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# DECODE JERUSALEM

an alternative travel guide

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# INTRODUCTION

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Decode Jerusalem is an invitation to stroll around East Jerusalem and to discover different aspects of the Israeli occupation that has been going on since 1967. The idea is to give you hints of places to visit which are representative of how the policies of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict affect the lives of the people living in and around Jerusalem. As the guide gives you only a rough framework of indications as to which places to visit, it is up to your own curiosity to stroll around the different places and discover the different realities surrounding the Old City. Take Decode Jerusalem as a tool that allows you to broaden your understanding of the conflict and helps you make sense of what you see and experience. For every location the guide gives you assorted opinions, those of Palestinians paired with those of the United Nations and Israelis, in order to enable you to get a feeling of what the occupation is about. Besides the different facts you are introduced to, the guide also provides you with information on special aspects of the urban landscape in order to make it possible for you to recognize the symptoms of the conflict also in places that might not be included in Decode Jerusalem.

The structure of Decode Jerusalem is based on four important view points placed on the hills around the city: Mount of Olives, Augusta Victoria Hospital, Hebrew University and the Ramparts Walk. In a first step the travel guide brings you to those places and indicates you the angle of view on a satellite map. In a second step what you see from these panoramic view points is decoded for you in order to give you the possibility to understand what you are looking at. Like this Decode Jerusalem introduces you to some of the most delicate topics which arise by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

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## ADVICE

Although for most places it is possible to just drive through by bus and get an idea of what is happening, it is important to get off the bus and walk around the places in order to give yourself the time to process the things you are seeing and to get in touch with them.

Women travellers going to Palestinian neighbourhoods should wear long sleeves and long trousers in order to show respect for the local culture and thus avoiding harassments. In most places, men trying to approach Western women can be stopped by greeting them with "al salam alykom".

In Israel there is a conflict ongoing, so those who want to visit the places described in Decode Jerusalem should be aware that they are moving in a conflict area. We therefore would like to remind you that the use of the guide is at your own risk.

# JERUSALEM

## GENERAL CONTEXT

**[ In 2007 there was the 40th anniversary of the 1967 war: Israel was celebrating 40 years of reunification while Palestinians were commemorating 40 years of occupation. ]**

**[ "We were talking two completely different languages. They were thinking they were liberating the land, and we were thinking they were occupying the land."  
(Ibrahim Dakkak, a Palestinian builder) ]**

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The State of Israel was declared in 1948 by decision of the United Nations. Immediately after its declaration a war between the State of Israel and the surrounding Arab nations broke out. The 1948 war ended with Israeli forces controlling West Jerusalem and Jordanian forces controlling the eastern part of the city, including the Old City. A ceasefire agreement was reached dividing the city along what came to be known as the Green Line: the border recognized by the international community.

During the 6-day war in 1967, Israel occupied a large piece of Jordanian territory known as the West Bank. Most of this territory was placed under military government, but the eastern part of Jerusalem, together with some 28 villages around the city, was annexed and made officially part of Israel. The United Nations recognize the Green Line – the border set after the war in 1948 – as the official Israeli border. The occupation and the annexation of East Jerusalem is internationally contested as it breaches the Geneva Conventions which set the rules of warfare. With a number of resolutions the UN Security Council called upon Israel to return to the status pre-1967 – which meant to withdraw from the West Bank – but those resolutions were all ignored.

The measures used by Israel in occupying the Palestinian territories, which violate international humanitarian law in numerous ways, are monitored by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Reports are regularly published on their regional website: [www.ochaopt.org](http://www.ochaopt.org)



**U.N. Partition Plan 1947**



**Israel and the Occupied Territories from 1967**



**Israel and the emerging Palestinian state**

# JERUSALEM

## CIRCLES OF CONTROL

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Israel has set up a complex system of laws that regulate the lives of the Palestinians and with it their access to Jerusalem: Palestinians living in East Jerusalem hold a blue Jerusalem ID which identifies them as permanent residents, but not as Israeli citizens. This means that every year they have to prove that their centre of life is in East Jerusalem, otherwise they lose their status as residents forever and have to move out of the city. In this way the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem are trapped inside the city, unable to move (e.g. for work) to another city for a couple of years. If they do so, they will not be allowed to live in their native city anymore. Being a Jerusalem resident means also that you have a different set of rights from an Israeli citizen; for example, you are not allowed to vote for the Knesset although you live in a place Israel considers its territory. If these residents wanted to become Israeli citizens they would first have to give up their Jordanian citizenship, but according to Jordanian law this is impossible – a Jordanian citizen stays Jordanian.

For Palestinians living in the West Bank and thus holding a green West Bank ID, the access to East Jerusalem is very restricted: they need special permits to enter the city and even if they are married to a person holding a Jerusalem ID they are legally not allowed to live in Jerusalem. The restrictions had been progressively put into force since 1967, but with the outbreak of the second Intifada they became even stricter. Now East Jerusalem is isolated from the West Bank and this causes severe problems to the Palestinian community. Imagine that, even if you are ill and need urgent treatment in one of the hospitals in East Jerusalem, you need to go through a complex system in order to obtain an entry permit.

Another way for cutting Jerusalem off the West Bank is the establishment of settlements around the Old City. Today some 250,000 Jews live in annexed East Jerusalem, accounting for about 45% of the residents in this area.

Like three circles of control, the Israeli settlements are strategically positioned around the Old City. The first circle goes around the Haram Al-Sharif / Temple Mount, inside the walls of the Old City, and is made up of single houses. The second circle is set around the Old City, with Jewish settlers

**[ Jerusalem is the centre of the Palestinian as well as the Israeli society, but since the annexation in 1967 Israel has adopted a series of strategies to isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank and thereby from the Palestinian community. ]**

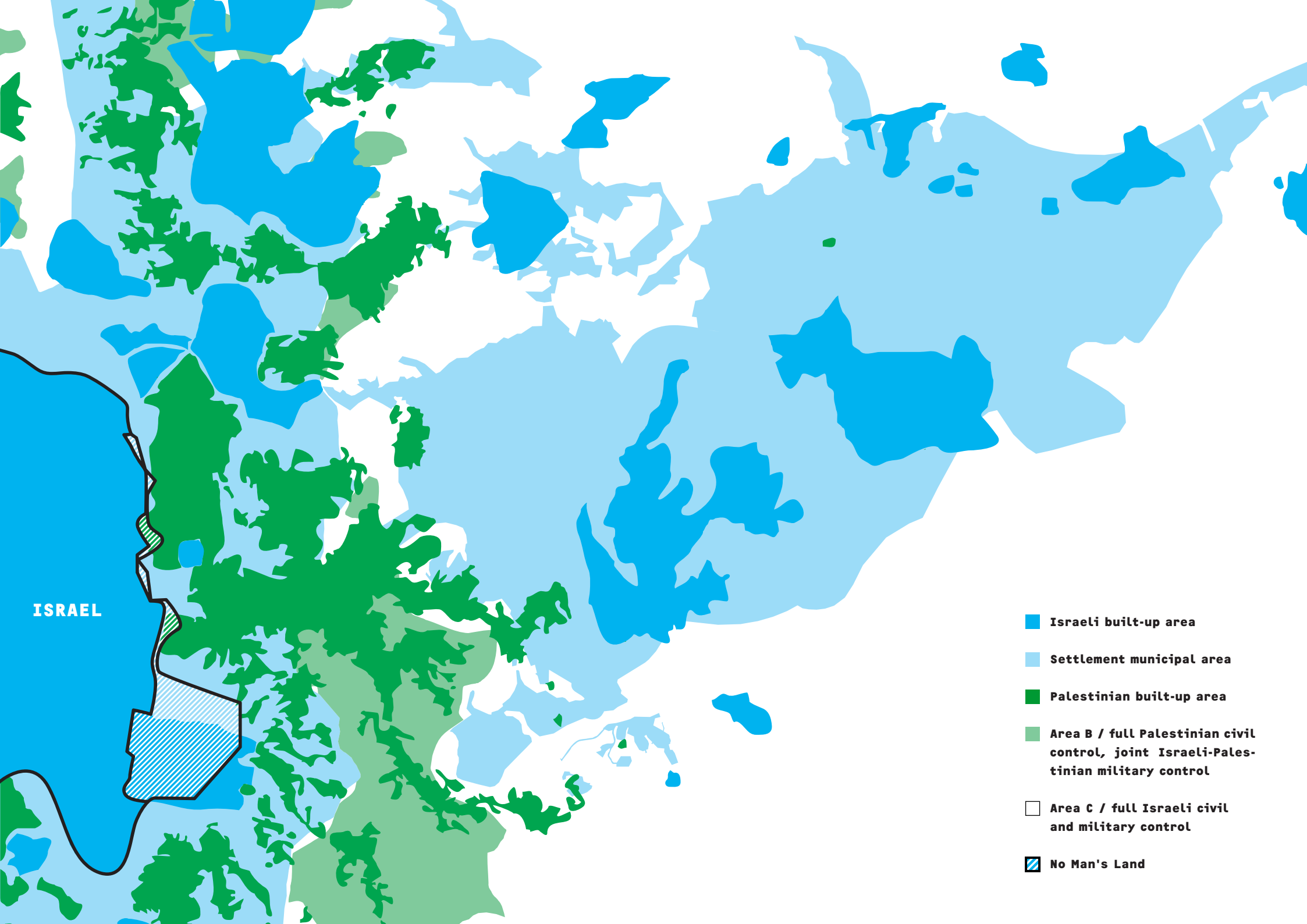
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taking over large pieces of Palestinian neighbourhoods. And finally the third circle of control consists of vast settlements that were newly built on confiscated land.

While Jewish settlements are growing in East Jerusalem, for Palestinians it is almost impossible to obtain a building permit. So they build illegally in order to meet their needs and must thus live with the ever present threat of their house being demolished.

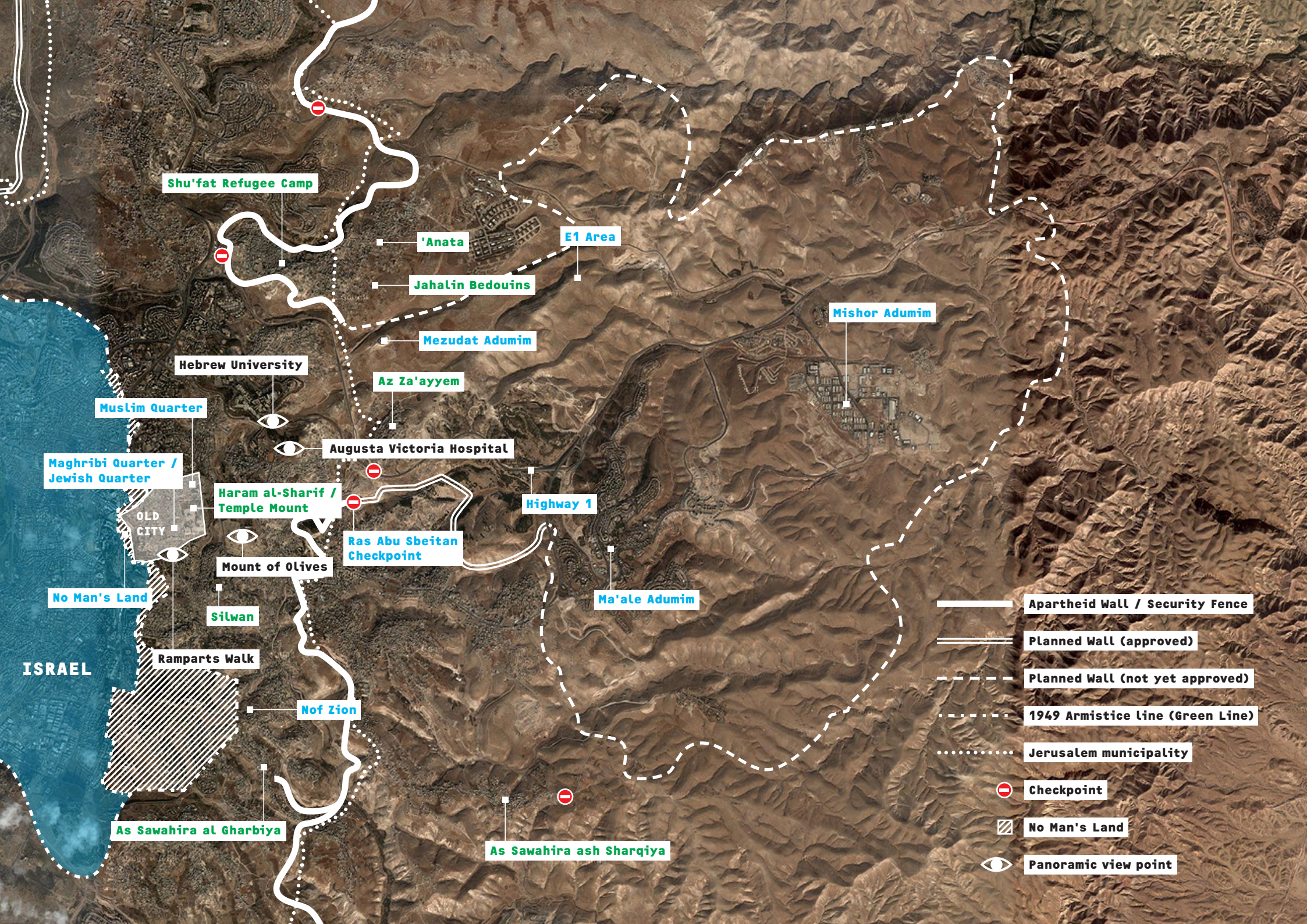
Yet another way to make life hard for Palestinians in Jerusalem is the city's tax system. While all Jerusalem residents pay the same taxes, Arab neighbourhoods are without pavements, parks or municipal services because – officially – the municipality needs the money for more important things, for example, to maintain the unemployed ultra-orthodox Jewish community. This unbalanced distribution of public money divides Jerusalem into two very different cities and you can often hop from one to the other simply by crossing the street.

The source of all this discriminatory treatment is the official Israeli policy of making sure that Jews remain the clear majority in Jerusalem and excluding the possibility of Jerusalem becoming the capital of a viable Palestinian state.



ISRAEL

- Israeli built-up area
- Settlement municipal area
- Palestinian built-up area
- Area B / full Palestinian civil control, joint Israeli-Palestinian military control
- Area C / full Israeli civil and military control
- ▨ No Man's Land



Shu'fat Refugee Camp

'Anata

E1 Area

Jahalin Bedouins

Mezudat Adumim

Mishor Adumim

Hebrew University

Az Za'ayem

Muslim Quarter

Maghribi Quarter / Jewish Quarter

Augusta Victoria Hospital

Haram al-Sharif / Temple Mount

Highway 1

Ras Abu Sbeitan Checkpoint

Ma'ale Adumim

No Man's Land

Mount of Olives

Silwan

Ramparts Walk

Nof Zion

ISRAEL

As Sawahira al Gharbiya

As Sawahira ash Sharqiya

Apartheid Wall / Security Fence

Planned Wall (approved)

Planned Wall (not yet approved)

1949 Armistice Line (Green Line)

Jerusalem municipality

Checkpoint

No Man's Land

Panoramic view point



# 👁️ PANORAMIC VIEW POINT

## MOUNT OF OLIVES



**ABOUT THE VIEW POINT:** The Jewish graveyard at the Mount of Olives, which has been in use since biblical times, is the place where the Messiah will begin to redeem the dead once he has come to earth. From 1948 to 1967 Jordan built a road through the cemetery, destroying some thousand graves.

**WHY GO THERE:** It is the best view of the Old City, which is at the centre of the many peace talks in the region.

**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the blue Palestinian bus 75 or enjoy the 30-minute walk from Damascus Gate.

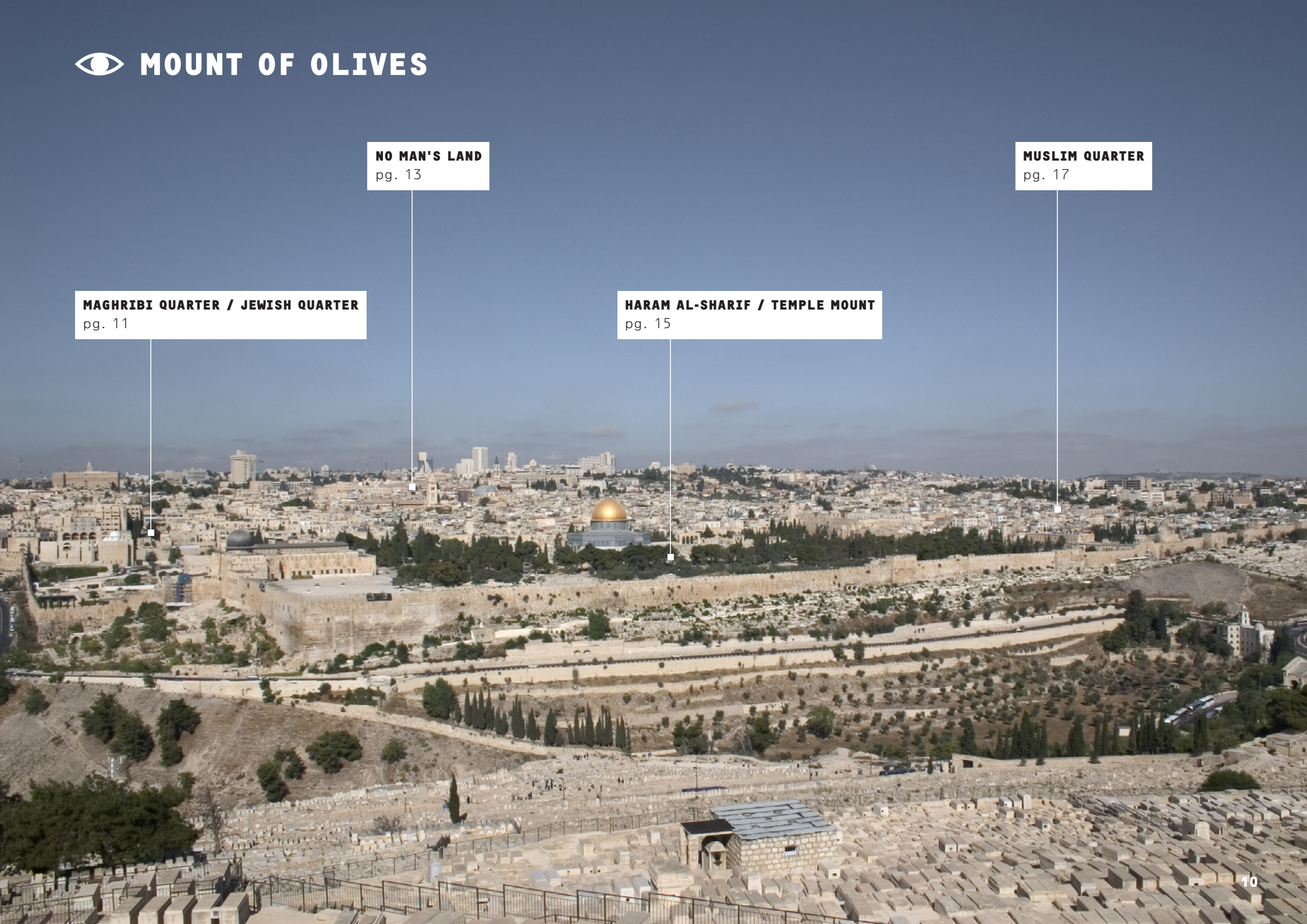
# MOUNT OF OLIVES

**NO MAN'S LAND**  
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**MUSLIM QUARTER**  
pg. 17

**MAGRIBI QUARTER / JEWISH QUARTER**  
pg. 11

**HARAM AL-SHARIF / TEMPLE MOUNT**  
pg. 15



# MAGHRIBI QUARTER / JEWISH QUARTER

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

One of the first actions the State of Israel undertook after the war in 1967 was the destruction of the Maghribi Quarter in front of the Western Wall, in order to establish the plaza which is there today. The 600 Palestinians left homeless had to move to the Shu'fat Refugee Camp in the northeast of Jerusalem.

Furthermore, the Israelis decided to expand the small Jewish Quarter between the Maghribi and Armenian Quarters. Six thousand Christian and Muslim Palestinians were forced to leave their homes in the area which today is the expensive and well-kept Jewish Quarter. The old houses were destroyed and replaced by an artificial residential area featuring arches and domes recalling the "oriental style" of the Old City. Here, since 1981, all non-Jews are forbidden to buy property.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Access the Jewish Quarter through Dung Gate or by walking all the way down the Muslim Souq from Damascus Gate.

[ The Jewish Quarter as it exists today is a result of the 1967 war when Israel occupied the Old City. ]

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

Until 1967 the Western Wall was nothing more than a sliver behind a run-down Moroccan Quarter leaving nearly no space for prayer. Moreover, from 1948 to 1967 Jews were not allowed to visit the wall. After the reunification of Jerusalem, the Western Wall was liberated and space for prayer and religious ceremonies was created in front of it. Now it is not only the most holy place for Jews, but also a symbol of national pride.

The Jewish Quarter is one of the traditional quarters of the Old City. During the Jordanian occupation nearly all houses of worship were destroyed, but after 1967 the quarter was rebuilt and settled and many important educational institutions like the Temple Institute took their residence in the quarter. Before the rebuilding, archaeological excavations were conducted and the finds are on display in the quarter itself and in museums.

In Israel, **archaeology** is used for political purposes. The excavations should provide evidence to anchor the Jewish claims on the land to ancient roots. Especially around the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount a run has begun for evidence that should testify that the area "belongs" to the Jewish community. This creates a lot of tension as Muslims fear that their holy sites could be damaged by the Israeli diggings.

The **Maghribi Gate** is the only gate through which non-Muslims access the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount and it is under direct Israeli control. When disturbances come up, the Israeli security forces access the area through this passage.



# NO MAN'S LAND

[ Along the Green Line of 1949 runs a (theoretical) buffer zone of No Man's Land. ]

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Some of the new quarters of West Jerusalem (which is provided with all the services of a modern city) are sprawling out to those parts of the land that were defined as No Man's Land along the Green Line and were intended to leave an empty buffer zone between two distinct states. Building on this No Man's Land blurs the Green Line and makes a future division of the city between Palestine and Israel very difficult: Where does Jerusalem, and with it its holiness, end?

Most of quarters inside this buffer zone are designated to accommodate a rich Israeli elite and are not accessible to Palestinians. They thus constitute a barrier that keeps out a huge part of the population.

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

The Israeli objective is to Judaize Jerusalem and the West Bank by moving civilians to those areas (this wording is used when the government addresses the population in Hebrew).

"Everybody has to move, run and grab as many (Palestinian) hilltops as they can to enlarge the (Jewish) settlements because everything we take now will stay ours... Everything we don't grab will go to them." (Ariel Sharon, Israeli Foreign Minister, addressing a meeting of the Tsomet Party, Agence France Presse, Nov. 15, 1998)

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** At Jaffa Gate facing West Jerusalem you are overlooking a zone of No Man's Land.

In Jerusalem there is a law active from the late 19th century which says that all buildings need to be covered in the **light Jerusalem stone**. In this way, every supermarket and gas station is semantically connected to the Old City.



# HARAM AL-SHARIF / TEMPLE MOUNT

[ The Haram al-Sharif / Temple Mount is the most contested place in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and politicians often use it in order to invoke a reaction within their population. Even among those who are not politically active, the issue of this holy place always incites a reaction. ]

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Since the creation of the State of Israel there have been several attacks on the Sanctity of the Haram al-Sharif, the third holiest place for Muslims. Several times Jewish extremists tried to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the clashes following these attempts saw dozens of Palestinians killed on the Haram al-Sharif.

In the year 2000, Ariel Sharon's visit to the Haram al-Sharif, accompanied by 1000 soldiers and with 3000 soldiers all over the Old City, denotes the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada as Sharon's act was meant to confirm the Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount and over East Jerusalem.

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

The Temple Mount is the holiest site for Judaism as it is "the place where Heaven and Earth kiss". The Foundation Stone – the rock on which the world was created – is believed to be located here. It is also the place where Abraham was commanded to offer his son Isaac.

The First and the Second Temple stood already on this place and also the Third Temple should be built here as a prelude to the Messianic Era.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Access the area from the Maghribi Gate besides the Western Wall. It is open only from 7.30 - 11 am and from 1.30 - 2.30 pm.

Jews visiting the Temple Mount follow **strict rules** in order not to set foot upon the presumed location of the Holy Temple as this is forbidden by the bible.





# MUSLIM QUARTER

**[ With its 20,000 inhabitants, the Muslim quarter is the most populated quarter in the Old City. ]**

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

The infrastructure in the Muslim Quarter is very bad and public services like waste collection are extremely poor; just one step away from the main market street in the small side streets this becomes even more clear.

Inside the Muslim Quarter, ultra-orthodox Jews try to buy houses in order to prevent Jerusalem from becoming the capital of a viable Palestinian state. By doing so they complicate the status of the city even more.

Whenever the Israeli authorities set up an infrastructure for Muslim inhabitants, it was only because they intended to start building a new settlement in the area and the existing infrastructure would facilitate its implementation.

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

Today sixty Jewish families of settlers live in the Muslim Quarter and in 2005 the construction was approved of a settlement in the quarter which will contain 30 apartments. The aim of these settler movements is to disrupt the demographic balance in the Old City in favour of Jewish inhabitants. The groups taking over houses in the Muslim Quarter aim at taking control over Temple Mount by surrounding it with a ring of settlements that control the streets leading to the area.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Walking through Damascus Gate brings you right to the heart of the Muslim Quarter.

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**TIP:** From the roof of the Austrian Hospice you have a great view of the Muslim Quarter, the Dome of the Rock and some private Jewish settlements.

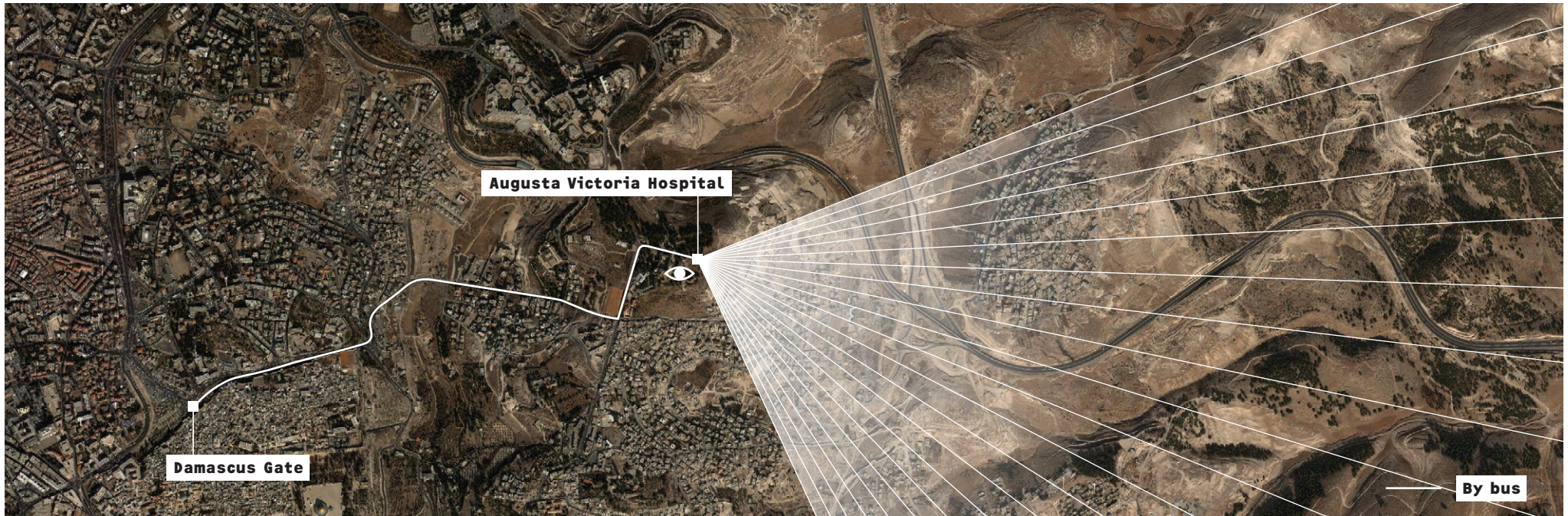
Private Jewish settlements are easily recognized as they feature **Israeli flags** and **Jewish symbols**. This particular house belongs to Ariel Sharon, the former Israeli Prime Minister, although he has never lived here.

**Private security guards** – paid for by the state – as well as soldiers and armed settlers themselves guard the houses.



# 👁 PANORAMIC VIEW POINT

## AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL



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**ABOUT THE VIEW POINT:** Since 1950 the Augusta Victoria Hospital has served the Palestinian community, mostly on a charitable basis. In the beginning its aim was to provide services for Palestinian refugees in cooperation with UNRWA, an agency of the United Nations.

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**WHY GO THERE:** From here you get a good overview of the barrier, the Israeli settlement of Ma'ale Adumim, the "Olive" checkpoint and a bypass road.

**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the blue Palestinian bus 75 or a 25-minute walk from Damascus Gate. Tell the driver where you want to go, so he can tell you when to get off the bus. Walk into the park at the back of the Hospital.



# AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL

**MISHOR ADUMIM** / industrial area  
pg. 21

**MA'ALE ADUMIM** / settlement  
pg. 25

**APARTHEID WALL / SECURITY BARRIER**  
pg. 31

**AZ ZA'AYEM** / Palestinian village  
pg. 23

**HIGHWAY 1** / bypass road  
pg. 27

**RAS ABU SBEITAN "OLIVE" CHECKPOINT**  
pg. 29



# MISHOR ADUMIM

## INDUSTRIAL AREA

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### PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Palestinians who are employed in the factories in Mishor Adumim get paid a very poor salary and are not allowed to drive into the area but have to park their cars at its border. On top of this they need a special permit which indicates the exact hours during which they are allowed to stay inside the area.

Israeli industries are being encouraged to move here by cheap land, special low taxes and looser enforcement of ecological laws. By establishing industrial areas Israel can get control over huge pieces of land with much less effort and controversy than by building settlements.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM WEST JERUSALEM:** Take one of the Israeli Egged buses in Queen Shlomzion Street (number 174 to 177) or get on a bus in Ma'ale Adumim. Ask the driver if he goes all the way to the industrial area.

[ Mishor Adumim is one of the ten Israeli industrial areas in the West Bank. ]

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### ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

Mishor Adumim is the largest industrial area in Israel and resides inside the municipal boundaries of Ma'ale Adumim. It is defined as an area of major interest by the Israeli government and is highly subsidized as its aim is to give economic viability to Ma'ale Adumim.

Outside the artificial oasis of the industrial area are the stumps of hundreds of Palestinian-owned **olive trees** cut down by the Israeli army because they "endangered" the road.



The industrial area is transformed into an artificial oasis by huge amounts of **water** while Palestinian villages remain without water for days during the summer.

# AZ ZA'AYYEM

## PALESTINIAN VILLAGE

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### PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Teddy Kolek, a former mayor of Jerusalem, made an arrangement with the Israeli Civil Administration of the West Bank so that Palestinians could build on the area of Az Za'ayyem without building permits. Thus the Jerusalem municipality got rid of thousands of East Jerusalem Palestinians, and years later started the process of taking away their Jerusalem IDs as they now lived outside the municipal line. It is worth noting that the Jerusalem municipality and Israeli government have a stated "demographic policy" with a goal of no more than 30 percent Palestinians in Jerusalem.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the blue Palestinian bus number 75. Ask the driver if he goes all the way to Az Za'ayyem because not all the buses 75 drive there.

**[ The Palestinian village of Az Za'ayyem is just outside the Jerusalem municipal line, which runs here along the main road. ]**

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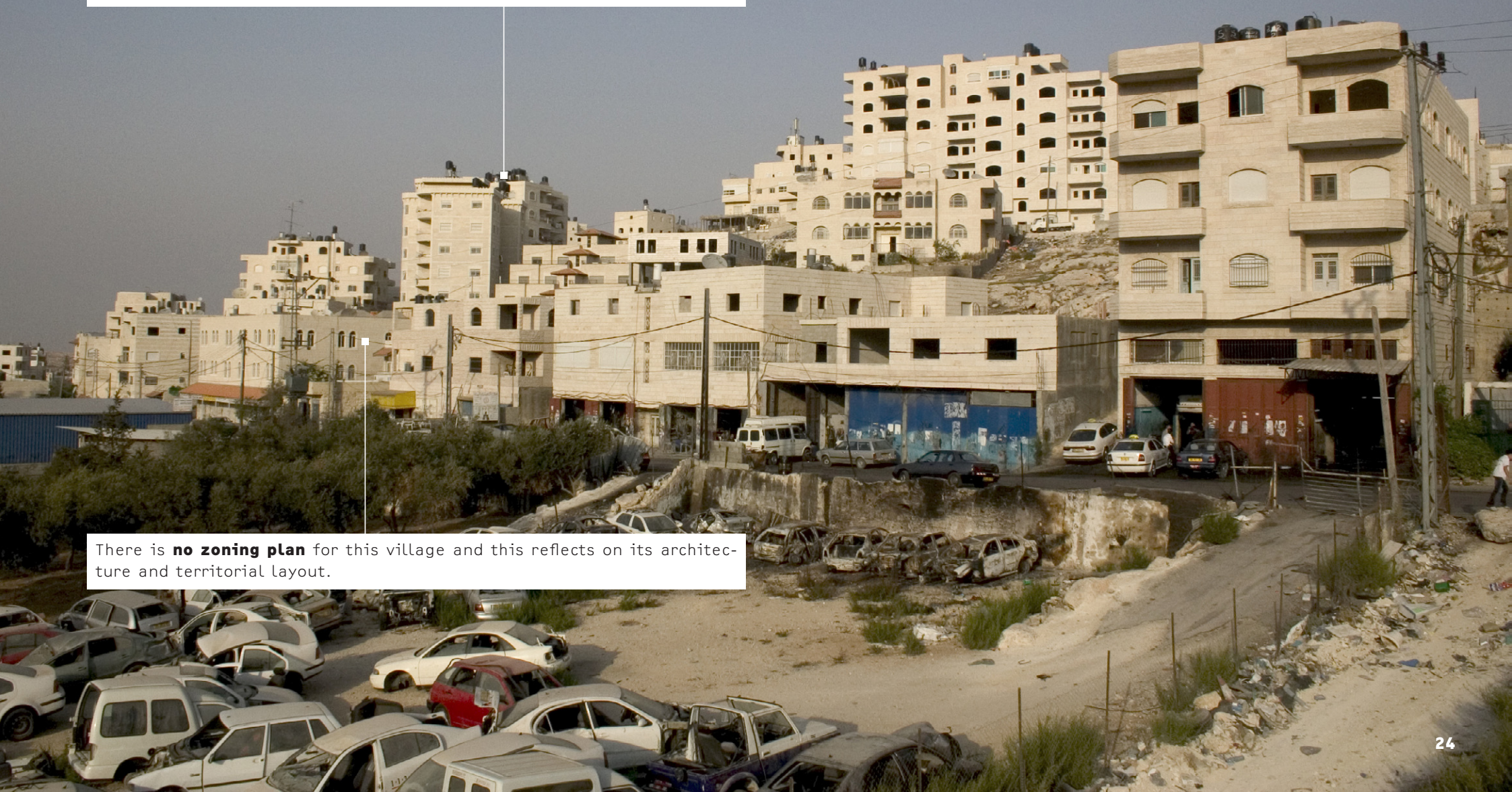
### ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

Official Israeli sources hardly acknowledge Az-Zayyem, and certainly don't mention the policy of turning a blind eye to building violations here. In the last years, however, the municipality began to demolish houses that were built too close to the main road.

"I don't like the growth of the non-Jewish population in Jerusalem."  
(Ehud Olmert, May 1997, as Mayor of Jerusalem)

The **black tanks** on top of the houses are needed by Palestinians all over the Occupied Territories to store **water** as their water supply system is not reliable, so when there is not enough pressure or they get no water for days during the summer the shortage can be balanced with the stored water.

There is **no zoning plan** for this village and this reflects on its architecture and territorial layout.





# MA'ALE ADUMIM SETTLEMENT

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Bedouins of the Jahalin tribe were moved out to make room for the Ma'ale Adumim settlement and Jews were encouraged to move here by the Israeli government which insured low prices, special subsidized mortgages and lower income tax rates for residents.

The city was created as part of the ring of settlements surrounding East Jerusalem and together with a chain of smaller settlements creates a line running from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea – effectively slicing the West Bank in half. Around the built-up area are further huge areas under the municipality's jurisdiction – legally speaking, Ma'ale Adumim is larger than Tel Aviv and any new building in the area is only an extension of the existing settlement. Thus, the Israeli government formally does not breach its agreement with the USA not to create new settlements.

Ma'ale Adumim is strategically placed – any Palestinian state would depend on having Jerusalem as its capital and having free movement within its borders; the existence of Ma'ale Adumim makes both these things seem very difficult.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM WEST JERUSALEM:** Take one of the Israeli Egged buses in Queen Shlomzion Street in West Jerusalem: numbers 174 to 177.

**[ Ma'ale Adumim is the third most populated Israeli settlement in the West Bank with about 30,000 inhabitants and serves mostly as a dormitory suburb for people working in Israel proper. ]**

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

Ma'ale Adumim is one of the settlements that were spontaneously created in Judea and Samaria after the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Launched by 27 pioneer families, which were soon followed by thousands of other Israelis, Ma'ale Adumim was awarded the status of a city in 1991. It is the first Jewish city in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Geographically, the city has a central location linking the Jordan Valley and the Judean Desert to Jerusalem, the national capital.

In 2003 Ma'ale Adumim was connected to Jerusalem by a new road, which allows its citizens to shorten the journey to Jerusalem from 20 to 7 minutes. The project was one of Israel's largest investments in public works.

The architecture of the settlements follows the logic of a fortress: built in protective rings around the centre with houses whose windows face outwards in order to oversee and control the surrounding territory. By night the settlements are **flooded with light** to guarantee protection to its inhabitants.



Ma'ale Adumim is transformed into an **artificial oasis** by huge amounts of water, but right outside its built-up area the land is arid. This is problematic in a country where water is very scarce.

# HIGHWAY 1

## BYPASS ROAD

[ In the West Bank there is an expanding network of roads, primarily for Israeli use (1,661 km) to connect the settlements to Israel proper. ]

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### PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

The access for Palestinians to Israeli roads in the West Bank is restricted by checkpoints, roadblocks and a bureaucratic permit system, although many of these roads were traditionally Palestinian main roads.

This network of roads restricts the movement of the Palestinian population between their major communities and cuts the land into pieces, as Palestinians are not only not allowed to drive on those roads, they may not even cross them by foot. Villagers get cut off from their farmland because of a new road and their movement to work and school can be heavily disturbed.

Israeli cars with yellow license plates can travel freely around Israel and the West Bank. Palestinian cars with green licence plates need special permits for every place they want to drive to, even within the Palestinian territory. And in any case, they are not allowed to come to Israel.


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### ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

The highways in Judea and Samaria are a fast connection to Israeli towns for the Israeli citizens living in the settlements. With the Oslo II Agreement, the Palestinian towns came under full Palestinian control. Therefore new streets were build which allowed Israelis to drive around these towns. As Jewish citizens driving on these roads got attacked by Palestinians, their access to them was restricted. With the outbreak of the Second Intifada, the Israeli Defense Force implemented more restrictions on the Palestinian movement in order to reduce terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM WEST JERUSALEM OR DAMASCUS GATE:** When you go to Ma'ale Adumim or the Palestinian villages of Al 'Eizariya and Abu Dis, you will be driving on this road.



**Checkpoints** positioned on bypass roads do not significantly slow down the traffic in comparison to those on Palestinian roads.

Hebrew and Arabic are the two official languages in the State of Israel, but most of the **road signs** are in Hebrew and English.

# RAS ABU SBEITAN "OLIVE" CHECKPOINT

[ The Ras Abu Sbeitan checkpoint, also referred to as Olive Checkpoint, is one of the five big terminals through which Israel controls the access from the West Bank to East Jerusalem. ]

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

In order to get through the terminal checkpoints, people need to pass a series of security checks as if they were crossing an international border. The soldiers observe and check people from inside a room and communicate with Palestinians over loudspeakers. By passing the checkpoints people are not crossing a border, even though the structures give this impression: the checkpoints control the movement from occupied territory to occupied territory.

Checkpoints can be closed at any time, blocking traffic for hours. In addition to the terminals, there are a number of smaller checkpoints that are just as unpredictable as the terminals when it comes to how much time it will take people to get to the other side. In fact, a series of international and Israeli peace activists monitor the checkpoints in order to minimize the humiliations inflicted on the Palestinians by the soldiers and the Israeli system.

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

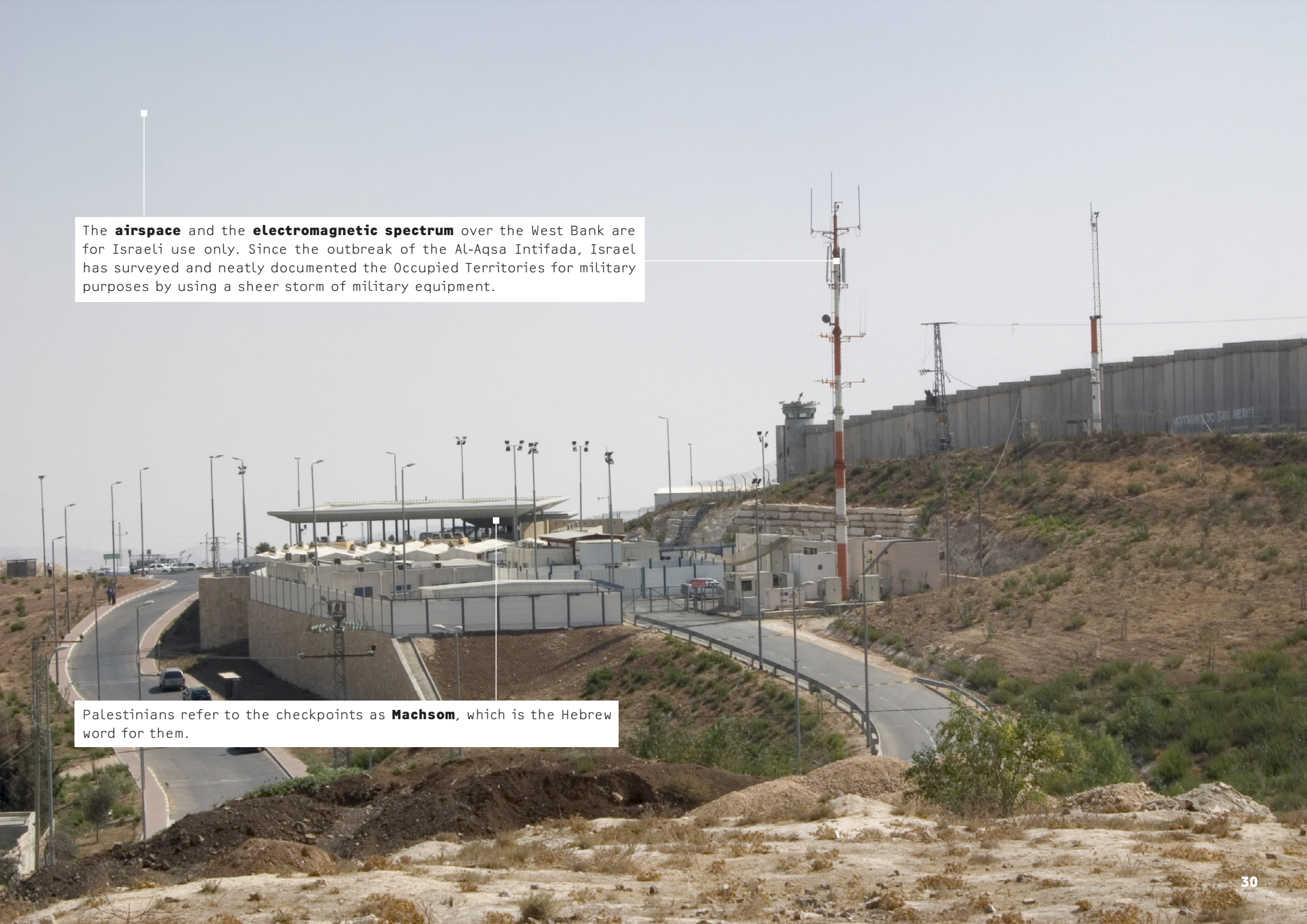
Because of the economic interconnection between Israel and the Palestinian territories, the security barrier includes also a number of crossings which allow two-way pedestrian and vehicle passage. The main crossings, looking just like many international borders, will facilitate the inspection of people and goods crossing the barrier. They are designed in such a way as to minimize interpersonal friction.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the blue Palestinian bus number 75 and get off when you see the wall or take bus number 36 to Al 'Eizariya or Abu Dis and walk back to the checkpoint along the wall.

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**TIP:** Although as an international visitor you can drive through or avoid the terminals, you should at least once walk through them and experience the procedures.



The **airspace** and the **electromagnetic spectrum** over the West Bank are for Israeli use only. Since the outbreak of the AL-Aqsa Intifada, Israel has surveyed and neatly documented the Occupied Territories for military purposes by using a sheer storm of military equipment.

Palestinians refer to the checkpoints as **Machsom**, which is the Hebrew word for them.

# APARTHEID WALL / SECURITY FENCE

[ In June 2002 Israel began building a winding 721-km-long barrier between itself and the West Bank. Israel called this a temporary security measure to prevent terrorists entering. ]

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

The Apartheid Wall the Israeli government is building does not run around the West Bank but through it - villages are cut apart, encircled and isolated; land is expropriated, trees are uprooted, houses demolished; movement inside the Palestinian territory is restricted. The barrier follows a line that leaves as much land as possible, with as few Palestinians as possible, on the Israeli side.

Where the barrier reaches far into the Palestinian territory, it annexes the most fertile land and the largest part of the water resources, which are of major importance in a country where water is scarce. Moreover, the part of the barrier called the "Jerusalem Envelope" deprives the Palestinians of their biggest tourist source of income: East Jerusalem.

In 2004 the International Court of Justice declared the barrier illegal and asked Israel to return the taken land to the Palestinians. Israel is not complying with the pledge of the court and goes on completing the barrier.

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

The State of Israel has the obligation to do everything in its power to prevent its innocent citizens from terrorist attacks and the security barrier, once completed, will help the Israeli Defense Forces to reduce these attacks and the smuggling of arms.

The Israeli government realizes that the barrier will introduce hardship into Palestinian life and regrets this, but the protection of its own population has priority.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the blue Palestinian bus number 36 and get off in Al 'Eizariya or Abu Dis.

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**TIP:** You can get to the barrier also when you take the blue Palestinian bus number 124 to Bethlehem.

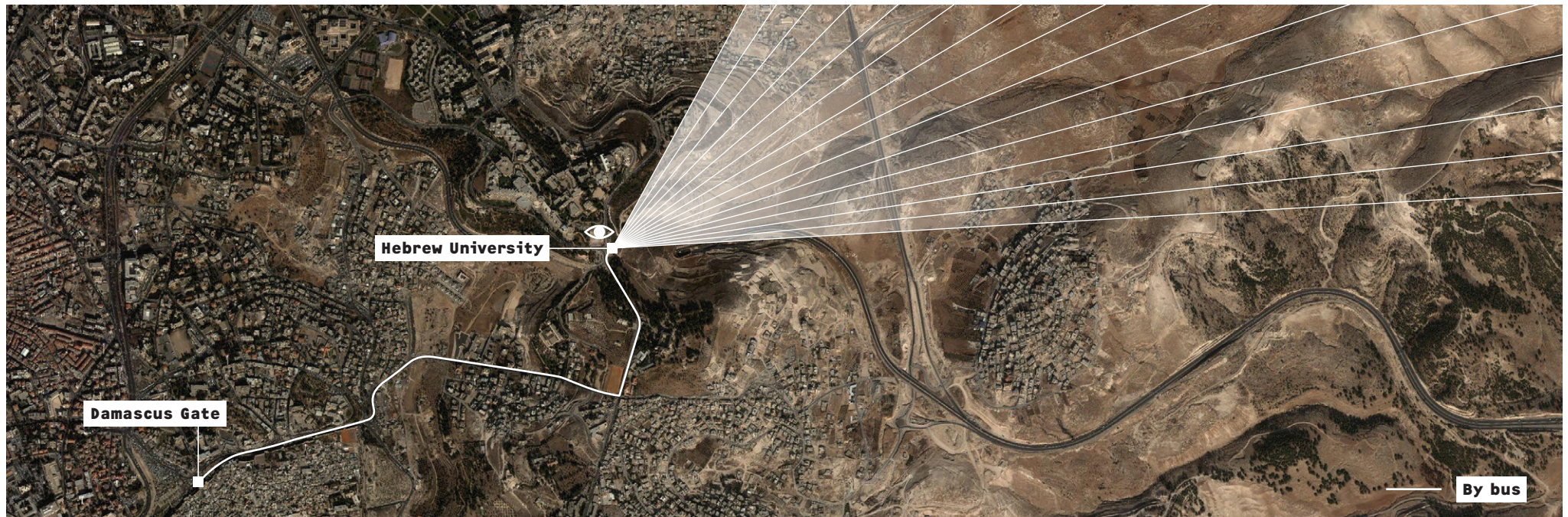


Not everywhere the barrier is a concrete wall, in a lot of places it consists of a **50-meter-wide, multilayer, high security fence.**



# 👁️ PANORAMIC VIEW POINT

## HEBREW UNIVERSITY



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**ABOUT THE VIEW POINT:** The Hebrew University is not considered an Israeli settlement because Mount Scopus was an Israeli enclave even before 1967, but the dormitories around the university are illegal settlements. As the university is expanding it demolishes houses in Al'Isawiya, the village stretching out behind the university compound. The tower in the middle of the campus contains surveillance equipment and is part of the military base you can see on your left. The Zurim Valley National Park in front of the university is a typical example of how Israeli authorities block the land in order to limit the growth of Palestinian communities: areas are declared nature reserves and Palestinians are no longer allowed to build or enter - even if they are the owners of the land. Then, when Israel is ready to build on those lands, the areas are expropriated and zoned for building.

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**WHY GO THERE:** From here you have a great view on E1 and you can catch a glimpse of 'Anata and a bypass road.

**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the blue Palestinian bus number 1 or enjoy the 30-minute walk from Damascus Gate.

**SHU'FAT REFUGEE CAMP**  
pg. 35

**'ANATA** / Palestinian village  
pg. 37

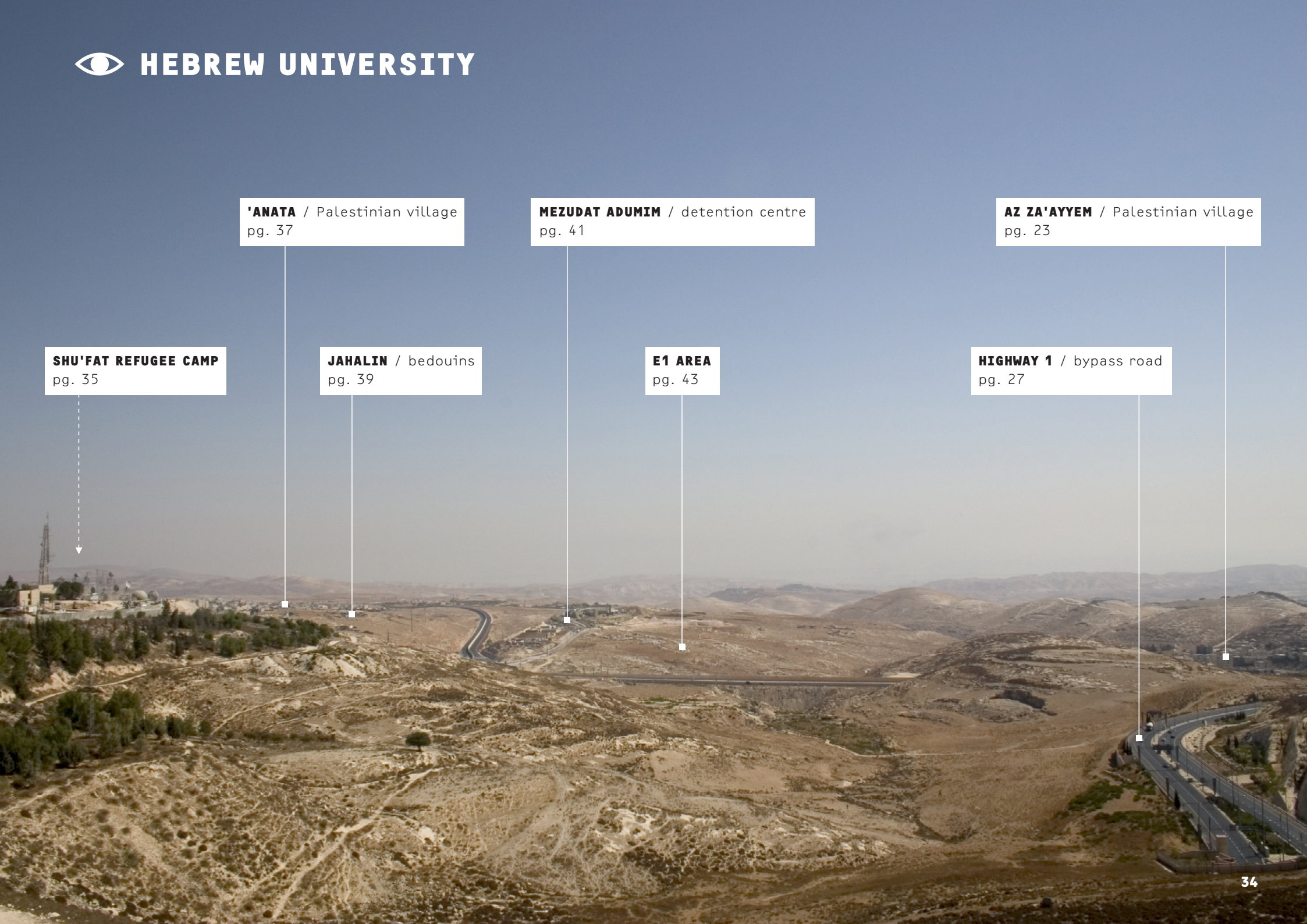
**JAHALIN** / bedouins  
pg. 39

**MEZUDAT ADUMIM** / detention centre  
pg. 41

**E1 AREA**  
pg. 43

**HIGHWAY 1** / bypass road  
pg. 27

**AZ ZA'AYEM** / Palestinian village  
pg. 23



# SHU'FAT REFUGEE CAMP

[ The Shu'fat Refugee Camp is the only refugee camp within the borders of Jerusalem and its inhabitants are residents of the city. ]

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Many of the inhabitants of the Shu'fat Refugee Camp were moved here from the Maghribi neighbourhood of the Old City, which was demolished immediately after the Six-Day War to make room for the Western Wall plaza. Today the camp is an overcrowded and poor Palestinian ghetto to which also non-refugees have moved. That Israel does not want the camp to be part of Jerusalem became even clearer when they placed the barrier between the camp and the city. The wall seems to correct the errors in the demographic balance of Jerusalem that were made when the new municipal line was drawn in 1967. Now that Israel is redrawing its borders, densely populated and poor Palestinian neighbourhoods are simply left outside the wall. Since 1949 the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has been present in the occupied territories, taking care of all those who were displaced in 1948. Until today Israel has denied the right of return to the over 700,000 refugees since that year.

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

"Was it necessary to annex the Shu'fat Refugee Camp, al-Sawahra, Walajeh and other villages and state that this is also Jerusalem? I must admit, one can ask some legitimate questions on the issue." (Ehud Olmert, Israeli Prime Minister, talking in Parliament, Oct. 15, 2007)

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the green Palestinian bus number 54 to 'Anata. Get off the bus a few hundred meters after the checkpoint. The camp is on your left-hand side.



From the Shu'fat Refugee Camp you look right into the Jewish settlement of **Pisgat Ze'ev**.

As the area of the camp is limited and the streets are already reduced to narrow paths, the only possibility its inhabitants have to expand their living space is to **build towards the sky**. Thus, the buildings take on bizarre forms and you can see how layer after layer is added through out the years.

# 'ANATA

## PALESTINIAN VILLAGE

[ The Palestinian village of 'Anata is just on the other side of the barrier and faces a complex territorial situation. ]

[ "The policy of limiting Palestinian communities has not worked. You have anarchic growth in East Jerusalem. The city has lost control." (Daniel Seidemann, a Jerusalem lawyer) ]

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### PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Half of the village of 'Anata is built on land which is administered by the Palestinian Authority, the other half happens to be on land that is under the control of the Israeli Civil Administration, yet another part of the village is under the jurisdiction of the Jerusalem municipality. The houses under the civil administration and in Jerusalem have demolition orders pending. Like their neighbours in the "Palestinian" part of the village, they get no municipal services like paved streets, pavements, parks or waste collection. The administrative division in the village creates absurd situations. A woman from the Jerusalem part of the village is married to a man from the Palestinian part. They live on the Jerusalem side so she can hold on to her residency. In this part of the village he is an illegal alien, and his wife can be (and was) arrested for harbouring and transporting an illegal alien, that is, for living and travelling with her husband in their native village.

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### ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

In 'Anata many Arabs are building illegally, so every year some of the municipal budget dedicated to this neighbourhood has to be used for house demolitions.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the green Palestinian bus number 54 to 'Anata.

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**TIP:** Keep in mind that when you drive to 'Anata, the Shu'fat Refugee Camp is on your left-hand side. The houses on your right all have demolition orders pending against them.

Not everywhere the demolition of a house is as evident as here. But whenever you see **cement blocks with steel wire sticking out**, these are probably the remains of a demolished house.



# JAHALIN BEDOUINS

[ The Jahalin Bedouin tribe originates from the area of Arad in the south Judean desert and was displaced several times. ]

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

The Jahalin Bedouins were first displaced by the Israeli army, which wanted their land for training grounds. They moved to what is today Ma'ale Adumim, from where they were displaced another time by the building of the settlement. Today the Jahalin live scattered; one clan lives here at the edge of 'Anata, where the Civil Administration considers them illegal and at least once demolished their dwellings. The Israeli authorities want them to live in villages, so that the land would be freed from them.

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

The Jahalin Bedouins living in area E1 and on other land around East Jerusalem are offered building permits in Al 'Eizariya, but they do not want to move there. At the moment the Bedouins are experiencing a cultural crisis as their surroundings are changing and they cannot cope with this easily.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the green Palestinian bus number 54 to 'Anata. Ask people to show you the way to Beit Arabiya, a Palestinian peace centre. The village of the Bedouins is right next to it.

Throughout the West Bank 8.7% of the land has been declared **nature reserve**. This creates huge problems for the shepherds who are not allowed to pass with their animals through these lands.





# METZUDAT ADUMIM

## DETENTION CENTER

[ Metzudat Adumim is a new detention centre for Palestinians who, according to the Israeli government, are a possible threat to Israeli security. ]

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### PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Until not long ago detained Palestinians were taken to a special section of the police station in Central Jerusalem, but then Metzudat Adumim (The Red Fortress) was built in E1 in a former "green zone" or nature reserve where building was not allowed for the Palestinian owners of the land. With the completion of this detention and interrogation centre detained Palestinians are completely separated from regular police procedures, away from the courts and the Israeli public.

As Palestinians are not under civil but under military law, they can be detained by administrative order for up to 6 months without charge or trial. By the beginning of March 2003, more than one thousand Palestinians were held in administrative detention by Israel. Many Palestinians undergo beatings and torture under such circumstances.

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### ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

Metzudat Adumim replaces the old Russian Compound detention centre in the heart of Jerusalem. It is a bigger and more modern structure. Moreover, it is far from the centre of the city which makes the residents of Jerusalem feel more comfortable.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Take the green Palestinian bus number 54 to 'Anata. Ask people to show you the way to Beit Arabiya, a Palestinian peace centre. The detention centre is right in front of it.

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**TIP:** Visit also Beit Arabiya. The house was turned into a peace centre after having been demolished four times by the Civil Administration and rebuilt four times by the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions.

In the West Bank vast areas of land have been declared **military zones** and all Palestinians are forbidden to enter them.



# E1 AREA

**[ The area between Ma'ale Adumim and the Palestinian village of 'Anata is referred to as E1. ]**

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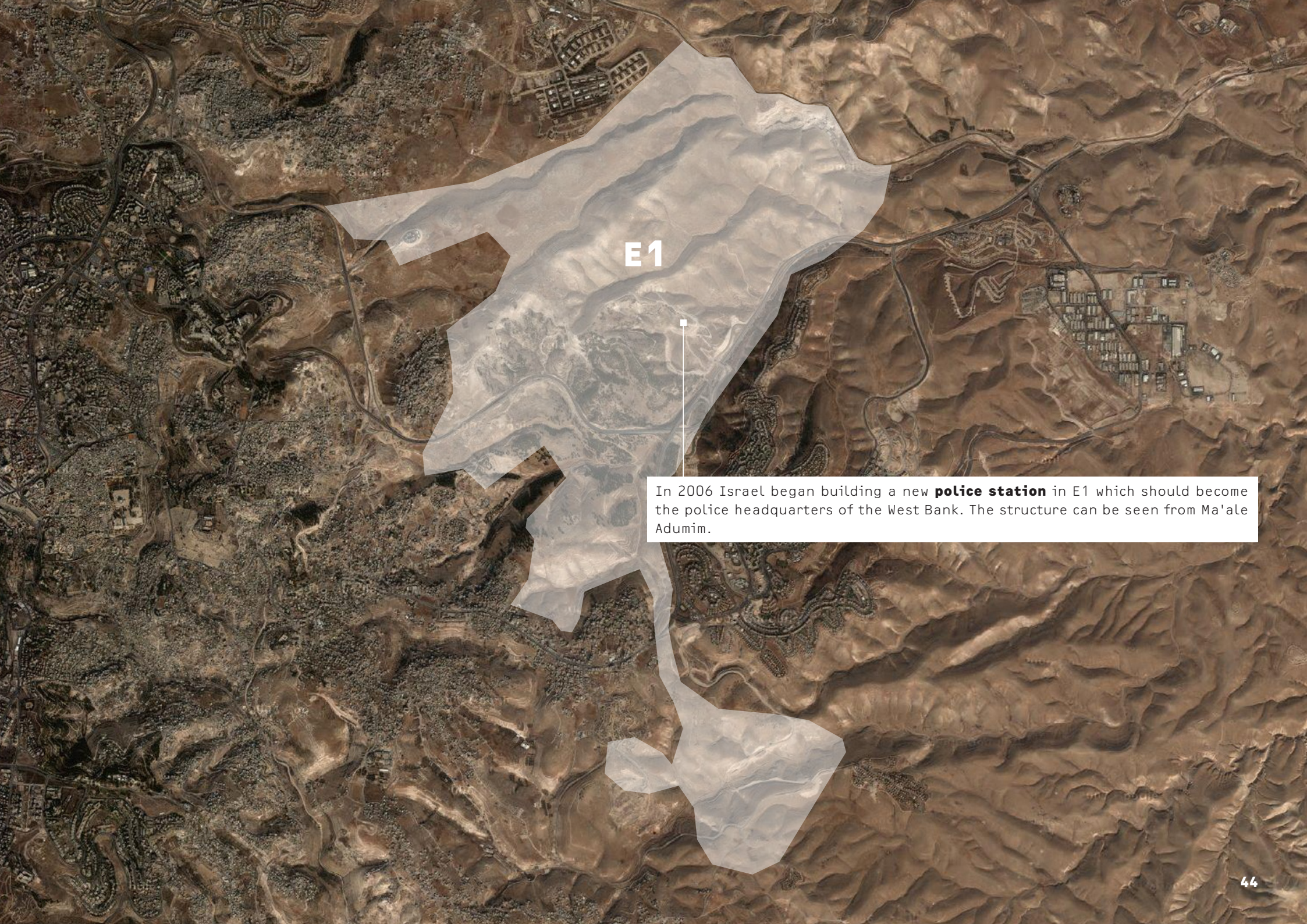
## **PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW**

Israel is not allowed to build on E1, but for security reasons it can build on this piece of land. The Israeli government used this possibility to access the land and build a detention centre together with a huge new police station. Building those two security structures, complete with all necessary infrastructure including roads, water and electricity lines, has brought Israel one step closer to its final plan for the E1 area: setting up a large neighbourhood of some 3500 housing units, thereby connecting Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem. This would complete the line of Israeli settlements from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea, cutting the West Bank in half and undermining the possibility of a viable Palestinian state. The American State Department is aware of this plan and has forbidden Israel to build here. However, Israel is seeking an opportunity to implement its plan for the area, probably in return for some concession to State Department demands in other places.

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## **ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW**

Many Israelis believe that building in the area known as E1 is vital to Israel but especially to Ma'ale Adumim: only through the establishment of a new neighbourhood in this area can Jerusalem stay connected to the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley, so that East Jerusalem will never become the capital of a Palestinian state. It is also considered that buildings in E1 would guarantee security to Israelis travelling on the bypass road to Ma'ale Adumim.



E1

In 2006 Israel began building a new **police station** in E1 which should become the police headquarters of the West Bank. The structure can be seen from Ma'ale Adumim.

# 👁 PANORAMIC VIEW POINT

## RAMPARTS WALK



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**ABOUT THE VIEW POINT:** The Ramparts Walk runs along the walls of the Old City. Those walls were built in 1538 by Suleiman the Magnificent.

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**WHY GO THERE:** From here you have a good view of Silwan, the new settlement of Nof Zion, and in the distance you can see the barrier winding along the hills.

**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASCUS GATE:** Walk uphill from Dung Gate along the inner side of the wall of the Old City. There you will be able to walk on the wall for a short stretch without paying the entrance fee. If you want to go all the way along the city wall, you can access it from Jaffa Gate against a small entrance fee.

**APARTHEID WALL / SECURITY BARRIER**  
pg. 31

**NOF ZION / settlement**  
pg. 51

**SILWAN / THE CITY OF DAVID**  
pg. 47

**AS SAWAHIRA ASH SHARQIYA / Palestinian village**  
pg. 49



# SILWAN / CITY OF DAVID

[ Silwan is a poor and densely populated Palestinian neighbourhood just south of the Old City wall. It is in fact the most ancient part of Jerusalem. ]

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

A group of fundamentalist Jewish settlers has been buying land in Silwan and has settled in a few dozen houses here. Sometimes they got to buy the houses through threats and coercion. In the centre of Silwan they built an archaeological park, "The City of David", where remains of biblical and pre-biblical Jerusalem can be seen. The City of David is a cooperative effort by fundamentalist settlers and the Israeli government – it is officially a national park but is in fact run by a private political organization. Below the park, in the EL-Bustan (garden) neighbourhood, by the spring around which Jerusalem was started, demolition orders have been issued for 88 Palestinian homes because of plans to build a new tourist site, the "Holy Garden". In Silwan, as in the Muslim quarter, Jewish houses can be identified by Israeli flags and by the private armed guards, paid for by the state, who man their roofs and gates.

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

The "City of David" is the location of the Biblical City of Jerusalem. Since the 1980s, a private foundation has been trying to save the city and its surroundings from neglect and decay by residential revitalization with Jewish people.

"I have done many things for the Jewish Jerusalem in the last 25 years. But for East Jerusalem, nothing at all! – neither pavements nor cultural institutions. Ah! We did install a sewage system (for them), and we improved the water distribution. But that wasn't for their good. It was simply because there were some cases of cholera there, and the Jews were afraid of contagion..." (Teddy Kollek, former Mayor of Jerusalem)

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASKUS GATE:** Walk all the way downhill through Silwan departing from Dung Gate. If you do not want to walk, take the blue Palestinian bus number 76.



The houses of Jewish settlers are surrounded by Palestinian houses that all have **demolition orders** pending because the owners of the land were precluded from obtaining building permits.

The municipality of Jerusalem does not provide for an efficient **sewage system** in the Palestinian neighbourhoods. Sewage just runs out into the fields or needs to be collected in septic tanks that are emptied by special trucks.



# AS SAWAHIRA ASH SHARQIYA

## PALESTINIAN VILLAGE

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### PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Palestinians living in As Sawahira Ash Sharqiya wishing to go through the checkpoint to the other side of the village have to prove that they live there, otherwise they will not pass. This leads to absurd situations like the following: the cemetery of the village is on the Israeli side of the wall and thus burrying people becomes a complex process. Transport has to be specially arranged and the relatives of the deceased cannot go to the funeral as they do not hold a Jerusalem ID, which means they are not allowed to the other side of the wall.

Measures like the segregation wall make life unbearable for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and lead to induced emigration, also referred to as silent transfer.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMSKUS GATE:** Take the Palestinian bus number 5. Ask the driver if he goes to As Sawahira ash Sharqiya, as at one point the street divides and the buses head off into different directions.

[ As Sawahira Ash Sharqiya is one of the many Palestinian villages cut apart by the Israeli barrier. ]

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### ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

In As Sawahira the barrier runs along the municipal line. Palestinians holding a West Bank ID are not allowed to enter Jerusalem without permit.

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**TIP:** The bus ride to this small village brings you past some places bearing clear signs of the conflict, which officials would probably not show to an international public.

Close to the checkpoint the inhabitants of the village throw their waste into a **wild rubbish dump** as if to show the Israeli Defense Force what they think about the security measures.

In As Sawahira Ash Sharqiya the barrier is not a concrete wall but a **wire and metal construction**.

The **roads system** in East Jerusalem is totally neglected: bad paving, no pavements. Even main roads often have paving on only one lane.

# NOF ZION SETTLEMENT

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## PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW

On the Nof Zion website potential buyers are told that the houses overlook the Western Wall and Mount Scopus; the mosques of Haram al-Sharif are not mentioned, much less the many Palestinian neighbourhoods that make up the greater part of the view. Nowhere will you find mention of the fact that Nof Zion is actually inside the Palestinian neighbourhood of Jabal al Mukabbir. In the newly built settlements the buyers usually are wealthy Jews from abroad who live in their Israeli houses only a couple of weeks a year, leaving the houses empty most of the time.

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**HOW TO GET THERE FROM DAMASKUS GATE:** Take the blue Palestinian bus number 5. Ask the driver if he goes to Jabal al Mukabbir.

**[ With Nof Zion the Israeli government creates a connection from the Jewish Quarter in the Old City through the settlement in Silwan to East Talpiyot. ]**

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## ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW

Nof Zion is a private residential neighbourhood facing historical Jerusalem offering all the services you wish to have in your proximity. The 400 residential units with a beautiful view of the Old City are being built for upper class residents.

At the end of 2007 Nof Zion is only in its **first phase of construction**. Once finished, Nof Zion will be three times as big and equipped with a country club, a shopping centre, a synagogue and a hotel.



# GLOSSARY

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## **1948 war**

The Arab-Israeli war of 1948 broke out right after the declaration of the State of Israel. Israel won the war and expanded its territories. The Palestinians refer to the war as "al Nakba" – the catastrophe – as nearly a million of them were expelled from their homes and still do not have the right to return to their land.

## **Building permit**

In order to obtain a building permit in East Jerusalem, one has to go through a series of bureaucratic measures that can take from a couple of months to a couple of years. At every stage you have to pay money to hand in the request and it can cost up to 20,000 dollars to obtain the permit, although you are never sure you will. Due to these enormous bureaucratic difficulties many Palestinians decide to build on their land without permission.

## **Centre of life**

In 1995 the Israeli authorities introduced a new obligation for Palestinian residents of Jerusalem: they need to prove every year that their "centre of life" is in Jerusalem by presenting numerous documents to the Ministry of the Interior. As the standard of proof is set very high, more than 3000 residents lost their Jerusalem ID since 1995. The remainder of the Jerusalem ID holders now struggle every year to prove their "centre of life".

## **Checkpoints**

Checkpoints are spread all over the West Bank and consist of a barrier with an observation tower and other physical blocks. They are used to control pedestrian and vehicular movement. The checkpoints can be either permanent or temporary.

## **Civil Administration**

The Civil Administration in the Occupied Territories is a unit within the Israeli Ministry of Defense. It engages in coordinating civilian issues between

the Government of Israel, the Israeli Defense Forces, international organizations, diplomats, and the Palestinian Authority.

## **Geneva Conventions**

The Geneva Conventions consist of four treaties that set the standards for international humanitarian concerns: they define how civilians (non-combatants) and prisoners of war have to be treated and which are their rights.

## **House Demolitions**

Since 1967 the Israeli authorities have adopted two basic principles in their administration of East Jerusalem: on the one hand they take measures to increase the Jewish population in East Jerusalem by financing and supporting Israeli settlements, on the other they make the growth of the Palestinian population as difficult as possible so that they will prefer to live elsewhere. To achieve this goal the municipality primarily holds on to strict zoning plans which freeze the building of new homes. In this way, the number of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem has been maintained at the same percentage for the last 40 years.

Since it is nearly impossible for Palestinians to get a building permit even on their own land, they are forced to build illegally. The municipality and the government issue demolition orders for these homes and enforce about one hundred of them every year.

## **ID Jerusalem**

Approximately 253,000 Palestinians hold blue Jerusalem ID cards. They are permanent residents of Israel who can live in and enter Jerusalem without a permit. Jerusalem ID holders can buy property and work in Israel and receive Israeli taxpayer benefits such as health insurance, social security, and public schooling, but the permanent resident status is not the same as that of Israeli citizenship.

The "Jerusalem residency" dates back to 1967 when, following a census of Palestinian residents in the newly created Israeli municipality of East Jerusalem, 66,000 people were granted "permanent residency" status. Jerusalem residents who left the city temporarily during the 1967 war missed

the census and were denied the opportunity to gain permanent residency. They can no longer return to live in Jerusalem. In addition, around 30,000 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem who were living immediately adjacent to, but not within, the Israeli-declared new municipal line at the time of the census were also excluded.

### **ID West Bank**

An estimated 1.98 million Palestinians in the West Bank are eligible for West Bank ID cards. The ID card states whether the cardholder is Muslim or Christian, indicates his or her marital status, and lists the names of other family members. Children under 16 do not carry a separate ID card but are listed on their parents' cards.

The card contains no information about citizenship.

Unlike other ID card holders, West Bank ID card holders require a permit to enter Jerusalem. To obtain a permit, a person needs to go through an Israeli security checking procedure and obtain a special magnetic card. Since September 2000, these permits have been more difficult to obtain and can be cancelled without notice. The permits specify the length of stay, the duration of the permit and in many cases specify the checkpoint the person can cross.

### **International Court of Justice**

The International Court of Justice is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations. It is based in The Hague, Netherlands.

The Court's workload is characterized by a wide range of judicial activity. Its main functions are to settle legal disputes submitted to it by member states and to give advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by duly authorized international organs, agencies and the UN General Assembly. The ICJ has dealt with relatively few cases in its history.

### **First Intifada (1987 – 1993)**

The First Intifada (Arab. "shaking off") was a mass uprising against Israeli military occupation in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Palestinian actions took a number of forms, including civil disobedience, general strikes, boycotts on Israeli products, graffiti, barricades, Molotov cocktails and grenades, but it was young people throwing stones at Israeli soldiers and vehicles who won most media attention.

Over the course of the First Intifada, an estimated 1,100 Palestinians and 160 Israelis were killed. Some 1,000 Palestinians were assassinated by their own people as alleged collaborators, although fewer than half had any prov-

en contact with the Israeli authorities.

### **Second Intifada (2000 – ongoing)**

The Second Intifada, also known as the al-Aqsa Intifada, began in September 2000. Many Palestinians consider the Intifada to be a war of national liberation against foreign occupation, whereas many Israelis consider it to be a terrorist campaign.

The Second Intifada never finished officially. The death toll, both military and civilian, of the entire conflict in 2000-2007 is estimated to be over 4,300 Palestinians and over 1,000 Israelis. This number does not differentiate between combatants and civilians.

### **Israeli Defense Forces**

Israeli Defense Forces is the name of Israel's military forces. National military service is compulsory for Jewish and Druze men and Jewish women over the age of 18, although exceptions may be made on religious, physical or psychological grounds. Men serve three years in the IDF, while women serve two, sometimes less. Following regular service, men may be called for reserve service of up to one month annually, until the age of 43-45, and may be called for active duty immediately in times of crisis.

Israeli conscientious objectors are called "refuseniks". They can face imprisonment as their action is regarded as dangerous and undemocratic.

### **Knesset**

The Knesset is the legislative branch of the Israeli government and enacts laws, elects the prime minister, supervises the work of the government, reserves the power to remove the President of the State and the State Comptroller from office and to dissolve itself and call new elections. Israel has no constitution but 12 basic laws.

### **Oslo II Agreement**

The Oslo II Agreement was signed in 1994 between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat. It established the division of the West Bank into Areas A, B and C.

Area A: Full Palestinian control (Palestinian cities)

Area B: Under Israeli security and Palestinian civil administration

Area C: Full Israeli control (Israeli civil administration)

## Refugees

Under UNRWA's operational definition, Palestine refugees are people whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. UNRWA's services are available to all those living in its area of operation who meet this definition, are registered with the Agency, and need assistance. UNRWA's definition of a refugee also covers the descendants of people who became refugees in 1948. The number of registered Palestine refugees has subsequently grown from 914,000 in 1950 to more than 4.4 million in 2005, and continues to rise due to natural population growth.

## Roadblocks

A comprehensive system of 85 manned checkpoints and more than 460 physical obstacles (earth mounds, stone blocks, road gates and other) that regulates or prevents Palestinian vehicles from using those West Bank roads primarily reserved for Israeli use.

The IDF states that closures are necessary to protect Israeli citizens from Palestinian militant attacks since the start of the Second Intifada. The number of physical obstacles in the West Bank has increased by more than 45% since August 2005.

## Israeli settlements

Settlements are organized communities of Israeli civilians established on land in the occupied West Bank since 1967, including East Jerusalem, with the approval and direct or indirect support of the Israeli government. Apart from a few exceptions in East Jerusalem, residence in these communities is not open to West Bank and East Jerusalem Palestinians but only to Israeli citizens and to people of Jewish descent entitled to Israeli citizenship or residency under the Law of Return. There are 149 settlements in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

According to the Fourth Geneva Convention it is not allowed for the Occupying Power to transfer its own population to the occupied territories as this makes it more difficult to end the occupation. In fact, the United Nations have condemned the practices of the Israeli government.

## Six-Day War

The Six-Day War was fought between Israel and its neighbours Egypt, Jordan and Syria. At the end of the war Israel annexed East Jerusalem and occupied

the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Also the Sinai Peninsula has been occupied, but Israel gave the territory back to Egypt. The other results of the war affect the geopolitics of the region until today.

## UNRWA

Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, was established by the United Nations General Assembly to carry out direct relief and work programmes for Palestine refugees. In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2008.

## West Bank

The West Bank is the territory on the west bank of the Jordan River. Since 1967 the West Bank has been under Israeli military occupation. The Israeli government refers to the West Bank as Judea and Samaria.

## Zionism

Zionism is an international political movement that supports a homeland for the Jewish People in the Land of Israel. The movement was formally established by Theodor Herzl in the late nineteenth century. The Zionists were successful in establishing the State of Israel in 1948. The Israeli Law of Return allows Jews and those with Jewish parents or grandparents, and spouses of the aforementioned, to settle in Israel and gain citizen

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Satellite images (c) Google  
<http://maps.google.com>



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