ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Barrier

In July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, issued its advisory opinion on the Legal Consequences of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. While recognizing Israel’s right to “protect the life of its citizens” (para. 141), the ICJ stated that the sections of the Barrier which ran inside the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, together with the associated gate and permit regime, violated Israel’s obligations under international law.

It called on Israel to cease construction of the Barrier, including in and around East Jerusalem; dismantle the sections already completed; and “repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto”. The Court also called on all States “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” (para. 143).

Barrier constructed by Israel
2004 - 2007

Israel settlers in 20 settlements on Palestinian communities’ lands isolated by the Barrier

20,000

Severe restrictions on access to agricultural land leads to declining productivity and crop yield, devastating rural livelihoods in communities in the Biddu enclave.

Access for farmers at all seven agricultural gates in the Biddu enclave governed by a cumbersome and ineffective coordination system. At three of the gates there is also an even more restrictive permit regime in addition to the coordination system.

2014

40%

Decline in the number of gate opening days between January - October 2014 over the same period in 2013.

Gates opened twice a day by Israeli authorities for a maximum of 15 minutes at a time. If farmers miss the morning opening they cannot access their lands on that day. Once farmers have crossed, they are unable to return until second opening.

70% of the population are Palestine refugees

30,000 Israelis in 8 communities

0% 6% 9% 10% 31% 32% 38% 83%

Percentage of Palestinian communities’ lands isolated by the Barrier

Data on community land isolated by the Barrier from Applied Research Institute Jerusalem.

*Settlements in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law.

*Facts and figures from UNRWA Operations Support Officer Programme.

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