

# Israel's Anti-Terrorist **FENCE**



**No people should  
have to suffer like this.**

Produced by StandWithUs

# ISRAEL'S FENCE



**95%**  
will be chain linked

Less than **5%**  
will be a wall.

**59%**  
of Palestinians want terrorism against  
Israel to continue even after the creation  
of a Palestinian state.

*source: Poll taken September 21 and 27 by PORI  
(Public Opinion and Marketing Research)  
and Palestinian Center for Public Opinion*

# **More than 900 Israelis have been murdered by Palestinian terrorist attacks since 2000.**

## **Here's why:**

### **From the West Bank,**

- It's only a 60 minute walk to Petah Tikva, where two people were murdered.
- It's only a 15 minute walk to Metzger, where 6 people were murdered.
- It's only a 30 minute walk to Megido, where 17 people were murdered.
- It's only a 60 minute walk to Afula, where 26 people were murdered.
- It's only a 15 minute walk to Kfar Saba, where 5 people were murdered.
- It's only 5 minutes to the Eyal Junction, where one person was murdered.

**For Israelis, DEATH is only minutes away.**



**This is why Israel needs a fence.**

# **The Fence Saves Lives**



# Every Nation Has A Right To Protect Itself.

## Other Countries With Fences:



US / Mexico



US / Mexico



North Korea / South Korea



North Korea / South Korea



Czechoslovakia Border



India / Pakistan

# Israel isn't building the fence to end the conflict.

Israel has always sought peace with its neighbors and is always willing to make painful concessions for the guarantee of security. When Israel has had a willing partner, peace has been achieved.

Currently, the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian terrorist groups like HAMAS, Islamic Jihad, and Fatah are not willing partners in the peace process. Despite agreeing to recognize Israel's right to exist, the Palestinian Authority has not changed its charter, and terrorist organizations' charters call openly for the destruction of Israel.

All spears should be directed at the Jews, at the enemies of Allah .Allah has described them as apes and pigs .We blow them up in Hadera, we blow them up in Tel Aviv and in Netanya, and in this way, Allah establishes us as rulers over these gangs of vagabonds . In several years, Allah willing, we will enter Jerusalem as conquerors, to Jaffa as conquerors .Blessings for whoever assaulted a soldier... Blessings for whoever has raised his sons on the education of Jihad and Martyrdom; blessings for whoever has saved a bullet in order to stick it in a Jew s head .

*Sheikh Ibrahim Madhi, Sheikh Ajlin*





# Israel is building the fence because the conflict isn't ending.

Not only is the current generation of Palestinian leaders resisting peace, it is teaching Palestinian children to hate and kill Israelis. Palestinian children learn hate from political and religious leaders, who glorify martyrdom. They learn it from Palestinian teachers, whose textbooks, maps, and posters, deny Israel's existence and make heroes of suicide bombers. They learn it from murals, street names, songs, and music videos. With incitement permeating every aspect of Palestinian society, it isn't any wonder that Palestinian children dream of becoming terrorists.

If only a small percentage of Palestinian children absorb this message of hate, Israel faces years of deadly terrorist attacks.



**For there to be peace in the Middle East, Palestinian leaders, teachers, and parents must teach peace.**

# Israel's Fence Will Prevent Terrorist Attacks And Save Lives.





# Why Israel Doesn't Feel

## THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CHARTER: "Armed Struggle is the only way..."

**The PLO Charter, the governing document of the PLO, still includes these Articles**

- "Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine...The Palestinian Arab people assert their absolute determination...to continue their armed struggle...for the liberation of their country and their return to it." (Article 9)
- "Commando action constitutes the nucleus of the Palestinian popular liberation war. This requires its escalation, comprehensiveness and the mobilization of all the Palestinian popular and educational efforts...." (Article 10)
- "The partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of the state of Israel are entirely illegal....The Balfour Declaration, the Mandate for Palestine and everything that has been based on them are deemed null and void." (Articles 19 and 20)
- "Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history...Judaism, being a religion, is not an independent nationality." (Article 20)
- "Zionism is...racist and fanatic...aggressive, expansionist, and colonial in its aims, and fascist in its methods." (Article 22)
- "The demand of security and peace, as well as the demand of right and justice, require all states...to outlaw its existence and to ban its operations..." (Article 23)





# Secure Without a Fence

## HAMAS CHARTER

"Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it" (Introduction)

Our struggle against the Jews is very great and very serious....The Movement is but one squadron that should be supported by more and more squadrons from this vast Arab and Islamic world, until the enemy is vanquished and Allah's victory is realised. (Introduction)

"The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Moslems, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him." (cited in Article 8)

The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine is an Islamic Waqf consecrated for future Moslem generations until Judgment Day. (Article 11)

There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors. (Article 12)

The day that enemies usurp part of Moslem land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Moslem. In face of the Jews' usurpation of Palestine, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised. (Article 15)

With their money, [Jews] took control of the world media...They were behind the French Revolution, the Communist revolution and...were behind World War I...They were behind World War II, through which they made huge financial gains...There is no war going on anywhere, without having their finger in it. (Article 22)

The Islamic nature of Palestine is part of our religion.... (Article 27)

The Zionist invasion is a vicious invasion...They aim at undermining societies, destroying values, corrupting consciences, deteriorating character and annihilating Islam. It is behind the drug trade and alcoholism.... (Article 28)

Under the wing of Islam, it is possible for the followers of the three religions - Islam, Christianity and Judaism - to coexist in peace and quiet with each other. Peace and quiet would not be possible except under the wing of Islam. Past and present history are the best witness to that. (Article 31)

Today it is Palestine, tomorrow it will be one country or another. The Zionist plan is limitless. After Palestine, the Zionists aspire to expand from the Nile to the Euphrates. When they will have digested the region they overtook, they will aspire to further expansion, and so on. Their plan is embodied in the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion".... (Article 32)

The present Zionist onslaught has also been preceded by Crusading raids from the West and other Tatar raids.... Just as the Moslems faced those raids and planned fighting and defeating them, they should be able to confront the Zionist invasion and defeat it. (Article 35)

<http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>



# If there were no terrorism, Israel wouldn't need a security fence.

Israel has done everything possible to avoid hurting innocent civilians – it targets only terrorists who do hurt women and children. Palestinian terrorists, however, deliberately target unarmed civilians on buses and in cafes, pizzerias, and nursery schools, and they also use Palestinian children and young adults as human shields.

Fatality numbers from September 2000 to January 2004 show the difference. 36.2% of Palestinians killed in the conflict were non-combatants caught in crossfire. 77.6% of the Israelis killed were non-combatants who died in terrorist bombings or sniper fire. Israel laments the accidental casualties caused by this war. In contrast, Palestinians take to the streets to celebrate Israeli or American casualties.

Population Group	Percentage of total casualties	
	Palestinian	Israeli
Non-combatants	35%	77%
Women non-combatants	4%	31%
Children below age 12	2%	4%
Older people over age 45	3%	24%

**The fence will protect Israelis from terrorist attacks –  
and reduce the number of defensive strikes in areas  
where Palestinian civilians could be hurt or killed.**



Palestinian Sniper and Human shields

<http://www.haaretz.co.il/hasite/images/printed/P120204/a.0.1202.20.2.9.jpg>

# **ISRAEL'S FENCE IS NOT ABOUT BORDERS**

## **IT'S ABOUT SAVING LIVES UNTIL PEACE COMES**

- The fence is not being built to set the borders of a future Palestinian state. It is being built because the Palestinian leadership is unwilling and/or unable to end terrorism and negotiate about the borders of a future state.
- When negotiations resume, Israel may agree to transfer Israelis out of the West Bank, a process that will be painful, difficult and time-consuming...
- But meanwhile, the lives of tens of thousands of real people—men, women and children who now live near or beyond the 1967 borders—are endangered.





# Israel has not developed the fence plan in a vacuum.

## Consider the following:

- The fence is not a border. The border will be determined by negotiations.
- Only 21 km of the fence's approximately 700 km length will be concrete. In urban areas, wire and patrol roads would require more land.
- Israel has not destroyed one Palestinian house to construct the fence. Private property has been used only by the consent of the previous owners.
- The Palestinians will not be cut off from their fields, places of commerce and urban centers. There will be gates through which Israelis and Palestinians will be able to pass.
- Israel has considered one factor primary in planning the route and construction of the fence: the number of lives it will save. In some areas, a suicide bomber only has to walk 15 minutes to kill Israelis. In others, a concrete barrier will prevent sniper attacks on Israeli highways.
- The fence is not an obstacle to peace. Since the building of the fence began, HAMAS reported it would consider a 10-year ceasefire. Saudi Arabia floated a peace plan that rejected the right of return. Jordan's Foreign Minister told Arab leaders that they must "unequivocally take a stand against suicide bombing."
- When negotiations resume, Israel may agree to transfer Israelis out of the West Bank, a process that will be painful, difficult and time-consuming.
- A fence can be moved. Lives cannot be restored.

**The fence, a legitimate temporary security measure, will immediately help to reduce terror and restore calm – both of which will help renew the peace process.**

# Regional Map



## 21 Recognized Arab Countries have

- 50 times as many people
- 800 times as much land
- extensive oil reserves and
- not a single democracy

# Q & A

## **What is the reason for establishing the Security Fence Area?**

The Security Fence is being built with the sole purpose of saving the lives of the Israeli citizens who continue to be targeted by the terrorist campaign that began in 2000. The fact that over 800 men, women and children have been killed in horrific suicide bombings and other terror attacks clearly justifies the attempt to place a physical barrier in the path of terrorists. It should be noted that terrorism has been defined throughout the international community as a crime against humanity. As such, the State of Israel not only has the right but also the obligation to do everything in its power to lessen the impact and scope of terrorism on the citizens of Israel.

## **Will it be possible to cross the Security Fence Area?**

Yes- Israel will establish gates to allow free passage across the Area. The Security Fence, whose only function is to provide security, will not seal off the West Bank.

Special arrangements have been made for Palestinian farmers separated from their lands. Gates along the Security Fence will enable Palestinian farmers and their workers to cross from one side to another. These special gates are for agricultural purposes only; the passage of regular pedestrians and cars will be handled through different gates.

## **How was the path of the Security Fence determined?**

The path of the Security Fence was planned in accordance with security and humanitarian concerns. It does not annex any lands to Israel nor does it establish any borders, a process that remains a matter for negotiations and should be resolved between the sides. Such was the case in the peace treaty with Jordan in which the border fence was adjusted, by mutual agreement, by 80 meters.

## **Why isn't the Security Fence built along the "Green Line"?**

The so called "Green Line" has never represented an international boundary. The 1949 armistice agreements specifically refer to this fact. There was never a recognized and legitimate sovereign in the West Bank. The legal status of these areas remains that of disputed territory- to be resolved through negotiations. It is this that is required by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for the parties to start negotiations, inter alia, on "secure and recognized boundaries", and agreements reached between the parties specifically refer to the need for direct negotiations to resolve this issue.

The Security Fence that is being built is intended to counter terrorism of the most brutal kind, not to dictate a border that is and remains the subject of permanent negotiations. It is our hope that by building this fence its very function will become irrelevant and that one day it will be dismantled.

On the practical level a fence along this line would create far greater humanitarian problems, arbitrary dividing certain villages, and separating others from access to water and other basic services on a large scale. Moreover, it would ignore the aim of the fence, which is to frustrate acts of terrorism directed against Israeli population centers. It is the terrorists who, by their murderous attacks, have dictated the route, which seeks to protect as many civilians as possible, while seeking to minimize the humanitarian and environmental hardship.

## **Why has the route been changed in several places?**

It should be noted that in addition to security considerations Israel has made every attempt to plan the route so as to avoid any undue hardship to the local population. For example, changes were made after Israeli authorities conducted negotiations with landowners in which their particular needs were taken into account. In certain areas archeological sites, such as the ancient city in Shuweika were discovered, and the route was changed to prevent damage to these historical areas. In other locations Palestinians land registration data was either inaccurate or out-of-date. As new houses were discovered in places which had previously been registered as uninhabited, some of them illegal were buildings, the path of the Security Fence Area had to be modified.



**What is the legal status of the land?**

The land used in building the Security Fence is seized for military purposes, not confiscated, and it remains the property of the owner. Legal procedures are already in place to allow every owner to file an objection to the seizure of their land. Moreover, property owners are offered compensation for the use of their land and for the damage to their trees.

Israel is making every effort to provide local population and landowners with individual solutions to any difficulties caused by the Security Fence.

**What is the status of Palestinians who reside between the Security Fence and the Green Line?**

Only a small number of Palestinian villages will be included on the western side of the Security Fence. Their residents will not have to relocate and their legal status will remain unchanged.

**What will happen to olive trees and other fruit trees?**

Farmers who cultivate olive and other fruit trees growing within the Security Fence can designate a new site to which the trees will be relocated which has no free access constraints.

Contractors assigned by The Ministry of Defense to build the Security Fence are responsible for carefully uprooting and replanting the trees. So far over 60,000 olive trees have been relocated in accordance with this procedure.

It should be noted that olive trees require scarce treatment, only three weeks a year.

**Is the fence effective?**

Between Israel and the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority there is no natural or man made barrier. This enables the almost unhindered entry of Palestinian terrorists into Israel. During the last three years, 117 Palestinian terrorists took advantage of it, entered into Israel and in the act of blowing themselves up murdered 477 people - Jews, Arabs and Christians and wounded thousands others. In contrast, the security fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip that has existed since 1996 has proven its effectiveness and the vast majority of terrorist attempts have been discovered and thwarted.

The first stage of the Security Fence (from Salem to Elkana) which has been operational since July 2003, is already proving itself as an effective defensive deterrent which prevents the repeated attempts to enter Israel and carry out terror attacks.

Members of Palestinian terror infrastructure caught and questioned disclosed the fact that the existence of the Security Fence in the Samaria area forces them to find of other means to perform terror attacks since their previous entry to Israel is blocked.

**What is the goal of the fence from a political point of view?**

Israel has sought peace with its neighbors consistently since 1947. As recently as at Camp David in 2000 and later at Taba, the government of Israel made generous offers for peace, which were rejected by Arafat. Currently, Israel has accepted the Road Map for peace and is working for its success. However, until the Palestinians end incitement for terror and actually stop terrorists, Israel must defend its citizens. The government of Israel recognizes that the security fence is a temporary tool needed to protect innocents while diplomatic efforts for a lasting peace continue.

# India Building Separation Fence to Block Terrorist Incursions

Herb Keinon (Jerusalem Post)

During his visit to India, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said:

India, which voted in the UN in favor of sending the security fence issue to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, has decided not to present oral arguments against the fence. One senior diplomatic official said India is worried that if the ICJ takes up the fence issue, the court will then feel free to take up India's conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir.

India "has decided to take the same step and build a separation fence to prevent the incursion of terrorists into its territory. Therefore on this matter India may be able to understand better than others the need to build a barrier that will prevent those acts of terror and suicide bombings."

"We are very much concerned about the [nuclear] proliferation and the possibility that an extreme organization like al-Qaeda will have the access. With nuclear weapons it will destabilize the entire world. We should work together in order to put an end to their efforts."

"Terror is an enemy which threatens our common values and our shared way of life. Israel and India are natural partners in the struggle against it."

Pakistan has made no move to establish political or economic ties with Israel, contrary to media speculation.

## Saudi Arabia Enrages Yemen with Fence

[http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle\\_east/story.jsp?story=490024](http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/story.jsp?story=490024)

Saudi Arabia, one of the most vocal critics in the Arab world of Israel's "security fence" in the West Bank, is quietly emulating the Israeli example by erecting a barrier along its porous border with Yemen. The barrier is part of a plan to erect an electronic surveillance system along the length of the kingdom's frontiers involving fencing and electronic detection equipment, at a cost of up to \$8.57b. Behind the plan is a deep-seated lack of trust in the Yemeni authorities' ability to arrest infiltrators before they make it into Saudi territory. (Independent-UK)

# "Putting Lives on the Fence"

People of conscience around the world should urge and even help Israel complete its security fence as quickly as possible. The fence, a passive form of self-protection, will save human lives.

Yet instead of getting support, Israel faces opposition--a court battle at the Hague and condemnation even from human rights groups. While some critics do not object to defensive fences in principle, they do object to this particular fence because it doesn't follow the 1967 borders and it doesn't include dismantling Jewish communities beyond the Green Line.

They don't seem to understand why the fence is being built.

It is not being built to end the conflict. It is being built because the conflict isn't ending. Nor is it being built to demarcate a future Palestinian state. It is being built because the Palestinian leadership is unwilling and/or unable to end terrorism against Israel, unwilling to negotiate about the demarcations of a future state, and because there are Israeli citizens at risk, including those currently living in the disputed areas.

When negotiations finally resume, Israel may agree to transfer Israelis out of the West Bank, a process that will be painful, difficult and time consuming. But in the mean time, the lives of tens of thousands of real people—men, women and children who currently still live near or beyond the 1967 borders—are endangered. Israel must protect them from terrorism. The fence's route can only be judged according to this priority—Israelis immediate security needs based upon current realities, not according to possible future solutions.

But terrorism and strategic threats are strangely absent from the critics' analyses. They argue as though Israel exists in a vacuum or has a reasonable peace partner who would respond to good faith overtures. They ignore the harsh realities that Israel faces which have little to do with the green line. Even new historian Benny Morris reminds us that the current war against Israel has three interrelated dimensions: Palestinians who want an end to Israel's presence in the Territories, Palestinians who want an end to Israel and the Jewish state, and jihadist Islamists who want to purge the world of the "Western Satan's" Middle East outpost, Israel. "It's unfortunate that many in the West and in the extreme Israeli left prefer to ignore the second and third dimensions and to view the Palestinian struggle solely through the prism of the first dimension, resistance to occupation."

The route of the fence is not the issue. Ask the 59% of

Palestinians who told pollsters in September 2003 that even if Israel withdrew to the 1967 borders and removed the settlements, they would still support continued terrorism against Israelis. Ask the Palestinians, who are fed a steady diet of state-controlled racism against Jews and glorification of "martyrs" who kill them, whether a different route would curb their hatred. Ask the PA leaders whether it would make them finally stop incitement and dismantle terrorist groups. Ask neighboring Arab states whether it would make them stop funding, supporting and glorifying attacks against Israel. Unfortunately, the answer most likely is no.

The fence promises to effectively protect Israelis from these very real threats. Only one suicide bomber has slipped through the Gaza fence since it was completed in the late 1990's. The still uncompleted fence in the West Bank has already significantly reduced attacks and suicide bombings.

Indeed, the fence, even with its current route, is not interfering with some positive developments, even though some have said that it will. Quite the contrary. Just last week, HAMAS reported it would consider a ceasefire for ten years; Saudi Arabia floated a peace plan that rejected the right of return; Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher told Arab leaders at a meeting in Davos Switzerland that they must "unequivocally take a stand against suicide bombing....We have not told the average Israeli citizen that suicide bombs are wrong from a moral and political point of view."

No one welcomes this fence. It is a tragedy that it must be built. No one believes that it is a substitute for negotiations, and the Israeli government has reiterated the obvious: a fence can be moved; human life cannot be restored. No one wants to inflict suffering on the innocent Palestinians who are victims of their failed, corrupt and violent leadership. But Israel must protect its citizens and wait out the possibly long stretch until a new Palestinian leadership emerges and becomes a genuine partner for peace. People of conscience should understand and support Israel in the difficult days ahead. They should mobilize to help Israel do all it can to save innocent lives until the day when that vision shared by all of us who care about the suffering in the Middle East and about human values—can be realized: peace between the Jewish state of Israel and all its neighbors.

Roz Rothstein, Executive Director,



# Fenced in

by Yossi Klein Halevi November 6, 2003

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The fence that Israel is building along the length of the West Bank should appall me. Fencing in the Jewish state, after all, mocks Zionism's promise to free the Jews from the ghetto. And fencing out the Arab world violates the hope that Israel will one day find a cultural and spiritual place in the Middle East - a hope that once took me on a yearlong pilgrimage into mosques in Israel and the West Bank, as a way of connecting to my neighbors' prayer lives. The fence ends more than three decades of Israeli attempts to reach out to the Middle East, from the "open bridges" policy across the Jordan River in the 1970s to the "good fence" on the northern border in the 1980s, through which Lebanese workers daily crossed into Israel. Finally, as a Jordanian acquaintance sympathetic to Israel recently warned me, the fence actually reduces Israel's deterrence by sending a message of weakness to the Arab world, reinforcing the popular Arab notion that Israel's demise is just a matter of time.

The argument for the fence, of course, is that it will save lives. The fence won't offer the total separation from Palestinians that Israelis crave: About 200,000 Palestinians in Jerusalem and several tens of thousands of West Bank Palestinians could remain on the Israeli side, and at least 20,000 settlers, or 10 percent of the settler population, will find themselves on the wrong side of the fence. Nor will the fence offer absolute security: Breaches will be pried open and tunnels dug underneath the barrier; recently, snipers crawled through a drainage ditch under the fence and killed a child on a road within pre-1967 Israel. Conversely, the more successful the fence becomes against attacks into Israel, the more terrorists will turn against the settlers living on their side of the barrier - and the more pressure will grow within Israel to evacuate those settlements under fire, a move that would further reduce Israeli deterrence by granting victory to terrorism. Still, the security argument is compelling enough: Though more than 120 successful suicide bombers have crossed into Israel from the West Bank, not one has managed to cross from Gaza, which is surrounded by the same kind of formidable fence.

Beyond the security argument, though, what's appealing about the fence is precisely what Israeli officials are trying to deny: its political message. Even more than a separation between Israelis and Palestinians, the fence is a demarcation line between the Oslo era of Israeli delusions and the post-Oslo era of Israeli realism. The fence embodies the lesson of this war: that the violent Palestinian rejection of peace three years ago wasn't merely a setback on the way to a comprehensive settlement but the negation of a comprehensive settlement. September 2000 was an historic turning point as decisive as November 1947, when the Arab world rejected U.N. partition. To insist otherwise is to risk repeating the Oslo syndrome of Palestinian deception and Israeli self-deception. And that's precisely what happened recently with the Geneva Accord, a bit of freelance diplomacy between left-wing Israelis, who obviously don't speak for the Sharon government, and Palestinians linked to Yasser Arafat. Even as Israelis who participated in these negotiations were heralding the Palestinians' renunciation of the right of return, Kadoura Fares, a Palestinian delegate to the talks, was reassuring his people that he had done no such thing. Indeed, to expect Arafat's regime to uphold its commitments is absurd. The fence, then, is Israel's acknowledgment that the Palestinian leadership - in this generation at least - won't honor any commitments to respect Israel's legitimacy.

The main objection to the fence, which is scheduled for completion in 2005, is that it doesn't adhere to the pre-1967 green line but deviates "deep" into the West Bank. In fact, at most points, the fence either winds close to the green line or extends several miles over it without compromising Palestinian territorial contiguity - hardly the massive land grab warned against by opponents. So far, 108 miles of fence have been completed in the northwestern part of the West Bank, and about 1.5 percent of the West Bank has been incorporated into the Israeli side. If the fence is eventually extended to include Ariel - a town of 18,000 residents, which the Camp David negotiations included within the eventual borders of Israel - it will protrude, finger-shaped, about 15 miles into the territories. Yet even then the fence will encompass only a few percentage points of the West Bank. (The highest figure I've encountered is 10 percent.) And, note Israeli officials, the fence can be moved or even dismantled.

Still, that apologetic argument misses the point, which is that the fence must violate the green line. Building the fence on the 1967 border would play into the Palestinian strategy by creating the outlines of a de facto Palestinian state in all of the West Bank, without requiring the Palestinians to cease terrorism or genuinely recognize Israel. Building over the green line, by contrast, reminds Palestinians that every time they've rejected compromise - whether in 1937, 1947, or 2000 - the potential map of Palestine shrinks. That message is the exact opposite of the left-wing trajectory of increased concessions under fire - from Camp David to Taba to Geneva. The fence is a warning: If Palestinians don't stop terrorism and forfeit their dream of destroying Israel, Israel may impose its own

map on them. Indeed, the fence is a reminder that the 1967 border isn't sacrosanct. Legally, the West Bank is extraterritorial: The international community didn't recognize Jordan's annexation, and, because Palestine isn't being restored but invented, its borders are negotiable.

The only justification for withdrawal to the green line is pragmatism. Most Israelis would accept an approximate withdrawal to the 1967 borders in exchange for genuine Palestinian acceptance of Jewish sovereignty on this land. Reinstating the green line, then, would be a reward for peace, not war. But what we've learned in the decade since Oslo began is that "land for peace" was never an option. At best, Israel was being offered land for a cease-fire. And that is hardly justification for returning to the precarious 1967 lines.

That's especially true for Jerusalem. The Oslo negotiations left the fate of Jerusalem for last, assuming that the joint administering of this fragile city would require a level of trust between Palestinians and Israelis possible only after a prolonged process of reconciliation. Precisely the opposite has happened. Thanks, ironically, to Oslo, which subjected the Palestinians to a decade of Palestinian Authority propaganda glorifying hatred of Israel - in schools, mosques, and the media - Palestinians are far less prepared for peace than they were before Oslo. The result of Palestinian hatred and Israeli mistrust is that sharing the administration of Jerusalem has become untenable. Imagine the effect on the Jewish presence within the Old City today, for example, if Palestinian police were positioned on its walls. "Sharing" Jerusalem means dismembering it. A fence around Jerusalem, then, isn't only a buffer against suicidal terrorists but against suicidal blueprints.

Palestinians have begun calling the fence "The Apartheid Wall." In fact, it is neither apartheid nor a wall. The first surprise in encountering the fence is that it really is a fence. Except for about five miles of concrete wall near the West Bank cities of Tulkarm and Kalkilya, which is necessary to prevent sniper attacks on an adjacent Israeli highway, the projected 370-mile barrier is an electrified fence mounted with surveillance cameras and flanked by trenches and barbed-wire pyramids.

The second surprise is the similarity of the landscape on either side of the fence, especially in the area known as the "Triangle," the mostly Arab-populated area of pre-1967 Israel bordering the West Bank and parallel to the coastal plain. On both sides are white stone houses, olive groves, and minarets; the only difference is that the houses and fields in the Arab-Israeli towns and villages are larger and more prosperous. The fence, then, doesn't separate Arabs and Jews but primarily Palestinians and Israelis - Israeli Arabs as well as Jews. One of the most common complaints about the fence that I've heard from Israeli Jews, on the left as well as the right, is that it leaves the Triangle, which is the center of Arab-Israeli Islamic fundamentalism, within Israel's borders.

Separating West Bank Palestinians from Israeli Palestinians is, in fact, a crucial by-product of the fence. Throughout the 1990s, tens of thousands of West Bank Palestinians illegally crossed into Israel and are living in Arab communities in the Triangle and the Galilee. Frustrating that silent "return" is an essential part of Israel's struggle to maintain its Jewish majority. And it's one of the reasons, according to Israeli Defense Ministry Director-General Amos Yaron, that Palestinian leaders are so outraged by the fence.

Certainly, the fence causes serious hardship to many Palestinians. According to B'Tselem, the Israeli human rights organization, the fence will cause economic or social dislocation for some 200,000 Palestinians.

The fence will separate farmers from their lands in 36 villages. Israel is trying to minimize the damage. It has built 41 "agricultural gates" along the fence exclusively for the use of farmers. And the army has replanted olive trees uprooted by the fence. But those efforts don't compensate for a brutal reality. Palestinian farmers trying to get to their fields complain of complications at the gates, including an inability to bring in trucks on which to load large quantities of crops.

Read the rest of this article at:

Views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect those of israelinsider.

# FENCING OUT THE TERRORISTS

Barry Rubin

National Post, January 26, 2004

Israel's most urgent strategic need today is the completion of a comprehensive security fence along the edge of the West Bank. At home, failure to understand this vital effort is extraordinarily foolish. Abroad, those opposing this project are denying Israel the most elementary right of defense for its citizens while ensuring that the current conflict will be longer and bloodier.

Controversies about the precise route of the fence are a needless distraction from this urgent task. Protect Israel's own territory now and deal with other areas later. The current, more limited, plan for the fence's route would affect a very small portion of the West Bank and very few Palestinians.

But like everything about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the fence issue has become wrapped in such bizarre mystifications, misperceptions and outright lies as to become unrecognizable. Indeed, it is a good case study of the double standards and utter nonsense which so often prevail in discussions on these matters.

Let's start at the beginning. Supposedly, the Palestinians want their own state, separate from and alongside Israel. Anything that sets off these two territories, then, is a step in that direction and is in their interests. But the Palestinian leadership campaigned against this fence, and indeed against the idea of permanent separation initiated by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, for two reasons.

First, because the Palestinian leadership's main strategy is based on Israel's population being vulnerable to terrorism.

Second, because Yasser Arafat's goal remains the conquest of Israel rather than achieving an independent Palestinian state. A state, in his thinking, can be accepted only if it does not interfere with the continued struggle to get everything.

Much of the world has accepted the anti-fence argument. It is portrayed in cartoons as a tool of apartheid and even genocide or an attempt to grab large portions of the West Bank.

Such is the luxury of people who can pretend that the only problem in the Middle East is Israel's attempt to defend itself, ignoring the fact that there have been scores of attacks across what is actually an open border. Suicide bombers easily walk or are driven around scattered checkpoints, and explosives are smuggled through the same routes with relatively little difficulty or risk. Any country in the world faced with such a situation would build a barrier and no one would challenge that right.

Moreover, anti-Israel claims regarding the fence ignore the simple and obvious fact that the opposition to it within Israel has come from the right-wing. To them, the fence does not represent "seizing" 3% of the West Bank but in effect giving up 97%. Underneath all the double talk, their argument represents a cynical idea that they will get more support if everyone within Israel face risks equal to those of settlers who have chosen to live deep inside the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

But even from their standpoint, opposition to the fence is a serious mistake. By improving Israel's defenses, such a barrier will open up forces and resources which will let the army better concentrate on defending those who live beyond it. And by reducing Israeli casualties, it will strengthen the country's political will and economic ability to sustain the war that has been forced on the country.

While the fence does symbolize Israel's willingness in principle to give up the vast majority of the West Bank, though, it is clearly a temporary measure against an immediate threat. This is easily demonstrated by precedent. For example, Israel has repeatedly dismantled expensive security structures--in the Sinai and later in the West Bank--when a perceived opportunity for peace and diplomatic agreements required such steps.

In addition, the fence is not being built eagerly for political reasons, but reluctantly for self-defense purposes. Israel has huge needs for spending in social services, education and every other sector of society. No one would want

to waste money on a fence unless the danger was so daily that this option proved a necessity. If Palestinian attacks were to stop, or even if the Palestinian leadership would make a real attempt to prevent them, the fence project would be immediately stopped.

Aside from the political arguments, there are many ludicrous claims that such a fence would not be effective. People whose lives are not at stake and who are ignorant on such matters should be ignored in this case.

We are not talking about some barbed wire garden fence that can be snipped with metal clippers. It is to be built along the best strategically defensive route using state-of-the-art sensors and electronic surveillance equipment. As a result, nighttime no longer offers a cover for infiltrators. If terrorists or scouts approach, troops can quickly be rushed to the scene from installations; if anyone gets through, there will be an immediate warning on that spot and the pursuit can begin before they have gotten very far.

This is a method that has worked on the perimeter of the Gaza Strip and on the Lebanon border. The technology is so good that other countries, like India, are eager to buy it for their own border defences.

Will this mean the number of successful terrorist attacks within Israel and the immediately adjacent area will fall to zero? Probably not. It will "merely" mean that the overwhelmingly majority of attacks will be stopped with hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries averted.

And despite the complaints of the Palestinian leadership, it will be good for their people also. The fewer successful terrorist attacks in Israel, the less the need for Israeli retaliatory and defensive operations. Lower Israeli casualties will translate into lower Palestinian casualties.

Equally important, by showing that Arafat's terrorism strategy has failed, it would encourage Palestinians to end the war and engage in serious peace negotiations. As long as the killing of Israelis gives them the "satisfaction" of "vengeance" and the belief in the victory of armed struggle, the warfare and suffering will continue.

(Barry Rubin is director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) in Herzliya, Israel.)



# Freedman: Israel's fence and America's double standard

By Ilana Freedman

Friday, February 13, 2004

Earlier this week, a photograph of a weeping Palestinian woman appeared in the international press. Standing in front of Israel's new separation wall, part of the barrier now being built around the West Bank, the photograph showed her with her hands covering her eyes. The wall behind her was adorned with graffiti in both Arabic and English. A truly heart-rending photograph, I thought. Until I saw a second photograph, taken from a different angle and further away. This photograph showed the same woman, surrounded by photographers, who were covering her tears from every position. Not surprisingly, no newspaper carried this photograph.

That is not to say that there isn't a great deal to cry about in a land that has been torn apart by a conflict that seems to have no end. But this was clearly a photo op, photojournalists creating news instead of reporting it. It was deceptive and inflammatory, and illustrated the worst of what too much of today's cynical journalism has to offer.

Israel's controversial barrier, the backdrop of this staged drama, is an excellent example of how words and images can be used to shape opinion in the guise of reporting the news. One of the latest verbal controversies is whether the structure that snakes around the West Bank, separating Israel from the West Bank, is an "Apartheid Wall" (as the Palestinians call it), or a "Security Fence" (as the Israelis refer to it).

Language, like photographs, can have great power, and the emotional content of loaded symbols can lead opinion and shape history. "Apartheid Wall" conjures up ugly images of the old South Africa, where blacks were kept separate from the mainstream culture by a system of brutal laws and customs that kept them at the bottom of society. The "Berlin Wall," as Palestinians also call the Israeli project, is no less evocative, the highly emotional image of a city torn in half by a wall running through its heart. The labels are intended to inflame and evoke an emotional response that casts Israel deep into the role of tyrant and aggressor.

What is the truth about the barrier? The truth is that it is both fence and wall. More than 97 percent of this \$200 million, 480 mile security barrier will consist of a chain-link fence system that supports an intrusion detection system designed to warn against infiltrations. These sections are rarely photographed and hardly ever mentioned in press reports. What is frequently shown, however, is the less than 3 percent of the fence which is constructed of massive concrete slabs. These walls are built only in places where Israeli towns are close to Palestinian towns and where Israeli vehicles traveling on main highways are targets for shooters from the adjacent towns. These short concrete sections are intended to stop terrorists from infiltrating and to block them from shooting at their Israeli neighbors.

When finished, the barrier will effectively seal the border between Israel and the Palestinians. But it is neither an Apartheid Wall nor a Berlin Wall. Apartheid separated people of color from Caucasians in a cruelly segregated South Africa. The Berlin Wall divided a single, formerly unified city, separating families and severing the ties of commerce between East and West Berlin.

But Israel's barrier does neither. In the present climate, it is safe to say that Israel and the Palestinians are at war. The wall does not divide a country as much as it separates enemies. Even as the Palestinians demand a nation in which no Jews may live, they condemn the Israelis for creating a barrier to the co-mingling of the populations. They infiltrate well-guarded borders to commit mass murders against the civilian population. But they are outraged when Israel seals its borders and prevents Palestinian laborers from working in Israel's factories.

The reason for the barrier is simple. At its inception, it was not a popular idea and many Israelis argued vehemently against it. But as the death toll from the 40-month old intifada continued to climb to nearly a thousand Israeli victims, the ravages of suicide bombers and drive-by shootings made it increasingly clear that a separating barrier would provide significant relief.

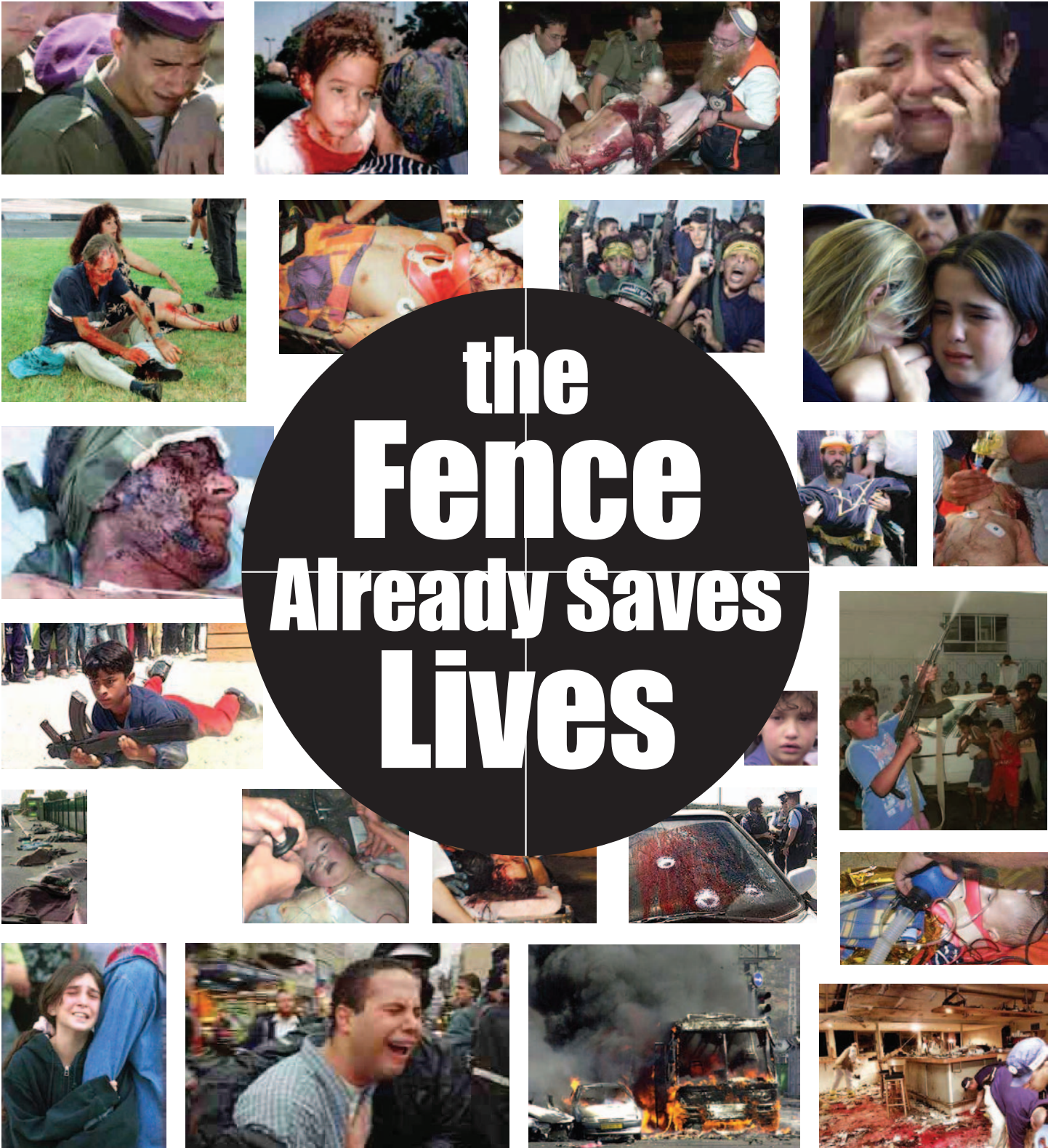
Had there been no terrorism, there would be no fence. On the other hand, had there been a fence separating the West Bank from Jerusalem, 11 people who were murdered on Bus #19 in Jerusalem last week would still be alive, because the terrorist, a Palestinian policeman from Bethlehem, would not have been able to enter the city.

For two years, we Americans have been fighting our own war against terrorism. Israel has been fighting the same enemy for many years more. Now Israel is being brought to the World Court in the Hague, and must defend her right to protect her own citizens, even as the world of nations clamors for her to have her right to self defense taken away.

How long, I wonder, would we Americans permit terrorists to blow up our buses and murder our children on the streets of our own cities? Would we not do whatever was necessary to stop the terror and protect our citizens?

America is mighty, a country of enormous size with a population of 280 million people. Israel, on the other hand, is tiny, the size of New Hampshire, with a population of only 6.5 million people. It is wrong to ask Israel to do less than we would do ourselves when the lives of her citizens are at risk. All too soon, if we do not firmly support Israel in her war against terror, we will be facing the same enemy on our own streets. Then, we may wonder why we quibbled about words, why we created a different standard for Israel than for ourselves, and why we didn't stand up for what we knew was right.

( Ilana Freedman, Senior Partner of Gerard Group International, is a specialist in counter-terrorism. She welcomes your comments at [ilana@gerardgroup.com](mailto:ilana@gerardgroup.com). )



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