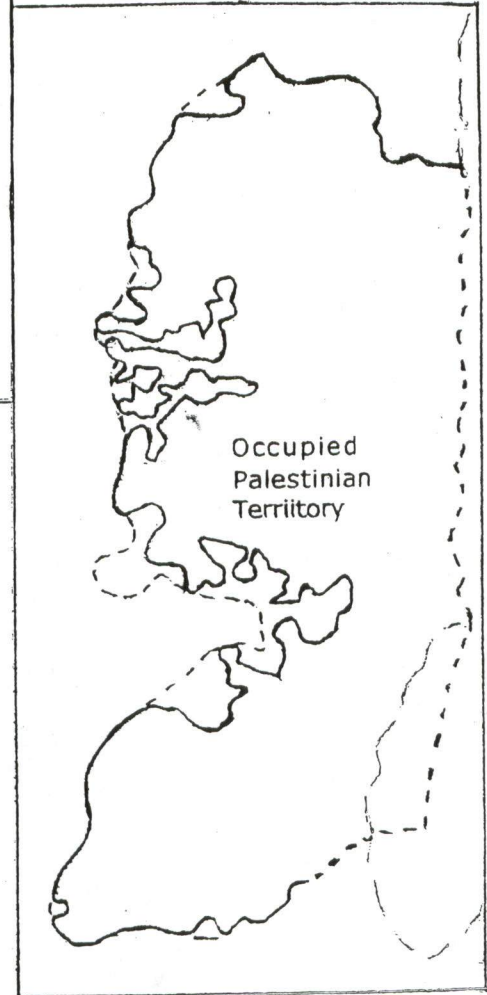
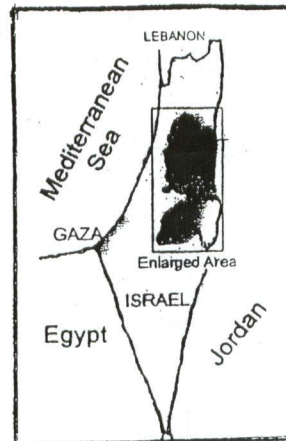


BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

IS ISRAEL'S SEPARATION BARRIER JUST ABOUT SECURITY?

Some Facts About the Barrier:

- Started in 2002, the Barrier is over half built. In urban areas it is a concrete wall up to 36 feet high with armed sniper towers. Elsewhere it is a 10-foot-high electrified fence surrounded by a buffer zone up to 330 feet wide with trenches, razor-wire coils and electronic sensors.
- Israel originally designed the Barrier to run along the internationally recognized border between Israel and Palestinian land held under military occupation since 1967. However, the constructed Barrier cuts deep into Palestinian land to include much of Israel's extensive network of Jewish-only settlements built in violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 465.*
- The path of the Barrier is set to envelop not only existing Israeli settlements but also space for their planned expansion, including prime Palestinian agricultural land and water resources.
- In 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled the Barrier illegal where it departs from Israel's recognized border. The U.N. General Assembly reaffirmed the court's judgment, but the U.S. vetoed a Security Council Resolution supporting the Court, and to date no effective international action as been taken to stop construction of the Barrier.
- Palestinians residing in the area between the recognized border and the Barrier are required to apply for permits to continue to live in their own homes on their own land. They are put under constant pressure to move from the area. For example, water and electricity are often arbitrarily interrupted, Barrier check points restrict and delay access to work, school and medical facilities, and harassment by Israeli settlers is regularly ignored by members of the Israeli Defence Force.



With these facts in mind, it's not hard to understand why Palestinians fear the Barrier is set to become a *de facto* border, precluding establishment of a viable Palestinian state. Without a viable Palestinian state, there can be no viable peace.

* In his book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, former president Jimmy Carter writes, "Israel decided to move the wall from the Israeli border to intrude deeply within Palestine to carve out some of their precious land for Israeli settlers to occupy."