

**Israeli Annexation Wall and Settlements
despite international Opposition**

THE BARRIER TO PEACE

On the 9th. Anniversary of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice which condemned Israel's construction of the Wall on July 9th, 2004.



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The Wall is not being built on Israel's 1967 pre-occupation border (the "Green Line") but inside the Occupied State Of Palestine, thereby de facto annexing Palestinian agriculture and water resources, restricting Palestinian freedom of movement, separating Palestinians from schools, health facilities and jobs, and depriving thousands of Palestinians from the ability to earn a livelihood.

It is estimates that approximately 47.6% of the Occupied West Bank will be de facto annexed by Israel, thereby ensuring that Israel's illegal colonies not only remain

but expand.

Upon completion, the wall will be approximately 711 km in length (more than twice the length of the Green Line). Approximately 249,00 Palestinians will be trapped between the wall and the Green line.

Israel continues to use the wall and other elements of its ever expanding settlement enterprise in the Occupied State of Palestine to unilaterally impose its own final status vision on the ground.

The wall deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice,

snakes through Palestinian, and not Israeli, territory in order to sustain and reinforce the vast majority of Israel's settlements throughout the West Bank, all of which are illegal under international law.

To further facilitate the expansion of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land, on both sides of the wall, Israel continues to construct a vast network of settler highways connecting its illegal settlements to each other and to Israel, while simultaneously imposing severe movement and access restrictions on the 2.5 million indigenous Palestinians who live in the West Bank.

Israeli Position

Israel justifies the construction of the Wall based on the pretext of “security concerns”.

According to Israel:

- The Wall limits Palestinian resistance.
- The Wall protects Israeli citizens, including settlers.
- The Wall is built only according to security considerations.
- In Jerusalem, the Wall is aimed at making Jerusalem a “more Jewish” city.¹

Palestinian Position

The Wall is yet another Israeli attempt to grab Palestinian land in order to implement its settlement enterprise:

- The Wall takes as much as Palestinian land and as many natural resources as possible.
- The Wall, and its associated regime, consolidates the process of annexing Palestinian land.
- Israeli claims that the Wall has prevented Palestinian resistance is baseless: The decrease in attacks is due to a



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“Whilst taking note of the assurance given by Israel that the construction of the wall does not amount to annexation and that the wall is of a temporary nature, the Court nevertheless considers that the construction of the wall and its associated regime create a “fait accompli” on the ground that could well become permanent, in which case, and notwithstanding the formal characterization of the wall by Israel, it would be tantamount to de facto annexation.”

The International Court of Justice

Palestinian decision to resist with non-violent means.

- The Wall sabotages the two-state solution, de facto annexing vital areas of the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem and the so called “Ariel”, “Gush Etzion” and “Ma’ale Adumin” areas.

The International Community Position

The international community does not recognize any aspect

of Israel’s settlement enterprise, including the Wall:

- The Wall is illegal and must be dismantled.
- Israel’s right to protect its citizens should remain within its own borders, not inside the Occupied Territory.
- The Wall denies Palestinians their basic rights, including self-determination and access to natural resources, education, health services, places of worship, private property and, in many cases, their own families.



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“A Wall in Palestine is more than a book about a wall. It takes us directly, dramatically, into the lives of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupations. It cannot fail to move anyone who reads it. It goes beyond journalism because it is a cry for attention from the world.”

Howard Zinn

International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion

- The Wall is illegal, it has to be dismantled and those affected must be compensated.
- Israel is obligated to repair all damage caused by the construction of the Wall.
- “All states are under an obligation not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the Wall and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction.”

⁽¹⁾ Israeli Minister Haim Ramon in “Wall makes Jerusalem more Jewish” (2005): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2005/jul/12/israel1>



“All states parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Person in Time of War of 12 August 1949 have in addition the obligation, while respecting the United Nations Charter and international law, to ensure compliance by Israel with international humanitarian law as embodied in that convention”

The International Court of Justice

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Value & Location of Palestinian Land

- While East Jerusalem accounts for just 1.3% of the West Bank, it represents the economic, cultural and religious capital of the Palestinian people, without which no Palestinian state could be viable. The Wall effectively seizes East Jerusalem from the rest of the Occupied State of Palestine.
- Israel’s Wall and settlements seize vital land and water resources, and effectively divest Palestinians of their water rights.

- The Ariel and Kedumim “fingers,” which stretch up to 22 km into the northern West Bank, account for 2.2% of the occupied West Bank, but sit atop some of the most valuable water resources in the West Bank.

- By incorporating many of the West Bank’s most valuable water productive zones, Israel’s Wall and settlements effectively pre-empt a future fair and equitable allocation of the West Bank’s water resources, as required by international law.



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‘Wall’ Status	Length (meter)	Percent
Constructed	443, 297	62.28%
Projected	199,784	28.07%
Under Construction	68,718	9.65%
Total	711, 799	% 100

Source: UNOCHA, 2013

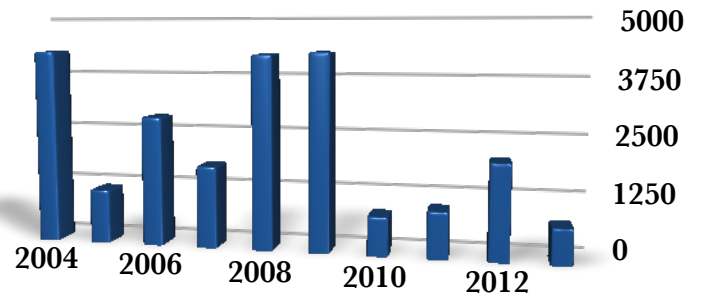
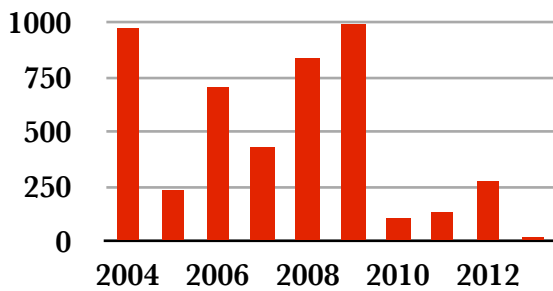
Major Attacks on Palestinians

table of Israeli violations in the Occupied State of Palestine- past **9 years** between **January 2004 till the end of June 2013**

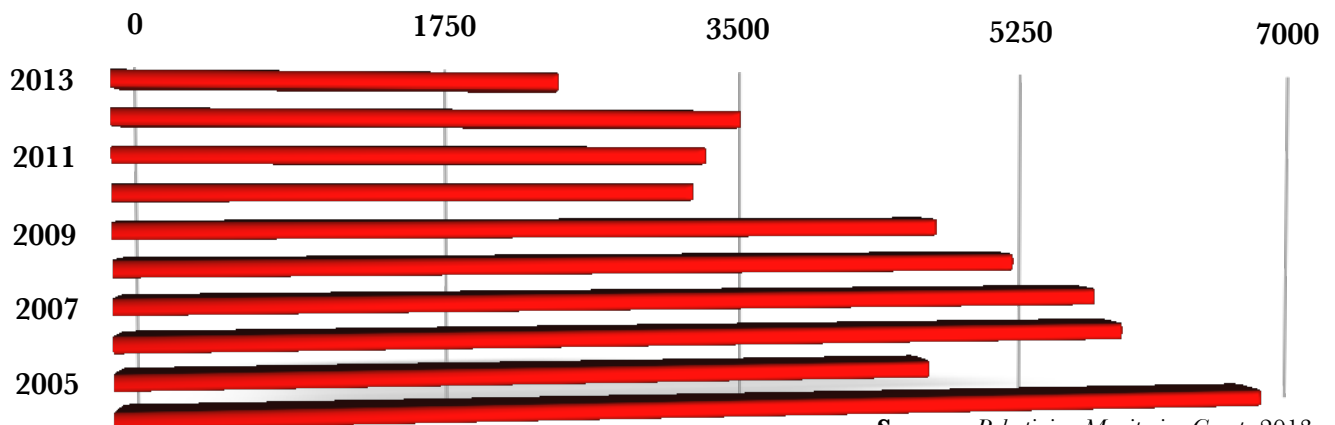
Event	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
Assassinations	49	31	44	20	19	13	3	20	11	1	211
Deaths	922	200	661	410	816	980	103	112	263	18	4485
Injuries	4269	1188	2844	1794	4231	4290	847	1011	2065	774	23313
Raids	7671	4685	8150	9125	10205	8324	7461	7412	6301	2937	72271
Arrests	6476	4468	5616	5449	4959	4507	3111	3181	3377	2369	43513
Home Demolition	932	547	194	92	114	299	39	37	732	80	3066
Attack on Property	966	524	1105	1128	1517	1329	1039	1543	1260	589	11000
Home Occupation	494	202	569	428	396	285	124	147	64	57	2766
Settlement Activity	115	552	155	68	51	58	67	105	93	49	1313
Settler Violence	3437	668	276	340	618	698	853	1336	782	561	9569
TOTAL	25331	13065	19614	18854	22926	20783	13647	14904	14948	7435	171507

ASSASSINATIONS & DEATHS

INJURIES



ARRESTS



Source: Palestinian Monitoring Group, 2013

Communities by the Wall: Forced Displacement and Segregation

One of the main consequences of the construction of Israel's annexation Wall in the Occupied State of Palestine is the forced displacement of Palestinian communities in order to build the Wall and expand Israeli settlements, which is a daily reality in Palestine. For those who are able to remain, they are most often separated from their land, sources of income, families and friends. Moreover, once the Wall is completed, at least 260,000 Palestinians living in the districts of Jerusalem, Jenin, Qalqilya and Bethlehem will be trapped between the Wall and the Green line (excluding East Jerusalem). Of that number, at least 28,000 Palestinians from rural communities will be surrounded by the Wall on all four sides. Another 127,000 will be surrounded on three sides.

Displacement of population is a Crime against Humanity as per the Rome Statute ².

UM AL ASAFIR COMMUNITY

Abu Ahmad Zawahri has witnessed it all. The head of the "Um al Asafir" community (west of the town of Beit Sahour) was born in the early thirties. He remembers well the effects of the 1948 catastrophe (*Nakba*) and the day Israeli soldiers took over what was left of Palestine in 1967. Since then, the life of his community has changed dramatically.

In 1996, Israel built the Har Homa settlement after deforesting the Jabal Abu Ghneim area. What was once the forest and olive trees that his people, along with the people of Beit Sahour and Bethlehem, took care of, became a new Israeli settlement. Already surrounded from the north by the Israeli settlement, in 2002, Israel built its annexation Wall between Beit Sahour centre and the Israeli settlement. Suddenly, his community of 50 members was not only cut off from their lands on one side, but also from the various services they used to obtain in Bethlehem and Beit Sahour.

Before Israeli restrictions came about, the Um Al Asafir community would earn their livelihoods from grazing animals and selling the milk and meat in the Bethlehem and Jerusalem markets. Now they are cut off from both.

In January 2002, the community woke up one day to the sound of bulldozers digging up the land and a new wall, Israel's huge concrete annexation Wall, was installed in their backyard. This was not entirely surprising, as it was the same machine that had bulldozed 10 dunums (10000 m²) of the community's land for the construction of Har Homa settlement back in 1996. This time the families of Um al Asafir not only lost their land but their entire social and economic connection with the Bethlehem district. As the wall snakes through their backyards, cutting them off from Beit Sahour, their social fabric is completely torn apart. Their family members who live in Bethlehem district are no longer able to visit them as normal. Their ability to reach the Bethlehem district now depends on special permits and requires a time-consuming journey via the checkpoint of "Rachel's Tomb and Rabah Mosque", which is 3-4 km away from their homes. They are also prohibited from working in or visiting Jerusalem.

Today, the Um Al Asafir community, which has frequently disrupted access to health, social and economic services, is living in limbo. They are forced to choose between providing for their families by moving and working in the Bethlehem district or remaining in their birthplace.

THE BARRIER TO PEACE TANTUR/ KHIRBIT KHAMIS, WATTA COMMUNITY

Of the many cases of Palestinian communities caught between the annexation Wall and what Israel claims to be the “municipal boundaries” of Jerusalem, the case of the Watta community is a living example of people who are segregated and fragmented.

Watta has a population of 100, comprising of ten families and eighteen children under the age of 14 years old. In the year 2000, the Watta community was notified by the Israeli military forces of Israel's intention to completely seal off Bethlehem from Jerusalem. Two years later, their lives were completely changed. A huge wall, Israel's annexation Wall, was built around Bethlehem on one side of Ayda refugee camp, about 500 meters away from their homes and 2.5 km inside the green line. The Wall, which stands about 6 meters high, snakes in and around the Jerusalem-Bethlehem area, eating up over 650 dunums (650000m²) of olive groves and stretching all the way to the village of Beit Safafa.

Today, the only access for the Watta community from their home to Bethlehem is through a pedestrian checkpoint located near “Rachel's Tomb and Rabah Mosque”. Children and their parents have to walk 2 km from their homes to the checkpoint. They have no access to private cars and the journey into the Bethlehem district takes about 30 minutes as opposed to the 3 minutes it took before the construction of the Wall.

The total segregation of the community from the Bethlehem district is not only damaging the social fabric of the community but has also resulted in the loss of life. In 2005, an older woman passed away while attempting to reach the hospital in Bethlehem. The Israeli military forces stationed near the checkpoint refused access to the Palestinian ambulance which was carrying her.

NINE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE ICJ'S ADVISORY OPINION ON THE WALL. LAND GRAB, FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES, ISRAELI SETTLEMENT EXPANSION AND OTHER VIOLATIONS CONTINUE TO MOUNT UP AS ISRAEL CONTINUES ENJOYING AN UNPRECEDENTED CULTURE OF IMPUNITY. IN ORDER TO BRING TO A JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR ISRAEL AND PALESTINE, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST ASSUME ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITY VIS-A-VIS INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HOLD ISRAEL ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS SEVERE VIOLATIONS.

ISRAEL IS OBLIGATED TO DISMANTLE THE WALL AND ITS SETTLEMENT ENTERPRISE. THIS SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, UN RESOLUTIONS AND PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY A LACK OF REAL INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO HOLD ISRAEL, AN OCCUPYING POWER, ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS ACTIONS. FOR AS LONG AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO TREAT ISRAEL AS A STATE ABOVE THE LAW, IMPUNITY WILL PREVAIL OVER JUSTICE. THIS IS THE BARRIER TO PEACE.