

The Wall

BRIEFING CARD

- Up to 9m high
- 700+km long
- 2x the height of Berlin Wall
- The Wall encloses Palestinians in just 12% of their ancestral land
- Israel has invested \$2.3 billion in building the Wall

The Wall has **watchtowers** with **sniper positions** and a “**buffer zone**” up to 100 metres on either side. There are electric fences, sand to trace footprints, sensors and surveillance cameras.

In Jerusalem, Bethlehem and parts of Ramallah, the Wall is built with concrete slabs up to **9 metres high**.



[Adobe Stock]

Theft of Palestinian land

- 14,000 hectares of Palestinian farmland isolated by the Wall
- Israel has stolen 225 water sources

The Wall is supposed to run along the Green Line boundary of 1949. Instead it **cuts deep into the illegally occupied West Bank**, snaking around **illegal Israeli settlements** and penetrating up to 16km into **Palestinian land**.

- Israel has been building the Wall since 2002.
- When completed, in some parts it will be **6-9 metres high** and over **700 kilometres in length**.
- Israel says it is building the Wall for security.
- However, the Wall is to **protect illegal settlements, increase control** over Palestinians and **usurp Palestinian land**.
- The Wall reduces Palestinian **freedom of movement**, damages **agriculture, fragments communities** and has made a **two-state solution impossible**.

The area between the Green Line and the Wall is called the “**seam zone**”. 14,000 hectares of Palestinian farmland are located here – **12%** of all potential farmland in the West Bank.

Israel has designated the seam zone a “**closed military area**”. Palestinians must have **permits** to access their farmland in the seam zone.

The necessary **permits** are very **difficult to obtain**, must be renewed repeatedly and only allow farmers access on foot. This makes it **almost impossible** to farm the land efficiently and profitably. This affects **38 Palestinian localities**.

80% of Palestinian farmers in the seam zone have lost access to their land.

Palestinian families have been cut off from grazing lands and olive groves on which their livelihoods depend.

- **50,000 Palestinians trapped in the seam zone**

In contrast, Israeli settlers can enter the seam zone and stay **as long as they wish**.

Israel has destroyed **35,000 metres of water pipeline** by the route of the Wall.

Fragmenting communities

“In constructing the Separation Barrier, Israel broke up contiguous Palestinian urban and rural blocs and severed inter-community ties that had been forged and cemented over the course of many generations”

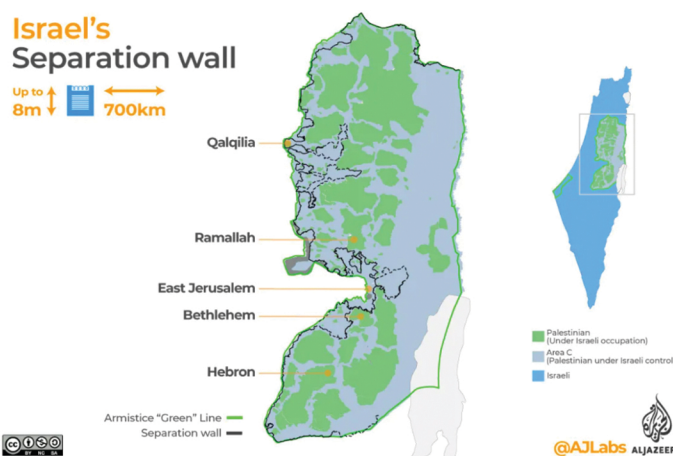
– B’Tselem, 2017

Palestinian **freedom of movement** is severely **restricted** by the Apartheid Wall, which is supported by over **700 checkpoints and roadblocks**.

Entire villages have been surrounded and **cut off** from the rest of the West Bank by the Wall.

The town of **Qalqilya** is surrounded. Entry and exit is via one Israeli-controlled checkpoint which Israel frequently closes without notice.

The Wall around East Jerusalem makes it **almost impossible** for **250,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem to travel** to other parts of occupied Palestine. Palestinians from the West Bank are also prevented from visiting Jerusalem, including Al-Aqsa Sanctuary and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



The illegality of the Wall

In 2004 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the Wall is **illegal**. It **violates Palestinian human rights** and protects and extends **illegal Israeli settlements**.

The ICJ called on Israel to **immediately stop construction of the Wall**. Israel has continued to construct the Wall, in **flagrant violation** of the ICJ’s ruling.

“Israel is under an obligation to terminate its breaches of international law; it is under an obligation to cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall being built in the occupied Palestinian territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated, and to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto”

– ICJ ruling, 2004

The Wall supports Israeli apartheid infrastructure and is thus called the **Apartheid Wall**.

References:

- 1) ‘The Wall’, Stop the Wall, <https://www.stopthewall.org/the-wall/>
- 2) ‘The Separation Barrier’, B’Tselem, https://www.btselem.org/topic/separation_barrier
- 3) ‘The Separation Barrier and the Seam Zone’, Machsom Watch, <https://machsomwatch.org/en/content/separation-barrier-and-seam-zone>

