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THE FABRICATION OF ISRAEL

About the usurpation and destruction of Palestine through Zionist spatial planning

A UNIQUE PLANNING ISSUE

IV

Further Devastation and Destruction - Judaizing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the Occupation 1967, an overview

Jad Isaac

2. After Oslo: The Judaizing of the West Bank - Preparing the Geographic Holocaust on the Palestinian Land Since 1993

From the introduction part before:

West Bank and Gaza were pure Palestinian areas before 1967 under Jordanian and Egyptian governance. The population living in villages, cities and refugee camps earned more or less sufficiently their living with farming. The West Bank was serving Jordan with vegetables, fruits and crops; the 'Jerusalem stone' a favourite building material was exported to the Arab neighboured countries. ...

When Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza, life, especially mobility deteriorated again and Palestinians faced immediately what happened to many of them in 47- 49 during the first ethnic cleansing: expulsion, census, expropriation, restrictions of life in many directions. Same regulations and laws as before were used to expropriate land and extend Jewish colonies (see III.1) ...

As shown, the transformation of Palestinian land into Israeli and Jewish did not come to an end after Madrid and Oslo. In addition, the construction of the separation wall can be understood as part of a refining plan within the same goals. The next paragraph will go deeper into facts on the ground.

IV

Jad Isaac

2. After Oslo: The Judaizing of the West Bank - Preparing the Geographic Holocaust on the Palestinian Land Since 1993

1993 was a turning point in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. An interim peace agreement 'Oslo Accord' was signed by both parties to initiate political solution for the conflict. But the crucial issues such as Jerusalem, borders, water, refugees and Israeli settlements were left to be determined in the final status talks to be held in 1996. It was agreed that "Neither side shall take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip..." (Article XXXI, Oslo II, 1995.)

According to the 'Oslo II' agreement of September 1995, the West Bank was classified into Areas A, B, and C, with varying levels of control. The Israeli military withdrew from area A, and complete control was assumed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). This marked the first time that a Palestinian Government retained sovereignty over any Palestinian land. In area B, the Palestinians were supposed to have full control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security, which consequently excluded factual Palestinian sovereignty.

In area C, Israel retains full control over land, security, and natural resources. According to the agreement, the Palestinians should have regained control over 95 % of the West Bank and Gaza by July 1998. However, on the ground, this did not happen, not even 20% of West Bank and Gaza area came under Palestinian control and East Jerusalem is still excluded.

By March 2000, area A comprised only 18% of the West Bank total area (1,004 km²) and a further 254.2 km² of the Gaza Strip, (which was occupied by Israeli Settlements but was later evacuated in August 2005), while area B comprised 18.3% of the total West Bank Area (1,035 km²), while the remaining area falls under the full Israeli control in area C and comprises 61% of the total West Bank Area (3,452 km²). (see table 1)

Table 1 The Redeployment Percentages according to the Agreements

Palestinian share according to sovereignty in A outlines the various stages of the interim agreements and the corresponding changes.

Agreements	A	B	C
Oslo II (May - 1994)	3.0%	24.0%	73.0%
Wye I (October 1998)	10.1%	18.9%	71.0%
Wye II & III (not implemented)	18.2%	21.8%	60.0%
Sharm I (September 1999)	10.1%	25.9%	64.0%
Sharm II (Delay in Implementation) (January 2000)	12.1%	26.9%	61.0%
Sharm III (Delay in Implementation) (Situation March 2000)	18.2%	21.8%	60.0%
Current Situation (2007), divided areas through more than 600 devices	No change		

(Source: ARIJ GIS Database/ OCHA maps 2008)

On September 28, 2000, the second Intifada, known as Al Aqsa Intifada, erupted, following the provocative entry of Ariel Sharon into the sacred space of the Al Aqsa mosque on the Dome of the Rock. This was not only the reaction to Sharon's aggression, but to the whole failure of the peace process so far, visible in the increasing settlements, closures, and house demolitions and so on. Israel intensified its 'internal closure' policy (restriction of movement within the West Bank, even between nearby communities) in addition to the already present 'external closure' (restriction of movement from the West Bank to Jerusalem, Israel or Gaza). On April 2002 Israel again invaded the Palestinian authority areas, destroyed and besieged cities and villages and re-established an occupation situation by means of permanent control, checkpoints, closed areas ... etc.

2.1 Expropriation Tools as Before

Following 1967, Israel immediately started the process of expropriation and judiasing in the West Bank; that is erasing any prospect for a future viable Palestinian state and reinforcing the Jewish presence in the Palestinian areas. It unilaterally undertook a series of geopolitical actions that undermined the Palestinian presence and imposed facts on the ground, which included the annexation of East Jerusalem, the demolition of Palestinian houses, the confiscation of Palestinian lands, the establishment of Israeli settlements, the construction of bypass roads, and final but not last the construction of the segregation wall. The following sections will investigate the impacts of the undertaken actions on the Palestinian landscape.

Land confiscation

Immediately after 1967 war, Israel commenced the policy of land confiscation. It declared vast areas of the West Bank as "State Land." Soon after, this land was zoned as military closed areas and Nature Reserves which were later designated for the establishment of Israeli settlements. The land property and land use laws that the Israelis used in order to grab more lands are again the following, where some of them were already used in Israel as explained before:

- ***The absentee property law:*** As a result 2910 km² of the West Bank's Land was classified as abandoned property or State Land
- ***Freezing of land registration:*** In 1968, Israel froze the land registration process and cancelled incomplete registrations, alienating land from the Palestinians, defending it against Palestinian use, and ensuring through such processes as registration and leasing that Palestinians are disqualified from having any future benefit from that land.
- ***Security military orders:*** certain areas were declared as security zones and land was confiscated for security and military reasons. Most of the eastern slopes of the Jordan Valley were put under military zone.
- ***Restrictions on Palestinian use:*** Palestinians are restricted to use areas that were declared as combat zones, Nature Reserves and buffer zones that are created around the settlements, bypass roads and military camps.
- ***Land expropriation for public purposes:*** According to military Order number 321 lands can be expropriated for public purposes. However, the word public in this case meant "for Jews only." Legal power and authority were given to the military commander to evacuate by force

land owners who refuse to abide the evacuation orders. Other orders were also used in this context:

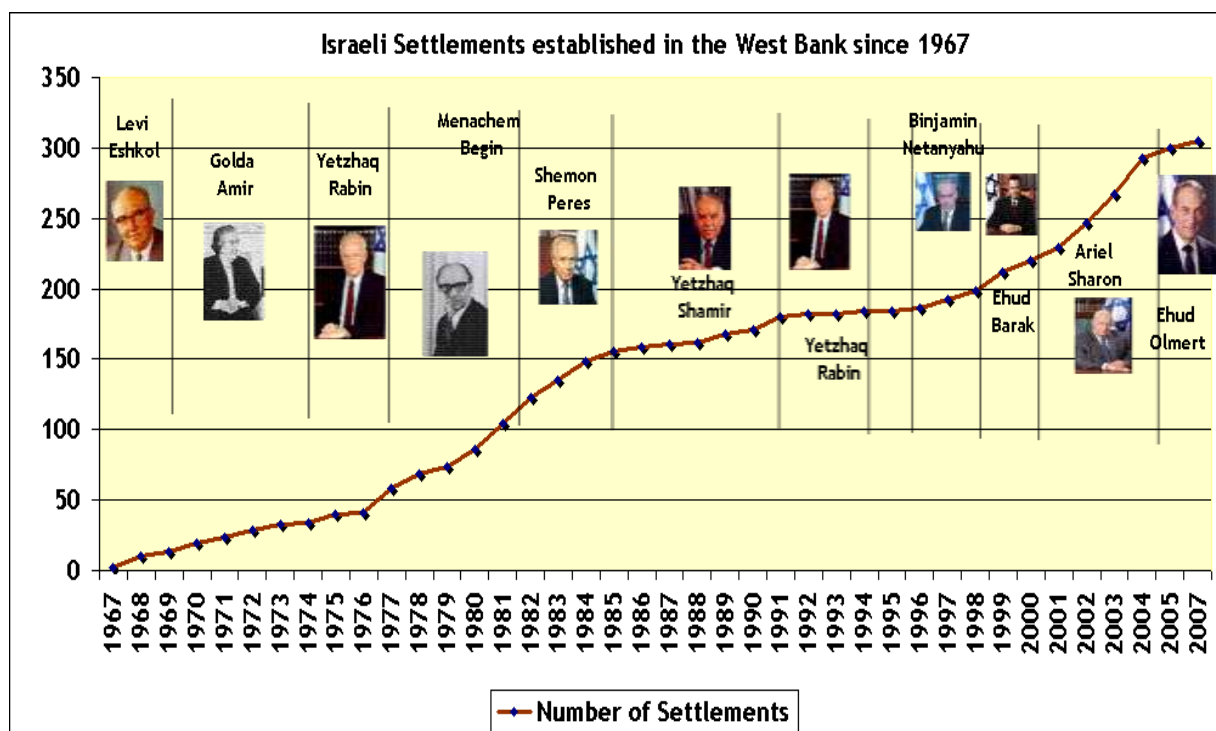
- The **Ottoman Law of 1885**: if a land is not cultivated for three consecutive years, it is declared as a "State Land."
- The **British Planning Scheme RS15 and RJ 5** of before 1947 zone: nearly the entire West Bank as 'agricultural land' and assign the District Commission (today the Israeli Civil Administration) the right to give relaxation.

Such policy allowed Israel to control, until the negotiations, more than 60% of the occupied West Bank and Gaza territory (Benvenisti 1988) and built meanwhile 199 Israeli settlements including the settlements in Jerusalem and are accommodating nearly 530,000 Israeli settlers along with a serving 875 Km network of bypass roads. Such a devious Israeli policy has led to a further usurpation of Palestine and reshaped its geophysical structure to a situation, which no longer connects it as a single entity but isolated islands by the Israeli settlements and bypass roads.

2.2 The Ongoing Process of Judaising Palestine with Plans and Planning Tools

The Israeli governments, whether led by Likud or Labour, never deviated from further usurping the land of Palestine. While negotiating, Israel promoted and developed Israeli settlements and related infrastructure with even more speed - in contradiction with the peace agreements and the aspirations of the international community to resolve the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis (see figure 1).

Figure 1 Establishment of Israeli Settlements in the West Bank during the different Israeli Governments



Source: ARIJ Database 2007

Additionally, all colonial activities in the Palestinian Territory are illegal according to international law and the Fourth Geneva Conventions which state that the occupying power is not allowed to transfer a part of its population into the territories it occupies

nor change the geography, (Geneva Convention 1949). Today the Israeli settlements are scattered all over the West Bank. The focus has been on the following areas:

- **The Jerusalem area:** to encircle Jerusalem city with a belt of settlements and walls and cut it from the rest of the West Bank Governorates and change the demographic composition of the city planting Jewish population to the utmost into the area and thus to pre-empt the outcome of final status negotiations over the city.
- **Along the West Bank's western edges:** to make the return to the 1967 borders practically impossible, and to make the settlements appealing to settlers, who commute to work inside Israel.
- **The Jordan valley:** for its presumed importance to Israel's security as well as for its valuable agricultural and water resources.
- **Along horizontal corridors:** to ensure the contiguity between Israeli settlements in the eastern part of the West Bank and the settlements in the western part of the West Bank. (see maps 1-3)

2.2.1 Allon / Gush Imunim/Drobless/Sharon - Architects of the Judaizing Process

Different phases and different governments were strengthening on different areas and aspects. Some Israeli governments have encouraged the development of specific blocks more than others, but the colonisation and usurpation has never been halted, as explained in the following part according to phases and governments.

1967-1976: Allon Plan, Gush Imunim Plan

The first wave of Israeli settlements were strategically located along the Jordan valley in compliance with the *Allon Plan* which aimed to segregate the Occupied Palestinian Territory from the Jordan Valley, with an intention to turn the Jordan River into the political and security boundary for Israel. The plan called for the construction of a bloc of Israeli settlements at a width of approximately 20 kilometres as a first step towards their formal annexation to the state of Israel. The settlements were concentrated around East Jerusalem, the Gush Etzion settlement Block to the south of Bethlehem, most of the Jordan Valley, and a strip of Palestinian lands south of Hebron. (see Benvenisti .1984, see map 1)

During the late seventies and until mid eighties, an Israeli right wing religious movement called "Gush Imunim ('Bloc of the faithful')", rose and aimed at the establishment of "Greater Israel" from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. The group's plan different from that of Allon Plan by focusing settlement construction along the central mountain ridge of the West Bank in areas containing most of the Palestinian population. The Gush Imunim movement has constructed more than 80 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and is still a key factor in creating new settlements and influencing Israeli governmental policy. The *Gush Imunim Plan* was also backed up by the Drobless plan which was set by the head of the World Zionist Organisation Settlement Division. Drobless prepared a comprehensive plan for the establishment of settlements around Palestinian population centres. (see Benvenisti .1984, see map 2).

1977-1981 Sharon Plan

The former Israeli Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon (1977-1981) (the late Prime

Minister of Israel) modified and expanded the Drobless Plan and Gush Imunim by intensifying colonization along the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line) to secure the borders between the West Bank and Israel (Green Line), in order to secure the borders between the West Bank and Israel. *Sharon's Plan* also called for an increased colonisation along the central mountain ridge. The ultimate aim of Sharon's plan was the full annexation of the West Bank, excluding small densely populated Palestinian enclaves. (see Benvenisti, see map 3)

**Map 1: Allon Plan
1970**



**Map 2: Drobless WZO Plan
1978**



**Map 3: Sharon Plan
1981**

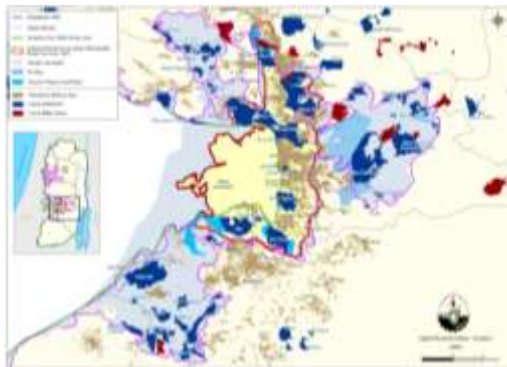


Source: Benvenisti 1984: 99pp

The further growth of settlements is mainly geared to the formation of blocks; i.e. they grow outwards and towards each other. The following time can be understood as a refining area of blocks, belts and new big cities according to Drobless' program. The Block System of 16 blocks got a more clear form. Those in the west were linking Israeli areas, others were built up as strategic new industrial centres like the Ariel Block, south-west of Nablus, and others were supposed to threaten the main cities like Beit El close to Ramallah, Gush Etzion south-west of Jerusalem (AlQuds) and Bethlehem and Kiryat Arba' controlling Hebron (Al Khalil). In Jerusalem Israel intends to create 'Metropolitan Jerusalem' or 'Greater Jerusalem' by expanding Jerusalem borders to include the major settlements' blocs such as Ma'ale Adumin, Giv'at Ze'ev and Gush Etzion.

In addition, some of these urban settlements got the status of an Israeli city with extra funding and master plans. Some of these settlements host more than 30.000 Israeli settlers and more like Ma'ale Adumim and Betar Illit. All of them were built on expropriated Palestinian lands either for extending the settlements, for 'security' reasons, or road systems and restricted areas. (see map 4, 5)

Map 4 'Greater Jerusalem' 2007



Source: ARIJ GIS Database 2007

Map 5 Settlements acc. to Oslo II 1995



Source: ARIJ, 2006

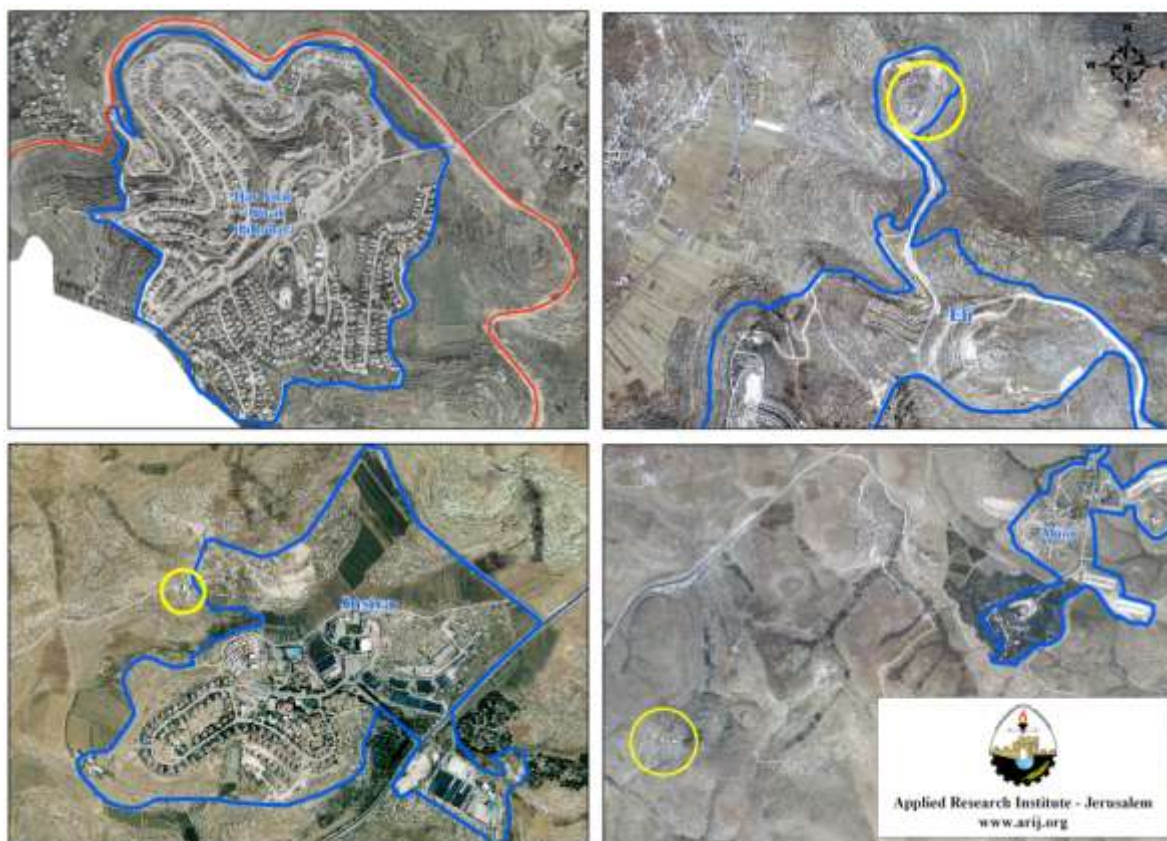
In an interview by the Israeli daily newspaper Ha'aretz correspondent on April 12, 2001, the late Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared that he would relinquish only 42% of the West Bank for the future Palestinian state. He also declared a complete unwillingness to evacuate any Israeli settlement, what he called "the centrepiece of Israeli claims to the land". Sharon stated: *"It's not by accident that the settlements are located where they are. They safeguard the cradle of the Jewish people's birth and also provide strategic depth, which is vital to our existence. The settlements were established according to the conception that, come what may, we have to hold the western security area, which is adjacent to the Green Line, and the eastern security area along the Jordan River and the roads linking the two, and Jerusalem of course, and the hill aquifer."*

The route of the segregation wall manifests what Sharon had envisioned years ago and what all Israeli governments have been working extensively to accomplish.

2.2.2 Colonies and Master Plans

There are different strategies for colonies' expansion some of which are: the confiscation of Palestinian lands located in the vicinity of an existing colony, increasing the number of housing units of an existing settlement, erecting new outposts in close parameters of an exiting Israeli settlement or outside the settlement's master plan with the possibility of developing such outposts into new settlements as in the case of Modi'n Illit settlement west of Ramallah city, a partner-town of Hagen in Germany. (see map 6). These outposts are connected with the nearby Israeli colonies with a network of bypass roads. The outposts extend colonies' lands deeper into the Palestinian territory, placing more areas under direct military control and contributing to the fragmentation of the OPT.

Map 6 (a-b-c-d) Strategies for Israeli Colony Expansion within or outside Master Plans

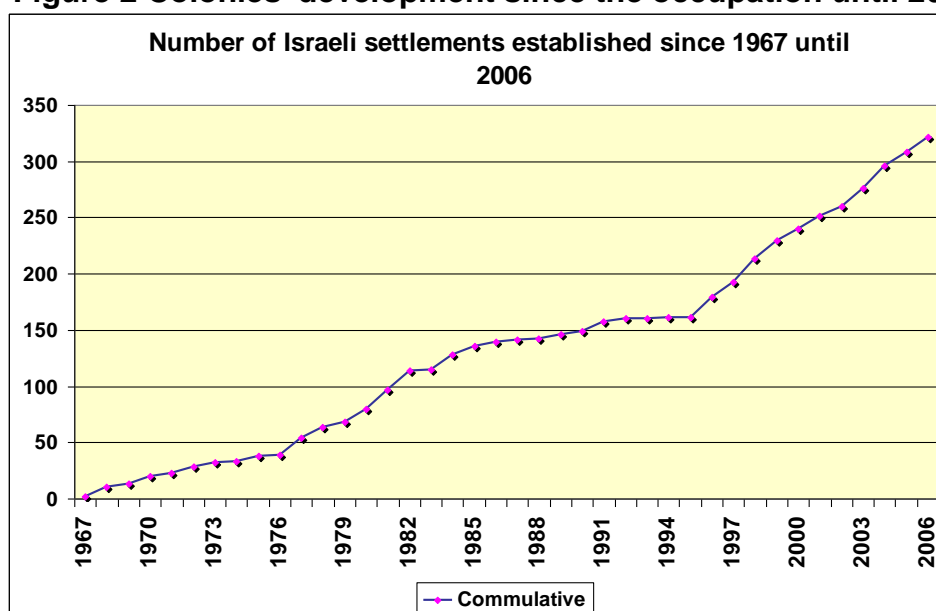


Source: ARIJ 2003,

a. Expanding the colony; b. Expansion at the periphery of a colony within its master plan; c. Expansions outside the master plan of a colony; d. Construction of satellite (outpost)

All colonies' activities increased since the beginning of the seventies of the last century (see figure 2).

Figure 2 Colonies' development since the occupation until 2006



Source: ARIJ GIS Database 2007

The following section will investigate the process of constructing 'outpost'.

2.2.3 The Role of Israeli 'Outposts'

There are different strategies for the expansion of Israeli colonies, some of which are: vertical expansion by increasing the number of housing units in existing Israeli colonies and horizontal expansion by increasing the area of existing Israeli colonies on the expense of the neighbouring Palestinian communities, or constructing outposts few kilometres away from 'mother colony's or outside their master plans and connecting these outposts with a network of bypass roads and securing the land between them and the colonies.

Definition of Israeli Outposts

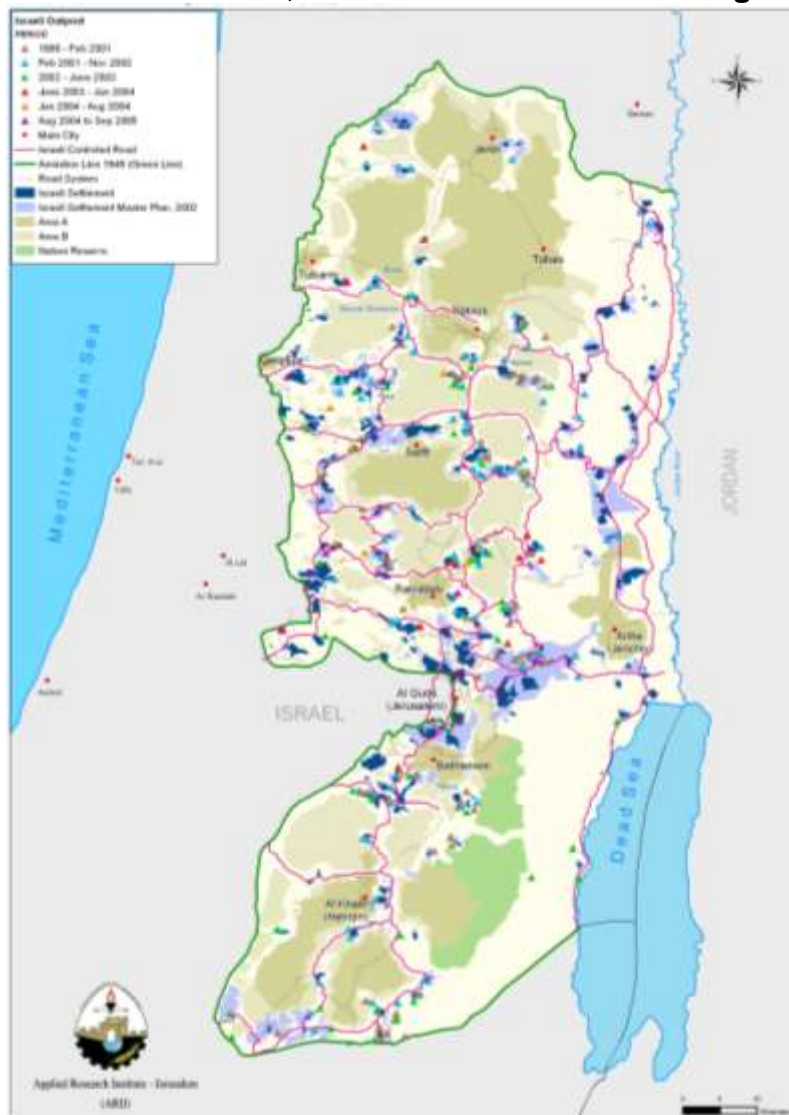
Outposts are relatively new technique improvised by Israeli 'settlers' in 1996 along with the indirect government concession to usurp more Palestinian lands and build new colonies. The practice involves grabbing land on Palestinian hilltops or in-close perimeter of existing colonies (identified as 'Mother Colony') 1 mile to 4 miles away and setting-up mobile caravans, declaring the site as a 'new colony' or a 'new neighbourhood' of adjacent colonies, in order to reinforce the Israeli Jewish territorial presence over surrounding Palestinian lands and to usurp more land. Israel former PM Ariel Sharon, the utmost supporter of colonies and outposts and a pioneer in his calling for 'settlers' to take control of hilltops in the West Bank before *"losing them to Palestinians in negotiations"*¹

The government provided the outposts with military protection and infrastructure services, in addition to occasional financial support. Moreover, as years passed by; many existing outposts has grown into colonies and the number of these outposts kept growing to a record high 175 outpost in 2004 and 220 in 2007, even with the over-debated dismantle of these outposts in different areas of the West Bank.

According to the Israeli government, one third of outposts are classified as illegal, the second third is classified with "uncertain status" while the remaining one-third is politically propped. The Israeli Knesset took a decision on July 22, 2003 to dismantle all "unauthorised" outposts, while in reality no real action was taken by the Israeli army to dismantle those illegal colony outposts². On the other hand, if there is an Israeli military order to demolish a Palestinian house, the Israeli bulldozers rush to the site, raze and demolish that house and any sign of its existence. (see map 7)

¹ Source: (Outposts: the Unripe Settlements. "[Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem](http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=337). Available from http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=337. Internet; accessed 14 January 2004.)

Map 7 Outposts in brown: Israeli Outposts established during the period of 1996 and 2001, others are established during the period of 2001 & 2007



Source: ARIJ 2003

Function of Israeli Outposts

The Israeli outposts phenomena came to serve the Israeli colonies expansion plans; accordingly, the outposts established within existing colonies master plans constituted new neighbourhoods while others established outside the master plan of Israeli colonies formed buds for new colonies. Analysis of satellite images showed that 102 Israeli outposts are located inside Israeli colonies' Master Plans are considered as *New Neighbourhoods*; while the remaining 118 Israeli outposts which were constructed outside colonies' Master Plan are considered as *New Settlements*.

2.2.4 The role of Israeli by-pass roads and further fragmentation

The term "Bypass Roads" did not come into use until the signing of Oslo agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians in 1993 to indicate designated roads for the Israeli Army and settlers use, to bypass Palestinian towns and communities in the context of the Israeli Army redeployment. From that point on, Israel intensified its efforts to increase the magnitude of the bypass roads in the occupied Palestinian territory as a part of its policy to coerce facts on the ground; ultimately affecting the

outcome of negotiation with the Palestinians; including the establishment of a viable contiguous Palestinian State. The majority of the West Bank area is Area "C"³, which hold all Israeli colonies and consequently the Israeli bypass roads that pierce at many classified "A" and "B" areas establishing a physical obstruction between two controlled Palestinian areas.

Along with launching a vigorous colonies program following the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, back in 1967, the consecutive governments of the state of Israel adopted a separation concept based on the creation of an Israeli controlled road grid system, which will work to facilitate the construction of Israeli colonies and the Israeli settlers movement between occupied territory colonies and Israel and eventually incorporate the Israeli created and controlled road grid system in the occupied territory with the road grid system in Israel. The Israelis built these roads under the pretext of "security needs"; a term that presented the Israeli Army with legitimate excuse to expropriate Palestinian lands; a procedure that proved its efficiency before when the Israeli Army would expropriate Palestinian lands under the "security needs" pretext to establish an Army base, which later on is turned to Israeli settlers control who would turn it on their part into a civilian inhabitant area. For Israel, that was the only available option or the only loop to bypass the international law, which considers, expropriating land for any purpose other than military use a "grave breach". Israel also argued the military role of the colonies and the bypass roads to its security, which allowed the Army to expropriate private Palestinian lands to build colonies and its roads; Israel also argued that the roads it is building will also benefit the local Palestinian population who would be allowed to travel on these roads. Furthermore, the Israeli built roads on confiscated Palestinian lands contributed immensely to stimulate the habitation of the Israeli colonies, which encouraged the Israeli settlers to take initiative and construct roads on their own, but would later on be endorsed and adopted by the Israeli Army to cast a shadow of legitimacy on these roads. In addition to its role in connecting colonies, the Israeli built roads worked to restrain the development of the Palestinian communities in the West Bank by creating de-facto obstructions to areas designated for development.

Prior to the outbreak of the September 2000 Intifada, Palestinians had almost complete access to these bypass roads, except at time when the Israeli Army is on security alerts that Palestinians are no longer allowed to travel on the bypass roads or would have to undergo a through security check conducted by the Israeli Army border patrols, which would take hours at times. However, following the 2000 Intifada, Palestinians accesses to virtually all bypass roads became forbidden; unless they are in possession of a special permit issued by the Israeli civil administration. Later on, the Israeli Army would refer to bypass roads were Palestinian are no longer allowed to travel on as "sterile" roads; meaning that these are Palestinians free roads.

Today, there are 875 km of Israeli bypass roads inside the West Bank. The construction of which required the confiscation and destruction of approximately 100 km² of Palestinian land, most of which is originally agricultural and were constructed through a \$3.2 billion grant from the USA government in order to "help" Israel 'comply with the Oslo agreements' and avoid friction between Israeli settlers and Palestinians.

³ The Oslo accord classified the West Bank territory into three jurisdictions: Area "A"; where the Palestinians have full control over the land; security and administrative wise, and Area "B"; where Palestinians have only an administrative control, while security is for the Israeli, and Area "C"; where Palestinians has complete control and the Palestinians has none.

In addition, the IOF enforce a 50 to 75 meter buffer zone on each side of the road in which no Palestinian construction is allowed.

In October 2004, Israel announced about a plan to maintain its control over *500 Km of roads* distributed systematically in a way that segregates the West Bank into dozen of cantons with no physical contiguity. An additional *18 tunnels and under ground passages* to be constructed to buttress the scheme which according to Israel's hopes will be financially adopted by the guardians of the peace process; the European Union and the United States of America who renounced this Israeli plan some time ago, but apparently may have a change of heart at this time.

The roads to be rehabilitated in addition to the proposed new roads and the planned tunnels attempt to create two networks of roads, one Israeli and one Palestinian. However, the Israeli network is a continuous road network that links together all Israeli colonies located in the Palestinian Territories, while the Palestinian network is fractured and unsustainable. New roads and tunnels result in segregating the Palestinian communities into Ghettos with only limited access through the proposed 18 tunnels. The estimated financial budget required for the Israeli plan is \$ 1581 Million. (see map 8)

Map 8 Network of Israeli Bypass Roads in the Occupied Palestinian Territory



Source: ARIJ GIS Unit 2007

2.2.5 The role of ‘checkpoints’ and further restriction of movement

Checkpoints have always been standard procedures of the Israeli Occupation Army since the 1967 occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip territory. However, it was not until the Palestinian Intifada of September 2000 that the Israeli Army increased the number of operating checkpoint in the West Bank and Gaza to unprecedented levels next to restrictions imposed on the Palestinian populace attempting to cross these checkpoints.

Furthermore, over the past few years, the behaviours of the Israeli soldiers stationed at these checkpoints has taken a turn beyond the usual hassle treatment to more acts that falls within manners of vicious and sadistic behaviours; as many Palestinians of different segments of the Palestinian society; students, teachers, patients, medical staff and employees were subjected to various forms of Israeli cruelty, which involved beating, humiliation (striping of cloths and sitting on a dirt mud), held for hours under the burning sun or the cold whether before they are allowed to cross a certain checkpoint. The fallout of the Israeli soldiers' acts at checkpoints had it tormenting affect on the Palestinian society; causing social ties cut off, economic separation between districts, rise in the unemployment level, and disruption to daily life activities and internal emigration. In addition to that, medical services became dramatic as medical staff, doctors and patients were denied access through checkpoints; including medical emergencies and at many occasions patients were carried on wheel chairs or animals (donkeys) as even ambulances were not allowed to cross; causing patients death in many cases. Today, there are 518 Israeli checkpoints dissecting the Occupied Palestinian Territory into small cantons and are vary in kind as listed in table 2 below:

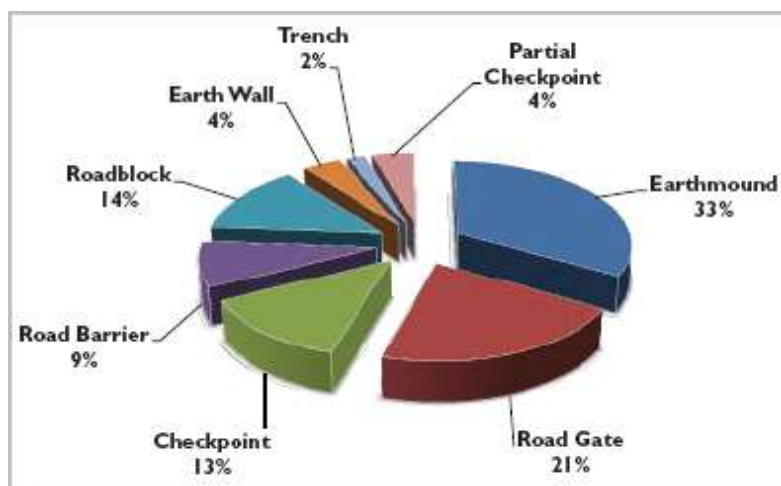
Table 2 Israeli Checkpoints in the Occupied Palestinian Territory 2007 (type and number)

Checkpoint Type	No. of Checkpoints
Permanent Checkpoint	67
Earth Mound	249
Military Watch Tower	48
Flying Checkpoint	9
Agricultural Gate	70
Tunnel	25
Planned Tunnel	16
Cement Bloc	44
Iron Gate	64
Total	592

Source: ARIJ GIS DATABASE 2007

OCHA reports in March 2010 509 numbers of obstacles of mobility – a decrease from 626 in 2009, however states that mobility between cities and villages has not improved through that. See the following figure about the different types and their percentages, as well as the images. (see figure 3, images 1-8)

Figure 3 Distribution of Obstacles by Type



Source: UN OCHA June 2010: 3

Images 1-6 Types of Obstacles

1. Earth Mound



2. Road Block



3. Trench or Ditch



4. Road Gate



5. Earth Wall



6. Partial Check Point



7. Check Point



8. Road Barrier



Source: UN OCHA June 2010 : 28-30

These checkpoints, in addition to the closures and curfews, have major effect on the economic and agricultural sectors of the Palestinian community, causing the unemployment rate and number of those living in poverty to increase. Checkpoints enforce segregation, canonizing and impoverishment of Palestinian communities and contribute much to Israeli domination over the territory and the economic strangulation of the Palestinian economy.

In addition all planning tools intend to deprive Palestinians from their right of freedom of movement, their right to work, to health care and to education. The 'Segregation Wall' is the latest attack on the Palestinian life in this context.

2.3 The Segregation Wall and its Impact on the Occupied Palestinian Territory

To complete its long term land grab, the Israeli government launched in June 2002, its policy of unilateral segregation between Israel and the Palestinian territory by establishing a Segregation Zone along the western terrain of the occupied West Bank territory.

The Israeli Segregation Zone covers substantial sizeable and significant land areas, rich with natural resources (water aquifers) as it runs along and through the western part of the West Bank from north to south grabbing the most fertile agricultural lands, isolating Palestinian communities in enclaves, undermining the territorial contiguity

between the Palestinian villages and cities, controlling the natural resources and encapsulating most of the Israeli colonies.

Israeli authorities justify the project under the pretext of 'security concerns' (Israeli Government in: Al 2007). It is worth mentioning that Vladimir Jabotinsky (1923), early Zionist, had already mentioned the need to erect an 'Iron Wall which the native population cannot break through'; metaphorically speaking this would guarantee the colonisation project. If the intention is security, the Segregation Wall should have been erected at the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line), which separates the Occupied Palestinian Territories from Israel on the borders recognised by the International Community after the occupation of the West Bank in 1967. Therefore, the Israeli attempts to annex any occupied Palestinian territory or change the 1967 borders are illegal according to United Nations resolutions 242 / 478 / 497, and contradict with International Laws, the basis of Madrid conference for Peace and the Road Map designed by the Quartet.

2.3.1 Changes on the Segregation Wall Route

The route of the Segregation Wall in the West Bank has been subjected to many changes since the Israeli Government sanctioned its construction in June 2002, the last of which was in September 2007. Each change in Wall route showed an increase in wall's length and the segregated area. At no time, has any of these changes made considered the Palestinian populace interest; despite the hundreds of petitions filed by Palestinians to the Israeli Supreme court to protest the dramatic losses that came along with the construction of the Wall. (see table 3)

Table 3: Changes on the Segregation Wall Route between June 2004 and April 2007

Date of change	Wall length in km	Areas isolated in qkm	% of West Bank
June 2004	645	633	11,2
February 2005	725	555	9,8
April 2006	683	565	9,8
September 2007	770	713	12,6

Source: ARIJ GIS Database 2007

2.3.2 The September 2007 Wall Change

In September 2007, the Israeli Ministry of Defence (IDF) published on its web-site an updated version of the Segregation Wall map in the West Bank that shows changes of large magnitude in the Segregation Wall's length and land more areas isolated in the West Bank than which was last published in April 2006. The new map that was published on the IDF's website in September 2007 was actually sanctioned back to April 2007, but was only published on the web-site until now.

The latest revised plan of April 2007 showed that the Wall will be 770 km in length in the West Bank where only 80 km (10.4% of its total length) to be built on the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line). When completed, it will isolate 713 km² of the West Bank's total area (12.6 percent of the total area – 5,661 km²) in what has come to be known as the Western Segregation Zone. In addition, the Wall will enclose 107 Israeli colonies (including those in East Jerusalem) accommodating 425,000 settlers (over 80 percent of the total Israeli settlers' population in the West Bank (530,000)) within its path.

The changes accrued in the length of the Segregation Wall and the area increased behind it where distinct in two specific areas, the first of which is at the south-east terrain south of the Jordan Valley area along the nature reserve areas east of Bethlehem and Hebron Districts. The new addition to the route of the Wall starts off the southern part of Hebron Governorate and continues towards the north-eastern; an increase in the wall's section length in that area of 53.5 km, which in turn caused the isolation of an additional area of 153.8 km² (153.780 thousand dunam). An additional consequence that occurred as a result to the new section added to the Segregation Wall length there is the fact that Israel stand to deprive the Palestinians of 71 Km² (37%) of the 194-km² area designated to them in the Dead Sea area. (see map 9)

The second change in the Segregation Wall route took place north-west of Ramallah city. It showed an increase in the Wall length by 13.5 km and an area isolated of 4140 dunam. The new alteration there aimed to include the Israeli colonies of Nili and Na'ale. (see table 4)

Table 4: Status of the Segregation Wall as of February 2010

Wall Status	Wall Length in km	% of the total Wall length
Existing Wall	413	58
Under Construction	73	10
Planned Wall	223	32
Total	709	100

Source: OCHA 2010 , ARIJ GIS Database 2010

**Map 9: Route of the Israeli Segregation Wall
In the Occupied Territories in 2008**



Source: UNOCHA July 2008: 2

The dots show Palestinian locations excluded from their surrounding; blue: between barrier and the Green Line; green: surrounded by the barrier on 3 sides, yellow: on 4 sides; in total approximately 170.000 people are affected..

2.3.3 Components of the Segregation Wall in the West Bank

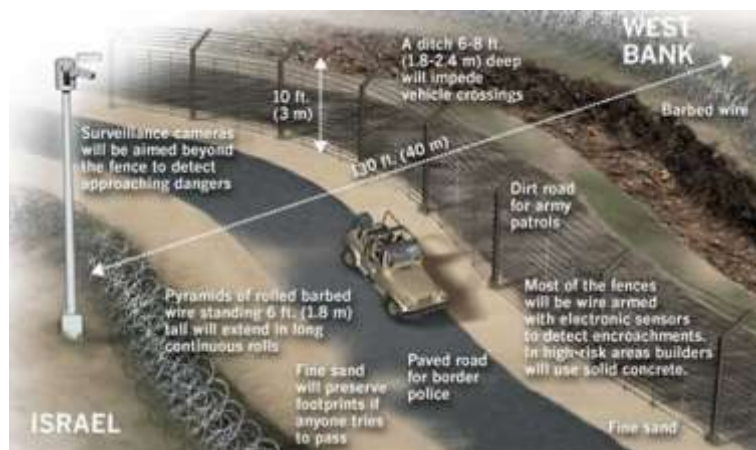
At this time, an explanation of the term “Segregation Wall” should be made obvious as it reflects two shapes of structures used by the Israeli Army to complete their territorial separation mission in the occupied Palestinian territory, it is either concrete partition of 8-12 meters in height or in the other case, and multi-line fences are used. In both cases the term Segregation Wall applies. Based on the characteristic nature of the area where the Segregation Wall runs, the type of the structure is determined as to say in areas where the Segregation Wall cuts through vast agriculture lands, the Segregation Wall is a fence, which is more devastating to the land as it takes an area of 40-100 meters in width to complete; where double layered fences, reinforced with barbed wires, trenches, military roads and footprint detection tracks as well as 4-5 meters high electrified metal fence supplied with security surveillance cameras. In the other case, in areas with sizeable population and/or in-close perimeter with the Green Line, the Segregation Wall consists of 8-12 meters high concrete partitions appendage with military watchtowers lined-up 250 meters apart. (see images 9-10, figure 3)

**Images 9 - 10: Components of the Segregation Wall:
Concrete Panels, Barbed Wires,**



Source: ARIJ Photo Archive Database

Figure 4: Cross section of a fence between Israel and the West Bank



Source: ARIJ Photo Archive 2007

2.4 Closure of the Jordan Valley ... "The Eastern Segregation Zone"

The Israeli Army has consolidated its control over the eastern terrain of the West Bank in what is known as the Eastern Segregation Zone (1,555 km² – 27.5 percent of the West Bank) through 28 military-controlled checkpoints along 200 km stretching from north to south. This control has been perceived by the late Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on April 5, 2004 when asked if the eastern fence or wall will still take place, his answer was: *"I don't see a fence being built there today, unless we need to. Here and there we will block access points to the Jordan Valley."*⁴

After the 1967 War, Israel classified some 925 km² as part of a "closed military area." Furthermore, Israel has illegally classified an additional 632 km² of the Eastern Segregation Zone as "State Land," which includes the area of the colonies, the military bases, and some parts of the closed military areas.

The Eastern Segregation zone effectively isolates 45 Palestinian communities with population exceeding 43000 Palestinians who were and still systematically subjected to all kinds of coercion (house demolition, confinement, land confiscation, denial of basic medical services or proper educational facilities, hygienic drinking water, etc) exercised by the Israeli Army to push them to abandon their lands. The Palestinian communities are spread over areas classified A (69 Km²) and B (2 Km²) (according to Oslo agreement of September 1993) and are no where connected to the West Bank except through Israeli controlled areas and via Israeli checkpoints.

The Eastern Segregation Zone also includes 39 Israeli colonies with a combined population of 12550 settlers. Today, the colonies stand on an area of 38 km², about 2.4 percent of the total area of the Eastern Segregation Zone. (see map 10)

Map 10: The Eastern Segregation Zone



Source: ARIJ GIS Database 2007

⁴ August 21, 2005). Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem. from The Israeli colonization activities in the Eastern Segregation Zone Web site: http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=654

2.5 Impacts of the Israeli Segregation Wall

Vast areas of Palestinian lands have been confiscated, thousands of trees uprooted, hundreds of dunam of agricultural lands razed, and tens of wells appropriated or demolished. Significant portions of the Palestinian areas cut-off by the Wall have also been declared closed military areas and off-limits to Palestinians. As a result of these drastic affects, thousands of residents inside the West Bank (and Gaza Strip) have been severely affected socially, economically and politically. See the following.

Impact on the Palestinian Agriculture

The Israeli Segregation Wall affects all Palestinian lands near the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line) and many lands deeper inside the West Bank where the Wall cuts well inside Palestinian territory. By virtue of its winding route, the Wall will confiscate 713 km² of Palestinian land, much of it is cultivated. At least, 29 Palestinian villages' boundaries with a total area of 216.7 Km² will become trapped in enclaves; in addition to that, 138 Palestinian villages' boundaries are largely affected, some 554.4 Km² will be lost behind the Segregation Wall.

Impact on Social Life

The Israeli Segregation Wall cuts off many Palestinian communities and villages from neighbouring towns and cities. Individuals living in Segregation Zones or better ethnic ghettos are separated from friends and relatives living in nearby villages. Residents of the 'ghettos' are required to obtain permits from Israeli occupation authorities simply to access their homes. Non-residents are restricted from entering these areas.

The Israeli Segregation Wall will also affect the educational system in the West Bank; according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistic (PCBS) 26% of Palestinian students will lose their rights and access to proper education and 81% of Palestinians in regions affected by the Wall will be forced to find alternative routes to their schools and universities as a result of the Wall. An additional 350 schools will be isolated outside the Wall. (PENGON 2004)

Impact on Economy

The Wall has had certain, significant and highly destructive impacts on the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territories has climbed to nearly 33%. The World Bank clarifies that some 47% of Palestinians live below the poverty line. Many of the effects are due to harsh Israeli restrictions on trade and humanitarian aid. The Segregation Wall has also had a significant impact, however, mostly in the agricultural sector. Many Palestinians depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In addition to the destruction and appropriation of agricultural land, Palestinian industry has also been greatly damaged as a result of the Segregation Wall. This assault on the Palestinian economy has accelerated an already desperate situation in the OPT. (PENGON 2004)

Impact on Healthcare

The Segregation Wall has significant and harsh health impacts for Palestinians in the OPT. The isolation and disintegration wrought by the Wall, together with the discriminatory Israeli checkpoint and permit systems, pose a systemic challenge to local and national health care services in the OPT. When complete, the Wall will make it much more difficult for Palestinians to reach hospitals and medical centres situated in nearby cities. Access will be controlled by Israeli occupying forces and based on the Israeli permit system. Moreover, according to the International Press

Centre, 30.6% of medical staff is unable to reach the health centres and hospitals in which they work as a result of the Wall (UPMRC 2004).

Conclusion

Since Oslo of September 1993 to Camp David summit of July 2000, Israel has added more than 17.000 new housing units to the body of the colonies; thus constituting a major blow to the peace process and revealing Israel's intentions toward fulfilling its obligations to carry out any significant withdrawal from the illegal colonies in the occupied territories. Furthermore, Israel confiscated in the following 5 years of the "interim period" more than 36,000 dunam in and around Jerusalem city and even after the Why River Memorandum of 1998 which stressed that neither party takes any measures that might alter the final status negotiations; Israel went and advocated 27 illegal Israeli outposts in that period.

In the year 2007, the number of colonies in the West Bank reached 199 colonies hosting nearly 530000 Israeli settlers, of which 230,000 settlers lived in 14 colonies in the East Jerusalem area. These colonies concentrate on hilltops overlooking and surrounding Palestinian populated areas, areas that block the merging of Palestinian populated areas while facilitating the merging of colonies, areas that may be easily annexed to Israel in the future, or areas that secure economic resources, militarily advantage or negotiating leverage. Furthermore, Israel is using the Wall to usurp nearly 50% of the West Bank.

The systematic long term planning to judaise the West Bank represented in the establishment of colonies, bypass roads, closed military areas, nature reserves and security zones describe this anticipated situation that Israel is trying to impose on Palestinians a final status situation without negotiations or consideration of unalienable Palestinian rights. Consequently, by creating what they believe to be "irreversible facts on the ground" to dictate their own terms to any potential peace agreement with the Palestinians, Israel aims to put an end to any prospect of a viable Palestinian State over occupied territories of 1967.

The result of such plans is the grouping of Palestinian towns and villages into many separate cantons. Indeed, the Israeli intention is to make the contiguity of any Palestinian state in the future practically unattainable and eventually to reach control and even a new Israeli map over 100% of the once promised Palestine of Balfour Declaration.

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