 06 July, the Israeli army began cutting trees and levelling land along the approved path of the Wall to the southwest of Immatin and east of the Israeli settlement of Immanuel.

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<sup>5</sup> Military orders, nos. T/38/5, T/41/5, T/50/5 and T/66/5, on file at the PMG.

<sup>6</sup> Military orders, nos. T/68/05 and T/77/05, on file at the PMG.

**Harassment by Israeli Settlers:** For 3 years, Israeli settlers have been attacking 30 *dunums* (7.5 acres) of cultivated land belonging to *Abdul Latif Mohammed 'Ubeid*, 50 years old. The land is located east of the village of Kafr Qaddum. The affected land will be isolated from the village by the Wall if the approved “finger nail” designed to encompass the Israeli settlement of Kedumim is constructed. In late May, Israeli settlers set fire to 35 olive trees located on the land.

## 5. Governorate of Salfit

Wall construction took place in the town of Deir Ballut near the 1967 boundary, in the villages of Az Zawiya and Rafat, north of the city of Salfit, and between the village of Marda and the settlement of Ariel.

The approved path of the Wall dips 22 kilometres into Occupied Palestinian Territory in the Salfit District in order to include the Ariel settlement bloc to the west of the Wall, de-facto annexing 123 square kilometres of West Bank land. Completion of the Wall along the approved path will result in the complete disintegration of the Salfit District.

- On 25 May, the Israeli army began land levelling for Wall construction northwest of the city of Salfit.
- On 02 June, preparations for Wall construction began in the village of Marda. Wall construction in the area runs some 100 – 400 metres north of the fence surrounding the settlement of Ariel.
- On 11 May, the Israeli military issued order no. T/22/05 for confiscation of 14 *dunums* (3.5 acres) of land from the town of Deir Istiya for Wall construction.
- On 05 July, the Israeli military distributed order no. T/95/05 for confiscation of 189 *dunums* (47.25 acres) of land for Wall construction. A portion of the land belongs to Deir Istiya. (The remainder belongs to Immatin in the Qalqiliya Governorate).

Wall-related Injuries: On 06 April, Israeli guards opened fire at civilians, including women and children, from the village of Deir Ballut who were protesting Wall construction in the area. Those injured were *Majed Daoud Mahmoud Hussein Abdullah*, *Khalil Abd al Rahem Odeh Abdullah*, *Samer Daoud Mahmoud Hussein Abdullah* and *Hamada Abd al Wahab Mahmoud Hussein Abdullah*.

Other Activity: Construction works continue for the Trans-Samaria 2 Highway, part of a major bypass road network designed to connect settlements in the Jordan Valley with settlements in the central and western West Bank and Israel. The road's location in the middle of Palestinian land will not only sever Palestinian territorial contiguity, but result in restricted access by Palestinian owners to additional swathes of West Bank land located on either side of the highway.

**Changing Cost of Transportation in the Salfit Governorate:** Prior to September 2000, residents of the Salfit Governorate's western villages, such as Deir Ballut, Az Zawiya and Rafat, were able to reach the city of Salfit in approximately 10 minutes at a cost of NIS 3. At present, because the Israeli army has closed to Palestinian traffic the direct route linking the western villages to the Governorate's centre due to the presence of Israeli settlements, residents are forced to travel through a number of Palestinian villages. The trip now takes approximately 30 minutes and costs NIS 10. If the Wall is completed as planned in the area, these 3 villages will be surrounded on all sides by the Wall, with only one entry/exit point. Travel to reach Salfit City will increase exponentially as civilians will be forced to travel north to the town of Kafr Qaddum then south and east around the settlement of Ariel.

## 6. Governorate of Bethlehem

Wall construction took place at the main entrance to the city of Bethlehem, north of 'Ayda refugee camp towards the area north of the city of Beit Jala, and in the area surrounding Rachel's Tomb.

The approved February 2005 Wall route incorporates the Etzion settlement bloc to the west of the Wall. With a total land area of 72.7 km<sup>2</sup>, the Etzion settlement bloc is the second largest after Ariel at 123 km<sup>2</sup>. In order to include the Etzion bloc to the west of the Wall, the February 2005 route will also incorporate to the Wall's west most of Bethlehem's western villages, together with their cultivated lands, exposing them to future confiscation for settlement expansion. The livelihood and, thus, existence of these villages is at-risk.

- Since 27 February, the Israeli military has issued orders for the confiscation of over 770 *dunums* (192.5 acres) of Palestinian land in the Bethlehem Governorate for Wall construction.<sup>7</sup>
- Considerable construction occurred for the walled bypass road, allowing direct access by car for Jewish settlers to reach Rachel's Tomb. In so doing, the Wall will block the entry of 4 Palestinian-owned houses and local businesses. Additionally, concrete Wall portions were erected around the Israeli military camp adjacent to Rachel's Tomb and at the entrance to the city of Bethlehem.
- In early April, the Israeli military completed construction of a military watch tower located along the Wall's path, approximately 500 meters east of the built-up area of the village of Nu'man.
- In mid-April, the Israeli army informed residents of the village of Al Khadr of their intention to implement Military Order No. T/93/1, issued in 2001, for confiscation of 7.5 *dunums* (1.88 acres) of land that runs along Road No. 60 and falls to the east of the Wall's approved path.

#### *Other Activity*

- Since 27 February, the Israeli authorities have carried out a number of house demolitions, and issued numerous Evacuation Orders and military orders to halt construction along the Wall's approved path in the western Bethlehem Governorate. (*For details see Annex*).
- Construction continued on the Za'tara bypass road, which will link Israeli settlements in the south-east Bethlehem Governorate with settlements in Jerusalem.
- In early May, the Israeli army began construction in the area of Nu'man village of a road that will link to the Za'tara bypass road. This new road runs between Nu'man and its sister village of Al Khas. In late May, the Israeli army again closed the main road leading to Nu'man. Residents of the village now face significant transportation problems as people are forced instead to use the unpaved road that is under construction and inappropriate for vehicles.

#### **Impact of the Wall on Bethlehem's Western Villages**

The villages of Al Walaja, Husan, Battir, Wadi Fukin, Jaba, Nahhalin, Al Khadr and Beit Jala will lose 73.7 per cent, or 64.7 km<sup>2</sup>, of their total village lands, isolated west of the Wall. The village of Al Khadr alone is positioned to have 77 per cent of its cultivated land isolated, the largest land area of any West Bank village to date. The city of Beit Jala will be separated from some 62 per cent of its cultivated land.

Some 19,300 Palestinian civilians will be directly affected by the Wall in the western Bethlehem Governorate, either by being separated from their cultivated lands by the Wall or as a result of restricted/limited access to city services and facilities. In total, some 80 per cent of the population of the Bethlehem Governorate, or 135,400 Palestinian civilians, will be affected by Israel's inclusion of the Etzion settlement bloc by being separated from urban and rural land and area services.

In addition, Palestinian farmers are cut off from their markets in Jerusalem. As a result, most of their yields for the past few years have rotted in the fields. Prior to the *Intifada*, the village of Al Khadr land yielded 1.5 to 2 tonnes of grapes per *dunum*. With prices in Bethlehem now at NIS 1-2 per kilogram (as opposed to NIS 3.5-5 in Jerusalem before the *Intifada*) it is no longer feasible for farmers to harvest their crops. Now farmers report that they only harvest around 200 – 300 kilograms per *dunum*.

<sup>7</sup> Military orders, nos. T/85/05, T/86/05 and T/75/05, on file at the PMG.

## 7. Governorate of Hebron

Wall construction took place west of the town of Surif to Beit Ula, in the town of Idhna, from the village of Deir Samit to Beit 'Awwa, from Beit 'Awwa to the village of Al Burj, and south of the towns of Adh Dhahiriya and As Samoa'.

Since 27 February, the Israeli military has issued orders for the confiscation of 1,742.8 *dunums* (435.7 acres) of Palestinian land in the Hebron Governorate for Wall construction.<sup>8</sup> This represents over half the total amount of land confiscated for Wall construction since 27 February. Military orders for confiscation of an additional 144.1 *dunums* (36.03 acres) of land were issued for other purposes.

Land levelling is taking place in the area of Al Majd, Al Burj, Idhna, Tarqumiya, Beit Ula, Nuba, Kharas and Surif. Infrastructure work, such as laying the path of the Wall, is taking place in the areas of Al Burj, As Sikka, Beit Awwa, Deir Samit, and Surif.

- In late May, the Israeli army began levelling land and uprooting trees for the Wall in the village of Arab ar Ramadin in the southern Hebron Governorate.
- Since Wall construction began in the Surif area in mid-February, approximately 3,000 olive and other fruit bearing trees have been destroyed. On 02 July, some 40 olive trees were uprooted for Wall construction.

### B. "CLOSED ZONE" ACTIVITY

Passage through the Wall gates remains restricted to civilians granted "access permits" by the Israeli authorities and numerous Wall gates remain completely closed.

Civilians applying for "access permits" must go through a time-consuming and expensive bureaucratic process. Landowners must submit to the Israeli authorities a land registration certificate issued in 2005. In order to obtain this certificate, applicants must provide the following documents, among others:

- A. An affidavit made before a Palestinian Magistrate Court stating that the land is not mortgaged or sold and that it is under the control of its owner;
- B. A permit application;
- C. A copy of his/her ID card;
- D. A copy of the "certificate of succession", in cases where the landowner has inherited the land;
- E. In cases where there is a variation in the applicants' name on different documents, the applicant must provide a sworn affidavit affirming that the documents refer to the same individual;
- F. A certificate from the municipality or local council verifying the above-mentioned documents.

In order to apply for a labourer, who does not own land in the Closed Zone, to receive a permit, the owner of the land on which the labourer will work must submit:

- A. A 2005 registration certificate, along with a "certificate of succession", if necessary;
- B. A work agreement signed between the landowner and the labourer and certified by the Municipality;
- C. A permit application submitted by the landowner on behalf of the labourer.

In many cases, permits are issued only to those in whose name the land is registered or their children. Farmers that contract others to farm their land, those who have entered into sharecropping agreements, or those who have purchased land but have not yet registered it, often cannot obtain permits. Similar difficulties arise if the land is registered in the name of the farmer's grandparent. Given this, permits are often issued to elderly civilians, who are less capable of working the land than their younger family members.

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<sup>8</sup> Military orders, nos. T/03/05, T/71/05, T/76/05, and T/72/05 on file at the PMG.

## 1. Governorate of Jenin

- The Israeli military completed construction of the Jalama commercial terminal in April. It employs the “back-to-back” system for transfer of goods, which requires goods to be off-loaded one vehicle and then on-loaded onto a vehicle on the other side of the terminal. The terminal is currently open.
- Residents of ‘Anin, Zububa and Rummana have no access to their land in the Closed Zone. There is no Wall gate near Rummana and the Wall gates near ‘Anin and Zububa are closed, except during the olive harvest season. The total population of these three areas is 7,200.
- The Israeli military issued 3 Stop Work Orders in Dhaher al Malih, located in the Closed Zone in the north-western Jenin Governorate.
- Transportation costs for villages isolated in the Closed Zone have risen, in some cases, dramatically. Residents of Um ar Rihan report that, prior to the Wall, transport to the town of Ya’bad, located to the east of the Wall and southeast of the village, cost NIS 1.5. At present, reaching Ya’bad costs NIS 10, as villagers must first travel southwest, in order to exit the Closed Zone through the Zabda gate, and then proceed east to Ya’bad.

Um ar Rihan and Barta’a ash Sharqiya: Residents of Barta’a ash Sharqiya, located in the Closed Zone, report difficulties seeking medical treatment in cases of emergency, given that the Zabda Wall gate closes at 21:00. Residents are forced to either wait for extended periods until the Wall gate opens, or enter Israel without a permit in order to seek medical treatment.

Residents of both villages report that the Israeli military prohibits entry of a number of goods, including meat, electrical appliances, and gas. Palestinian civilians are thereby forced to purchase these goods from Israeli merchants, at higher prices. For example, a canister of gas from Israel runs NIS 40, compared to NIS 32 from a West Bank dealer.

## 2. Governorate of Tulkarem

- Of 13 Wall gates in the Tulkarem Governorate, 6 are not open for Palestinian use. Of the remaining 7: 3 are open all day (2 at Jubara, 1 at Deir al Ghusun); 1 is open for limited periods in the morning and evening (Deir al Ghusun); 1 is open only to Palestinian civilians holding permits to work in Israel and for “back-to-back” transfer of goods (Irtah); and 2 are only for Palestinian civilians residing in the Closed Zone (Nazlat ‘Issa and Shuweika).
- On 15 May, some 120 *dunums* (30 acres) of Closed Zone land cultivated with olive trees and belonging to Nazlat ‘Issa were burned. On 22 May and 17 June, several hundred *dunums* of Closed Zone land cultivated with olive trees and belonging to ‘Akkaba and Qaffin were burned. During the 17 June fire, the Israeli army prohibited Palestinian farmers or the fire truck from accessing their land to attempt to put out the fire for over 1 hour, at which point they allowed access to 1 fire truck and 5 Palestinian farmers. While the source of the fires remains unclear, the Israeli army’s failure to allow regular access to the Closed Zone contributed to the damage. Farmers have been unable to regularly tend their fields. As a result, fields are drier than normal and considerable brush existed within and between cultivated areas, facilitating the rapid spread of the fires.
- The percentage of “access permits” issued by the Israeli authorities for Palestinian civilians in the Tulkarem Governorate varies. From 01 March – 31 May, out of 871 applicants from Qaffin, only 16 per cent received permits; 58 per cent of 315 total applicants from ‘Attil, Deir al Ghusun and ‘Illar received permits; 22 per cent of 900 applicants from ‘Akkaba received permits; 19 per cent of 1,222 total applicants from Baqa ash Sharqiya, Nazlat ‘Issa and Abu Nar received permits.



**Impact of the Wall on Tulkarem Area Farmers:** The Wall's construction near the village of Al Jarushiya resulted in the confiscation and isolation of some 400 *dunums* (100 acres) of land belonging to the Othman family. Much of this land is cultivated with olive and almond trees. In the past, the Othman family produced an estimated 800 gallons of olive oil each year from its olive trees located in the Closed Zone. Construction of the Wall resulted in the uprooting of many of their olive trees and led to restricted access to their land. This year, the Othman family was forced to purchase olive oil for their own consumption. Similarly, prior to construction of the Wall, the Othman family earned around NIS 5,000 in profits each year by selling almonds produced by their trees in the Closed Zone. This year, however, their ability to harvest their almond crop was severely limited and they earned only NIS 200.

### 3. Governorate of Qalqiliya

- The percentage of “access permits” issued by Israeli authorities for Palestinian civilians in the Qalqiliya Governorate varies. In areas cultivated with non-irrigated crops, such as ‘Azzun and Kafr Thulth, 60– 70 per cent of applicants receive permits. In other locations, cultivated with irrigated crops, such as Jayyus and Falamya, 25 – 30 per cent of applicants are issued permits.
- Farmers are forced to travel longer distances and incur increased transportation costs. For example, farmers from the town of ‘Azzun are forced to travel twice as long to reach their agricultural land in the Closed Zone than in the past. Average cost of travel is NIS 20.
- On 06 April, residents of Jayyus received Military Order T/74/05 confiscating 8.6 *dunums* (2.15 acres) of land belonging to the villages of Falamya and Jayyus for construction of a road connecting the village of Jayyus to the Wall gate at Falamya. On 05 June, the Israeli army began levelling land for construction of the road. During initial land levelling, the Israeli army uprooted 41 olive trees, 26 of which had been previously uprooted for Wall construction and replanted. The new route is prompted by Israeli settlement expansion and intended to divert Palestinian farmers away from the proposed expansion area of the Israeli settlement of Zufin North. With the Wall gate at Jayyus likely to be closed because of the expansion, Jayyus farmers will now be forced to travel an additional 2.7 km (each way) to reach the Falamya gate. This increased travel time will cost farmers roughly 2 working hours per day – a day that has already been substantially shortened due to the limited Israeli opening hours of the gate.
- The Israeli army set up a new gate to the town of ‘Azzun, but it has yet to be opened. Israeli authorities have indicated that the gate will be a “seasonal gate”, open during the olive harvest season only.

#### **Finger Scans Required at Ras Atiya Gate**

On 10 March, the Israeli army began preventing civilians from entering goods through Ras ‘Atiya Wall gate (#36). If a civilian from the villages of Ad Dab’a, Ras at Tira, or Wadi ar Rasha is transporting goods or carrying a number of bags, Israeli troops order them to pass through the DCO checkpoint at Jaljoulia, and then proceed to their villages, lengthening their journey by some 10 kilometres. Israeli troops positioned at this checkpoint often detain civilians for periods of 1 hour or more. In late May, Israeli troops began opening gate #36 from 06:00 to 18:00. Prior to this it was open 3 times daily for 1 hr. and 15 minutes.

On 05 July, the Israeli army installed new equipment at the Ras ‘Atiya Wall gate. Civilians are now required to insert his/her finger inside a device, after which a camera emerges and takes a photograph of the civilian. This prompts the civilian's photograph and fingerprint to appear on a computer screen, along with the civilian's “file”. On 06 July, Israeli troops refused to allow the Head of the Ras ‘Atiya Village Council to pass through the gate when he refused to abide by the procedures. They informed him that, effective immediately, absolutely no one will be allowed passage through the gate without submitting to the scan.

‘Azzun ‘Atma: Throughout the period, the Israeli army continued its restrictions at the Wall gate to the village of ‘Azzun ‘Atma, searching civilians with a metal detector and delaying students and teachers from reaching their schools on time. In May, the Israeli army began allowing vehicular access to the southern area of the village of ‘Azzun ‘Atma.

On 03 and 04 July, Israeli troops positioned at the ‘Azzun ‘Atma Wall gate refused passage to labourers from Biddya, Sarta and Az Zawiya who possess permits to access the Israeli industrial zone in the settlement of Elkana. Israeli troops informed labourers that passage through the gate will only be permitted to civilians from ‘Azzun ‘Atma. However, Israeli troops allowed labourers to cross on the 5th and 6th. On 05 July, the Israeli army closed ‘Azzun ‘Atma Wall gate half an hour earlier than scheduled. Some 10 civilians were forced to stay overnight in neighbouring villages.

In early July, Israeli Border Police and Police forces intensified their restrictions against residents of ‘Azzun ‘Atma. These forces have been halting civilians, checking their IDs, and recording their names. Additionally, they have been searching civilian vehicles and recording information about the vehicles. Combined, these actions indicate a trend to isolate the village of ‘Azzun ‘Atma.

**Impact of the Wall on Qalqiliya Area Farmer:** *Ibrahim Saleem As’ad Shatarah*, a 77-year-old farmer from the town of ‘Azzun, owns 100 *dunums* (25 acres) of land located in the Closed Zone. He has been unable to access his land since the Wall was constructed. Though the Israeli authorities issued him an “access permit” to reach his land, no permits were issued to labourers to work on his land and he has no children living in ‘Azzun to assist him. Prior to Wall construction, Shatarah’s land produced 60 – 80 canisters of olive oil per year. Since the Wall’s construction, however, Shatarah has been unable to harvest his olive crop.

## ANNEX I: Wall Construction, “Closed Zone” Activity, and Other Related Activity since 27 February 2005 by Governorate

<b>JERUSALEM GOVERNORATE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On 13 April, the Israeli army demolished 2 houses in the eastern area of ‘Anata in close proximity to the Wall’s path. Owners of the houses had received Stop Work Orders in 1999 and final Stop Work Orders and notices in 2004 for demolition of the structures due to the lack of building licenses. These orders were appealed by the affected families, but their appeal was rejected.</li></ul>
<b>RAMALLAH GOVERNORATE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In mid-April, the Israeli DCO gave a tour to residents of the village of ‘Abud, showing the path of the Wall. Based on this tour, the head of the village council of ‘Abud estimates that several thousands of <i>dunums</i> of land will be affected by Wall construction in the area, either confiscated for construction of the Wall, or isolated from the village by the Wall.</li><li>Work on certain segments of the Wall near Deir Qaddis and Rantis remains suspended until now following Israeli High Court orders.</li><li>On 28 June, the Israeli military installed a gate on the road running under Road #443, near Beit Sira, which provides access between Jerusalem’s north-west villages and the Ramallah Governorate.</li><li>In early March, the Israeli army seized 662 <i>dunums</i> (165.5 acres) of land belonging to the village of Saffa for a new settlement, Oranit, to be built near the existing settlement of Menorah.</li></ul>
<b>JENIN GOVERNORATE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On 16 May, the Israeli army demolished 2 animal shelters belonging to the Khadour family of ‘Anin, due to the structures’ close proximity to the Wall and location outside the urban plan of ‘Anin. No military order was issued for the demolitions.</li><li>Residents of Um ar Rihan and Barta’ash Sharqiya, located in the Closed Zone, report that the Israeli military fails to issue permits for technical staff from the Palestinian Telecommunications Company (PALTEL) to reach the villages to install or repair telephone lines.</li></ul>
<b>TULKAREM GOVERNORATE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On 03 April, the Israeli military issued Stop Work Orders for 2 Palestinian-owned structures and a demolition order for 1 Palestinian-owned structure. All of these structures are located in close proximity to the Wall in the village of Far’un. An additional 10 Palestinian-owned structures in the same area have been issued demolition orders.</li><li>On 18 June, the Israeli army issued Military Order No. T/91/05 for confiscation of 1.8 <i>dunums</i> (0.45 acres) of land belonging to the villages of Irtah and Far’un. A portion of this land is located west of the Wall, in the same area where a new Israeli terminal is under construction. The other portion of the land is located east of the Wall, in the area of Far’un, where 10 houses are threatened with demolition.</li></ul>
<b>QALQILIYA GOVERNORATE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In late June, Israeli authorities began requiring civilians (such as school teachers) applying for permits to access Ad Dab’a to attach a copy of their ID, a copy of the ID of the person or party requiring their entry to the area, and some form of documentation from the Village Council supporting their claim.</li><li>In May, the Israeli authorities refused to renew “access permits” for 9 farmers from the village of Falamyia, despite the fact that they were issued permits in the past.</li><li>On 19 May, the Israeli army began opening Wall gate #25 to the town of Jayyus from 06:00 to 18:00.</li><li>In late June, the Israeli army closed Wall gate #34 between the towns of ‘Azzun and Kafr Thulth, preventing farmers from the town of Kafr Thulth from reaching their land. The Israeli army notified farmers that it will open this Wall gate during particular periods only, including the olive harvest season and for farmers to plough their land. Israeli troops informed farmers wanting to access their land to cross through the Ras ‘Atiya Wall gate, thereby forcing them to travel 16 km. back and forth to their land, instead of the original distance of 4 km.</li></ul>

## **SALFIT GOVERNORATE**

- On 25 May, the Israeli army began land levelling for Wall construction northwest of the city of Salfit.
- On 02 June, preparations for Wall construction began in the village of Marda. In January, residents of Marda, Kifl Haris and Iskaka filed a petition with the Israeli High Court protesting construction of the Wall in the area. Though the Court has yet to hear the case, it determined that the Israeli army could proceed with Wall construction in the area. From 02 June until 06 July, the Israeli army cut down 1,500 olive trees located south of Marda, north of the Israeli settlement of Ariel. Land levelling is currently underway for the segment of the Wall running from Kifl Haris in the west to Iskaka in the east. Wall construction in the area runs some 100 – 400 metres north of the fence surrounding the settlement of Ariel.
- On 24 April, the Israeli army destroyed a green house measuring 500 square meters and valued at US\$10,000 belonging to Omar Awdah and Mohammad Qar'aosh in the town of Deir Ballut.

## **BETHLEHEM GOVERNORATE**

- Since 27 February, the Israeli military has issued numerous Evacuation Notices for land in the villages of Wadi Fuqin, Jab'a and Nahhalin. Evacuation orders require residents to evacuate the land within a specified period of time, which varies according to order, following the date of the order's delivery. Residents also must return the land to its "former status". Should residents fail to do so, they are subject to forcible eviction from the land and must incur any associated costs. Evacuation Orders may be appealed within the time period specified by the order. Based on 19 Evacuation Orders received by the PMG, at least 1,840 olive trees, 100 grape vines and fruit bearing trees, and 5,400 meters of fence are affected. The orders specifically refer to at least 136.5 *dunums* (34.1 acres) of land, though in at least 8 of the orders the amount of land affected is not specified. With area village councils reporting that over 100 Evacuation Orders have been issued, the actual damage is likely to be much higher. Additionally, the Israeli military issued 6 Stop Work Orders for construction projects in Wadi Fuqin since 27 February.
- On 29 March, the Israeli military issued 8 military orders concerning the demolition of Palestinian-owned homes and agricultural buildings in the Um Rukba South area of Al Khadr, which contains approximately 20 Palestinian-owned houses and lies in Area C. These orders follow previously issued final demolition orders, some of which date back to the mid-1990s. The majority of the orders are for family homes, affecting 58 Palestinian civilians, and comprise 80% of the neighbourhood's total area. While some of the initial demolition orders were issued years ago, the final demolition notifications are in keeping with a pattern of activity now seen around the West Bank to make room for the Wall and settlement expansion. The nearby settlement of Efrat (approx. pop. 7,000) and two settlement outposts—Giv'at HaDagan and Giv'at HaTamar—have been expanding northward, encroaching upon Um Rukba's land. The villagers' appeal to the Israeli High Court was rejected on 16 May and one of the structures was demolished on 30 May.
- On 31 March, the Israeli army demolished 6 Palestinian-owned structures in the village of Wadi Rahhal, south of Al Khadr and to the east of the approved path of the Wall in the area.
- On 04 April, Israeli Border Police, along with what appeared to be representatives from the Israel Lands Authority, cut down some 300 Palestinian-owned fruit bearing trees in the Ain Jawaizeh area of Al Walaja village, in the north-west Bethlehem Governorate. Additionally, they erected a barbed-wire fence in the same area. The fence isolates approximately 120 *dunums* (30 acres) of land. The affected land lies to the north-west of the built-up area of the Ain Jawaizeh neighbourhood and is located along the 'Okev settler-only bypass road that links the Israeli settlement of Har Gilo with Jerusalem.
- On 29 June, Israeli Border Police, accompanied by employees from the Israeli Ministry of Interior and Jerusalem Municipality, raided Ain Jawaizeh and verbally notified civilians of the Israeli authorities' intention to demolish 4 houses (without specifying the names of the house owners).