International law recognizes Palestinians as a “people”, with an acknowledged right to self-determination and to an independent state. This dates back to the Treaty of Lausanne signed in 1923.

The exercise of the right to self-determination requires a people to claim it, and a territory within which to assert it.

It is also a process achieved through the realization of political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

Segregation, fragmentation and isolation policies are one of the three pillars of Apartheid.

The Israeli apartheid policies of segregation, fragmentation and isolation undermine Palestinian collective identity and connection to their land, as well as deny their political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Segregation

A set of policies or practices, laws, regulations and administrative decisions that generates an enforced systemic separation of one group from another, whether partial or total. In this case, it is the segregation of Palestinians from Israeli-Jews.

Fragmentation

The full range of laws, regulations and administrative decisions, policies and practices designed to politically and territorially fracture the collective identity of a national people – the Palestinian people.

Isolation

Relates to the whole range of laws, regulations and administrative decisions, policies and practices aimed at confining and containing an already fragmented people and their communities.
Israel has used the transportation network as one of the ways to segregate, fragment and isolate Palestinian people and their land, in an attempt to obliterate Palestinian cohesiveness and sovereignty by:

- The control, manipulation and re-orientation of the road network to ensure that Israeli-Jewish colonies throughout Mandatory Palestine continue to grow.
- To encircle and bypass Palestinian cities and communities, concentrate them into enclaves, prevent their natural expansion, and sever connections to homes, land, markets and other Palestinian localities.
- The intentional obstruction of roads, renovation and infrastructure projects, that would otherwise maintain and improve connectivity between Palestinian communities.
- The denial of or restricted access to a woefully inefficient public transportation system.
Israel seeks to inhibit the right of Palestinians to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development through:

- De-Development and Economic Dependency
- Cultural Deprivation
- Dismantling Palestinian social cohesion and establishing and maintaining Israeli control and domination

The Israeli Dismantling of Collective Politicization, Disempowerment, and Targeting of Political Resistance through:

- Undermining the Palestinian Collective Identity
- Concealing Structural Oppression

The use of these apartheid practices of segregation, fragmentation and isolation is not an end in and of itself, but rather a mechanism designed to eliminate the Palestinian people by undermining their collectivity. These policies seek to make the Palestinian right to self-determination an unrealizable and illusory right.

Thousands of Palestinians have to cross everyday hundreds of Israeli checkpoints distributed in and around the West Bank and Gaza strip.

**RETURN IS OUR RIGHT AND OUR WILL**