

GRAVE RISK TO THE OLIVE HARVEST

ISRAELI RESTRICTIONS ON PALESTINIAN FARMING

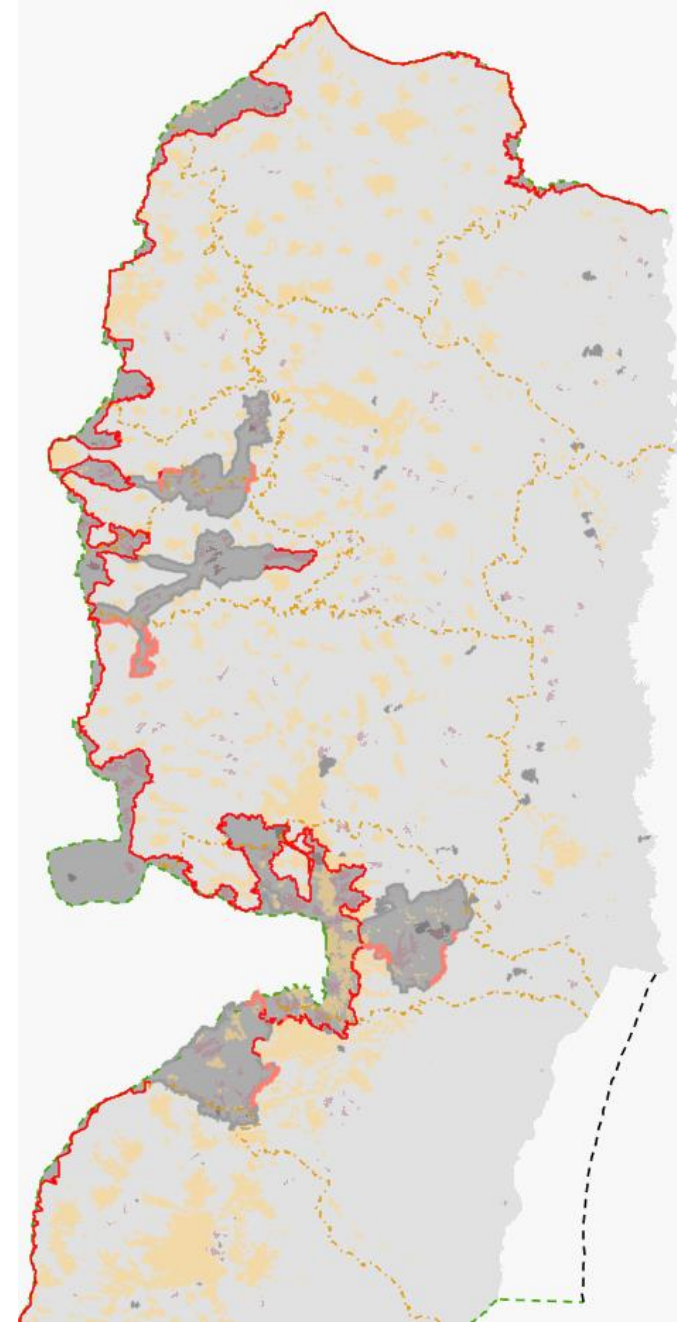
BEYOND THE SEPARATION BARRIER



The Root of the Problem:

The route of the Barrier inside the West Bank.

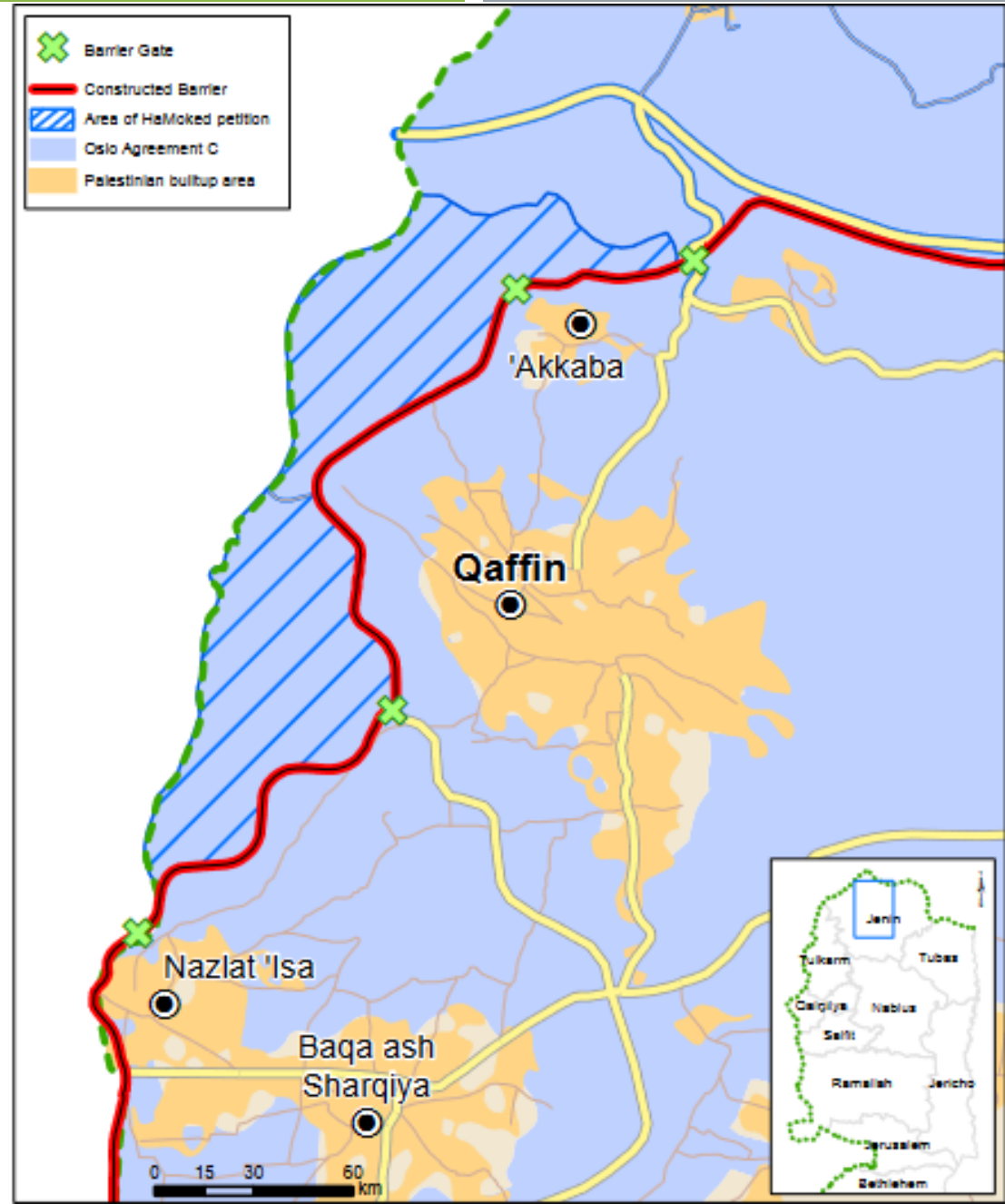
Isolates 9.4% of West Bank = the “Seam Zone”



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.

