



A

bout the Apartheid Wall Campaign

Campaign Mission

The Apartheid Wall Campaign's mission is to stop the Wall. The Campaign calls for: 1) the immediate cessation of the building of the Wall, 2) the dismantling of all parts of the Wall and its related zones already built, 3) the return of lands confiscated for the path of the Wall, and 4) the compensation of damages and lost income due to the destruction of land and property (this compensation is in addition to, not instead of, restitution of land).



In order to achieve these goals, and to support the communities in their struggle to safeguard their lands and their future, the Campaign seeks to:

- Mobilize solidarity for the communities affected by the Wall,
- Coordinate efforts to stop the Wall and to support local communities among local civil society organizations when addressing local, national and international actors,
- Activate international organizations, movements and actors around the Campaign,
- Minimize the current impacts of the Wall on communities and support them to remain on and protect their lands,
- Raise awareness on the national and international levels about the implications of the Wall to Palestinian towns and villages, including psychological, humanitarian, environmental, and legal impacts, and
- Link the issue of the Wall with that of the Occupation and its consequences to life and land, most notably through advocacy efforts.

The Apartheid Wall Campaign sees its role as dual, as both a national effort and as a voice for and by the communities affected by the building of the Wall. The national effort is based on the knowledge that the Wall is an integral and large scale part of Israel's plans to confiscate and annex Palestinian lands, isolate Palestinian communities, and deny any prospects for survival in their villages and homes. The Wall is therefore not only the negation of Palestinian national aspirations and right to self-determination, but also a tool in the creeping "transfer" of the population and the realization of the Zionist/Israeli expansionist plans.

The Apartheid Wall Campaign seeks to link the issue of the Wall and the Occupation and therefore hopes to spark the interest of various people and organizations nationally, regionally, and internationally that call for an end to Israel's illegal occupation. In addition, the Campaign sees its mission as similar to various national and international struggles worldwide that revolve around national, cultural, economic, social, and indigenous rights, including anti-globalization.

Campaign Activities

In order to help thousands of families in the northern areas whose very existence on their land is being threatened, PENGON is focusing on information collection and documentation, as well as networking nationally with other grassroots and national actors, and international organizations based in Palestine and abroad. Coordination between PENGON members and multiple actors enables the Campaign to continually produce comprehensive reports, updates, and fact sheets which are disseminated through the Campaign's advocacy network.

Taken together, the Campaign's activities fulfill the Campaign's mission by mobilizing various resources and organizations for the stop the Wall efforts. The activities can be broken down into the following areas (see diagram on page 135):

Grassroots Mobilization

The Campaign works to support the communities affected by the Wall and to help them in their struggle to protect their lands from confiscation and destruction, as well as to ensure that they can remain on their lands. This is done through supporting and encouraging community and district wide meetings to coordinate efforts and answer community demands; encouraging meetings and exchange between the various localities affected by the Wall; supporting democratic structures around local Wall committees and efforts that reflect popular needs and calls; providing the communities with various forms of support, including monetary, that will help sustain and strengthen them; forming bridges between the communities and important national and international contacts and resources; disseminating information to the communities about developments around the Wall and future expectations; and lobbying together with the communities on a national and international scale.

NGO and National Coordination

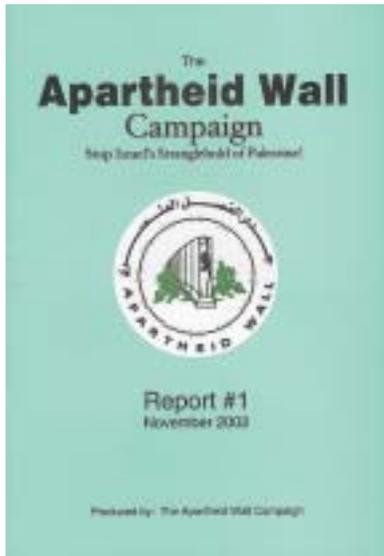
The Campaign adheres to the fundamental importance of coordinated efforts, finding that to achieve common goals Palestinians organizations on various levels should work together in creating policies and promoting them.

In the case of the Palestinian NGOs, their role is extensive within the society, as major actors in which international organizations and agencies direct their projects. It is therefore of special significance that NGOs bring their resources through contacts, expertise, and funds to work together to make an impact on this issue.

The specialization/professionalization of the NGOs has increased their own needs to work together on larger, wide-scale issues that call on complementing and sharing efforts. The organizations themselves have called for the Campaign in demanding that their efforts merge to advocate against the Wall and its impacts on the communities.

Information Collection

The role of information collection has direct bearing on the ability to campaign successfully against the Wall and on behalf of the families, landowners, and villages affected by it. The inability to access basic information from Israel and the military surrounding the Wall only increases the need to be prepared and aware, in order to know what to expect. The facts are so disturbing that they play an important role in emphasizing the urgency of the Campaign.



The collection of up-to-date information is a continual challenge for the Campaign due to Israel's efforts to undermine local, national, or international resistance to the Wall. Military orders for confiscating land which the Wall will raze or illegally annex to Israel have been given at unpredictable and varying times in order to prevent a collective response from communities. Furthermore, the path of the Wall is not consistent with military and contractors' maps; there are multiple instances where the Wall's path was altered in order to confiscate additional water resources or agricultural lands to the West side of the Wall. The Campaign has been able to receive up to date information and last-minute changes on the Wall and its communities due to the Emergency Centers in each region.

International Advocacy

The Campaign's international advocacy targets a variety of groups and individuals in hopes of both creating greater worldwide awareness on the issue as well as sparking interest in mobilizing against the Wall and the Occupation. The Campaign hopes to mobilize supporters to make the issue heard in their own countries and areas, to pressure governments and other decision makers and actors through popular, grassroots pressure which is to include the targeting of various publics' opinions on the Wall and the Occupation.

The Campaign produces material in both Arabic and English, which has been translated into a number of other languages. Material includes fact sheets, newsletters, and reports. Some 2500 copies of Campaign Report #1 were produced and disseminated, while thousands read the report online.

The Internet is an important tool for the Campaign. Much of the material produced, including maps and pictures, are available on the PENGON website at www.pengon.org. Though hopes were that a Campaign website would be up and running, the www.stophthewall.org site will only be found sometime in July. The Campaign mailing list has also been an important source of outreach and advocacy.

The Campaign has prepared a number of versions of Wall Power Point presentations that various Campaign participants and organizations have used both in Palestine and abroad. Such presentations have been made widely available and can be requested from PENGON.

The Campaign, through PENGON and the Emergency Centers, are regularly meeting with media and giving much needed exposure to the issues as well as leading tours for international organizations, solidarity groups, and media around the Wall as well as giving lectures to inform them of, and update them on, the Wall.

Public Awareness

Awareness on the community level is necessary because although the communities are, of course, most aware of what is happening in their areas and around the Wall, severe restriction of movement has had a serious impact on the extent to which all Palestinians are aware of what is taking place in other localities. Restriction to movement has also meant that certain actors who would otherwise get the word out about the Wall are limited to what they can access themselves. The Campaign therefore has particular importance in spreading the information to the communities by providing information about the Wall and about what is taking place in other areas.

In addition, and as mentioned in the above section "Information Collection", the lack of information provided by the Israeli military, government and media has direct bearing on how much Palestinians can be aware of prior to them occurring.

Lastly, prior to the Campaign, a lack of prioritization of the issues isolated the communities around the Wall and made their issue of secondary importance on a national scale. This reflects itself in terms of local and regional media coverage as well.

STOP THE WALL!

Presented by:
PENGON

The
**Palestinian
Environmental NGOs
Network's**

*Apartheid Wall
Campaign*



Campaign Participants/ PENGON Members

The Campaign started on October 2, 2002, at a meeting of the PENGON General Assembly and brings together the following organizations:

1. Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG)
2. Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
3. Land Research Center (LRC)
4. LAW-The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
5. Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees (UPMRC)
6. Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ)




National Lobbying

The Campaign is a non-governmental Palestinian effort which looks to lobby the Palestinian Authority in order to ensure that the Wall is of equal significance to the PA as it enters additional rounds of “negotiations” with Israel. The Campaign sees that the call to stop the Wall should be a priority, if not a condition, in the PA’s demands of Israel. The processes that have been taking place since the Oslo Agreements in 1993 have continuously widened the divide between signed agreements and rhetoric, and what is taking place on the ground, as the Occupation has furthered its stranglehold on the Occupied Territories in the past 10 years.

Legal Aid

The Campaign is working with a law office, which was highly recommended by various organizations and farmers in the northern areas, in order to provide them with legal support. There have been various legal actions in the past year through the Israeli/Occupation courts by Palestinian and Campaign organizations which have called for the cessation of the Wall in the northern areas and in Jerusalem. Such cases have also called for the halting of the destruction of property. The court decisions, a number of which have reached the Israeli High Court, have consistently come out against the cessation of the Wall and in agreement with the destruction and confiscation of land and house demolitions for the “security of the State of Israel”, which the courts have repeatedly stated takes all precedent. The implications of this are that the legal system, once again, is collaborating with the government and the military, providing a green light for massive illegal actions. The Campaign will continue to target the courts in the hopes that the expected minimal legal victories will allow for farmers to access their lands and to repair and build water infrastructure as a source of survival and relief for the communities. Legal actions allow the Campaign and communities to buy much-needed time but do not and cannot replace the Campaign and the call to stop the Wall.

Service Provision

The organizations/PENGON members (see section below “Participating Organizations”) involved in the Campaign have for years provided services and run projects throughout the West Bank, including but not limited to issues related to land, water and agriculture. Through these organizations, the Campaign looks to:

- Repair damaged infrastructure affecting the lands and the communities
- Plant trees in areas uprooted or threatened
- Provide technical and extension support

There is great significance in working within the framework of the Campaign in supporting the farmers and the communities. The coordinated effort ensures a coherent policy that works to bring efforts and expertise towards a common goal as well as to prevent the inefficient, misuse of humanitarian and development funds to solely provide temporary relief. The Campaign seeks to promote the usage of funding to strengthen the communities by ensuring that their lands, properties and livelihoods are not stolen.

The Campaign has succeeded in gaining great interest by international organizations, agencies and solidarity groups to support the communities through the Campaign and the participating organizations in hopes of channeling funds to prevent the current catastrophe from turning into the status quo. A number of coordinating meetings have taken place among international organizations to support the idea of coordinated efforts among the Palestinian NGOs and the international agencies in relation to the Wall.

Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network (PENGON)

The Apartheid Wall Campaign was established on October 2, 2002 at the Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network’s (PENGON) General Assembly meeting. PENGON, through the General Assembly decision, would focus most of its energy on this pressing issue. The Campaign is the only national, coordinated effort of its kind taking places against the Wall.



PENGON is the Campaign center/headquarters and functions within the Campaign as the NGO Campaign organizer and national and international advocate against the Wall and on behalf of the communities. PENGON is located in Jerusalem, Occupied Palestinian Territories.



The Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network (PENGON) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose role is to serve the Palestinian environment by acting as a coordinating body for the Palestinian environmental organizations located in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip). PENGON was founded two years ago, following the start of the second Intifada, due to the increased demands and responsibilities of Palestinian environmental organizations to defend the Palestinian environment. PENGON is formed of 21 member organizations whose mandates cover a wide and interconnected range of environmental issues such as land defense, agriculture, water, rural issues, sustainable development, cultural heritage, health and sanitation, biodiversity, human rights and community participation.

Campaign Emergency Centers

The first and most immediate initiative by the organizations involved in the Campaign was to establish three Emergency Centers in the north to work closely with the communities and to be a bridge between the Campaign headquarters and the affected communities. Three centers were immediately established following the October 2002 PENGON General Assembly meeting. They are:

- Apartheid Wall Campaign Emergency Center, Qalqiliya District

Located in Jayyus village, funded by the Palestinian Hydrology Group

- Apartheid Wall Campaign Emergency Center, Tulkarm District

Located in Tulkarem, funded by the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees

- Apartheid Wall Campaign Emergency Center, Jenin District

Located in Jenin, funded by the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees

In the Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Ramallah areas, PENGON, the Land Research Center and the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem play the role of such centers.

The three CC organizations that support the Emergency Centers already had a strong and established presence in their respective areas, including a staff person and basic equipment, and therefore volunteered this existing capacity to serve the emergency purposes of the Campaign in coordination with the local communities. The Emergency Centers are modest in their facilities and staff and, like the Campaign headquarters, work long hours to bring together all of their efforts.

The success of the Emergency Centers can be measured in a number of ways, however most significance is their participation, involvement and efforts around the Wall, including village committees and district meetings. Weekly meetings take place between the heads of the various local committees and the Campaign Emergency Centers. In their six months of work, the Emergency Centers have managed to establish themselves and provide essential services to the northern communities affected by the Wall. In fact, the Emergency Centers' offices are often used by local committees to meet and receive individual farmers who make claims against and report on what is taking place. As the PENGON members and Campaign participants are implementing bodies of projects in the north, farmers come to the Emergency Centers for support.

The Emergency Centers see their role as supporting local committees in the villages in their own coordination efforts, promoting a strong flow of information, preventing neglect of particular communities or individuals in the current efforts, and promoting cohesive positions and goals.

One of the major efforts of the Campaign, through the NGO organizations, is to support the farmers' and the communities to remain on their lands. Projects have already begun to

subsidize tree planting/seedlings in the lands behind or west of the Wall, which are areas that have been or are to be confiscated by Israel, and repairing damage to water networks while other networks will be re-routed in order to ensure that water reaches the areas behind the Wall. The Campaign is looking to further these efforts as well as to provide technical support through agronomists that can advise the farmers on issues such as planting and damage assessment. The Emergency Centers' role is to coordinate the efforts on the ground, to provide the organizations with information about the urgent needs, and to promote the Campaign's call of unified and coordinated efforts against the Wall and its consequences.

Participating Organizations

The Campaign was formally initiated by the PENGON members, and is being overseen on the NGO side by a Coordinating Committee (CC) that was elected in the October 2, 2002 meeting. The Campaign Coordinating Committee, as it is referred to, is formed of the PENGON member organizations who, prior to October, had been dealing with various and particular issues around the Wall. Therefore, on some level, the Campaign and the Coordinating Committee, was an attempt to coordinate the various efforts of the member organizations, to promote the integration of the various issues into one framework, and to pressure these very organizations to prioritize their own work and resources around this pressing issue.

The following PENGON members are the Steering Committee of the Campaign:

- Palestinian Hydrology Group
- Land Research Center
- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees
- Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees
- Applied Research Institute—Jerusalem
- Development & Environment Association

For reports which these organizations have published regarding the Wall and its effects on local communities, see Wall References.

Accomplishments

In its six months, the Campaign has succeeded in the following areas:

- Mobilizing thousands of Palestinians—individuals, NGOs and grassroots organizations—to support and be involved in the Campaign.
- Organizing three Emergency Centers which are active in tens of communities.
- Producing numerous publications, including reports, fact sheets, press releases, and maps.
- Meeting and touring with hundreds of journalists (print, broadcast and film) and representatives of international organizations.
- Contributing to the worldwide publication of over 100 articles about the Wall.
- Gaining the involvement of international solidarity groups worldwide to support the Campaign efforts.
- Producing presentations, presenting them and disseminating them to activists.
- Having Campaign material voluntarily translated into various languages and disseminated.
- Attracting thousands of hits on the PENGON website for the reading and download Wall material.
- Building of a massive Wall photo archive, with over 1000 quality digital pictures, disseminated free of charge to activists, organizations and journalists to be used for advocacy and awareness.
- Displaying Wall exhibition in Bethlehem, co-sponsored by the Bethlehem Peace Center. The exhibition will be traveling to different cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and, hopefully, abroad.

The Road Ahead

Ultimately, accomplishments for the Campaign are not measured in quantity but in relation to stopping the monstrous structure and measure. The Campaign had hoped that, after over six months of efforts, that the Wall would be more known worldwide and that voices to call for its cessation would be many.

The Campaign is well established in Palestinian communities, especially those around the Wall. Greater efforts must now be shifted to international advocacy as well as lobbying to ensure that the Wall is on the top of the national agenda. The Campaign looks to work closely with international organizations and solidarity groups based in Palestine as well as solidarity groups worldwide struggling for the end of the Occupation.

The Campaign website, which will be found at www.stophthewall.org, is expected to become a focal point of the Campaign and where Campaign information, developments from the areas around the Wall, personal testimonies, photo gallery, "what you can do", and other material will be found. Please come and visit the site in September.



Diagram: Activities of the Apartheid Wall Campaign







The following photos are from an exhibition in Zurich, Switzerland on the Apartheid Wall by Meir (Miro) Gal, an artist and art lecturer who lives and works in New York city. At the show's opening Miro did an interactive performance with the audience; the outcome of the collaboration is the two walls encircling the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The exhibition, which began in May 2003, is shown at the Shedhalle Art Space and will last for two months.