

Appeal for Action

*The Enclaved Communities of Um al-Rihan and Dhar al-Maleh
Jenin Governorate*

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Submitted by:
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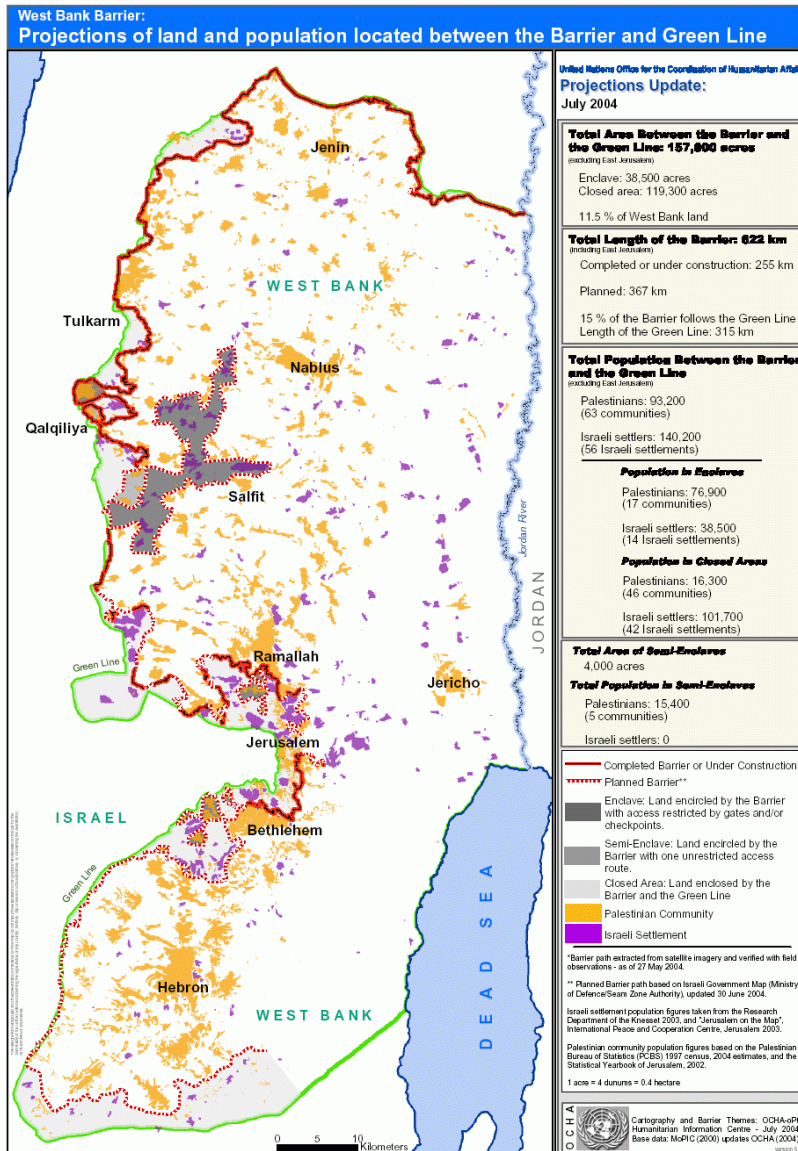
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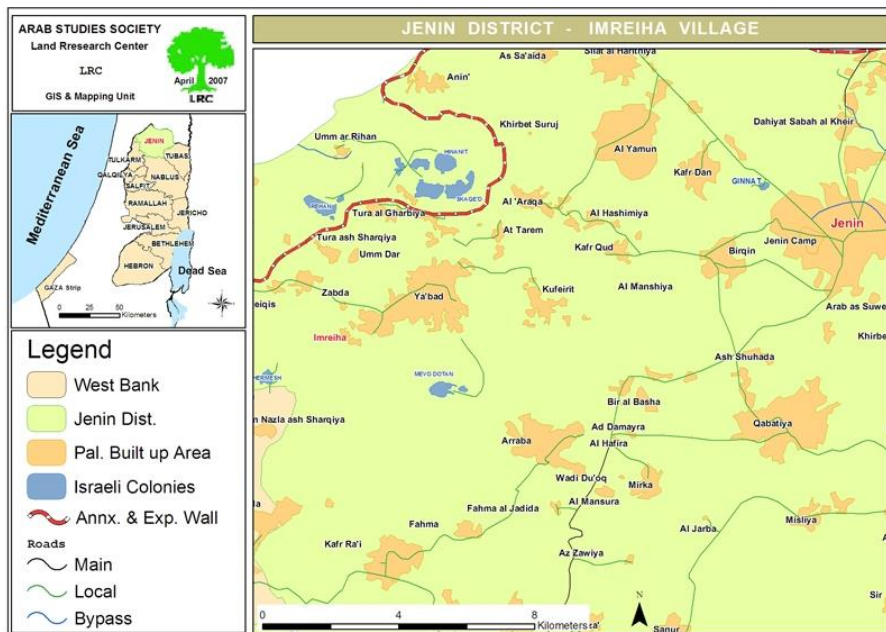
The Apartheid Wall in the Jenin Governorate (Northern West Bank):

The Apartheid Wall erected by the State of Israeli on Palestinian lands occupied in 1967, is made up of a series of concrete walls and electronic barbed wire. The wall extends the length of the West Bank (770 km), with 85% of the route of the wall falling beyond the “green line” (delineating the demarcation line between Israel and the Palestinian Territory) and on occupied territory; in an aim to annex as much Palestinian land as possible and control the largest water stockpile (estimated at 52% of the water volume in the West Bank). In 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion in which the construction of the wall was deemed illegal as per international law.



The wall isolates three adjacent communities located southwest of Jenin:

- The village of Barta'a Al-Sharqiya, with a population of 5000 people.
- Umm Al-Rihan village with a population of 400 people.
- Dahr al-Maleh village, with a population of 350 people. *The village master plan was confined to 60 dunums, including roads and public buildings. 30 families have been forced to live outside the village due to Israeli occupation measures.*



Impact of Apartheid Wall on Citizens' Lives:

- Enclaved by the wall and associated gates, life in the communities resembles that of a prison. The presence of two military gates at the entrance of Barta'a village and another at the entrance of Dahr al-Maleh village have affected the freedom of movement of citizens and workers and the movement of trade.
- Violations of the human rights of Palestinian in the villages behind the wall (Um al-Rihan, Dhar al-Maleh and Barta'a) by forcing them to move through the gates according to certain hours. Gate number 300 is open only from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, limiting the free movement for citizens, especially students and employees.
- Preventing/limiting citizens from carrying in daily essentials such as meat and produce, plants, animals, and household furniture freely, except through coordination with the civil administration.
- Preventing citizens from entering their villages in the cases of expired permits.
- Preventing relatives from the West Bank from visiting relatives inside the wall on social occasions such as marriage or death, except with permits (with most requests for permits denied).
- Employees and students being delayed to work/school outside the wall, as well as teachers working in schools within the wall.
- Preventing Palestinian medical staff and ambulances from entering through the gates in case of emergency.
- Citizens being humiliated and intimidated (by being psychically searched at gun point) while crossing electronic check points.
- Impacting right to education, as reflected in reduced female university enrollment.
- Negatively impacting the agricultural sector, with farmers deprived access to their farmlands/ crops (i.e. olives or tobacco) through denial of permits during harvest seasons.
- Planning and construction constraints and associated house and agricultural facility demolition.

Umm Al Rehan Village:

A structural plan was issued by the Israeli occupation for Umm Al Rehan (population 400 people) on an area of 123 dunums, leaving only 10 dunums for construction. This allotment is incompatible with natural population growth of the community over the coming years. On the other hand, 264 dunums of the village's land was confiscated by the Israeli occupation in favor of the settlement (Shaked), with land owners being prohibited from entering or cultivating their lands since 1996. A recent demolition order has been issued to a house under construction in the village. JLAC has intervened in the family's regard.

Dhar Al Maleh Village

This small village (a population of 350 people), located half a kilometer from Gate 300 of the Apartheid Wall (along the eastern side of the village), suffers from very harsh humanitarian conditions due to the oppressive practices of the occupation. The village is located next to an Israeli military base preventing its urban expansion from the west, along with the presence of four settlements surrounding it from the north. The village also suffers from planning and zoning restrictions with village master plan was confined to 60 dunums (60,000 sq m), including roads and public buildings. This is an insufficient amount of land to accommodate the existing population, let alone natural expansion. Already, 30 families have been forced to live outside the village due to Israeli occupation measures.

In 2018, an elementary school was established in the village on donated land (accommodating 38 students), in an effort to alleviate the daily suffering of the younger children whom otherwise had to cross the dehumanizing check point back and forth each day in accessing schools outside of the wall (a photo of the school featured below). On October 28, 2019, Israeli occupation forces issued a demolition order to the school and confiscated a portacabin being utilized as the school cafeteria along with construction equipment (demolition a portion of the school concrete fence in the process). The goods inside of the portacabin are estimated at NIS 1000.



Funds Needed for the Dhar Al Maleh School

The Dhar Al Maleh School although alleviating younger children (pre-school through 7th grade) from the daily trauma of having to cross the checkpoint to schools in adjacent communities beyond the wall; the school it self is lacking in basic infrastructure (i.e. unpaved gravel leading up to the school and within the school grounds, no coverage for movement between classrooms, lack of outdoor facilities as bleachers, etc.). The following is a budget breakdown of such essential infrastructural needs:

	Item	Cost per Unit (NIS)	Cost (NIS)
1	Pavement of school square.	90 NIS/m ² x 500 m ²	45,000 NIS
2	Insulated metal awning covering walkway between classrooms.	250 NIS/m ² x 55m ²	13,750 NIS
	<u>Or</u> External hallway (i.e. reinforced poured cement columns and ceiling).	600 NIS/m ² X 44 m ²	26,400 NIS
3	Metal bleachers (i.e. metal step stadium seating) covered with insulated metal.	20 NIS/m ² x 300 m ²	6,000 NIS
Total			64,750 - 77,400 NIS