

The Geopolitical Status of occupied State of Palestine - November 2022

The Palestinian geographic/ demographic predicament: One consequence of the Israeli occupation

On September 28, 1995, Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) signed the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip (AKA: Oslo II or the Tabá Agreement). It recognized the establishment of a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority for a transitional period not exceeding five years from the date of signing the Agreement leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Accordingly, the Israeli occupation Army repositioned its presence in oPt out from the major populated cities' centers and later on a second redeployment from rural areas; which brought about three categories for land classification, known as Areas "A", "B" and "C" designating varying levels of control.

This jagged distribution has scattered the oPt and turned it into isolated cantons, physically separated from each other. It also caused an imbalanced distribution of population, triggering a warehouse syndrome as a direct result of Israel's matrix of control on area "C", which deny the Palestinians their right to build and expand on the territory they own and the Israeli Army occupies. The following chart shows the Palestinian population distribution in the West Bank in light of the Israeli discriminatory system:

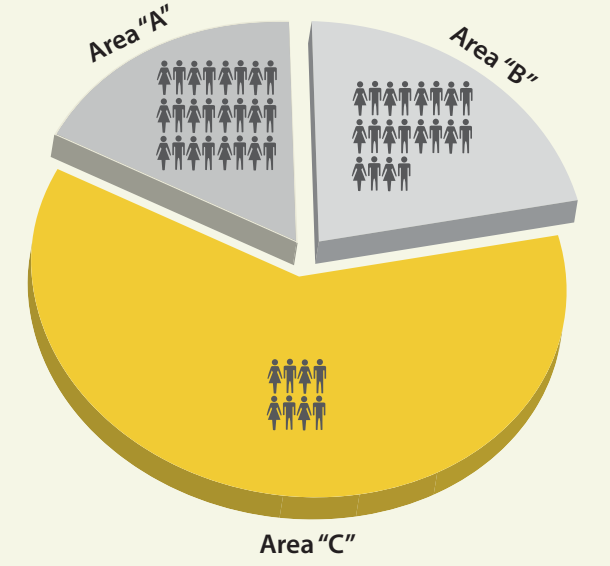
Land Classification	Description	Percentage
Area "A"	The Palestinians hold all responsibilities for internal security, Public order and land administration.	17.5
Area "B"	Palestinians have control over civil administrative related issues (education, health, land administration) however, the Israeli occupation Army continues to have overriding responsibility for security.	18.5
Area "C"	The Israeli occupation Army retains full control over security and related land and civil administrations issues.	61

East Jerusalem is included within Area "C" demographic and geographic

Palestinian population distribution Vs. Land allocation under Oslo II Interim Agreement of September 1995

Total West Bank area = 5661 km²
Total West Bank population = 3,188,387 Palestinian

Land Classification	Km ²	%	Population	%
Area "A"	1004	17.5	1,575,063	49.4
Area "B"	1205	18.5	1,192,457	37.4
Area "C"	3452	61	420,867	13.2
Total	5661		3,188,387	



The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan

On June 2002, the Israeli occupation instigated its policy of unilateral segregation within the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) by establishing a Segregation Zone along the western terrains of occupied West Bank territory (area 5661 km²). The Western Segregation Zone is the area that lies between the designated route of the Segregation Wall and the 1949 Armistice Line (AKA: the Green Line). The Israeli Segregation Zone covers substantial and significant land areas, rich with natural resources (water aquifers) as it runs along the western part of the West Bank from north to south, seizing in the process the most fertile agricultural lands, isolating 90 Palestinian communities in enclaves, undermining the territorial contiguity between the Palestinian villages and the main Palestinian cities, controlling the natural resources, and encapsulating and protecting 108 of the illegal Israeli settlements. At this time, an explanation of the term "Segregation Wall" should be made obvious as it reflects two shapes of structures used by the Israeli Army to execute their territorial separation mission in the oPt: Israel has built either 6-8 meters in height concrete partitions or a multi-line fence. In either cases, the term Segregation Wall applies.

Based on the characteristic nature of the area, where the Segregation Wall runs, the type of the Wall structure is determined based on whether the area is agricultural land or a densely populated village or town. The Segregation Wall as a fence cuts through vast tracts of agriculture lands devastating the land more than the concrete partitions, which requires an average width of 5-8 meters; whereas the fences structure entails an average width ranging between 30-40 to complete. The fence structure include a double-layered fence, reinforced with barbed wires, trenches, military roads and footprint-detection tracks, and in certain sections includes a 4.5 meters high electrified metal fence, supplied with security surveillance cameras. In the other case, in areas with sizeable population and/or in close perimeter with the Green Line, the Segregation Wall consists of 6-8 meters high concrete partitions appendages with military watchtowers lined-up across the Wall route.

According to the Wall plan as revealed in its final version of April 2007, the Wall is designed to run for 771 km across the western part of the West Bank; of which, only 135 km (17.5% of the Wall's total length) runs on the Green Line. The status of the Wall stands as it shows in the table:

Status	Length/ Km	percentage
Existing	500	65
Under Construction	15.5	2
Planned	255.5	33
Total	771	100%

The Segregation Wall plan stands to isolate between the route of the Wall and the Green Line in total 705 km² (705 thousands dunums/ 705000 hectare) some 12.5% of the total area of the West Bank. The following table shows classification of isolated Palestinian land within the western Segregation zone:

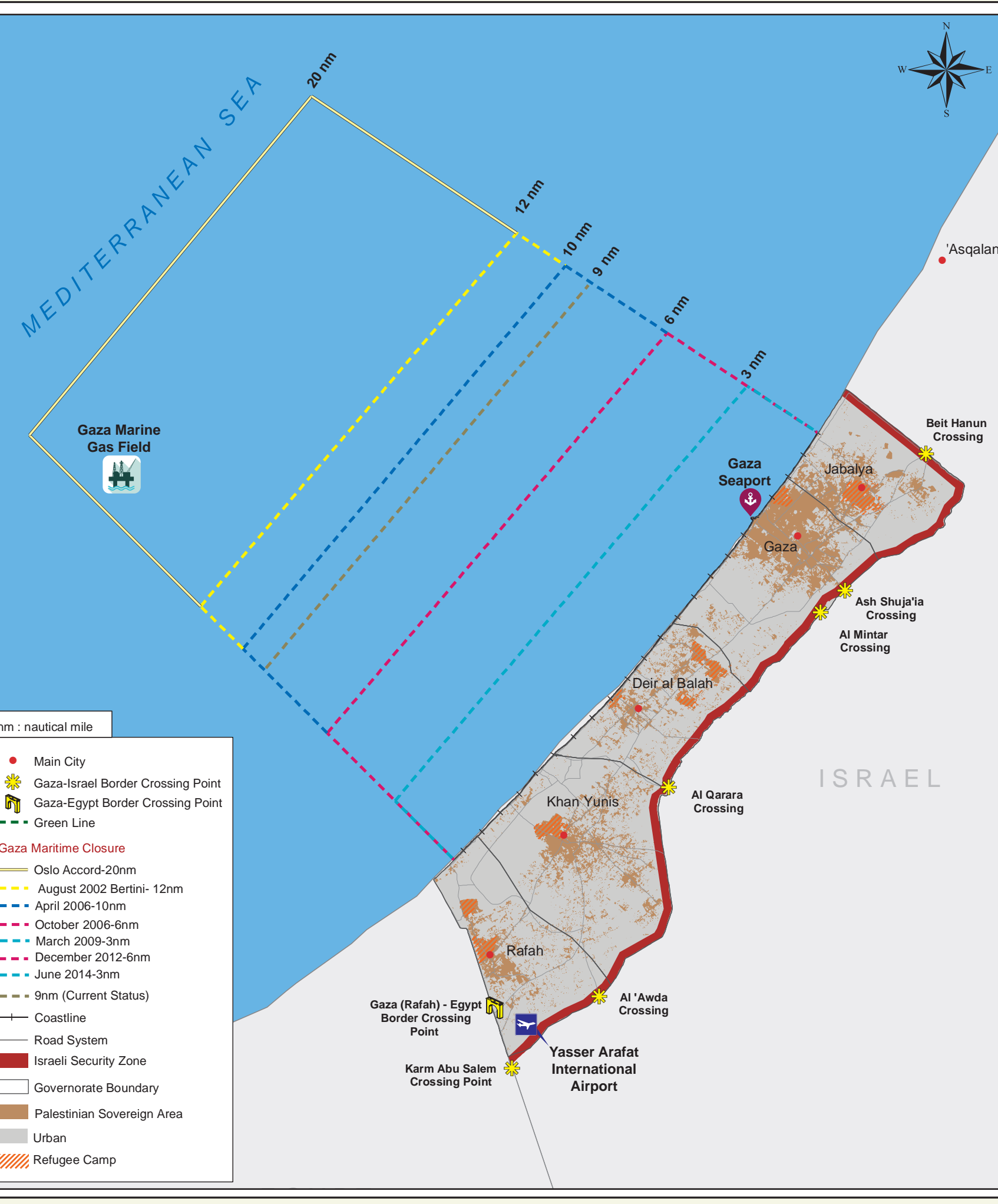
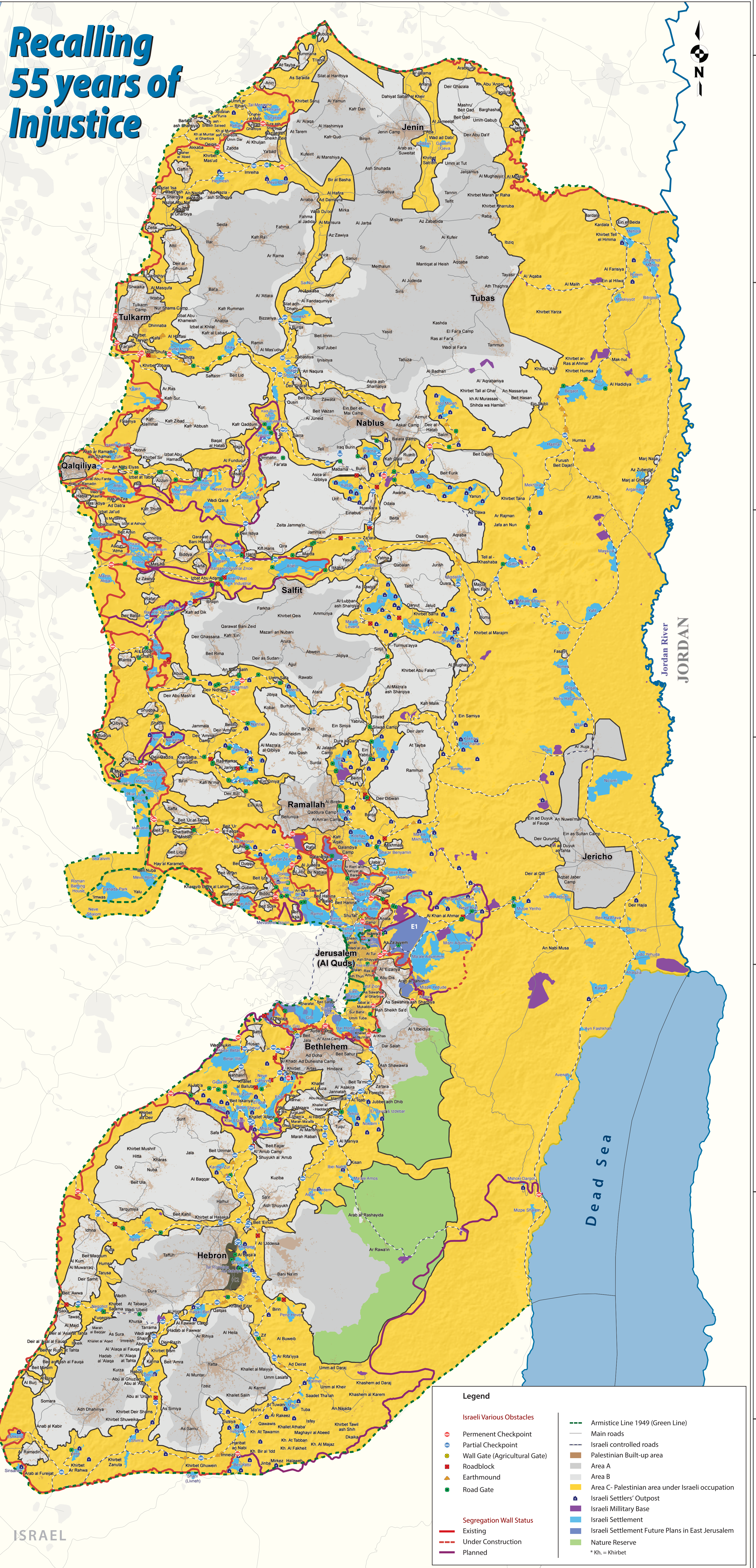
Item	Area/ km ²	percentage
Agricultural Land	332	47
Israeli settlements & military bases	120	17
Forest and open space areas	225	32
Palestinian built-up area	28	4
Total	705 km²	100%

Moreover, the Israeli Segregation Wall plan managed to encompass 108 Israeli settlements, accommodating 87% of the Israeli settlers' population in the West Bank and 90 Palestinian localities including 20 in East Jerusalem. Israel's ultimate goal plan is to annex the western Segregation zone and consequently the 108 settlements built on confiscated Palestinian land to its proper. On the other hand, the 90 Palestinian localities will be cut off from the West Bank, as they will be isolated within the western Segregation zone.

In parallel, Israel has created a de-facto Eastern Segregation Zone along the eastern terrains of the West Bank territory. It covers an area of 1654 km² (20.3% of the West Bank total area) of which, Israel maintains military control on an area of 1580 km² (95% of the Eastern zone), which makes 28% of the West Bank total area. Israel controls the area with checkpoints it established along the edges of the eastern zone and the Dead Sea shore, in addition to the fact that much of the area was declared as closed military area following the 1967 war. Since then, Israel established 38 Israeli settlements accommodating some 13000 illegal Israeli settlers, settling in proximity to 44 Palestinian localities accommodating a population exceeding 70,000 Palestinians.

oPt Facts & Figures	
No. of Israeli settlements	199 (of which, 18 are in occupation East Jerusalem)
No. of Israeli settlers	More than 913 thousand Israeli settlers (of which, more than 350 thousand settlers live in occupied East Jerusalem)
Israeli settlements' master plans area (including the settlements' area)	542 km ²
No. of Israeli outposts	220
Length of Israeli Bypass Road network	+ 946 km
Area and number of Israeli Army military bases in oPt	More than 200 Israeli military bases, with a total area of 38 km ²
Israeli Closed Military Zones area	999 km ²
Total length of the Israeli Segregation Wall	771 km
Total area of Palestinian lands isolated within the Western Segregation Zone (Between the Wall and the Green Line)	705 km ² (12.5% of the total area of the West Bank)
No. of Israeli settlements and settlers in the Western Segregation Zone (Between the Wall and the Green Line)	108 Israeli settlements accommodating some 794,000 (87%) of the Israeli settlers population
No. of Palestinian communities trapped in the Western Segregation Zone (including East Jerusalem)	90 Communities
Israeli Controlled areas in the Eastern Segregation Zone	1580 km ² (28% of the total West Bank Area)
No. of Israeli settlements and settlers in the Eastern Segregation Zone	38 Israeli settlements / more than 13,000 Israeli settlers
No. of Israeli crossings established along the route of the Segregation Wall and around Jerusalem	18 crossings
Area of Palestinian Confiscated Lands since the eruption of the Second Intifada in 2000	More than 700 thousand dunums
No. of uprooted Palestinian trees since the Second Intifada in 2000	More than 1.6 million trees
No. of Israeli crossings established along the eastern and northern borders of the Gaza Strip	6 crossings

Recalling 55 years of Injustice



The Timeline of the Israeli Security Buffer Zone and the Israeli Siege of the Gaza Strip

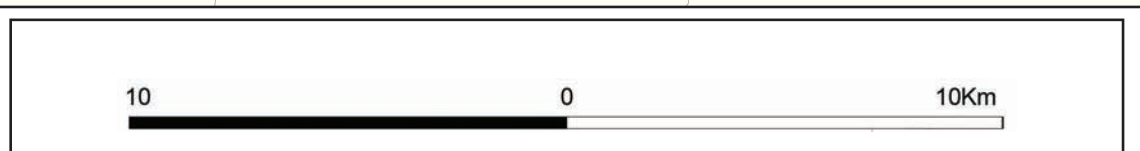
According to Oslo, it was accorded that Israel would maintain (on temporary basis, until the end of the final negotiation process) control of Gaza's airspace, a security buffer zone track along the land border and the security of territorial waters. In 1994 Israel started the construction of the 60 km in length/ 0.5 km wide; security fence around Gaza (area 362 km²) as a demarcation line but not necessarily a border; consequently prohibiting (as a security buffer zone) some 30 km² (8.3%) of Gaza's area.

Upon the outbreak of the second (Al-Aqsa) Intifada in September 2000, the Palestinians brought down much of the fence along the Gaza border, hence, the Israeli Army started to rebuild the fence adding sophisticated observation posts and using state of the art technology; all across the same length of the border. However, this time around, the Israeli Army pre-planned to widen the security buffer zone into a multiple range between 0.8 km and 1.3 km; ultimately capturing 61 km² (17%) of Gaza's area. The status-quo at the time continued along the Gaza border until the Israeli Army unilateral disengagement (redemption) of 2005. In June 2007, the Israeli Army decided to widen the security buffer zone even more to an overall 1.5 km, which made Israel in effective control of 24% (87 km²) of Gaza's area. This remained the status until December 2012 when the Israeli decreased the width of the security buffer zone area to 300-500 meters, which consequently allowed Israel to maintain in control of 4.8% (17.5 km²) of the Gaza strip area.

Since the war of 2014, Israel security measures were seriously compromised through the tunnels tactics, leading the Israeli occupation to contrive a plan to block and confine Gaza with a deterrent barricade starting at an underground depth of 40 meters and 6 meters above the ground across 64 km length along Gaza's northern and eastern borders, which was completed in 2021. This so-called Israeli security measure stands to seize 19.2 km² (5.3%) of Gaza's area.

On the Gaza sea front, the Oslo Accord designated 20 nautical miles for Gaza as fishing area. However, the Israeli Army in coordination with their Navy decided to restrict the only livelihood for thousands of Gaza's families by unilaterally reducing the fishing area as designated in the Oslo Accord. Accordingly, the Berlin Agreement in August 2002 conceded to the Israeli Army's demand and reduced the Gaza fishing area to 12 nautical miles. In April 2006, the Israeli Army initiated unilateral step and reduced Gaza fishing area to 10 nautical miles. Months later (October 2006), the Israeli Army reduced the fishing area yet further to 6 nautical miles and in January 2009 to 3 nautical miles. Since then, the Israeli sanctioned fishing area fluctuated; back to 6 nautical miles in December 2012, and 3 nautical miles in June 2014, which lasted until May 2017 to extend to 9; however, Israel continue to fluctuate the fishing area between 3 to 9 and 12 nautical miles since then.

This poster is prepared as part of the project entitled "Assessing the Impediments before the Two-State Solution" which is financially supported by the EU. However, the content of this poster is the sole responsibility of ARJI and does not necessarily reflect those of the donors.



This Poster is not for Sale / Free Distribution

www.poica.org

The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARJI)

www.arji.org