
Illegal Israeli Policies and Violations of International Law: Some Key Facts

For 45 years, Israel has carried out a number of destructive policies within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (OPT). These unilateral actions are devastating Palestinian lives and livelihoods, violating international law and shattering the prospect of a two-state solution.

SETTLEMENTS

- Between September 2011 and 2012 Israel planned, in different stages (tendering, approvals), at least 11,096 housing units for settlements in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. The new housing units, if approved, would house around 44,000 new Israeli settlers. There are over half a million settlers living in the OPT today.
- “Bypass roads”, built illegally on Palestinian land for the express purpose of cutting journey times for settlers wishing to get to Israel, isolate Palestinian villages from one another and are mostly off limits to Palestinian cars.

THE WALL

- In 2002, Israel began constructing the illegal segregation wall (“The Wall”). The total length of the Wall (as approved on 30 April 2006) is 711 km. This is more than twice the 320 km length of the 1967 border. 82% of the wall is built within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (OPT) As a result of the Wall, 140,000 Jerusalemite Palestinians are now cut off from their city.
- Today, the Wall, together with its associated settlement regime, fragments the OPT and severs occupied East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank. When complete, it will surround approximately 125,000 Palestinians on three sides, and a further 26,000 Palestinians on all four sides,² effectively turning their communities into open-air prisons.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Thousands of Palestinian farmers have been separated from their own land, requiring permits to access that land through one of 68 agricultural Wall gates. Approximately 45 of these gates are open for only one or two months per year during the annual olive harvest.⁶
- During the 2011 olive harvest, about 42% of applications submitted for permits to access Palestinian orchards in the areas behind the illegal wall were rejected.¹
- Over 1.2 million Palestinian olive trees have been uprooted by Israeli occupation forces since 1967.²
- Water consumption dips to 20 litres/capita/day (l/c/d) in Palestinian communities without water infrastructure, one fifth of the World Health Organisation’s recommendation.

¹ http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/Barrier_Report_July_2008.pdf

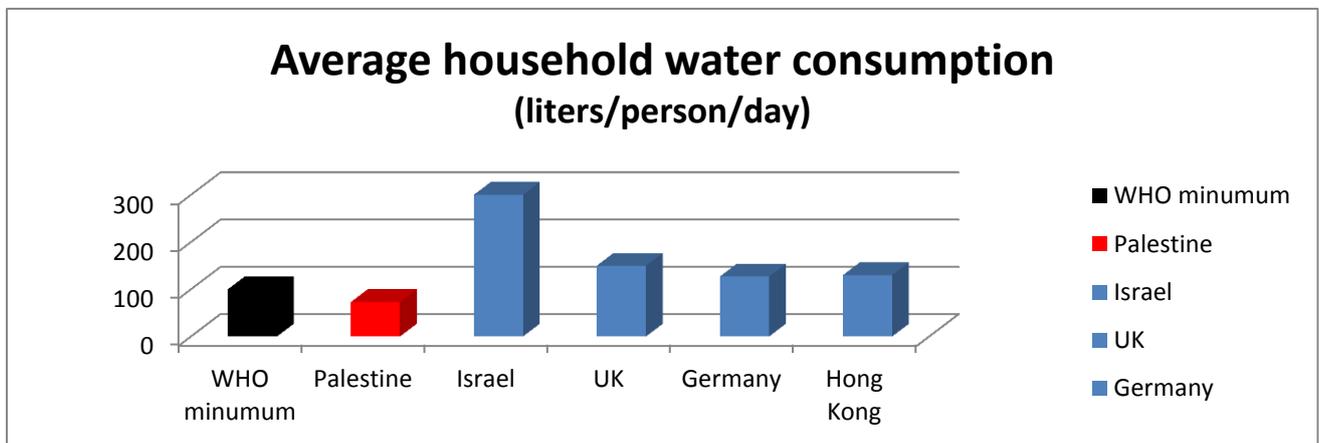
² <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2012061311624.pdf>

³ <http://www.un.org/depts/dpa/qpal/docs/2012Cairo/p2%20jad%20isaac%20e.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2012061311624.pdf>

¹ <http://www.ochaopt.org/annual/c3/2.html>

² www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=903



- “In political terms, the Israeli settlements in the West Bank confiscated a total area of 67,743 dunums, which equals to 50% of irrigated agricultural lands in the West Bank.”

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- In the OPT, direct costs from Israel’s ban on fertilizers amount to NIS 99,359,113 (\$25.7 million)³
- In 2010, the total cost of occupation to the Palestinian economy was \$6.9 billion, a staggering 84.9% of GDP.⁴

KEY VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

➤ **Security Council Resolutions**

242 (withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces from OPT including East Jerusalem)

252, 476, 478 (regarding the illegal annexation of East Jerusalem)

446, 452, 465 (regarding settlements)

➤ **Fourth Geneva Convention**

Article 49 (regarding illegality of transferring own civilian population into occupied territory), Article 147 (destruction of property)

➤ **ICJ Advisory Opinion**

“The construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated régime, are contrary to international law... Israel is under an obligation to terminate its breaches of international law... 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.”

➤ **Convention for the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid**

Article II(d) (relating to division of population along racial lines, expropriation of lands)

³ <http://www.un.org/depts/dpa/qpal/docs/2012Cairo/p2%20jad%20isaac%20e.pdf>, 8

⁴ www.mne.gov.ps/pdf/EconomiccostsofoccupationforPalestine.pdf