

# Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories & Photos

## Facts, Sources, and Ways You Can Help - [www.annainthemiddleeast.com](http://www.annainthemiddleeast.com)

### FACTS:

**Killed** since the beginning of the Second Intifada: **995** Jewish Israelis, **3843** Palestinians (MEPC, 2006; for up-to-date statistics: [www.mepec.org/resources/mrates.asp](http://www.mepec.org/resources/mrates.asp))

**Checkpoints:** Barriers manned by soldiers or border police used to control Palestinian pedestrian and vehicle access. Checkpoints are not only near the Green Line (the internationally-recognized border between Israel and the Palestinian Territories) but **mainly between Palestinian towns and villages**. There can be hundreds of **flying checkpoints** anywhere and anytime as well. Most checkpoints are closed overnight, blocking sick or pregnant villagers from getting to a hospital in emergencies.

**Roadblocks:** One meter-high concrete blocks or piles of rubble, dirt, or rocks used to prevent Palestinians from driving their vehicles on their roads.

**Settlements:** Jewish Israeli colonies on internationally-recognized Palestinian land.

- **International law prohibits** an occupying power from transferring citizens from its own territory to the occupied territory (Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 49).
- There are currently about **430,000 settlers** living on illegally occupied or annexed Palestinian land (**240,000** in the West Bank & **190,000** in East Jerusalem). In 2005, **8,000 settlers were evacuated** from Gaza and **13,000 new settlers** moved into other new or expanding settlements.
- **80%** of settlers are primarily motivated by **financial benefits** provided by the government, such as tax breaks and housing subsidies. **74%** of settlers would be **willing to leave** the Occupied Territories if offered compensation, but Israel spends more than **\$400 million** a year encouraging more citizens to move to the settlements, and **\$1 billion** more to protect and expand them.

### *The Wall:*

- If the Wall is completed as expected, **34.4%** of Palestinians will be separated from each other or from their land, and Israel will annex approximately **15%** of the West Bank, including **60-80%** of the region's most **fertile land** and **water** resources.
- **80%** of the Wall doesn't touch the Green Line, rather it cuts into the West Bank, trapping **274,000** Palestinians between the Wall and the 1967 border. About half of the trapped communities are expected to be **completely surrounded** by the Wall (UN OCHA).
- More than **120,000** Palestinian olive trees have been uprooted so far. **35,000 meters** of **water** infrastructure have been destroyed by bulldozers working on the Wall.

### *Prison:*

- Over **340** Palestinian **children** are being held in Israeli prisons or detention centers, mostly for alleged stone-throwing. Over **1,000** kids have been arrested since September 2000.
- More than **8,300** Palestinian political prisoners are being held in Israeli prisons, including about **840** administrative detainees, who can be held without charge indefinitely (Addameer, 2005).

### SOURCES of Facts and More Information:

**Addameer**, Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association: [www.addameer.org](http://www.addameer.org)

**AIC**, Alternative Information Center: [www.alternativenews.org](http://www.alternativenews.org)

**Amnesty International**, International Human Rights Protection: [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

**ARIJ**, Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem: [www.arij.org](http://www.arij.org)

**B'tselem**, Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories: [www.btselem.org](http://www.btselem.org)

**Breaking the Silence:** Testimonies of former Israeli soldiers: [www.breakingthesilence.org.il](http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il)

**Electronic Intifada**, Leading Palestinian Portal for News and Analysis: [www.electronicintifada.net](http://www.electronicintifada.net)  
**FMEP**, Foundation for Middle East Peace: [www.fmep.org](http://www.fmep.org)  
**Gush Shalom**, the Israeli Peace Bloc: [www.gush-shalom.org/english](http://www.gush-shalom.org/english)  
**HDIP**, Health Development Information and Policy Institute: [www.hdip.org](http://www.hdip.org)  
**ICAHD**, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: [www.icahd.org](http://www.icahd.org)  
**Palestine Monitor**, News from Palestinian Civil Society: [www.palestinemonitor.org](http://www.palestinemonitor.org)  
**Passia**, Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs: [www.passia.org](http://www.passia.org)  
**Settlement Watch**, a project of Peace Now: <http://www.peacenow.org.il/site/en/peace.asp?pi=51>  
**Stop the Wall**, by PENGON (Palestinian Environmental NGO Network): [www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org)  
**UN OCHA**, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: [www.reliefweb.int/hic-opt](http://www.reliefweb.int/hic-opt)

*Recommended reading on the history of the conflict (by Jewish & Palestinian scholars):*

- Tanya Reinhart, *Israel/Palestine: How to End the War of 1948*, NY: Seven Stories Press, 2002.
- Almost anything by Noam Chomsky, Edward Said, or Norman Finkelstein on the subject.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP BRING PEACE AND JUSTICE TO PALESTINE AND ISRAEL?**

1. ***Go to Palestine, or support someone who is*** – Just being there in solidarity and communicating your experiences to people back at home is one of the strongest statements you can make.

The following is a list of solidarity volunteer organizations for internationals in Palestine. Many of the Palestinian and Israeli organizations listed above also take volunteers and interns:

- International Women's Peace Service (IWPS) – [www.iwps.info](http://www.iwps.info)
- International Solidarity Movement (ISM) – [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org)
- Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine/Israel (EAPPI): [www.eappi.org](http://www.eappi.org)
- Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) – [www.cpt.org/hebron/hebron.php](http://www.cpt.org/hebron/hebron.php)
- Campagne Civile Internationale pour la Protection du Peuple Palestinien (CCIPPP): [www.protection-palestine.org](http://www.protection-palestine.org)
- Rabbis for Human Rights (RHR): [www.rhr.israel.net](http://www.rhr.israel.net)

If you're unsure, perhaps you want to see for yourself the situation. The following is a list of 3 organizations giving tours of the Palestinian territories: 1 international, 1 Palestinian, and 1 Israeli:

- Birthright Unplugged: [www.birthrightunplugged.org](http://www.birthrightunplugged.org)
- Holy Land Trust: <http://hltravel.org>
- Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD): [www.icahd.org](http://www.icahd.org)

2. ***Get involved locally*** – Local Palestine solidarity groups are organizing throughout the country. Many are listed on [www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org) and [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)
3. ***Call and write your representatives*** – Tell them that the U.S. must immediately stop giving American tax dollars to Israel for activities beyond the Green Line, whether to build a Wall, to move more settlers in, or to conduct military operations.
  - US House of Representatives – [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) – 800-839-5276 – Washington, D.C.
  - US Senate – [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)
4. ***Talk to your friends and families*** – Do your own research, and open a dialogue with people around you about the situation in Palestine. Remember that facts, maps, and international law are on your side, even if the American government isn't right now. You have the power to affect others in your community—so use it!

**Anna's Email:** [anna.baltzer@gmail.com](mailto:anna.baltzer@gmail.com)

**Anna's Website** (more stories & photos, sign-up to receive Anna's Updates from Palestine, purchase her book *Witness in Palestine* or a DVD of the presentation, etc): [www.annainthemiddleeast.com](http://www.annainthemiddleeast.com)

---

**Anna's Kansas City speaking event hosted by Citizens for Justice in the Middle East**  
**(913) 236-9825 – <http://www.cjme.org>**