

Petition to Stop and Demolish the Apartheid Wall **Immediately**

We the Undersigned call upon President George Bush, the European Union, and the United Nations Development Fund to use all their influence to **Stop! Now! the Apartheid Wall that Israel is building in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

The construction of the wall:

1. expropriates large tracts of Palestinian land—up to 98% of the agricultural lands of some villages and 60% of the territory of the West Bank,
2. already in its first phase (3.5% of the entire length) effectively deprives 6.500 persons of their work affecting over 55.000 individuals,
3. transforms fertile Palestinian agricultural land and orchards into wastelands,
4. separates villages from their farm lands and orchards, the main or only sources of income for many,
5. demolishes Palestinian homes (by March 2003, 280 demolition orders had been issued),
6. deprives Palestinian villages of sources of water, locating these sources in Israeli territory,
7. severs 16 villages from the rest of the West Bank already in its first phase and separates Palestinian villages from each other, creating enclaves, and turning Palestinian communities into enclosed ghettos,
8. severely restricts the movement of Palestinians from one community to another and from their homes to their fields, thus making Palestinian travel yet more trying,
9. deprives villages of medical, educational, and other facilities, by cutting off villages that lack these from the cities that provide them,
10. directly harms at least 210,000 Palestinians, who live in sixty-seven villages, towns, and cities affected by the barrier,
11. de facto legitimizes and promotes the policy of the construction and expansion of settlements.

The construction of the Wall is hence in breach of the following articles and provisions of International Law and Conventions to which Israel is a formal signatory:

- I) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):
 - a. Article 17 stipulates that “no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property”
 - b. Article 25 entitles everyone to the right “to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family” and in Article 23 to “the right to work”
 - c. Article 13 entitles everyone to the right “to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State” and to the right “to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”
- II) IV. Geneva Convention (GC):
 - a. Article 53 states that “any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited”
 - b. Article 147 defines “extensive destruction and appropriation of property” as a “grave breach” of the Convention.
 - c. Article 33 stipulates that “no protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed”

d. Article 39 stipulates that "*protected persons [residents of occupied lands] who, as a result of the war, have lost their gainful employment, shall be granted the opportunity to find paid employment*"

The Apartheid Wall steals Palestinian land and expels Palestinians from their land for the sake of the Greater Israel. The Apartheid Wall will not guarantee security to Israel, because no security for Israel is possible without freedom and security for the Palestinians.

The Wall makes the establishment of a viable and sovereign Palestinian state impossible. It is instead part of a long-term policy of occupation, expulsion and discrimination that leads up to effective ethnic cleansing and the destruction of the material basis for the survival and development of the Palestinian society as a whole.

Hence the construction of the Apartheid Wall is a "**Crime of Apartheid,**" "which shall include similar policies and practices of racial segregation and discrimination as practiced in southern Africa," and is defined by the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid as a "**Crime against Humanity.**"

Hence I / we urge you to uphold international standards of justice, human rights and humanitarian law in compliance with Article 12 of the IV Geneva Convention stating the positive duty of third states to intervene as well as to respond to the demands for justice and peace expressed by worldwide civil society.

I / we therefore request you to develop initiatives, either on your own or in co-operation with other neutral and non-aligned States, that will require Israel to stop and demolish the Apartheid Wall and to return the confiscated land to its owners.

Signature