

# Support the World Court Verdict against the Israeli Wall Urge the U.S. Government to Support Taking Down the Wall!

On July 9, 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled (14 to 1) that the Wall, which the Israeli government has been building in the occupied West Bank, is illegal, should be removed, and that Palestinians who have been adversely affected by it should be compensated.

The Israeli government has been building this wall inside the West Bank, which is Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967. When completed, the 400 miles of wall will surround many Palestinian cities and villages, making it impossible for the indigenous Palestinian population from moving about freely.

Israel will effectively annex 50% of the West Bank for its own exclusive use, and the remaining 50% will comprise small, disconnected regions, each surrounded by a physical wall or electrified fence and Israeli military.

The International Court of Justice ruled that this Wall is a violation of many international laws and treaties, including humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit an occupying power from removing indigenous people, settling its own people, inflicting collective punishment, and obstructing the self-determination of the occupied people.

The Court also ruled that every State, including the United States, has an obligation not only to end support for the construction of the Wall, but to actively oppose it.

The U.S. government, which gives Israel billions of dollars of military equipment each year, appears once again to be ready to disregard international law. Right after the decision of the Court was read, White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, and Secretary of State, Colin Powell, rejected the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in this matter.

Various Congressmen, including Senator Kerry, echoed the sentiment that international law is irrelevant when it comes to protecting the rights of Palestinians.

Not In My Name (NIMN), a predominantly Jewish organization working for a just peace between Israelis and Palestinians, urges all Americans to express support for the Court's decision. While the Court rejected Israel's claim that the Wall is justified by its need for security, NIMN also suggests that real security for both Israelis and Palestinians can only be attained when there is a lasting peace between the two people.



Israel constructed this prison wall around the Palestinian village of Qalqiliya, which is in the West Bank that Israel has occupied since 1967. There is one gate, which is locked at night.



This segment of the Wall snakes directly through Abu Dis, a Palestinian village near Jerusalem. It is designed to prevent Palestinians from going to the Old City, which is their religious, cultural, and economic center.

**This Wall is a primary obstacle to peace because it causes misery, poverty, and hatred.**

Therefore we call you, on our fellow Americans, to support and defend international law, support and defend the decision of the International Court of Justice, and oppose any attempt by our government to block, disregard, or trivialize this important verdict. In doing this, you will be helping both the Israelis and the Palestinians achieve peace.

**Give the Israelis and Palestinians a chance to build peace with each other:  
Tear Down This Wall!**

Please join our anti-Occupation Vigil, which we hold every Sunday from Noon-1pm: Water Tower Park (830 N Michigan)

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## What the International Court of Justice Decided

Ruled (14 to 1) that:

**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, is **contrary to international law**;

Ruled (14 to 1) that:

**Israel is under an obligation to terminate its breaches of international law**; it is under an obligation **to cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall** being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, **to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated**, and to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, in accordance with paragraph 151 of this Opinion.

Ruled (14 to 1) that:

**Israel is under an obligation to make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall** in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem.

Ruled (13 to 2) that:

**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 of 12 August 1949 have in addition the obligation, while respecting the United Nations Charter and international law, to ensure compliance by Israel with international humanitarian law as embodied in that Convention.

Ruled (14 to 1) that:

The United Nations, and especially the General Assembly and the Security Council, **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 régime, taking due account of the present Advisory Opinion.

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## Israel's Separation Wall—What is it?

**Israel began building the Wall in June, 2002.** When finished, it will have a total length of 400 miles—*inside the West Bank*—which is Palestinian Territory that Israel conquered in 1967.

**The Wall effectively annexes 50% of the West Bank to Israel.** The annexation of land acquired through war is illegal under international law, regardless of whether that war is offensive or defensive.

**Israel claims that the Wall is necessary to safeguard its citizens living both inside of Israel and within the Occupied West Bank.** It is illegal under international law to imprison an entire population. Furthermore, it is illegal

for an occupying power to transfer its own citizens into the territory it occupies. Therefore, all the Jewish-only settlements, which the wall supposedly is being built to protect, are themselves illegal.

**The Wall is an integral part of the process of colonizing the Occupied Palestinian Territory and squeezing the Palestinians off their land into ever-shrinking Bantustans.** The Palestinians are now allowed to live on only 11% of their historic homeland. Denied access to their farms, orchards, and pasture land, and prevented from traveling freely from village to village, unemployment has risen to 78% and malnutrition is at alarming levels.

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### Resources

**To read the Court's decision:**

[www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idocket.htm](http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idocket.htm)

**For information about the Wall:**

[www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org)

[www.gush-shalom.org](http://www.gush-shalom.org)

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### Not In My Name — [www.nimn.org](http://www.nimn.org)

We are a predominantly Jewish organization committed to working for a just peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

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