

Geopolitical Status in Ramallah Governorate

Prepared by the Monitoring Settlements & GIS Units at the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ)

The Israeli Segregation Plan in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

An Overview

In June 2002, the Israeli government launched its policy of unilateral segregation between Israel and the Palestinian territory by creating a Segregation Zone on the Palestinian lands in the West Bank. The Zone cuts through the western part of the West Bank and runs from north to south grabbing the most fertile agricultural lands, isolating Palestinian communities in enclaves, undermining the territorial contiguity between the Palestinian villages and cities, grasping the natural resources and capturing most of the Israeli settlements.

In addition, Israel has de facto created an Eastern Segregation Zone without walls or fences but through control of access points along the Jordan Valley and the shores of the Dead Sea. This zone has a total area of 1664 Km², representing 29.4 % of the West Bank and includes 43 Israeli settlements and 42 Palestinian localities.

In most areas where the Wall cuts through, the Segregation Zone consists of a 40-100 meters wide double layered fence that comprises barbed wires, trenches, military roads and footprint detection tracks as well as 4-5 meters high electrified metal fence supplied with security cameras. In areas with sizeable population and/or in-close perimeter with the Green Line, the Segregation Wall consists of 6-8 meters high concrete wall supplied with military watchtowers lined-up 250 meters apart.

On February 20, 2005, the Israeli government published a revised route of the Western Segregation plan, where the Wall will run for 683 km in the West Bank. Only 138 km (20.2% of the total length) runs on the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line). When complete, this zone will isolate 576 km² of Palestinian land (10% of the total West Bank area). It also encloses 98 Israeli settlements accommodating 83% of the Israeli settler's population in the West Bank and 55 Palestinian localities. In September 2004, the Israeli Occupation Forces issued military orders creating a buffer zone averaging 150-200 meters on the Palestinian side of the Segregation Zone where new construction is prohibited. As a result, an additional 252 km² of the West Bank (4.4 %) will become inaccessible to Palestinians.

On April 30, 2006, the Israeli government published yet another revised route of the Western Segregation plan, where the Wall will run for 703 km in the West Bank. The new revised plan will still run the Segregation Wall on 128 km (18.2 % of the total length) of the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line). When complete, the Segregation Wall will isolate behind it 555 km² of Palestinian land (approximately 10% of the total West Bank area). It will continue to enclose 103 Israeli settlements accommodating 85% of the Israeli settler's population in the West Bank; however, it increases the number of isolated Palestinian localities behind the Wall to 59.

Status of the Western Segregation Zone as of April 2006

Status of Western Segregation Zone (Km)		Percentage of the total Wall length
Existing sections	307	43.7%
Planned sections	305	43.4%
Under Construction	91	12.9%
Total length	703	100%

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit 2006

Palestinian Resources Isolated by the Segregation Plan

Agricultural Areas

- Up to 189,001 dunums of agricultural areas are isolated in the Western Segregation Zone in addition to 863,879 dunums in the Eastern Segregation Zone, which form 37.4% of the total agricultural areas of the West Bank.

Open Space

- Up to 264,000 dunums of open space are segregated in the Western Segregation Zone in addition to 610,723 dunums in the Eastern Segregation Zone, which form 53% of the total open space areas of the West Bank.

Forests

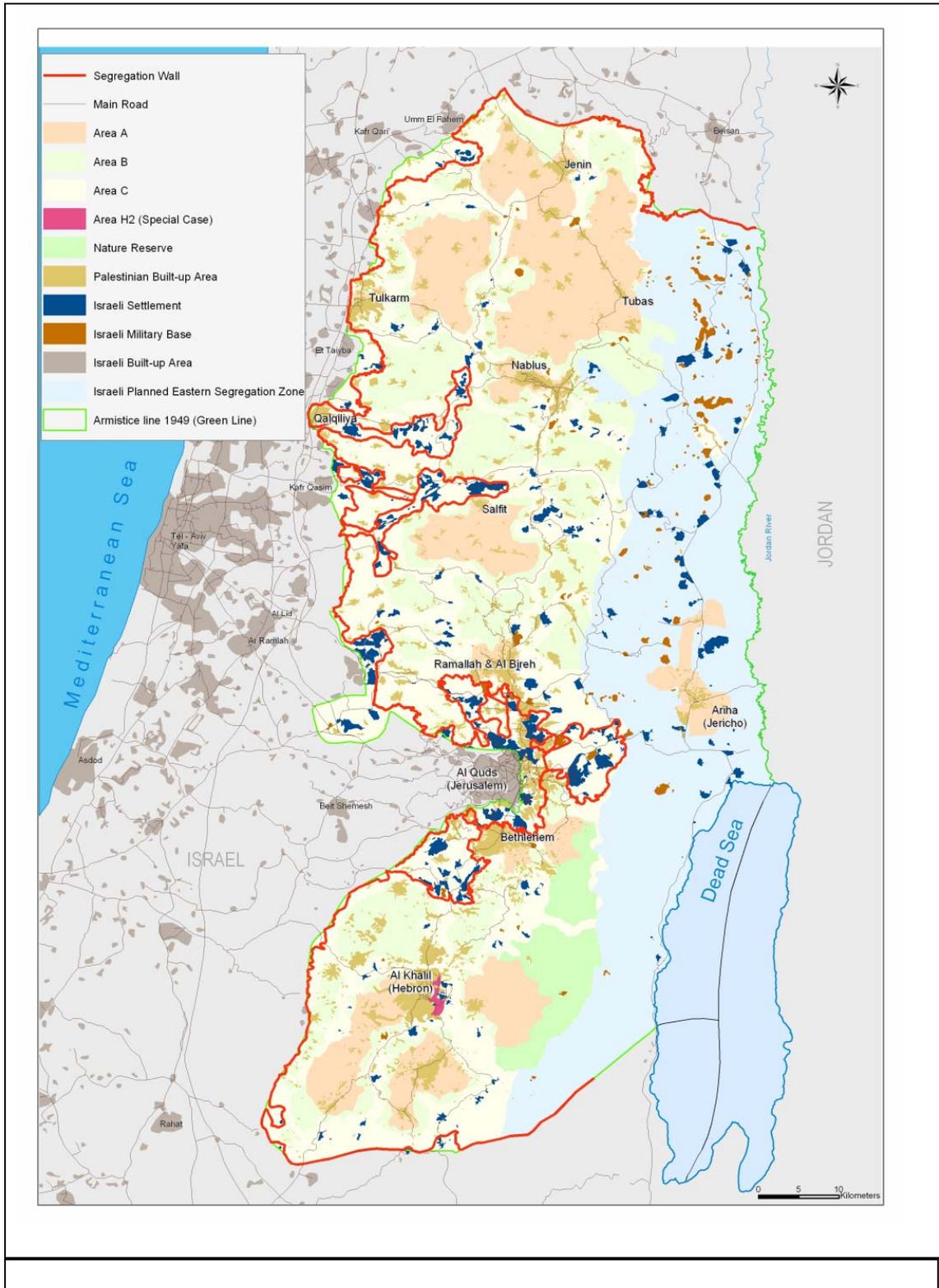
- Up to 128,404 dunums of forested areas and areas with shrubs are included in the Western Segregation Zone and 110,274 dunums in the Eastern Segregation Zone, which form 37.7% of the total forested area and area with shrubs of the West Bank.

Water

- The Eastern Segregation Zone lies over the eastern (Jordan Valley) water aquifer with a safe yield of 172 MCM / year
- The Western Segregation Zone lies over the northwestern and western aquifers with a combined safe yield of 507 MCM / year.
- The combined number of water wells utilized by the Palestinian population in the Segregation Zones is 134 with a combined average annual pumping rate of approximately 44.1 MCM
- The combined number of water springs isolated by the western Segregation Zones is 62 with a combined average annual discharge of approximately 31 MCM.
- Up to 221 dunums of inland water, areas are isolated in the Western Segregation Zone and 685 dunums in the Eastern Segregation Zone, which constitute 99% of the total inland water area of the West Bank.

Map 1: the status of the Israeli Segregation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian territory.

Map1



Ramallah Governorate

Ramallah Governorate lies in the central part of the West Bank and is considered one of the largest Governorates in the Palestinian Territory. It has an area of 848.828 Km² (15% of West Bank total area) and home to 297.330 Palestinian inhabitants (PCBS, 2005).

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, 101731 dunums (101.731 Km²) of Ramallah Governorate were classified as Area A (areas under Palestinian control), 210738 dunums (210.738 Km²) were classified as Area B (areas under Palestinian civil administration but Israel continued to have an overriding control on security), while 536359 dunums (536.359 Km²) were classified as Area C (areas under full Israeli Control).

Map 2: Ramallah's Governorate location in the Occupied Palestinian territory.



Israeli Occupation Practices in Ramallah Governorate

During the past near 4 decades of Israeli occupation to Ramallah Governorate, 30 illegal Israeli settlements with a total hold of Israeli settler population 69933 were established on an area of 30673 dunums (30.673 km²), (ARIJ database, 2005), see table 1.



Moreover, during the period between 1996 and 2005, the Israeli settlers managed to set up 50 Israeli outposts on the outskirts of the Israeli settlements, to expand the master plans of existing settlements or to turn these locations to new settlements sites of their own, see table 2. The consecutive Israeli governments have also worked to link the established settlements with each other and consequently with Israel by creating a network of bypass roads throughout the West Bank territory that stretches in length to 795 Km: Ramallah's share of it is 182.8 Km (23%) in and around the governorate. An additional 52 Km of bypass road also awaits the Israeli government approval to go into execution phase in and around Ramallah governorate to fit the alteration to the new road status founded by the Segregation Wall.

Table 1: Israeli Settlements in Ramallah Governorate

	Israeli Settlement	Date of Establishment	Area-2004 (dunum)	Population 2004
1	Lapid	1996	459	2228
2	Beit Arye	1981	1420	3446
3	Dolev	1983	1017	963
4	Hashmonaim	1985	1050	2235

5	Kfar Rut	1977	835	200
6	Mattityahu	1980	683	1347
7	Menora	1998	759	1236
8	Nili	1981	630	829
9	Ofarim	1988	545	810
10	Shilta	1977	978	352
11	Makkabim	1982	1941	10700
12	Beit Horon B	1977	274	741
13	Nahliel	1984	176	282
14	Maale Levona	1983	521	514
15	Maale Mikhmas	1981	1118	1055
16	Canada Park	1968	2947	NA
17	Beit Horon	1977	330	825
18	Mevo Horon	1969	1341	827
19	Modin Illit (Qiryat Sefer)	1991	3973	27386
20	Naaleh	1982	884	600
21	Hallamish	1977	677	931
22	Ateret	1981	401	350
23	Talmon C	1989	658	1760 (population includes Talmon C + B)
24	Talmon B	1989	255	
25	Talmon	1989	994	
26	Beit El (A + B)	1977	1056	4763
27	Ofra	1975	2342	2264
28	Pesagot	1981	564	1388
29	Rimmonim	1977	343	536
30	Kokhav haShahar	1977	1502	1365
Total			30673	69933
Included within Modin Illit settlements bloc				

Source: ARIJ & Foundation for Middle East Peace 2004

Table 2: Israeli Outposts in Ramallah Governorate

	Closest Mother Settlement	No. of structures	Outpost Name	Status
1	Beit El	4	Hill 857	Outpost
2	Beit El	24	Beit El	Outpost
3	Talmon B	20	Zayit Ra'anana	Outpost
4	Kochav Hashaachar	9	Mitzpe Shlomo	Inside Settlement Master Plan
5	Ma'ale Mikhmas	9	Neve Erez	Inside Settlement Master Plan
6	Nahliel	1	Nahleil Tel	Outpost
7	Ofra	16	Ginot Arye	Outpost
8	Ofra	1	Tal Binyamin Synagogue	Inside Settlement Master Plan
9	Ofra	2	Ofra South	Outpost
10	Psagot	2	Psagot East	Outpost
11	Beit El	0	T Junction, Giva't Assaf	Outpost

12	Halamish	25	Tzofit Farm	Outpost
13	Halamish	5	Neve Yair	Outpost
14	Talmon	0	Harasha	Inside Settlement Master Plan
15	Talmon	26	Horesh Yaron	Inside Settlement Master Plan
16	Kochav Hashahar	17	Mitzpe Kramim	Inside Settlement Master Plan
17	Ma'ale Michmash	0	Mitzpe Danny	Outpost
18	Ma'ale Michmash	0	Mitzpe Hagit	Inside Settlement Master Plan
19	Ofra	0	Amona	Outpost
20	Ofra	44	Giva't Assaf and Giva't degel	Inside Settlement Master Plan
21	Shvut Rachel	37	Adei Ad	Inside Settlement Master Plan
22	Eli	18	South Eli	Outpost
23	Beit Horon	0	East Beit Horon	Outpost
24	Givat Zeev	2	North Givat Zeev	Outpost
25	Givat Zeev	0	North Givat Zeev Construction	Outpost
26	Eli	10	East Eli	Outpost
27	Ofra	10	East Ofra	Outpost
28	Ofra New Site	1	East Ofra New Site	Outpost
29	Ofra	0	South Ofra	Inside Settlement Master Plan
30	Ofra	0	South Ofra	Inside Settlement Master Plan
31	Ofra	1	South Ofra	Outpost
32	Beit El	3	East Beit El	Outpost
33	Beit El	18	East Beit El	Outpost
34	Talmon C	1	West Talmon C	Outpost
35	Modin Illit	3	North Modin Illit	Outpost
36	Modin Illit	0	North Modin Illit	Outpost
37	Naaleh	2	East Naaleh	Outpost
38	Ateret	1	South East Ateret	Outpost
39	Ateret	1	North Ateret	Outpost
40	Koshahar	0	South east Koshahar (construction site)	Outpost
41	Rimmonim	6	West Rimmonim	Outpost
42	Kokhav Hashahar	2	North Kokhav Hashahar	Outpost
43	Maale Mikhmas	1	North Maale Mikhmas	Outpost
44	Maale Mikhmas	1	Far North Maale Mikhmas	Outpost
45	Mevo Horon	12	South East Mevo Horon	Outpost
46	Peduel	1	South Peduel	Outpost
47	Beit Arye	3	North West Beit Arye	Outpost
48	Maale Levon	25	East Maale Levon	Outpost

49	Eli	2	Eli South (Hill 792)	Outpost
50	Mizpe Rahel (shvut Rahel)	0	South east Mizpe Rahel (shvut Rahel)	Outpost
Total		366		

Source: ARIJ Database 2006

During the years of the second (Al-Aqsa) Intifada, the Israeli authorities stepped up their belligerent and aggressive occupation related activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, destroying Palestinian agriculture, confiscating lands, demolishing Palestinian houses, expanding settlements, erecting outposts, expanding bypass roads, imposing severe restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement and the construction of the Segregation Zone. Table 3 indicates some of the Israeli violations in Ramallah Governorate.

Map 3: the Geo-political status of Ramallah's Governorate.

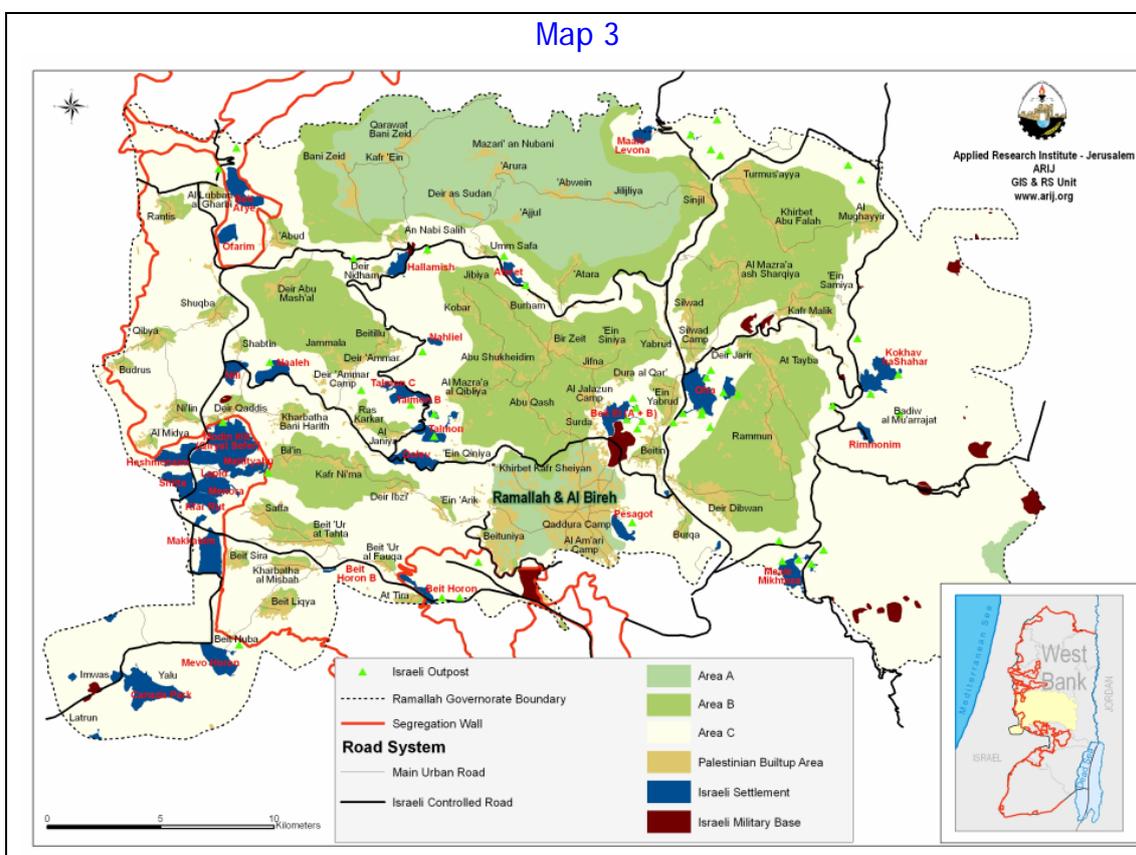


Table 3: Israeli violations in Ramallah Governorate during the years 2000-2005

Year	Land Confiscated/ in Dunums	Land Threatened/ in Dunums	Uprooted Trees	Houses Demolished
2000	820	215	5277	1
2001	10932	1063	24772	3
2002	460	177	3402	34
2003	4995	2300	67323	30
2004	24000	3000	0	17
2005	3625	6000	1107	2

November 2006	6963	20290	15808	123
Total	51795	33045	117689	210

Source: ARIJ database 2005



Ramallah and the Segregation Plan

The Segregation Wall in Ramallah Governorate extends along 78.791 kilometers piercing through 23 Palestinian villages and towns and isolating others as in the case of Beit Nuba village and some parts of Al Judaira behind its path. It is worth pointing out that the Israeli Segregation Wall will end up encompassing 14 Israeli settlements and isolating 99069 dunums of Palestinian lands behind its path. The following table 4 shows the status of the Israeli Segregation Wall in Ramallah Governorate.

Table 4: status of Israeli Segregation Wall in Ramallah Governorate

Status of the Segregation Wall in Ramallah Governorate (Km)	
Existing sections	26.485 Km
Planned sections	23.058 Km
Under Construction	29.248 Km
Total length	78.791 Km

Runs East of the Segregation Wall	74.72 Km (95 %)
Runs on the Green Line	4.07 Km
Range of depth inside the West Bank from the Green Line	0- 8.23 Km

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit 2006

In Ramallah Governorate, the Segregation Wall will isolate 99069 dunums (99.069 km²) of Palestinian lands including two Palestinian communities (Beit Nuba and parts of Al Judaira: population 2359) and disrupts the life in 23 Palestinian villages. The residents of these isolated and disrupted villages will have a harsh time when it comes to their movement to areas segregated by the Wall in case they want to reach their homes or lands; thereby affect their livelihood and other vital social, health and educational services as well.



The following table shows the landuse/ landcover of area isolated behind the Segregation Wall in Ramallah Governorate.

Landuse/ landcover of area isolated behind the Segregation Wall in Ramallah Governorate	
Land Type	Area in Dunums
Agricultural Lands	40786
Forests	7301
Open Space	20974
Palestinian Built-up Areas	183
Israeli Controlled Areas	12058
Others	17767
Total	99069

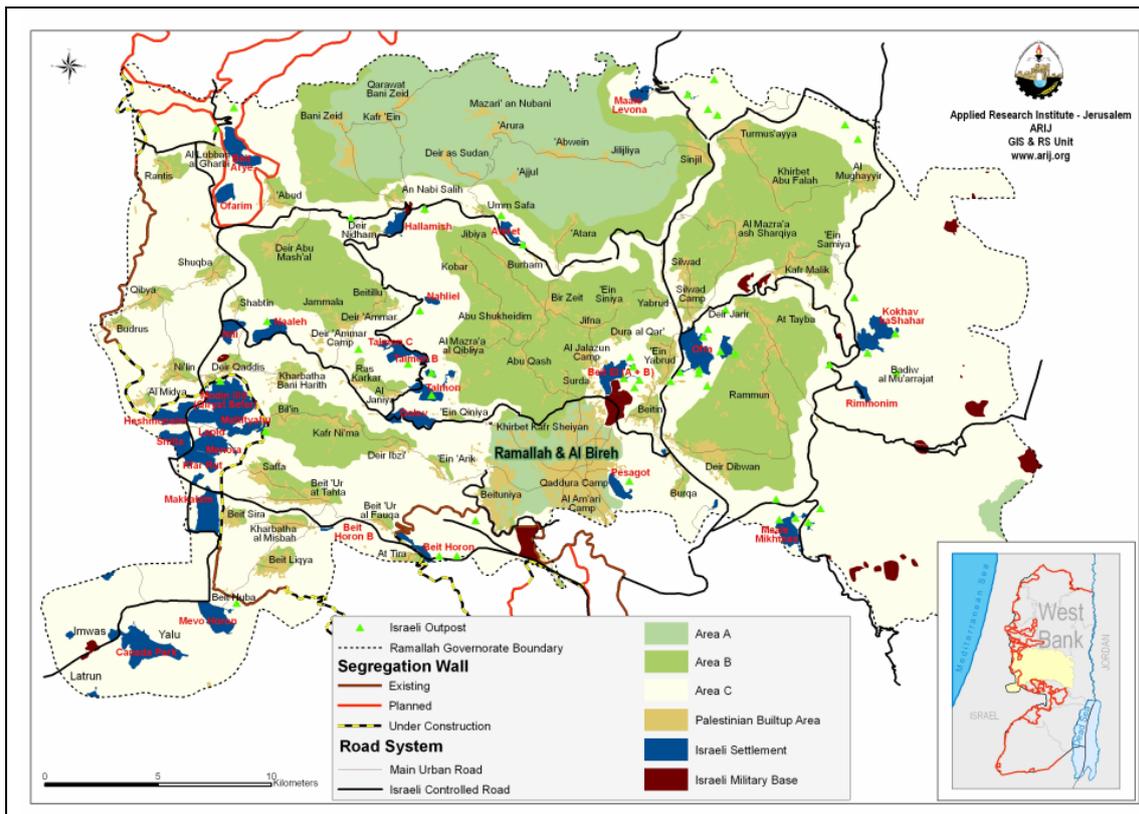
Source: ARIJ Database 2002



Entrance to the isolated agricultural lands will be restricted to those who are able to prove landownership authenticated by the Israeli civil administration, which means that only the owners who have their names listed in the ownership deeds (usually the eldest of the families) will receive permits. Furthermore, issuance of permits by the Israeli civil administration will be on seasonal basis; hence, the owners will find a hard time to manage their cultivated lands on their own especially that the permits do not include additional labor and/ or equipments.

Map 4: the work status of the Israeli Segregation Wall in Ramallah Governorate.

Map 4



Major Impacts of the Segregation Plan on Ramallah Governorate

The construction of the Segregation Wall has negative impacts on the, economical, social as well as environmental aspects of the Palestinians' lives. Following is a summary of those major impacts.

Political Impact

- The Israeli Segregation Wall will redraw the political boundary of Ramallah governorate.
- The Segregation Wall will redefine the demographic balance of the governorate with more than 12 % of its area taken in toward Israel.
- The segregation Wall is creating new demographic facts that will lead to forced migration among Palestinians who will loose their livelihoods
- The Plan will sever the organic tie between Ramallah and other Palestinian Governorates

Economic Impact

- The Segregation Plan causes severe damages to the Palestinian agricultural sector and to the Palestinian farmers as a result of land confiscation and the constraints imposed on mobility and marketing
- Israel maintains control over Palestinian trade and tourism
- Unemployment as well as poverty levels increase
- Rise in land prices and reduction of investment opportunities

Social Impact

- Thousands of Palestinian citizens will be cut-off from the main urban centers where health, educational and social services are located
- Harsh measures are imposed on Palestinian mobility and movement, transportation from or to the segregated areas is extremely difficult
- The Segregation Zone is cutting-off social relations between Palestinian citizens living on either sides of the Wall
- Increased urbanization pressure and population density
- The Segregation Wall will place many Palestinian towns and villages in geographically disconnected and segregated enclaves or ghettos

Impact on the Palestinian Environment

- Decline the space areas designated for landfills and wastewater treatment sites.
- Diminish areas designated as natural reservations, forests, pastures, open spaces and recreation areas.
- Loss of grazing area and increase in desertification
- Distort wildlife cycle and cuts-off different kinds of animals from their natural habitat particularly during migration seasons.
- The Segregation Plan is altering the Palestinian natural landscape
- Many archeological and historical sites related to Palestinian cultural heritage will be segregated behind the wall.
- Loss of open space which poses a threat to the sustainability of the urban and rural areas as well as a threat to more losses of the natural resources and biodiversity.

Terminals in Ramallah Governorate

Terminals is just another Israeli employed tool to control and manipulate the lives of more than 2.4 million Palestinians living under the control of the racist Israeli occupation, which restrict the movement of Palestinians to designated roads and through terminals controlled and operated by Israeli soldiers and their sadistic moods which has resulted in the death of more than 120 Palestinian over the last years of the current Intifada.

The concept of terminals controlled by an occupation force rise to the level of Apartheid; in fact; it is an unambiguous case of Apartheid when the occupation Army confine movement of those under occupation to specific routes and through terminals. In September 2005, Israel decided to establish 10 terminals and 23 crossing points throughout the occupied West Bank territory, five of these terminals are under construction and are designed for commercial functions where cargos are moved "back to back" on these terminals Tarqumia (Hebron), Al-Jalameh (Jenin), Mazmuria (Bethlehem), Sha'ar Ephraim (Tulkarm) and Betunia in Ramallah. The other five terminals are: Hasam Tzahub (Jordan Valley), Rachel (Gilo 300) (Bethlehem), Shu'fat, Az-Ayyem and Qalandyia-'Atarot in Jerusalem are already operating and control the movement of Palestinians throughout the occupied territory. However, Israeli military orders issued after September 2005 revealed that there are 18 terminals throughout the West Bank territory; the additional eight are: Al-Jab`a, Al-Khader, Um Salamuna and Al-Walajeh in Bethlehem, Metar south of Hebron, Hizma in east Jerusalem, 'Anata in northwest Jerusalem and Mechabim west of Ramallah.

Israel attempted on many occasions to justify its terminals project by underlining the questionable reality that the terminals are built to facilitate Palestinians' life and bring about contiguity within Palestinian districts. Moreover; Israel attempt to legitimize the terminals issue which stand in violation of Article international law on the freedom of movement by asking the World Bank to subsidize the terminal project; but the latter refused the Israeli request since these terminals are not constructed on the internationally recognized Armistice Line of 1949 (the Green Line) and that they come to emphasize the construction of the controversial and illegal Segregation Wall in the occupied West Bank territory.

*According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) all people are entitled to the recognition of inherent dignity and certain inalienable rights, which are the "foundations of freedom and justice in the world." Freedom of movement is part of the "liberty of man" (Jagerskiold) thus making it one of the most basic human rights. Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulate:
Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.*



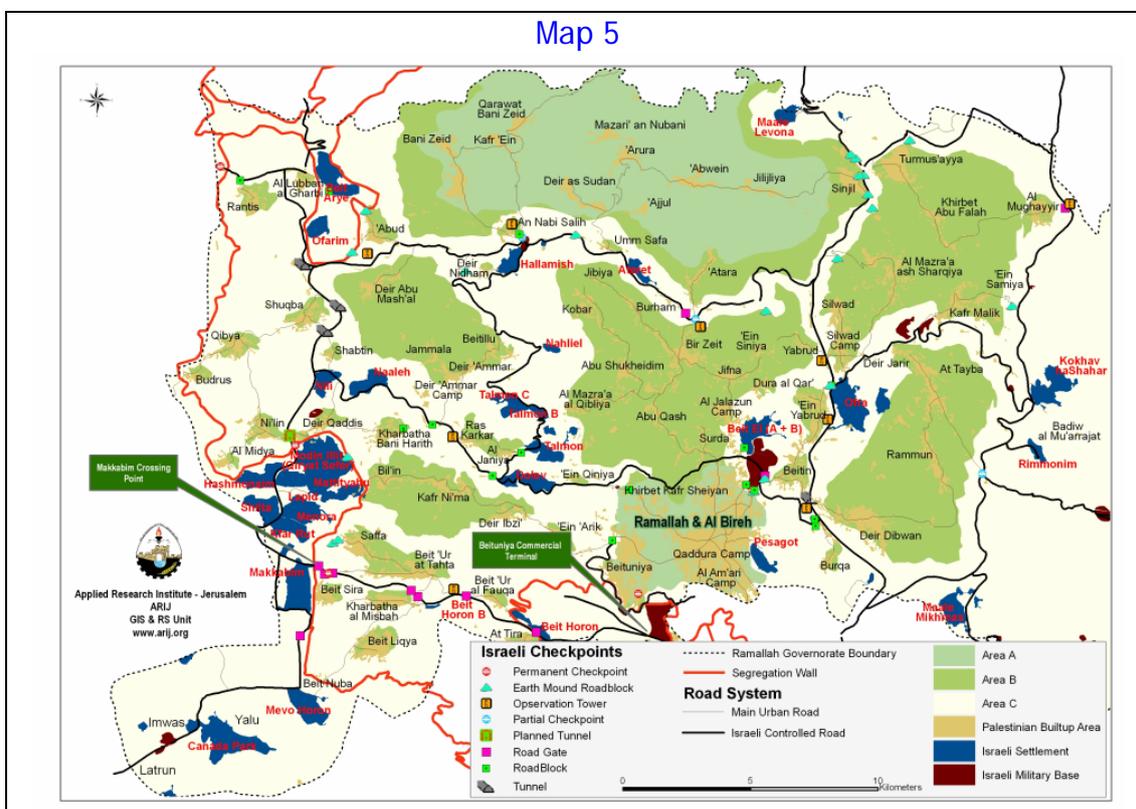
- **Betunia (Commercial Terminal)**

This terminal is located approximately 4 Km from Ramallah and is designated for moving all sorts of goods from Ramallah area and consequently all the northern governorates of the West Bank to Jerusalem via back-to-back system. The terminal is set to go into operation sometime before the end of 2006.

- **Mekkabim Crossing point**

This terminal is located at the area section of the Segregation Wall close to Qiryat Safer settlement located within the Modi'in Illit settlements bloc west of Ramallah. Information on this terminal is not available other than the terminal will serve commercial purposes.

Map 5: the locations of Israeli terminals in Ramallah Governorate



The Israeli New Plans for Ramallah Governorate New Expansions in Modi'in Illit Settlement Bloc

In persistence of Israeli violations in the Palestinian Territory, the Israeli Governorate issued tenders in January 2006, to build 3500 new housing units in Modi'in Illit settlements bloc, located approximately 16 km west of Ramallah city along the western edge of the West Bank. At the time, the Israeli government decided to include Modi'in Illit settlements bloc within the Segregation Wall, the number of tenders issued for additional buildings increased substantially; nearly by 1600 new housing units. The following table lists settlements in the Modi'in Illit bloc.

Table 4: the Israeli settlements in Modi'in Illit Bloc

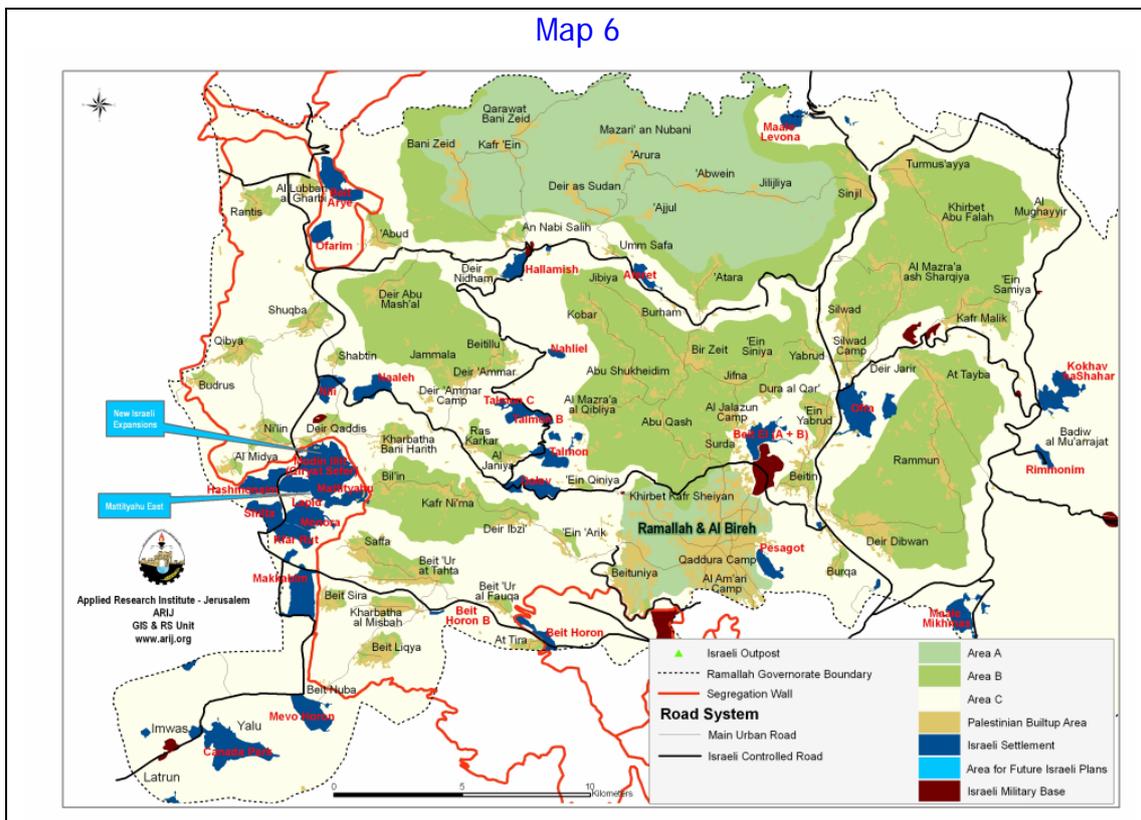
Settlement	Date of Establishment	Area in Dunums	Population in 2004
Modi'in Illit (Qiryat Sefer)	1991	3973	27386
Hashmonaim	1985	1050	2235
Mattityahu	1980	683	1347
Lapid	1996	459	2200
Shilta	1977	978	352
Menora	1998	759	1236

Kfar Rut	1977	835	200
Makkabim	1982	1941	10700
Total		10,678	45656

Source: ARIJ database 2006

The settlements bloc Modi'in Illit was established on lands originally owned by Palestinian residents of Al Midya, Ni'in, Al Burj, Shilta, Saffa, Beit Sira, Bir Mai'n, Deir Qiddies, Bil'in and Khirbet Al Misbah within Ramallah Governorate.

Map 6: the future settlements plan in Modi'in Illit settlement bloc.



The International Legal Status of the Segregation Wall

In July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) passed an advisory opinion declaring that the Israeli Segregation Wall Israel is illegal. The Court based its decision based on international laws, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Hague Regulations, various human rights treaties and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Recalling relevant United Nations resolutions affirming that actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to change the status and demographic composition of Occupied East Jerusalem have no legal validity and are null and void, Noting the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the context of the Middle East peace process,

The Israeli Segregation Wall violates virtually every existing humanitarian code, human rights and civilized laws; including the right to Self-Determination, the right to freedom of movement, the right to work, the right to medical treatment, the right to education, the right to an adequate standard of living and access to holy places. The ICJ decision upholds the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, which the Israelis deny them the right to exercise as the Segregation Wall

disrupts the territorial integrity, unity and contiguity. 'Self-defense' or 'state of necessity' can not be used as justification for violating this right and other international legal principles and therefore Israel must cease construction and all other states must refrain from supporting Israel in building the Wall.

Moreover, the construction of the Segregation Wall is an explicit violation of all peace agreements signed between the Israelis and Palestinians and a breach to Oslo Interim Agreement which states that: "Neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations" (Article XXXI, clause 7).

Conclusion

Despite international denunciation, Israel is proceeding with its unilateral plans to build the Segregation Wall; isolating and confiscating large tracts of Palestinian lands in Ramallah. If this continues, the Palestinian communities in Ramallah Governorate will be completely surrounded by a complex of Walls, settlements and roads that will eliminate any future possibility for the Palestinian community to expand and thus jeopardize sustainable development.

The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ) emphasizes the imperativeness that Israel complies with the international legitimacy, laws and resolutions of the United Nations; stresses the necessity to hold Israel accountable for its acts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; calls for Israel's long time apathy of the international community's will to end and thus Israel be made to conform with the United Nation's resolutions including: Security Council Resolution 452 (1979) which calls upon 'the Government and people of Israel to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem,' Security Council Resolution 446 (1979) which '[d]etermines that the policy and practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East'.

For more information, please visit the following sites: <http://www.arij.org>, <http://www.poica.org>



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