

# Timeline Of The Apartheid Wall

June  
2005

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Palestinian Grassroots  
Anti-Apartheid  
Wall Campaign

## And The Resistance Against It

### The Footprints of the Apartheid Wall

1994-1996

A Wall is constructed around Gaza, under the Labor government of Yitzhak Rabin.

1996

Ariel Sharon proposes building a Wall through the centre of Hebron to annex the Jewish settlements in the Old City and the Tomb of Abraham, and to ethnically cleanse the Old City of its Palestinian population.



Above: The Apartheid Wall - Ripping Palestine Apart

1997

**May:** The Israeli government formally endorses the plan for a "Greater Jerusalem", annexing settlements and "Judeaizing" the demographic makeup of the city.

1993-2000

Under the cover of the Oslo agreements and "peace negotiations" the Occupation steps up its colonization policies, especially in the so-called Area C (sections of the West Bank under full Israeli control) doubling the number of settlers and settlements (both new and expanded) and dissecting the West Bank with settler-only bypass roads. Jerusalem has been sealed off and the Palestinian residents subjected to many different methods of expulsion from their city. This has paved the way for the definitive annexation and ethnic cleansing of Jerusalem and almost half of the West Bank through the Apartheid wall.

2000

**September 28th:** As Israel hides behind a façade of negotiations that are intended solely to grant the Occupation time and political cover for its continuing colonization policies, and after the massacre committed by Israel to defend Sharon's march to the al-Aqsa Mosque, the second Intifada starts.

**November:** In the first two months of the Intifada, Israel kills well over 200 Palestinians and injures hundreds more. The Occupation's Labor government, led by Ehud Barak, announces the approval of plans to build a "barrier".

2001

**September 2001:** At the World Summit against Racism in Durban, South Africa, 3,000 NGOs adopt a declaration condemning Israel's "systematic perpetration of racist crimes including war crimes, acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing," and describing Israel as "a racist apartheid state in which Israel's brand of apartheid as a crime against humanity has been characterised by separation and segregation ... and inhumane acts". The call for comprehensive isolation of Israel is launched.

2002

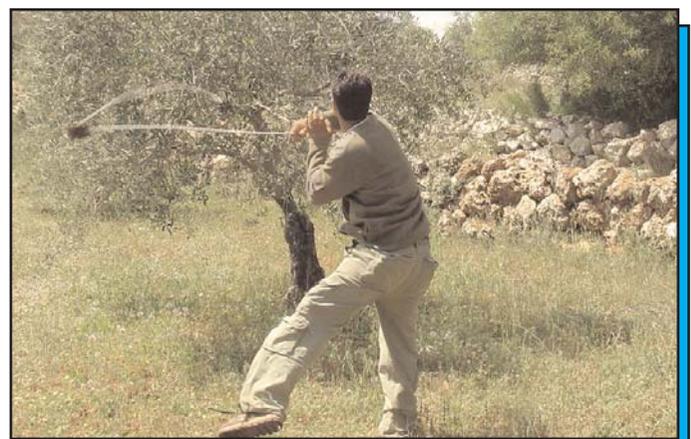
**April:** Occupation Forces and gunships step up their offensive in the West Bank, putting all Palestinian cities and villages under siege and heavy attack. Israel carries out a massacre of the population in the refugee camp of Jenin and completely razes the centre of the camp to the ground, also destroying vast parts of the Old City in Nablus. The economic and administrative infrastructure of the West Bank, and any resemblance of normal life for Palestinians, is completely destroyed.

**June:** Construction of the Apartheid Wall begins with the confiscation of land and the uprooting of trees in northern Jenin district, as the population of Jenin, and throughout the West Bank - which is still under curfew - tries to recover from the massacres and attacks of the previous months.

### Resistance Against The Wall

**July:** Construction begins to surround the city of Qalqiliya with an eight meter high concrete Wall, complete with watchtowers at regular intervals. The city's population of 41,600 is totally cut off from the outside world, with a military checkpoint marking the sole entrance and exit from the city. The unemployment rate within Qalqiliya soon rises to 67% and the Occupation's use of the Wall as a tool not only to imprison but also to expel becomes apparent as nearly 10% of Qalqiliya's population have already been forced to leave their homes to seek employment and sustenance elsewhere. Villages in the district are increasingly being cut off from their lands and neighbours.

**July:** Communities resisting the Apartheid Wall throughout Qalqiliya district issue a joint statement denouncing it as "the Occupation in its ugliest face. [...] It is a stealing of land and water, and a changing of the historical and demographic status of these areas. It is the uprooting of trees and the destruction of nature. It is in opposition to all that is human and civilized".



Above: The Birth of the Resistance against the Apartheid Wall

**September:** The first map of the Wall is made available to the public, consisting of only a portion of the northern part. Throughout the Wall's construction, the Occupation has followed a policy of creating a lack of information, often changing the Wall's route, confiscating land and demolishing homes at minimal notice in order to counter a collective popular resistance. Villagers in Jayyus recall how handwritten confiscation papers were left pinned to their trees, with no explanation.

**September:** The first public meeting about the Wall in Qalqiliya district is held in the village of Azzun on September 16th. Over 150 farmers, village council members and young activists from 20 villages in the district meet with representatives from the PENGON network to discuss the massive destruction of people's lands and the failure so far of the Palestinian Authority, NGOs and national organizations to play a role in solving this disaster. The public meeting calls for everyone to accept his or her responsibility in the struggle and to show solidarity with the people affected by this catastrophe. The seeds of the Anti Apartheid Wall Campaign begin to take root.

**October 2nd:** The Palestinian Grassroots Anti Apartheid Wall Campaign (AAWC) is born in response to a call for a coordinated, popular, and grassroots effort to tear down the Wall emanating from the office of the Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network (PENGON). The Campaign initiates its work on three levels: acting as the voice of communities locally; mobilization and coordination nationally; and additionally catalyzing worldwide solidarity as part of the global struggle against colonization, war and racism. It works towards the following goals:

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.
4. The compensation of damages and lost income due to the destruction of land and property in addition to the restitution of land.

**September:** These calls are firmly grounded in the context of the struggle against Israeli Colonization, Apartheid and Occupation, and for Palestinian rights and self-determination. None of the above demands can be compromised in the Campaign's work.

**September:** Emergency Centers are set up in Jenin, Tulkarem and Qalqiliya districts to organize the growing resistance movement and to provide the communities most affected by the early stages of the Wall with facilities for information collection and dissemination. In the coming months, the Emergency Centers set up Popular Committees located in individual villages along the Wall's path, furthering community and grassroots control over the Campaign's efforts.

**September:** Just weeks after the Campaign is founded, the first mass demonstrations against the Apartheid Wall are organized in the village of Jayyus. The following months see similar demonstrations, rallies and protests held in dozens of villages and towns throughout the West Bank in the affected districts of Qalqiliya, Tulkarem and Jenin.



**November:** The first report on the Apartheid Wall is published by the AAWC. 40 pages long, it is the first Palestinian comprehensive data collection made public that highlights the impact and the political aims of the Wall. It declares the Campaign's objectives and strategies to both national and international audiences.

## 2003

**January:** Occupation bulldozers enter the village of Nazlat Issa and demolish 82 buildings in the market - the commercial center for the entire northern Tulkarem district - for the construction of the Wall through the heart of Baqa village. Hundreds of Palestinians lose their livelihoods and are forced to leave their village.

**February:** Villagers from Daba'a find 250 explosives buried in their land. The Occupation is increasingly using such explosive devices to destroy land that falls within the Wall's "buffer zone", 30-100 meters wide. Such explosions are responsible for destroying numerous houses, school buildings and causing injury to villagers.

**March:** While the world's attention is focused on the crimes of the war against Iraq, the Israeli government admits the aims of the Apartheid Wall - further colonization of the West Bank and the ghettoization or expulsion of the Palestinian population - by approving further plans for the Wall and announcing that the Wall will annex the Ariel and Immanuel settlement blocs. The following week, Ariel Sharon declares that the Wall will also be expanded within and along the entire Jordan Valley, de facto annexing the settlements in this area. These announcements allow the AAWC to produce the first complete maps of the Wall's route of destruction, to which there have since been only insignificant changes.

**June:** The AAWC publishes the first book devoted solely to analyzing the impact of the Wall and outlining the resistance to it. The Wall in Palestine: Facts, Testimonies, Analysis and a Call to Action is disseminated locally and internationally, translated into four languages. The book can be downloaded at: [www.stopthewall.org/activistresources/12.shtml](http://www.stopthewall.org/activistresources/12.shtml).

**June:** In the city of Tulkarem, the Popular Committees for the northern districts of Qalqiliya, Salfit, Tulkarem and Jenin declare that November 9th will mark the National and International Day Against the Wall, and lay down the national plan of action and resistance against the Apartheid Wall for the rest of the year.

**July:** The Occupation announces the completion of the "First Phase" of the Wall, a total of 145 km from Salem in Jenin district to Mas'ha, west of Salfit. This First Phase - a fifth of the Wall's route -annexes the "fruit basket" of the West Bank and one of Palestine's most important aquifers. It has confiscated 14,680 dunums of agricultural land and 36 groundwater wells; confiscated or destroyed land belonging to 73,000 Palestinians in 51 villages; isolated 11,680 people from 16 villages between the Wall and the so-called "Green Line", and uprooted 103,320 olive trees - many of which are hundreds of years old and protected under international cultural heritage laws. Despite the announcement claiming "completion", land confiscations and house demolitions continue throughout the "First Phase" area on a regular basis over the following two years, as the Occupation steps up its creation of an apartheid infrastructure.

**Left:** The Apartheid Wall isolates Palestinian communities, keeping people locked in Ghettos and Bantustans.

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**July:** Several hundred farmers representing the Popular Committees throughout the northern and central districts assemble in Ramallah ahead of Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas's forthcoming trip to the United States. They demand that the Palestinian Authority do more to highlight their plight and work towards the dismantlement of the Apartheid Wall. As a result, Abbas denounces the crimes of the Apartheid Wall during his tour of the US the following month - the first time that the PA has raised the issue on the international stage.

**August:** Launch of the StoptheWall website ([www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org)) as the Campaign's main tool of communication with the world. It contains regular updates about the Apartheid Wall and the resistance to it on the ground, analysis, personal testimonies and an overview of worldwide solidarity actions. The website is already available in English, Arabic, Spanish and Italian and will soon be launched in German.

**August:** Ariel Sharon declares the possibility of transferring control of the cities of Jericho and Qalqiliya to the Palestinian Authority. At the same time, bulldozers return to Qalqiliya to destroy more lands and greenhouses for the buffer zone of the Apartheid Wall that totally surrounds the city.

**August:** Days later, the Occupation returns to Nazlat Issa, north of Tulkarem, and carries out the single largest demolition of buildings in years, razing the entire commercial area to the ground, destroying 135 shops and five homes, in addition to those demolished in the village the previous January. Over 700 families in Nazlat Issa and hundreds of others from the surrounding villages depended directly upon this market for their livelihood. Further demolitions continue throughout the following month to prepare for the construction of an Isolation Wall east of the village - an offshoot of the Wall intended to completely enclose a community from all sides.

**September:** The village of Jubara, isolated between the Wall and the so-called "Green Line" in a de facto military zone, is completely sealed off for 16 consecutive days, with nobody allowed to pass in or out of the village. Jubara has no school or health services of its own and is dependent on neighboring villages for such facilities.

**September:** The AAWC is invited by the United Nations to speak about the crimes of the Wall at the UN's NGO Conference. The Conference formally adopts November 9th as the International Day Against the Wall. The Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations attends the conference and henceforth starts to promote the issue of the Wall, and the need for its dismantlement, within the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

## Confronting Israeli Apartheid

**October:** The Occupation issues military orders declaring all lands west of the Wall to be a "seam zone" accessible only through a system of permits and humiliating military gates that prohibit the majority of villagers from entering their own land. Permits are issued and denied to the people forced into this system of subjugation on the whim of the Occupation and over the following months thousands of farmers are refused permission, confirming the Wall's role as a de facto border annexing West Bank land to Israel.

**October:** Farmers from Jayyus - which is separated from 72% of its land - confront the barbarity of the gates and permits system and take to sleeping in their olive groves rather than risk return to their houses and not be allowed back to their farms. This resistance is eventually brought to an end when the Occupation Forces forcibly remove them. With the gates closed for days at a time, Jayyus issues a statement condemning the gates and permits as "humiliating tools with which the Occupation continues its oppression and control" over villagers' lives. Neighboring villages, and other AAWC Popular Committees in Jenin and Tulkarem districts, soon join the campaign of defiance against the permit system. As a mark of protest against this racist and oppressive system, many villagers in the West Bank refuse to apply for permits from the Occupation, stating their inherent right to access

their own land. In Al Jubara, villagers refuse to take permits for over two months and stage daily confrontations with the Occupation Forces.

**October 20th:** UN General Assembly resolution calls on Israel to stop the construction of the Wall. Days later, the Occupation releases the latest map of the Wall's so-called final path and affirms plans to build the Wall in the Jordan Valley. Until then, only the "First Phase" had been mapped out by the Occupation..

**November:** The gates in Jayyus remain closed and protests continue as Occupation Forces enter the village daily to fire tear gas and sound bombs. Villagers organize a protest tent and eventually force the Occupation to re-open the gate.

**November:** The Wall encircling the village of Azzun Atma is completed, leaving just one military checkpoint as the sole entrance and exit to the village. The same gate also controls access to lands for the surrounding villages of Beit Amin, Mas'ha, Sanniriya, Azzawiya and Habla.

**November 9th:** The AAWC Popular Committees launch the first National and International Day Against the Apartheid Wall to strengthen Palestinian resistance. The day denounces the complicity and silence of the global powers that once were celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall. In Palestine, November 9th is marked by a week of activities with thousands of people collectively resisting Israel's Apartheid policies and Occupation through demonstrations, speaking events, grassroots meetings, and cultural activities. The day begins with a general strike from 12 pm to 2 pm, marked throughout the West Bank, including the districts of Qalqiliya, Tulkarem, Jenin, Salfit, Jerusalem, Ramallah and Bethlehem. Protests are organized under slogans of "We Will Not Become Prisoners in Our Land", and "We Will Not Relive the 1948 Nakba! We Will Not Relive Our Dispossession by the Hands of Israel". Cities such as Tulkarem host some of the largest demonstrations against the Wall seen yet. Globally, some 70 protests and events are held in over 25 countries throughout the world.

**December:** Occupation bulldozers continue demolishing houses, razing lands and uprooting trees around Al Mutilla and Al Aqaba villages in the Jordan Valley and in Budrus near Ramallah, where days of demonstrations follow and dozens of villagers are injured. Curfews and arbitrary arrests are imposed as villagers from Shuqba, Qibya, Ni'lin and Midya join the resistance in Budrus.

**December:** Confiscation orders are issued in Habla near Qalqiliya for a tunnel to connect the different ghettos, passing underneath settler bypass roads that are built on the village land. This has become the prototype of the road and tunnel system planned by the Occupation to allow movement of goods and controlled transfer of Palestinians between the ghettos in the West Bank.



**Above:** Palestinians confront Occupation bulldozers on a daily basis. By June 2005 eight martyrs had been murdered resisting the Wall.

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## 2004

**February:** Over 10,000 Palestinians demonstrate across the West Bank and Gaza - in Beit Surik, Tulkarem, Salfit, Gaza, Qalqiliya and Jerusalem, braving checkpoints and closures and being met with tear gas and rubber bullets as the ICJ begins to hear arguments and testimonies regarding the Wall. In The Hague, AAWC and Dutch solidarity groups organize a weekend of activity to mark the event - the first in a series of events organized parallel to the ICJ hearing.

**February:** As the Occupation seeks to garner international silence by claiming to have made "adjustments" to the Wall, Mohamed Hasham, a two year old boy from Ras Atieh village, dies after his family find the gate in the Wall closed and are unable to reach the hospital in Qalqiliya, on the other side of the Wall. The total closure of villages and the system of military gates results in several deaths - a month before, in Deir Ballut, 20 year-old Lamis Tayser Ibrahim began to give birth to twins while waiting at a checkpoint to leave the village. Kept waiting for several hours and refused access to a hospital, both newborn babies died on the roadside. The following month, 60 year-old heart attack victim Mohamed Omda dies while held up at a checkpoint as his family attempt to get him to an ambulance forced to wait on the other side.

**February:** The first martyrs are killed protesting the Apartheid Wall. The Occupation Forces murder three men from Biddu village - one aged 70 - as they attempt to protect their land from destruction and annexation. Over 100 villagers are arrested and around 70 more are injured - many critically. A fourth man, in a coma after being shot, dies the following week. In Betuniya, 17 year old Hussein Mahmud Awad dies after being shot in the head by the Occupation Forces. The killings fail to weaken the villagers' resolve and the demonstrators continue their struggle.

Six weeks later, 24 year old Diya' Abd el Kareem Eid joins Biddu's - and the national campaign against the Apartheid Wall's - growing list of martyrs. The resistance movement in Biddu succeeds in temporarily halting the Wall's construction through the village. However, in April it resumes once again.

**February:** The AAWC Popular Committees release a statement calling upon the people of the world "to break the wall of silence and to bring the daily killings and the names of the martyrs to the conscience of the people in their countries".

**March:** In the northern West Bank, the land confiscations and demolition of buildings continue in villages such as Kufur Laqif, Jayyus and Irtah. This further confiscation of land is designed to entrench the apartheid apparatus of Settlers-only bypass roads, settlement expansion and industrial zones - all of which are built on annexed Palestinian land isolated by the Apartheid Wall.

**March:** The construction of the Wall in the Ramallah district accelerates. So too does the resistance movement. Growing numbers of protestors demonstrate against the Wall in Deir Qaddis, Qattana, Ni'lin, Mediya, Zawiya, Rafat, Qattana and Deir Ballut, gathering on fields confiscated by the Wall. Hundreds are injured at these demonstrations - in one demonstration in Khirbatha Bani Hareth alone, 42 villagers are injured.

**March 30th:** Thousands of Palestinians mark the annual Land Day - a protest at Israel's continuing theft of

Palestinian land - with rallies across the West Bank and Gaza, and in the Galilee region. The AAWC releases a statement condemning the Apartheid Wall as the "Second Nakba" - the expelling and ethnic cleansing of Palestinian villages in 1948 - and stating its determination to continue resistance.

**April:** Like in most of the affected communities, unemployment in Qaffin village north of Tulkarem rises to 95% as farmers are unable to reach their lands, and laborers - even those given permits - are prevented from reaching their work.

**April:** The AAWC and Palestinians from the villages northwest of Jerusalem protest in Ramallah against the Palestinian Authority and what the people perceive as its continued inaction in stopping the Apartheid Wall.

**May:** Occupation bulldozers move into Rafah refugee camp to continue their house demolitions and land clearance for the construction of a seven kilometer iron Wall next to the border between Gaza and Egypt. Hundreds of houses are razed to the ground and many thousands of the camp's inhabitants forced to leave. Palestinians who were forced from their cities and villages in 1948 are forced out yet again from their temporary refugee camp of Rafah.

**June:** Following the destruction of Rafah, on June 6th, Israel approves the so-called "Disengagement Plan". The plan receives widespread international government approval and slowly-growing condemnation from civil society, as in reality the plan actually sees Israel tighten its control over Palestine. Under the plan, Gaza will be imprisoned by an iron Wall, with all borders, airspace and coastline controlled by the Occupation. In the West Bank the "disengagement" sees the withdrawal of just four tiny settlements in the north, while simultaneously expanding settlements



around Jerusalem, Bethlehem and elsewhere and cementing the annexation of some 46% of the West Bank.

**June:** For ten days, people of all ages in the village of Zawiya resist the Apartheid Wall, challenging Occupation Forces in an effort to reach their lands and stop Occupation bulldozers from destroying them. Since the first days of the Wall's construction, Occupation Forces have blocked all exits from the village.

**June:** In order to reflect the increased role within the AAWC of the Popular Committees - which are based within the communities most affected by the Wall - the PENGON Coordinating Committee decides to step down and allow other civil society organizations and the Popular Committees greater input. The Popular Committees are based in 54 villages in eight districts throughout the West Bank and work to mobilize effective community resistance to the Apartheid Wall. Coordinated through the Campaign head office, national plans to resist the Wall are forged and approved by the Popular Committees and civil society organizations.

**July:** The first hunger strike against the Apartheid Wall begins on July 2nd. In Ar Ram a tent is set up on the main road into Jerusalem and delegations and supporters from all over Palestine and the Golan Heights come to declare their solidarity with the hunger strikers. The strike is called off only upon the announcement of the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

## Despite ICJ Ruling - Wall Continues

**July 9th:** While demonstrations against the Apartheid Wall are organized in Ar Ram and other West Bank villages, and in The Hague itself, the ICJ delivers its advisory ruling that backs the Palestinian call and states that Israel must:

- 1 - "Cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem"
- 2 - "Dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated, and to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating"
- 3- "Make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem"

Furthermore, the ICJ concluded:

- "All States are under an obligation not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction; all States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War have in addition the obligation... to ensure compliance by Israel with international humanitarian law as embodied in that Convention"
- "The United Nations... should consider what further action is required to bring to an end the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall and the associated regime"

**July 9th:** The AAWC urges the international community to heed the ruling and enforce Israel's compliance. However, the Campaign's analysis also expresses scepticism as to whether international governments have the will to pressure Israel to fulfil the ICJ ruling, or whether international law will simply be used as a tool to divert public attention from the realities on the ground: "A tragic dichotomy exists, in that if no mobilization and international pressure ensues from this decision, then the Advisory Opinion can be marked in the books as one of the major victories of the United Nations as an institution in the past decade, at the expense of the Palestinian and Arab peoples.[...] Popular slogans must be loud and clear, and as the Court stated: tear down the Wall!" . The AAWC calls for comprehensive boycott, divestment and sanctions campaigns against Apartheid Israel.

The scepticism is borne out by the following months and the continued construction of the Wall.

**July 19th:** Ten days after the ICJ decision, Occupation Forces and bulldozers enter the market of Barta'a Sharqiyya north of Tulkarem, demolishing houses, factories, shops and an olive mill, and destroying the livelihoods of hundreds of villagers. Fourteen of the protestors who rallied against the destruction of their village are injured - shot at with tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition.

**August:** In the weeks following the ICJ decision, construction of the Apartheid Wall intensifies in Jerusalem, implementing the "Greater Jerusalem" project and the Judeaization of the city by isolating Palestinian communities "outside" the Wall and annexing Jewish settlements. AAWC research shows that 120,000 Palestinians will be isolated from their city and that Jerusalem - the historic, economic and cultural Palestinian capital - will be totally divided from the rest of the West Bank.

**August:** In Sawahreh, Eizarya and Ar Ram massive protests and demonstrations against the Occupation and the Apartheid Wall are organized to denounce and resist the confiscation and destruction of land that has accelerated in these Jerusalem suburbs. The Wall's construction also presses ahead in Bethlehem district, where confiscation orders are issued to farmers in Beit Jala.

**September:** After several months of land confiscation and destruction, the Wall begins to be erected in the Jerusalem suburb of Ar Ram, cutting across the Jerusalem-Ramallah road. The road between Jerusalem and Jericho is also split by the Wall, not only cutting links between Palestinian cities but

also isolating up to 50,000 Palestinians in Abu Dis, Eizarya and Sawahreh in walled ghettos. Demonstrations and clashes continue in Abu Dis and Ar Ram, between villagers and the Occupation.

**September:** In Beirut, an international strategy meeting of anti-war and anti-globalisation movements is held on 17-19 September, with the participation of over 260 delegates from 43 different countries, representing social movements, organizations, political parties and networks. It marks the launch of an International Movement against Israeli Apartheid and calls "for the economic, academic, cultural, political and diplomatic isolation of Apartheid Israel by the effective imposition of boycotts, divestment and sanctions. These calls have since been held up in all major international meetings as a reflection of the ever-growing movement to Isolate Apartheid Israel.

**October:** As the annual harvest begins, the Wall and its system of permits and gates has devastating consequences for villagers, who are unable to reach their fields and harvest their crops. In Qalqiliya city, all entrances and checkpoints close for 20 consecutive days and the majority of guava crops and greenhouse produce is destroyed and several thousand chickens die. Demonstrations take place in villages such as Jayyus, Qaffin, Falamyia and Beit Awa, which are denied access to their fields. On the isolated land of Falamyia alone, more than 20,000 citrus trees die because farmers cannot access them.



**November 9th:** The 2nd National and International Week against the Apartheid Wall sees schools, mosques and media mobilizing nationwide in support of the daily resistance of the affected communities and to unify the Palestinian people in the struggle. Globally, some 70 events, protests and demonstrations in over 20 countries have joined the AAWC call against the Apartheid Wall and for the Isolation of Apartheid Israel by strengthening the growing movement for boycott, divestment and sanctions.

## Popular Resistance Escalates

**December:** Even where the Wall is supposedly "finished", the land confiscations and house demolitions continue. In Far'un, near Tulkarem, Israel announces the demolition of a dozen houses to create a "buffer zone" around the Wall. In Jayyus, the Occupation begins clearing more of the isolated land and trees - which the Wall prevents villagers from accessing - for the expansion of Nofei Zufim settlement. In nearby Irtah a new military road is built, isolating 13 homes between the road and the Wall. Both Irtah and Far'un are also facing the confiscation of more land for the building of an Industrial Zone, one of several estates planned for throughout the West Bank on Palestinian land isolated by the Apartheid Wall. The idea for Israeli-run industrial estates that exploit cheap Palestinian labour in the West Bank and Gaza emerged after the Oslo process in the mid-1990s, but met with massive Palestinian resistance during the first Intifada.

Such Industrial Zones become an increasingly significant part of the Occupation's apartheid infrastructure, as the World Bank releases a report entitled Stagnation or Revival: Israeli Disengagement and Palestinian Economic Prospects, outlining the Bank's plans for Palestine's economic future based around the myth of Israeli disengagement. The report ignores the ICJ ruling and proposes measures that sustain the apartheid system of checkpoints, gates, industrial estates, and the Wall itself.

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**January:** At the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, held from the 26th-31st of January, a series of declarations are issued calling for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel. The Anti-War Assembly states: "We call upon the social movements to mobilize... for divestment and boycotts. These efforts aim to force Israel to implement international resolutions, and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, to stop and take down the illegal wall and end all occupation and apartheid policies."

**February:** In Beit Hanina, confiscation orders are issued for a section of the Wall that will deny the village access to tens of thousands of olive trees and will isolate 15 water wells, depriving the village of its main water resources. Just days later, at the Sharm al Sheikh summit, the illegality of the Wall is completely sidelined as it is briefly referred to as nothing more than a "controversial issue". The meeting urges that Palestinian resistance should enter a "calm" period, yet construction of the Wall and the expansion of settlements is to continue unabated. The AAWC statement on the conference points out that, "The implementation of the ICJ decision - for the dismantlement of the Wall - is not a negotiable or controversial issue but forms the basis of international law."

**February:** The Popular Committees all along the Apartheid Wall underline the fact that their resistance will only stop with the end of Israeli Apartheid and Occupation, staging a fort-night of mobilization and protests throughout the West Bank. Demonstrations and rallies are organized nationwide, most notably in the villages of Bil'in, Beit Surik, Yatta, Kafr Qaddam and Saffa, and in the regional centers of Salfit, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Jerusalem. The rallies in the villages develop into direct confrontation and clashes with the Occupation Forces. In Beit Surik, villagers halt the Occupation's attempts to place markers for the path of the Wall, which aims to rip through the center of the village. A large demonstration is also organized in Kafr Qaddum, a village that has been completely surrounded by walls. In Yatta, in south Hebron, several hundred villagers clash with Occupation Forces' vehicles and bulldozers and physically prevent them from sealing off road access to the land in a defiant blockade.

**February:** At the same time, the Occupation presents once again "modifications" of the Wall to the world that are meant to divert the discussion from the Apartheid Wall itself to its route. Although some changes in the Wall's route are made in individual villages due to their resistance, the Wall and its apartheid infrastructure of settlements, roads and military zones continues as before, annexing some 47% of the West Bank. The AAWC continues to underline that, irrespective of its route, the Wall remains illegal in any form.

**February:** The AAWC releases a map detailing Israel's expansion of a spider network of settler-only roads, bridges and tunnels that continue to surround Palestinian villages and towns. Throughout the West Bank there will be 24 Israeli controlled tunnels for Palestinians to use as the sole connection between the ghettos and Bantustans. The settler-only roads, and the military zones that accompany them, are built on land confiscated from Palestinian villages and fulfill the same role as the Wall: creating de facto borders that Palestinians cannot cross and which therefore pen communities into suffocating ghettos.

**February:** In London, representatives from the British government, the World Bank and the UN meet with officials from the Palestinian Authority to discuss "internal reforms", "Israeli security matters" and, above all, money. Some \$1.2 billion has been agreed upon - most of it not for the Palestinian needs and liberation struggle but the development of the

Israeli apartheid regime that spreads throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

**February:** Highlighting its unwillingness to oppose the Wall, the UN submits a report on the Wall dealing with it as a solely "humanitarian" issue rather than a political and legal case. Such compliance with the Occupation's interests and neglect of the ICJ's ruling is becoming commonplace as the Wall is increasingly treated by development agencies as a problem that must be adapted to, rather than a crime that must be prevented and stopped.

**March:** 5,000 Palestinians demonstrate outside the Palestinian Authority's Muqata compound to protest UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's visit to Ramallah. They express rage that Annan chooses not to visit any areas affected by the Apartheid Wall, and at his failure to call on Israel to abide by international law and dismantle the Wall.

**March:** Construction of the Wall in Hebron district, begun in October 2004, now intensifies with over 10 thousand dunums of land confiscated in the villages of Sammu, Dhahriya, Halhul and Beit Ummar. Sammu, like many other villages in the West Bank, lost some 80% of its land in the 1948 Nakba. Now a further 5% is to be stolen from the people.

**March:** This year's Land Day sees ten days of demonstrations held throughout Palestine to mark Israel's ongoing theft of Palestinian land. Bethlehem district, where the Wall is now being built at ever-quickening pace, plays a central part in these demonstrations with protests held in the villages of Wadi Fukin, Al Walaja and Bethlehem city itself. Further north, simultaneous demonstrations take place in the village of Baqa, which is split in two by the Wall. One half of the village protests to the east of the Wall, while the half living on the other side of the Wall protests on the west.

**April:** Large protests are held in the Ramallah villages of Saffa and Bil'in on an almost daily basis. Bulldozers arrived in the villages in February but protests forced their withdrawal. Days later they returned and began to raze land that will be used for the construction of the Wall and the expansion of nearby settlements. Over two months of intense protest has brought over a hundred injuries, including a 15 year old boy who lost an eye.

**May:** The struggle against the Apartheid Wall suffers its latest and youngest martyrs as Uday Mofeed and Jamal Jaber, aged 14 and 15, are shot dead while protesting against the Wall in Beit Liqya. The family of one of the martyrs declares: "They can do what they want, they can steal the land, they can kill our children, but we are not going to leave. We are staying. This is our land. They want to uproot us but the future is ours and the Occupation is the one that will be uprooted."

**May:** Israel announces that it will continue with the expansion of settlements - particularly Maale Adumim, already the largest settlement in the West Bank and where 4,500 new housing units are being built - and that the Wall will soon be constructed to annex these settlements to the "Greater Jerusalem" project. This section of Wall will finalize the separation of Jerusalem from the West Bank and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their city.

Several weeks later, George Bush meets with Mahmoud Abbas and formally announces an "aid" package that will help to finance checkpoints and gates in the Wall, making Israel's project of apartheid sustainable. Prior to the meeting, villagers from Bil'in march through Ramallah to remind Mahmoud Abbas about the devastating crimes of the Apartheid Wall, stating, "We send this letter from Bil'in, a small Palestinian village that is being killed by the Wall that the entire world condemns. [...] Our 1600 residents depend on our ability to farm and harvest our olive trees to sustain our livelihoods."

