

10 Points about Israel's Security Barrier

The Security Fence is a result of Israel's basic commitment to defend its citizens from terrorism emanating from the West Bank. Though still incomplete, it has already improved the ability of the Israeli security forces to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and criminal elements into Israel for the purpose of carrying out terrorist attacks or the smuggling of arms and explosives.

1. **THE TERM, "WALL" IS NOT ACCURATE.** Only 3% of the security barrier (in high risk areas) will be a wall. The remainder is a chain link fence.
2. **THE FENCE HAS CUT TERRORISM BY 90%.** Though not yet complete, the security fence has been successful in reducing terrorism in Israel by more than 90%.
3. **THERE WAS NO FENCE** between the West Bank and Israel prior to the campaign of violence launched by Palestinian terrorists against Israeli civilians in 2000. The fence is a direct response to this deadly wave of terrorism.
4. **MANY NATIONS WORLD WIDE HAVE BUILT FENCES** to separate from their neighbors for economic or security reasons. There are even numerous fences built on disputed land, including a Saudi fence begun in 2004 to cut off the smuggling of arms and people across the porous border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Some fences make good neighbors.
5. **THERE ARE NO NATURAL BARRIERS** between Israel and the West Bank, which has enabled the almost unhindered entry of terrorists into Israel in the past. A similar problem between Israel and Gaza has been solved, as a security fence there has proven highly effective in thwarting nearly all infiltration attempts from Gaza into Israel.
6. **THE FENCE IS NO BERLIN WALL.** Though some opponents of the fence attempt to liken Israel's fence to the Berlin Wall, it is simply not so. The purpose of Israel's fence, like many security fences around the world, is to keep potentially dangerous non-citizens out, not to keep people in as was the purpose of the Berlin wall.
7. **THE SECURITY FENCE BASICALLY FOLLOWS THE "GREEN LINE"** or 1949 Israel/Jordan Armistice Line. It deviates only to protect significant populations in existing Israeli communities close to the Green Line. These communities have been the frequent targets of terrorist attacks and need protection from this imminent threat.
8. **THE FENCE PLACEMENT IS NOT A "LAND GRAB" OR FINAL BORDER.** In fact, it was first conceived as a series of small barriers to stop terrorists in several high risk areas, but it soon became clear that a continuous barrier was needed to effectively keep terrorists from entering Israel. The fence can easily be (and in some cases has already been) moved. Peaceful negotiations will determine final borders.
9. **ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT AND COURTS REDUCED THE IMPACT OF THE FENCE** on nearby Palestinian residents. In most cases the fence was built on publicly owned land. Where this proved impossible, Israel has paid compensation or rent to land owners and arranged special access to Palestinian farmers separated from parts of their land. Palestinians inconvenienced by the fence route have full and speedy recourse in Israeli courts and the fence has been rerouted in several places to accommodate these appeals.
10. **MANY PALESTINIANS CONTINUE TO WORK AND CONDUCT BUSINESS IN ISRAEL.** By halting terrorist infiltrations into Israel, the fence will put a stop to the need for closures between the territories and Israel that follow terrorist attacks, thus helping the Palestinian and Israeli economies in stabilizing the flow of labor and commerce. The fence has already resulted in fewer security checkpoints and roadblocks in the West Bank.

"THE BARRIER WILL FACILITATE A TWO-STATE SOLUTION, NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO IT."

- Washington Institute for Near East Policy, March 2005