

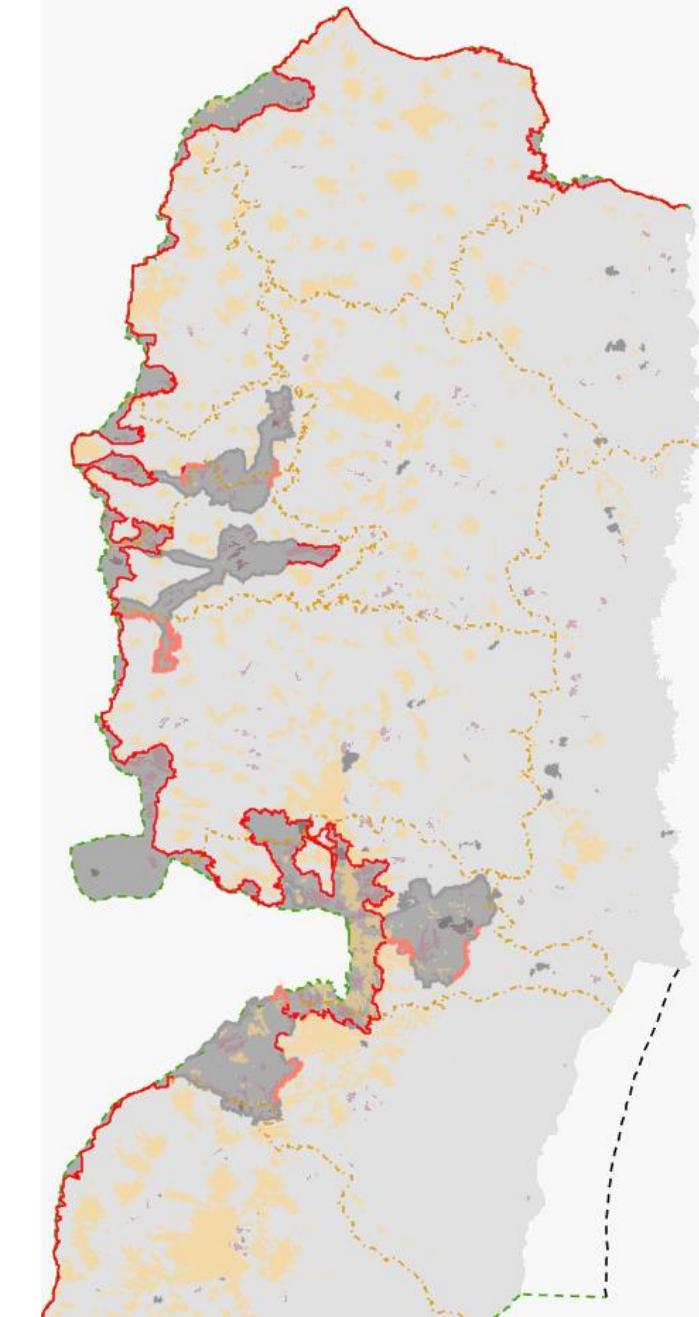
# GRAVE RISK TO THE OLIVE HARVEST ISRAELI RESTRICTIONS ON PALESTINIAN FARMING BEYOND THE SEPARATION BARRIER



# The Root of the Problem:

The route of the Barrier inside the West Bank.

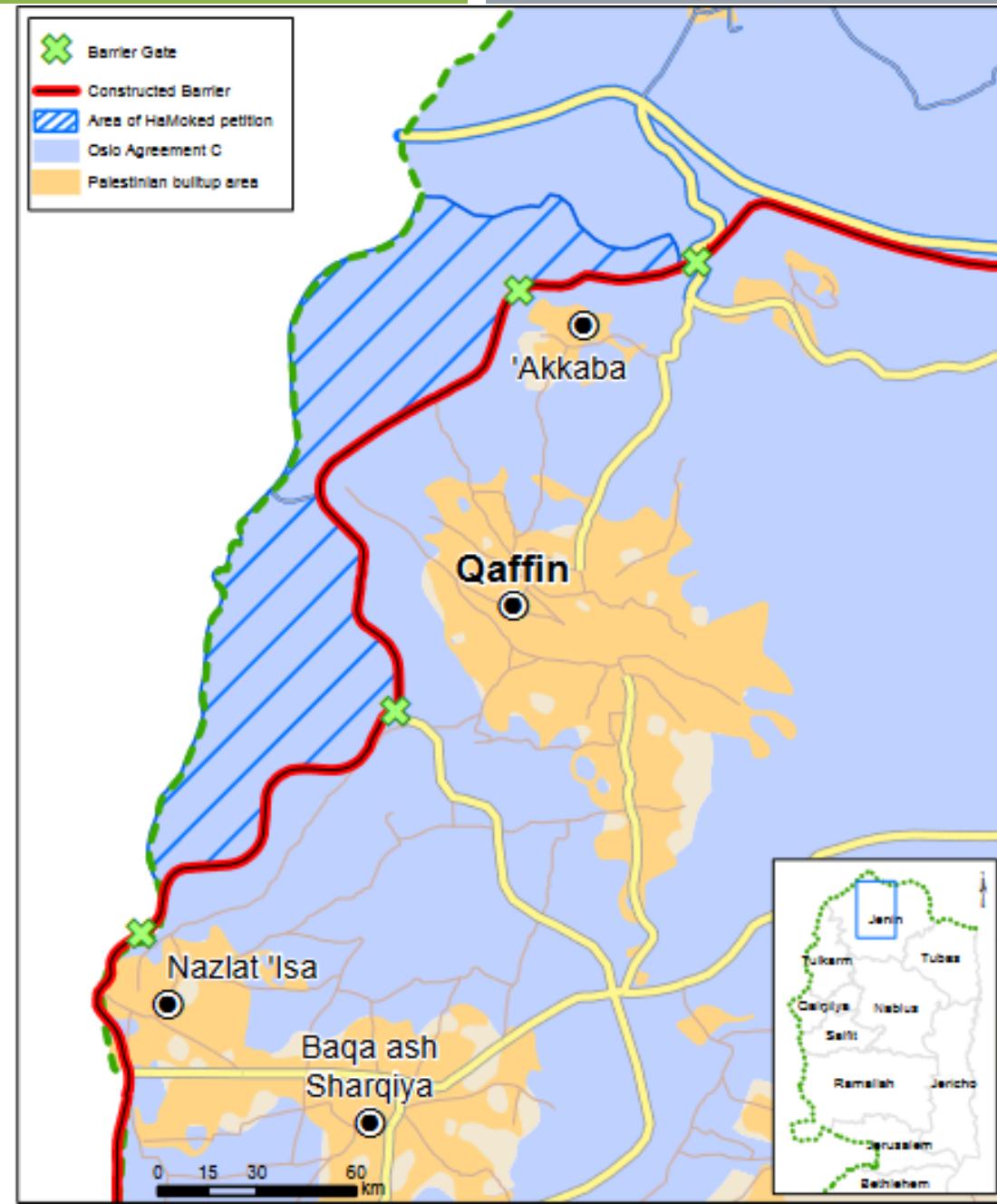
Isolates 9.4% of West Bank = the “Seam Zone”



150 Palestinian communities have farmlands beyond the Barrier

Qaffin: 50% of farmlands

Akkaba: 80% of farmlands



- ICJ Advisory Opinion (2004)
  - Israel's construction of the Separation Wall on occupied Palestinian territory contravenes international law;
  - Israel must dismantle the Wall and cancel the Seam Zone regime;
  - All states parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention should ensure Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law.
- ICJ Advisory Opinion (2024): Lack of compliance with 2004 opinion =>
  - The Seam Zone regime contravenes paragraph 3 CERD (i.e. apartheid).
  - The Wall = de facto annexation, in contravention of basic principles of international law as set forth in the UN charter.

## Position of Israel's High Court of Justice (2004)

- The Barrier is a legitimate security measure, but must not cause disproportionate harm to Palestinians.



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## Israel promised:

- GATES: “All those holding farmer permits will be able to pass through crossings that are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in case they wish to enter or leave the Seam Zone in order to cultivate their land.”
- PERMITS: “Palestinians with links to lands in the Seam Zone would continue to cultivate them, while enabling relatives and other workers to assist them”



The reality is from these promises

## The Reality: Highly Restrictive Regime of Permits & Gates

### Steady Deterioration:

- In 2014, over 20,000 Palestinians received Seam Zone permits for agricultural needs.
- In 2023, 6,397 Palestinians received such permits



Since October 7, 2023

- All gates closed
- All permits cancelled

Following HaMoked High Court petition:

- 3 days allowed for 2023 olive harvest;
- Gates opened for Palestinians with intensive, commercial agriculture received humanitarian permits (less than 1,200 permits issued)



# No Preparations for the 2024 Olive Harvest

## State response to HaMoked petition (September 2024):

9. ... It has therefore been decided to postpone opening the additional gates as described, until after the [Jewish] holidays, and ahead of the period of the olive harvest, at which time the Respondent will also prepare for the opening of seasonal gates. This subject to a situational security assessment at that time.



## Recommendations – Until Israel dismantles those portions of the Separation Barrier inside the West Bank, it must:

1. Grant all the necessary permits: for farmers, their extended families and the additional workers necessary to help with the harvest;
2. Open all of the gates long enough to enable a full and productive olive harvest.

The international community has a crucial role to play in ensuring that Israel meet these obligations.

