

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2006



Edited By

Dr. Mohsen M. Saleh



Al-Zaytouna Centre For Studies & Consultations

Chapter Seven

The Land and the Sanctuaries

E-mail: info@alzaytouna.net

Website: www.alzaytouna.net

You can contact us and view the center's pages by clicking on the applications below:



The Land and the Sanctuaries

Introduction

The year 2006 had glaringly exhibited the insistence of the Palestinians to have their rights and sanctuaries in spite of the spiral of suppression and deprivation that they suffered under the Israeli occupation. Concurrently, the year had demonstrated the determination of the Israeli occupation to actively pursue its policy of Judaization of the Palestinian land and sanctuaries. During the year, Israel accelerated the pace of Jewish settlements, and went ahead with its project to Judaize Jerusalem, expel its citizens and transgress its Islamic and Christian endowments. Israel also continued its practice of fait accompli through confiscation of Palestinian lands to build the Separation Wall, isolation of towns and cities, obliteration of houses, uprooting of trees, destruction of agricultural lands and stealing of water. While adopting these practices, Israel successfully engaged world attention with the issue of Hamas' recognition of Israel as a pre-condition for lifting the blockade that it imposed on the Palestinian government and people. Meanwhile, the Arab-Muslim world and the world at large failed to confront these and other Israeli violations. This chapter focuses on the district of Jerusalem as well as the rest of the WB, but, within the available literature, it also indicates the oppressive Israeli measures in GS and in the 1948 occupied lands (Israel).

First: Jerusalem and the Sanctuaries

The primary objective of all the Israeli occupation governments on the issue of Jerusalem is to totally control and Judaize the town. They tried to do this through the demographic factor, and the topographical too. Towards the goal of having a Jewish majority in the town, the Israeli successive governments, as well as non-government institutions, adopted a variety of oppressive measures against the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem. The Israeli Ministry of Interior, the Municipality of Jerusalem, the National Insurance Institute of Israel (NII) and the Ministry of Finance had all participated in this anti-Arab drive. The ulterior aim behind this well planned

campaign is to increase the pressure and burden on the Arab inhabitants to such an extent that they will have no option but to quit the city. It is worth mentioning here that the official Israeli statistics indicate that the population distribution in the Old City included 89,042 Muslims, 8,042 Armenian Christians, 9,625 Christians in the Christian quarter and 8,232 Jews in *al-Sharaf*, or Jewish, quarter.

As for East Jerusalem, its population in 2006 totaled 413 thousand of whom 231 thousand were Palestinians, and 182 thousand were Jewish settlers.¹ By early 2007, the total inhabitants of Jerusalem, i.e., both East and West Jerusalem, is expected to be 720 thousand, of whom the Jews constitute 475 thousand, i.e., 66%, and the Arabs 245 thousand, that is 34% of the total population.² The Israeli plans strive to sharply reduce the numbers of the Arab population in both parts of Jerusalem to a mere quarter or one fifth of the total population.

Amongst the Israeli measures to Judaize Jerusalem and transgress its sanctity are the following:

1. Displacement of the Palestinians through the Withdrawal of the Right to Stay in Jerusalem

The policy of migration, or the quiet transfer, started as early as the year 1967, and is continuing until today. It had effectively stripped the right of citizenship from many Palestinian families who lived in Jerusalem. During the period from January 1995 to March 2000, the Israeli Ministry of Interior adopted a new way to sharply reduce the number of the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem, namely to withdraw the citizenship card of any of them who fails to ascertain his place of residence in Jerusalem in the past or now, and to compel him/ her to leave the town. In this case, he or she will lose all rights.

The occupation authorities had also withdrawn the Israeli identity cards from the Palestinians of Jerusalem who moved from the town to live in the artificial frontier towns of the Municipality of Jerusalem, i.e., the towns of the WB that surround Jerusalem, under the guise that these suburbs are outside Israel by virtue of paragraph (1) of Article (11) of Entry into Israel Regulations, 1974. This law limits the cases in which the identity card may be withdrawn to three:

- a. If a person lives outside Israel for at least seven years.
- b. If a person earned the right of residence in another country.
- c. If a person got a naturalized nationality of another country.

Thus, the Palestinians of Jerusalem were deprived of their rights to stay outside the country to study, work or to have dual nationality. More dangerous was their deprivation of the right of family reunion and to register their offsprings. Since the year 2000, the Israeli government froze all the applications of family reunion, and on 31/7/2003 it issued the so-called Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law, which deprived all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the Palestinians who bear the Israeli citizenship (the 1948 Palestinians) from the right of family reunion if they married spouses from the WB. This Law, which imposed on these Palestinians to live separately, was endorsed by the Israeli High Court of Justice (Supreme Court) on 14/5/2006, and hence becomes legally binding. Though Israel had allowed the Palestinians of Jerusalem to participate in the legislative elections of 25/1/2006, the Minister of Interior Ronnie Bar-On, issued a decree on 29/5/2006 that withdrew the right of stay from all the representatives of Jerusalem in the PLC if they do not submit their resignations within a month.³

The available statistics indicate that the Palestinian inhabitants whose identification cards were withdrawn since 1967 and until 2004 totaled 6,396. In an interview published in the summer of 2006, Muhammad Tutah a member of the PLC, had, however, maintained that their numbers were far more than this figure, i.e., more than seven thousand.⁴

This campaign of withdrawal of identity cards was particularly intense in the year 2006. According to the statistics of the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B'Tselem), the number of the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem who were stripped of their identity cards in that year alone was 1,363, the highest ever since the occupation of Jerusalem. Their total number from 1967 to 2006 reached 8,269. The following table shows the accelerating rate of the Israeli drive to empty the holy town from its Arab inhabitants.⁵

Table 1/7: Statistics on Revocation of Residency Rights 2003-2006⁶

Year	No. of Palestinians whose residency was revoked
2003	272
2004	16
2005	222
2006	1,363
Total	1,873

To achieve their objective in sharply reducing the number of Arabs in Jerusalem, Jerusalem Municipality evaded extension of services to the original inhabitants of the town. By virtue of the Israeli law, the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem were required to pay to the municipality and the state all the taxes and the dues, such as the income and house taxes and for the national insurance, notwithstanding their low income and the poor services that they receive compared to those extended to the Jews. This had further increased the hardship and misery of the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem.

The Israeli policy does not seem to be heading towards relaxing the pressure on the Palestinians of Jerusalem, particularly as far as the identity cards are concerned. On the contrary, Israel is continuing its oppressive policies, and the participation in the government in late October 2006 of the extreme and racist party “Yisrael Beitenu,” which calls for the expulsion of the Arabs, is an indication of further and more suppression and extremism towards the Palestinians and their land.⁷

2. Refusal of Building Permissions to the Palestinians of Jerusalem

The size of Jerusalem has been multiplied more than 10 times since the occupation in 1967. But the Israeli occupation is the sole beneficiary of this extensive increase in the town's area that had been usurped either by the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Finance or the Jerusalem Municipality. It was used for the establishment of settlements that surrounded the town, or declared “reserved” land or confiscated under the pretext of reserving it for future public usage. But the real motive is to deny the Palestinians the right of building there.⁸

In fact, it was almost impossible for a Palestinian to have a building permission. Apart from the high cost of such a license, up to \$30 thousand, and the long time that it takes, the land must be registered in the name of the licensee. If the land is inherited from a father to son or daughter, then the issuance of a license becomes extremely complicated.

The whole idea behind these laws and restrictions is to restrict population increase and constructional development by the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem. Hence, they had no option but to build without permissions which exposed their houses to the danger of obliteration.

These oppressive measures compelled many Palestinians to quit Jerusalem and live in the WB or in the diaspora, which automatically stripped them of their right

of citizenship in the town. But others have stuck to the town to live in difficult, even tragic, conditions.

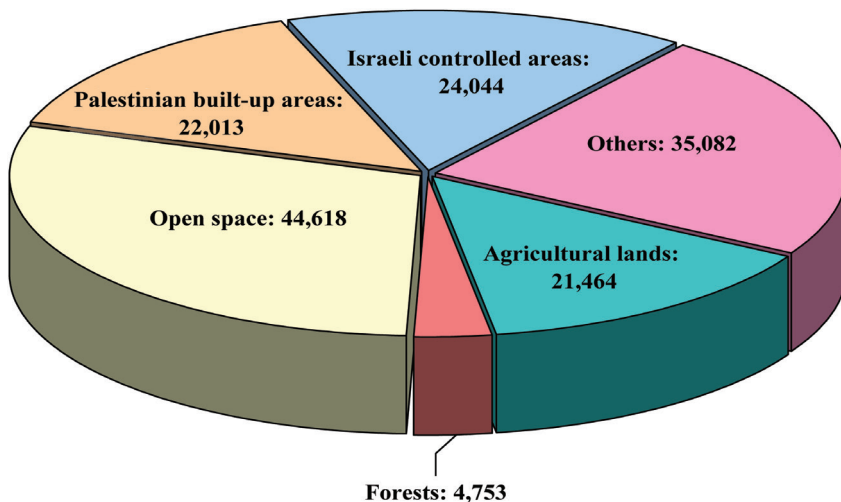
3. The Impact of the Separation Wall on Jerusalem

By the completion of the Separation Wall project, the isolated area in Jerusalem will total 151,974 donum, i.e., 43% of the total area of Jerusalem Governorate. According to various reports on the impact of the Wall 231 thousand Palestinians, about 56% of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, will negatively be affected by the construction of the Wall. The below table explains the varieties of land that will be isolated by the Wall, according to the quality of land and its area.

Table 2/7: Classification of Landuse/ Landcover Area Isolated behind the Separation Wall in Jerusalem Governorate⁹

Land type	Area in donums (1 donum=1,000 m ²)
Agricultural lands	21,464
Forests	4,753
Open space	44,618
Palestinian built-up areas	22,013
Israeli controlled areas	24,044
Others	35,082
Total	151,974

Classification of Landuse/ Landcover Area Isolated behind the Separation Wall in Jerusalem Governorate



During the year 2006, the Israeli occupation built new sections of the Separation Wall around Jerusalem, wherein the construction of 89 km, about 55% of the total length of the Wall, had already been completed. The building of the rest was either in progress or already approved.

Table 3/7: Construction Progress of the Separation Wall in Jerusalem¹⁰

	Length (km)	Percentage of the Wall length (%)
Completed construction	89	54.9
Under construction	16	9.9
Construction not yet begun	57	35.2
Total	162	100

As emphasized by the National Office for Land Defense and Resisting Settlements, the completion of the building of this Wall in Jerusalem will have serious repercussions. For the clear objective behind this Wall around the frontiers of the so-called Greater Jerusalem was to reduce its then 35% Palestinian inhabitants to 22% only, which clearly shows the extensive dimension of the project to Judaize Jerusalem, and its far-reaching and dangerous economic and socio-political impact on the life of the Palestinians. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in collaboration with the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency & Refugee Rights conducted a household survey on the impact of Wall on the forced displacement in Jerusalem, during the period 15/5-10/6/2006. The results of the survey revealed that 72.1% of the households with students in higher education were forced to be sometimes absent from university, because of the closure, compared with 69.4% for households with students enrolled in basic/ secondary education. The results also showed that access to health centers was a difficulty for 34.5% of the households in Jerusalem Governorate (5.8% inside the Wall and 88.3% outside the Wall). In addition, the inability of medical staff to reach health centers was an obstacle for 31.3% of the households (4.4% inside the Wall and 81.8% outside the Wall).

The results of the survey showed that about 21.4% of the Palestinian households, reported to have at least one member who was separated from relatives (15.5% inside the Wall and 32.6% outside the Wall). In addition, 18% of the Palestinian households in Jerusalem Governorate were separated from the father (14.3% inside

the Wall and 26.2% outside the Wall), whereas 12.7% of the households were separated from the mother (12.9% inside the Wall and 12.3% outside the Wall).

The results of the survey revealed that 32.9% of the Palestinians of Jerusalem changed their previous place of residence because of the Separation Wall, of whom 53.9% changed their place of residence for the first time after the beginning of constructing the Wall in 2002. Moreover, 63.8% of the individuals aged 16 and above were seriously thinking to change their current place of residence because of the Separation Wall and its associated regime, and 86.7% needs to have appropriate services, particularly jobs and social security, to motivate them to stay in their homes.

It is worth mentioning that 94.7% of the households bitterly complained that the long time spent to pass checkpoints was an obstacle for them, and that 84.6% maintained that their social relations and visits to relatives were adversely affected by the Wall. Moreover, the ability of 40% of the households to visit religious and holy sites was also affected, and that 69.4% of the households object to have their married partners from the other side of the Wall, though this percentage was much lower, about 31.6%, before the construction of the Wall.¹¹

The town of *al-‘Aizariyah* east of Jerusalem is a living example of these devastating effects of the Separation Wall. Khalid al-‘Azzah, the director general of Counter-Settlement and Separation Wall Construction Department in the Ministry of Local Government, mentioned that the Wall have entrapped the town that lies four kilometers east of Jerusalem and along the main road Jerusalem-Jericho. Al-‘Azzah continued to say that the Wall will isolate the only cemetery in the town as well as hundreds donums of lands owned by the Palestinians and by the Christian endowments. The Wall is also a formidable predicament to tourism in these and other regions.

The Wall will close the only way leading towards Jerusalem, and the owners of the land and houses cannot enter or exit across the Wall except with the prior permission of the Israeli authorities, which is normally governed by many considerations.

When completed, this Wall will isolate *al-‘Aizariyah* from neighboring villages and towns like *al-Tur*, *al-Za‘im* and *al-‘Isawiyah*. The Israeli government strives to bypass *al-‘Aizariyah* and to include one of the largest Jewish settlements that lies near to this town, namely Ma‘ale Adummim, and another Jewish settlement, Kidar,

to the Municipality of Jerusalem. Hence, it changed the route of the Separation Wall to guarantee the annexation of these two colonies, and to further tight the siege of the towns *al-‘Aizariyah* and *Abu Dis*, through which the Wall passes, and to dismember their different parts.

The former Palestinian Premier Ahmad Quray‘, tried to build the headquarters of the PLC in *Abu Dis*, which was occasionally dubbed “a Palestinian Jerusalem.” But this plan was subsequently aborted as the Wall had annexed the area in which the building was scheduled to be constructed.

A report issued by the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) showed that the execution of the Wall project around Jerusalem will lead to the isolation of at least 50 thousand of the inhabitants of Jerusalem and thousands of the Bedouins, in addition to the uprooting of thousand trees.

Another repercussion of the Wall is the isolation of some quarters from several villages in Jerusalem Governorate, e.g., *Wad al-Hummus*, *Dayr al-‘Amud*, *al-Mintar* and *al-Salalim* in the region of *Sur Bahir*. The area of this region is 1,661 donums, and the quarters in question are inhabited by one thousand of citizens, amongst whom are 150 students who all bear the Jerusalem identity card. The Wall also isolates the village *al-Sheikh Sa‘d* of Jerusalem Municipality, and the isolation extends to the region of *Wadi Abu ‘Ali* that is rich with olive trees, and include 1,500 bearers of Jerusalem identity cards.¹²

4. The Violations and Excavations in the Sanctuaries

In their strive to destroy the character of Palestine and its people, and to complete the Judaization process, the occupiers took several measures in the occupied Arab territories that aimed at striping them of their religious, cultural and civilizational heritage. This was particularly so in Jerusalem whose sacred position, archaeological sites and civilizational legacy challenge the Israeli project and emphasize the Palestinian right.

a. The Excavations Underneath *al-Aqsa* Mosque

Since their occupation of Old Jerusalem, the Israeli occupiers embarked on a persistent and organized campaign to steal the archaeological, religious and cultural remains of the town, including the transfer of the rare Lachish Letters, the Dead Sea Scrolls and the most important treasures of the Palestine Archaeological Museum to the Israeli Museum.

However, the most dangerous aspect of this cultural theft was the excavations under the fences of *al-Aqsa* Mosque. In a press conference on 3/1/2006, al-Sheikh Ra'id Salah disclosed the existence of a double store Jewish synagogue, of which one floor was a prayer place for women and the other for men, near the Dome of the Rock (*Qubbat al-Sakhrah*) about 97 meter from its center. Salah added that there are seven rooms under *al-Aqsa* Mosque and that the excavations are ongoing.¹³

In the presence of Uri Lupolianski, the Mayor of Jerusalem, and the most important Rabbis of the Jewish state, the president of Israel, Moshe Katsav, opened on 13/3/2006 a new prayers room in the Western Wall of *al-Aqsa* Mosque, known as *Ha'it al-Buraq* or as called by the Jews the Wailing Wall courtyard that was established under the famous building named the Islamic Court in Jerusalem. Kastav called during this opening session for the construction of a road that connects *al-Buraq* Wall (the Wailing Wall) courtyard with David Basin, which means further excavations under *al-Aqsa* Mosque. In its issue of 30/6/2006, *Haaretz* newspaper reported that Israeli archaeologists will start excavations and the removal of the dust barricade that lead to the bridge of the Moroccans Gate (*Bab al-Magharibah*), one of the doors of *al-Aqsa* Mosque. On 13/8/2006, the occupation authorities placed a tenure to destroy the ways of the Moroccans Gate,¹⁴ and allocated \$1.1 million for this purpose.¹⁵ Moreover, a nearly completed project is available for the construction of a tunnel that connects Silwan with *al-Marwani* Prayer Hall (*al-Musallah al-Marwani*) in preparation for the establishment of the Israeli dream of a synagogue over it.¹⁶

All this is part of a grand design to divide *al-Aqsa* Mosque through the application of Clinton Plan that claims what is above the ground is for the Muslims and what is beneath it is for the Jews. In fact, this plan is being implemented on the ground, though some Islamic institutions and personalities had warned against its dangerous consequences.¹⁷

Some Israeli societies actively pursue projects to Judaize Jerusalem. News were revealed on 21/6/2006 of an agreement between the Ateret Kohanim Association and Jerusalem Municipality to open a tunnel between Suleiman Grotto in the Damascus Gate (*Bab al-'Amud*) and a house that the society controls for 20 years behind *al-Maylawiah* School.¹⁸ If connected, this tunnel will lead to the control of the Islamic quarter in the Old City, specifically *al-Sa'diyah* quarter and the

Red Minaret. We should add here that this project is part of the 2020 Jerusalem project to Judaize the Old City.¹⁹ Probably this will consolidate a plan that was a cooperation between the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jewish Quarter Development Company in the Old City. It aims at establishing an 18 thousand square meter four-storey parking lot south of *al-Aqsa* Mosque, that includes commercial centers and hotels.²⁰

On the advice of some religious leaders and archaeologists, the Israeli leaders fixed the objectives of Jerusalem excavations in the following:

1. To conduct archaeological excavations on the southern and western walls of *al-Aqsa* Mosque along a distant of 485 meters in preparation for the discovery of *al-Buraq* Wall (the Wailing Wall).
2. Destruction and obliteration of all the adjacent Islamic buildings that are established over the area of excavations, and are connected, or neighbor, to this Wall all along its length.
3. Subsequently the control of *al-Aqsa* Mosque and the construction of "Solomon Temple." However, archaeological excavations conducted over more than a century failed to provide concrete and convincing evidence in support of this temple, or of the remains of the town of Prophet David, or even the era in which Solomon ruled.

Though employing scientific archaeological methods, these excavations are directed to serve the cause of Israeli fanaticism and the Israeli occupation and not to discover the objective truth. What these excavations aim at is to establish the right of the Jews to return to the sacred land, and to deliberately ignore other civilizations. In other words, they use their archaeological findings, whatever they are, to support the Jewish religious and historical claims. Additionally, these excavations are accompanied by systematic theft and selling of the Islamic archaeological remains that are the cultural possession of the Muslim-Arab peoples, and should not be transferred outside the occupied region.²¹

These excavations are essentially in the Old City and in *al-Aqsa* Mosque in particular, though some less important ones are undertaken outside it in Mount Zion and in the lower parts of Mount of Olives. They are still carried on in clear defiance of the several declarations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN that prohibited them. They are

undertaken under the cover of scientific exploration, though their real objective is to satisfy a primary Israeli ambition, namely to shake the foundations of the above residential, commercial, religious and heritage buildings, and cause their downfall, hence obliterating them and evacuating their residents. It had been established that these excavations constitute a serious danger to the very survival of many great historical buildings such as *Ribat al-Kurd*, *al-Jawhariyah* School, Ottoman School, Cotton Merchant's Gate and Qaitbay Minaret, as well as the foundations of *al-Aqsa* Mosque and its underground residential quarters.

b. Aggression against the Endowments and the Sanctuaries in Jerusalem

The year 2006 witnessed further Israeli aggression against the sanctuaries. Under the patronage of the Israeli government and funded by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC), the Jerusalem Municipality initiated a \$200 million project to establish the "Museum of Tolerance (MOT)" in the location of the historical, and, largest, Islamic cemetery Mamilla Cemetery (*Ma'man Allah* Cemetery), of about 200 donums, that lies west of Old Jerusalem about two Kilometers from Jaffa Gate (*Bab al-Khalil*).²² It is worth mentioning that this cemetery is an officially registered endowment, and contains the remains of several of the companions of the Prophet (*Sahabah*), followers of the *Sahabah (al-Tabi'in)* and many scholars and "martyrs." The history of this cemetery indicates the following:

- In April 1947, the British army controlled this Cemetery, made it its headquarters and destroyed some parts of its enclosure.
- Towards the end of 1985, the Israeli Ministry of Communication built a parking area in a sizable part of this Cemetery.
- During the years 1985-1987, works started to have a drainage system and to extend the parking area.
- On 15/1/2000, the Israeli Electricity Company undertook some digging works in the Cemetery under the guise of extending electricity lines below the ground.
- In September 2002, it was declared that a building for the Israeli courts will be established in the region of Mamilla Cemetery.

- In February 2004, the Israeli press reported the intention of their government to officiate the so-called “Center for Human Dignity-Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem” in what remains of the land of Mamilla Cemetery.
- In January 2005, the digging operations in the Cemetery started for the establishment of the so-called Museum of Tolerance.
- On 23/2/2006, the Israeli high court issued a precautionary order that prohibited work in Mamilla Cemetery except for the department of archaeology.²³

The Israeli violations included the Christian endowments. A Jewish quarter bought a church in East Jerusalem and converted it to a Jewish synagogue. This was part and parcel of the chain of unlawful and secret deals in Jerusalem. *Ma‘ariv* newspaper mentioned that this action provoked an acute diplomatic crisis with the Vatican and Germany, the patron of this church.²⁴

In an attempt to find a footing ground for the Jews in Jerusalem, a group of experts from the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (JIIS) presented an initiative that claimed that the best way to settle the conflict over Jerusalem is through the internationalization of the sacred and historical sites in the town.²⁵

But the Islamic Movement inside occupied Palestine 1948 (Israel) categorically rejected this idea. In a declaration, it emphasized that Israel wants to distract attention from the fact that Jerusalem, the Old City and the *al-Aqsa* Mosque are under occupation. The declaration emphasized that the Jewish claim of a religious right in Jerusalem and *al-Aqsa* Mosque is scientifically and historically groundless.²⁶ On his part, al-Sheikh ‘Ikrima Sabri refused the notion of internationalization, and emphasized that *al-Aqsa* Mosque is beyond negotiations, bargain or concessions.²⁷

Along the same pattern, the Israeli authorities suggested, with the support of Jerusalem Municipality, the establishment of an electric train to transport tourists and visitors to *al-Buraq* Wall (the Wailing Wall), which was rejected by al-Sheikh ‘Ikrima Sabri on the grounds that this will avail to the fanatic Jews an opportunity to endanger *al-Aqsa* Mosque.²⁸

c. Aggression against the Sanctuaries

It is noted that there is an obvious harmony between the aggressive positions of the official Israeli institution and the Israeli public towards the Islamic sanctuaries in Jerusalem. On 15/5/2006, a group of settlers (men, women and even children) set

al-Manshiyah Mosque of Acre on fire. On the other side, Kadima Party transferred in March 2006 the historical Red Mosque in Safad to be the headquarters of its election campaign.²⁹

The sanctity of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron had been frequently violated because of the existence of many Jewish settlers in the heart of this town. They had more than once prohibited the call for the prayer (*Adhan*) under the guise of having marriage festivals in the building during which loud music was played and dancing and the consumption of alcohol were freely practiced under the protection of the Israeli army.³⁰ The Israeli authorities continued their Judaization of Hebron.

By virtue of an agreement between the army and the settlers, the vegetable market (*al-Hisbah*), which the settlers controlled four years ago, was evacuated on condition that they return to it on a lease basis in order to legitimize their presence there, though the property that was used as a vegetable market belonged to Hebron Municipality since 1960.³¹

The Israeli aggression was not limited to the Islamic endowments but was extended to the Christian sanctuaries. On 3/3/2006 and during a hugely attended special prayer for the opening of Lent, a Jewish settler, his wife and daughter attacked with tear and explosive bombs the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth,³² and burned part of it, particularly the prayer hall. Various sectors of the Palestinian society rallied in defense of the Church, and some were wounded during the protest demonstrations.³³ The response of the Vatican towards this incident was rather obscure. It pardoned the culprits, and the representative of the Vatican in the country told the offenders that his message as a man of religion was a message of peace.³⁴

The Israeli occupation authorities built a Jewish synagogue in Bethlehem, just one kilometer from the Nativity Church and near to Rachel's Tomb. They claimed that the location in which this synagogue was built was originally a house that they bought from its Arab owner. The latter categorically denied that such a deal had ever taken place, but he was ignored and the construction went ahead.³⁵

The Israeli attacks on the Islamic sanctuaries has become a regular and systematic policy. Since the establishment of Israel, 76 Muslim places of worship were destroyed, 18 mosques were converted to synagogues and 17 others were transferred to zoos.³⁶

Second: The Separation Wall

Through the isolationist Separation Wall, Israel strives to achieve a number of political, security, economic and social objectives. Chief among those are to obliterate material basis for the formation of a viable Palestinian state, and to destroy the social fabric of the Palestinian people, imprison them in isolated cantons, confiscate their lands and steal their water resources.

The Israeli government approved the project of the Wall in June 2002, but subsequently several amendments were made on its route across the WB. Initially the Wall was supposed to take 1,024 km², but after the several amendments on its route, of which the last was on 30/4/2006, the area that it is scheduled to isolate is 555 km², i.e., 9.8% of the WB.

Table 4/7: The Development of the Construction of the Separation Wall in the WB³⁷

Date	Area isolated for the Wall (km ²)	Percentage of the total WB area (%)	Length of the Wall (Km)	On the Green Line (WB-Israeli borders) (Km)
June 2002	1,024	18	734	-
June 2004	633	11.7	645 with some exceptions	83
February 2005	565	10	683	138
April 2006	555	9.8	703	128

According to the last amendment, the Wall extends for a distance of 703 km across the WB from the north to the south, of which 128 km only, a percentage of 18.2% of the total length of the Wall, lies in the Armistice Line (Green Line).

Though the several amendments on the route of the Wall had reduced the area that it isolates, the number of the Palestinian communities in the WB that it affects increased, from 76 in 2003 to 159 in 2006.³⁸ Additionally, the Wall will house 99 Israeli settlements inhabited by 408 thousand settlers, i.e., 85% of the settlers in the WB.³⁹ According to the statistics of B'Tselem, 408 km of the Wall were built, that is 58% of its total length.

It is worth mentioning that the military orders issued by the Israeli occupation forces since the beginning of the construction of the Wall in June 2002 and until 2006 totaled 264, of which the majority was in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Ramallah Governorates.⁴⁰

Table 5/7: Construction Progress of the Separation Wall⁴¹

	Length (km)	Percentage of the Wall length (%)
Completed construction	408	58
Under construction	63	9
Construction not yet begun	232	33
Total	703	100

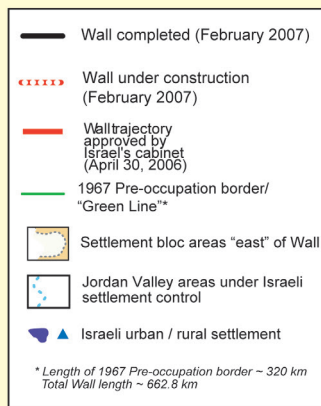
The most dangerous repercussion of the Separation Wall is represented by a number of facts that it founded on the ground, and which form a serious predicament to isolated, divided and besieged pockets (enclaves) of the WB.

According to a report conducted by Bimkom-Planners for Planning Rights, an Israeli organization that focuses on human rights in the field of planning, the Wall formulated not less than 21 closed pockets inhabited by 248 thousand Palestinians who are besieged by the Wall and placed under the complete control of Israel. Besides, the Wall besieges about 250 thousand Palestinians in Jerusalem. Thus, the Wall will directly besiege about half a million Palestinians.⁴²

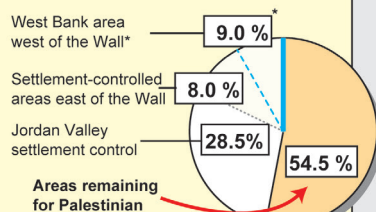
Bimkom's report enumerates a variety of pockets that the Separation Wall produced in compliance with the security needs and vision imposed by the Israeli army on the route of the Wall. One of them is called "seam enclave" where the Palestinian live on the Israeli side of the Wall. This means that the Wall separates them from the Palestinian region, but no barrier separates them from Israel. However, they are not, of course, allowed to cross the Green Line without special permits from the Israeli military authorities.

Other population pockets surround the Wall from the four sides, but they all have only one exist, e.g., the pocket of the Palestinian villages *Bayt Hanina al-Tahta*, *al-Jib*, *al-Judayrah* and *Bir Nabala*, which until lately were part of East Jerusalem. Currently, these villages are connected with the Palestinian society through a tunnel that had been constructed under the settlement route that connects Jerusalem with Tel Aviv. In this sole exist for the inhabitants of these villages, an Israeli military force is stationed, supervisory towers are established on both sides and a military barrier is erected to prohibit entry except for the Palestinian citizens of other villages and with special permits.

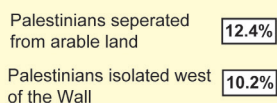
Israel's Wall and Settlements, February 2007



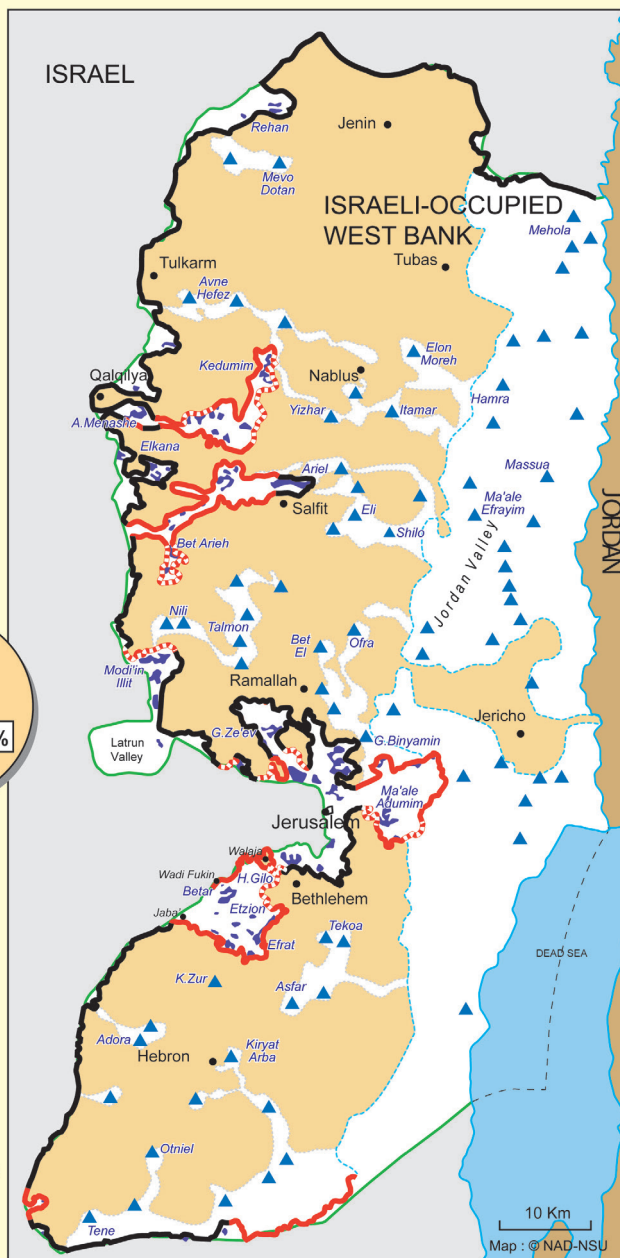
Palestinian Land Restricted by Israeli Settlements and the Wall



West Bank Population Directly Affected by the Wall

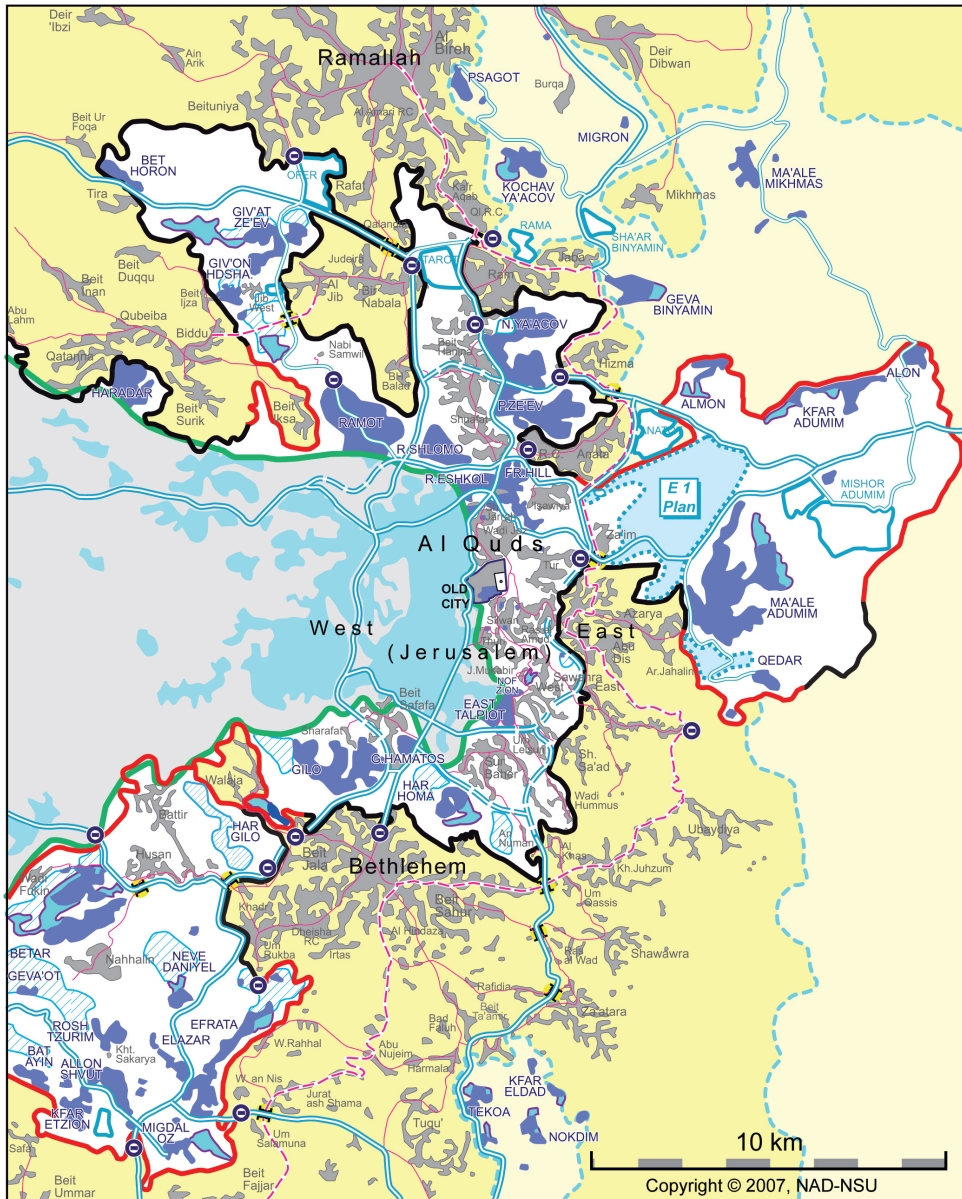


* Figure includes the Israeli-occupied areas of East Jerusalem, the Latrun Valley and the settlement areas of Ariel and Adumim.



Israel's Wall and Settlements around Occupied East Jerusalem,

February 2007



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| --- 1967 Boundary ("Green Line") | ■ Israeli settlement built-up area | Israeli military base | ▤ Israeli-controlled tunnel or underpass for Palestinians |
| ■ Palestinian city, town, village or neighborhood | ■ Israeli settlement area under construction | The Wall - constructed or under construction | Local Palestinian road |
| ■ Projected area of future Palestinian control | ■ Planned settlement expansion area | - approved or planned | Israeli-proposed "alternative" Palestinian road link |
| ■ Area of Israeli control | Israeli settler / bypass road - existing | - planned or under construction | Israeli checkpoint |



The very existence of these pockets causes tight zigzags in the Separation Wall itself. An example of this is the case of the town of Qalqilya north of the WB, which is inhabited by around 44 thousand persons. Being surrounded by the Wall from three sides, this town has one exist only towards the east which is supervised by a military barrier that squeeze the town and isolate it from the rest of the WB.

When completed, the Separation Wall will virtually imprison 46 thousand Palestinians who inhabit the villages of *Bayt Liqya* and *Bayt Surik* west of Ramallah and Jerusalem, and 12 others villages are located south of the street of *Modi'in* Jewish settlement. For they will be sandwiched between the Separation Wall that surround them from the south, east and west and the highway that they are prohibited to use, and which can be crossed from one point only.

As for the seven thousand Palestinian inhabitants of the villages *Barta'a* and *Khirbat Jbarah* north of the WB, they will experience a complicated life as they need temporary permits from the army of occupation and the Israeli authorities to stay in their own houses and lands.⁴³

The Separation Wall has 65 gates of which 38 only can be used by the Palestinians to move from one part of the WB to another. The 27 other gates are divided in two categories:

1. Daily gates for the movement of the inhabitants from their residences to other places in the WB. Some of them are open daily for 12 continuous hours, while others open twice a day and for specific hours. Few other gates open 24 hours but under strict Israeli army control.
2. Agricultural gates that open two or three time a day for the farmers who possess lands on the other side of the Wall that need daily attention. But the farmers should have prior permits from the Civil Administration that allow their bearers to pass through a specific gate. Other 11 gates are open on specific seasons, e.g., the seasons of olive and harvest for the farmers who own land on the other side of the Wall.

Table 6/7: The Gates of the Separation Wall according to Districts⁴⁴

Districts	Opened gates	Seasonal gates	Closed gates
Qalqilya	12	3	9
Salfit	1	0	1
Tulkarem	8	2	6
Bethlehem	0	0	4
Hebron	0	0	1
Tubas	1	0	0
Jenin	0	6	6

The Negative Impacts of the Wall

1. The Agricultural Sector

According to the statistics of The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ), the Wall will separate about 1.05 million donums of the agricultural lands, i.e., 37.4% of the total agricultural land in the WB. Of these separated lands, 189 thousand donums and 863,879 others are respectively located in the western and eastern regions of the Wall. This directly denies the Palestinian farmers access to their lands, thus they lose their only means of livelihood.

The Wall also isolates 128,404 donums of forest and savanna lands in the western region of the Wall, in addition to 110,274 donums in the eastern region of the Wall, which represent 37.7% of the total forest and savanna land in the WB. The Wall also isolates 53.5% of the open land in the WB, of which 264 thousand donums are in the western region of the Wall and 610,723 donums in the eastern region.⁴⁵

2. The Water Sector

The Palestinian and the Israeli negotiators agreed in Oslo Accords to postpone the issue of waters to the negotiations of the final status. But Israel is striving through the construction of the Separation Wall to steal the sources of water. For the Wall enables it to annex these sources to its domain, and to isolate the Palestinians.

A study by ARIJ estimated the volume of water that will be isolated by the Separation Wall as follows:

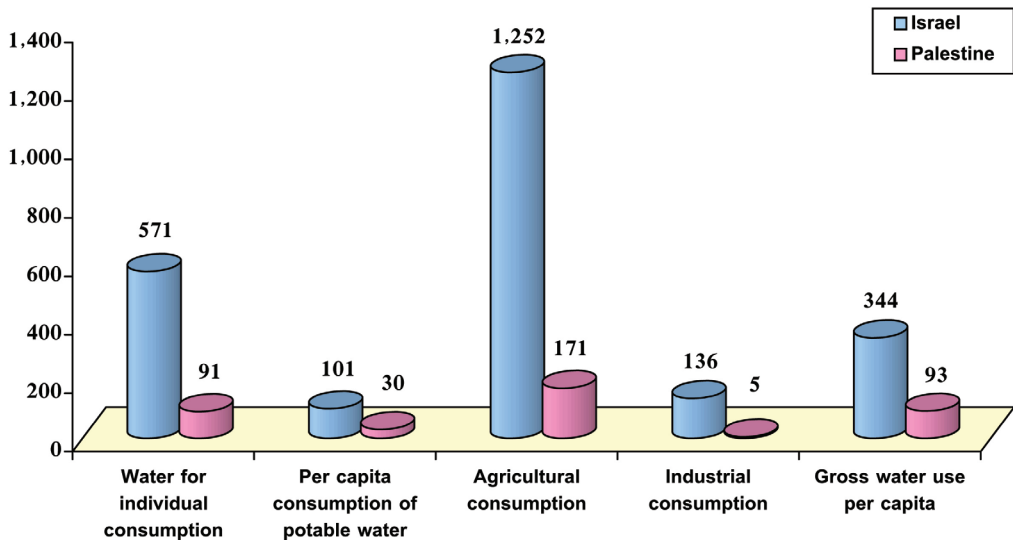
- The Eastern Segregation Zone lies over the eastern Jordan Valley water aquifer with a safe yield of 172 million cubic meters per year. The Western Segregation Zone lies over the northwestern and western aquifers with a combined safe yield of 507 million cubic meters per year.
- The overall number of water wells used by the Palestinian inhabitants in the isolated region is 134 wells with a combined average annual pumping rate of approximately 44.1 million cubic meters.
- The number of the isolated water springs in the western region is 62 with a combined average annual discharge of approximately 31 million cubic meters.
- The Wall isolates about 221 donums of the inland water and areas in the western region, in addition to 685 donums in the eastern region, which jointly represent 99% of the waterways in the WB.⁴⁶

The below table compares the volume of water consumption in the Palestinian and Israeli sides. We should note here that Israel tries its utmost best to get a sizable quantity of its water needs from the territories of the PA.

**Table 7/7: The Average of Water Consumption per Capita
in Palestine and Israel⁴⁷**

Quantity (m ³ /year)	Israel	Palestine
Water for individual consumption	571	91
Per capita consumption of potable water	101	30
Agricultural consumption	1,252	171
Industrial consumption	136	5
Gross water use per capita	344	93

The Average of Water Consumption per Capita in Palestine and Israel (m³/year)



With the construction of the Separation Wall, Israel has gone a long way to confiscate the Palestinian underground water supply. This fact was emphasized by the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) which reported that by the construction of the Wall, Israel will deprive the Palestinian people of 12 million cubic meters out of the 22 million cubic meters of the water of the western basin, the most important water basin in the WB. i.e., what remains for the Palestinians is 10 million cubic meters only.⁴⁸ Israel also forcibly take more than 85% of the Palestinian underground water, which constitutes about 25% of the Israeli total consumption of water.⁴⁹

It is ironic that Israel steals the Palestinian water, and subsequently sells this very water to the Palestinians. According to the figures of the PWA on the major indicators of the water issue in the territories of the PA, the latter had purchased for the consumption of the WB only about 40 million cubic meters from Israel National Water Company, Mekorot, while the amount of water exploited by the Jewish settlements in the WB during the year 2006 totaled about 2.2 million cubic meters. Conversely, survey of the environmental household conditions in the WB and GS for the year 2006 showed that 70,103 households live in houses that have no access to the public water network. It is worth mentioning that the water quota of a Jewish settler equals nine times of a Palestinian individual, and the Israeli total consumption of water is 7.5 more than that consumed in the territories of the PA.⁵⁰

Third: The Israeli Expansionist Settlement

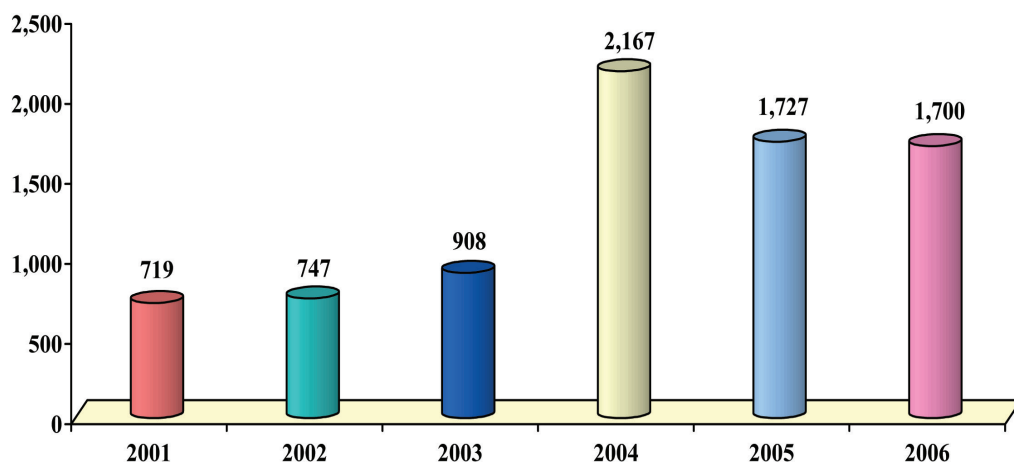
Israel actively pursued its settlement project. It extended the Jewish settlements to usurp extensive Palestinian lands through increasing the numbers of the settlers, and by building new settlements. The statistics published by the Israeli Civil Administration in the WB record an increase of 5.8% in the numbers of the settlers during the year 2006 to reach by the end of this year to 268,379 Jewish settlers in the WB compared to 253,748 in 2005.⁵¹ They are distributed in 155 settlements and 116 outposts. But these figures given by the Israeli occupation do not include the approximately 185 thousand settlers in Jerusalem, which raises the actual numbers of the Jewish settlers in the WB to 453 thousand.

The Peace Now annual report on settlements and outpost in the WB reported an increase of two thousand settlers in the outposts in 2006, and the continuation of the building of the settlements at the same rate of 2005. The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) shows that the number of the constructed settlements in the WB in the year 2006 were almost the same as those of 2005, 1,700 in the former and 1,727 in the latter. Moreover, tenders were published in 2006 for the building of 952 housing units compared to 1,184 in 2005.⁵²

**Table 8/7: Number of the New Housing Units in the Settlements
2001-2006⁵³**

Year	No. of the new housing units in settlements
2001	719
2002	747
2003	908
2004	2,167
2005	1,727
2006	1,700

Number of the New Housing Units in the Settlements 2001-2006



Israel is still driving to substantially extend the major Jewish settlement in the WB, Ma'ale Adummim. It hopes to increase the present 32 thousand settlers in this colony to 60 thousand settlers.⁵⁴

The PCBS records that the built area in the settlements reached 187,100 donums, i.e., about 3.3% of the total land of the WB, of which the largest was in Jerusalem Governorate, 44.4 km² that represent 12.9% of the total land of the Governorate. Next was Ramallah and *al-Birah* Governorate which reached 30.3 km², a percentage of 3.5% of the lands of the Governorate.⁵⁵ We should mention here that all the Israeli settlements in the WB are built on lands owned by the Palestinian people. Besides, the state lands (*Amiriyah*), 40% of the lands on which these settlements were established are privately owned by individuals or families.⁵⁶

The Jewish settlements are not built in the WB and Jerusalem only. In 2006, the National Council for Planning and Building (NCPB) approved a project of 30 settlements in Negev, and the increase of the inhabitants there from 535 thousand persons to 900 thousand individuals. Besides, the project provided for the exploitation of the extensive lands that are originally owned by the Arab inhabitants of Negev.⁵⁷

The areas of the Jordan Rift Valley is also exposed to the Jewish settlement project. The Palestinian Deputy Minister of Agriculture emphasized that Israel

allocated the sum of 200 million shekels for supporting agricultural settlements there during the coming three years.⁵⁸ Israel seems to be seriously entertaining the annexation of the Jordan Rift Valley in a future imposed settlement or by a unilateral withdrawal. The Palestinian expert Khalil al-Tufakgi mentions that the annexation of the Jordan Rift Valley will enable Israel to achieve the following five objectives:

1. The control of the eastern underground water basin.
2. The termination of the possibility of establishing an independent Palestinian state.
3. Prohibition of geographical contact between the WB and Jordan.
4. The termination of all potentialities for building, agricultural and industrial expansion.
5. Depriving the Palestinians from reaching the Dead Sea.⁵⁹

Fourth: Demolition of Houses

The policy of obliteration of houses is pursued by all Israeli governments, be it leftist or rightist, and has many faces. It aims at establishing facts on the ground in case issues of the final settlement are negotiated in future. Thus, the Israeli occupiers destroy all houses that are parallel to the zigzagging roads which they construct specifically for the settlers and the army. Nearby houses are also destroyed for many considerations such as the extension of the settlements, or for the acquisition sometime in the future of the areas in which they are established, otherwise the Palestinians may demand them in a subsequent negotiations on the ground that they are inhabited by Palestinians.

The Israeli occupation had also destroyed houses as a kind of revenge against the Palestinian resistance operations, and as a deterrent against future ones. During the period October 2001 to January 2005, Israel destroyed 668 houses as a kind of punishment to the Palestinians.⁶⁰ In 2006, they followed a new technique in this respect, namely to call in advance the owners of the targeted houses to immediately evacuate them as they will be bombarded from the air. As a counter to this strategy, the Palestinian resistance developed the tactics of human shields by which the inhabitants of the region will stay in the roofs of the targeted houses.

Though 454,697 Palestinians families need housing units during the next decade and that only 117,909, i.e., 26%, of them can afford the building cost, the Israeli occupation continue to actively pursue the policy of destruction of houses. According to the statistics of the PCBS, the houses of 29,314 Palestinian families were destroyed, either fully or partially, during the period 28/9/2000 to 15/6/2006, of which 15,267 families were in the WB and 14,047 were in GS.⁶¹

According to statistics given by ARIJ Institute, Israel destroyed 160 Palestinian houses and shops during the year 2006, which left more than 500 people homeless or without a source for living. Most of the destruction was concentrated in Nablus, Qalqilya, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jerusalem Governorates, in addition to over 200 houses in GS.⁶²

The reports of the Land Research Center (LRC) in Jerusalem indicate that the authorities of the Israeli occupation destroyed 78 houses in Jerusalem Governorate in the year 2006. Moreover, 40% of the total destroyed houses were in the region of *Bayt Hanina*, followed by *Jabal al-Mukabbir* (14%). The overall destruction during the period 2000-2005 was 622 houses of which 120 were destroyed in 2005.⁶³

Fifth: Bulldozing Agricultural Lands and Uprooting the Trees

The year 2006 witnessed many Israeli violations of the rights of the Palestinian civilians and their property across the WB and GS Governorates. By this Israel hoped to achieve several objectives of which the most important is the confiscation of the agricultural and open lands for the sake of building the Separation Wall, and the extension of the Jewish settlements. The total land confiscated in all the WB Governorates during the year 2006 was 7,313 donums, which was the only source of living for their Palestinian owners after they lost their jobs inside Israel. Additionally, about five thousand donums of agricultural lands were confiscated and bulldozed in north of GS.⁶⁴ In Jerusalem Governorate alone, 1,556 donums were confiscated till November 2006.⁶⁵ Statistics indicate that the total bulldozed area since the outbreak of the *Intifadah* on 28/9/2000 and until 31/7/2006 totaled 80,712 donums in the WB and GS, while the uprooted trees in both areas totaled about 1.36 million trees.⁶⁶

The Israeli violation extended to the agricultural sector, which represented the primary pillar of the Palestinian economy. The Israeli uprooting of productive trees and their destruction of agricultural crops was widespread in the year 2006. According to the statistics of ARIJ Institute, 20,300 productive trees were uprooted, bulldozed or confiscated during the year 2006, most of which were in the northern and southern governorates like Qalqilya, Nablus, Bethlehem and Hebron. This was a serious blow to the agricultural sector, particularly as most of the uprooted were olive trees that constitute the primary source of living for a Palestinian family. The negative impact of this uprooting and confiscation was not limited to the agricultural sector and the farmers, but it also led to serious environmental hazards, e.g., increase in the rate of air pollution, soil erosion and desertification.

Since the year 1993 and until mid 2004, the Israeli occupation uprooted more than 1.6 million trees, and during the *Intifadah* it destroyed many vegetable nurseries and bulldozed about 77 thousand donums of agricultural lands. Moreover, the Israeli practices harmed more than 26% of the agricultural possessions in the occupied Palestinian territories. The overall direct and indirect loss of the agricultural sector since the *Intifadah* totaled more than \$1.3 billion, which reduced the contribution of agriculture in the GDP by 55%.⁶⁷

To explain the extensive Israeli damage to the Palestinian agricultural sector, we may take as an example a period of 35 days from 26/6/2006 to 30/7/2006. Due to destruction of various farms, the agricultural sector lost \$27 million during this period, according to the PA Ministry of Agriculture. The Israeli massive destruction included the following:

- More than two thousand donums cultivated with trees.
- 279 donums and agricultural plastic houses.
- 1,391 donums cultivated with open vegetables.
- 169 donums of agrarian crops.
- 14 agricultural stores.
- 49,255 meters of water lines.
- 21,590 meters of walls.
- 35 water pools.
- 22 wells with their annexes.
- 2,529 donums of water networks.⁶⁸

Conclusion

During the year 2006, Israel increasingly continued its Judaization projects in Jerusalem, Negev and the Jordan Rift Valley, and intensified the building of the Separation Wall in order to fragment the WB, isolate the Palestinians in scattered pockets and increase their hardship. It also continued its policy of imposing more realities on the ground in flagrant violation of the decisions of the international community and the agreements that it signed with the PA. This ascertains that Israel is pursuing its policy of procrastination to prohibit any progress in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians until it manages to fix the final frontiers of Israel.

In the absence of any effective role of the Arab-Islamic world to defend the land and the sanctuaries, and with the continuous western and American support to Israel, no positive change in the Israeli policy towards the land and the sanctuaries appears to be on the horizon. On the contrary, more lands will be confiscated for the benefit of the Wall and the settlements, more excavations will be undertaken underneath *al-Aqsa* Mosque, and there will be future aggression on the Islamic and Christian endowments.

Endnotes

- ¹ Arabs 48, 25/5/2006.
- ² Arabs 48, 21/2/2007.
- ³ *Assafir*, 30/5/2006.
- ⁴ Interview with Muhammad Tutah, 'Ain 'ala al-Quds (Eye on Jerusalem) magazine, al Quds International Institution, Beirut, no. 45, July/ August 2006, p. 11.
- ⁵ See B'Tselem, http://www.btselem.org/english/jerusalem/revocation_statistics.asp
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, 31/10/2006.
- ⁸ Israel confiscated 40% of the land of Jerusalem that it considered to be green areas, in addition to another 35% that it placed under the authority of the Municipality and the Ministry of Housing for further building extensions and Jewish settlements.
- ⁹ See The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ), Geopolitical Status in Jerusalem Governorate, December 2006, http://arij.org/images/pub/Publications_2006/Geopolitical_Jerusalem/Jerusalem_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- ¹⁰ For more information about the construction progress of the Separation Wall, see B'Tselem, http://www.btselem.org/english/separation_barrier/statistics.asp
- ¹¹ See PCBS and BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency & Refugee Rights, *Impact of the Wall and its Associated Regime on the Forced Displacement of the Palestinians in Jerusalem, June-2006*, Ramallah, Palestine, July 2006, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/wallimpact_e.pdf
- ¹² 'Ali Sammudi, "Jidar al-Quds Istimrar li al-Atma' al-Isra'iyah fi al-Madinah al-Muqaddasah," (Jerusalem Wall: a Continuation of Israeli Ambitions in the Holy Town), *Alquds*, 30/7/2005, see Arabic Media Internet Network (AMIN), www.amin.org.
- ¹³ *Alghad*, 4/1/2006.
- ¹⁴ See <http://www.aqsaonline.info/palestine.aspx?id=1055&pid=9>
- ¹⁵ *Al-Khaleej*, 10/8/2006.
- ¹⁶ PIC, 30/6/2006. (The Israeli authorities began on 6/2/2007)
- ¹⁷ *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, 14/9/2006.
- ¹⁸ The area of Suleiman Grotto is 13 donums.
- ¹⁹ *Wafa*, 21/6/2006.
- ²⁰ *Alghad*, 16/6/2006.
- ²¹ For the various stages of the excavations, see the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *al-Quds 'Arabiyan wa Islamiyan* (Jerusalem from Arabic and Islamic Perspectives), presented to Islamabad Conference, 1980.
- ²² See the site of *Al-Aqsa* Institution for Reconstruction of Islamic Sanctities, <http://www.islamic-aqsa.com/ar/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=917>; see also the report prepared by Land Research Center (LRC), *Tadmir Israel Maqbarat "Ma'man Allah" fi al-Quds Huwa 'Amaliyat Tathir 'Irqi li al-Mawta'*, (Destruction of Mamilla Cemetery in Jerusalem is an Ethnic Cleansing for Dead Bodies), 20/2/2006, http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=781
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ *Assafir*, 3/2/2006.
- ²⁵ *Assafir*, 18/1/2006.
- ²⁶ *Okaz*, 21/1/2006.
- ²⁷ *Wafa*, 27/1/2006.
- ²⁸ *Al-Khaleej*, 14/3/2006.
- ²⁹ *Al-Liwa* newspaper, Amman, 13/3/2006.

- ³⁰ PIC, 18/5/2006.
- ³¹ *Akhbar Alkhaleej* newspaper, Bahrain, 8/3/2006.
- ³² *Albayan*, 4/3/2006.
- ³³ *Al-Khaleej*, 5/3/2006.
- ³⁴ *Assafir*, 7/3/2006.
- ³⁵ *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, 22/2/2006.
- ³⁶ *Okaz*, 29/4/2006.
- ³⁷ See Jad Ishaq and et al., *al-Ab'ad wa al-Istratijiyyat li al-Mukhatatat al-Isra'eliyyah al-Uhadiyyat al-Janib fi al-Arabi al-Filastiniyyah al-Muhtallah* (Strategic Aspects for the Israeli Unilateral Plans in the Palestinian Occupied Territories), ARIJ, 24/9/2005, http://www.arij.org/pub/pubarabic/Paper_2006/index-1.htm
- ³⁸ See *Impact of the Expansion and Annexation Wall on the Socioeconomic Conditions of Palestinian Households in the Localities in which the Wall Passes Through, August, 2006*, Ramallah, Palestine, February 2007, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/ImpactWall_e.pdf
- ³⁹ Ishaq and et al., op. cit.
- ⁴⁰ See the report, prepared by ARIJ, about the Israeli violations in the WB and GS during the year 2006 in ARIJ, 29/1/2007, http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=993
- ⁴¹ For more information about the construction progress of the Separation Wall, see B'Tselem, http://www.btselem.org/english/separation_barrier/statistics.asp
- ⁴² On the report of Bimkom, see Walid 'Awad, "*Jidar al-Fasl al-'Unsuri Yuhasir Nisf Milyun Filastini*," (The Separation Wall Besieges Half a Million Palestinians), *al-Quds al-Arabi*, 24/1/ 2007.
- ⁴³ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁴ For more information about the construction progress of the Separation Wall, see B'Tselem, http://www.btselem.org/english/separation_barrier/statistics.asp
- ⁴⁵ ARIJ, Geopolitical Status in Jerusalem Governorate.
- ⁴⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁷ See PNIC, <http://www.pnic.gov.ps/arabic/resources/dangerouse1.html#file1>
- ⁴⁸ *Al-Ayyam*, Ramallah, 5/9/2003.
- ⁴⁹ See the statement of the director of the Water Authority, Fadl Ka'wash, *Al-Hayat al-Jadidah*, 24/12/2006, quoted from Wafa.
- ⁵⁰ See PCBS, press release, Coping With Water Scarcity, 21/3/2007, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/WaterPress07E.pdf
- ⁵¹ *Addustour*, 10/1/2007.
- ⁵² See Peace Now Annual Settlements Report, 21/3/2007, <http://www.peacenow.org/briefs.asp?rid=&cid=3465>; and Arabs 48, 21/2/2007.
- ⁵³ *Assafir*, 18/1/2006.
- ⁵⁴ *Alghad*, 16/1/2007.
- ⁵⁵ *Albayan*, 30/3/2006.
- ⁵⁶ See Peace Now's Settlement Watch Team report, Breaking the Law in the West Bank-One Violation Leads to Another: Israeli Settlement Building on Private Palestinian Property, October 2006, Peace Now, http://www.peacenow.org.il/data/SIP_STORAGE/files/9/2569.pdf
- ⁵⁷ *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, 13/5/2006.
- ⁵⁸ *Albayan*, 4/6/2006.
- ⁵⁹ *Al-Hayat*, 15/2/2006.
- ⁶⁰ See B'Tselem, http://www.btselem.org/english/punitive_demolitions/statistics.asp
- ⁶¹ See PCBS, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/cond_06e.pdf
- ⁶² See about the Israeli violations, ARIJ, http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=993
- ⁶³ See the report prepared by LRC about the destruction of houses in Jerusalem Governorate in the year 2006, <http://www.Ircj.org/Arabic/APage.htm>

⁶⁴ See about the Israeli violations, ARIJ,

http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=993

⁶⁵ ARIJ, Geopolitical Status in Jerusalem Governorate.

⁶⁶ See PNIC, http://www.pnic.gov.ps/arabic/quds/arabic/viol/quds_viol_12-2006.html

⁶⁷ Nizam 'Attaya, Research & Development Media Department, Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC), December 2005, <http://www.pal-arc.org/arabic/media/articles/article19.html>

⁶⁸ Press release of the Palestinian Ministry of Information, WAFA, 6/8/2006, <http://www.wafa.ps/body.asp?id=97164>

This Report

Al-Zaytouna Centre is glad to present to its readers The Palestinian Strategic Report 2006, the second in an annual series. The Report aims at monitoring the Palestinian issue through an informative and analytical approach. The Report covers the Palestinian internal political situation, issues concerning the Land and the holy sites, the economy, the Palestinian demographic indicators, the Israeli scene and the Israeli-Palestinian relations. It focuses on the Arab, Islamic and international stances towards the Palestinian issue. In addition, it devotes a chapter to discussing the Israeli war on Hizbullah and Lebanon.

This Report is distinct for its updated information till the end of 2006 and for its outstanding team of academics and experts.

Al-Zaytouna team did its best to be professional, scientific and objective. They hope that this Report be a distinguished addition to the Palestinian studies.

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2006



Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies & Consultations

مركز الزيتونة للدراسات والاستشارات

P.O. Box: 14-5034 Beirut-Lebanon

Tel: (961) 1 803 644 | Tel-Fax: (961) 1 803 643

info@alzaytouna.net | www.alzaytouna.net



ISBN 978-9953-500-66-9



9 789953 500669



Al-Zaytouna Centre For Studies & Consultations