
مجموعة الرقابة الفلسطينية



PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP

TREND ANALYSIS

ISRAELI WALL ACTIVITY SINCE 13 SEPTEMBER 2004

Background

On 20 February 2005, the Israeli government approved a revised route of the Wall. Nearly all portions of the Wall's path remain located in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, contrary to the 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice. In its ruling, the ICJ noted in paragraph 163, that:

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, in accordance with paragraph 151 of this Opinion.

To date, Israel has failed to comply with the ICJ advisory opinion. Though the 20 February 2005 route includes a number of changes that in specific locations provide some Palestinian communities access once again to other areas of the West Bank, or to a greater percentage of their agricultural land, the Wall's impact of isolating Palestinian communities from one another, increasing transportation costs and travel distances, impeding the provision of basic services, devastating local economies, and destroying Palestinian territorial contiguity, remains the same.

The international community's efforts to document the impact of the Wall's construction have thus far proven unsuccessful. In resolution ES-10/15, adopted during its Tenth Emergency Special Session on 21 July 2004, the UN General Assembly acknowledged the ICJ Advisory Opinion and requested that the Secretary-General establish a register of damages in connection with Israel's legal obligation to make reparations for the injuries caused as a result of the construction of the wall. On 11 January 2005, UN Secretary-General Kofi Anan presented the General Assembly with a proposed structure for the mechanism that would be responsible for recording the damages caused as a result of the wall. To date, however, the registry has yet to be established.

This Trend Analysis, which updates five earlier PMG Trend Analyses, covers activity surrounding the Wall and its associated regime since 13 September 2004. It features select information indicative of trends and represents only a portion of Israel's Wall activity during that period.¹

Summary of Trends

Wall-related land confiscation, land levelling, demolition and construction have continued since 13 September 2004. Wall construction and land levelling were particularly acute in the central and southern governorates of the West Bank.

In Israel's self-declared "Closed Zone", between the Wall and the 1967 boundary, Wall gate openings remain inconsistent and fail to meet the needs of Palestinian civilians, including farmers. Procedures for obtaining permits to access this land have become increasingly complex and arduous. In many cases, only those persons, whose name appears on land registration documents, or their children, are issued permits, while grandchildren, other relatives of landowners, or contracted workers are denied. Additionally, applicants in many areas are no longer allowed to apply in groups, but must submit applications individually. In numerous cases, applicants continue to be denied due to unspecified "security" reasons, or due to problems proving ownership of land in the "Closed Zone."

These new restrictions, along with pre-existing difficulties accessing land due to gate procedures and distances required to reach land, leave additional Palestinian farmers unable to cultivate their land in the "Closed Zone," prompting many to fear that the Israeli authorities will eventually cite the "non-use" of their land as a pretext for confiscation.

Construction of the Wall continues to have severe economic consequences for numerous Palestinian communities in the West Bank. As construction of the Wall proceeds through the central and southern West Bank, increasing numbers of Palestinian civilians are losing their sources of livelihood. Property values in areas adjacent to the Wall have declined. Local businesses have suffered due to decreased traffic and increased transaction costs, including those associated with higher transportation costs due to longer transport distances, delays at checkpoints, the "back-to-back" system, and other impediments associated with the Wall and closure regimes.

These factors combined have resulted in increasingly high prices, particularly for locally-grown produce, placing an additional burden on local consumers, whose income level has decreased due to the poor economic situation prompted by years of Israeli-imposed closure and, more recently, the Wall. In numerous communities, farming productivity has decreased and entire commercial areas have been devastated (e.g. Qalqiliya, Ar Ram, the area adjacent to Rachel's Tomb settlement Bethlehem). In autumn 2004, restricted Palestinian access to land in the "Closed Zone," along with restricted access to land trapped between Israeli settlements in the West Bank, severely impeded the ability of Palestinian farmers to harvest the olive crop, a vital social and economic element of Palestinian rural life.

Provision of essential services, particularly those related to health and education, is continually stymied by the Wall and its gates and permit procedures. Maintaining social and familial ties between Palestinian communities divided by the Wall is becoming increasingly difficult.

¹ *Separation Wall "Closed Zone": Implementation of Permit System, October 2003* (30 October 2003); *Israeli Separation Wall Activity Since United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003* (12 November 2003); *Israeli Separation Wall Activity Update* (10 December 2003); *Israeli Separation Wall Activity Since United Nations General Assembly Request for an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice* (19 February 2004); and *Israeli Wall Activity Since Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice* (13 September 2004).

In the Jerusalem area, the Wall isolates the Palestinian population to its west from other areas of the West Bank. Residents of Jerusalem's north-west (e.g. Bir Nabala, Al Jib, Al Judeira) and north-east villages (e.g. Jab'a, Anata village, Anata refugee camp, Hizma) are being separated from one another and from the city itself, which historically has served as the economic and social hub. Israel has used the Wall in Jerusalem as a means of fulfilling policy objectives for the city, deviating from its own 1967 unilaterally declared Jerusalem municipal boundary to exclude segments of the Palestinian population from the city (e.g. Kafr Aqab, Shu'fat refugee camp, As Sawahira Ash Sharqiya) in some areas, while in other areas incorporating additional West Bank land – with little Palestinian population – to facilitate expansion of Israeli settlements, military installations and bypass roads (e.g. Bethlehem, Beit Sahur). The February 2005 approved route of the Wall increases the land area of Israeli-controlled Jerusalem by 6 square kilometres, a net increase of 3 square kilometres when deducting those areas that fall within the Israeli-defined municipal boundary of Jerusalem that have been included in the Walled areas. In so doing, Israel is creating additional “facts on the ground” in order to pre-empt a negotiated solution on Jerusalem.

The path of the Wall is inextricably linked to Israel's settlement enterprise, whose political objectives have been to consolidate Israeli control over Palestinian land and resources, isolate Palestinian population centres, and impede Palestinian territorial contiguity. This is particularly true in the Jerusalem area (e.g. the Wall between the Palestinian villages of Jaba and Hizma provides for the expansion of Neve Ya'akov settlement; the segment between the village of Hizma and the Palestinian town of Anata provides for the expansion of the Pisgat Ze'ev settlement). The February 2005 approved route incorporates 3 major settlement blocs – Giv'on, Ma'ale Adummim, and Etzion – into Israel. Likewise, while the planned Wall around the Ariel settlement bloc in the northern West Bank is being presented as a “free-standing” fence that remains separate, for now, from the Wall, its effect of confiscating Palestinian land and isolating and separating Palestinian population centres will remain the same.

Israel's recent expansion of the settler-only bypass road network reinforces the Wall regime, seizing additional Palestinian land, providing direct access between Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Israel, and reinforcing the isolation and fragmentation of Palestinian communities. In a number of West Bank areas, Israel is constructing “tunnels” or “underpasses” to direct Palestinian traffic away from roads used by Israeli settlers in Wall-adjacent areas, some of which have been completed (e.g. Judeira, Beit Sahur). These new traffic avenues constitute part of Israel's “roads and tunnels” plan, a version of which was presented to – and rejected by – international donors in autumn 2004. The plan, which was ostensibly presented by Israel as a “humanitarian” gesture to ease the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population, is designed to provide “territorial contiguity” for Israeli settlements, enabling the seamless integration of Israeli settlements with each other and with Israel. While Israel argues that the plan will provide Palestinian “transportation contiguity”, in effect, it simply reinforces the status quo created by Israel's Wall and the progressively tightened closure of West Bank areas, both of which serve Israeli interests at the expense of the Palestinian civilian population. The Palestinian “transportation contiguity” provided for by Israel's plan lengthens Palestinian travel times and transport costs, and is no substitute for Palestinian territorial contiguity (e.g. traditional route from Tulkarem to Nablus is 27 kilometres; the proposed “tunnel” route would be 40 kilometres).

Irrespective of changes to the Wall's route, the Wall continues to damage the livelihoods of Palestinian communities throughout the West Bank. The combined impact of Israeli policy, including Wall construction, settlement expansion and bypass road construction, is changing long-established Palestinian economic, social and cultural practices, as well as causing significant shifts in population. Several Palestinian communities are at risk of forced de-population (e.g. Aqaba, Izbat Tabib, Al Walaja, Khatlat an Nu'man).

A. LAND AND POPULATION AFFECTED BY WALL CONSTRUCTION

1. Land Restricted by the Wall and Israeli Settlements

Completion of approved sections of the Wall, along with areas to which Palestinian access is restricted due to the presence of Israeli settlements, will leave Palestinians 54 per cent of the West Bank:

- a. Completion of the approved sections of the Wall, along with those already constructed, leave 7.4 per cent of West Bank land to the west of the Wall.
- b. The approved section of the Wall around the Ariel settlement bloc will de-facto annex another 2.1 per cent of West Bank land.
- c. West Bank settlement blocs located behind the Wall, to which Palestinian access and use is restricted, constitute 8 per cent of West Bank land.
- d. The Jordan Valley, to which Palestinian use and development is restricted, constitutes 28.5 per cent of West Bank land.

2. Population Excluded by the Wall or Separated from Cultivated Land

Completion of approved sections of the Wall, along with those already constructed, will directly affect 22.2 per cent of the Palestinian population of the West Bank:

- a. 10.2 per cent of the Palestinian population in the West Bank will be isolated outside Walled areas.
- b. 8.9 per cent of the Palestinian population in the West Bank will be separated from their cultivated agricultural land.
- c. An additional 3.1 per cent of the Palestinian population in the West Bank will be separated from cultivated agricultural land as a result of the planned Wall around the Ariel settlement bloc.

B. WALL CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED ACTIVITY BY GOVERNORATE

A number of changes to the Wall are included in the route approved by the Israeli cabinet on 20 February 2005. In the northern West Bank, changes exist in the Tulkarem Governorate near the Palestinian village of Jubara, near the village of 'Azzun 'Atma in the Qalqiliya Governorate, and near the villages of Deir Ballut and Al Zawiya in the Salfit Governorate.

In the central West Bank, re-routed segments exist in the western Ramallah Governorate and the area of north-west Jerusalem, near the village of Beit Surik. Additionally, in the Jerusalem area, the new Wall route locates two major settlement blocs – Giv'on and Ma'ale Adummim – outside of the Wall. To Jerusalem's south, the walled enclaves previously slated for the villages west of Bethlehem have been removed in order to connect Israeli settlements south of Jerusalem with the Etzion bloc to the south-west. In order to locate the Ma'ale Adummim settlement bloc outside of the Wall, Israel extended the Wall's path 13 kilometres beyond the 1967 boundary. In the areas of the Giv'on and Etzion settlement blocs, the Wall reaches 8.5 kilometres beyond the boundary.

The February 2005 route also includes a Wall running from the Israeli settlement of Har Gilo, west of Bethlehem, to the Palestinian village of Al Walaja, and then south to the Palestinian village of Wadi Fukin. In the southern West Bank, the Wall's path has been moved much closer to the 1967 boundary.

Together, the settlement blocs of Giv'on (31 square kilometres), Ma'ale Adummim (62 square kilometres) and Etzion (71 square kilometres) constitute 54 per cent of West Bank land located west of the Wall. The Ariel settlement bloc de-facto annexes another 123 square kilometres of West Bank land.

As with the previously approved routes, the February 2005 Wall route continues to exist almost entirely on Occupied Palestinian Territory, in violation of international law. Re-routing of already constructed segments – like initial Wall construction – is a destructive process. It often involves additional land confiscation and land levelling, and other damage to Palestinian property within the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

1. Governorate of Jerusalem

Wall construction was carried out at an accelerated pace throughout the Jerusalem Governorate since 13 September 2004. Construction took place along the main road between Jerusalem and Ramallah, from Dahiyat al Bareed to Qalandiya checkpoint; along the road between the villages of Jaba' and Hizma; along the road between the villages of Hizma and Anata; in the village of Anata; and the area of Al Aqbat, north of Anata; the area of Al 'Eizariya; the area of Ash Shayyah, and in the town of As Sawahira Ash Sharqiya.

- Erection of concrete block portions of the Wall between Dahiyat al Bareed and Qalandiya checkpoint has been completed since 13 September 2004. There remains one gap in the Wall at the main intersection in Ar Ram.
- On 08 November 2004, the Israeli army distributed new plans of the Wall route to be constructed in the area to civilians in the village of Beit Surik. The previously proposed route of the Wall, prior to its cancellation by the Israeli High Court, would have separated villagers from 2,156 *dunums* (539 acres) of their cultivated land (67 per cent of total village cultivation). The revised route will separate villagers from 477 *dunums* (119.25 acres) of their cultivated land (15 per cent of total village cultivation). While the revised route provides Beit Surik residents access to a greater percentage of their cultivated land, the total cultivated lands that will lie west of the revised route are a vital source of income for village farmers, proportionally equal to that of the other landholdings within the revised walled perimeter. Additionally, the revised route continues to pose a severe transportation problem for village farmers. These farmers, who will be cut off from Jerusalem, will be forced to travel to Ramallah and then to Jerusalem, doubling the time required to transport their produce to market. Transport time is particularly crucial for Beit Surik produce, including plums, which are delicate and easily damaged. Area farmers fear that additional transportation costs, along with delays caused by checkpoints and damage caused by the rough roads on which they will be forced to travel, will eventually eliminate the feasibility of marketing their produce. Beit Surik residents plan to appeal the revised route.
- On 30 January 2005, the Israeli army distributed military orders to local councils to confiscate land, for the purpose of Wall construction, in the villages of north-west Jerusalem, as follows:
 - 338.3 *dunums* (84.56 acres) in the village of Beit Hanina;
 - 147 *dunums* (36.75 acres) in the village of Bir Nabala;
 - 176.6 *dunums* (44.15 acres) in the village of Al Judeira;
 - 262.2 *dunums* (65.55 acres) in the village of Al Jib; and
 - 13.6 *dunums* (3.4 acres) in the village of Qalandiya.
- In mid-January 2005, five local mayors were summoned to Qalandiya checkpoint where they were shown a map of the Wall route around Al Jib.
- Concrete portions of the Wall have been erected around the western perimeter of the village of Hizma and along the southern side of the road between Hizma and the village of Anata.
- On 30 September, Israeli authorities issued an order to modify the route of the Wall in the area of Sur Bahir towards the east. The order ruled for the confiscation of 120 *dunums* (30 acres) of land for the new Wall route.

- On 15 February 2005, the Israeli army distributed a land confiscation order (No. T/20/05) to confiscate 25.4 *dunums* (6.35 acres) of land belonging to the neighbourhood of At Tur and the town of Al 'Eizariya for Wall construction.

Other Activity

- On 18 September 2004, Israeli authorities confiscated Palestinian-owned land near the village of al Isawiya for the implementation of the E-1 plan to link the Israeli settlement of Ma'ale Adummim to the settlement of French Hill. Full implementation of the E-1 plan will result in the confiscation of 12,442 *dunums* (3,110.5 acres) of land.
- To the west of Qalandiya checkpoint, the path of a new road for Palestinian use which will link the north-west Jerusalem village of Al Judeira with the village of Rafat and the Ramallah area, is complete. The portion of the road that runs under Road 45 has been paved.
- On 23 February 2005, the Israeli army erected 1 military watchtower 200 meters east of Qalandiya checkpoint and surrounded it with barbed wire in order to prevent civilians from taking detour roads.

2. Governorate of Ramallah and El Bireh

- Wall construction took place in Budrus, Midya, Deir Qaddis, Bil'in and Beituniya.
- On 02 February 2005, the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government was notified through the Palestinian DCO office in Ar Ram of Military Order No. T/12/05, regarding the confiscation of 86.4 *dunums* (21.6 acres) of land in the town of Beituniya in the location of Al Baq'a (in the area surrounding 'Ofer military post).
- The Israeli army continues levelling agricultural land in the Beituniya area for Wall construction. The Israeli army has also levelled land and placed large rocks on civilian land in the area, for which the Israeli army did not issue confiscation orders. The Wall has isolated 14,000 *dunums* (3,500 acres) of Beituniya area land. Wall-related land confiscation and restricted access to area agricultural land has resulted in a decline in agricultural production and negatively impacted the local economy. The Wall is located in the area of Beituniya's planned expansion to accommodate natural growth, thereby eliminating potential land resources for basic public services, such as cemeteries and public yards.

Wall-Related Killing

- On 15 February 2005, Israeli security guards positioned near the Wall in the town of Beituniya opened fire towards a number of children, allegedly for throwing stones, killing 14-year-old 'Ala Hani Dar Khalil, and injuring another.

Other Activity

- On 03 February 2005, the Israeli Civil Administration issued a stop work order for a 20 metre deep water well being constructed in the village of Ni'lin, in the vicinity of the Wall's approved path.² According to the order, the 03 February notice follows an earlier order, issued on 12 January 2005. The 03 February order instructs the land owner to dismantle constructed portions of the water well and return the land to its pre-construction status within 7 days of the date of the order, or the Israeli authorities will do so at the expense of the owner. The owner has contested this order, arguing that he did not receive the 12 January 2005 order. A final decision concerning the case has yet to be delivered. At least 20 other wells – used for agricultural purposes – fall within the approximately 900 *dunums* (225 acres) of land affected by the Wall in Ni'lin.

² Order on file at PMG.

3. Governorate of Jenin

- Land levelling for Wall construction took place in Jalbun, towards Al Mutilla, Raba, Al Mughayyir, Bardala and 'Ein al Beida, and towards the Jordan River.
- Construction of the Wall in the area from Mutilla, Ibziq and Wadi Shubbas is in its final stages. The Wall has isolated over 150 *dunums* (37.5 acres) of land in the Ibziq area, which lies 1,000 metres above sea level and provides a strategic viewpoint of the surrounding areas. The area is closed by the Israeli military.

Other Activity

- On 28 November 2004, the Israeli Civil Administration issued a stop work order (No. 13812) for a house being constructed in the village of Al Jalama, in close proximity to the Wall, ostensibly for carrying-out construction without a license. This notice follows an earlier stop work order, issued on 4 July 2004. The 28 November order requires the house owner to return the land to its pre-construction status within 7 days of the date of the order, or the Israeli authorities will do so at the expense of the owner. The owner has contested the order. A final decision has not yet been issued. At least ten other Palestinian-owned structures – including houses and animal shelters – are under threat of demolition in the Jenin Governorate villages of Al Tayba, Um Rihan, Tura ash Sharqiya and Tura al Gharbiya due to their location adjacent to the Wall.
- In early February 2005, the Israeli army distributed a land confiscation order (No. T/07/05) for 301 *dunums* (75.25 acres) of land belonging to the village of Tura al Gharbiya. The affected land lies west and east of the Wall and is in close proximity to the Israeli settlement Mevo Dotan, prompting local residents to believe that the land was confiscated for expansion of the settlement.
- On 10 February 2005, Israeli army heavy machinery was witnessed levelling agricultural land in the “Closed Zone”, near the Israeli industrial zone east of the Israeli settlement of Shaked. Local residents report that the levelling is for construction of industrial installations.
- Israeli press reports from February 2005 indicate that the Israeli military plans to isolate the northern West Bank by erecting an electric fence between Jenin and Nablus following the planned evacuation of four Israeli settlements in summer 2005.

IMPACT OF WALL ON VILLAGE OF ZUBUBA: The village of Zububa, population 2,200, lies in the north-western area of Marj Bin 'Amer plain, the most fertile land in the West Bank. The Wall surrounds Zububa on 3 sides, with the remaining side open to the West Bank. In 2002, the Israeli army confiscated 245 *dunums* (61.25 acres) of village land for the Wall. The Wall's construction has created a stream of water that flows from Israel's Salim military post through the village. Waste water from the military post pollutes the stream and contaminates water springs used by village residents. During winter months, as much as 1/3 of the village is isolated by the stream, which runs 8 meters wide and 30 – 40 cm deep. It has caused considerable damage to area land and roads.

4. Governorate of Tulkarem

- The February 2005 approved path includes re-routing of the Wall in the Jubara area, placing the Wall to the western side of the village, thus providing Jubara access to area services. The nearby village of Ar Ras will regain access to most of its cultivated land, at the expense, however, of losing its historic road to Tulkarem, part of which remains beyond the Wall.
- The planned re-routing near Jubara is related to the construction of the Jubara tunnel, designed to re-direct Palestinian traffic under Road 557, creating a “Palestinian-free” direct access point to Israel for settlers from the settlements of Avne Hefets and Enay, who use Road 557 daily. Presented by Israel as an “improvement” for Palestinians, this re-routing fits into Israel's efforts to create separate Israeli and Palestinian transportation systems in the West Bank.

- On 22 December 2004, the Israeli army began levelling land and uprooting trees for construction of the Jubara tunnel. Levelling of an area of 60 *dunums* (15 acres), along a 1 kilometre stretch of land, has been completed. As of 27 February 2005, construction works for the tunnel continued. In the process of levelling the land, the Israeli military has uprooted approximately 200 olive trees, 37 almond trees and 10 citrus trees. According to local residents, the Israeli military informed Palestinian farmers that their uprooted trees would be re-planted on land in the area under the same ownership. Farmers report, however, that, though trees were re-planted, they were planted on land owned by others.

Other Activity

- On 05 September 2004, the Israeli military distributed orders to residents of the villages of Zeita and Irtah informing them of a prohibition on any form of construction within a zone of a total of 500 metres, spanning west and east of the Wall. The order indicated that all existing structures other than houses within that zone must be removed.
- On 30 October 2004, the Israeli army distributed a military order (No. T/79/40) to confiscate 305 *dunums* (76.25 acres) of land from the village of Izbat Shufa for construction of an Israeli military post and military road, near the settlement of Avne Hefets. A 1.5 kilometre military road will connect the military post with Avne Hefets, cutting through the middle of Palestinian-owned agricultural land that is cultivated with olive trees. Given the land's proximity to the post, owners fear that access to the land will be completely restricted. Even if limited access is allowed, however, the road's placement divides what were previously unified plots of land into fragmented segments. At least one affected farmer, whose 4 *dunums* (1 acre) plot of land will be rendered less productive due to being severed into 2 separate plots, appealed the confiscation order to the Israeli military court. His appeal was rejected. He has since appealed the case to the Israeli High Court. No decision on the case has yet been rendered.
- On 16 December 2004, the Israeli Civil Administration's Monitoring Committee of the Supreme Council of Planning (session No. 16/04) issued a decision affirming the validity of demolition orders issued by the Israeli authorities on 11 March 2004. The demolition orders concern 10 houses near the Wall in the village of Far'un. The village land area of Far'un is 6,510 *dunums* (1,627.5 acres), of which 47 per cent is located behind the Wall. Among reasons cited by the Committee for affirming the validity of the demolition order is that the houses are located in close proximity to the "demarcation line." In response, affected residents note that the structures are located at least 500 metres from the 1967 boundary, but the Wall's construction on village land beyond the boundary has forcibly placed the structures adjacent to the "demarcation line".
- On 22 February 2005, the Israeli army began construction of a watch tower in the middle of the intersection connecting the villages of Qaffin, Baqa ash Sharqiya and Al Nazla ash Sharqiya. Ready-made concrete blocks are being placed, and, according to local residents, the tower's appearance resembles that of the circular watch towers located along the Wall. Israeli soldiers are positioned at the tower construction site.

IMPACT OF WALL ON TULKAREM VILLAGES: In early February 2005, Palestinian agricultural land and property located inside the Wall in the Tulkarem Governorate sustained severe water damage after water ways, leading under the Wall, became blocked with debris and the area flooded. In Irtah, 5 residential buildings, housing 75 individuals, were flooded, with local residents reporting that flood water reached 1 metre deep. The flooding of these areas caused a 15-metre high concrete block portion of the Wall to collapse and two different chain-linked fence portions of the Wall to fall down. Affected farmers have been registering damages sustained with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. As of 24 February 2005, damage to over 160 *dunums* (40 acres) of land cultivated with vegetables had been recorded, along with damage to 60 *dunums* (15 acres) of green houses. Additionally, 1,200 chickens, 23 heads of sheep and 2 dogs died as a result of the flooding.

5. Governorate of Qalqiliya

- On 01 February 2005, the Israeli army distributed a land confiscation order (No. T/05/05) for 128.4 *dunums* (32.1 acres) of land from the villages of Deir Istiya and Immatin. The 3 parcels of land covered by the confiscation order lie directly east of the Israeli settlement of Immanuel and along the approved route of the Wall planned for the Ariel settlement bloc. Israeli media reports from 24 February indicate that construction of a Wall around Immanuel is scheduled to begin within the week.
- The February 2005 route of the Wall includes a small enclave around the Palestinian village of 'Azzun Atma, currently located outside the Wall.

Wall-Related Death

- On 09 January 2005, a 35 year old Palestinian woman, who was in labour, gave birth at the 'Azzun 'Atma gate after passage through the gate was delayed for several hours by Israeli authorities. The infant died shortly thereafter.

Other Activity

- On 06 December 2004, under the protection of the Israeli army, Israeli settlers began construction of a new settlement called "Nof Hasharon" on Palestinian-owned land. Palestinian civilians have submitted a petition against land levelling in the area to the Israeli High Court. Plans to link Nof Hasharon to the infrastructure of the Israeli town of Nirit, inside the 1967 boundary, prompted residents of Nirit to file a petition protesting such action to the Israeli High Court.
- The Israeli army is constructing a settler bypass road on land located behind the Wall and owned by Palestinian civilians from Ras 'Atiya, near the gate to Izbat Jal'ud. The Israeli army is also dividing Palestinian-owned land in the area and affixing numbers to the newly divided parcels, prompting the farmers to fear that it will be confiscated.
- On 12 December 2004, an Israeli military map was distributed in the Palestinian village of Jayyus which seemed to manipulate the division of land in the "Closed Zone" amongst the landowners. Fifteen *dunums* (3.75 acres) of one Palestinian civilian's land was changed and included as being part of his neighbour's land. This section of land had been under threat of confiscation, for the expansion of the Zufin settlement, in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In 1996, the owner succeeded in obtaining a decision from an Israeli military court rejecting the military's attempt to confiscate the land. The December 2004 map, however, appeared to indicate that this section of land is owned by a landowner whose land was confiscated as part of the 1996 decision. On 09 December 2004, Israeli bulldozers, under the protection of the Israeli army and civilian guards, uprooted 117 olives trees belonging to 2 out of 7 brothers, whose lands were also outside the areas of confiscation according to the 1996 court decision. The Israeli military claims that the land was sold in 2002. Despite this claim, the landowners know nothing of the sale of the land and believe that it was carried out fraudulently. The case is currently under criminal investigation by the Israeli police.

6. Governorate of Salfit

- In the Salfit Governorate, land levelling for Wall construction occurred north of the city of Salfit, west of the village of Iskaka, in the villages of Mas-ha, Deir Ballut and Al Zawiya, and south-west of the village of Kafr Ad Dik, and west of the village of Iskaka.
- On 25 January 2005, the Israeli army resumed land levelling for Wall construction west of the village of Iskaka. Wall construction in this area had been suspended, by Israeli Supreme Court order, since June 2004. On 13 February 2005, based upon claims filed by the Municipality of Salfit, Iskaka Village Council, and land owners, the Israeli High Court issued a ruling to again suspend land levelling for Wall construction west of the village of Iskaka and north of the city of Salfit for a period of 21 days beginning on 10 February 2005.

- The total area of the city of Salfit is approximately 27,000 *dunums* (6,750 acres). Of this area, the city plan covers approximately 3,800 *dunums* (957.5 acres). A minimum of 8,000 *dunums* (2,000 acres) of land are required for the city of Salfit to expand its municipal boundaries in order to accommodate natural growth through 2025. Given the topography in the area, such growth should occur in the northern and western areas of the city. In the event Wall construction is complete, development of the city of Salfit shall be extremely difficult as no land will be available for natural growth and for the provision of basic services, including roads, electricity, water and sewage networks. In addition, the Wall will destroy thousands of *dunums* of land located north of the city that are cultivated with olive trees and other crops and provide a basic income for civilians residing in this area.

7. Governorate of Bethlehem

The path of the Wall approved by the Israeli cabinet on 20 February 2005 re-routes the Wall in the western Bethlehem Governorate, removing the previously-approved Walled enclaves around the Palestinian villages of Husan, Battir and Al Walaja. Additionally the new route includes a Wall stretching from the Israeli settlement of Har Gilo, west of Bethlehem, around the Palestinian villages of Al Walaja and Battir, and ending near Wadi Fukin. In Al Walaja, the Wall will enclose the built-up area of the village, limiting the village's natural growth and development. At Wadi Fukin, this Wall abruptly ends, leaving a huge gap between it and the Wall running south of the Etzion bloc. This gap provides for the expansion of Etzion bloc settlements to the west, thus blurring the 1967 boundary.

- Wall construction took place in the northern Bethlehem Governorate, west of Wadi Hilwa, along 'Ayda refugee camp, along the tunnel road (Gilo), along road no. 60 towards the village of Husan, and in the Bir 'Ona area of Beit Jala.
- On 03 February 2005, the Israeli High Court rejected the appeal of the municipalities of Bethlehem and Beit Jala, along with affected residents, regarding the route of the Wall in the area near the Rachel's Tomb settlement, which lies in Area A. The High Court accepted the route proposed by the Israeli military, which provides for a walled bypass road, allowing direct access by car for Jewish settlers to reach Rachel's Tomb. In so doing, the Wall will block the entry of 4 Palestinian-owned houses and local businesses while simultaneously facilitating settlement expansion between Har Homa and the Etzion bloc. There will be no Wall gate for area stores or houses on either side of the walled bypass road to access the other side of the Wall. Access to other areas of Bethlehem for 3 of the affected houses will now be from the area behind the existing homes. Since 13 September 2004, additional concrete blocks have been added to the segment of the Wall running south of the Armenian monastery and north of 'Ayda refugee camp, behind the affected area.
- On 08 February 2005, the Israeli High Court verbally informed residents of Khamat an Nu'man, to the north of Beit Sahur, that their appeal to have the Wall moved at least 1 kilometre from the village had been rejected. The Court gave the residents one week to choose between two options that had been offered at an earlier Court session: either the Wall will completely encompass the area, creating a "Closed Zone" scenario wherein they will have immediate access to their land, but they will require permits to remain in their houses and access to other areas of the West Bank will require passage through a Wall gate; or the Wall will snake around the built-up area of the village – between 50 metres to 100 metres from the houses – leaving them access to the West Bank, but isolating them from their agricultural land. A written decision from the Court was expected on 15 February 2005, but the session was postponed. Given that residents of the village reject both options, they expect the Court to adopt the Wall path recommended by the Israeli army, wherein the Wall fully encompasses the village and a gate controlling movement is placed in the Wall.

Other Activity

- Considerable portions of the Za'tara bypass road, linking Israeli settlements in the south-eastern Bethlehem Governorate with Israeli settlements in Jerusalem, have been completed.
- Since 13 September 2004, there has been considerable construction at the main Bethlehem checkpoint (No. 300), with several new buildings recently erected.
- According to an interview with Aran Ofir, the head of the Israeli army Logistics Department, published in the Hebrew weekly *Kol Hair* on 21 January 2005, a major West Bank checkpoint terminal is to be built on Khamat an Nu'man area land. The "Mazmouria" terminal will be capable of handling 250 trucks per hour, along with 300 vehicles and around 1,000 pedestrians. The *Kol Hair* article also indicated that a new military base will be established in the area. Approximately, one year ago, maps were distributed in the streets of Khamat an Nu'man showing the checkpoint terminal to be located in the area. As of February 2005, there is no sign of construction for the terminal.
- On 26 January 2005, the Israeli Civil Administration issued stop work orders (Nos. 140297, 140298, 140307, 140308) for structures in the Greek Orthodox housing project, located south of the Wall in Beit Sahur, ostensibly for being in violation of building regulations. These notices follow earlier stop work orders, issued on 18 October 2004. The 26 January orders require land owners to return the land to the pre-construction status within 7 days of the date of the order, or the Israeli authorities will do so at the expense of the owner. Of a total project of 15 planned buildings on church-owned land, 8 have been completed and work on the 9th has begun. The housing project is currently home to approximately 200 residents. These buildings lie in the area of Har Homa's planned expansion.
- On 17 February 2005, the Israeli Civil Administration distributed stop work orders to Palestinian farmers in Wadi Fukin. The orders concern agricultural fences and stone walls erected by farmers on cultivated terraces.

8. Governorate of Hebron

- Land levelling for wall construction took place west of the towns of Surif, Beit Ula, Idhna, and Beit 'Awwa, in the area extending from the village of Deir Samit towards Beit 'Awwa, Sikkat Al Majd, Deir Al 'Asal Al Foqa, Deir Al 'Asal At Tahta, Beit Ar Rush Al Foqa, Beit Ar Rush At Tahta, Beit Mirsim, Al Bireh, and towards the village of Al Burj.
- According to local residents, approximately 4,500 *dunums* (1,125 acres) of Palestinian-owned land will be isolated to the west of the Wall in the Beit Ula, Idhna and Beit Awwa areas of the north-western Hebron Governorate. Of these, Beit Ula area residents will lose access to approximately 2,000 *dunums* (500 acres) of land, while residents in the Idhna and Beit Awwa areas will lose access to approximately 2,500 *dunums* (625 acres), including pasture land for grazing stock and land cultivated with olive groves, wheat and vegetables. Also located in the isolated area are several water springs used for irrigation, drinking water and from which livestock is watered. A 4 *dunums* (1 acre) parcel of land, rented by the Idhna Municipality and used as the town's refuse dump, also lies in the isolated area. Idhna residents have appealed the confiscation of their land to the Israeli High Court. A decision has not yet been issued.
- As of 20 February 2005, land-levelling for the Wall in the area extending from Beit Ula to Beit Awwa appears near completion. In the Beit Awwa area, the Wall's path lies near the Beit Awwa elementary school, the only educational facility serving the village. Ongoing Israeli army presence and frequent patrols in the area, along with Israeli soldiers' harassment of students as they enter and exit the area, disturbs the educational process.
- On 16 December 2004, the Israeli army issued Military Order No. T/74/04 ruling for the confiscation of 270 *dunums* (67.5 acres), measuring 2,253 meters in length and 271 meters in width, of agricultural land in the town of Surif and the village of Al Jab'a for construction of the Wall.

C. “CLOSED ZONE” PERMIT SYSTEM

The number of gates to access the “Closed Zone” remains insufficient and gate hours remain inconsistent with the needs of Palestinian civilians, including farmers. Requirements to obtain permits to the “Closed Zone” have become increasingly complex:

1. The Israeli army requires proof of land ownership to obtain a permit. In many cases, permits are now issued only to those in whose name the land is registered or their children. Farmers who contract others to farm their land, those who have entered into sharecropping agreements, or those who have purchased land but have yet not registered it, often cannot obtain permits. Similar difficulties arise if the land is registered in the name of the farmer’s grandparent. These restrictions pose difficulties given that much Palestinian land is not registered, or is registered in the names of non-immediate family members.
2. In some areas, group applications are no longer accepted, i.e. a head of household may not apply for permits for his/her family members. Civilians wishing to obtain a permit must submit an individual application form in his/her name only, either in person, or through the local municipality.

Additionally, the Israeli army frequently issues permits to elderly civilians, rather than young farmers more capable of working the land. Even if permits are issued and farmers are allowed access to their land, they are often subject to Israeli army and settler harassment and assaults, which make continued cultivation hazardous. Affected farmers understand such harassment as an attempt to force Palestinians off their land.

1. Governorate of Jenin

a. Zabda: Construction of the Zabda terminal is completed. Following the closure of the Tura and Barta’a Sharqiya gates to Palestinian civilians in August 2004, Zabda gate has become the main gate for entering and exiting the “Closed Zone” in the area and for connecting Palestinian communities located on both sides of the Wall. High-tech searching equipment for detecting metals, weapons and explosives is utilized at Zabda gate. The terminal consists of two lanes: one for pedestrians and one for vehicles. Pedestrians are searched and scanned with a hand-held metal detector. Vehicles are searched and Palestinian passengers are required to exit the vehicle for individual searches. Contents of vehicles transporting goods are often unloaded for search and then re-loaded onto the same vehicle for transport.

b. Nazlat ash Sheikh Zeid: The Wall has isolated approximately 900 *dunums* (225 acres) of land belonging to the village of Nazlat ash Sheikh Zeid, population 800. Over 80 farmers submitted applications for permits in mid-September 2004 to plough their land. However, Israeli authorities did not issue any permits for them. In June 2004, the Israeli army and Israeli settlers released pigs on Palestinian-owned cultivated land in the “Closed Zone”. These pigs remain present on the land and cause considerable damage to Palestinian wheat, malt and clove cultivations on the land.

c. Tura al Gharbiya: Tura al Gharbiya, population 1,100, is part of Um Ar Rihan and Al ‘Amra forests. Since the Israeli authorities closed the Tura Wall gate to most Palestinian civilian traffic in August 2004, residents have been forced to use the Zabda Wall gate, located 10 kilometres away. Only students from Dhaher al Malih, located in the “Closed Zone” are allowed to use the gate to access their school, which lies 500 metres from the gate. These students are allowed passage without permits.

d. ‘Anin: Although farmers have submitted many applications for permits over the past 2 years, refusals by the Israeli army have made it extremely difficult for many farmers to access their land, plough their groves, and harvest their olive crop. The Israeli army set up 1 gate to the village of ‘Anin to be used for

agricultural purposes. However, the Israeli army currently uses this gate for military purposes. Israeli troops positioned at this gate pursue civilians and farmers and carry out arrest campaigns in the village. The gate is located 1.5 kilometres from the village.

2. Governorate of Tulkarem

Approximately 70,000 Palestinian civilians, in 17 locales, are directly affected by the Wall in the Tulkarem Governorate. Between 18 October 2004 and 10 February 2005, 2,736 Palestinian farmers of the estimated 3,500 farmers in the area applied for permits from the Israeli authorities to access their land in the “Closed Zone”. Of these, 1,754 received permits. 95 per cent of the rejected applicants were denied permits for “security” reasons and 5 per cent were denied due to problems with land registration documents.

Of 13 Wall gates in the Tulkarem Governorate area, Palestinian civilians are only allowed to pass through 4: 2 gates at Deir al Ghusun, 1 gate near Falamiya and Kafr Jammal, and 1 gate to Jubara, the latter of which passage through is restricted to residents of Jubara. The average distance of the gates from most Palestinian villages is between 2 and 4 kilometres. In general, the gates are opened twice daily: from 06:00 – 06:30 and from 15:00 – 15:30. Passage of civilian vehicles is allowed through the 2 gates near Deir al Ghusun. Passage of vehicles through Jubara gate is restricted to Jubara residents. Restricted passage of tractors at Tulkarem area gates makes it difficult for farmers to properly tend to their crops.

During the olive harvest season, 3 additional gates were open, but later closed at the end of December 2004. These gates are: 1 near Qaffin, 1 near Nazlat Isa, and 1 near Irtah. Though many farmers received permits for a period of 6 months, some permits stipulated usage of the gates that have been closed since 30 December. Since 15 February 2005, affected farmers have been trying to coordinate through the Palestinian and Israeli District Coordination Offices (DCO) the opening of these gates in order to plant new olive trees, but they have yet to receive a response from the Israeli DCO.

3. Governorate of Qalqiliya

Hours of operation at Wall gates in the Qalqiliya Governorate remain irregular, and Israeli troops continue to subject Palestinian civilians to time delays, harassment and humiliating procedures. The lack of Wall gates in particular areas has severely impeded Palestinian access to certain blocks of Palestinian-owned land behind the Wall. Local residents report that some farmers have been unable to work their land since the Wall was built and the area was declared a “Closed Zone” in October 2003. Residents also report that Israeli settlers work some of this land, prompting residents to fear eventual confiscation of their land.

a. ‘Azzun ‘Atma, Sanniriya, Beit Amin, Zawiya and Mas-ha: The village of ‘Azzun ‘Atma, 6 kilometres south of the city of Qalqiliya, is currently located outside of the constructed Wall. Palestinian civilians from the villages of Sanniriya, Beit Amin, Zawiya and Mas-ha also own land and farm in ‘Azzun ‘Atma. Roughly 823 *dunums* (205.75 acres) of land, cultivated primarily with olive trees, are trapped between the Israeli settlements of Sha’arei Tikva, Elkana and Etz Efrayim. A total of 45 Palestinian families depend on land in this area: 30 from ‘Azzun ‘Atma and 15 from Beit Amin and Sanniriya. Israeli troops continue to arbitrarily close the gate, regardless of civilians’ needs. Over 70 civilians from Beit Amin have been forced to change their place of residence in their IDs from Beit Amin to ‘Azzun ‘Atma as they were denied permits to access their land located behind the Wall.

On 15 January 2005, Israeli authorities brought 1 new caravan to the checkpoint set up at the ‘Azzun ‘Atma Wall gate, and, on 19 January 2005, the Israeli army adopted a new system for searching Palestinian civilians as they enter and exit the village. Israeli troops force civilians to step out of their

vehicles and direct them to the caravan to examine their IDs through a glass window by a computer. The Israeli soldier present inside the caravan then orders civilians whose IDs have been examined to enter the caravan and remove metal objects from their pockets, including watches, rings, cellular telephones and belts. Civilians are then ordered to proceed through a metal detector.

These new procedures have resulted in considerable delays for civilians, particularly farmers attempting to reach their land and students and teachers en route to school. Since the beginning of the second school semester on 29 January 2005, Israeli troops positioned at the Wall gate checkpoint delay approximately 45 teachers (95% of the teachers in the village's schools) until 09:30 on a daily basis. Israeli troops delay 90 – 110 students from the Secondary School, shared with the village of Beit Amin, as well as students of the scientific stream going to their schools in Kafr Thulth, Habla, and Qalqiliya.

b. Izbet Salman: Farmers from Izbet Salman continue to be unable to reach their land in a feasible manner, due to the severing of agricultural roads by the Wall. Attempts by local farmers to address this situation with the Israeli authorities at Beit El have been unanswered.

c. Ras Tira and Ad Dab'a: Both villages are isolated behind the Wall. Farmers who own land in Ras Tira, but who reside outside the village continue to face great difficulty accessing their land in the "Closed Zone". Many of these farmers have received temporary permits to access the area, but then are later refused permits. Similar problems face Palestinian civilians in Ad Dab'a, population 400. The Israeli authorities issued permits for approximately 10 farmers from Ad Dab'a, who reside outside the village, to visit their relatives in the village. However, once their permits expired, the Israeli army did not renew them.

d. 'Azzun and An Nabi Elyas: There are still no Wall gates for farmers from 'Azzun and An Nabi Elyas to easily access their land. Local residents in 'Azzun report that many farmers have been unable to access their land since construction of the Wall. Beginning in mid-January 2005, and continuing to present, the Israeli army is preventing farmers from the village of An Nabi Elyas from accessing their land by the entrance to the settlement of Tzufim, claiming that work is not allowed on the land. This is the only available route by which farmers can access their land.

D. IMPACT OF WALL AND RESTRICTED ACCESS TO LAND ON PALESTINIAN OLIVE HARVEST

The Palestinian olive harvest season traditionally takes place between the beginning of October and the end of November and constitutes a vital social and economic element of Palestinian rural life. Farmers attempting to harvest their olive crops in areas adjacent to Israeli settlements are frequently harassed, beaten, shot at, and expelled from their lands by Israeli settlers; frequently, with the participation of the Israeli army.

The 2004 olive crop was expected to be the best in 20 years, but Palestinian access to hundreds of *dunums* of land cultivated with olive trees was impeded due to its location in the "Closed Zone", threats and acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and/or otherwise restricted, or denied access by the Israeli military authorities. Bureaucratic procedures, imposed by the Israeli military, required Palestinian farmers in many locations to apply for permits to harvest their olive crops and allowed harvesting of certain areas only on specific days. Many applicants were refused permits, which left numerous villages with insufficient numbers of workers to harvest the crops. Additionally, permits were issued more frequently to elderly Palestinian farmers, while younger applicants, with greater stamina for the harvest, were denied. Additionally, in many areas, the time periods allotted for harvesting were insufficient to allow villagers to harvest the entire crop.

1. Governorate of Jenin

In the Jenin Governorate, the Israeli authorities did not issue many farmers permits until near the end, or after, the olive harvest. Israeli army officers in charge of issuing permits failed to refer to the list of eligible farmers issued by the Palestinian Civil Affairs Department, adopting instead the Israeli register. Permits were therefore issued for many deceased civilians or those residing outside the country.

During the olive harvest, Wall gates were generally opened from 08:00 to 17:00, limiting the number of daylight hours farmers had to harvest their crops. Harvest hours were also reduced by the time required for Palestinian civilians to pass through Wall gates and reach their land. The Israeli authorities prohibited Palestinian vehicular traffic from the villages of 'Anin, Tura al Gharbiya, Jalbun and 'Arabbuna from passing through Wall gates. Israeli Border Police officers physically assaulted Palestinian farmers from 'Anin and Tura al Gharbiya while they were attempting to harvest their olive crop.

'Anin: On 19 October 2004, farmers submitted 1,060 applications for permits through the 'Anin Village Council. On 10 November 2004 (1 month following the beginning of the olive harvest season), Israeli authorities issued 500 permits, rejecting the other 560 applicants without stating a reason. Many farmers were, thus, forced to give away part of their olive crop to farmers living west of Wall, at great financial cost. Over 300 international and Israeli peace activists participated in harvesting olives in the village of 'Anin this year. Olive trees in the area have been damaged due to Israeli settlers' grazing of cattle on Palestinian-owned land.

Nazlat Ash Sheikh Zeid: The Wall isolated approximately 900 *dunums* (225 acres) of Nazlat ash Sheikh Zeid land. During the 2004 olive harvest season, 87 farmers applied for permits on 06 September 2004. Of these, 40 applicants were rejected, without any reasons stated. Those permits that were approved were issued 2 months later and specified very short periods of time for farmers to harvest the olive crop. Consequently, farmers were unable to harvest 10 per cent of the crop. The village has no nearby gate that allows for easy access to their agricultural land, so village residents were forced to travel to Tura Wall gate – which was opened sporadically for the period of the harvest – which is 3 kilometres away. After passing through the gate, farmers then had to travel 2 kilometres to reach their groves. Because numerous applicants were denied permits, many farmers were forced to give away their olive crop to civilians residing west of the Wall, at great financial cost.

Zububa: The Wall surrounds the village of Zububa on 3 sides and prevents farmers from accessing their land located behind the Wall. In 2003, the Israeli army prevented farmers from reaching their land until after the olive harvest season was over. On 10 September 2004, 29 farmers applied for permits, but the Israeli authorities issued permits for 12 farmers only. Moreover, the only access point farmers had to isolated land was through Salim Wall gate, located 2 kilometres from the village. Israeli troops positioned at this gate allowed farmers to use only 1 vehicle to transport the olive crop and prohibited other civilian vehicles from accessing agricultural land. The olive crop on 50 *dunums* (12.5 acres) of land isolated behind the Wall was not harvested.

Tura al Gharbiya: On 07 September 2004, 98 farmers applied for permits to access their cultivated land in the "Closed Zone", but only 38 permits were issued. During the olive harvest, the Israeli authorities allowed sporadic use of the Tura Wall gate, which has been restricted to military use since August 2004. However, local residents report that the Israeli army sometimes ordered them to cross Zabda gate, which is 10 kilometres away. The Tura gate was closed again to most Palestinian civilians after the olive harvest.

2. Governorate of Tulkarem

Between 18 October 2004 and 10 February 2005, 2,736 Palestinian farmers of the estimated 3,500 farmers in the area applied for permits from the Israeli authorities to access their land in the “Closed Zone”. Of these, 1,754 received permits. 95 per cent of the rejected applicants were denied permits for “security” reasons and 5 per cent were denied due to problems with land registration documents. During the olive harvest season, the Israeli army opened 7 out of 13 Wall gates. After the harvest, 3 of these gates were closed. These gates are: 1 near Qaffin, 1 near Nazlat Isa, and 1 near Irtah. Vehicular traffic was allowed through only 2 of the 7 gates opened during the olive harvest (2 at Deir al Ghusun). At other gates, only donkey carts were allowed, making the transport of the olive crop difficult. International and Israeli activists assisted farmers with the olive harvest in a number of areas. Given restricted access to land in the “Closed Zone”, 10 per cent of the olive crop was not harvested.

3. Governorate of Qalqiliya

‘Azzun: Out of 135 applicants, only 50 received permits from the Israeli authorities to harvest their olive crop. The 85 applicants whose permits were refused own approximately 70 per cent of the olive trees located in the “Closed Zone”, while the 50 who received permits own 30 per cent. Palestinian farmers applied for permits on 23 August 2004. Though the issued permits stated that they were valid from 15 October to 1 November 2004, they were not delivered to the ‘Azzun municipality until 23 October 2004, and were not available to farmers until 25 October 2004, leaving them only 6 days to harvest the crop from the 30 per cent of trees to which access was allowed. This time period was insufficient to allow farmers to harvest the entire crop, particularly given that farmers face great difficulty reaching their land. The Wall severed the agricultural roads leading to ‘Azzun land in the “Closed Zone”, forcing farmers to walk long distances to reach their olive groves. Additionally, permits were issued primarily to elderly Palestinians, while younger Palestinians were almost uniformly rejected. As a result of denied or difficult access, the short time period allowed for harvesting, along with the issuance of permits to elderly Palestinians, village residents were only able to harvest 15 per cent of the total available olive crop in the “Closed Zone”.

‘Azzun ‘Atma: Approximately 800 *dunums* (200 acres) of ‘Azzun ‘Atma land isolated west of the Wall is cultivated with olive trees. Much of this land is located near the settlement of Oranit. During the 2004 olive harvest, the Israeli army and settlers from Oranit prevented civilians from harvesting their olive crop on land located near the settlement. As a result, 50% of the olive crop in ‘Azzun ‘Atma was not harvested.

Beit Amin: Out of 15 farmers applying for permits, the Israeli authorities rejected ten, ostensibly due to problems with land registration. Of 2,000 *dunums* (500 acres) of land in the “Closed Zone” owned by Beit Amin residents, approximately half is cultivated with olive trees. Of this, residents were able to harvest only 20 per cent of the crop.

Kafr Qaddum: Kafr Qaddum is located on the western edge of the Israeli settlement of Kedumim and has a total population of approximately 3,000 people, 70% (around 2,100 people) of whom depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Kedumim settlers regularly harass farmers from the village, steal their sheep, burn their crops, rampage through the village, and prevent villagers from cultivating their land. During the 2004 harvest, farmers were required to abide by a harvest timetable issue by the Israeli Civil Administration to harvest the olive crop in restricted areas, which lie near the Kedumim settlement. Kafr Qaddum farmers expected to produce 200 oil canisters, but only produced 70 per cent of that goal, due to Israeli army restrictions and settler harassment. Most of the olive crop that was harvested relied on the assistance of international solidarity activists. Palestinian-owned olive trees in this area have been frequently harvested by Kedumim settlers for themselves throughout the past 3 years.