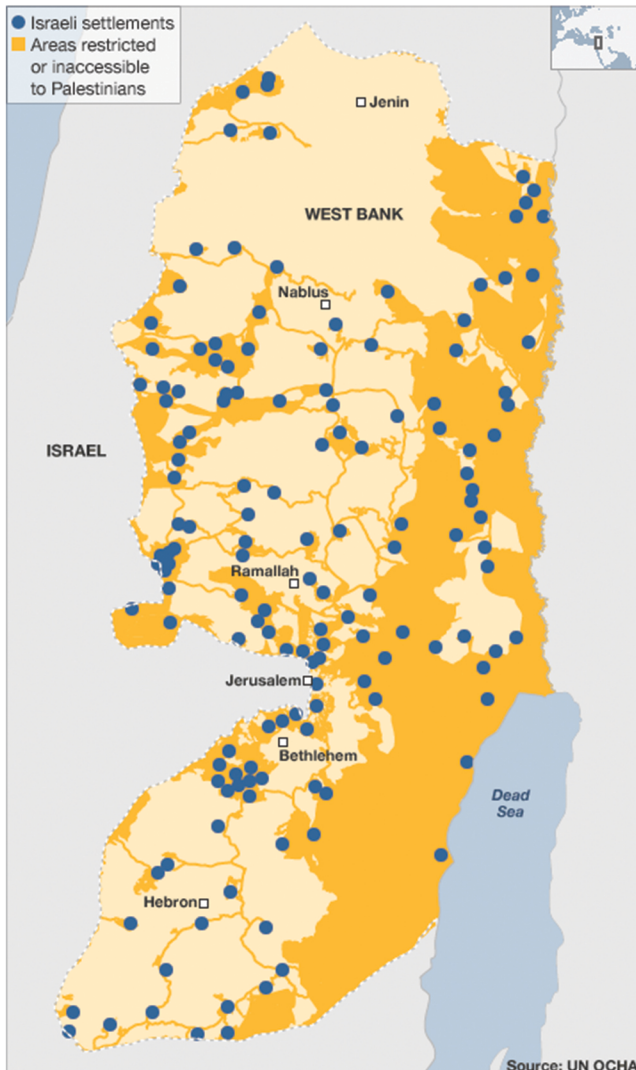


Illegal Israeli Settlements

BRIEFING CARD

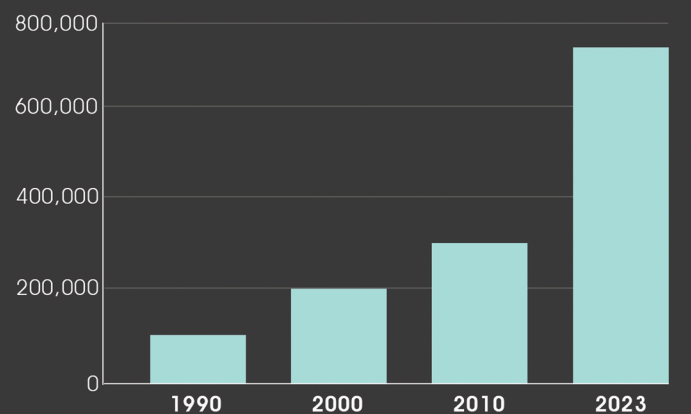
- **750,000+** Israeli settlers live on stolen Palestinian land
- **131,000+** Palestinian homes demolished to make way for settlements since 1948
- **250** illegal Israeli settlements across the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem

Israeli settlements in the West Bank



- An illegal Israeli settlement is when an **Israeli-only community** is established on stolen Palestinian land.
- Since Israel occupied (invaded and took control of) the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, it has built **over 250** Israeli-only communities on stolen Palestinian land.
- Settlements are **illegal** under international law. The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an occupying power (Israel) from transferring its population (Israelis) into occupied land (Palestine).
- Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that *'the occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies'*.
- The United Nations and the international community have **condemned** Israeli settlements. Yet **Israel continues to act with impunity**.

Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank



Israel's illegal settlements significantly reduce Palestinian quality of life through home demolitions, settler violence, unequal laws and reduced access to infrastructure. Settlements make it very difficult to imagine the boundaries of a future Palestinian state.

- **Home demolitions:** Israel demolishes Palestinian homes to make way for settlements. Israel has demolished around

60,000 Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem and the West Bank since 1967.

- **Settler violence:** settler attacks on Palestinians have been a feature of the occupation since 1967, there has been an alarming rise in attacks in recent years. This includes shooting Palestinians with live ammunition, stone-throwing, theft and vandalising Palestinian property, trees, crops and livestock.

■ **Unequal laws:** Despite living in recognised Palestinian territory, settlers who commit violence against Palestinians fall under the jurisdiction of Israeli civil and criminal law. But Palestinians who commit violence here are subject to Israeli military law. These unequal laws are reminiscent of South African apartheid.

■ **Reduced access to infrastructure:** As the number of illegal Israeli settlements across the West Bank has increased, new roads have been built to connect them together. 79km of these are Israeli-only and 155km are restricted access to Palestinians.



Israeli settlers attack a Palestinian lady



Roads for Israeli access [Al-Haq]

Al-Khalil (Hebron)

Al-Khalil (Hebron) is a city in the south of the West Bank, home to **over 200,000 Palestinians**. It is also occupied by **700 Israeli settlers** and **2000 Israeli soldiers**. Illegal Israeli settlements make life extremely difficult for Palestinians in Hebron. There are over **86 checkpoints, roadblocks or physical obstructions restricting Palestinians**. Regular curfews are also imposed by Israel. The most basic of daily tasks like going to school, work or shopping have become demanding and **dangerous**.

Settler violence in Al-Khalil is **rife**. Often Israeli settlers **attack Palestinian children** on their way to and from school. They throw stones and spit at schoolchildren. International solidarity activists often escort Palestinian children to and from school.

The international community's response

The international community, including the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have condemned Israel's illegal settlements.

In 1967 the UN passed Resolution 237 condemning Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Since then, many UN Resolutions have condemned Israeli settlements:

Resolution 237 in 1967
Resolution 252 in 1968
Resolution 267 in 1969
Resolution 271 in 1969
Resolution 298 in 1971
Resolution 465 in 1980
Resolution 2334 in 2016

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