

# PAPER 5

## THE WEST BANK & SETTLEMENTS

### A CRASH COURSE ON THE TRUTH

Illegal settlements, and the appropriation of Palestinian land

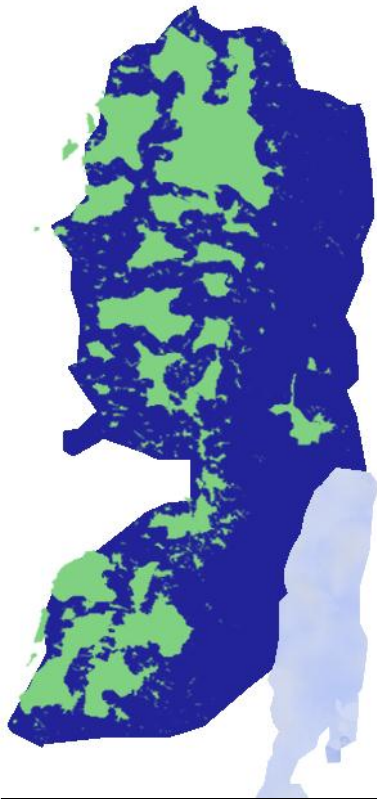


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# THE WEST BANK



This is a map of the West Bank that shows how fragmented it is. The dark portions denote Israeli settlements or closed military zones that are completely cut off to Palestinians. Also note how Palestinians are completely cut off from the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley: areas extremely valuable and rich in their natural resources.

The West Bank is considered to be part of the Palestinian state under UN Resolution 181 (more famously known as the UN Partition Plan). Since 1967, it has been illegally occupied by Israel, despite demands that it withdraw. Although the situation in the West Bank is often misconstrued as stable and entirely under Palestinian control, this is a myth. The majority of the West Bank (more than 60%) is **CONTROLLED BY THE ISRAELI MILITARY**. Even in the small pockets of the West Bank purportedly controlled by the Palestinians, Israel has control over any movement and airspace, and thus Palestinians have almost no control over the West Bank. At best, the PA acts on Israel's behalf: policing, and controlling any resistance.

Since 1967, Israelis have been illegally settling into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,<sup>1</sup> demolishing Palestinian homes in the process. This is explicitly against international law, specifically, the Fourth

Geneva Convention, which states that an occupying power cannot transfer its population into its occupied territories. Currently there are

**500, 000 ILLEGAL JEWISH**

**SETTLERS** living inside the West Bank in separate Jewish colonies (where Palestinians are not permitted to live). These settlers are protected under Israeli law, and the IDF serves to protect their presence. A system has been set up to protect these settlers (who are rarely punished when violently attacking Palestinians). They also have access to (stolen, Palestinian) resources, and full access to Israel-proper through a system of specialized roads and transport, which only Israelis are permitted to use. Settlers also receive

generous subsidies and special services from the Israeli government: for living illegally in the West Bank. Further, while can be legally armed, Palestinians cannot.

<sup>1</sup> Illegal settlers left the Gaza Strip in 2005, followed by a complete Israeli blockade of Gaza. For more information on Gaza, see Veritas Paper 7.

# THE APARTHEID WALL: 708 KM

61.8% Completed

8.2% Under Construction

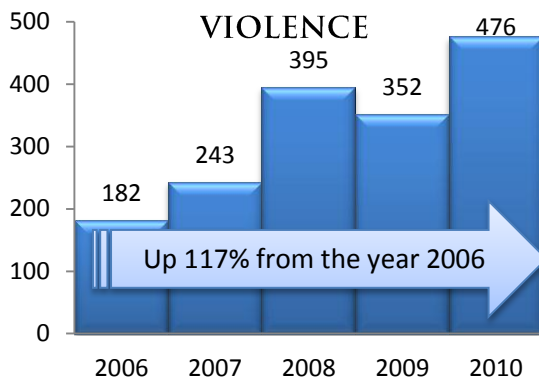
30% Planned

UPON COMPLETION, **33,200** PALESTINIANS WILL BE IN COMPLETELY ENCLOSED AREAS AND **125,000** PALESTINIANS WILL BE SURROUNDED ON 3 SIDES

The presence of settlers and the special treatment given to them, has entrenched a system of apartheid into the West Bank and this can clearly be seen in the apartheid wall- a barrier over **700 KM** long that does not follow Israel's internationally recognized borders. The wall makes sure to completely secure illegal settlements and roads, and in the process, creates a makes movement for Palestinians a huge hassle. The Green Line (Israel's pre-1967 borders) runs 315km long, while the apartheid wall is more than two times that length, and the vast majority of it (85%) is being built on Palestinian land, and **annexing another 10% of Palestinian land (in addition to the space for Israel's 500,000 illegal settlers, military bases, and restricted areas)**. This wall has been deemed **ILLEGAL** by the **International Court of Justice in 2004**. The wall is **NOT** a border, as **claimed by many Israelis**.

The problem is pretty simple: The occupation is illegal and a system of privilege has been set up of one people over another. New housing in settlements increases every year, and no moves have been made to abolish these settlements. While Israel makes promises to 'freeze' settlements, they continue to increase in size, if not in number. Meanwhile, resources are stolen from the Palestinians and Palestinians have virtually **no control** over their livelihoods and future. Palestinians are cut off from the most valuable resources in the region: the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. They may be trying to declare statehood- but no such sovereign state exists.

## INCIDENTS OF SETTLER VIOLENCE



Statistics from OCHA-OPT

**600+ CLOSURES**  
IN AN AREA SMALLER THAN THE STATE  
OF DELAWARE OR NEW JERSEY

**64 CHECKPOINTS**  
**24 PARTIAL CHECKPOINTS**  
**114 ROAD GATES**  
**70 ROADBLOCKS**  
**166 EARTHMOUNDS**  
**10 TRENCHES**  
**46 ROAD BARRIERS**  
**20 EARTH WALLS**  
**91 FLYING CHECKPOINTS (AVG)**

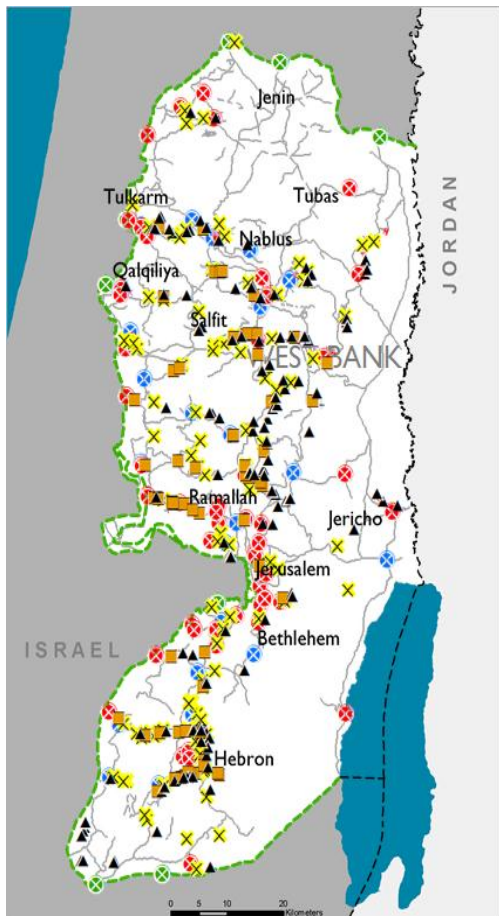
Data from OCHA-OPT



# OCCUPATION

IMAGINE HAVING  
NO CONTROL OVER  
YOUR LIFE

With over 600 CLOSURES  
AND BARRIERS  
throughout the West  
Bank—and an APARTHEID  
WALL cutting through it,  
daily life for Palestinians is  
severely disrupted. With  
SETTLER VIOLENCE  
increasing, SETTLEMENTS  
EXPANDING, the reality of  
HOUSE  
DEMOLITIONS and the  
heavy PRESENCE OF  
SOLDIERS throughout  
most of the West Bank, life  
for Palestinians is NOT a  
normal life, nor is it  
**SAFE.**



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