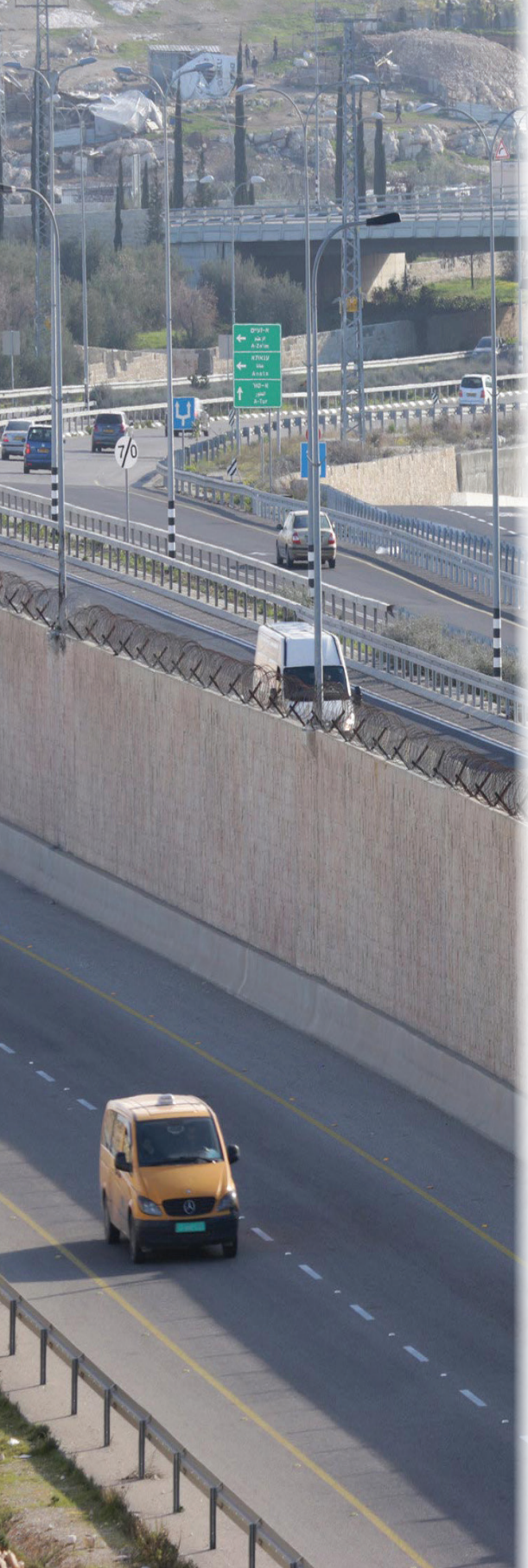


The Israeli Apartheid Spatial Regime: Fragmentation and Enclavement of Palestine

A calculated strategy to
fracture Palestinian unity and erase
their right to self-determination



April 2026



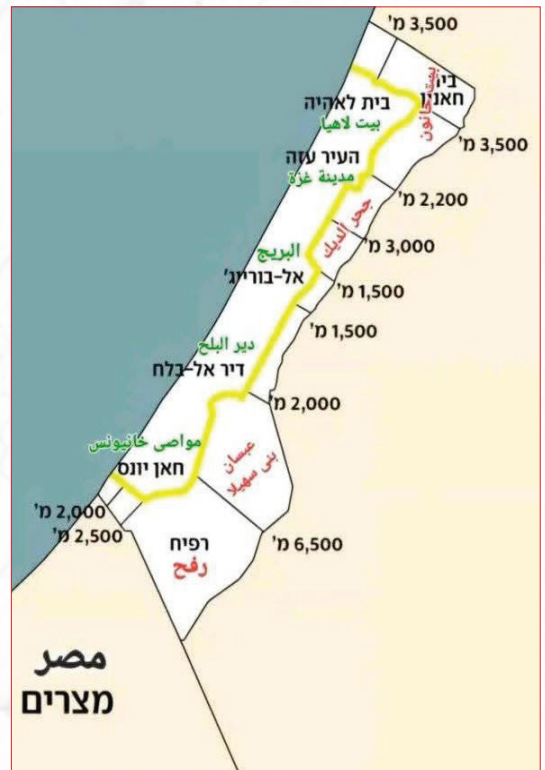
From Fragmentation to Enclaving

Spatial apartheid is structured through segregation, fragmentation, and isolation to control land and people. The Israeli regime has systematically imposed this structure for almost eight decades, effectively fragmenting both Mandatory Palestine and the Palestinian people.

Today, Israeli spatial apartheid functions through enclaving – to further divide Palestinian land and Palestinians into isolated enclaves that undermine territorial continuity and political presence, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the Palestinian people’s inalienable rights to self-determination and return.

The Israeli regime has imposed two interlocking layers of enclaves that reorganize Palestinian life.

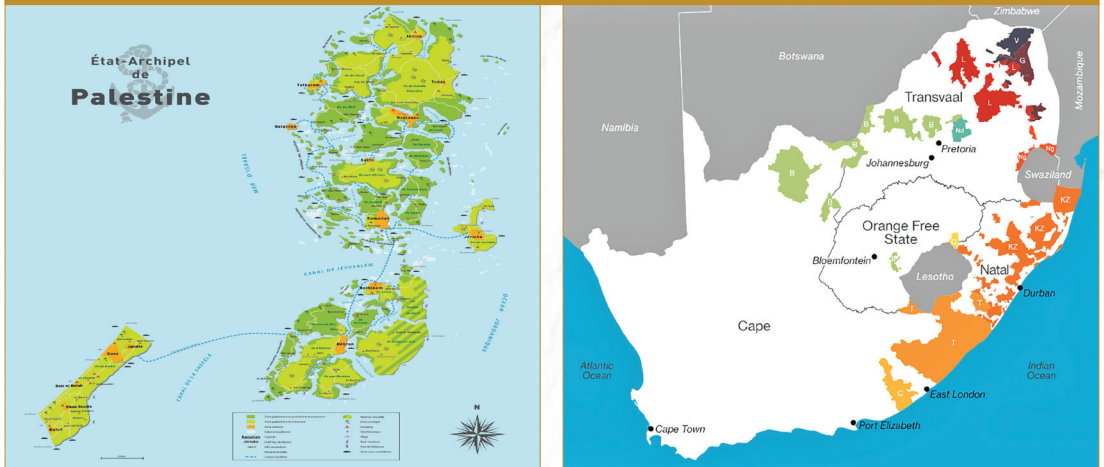
- **Regional enclaves:** large-scale areas containing multiple communities within, such as the cities designated as Area A and B under the Oslo framework in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.
- **Local enclaves:** Isolating communities such as towns, villages, and refugee camps from one another and from surrounding areas, transforming them into local enclaves within the broader regional enclaves.



Israeli regime maps depicting six enclaves in the West Bank and the "yellow line" in Gaza.

Historical Parallel: Bantustans

Maps illustrating spatial fragmentation in the West Bank and Gaza post-Oslo, and bantustans in apartheid South Africa.



The Israeli enclave system shares structural similarities with apartheid South Africa's bantustans, which fragmented territory into nominally self-governing homelands while maintaining full control over land, security, political authority, and economic regulation under the apartheid regime. In both cases, territorial fragmentation and externally controlled local governance function to deny self-determination while presenting domination as autonomy.

Bantustans were designed to regulate and exploit Black labor within a framework of controlled inclusion. In contrast, the Israeli regime's enclave system is oriented toward exclusion, dispossession, and the progressive fragmentation and removal of Palestinian presence through displacement, land confiscation, killings, and demographic control. By destroying Palestinian unity, Israeli spatial apartheid aims to destroy the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

How the Israeli Enclave System Operates

A. Enclaving Through the Decisive Plan and Trump's 20-Point Plan

The Decisive Plan envisions fragmenting the West Bank into six disconnected enclaves, presented as self-governing units while maintaining full Israeli control over land, security, and movement.

This is reinforced by an expanding closure apparatus:

- 849 movement obstacles documented across the West Bank (May 2025).
- Including 288 road gates, with additional installations made regularly.
- Expansion of colonizer-only bypass roads.
- 26,000+ new colonial units planned in 2025 alone, spanning 30,000+ dunums.

In Gaza, Trump's 20-point plan, which was adopted through UNSC Resolution 2803, exposes US-Israeli aims in extreme spatial control:

- The "yellow line" places large areas under Israeli control.
- Seizure of key agricultural land and resources.
- Palestinians are confined to 42% of the Gaza Strip.



B. Enclaving as a Structure

Political:

- Fragmented Palestinian governance.
- Co-opted local bodies manage daily affairs under Israeli regime control.
- Existing Palestinian institutions are hollowed out.
- Israeli control of land, borders, security, and resources.

Economic:

- Enforced dependency on the Israeli economy.
- Israeli control of trade, resources, and labor.
- Prevention of independent Palestinian economic development.

Security:

- Restricted movement through a system of apartheid walls, checkpoints, bypass roads, and permits.
- Obstructed access to essential natural resources and services.
- Intensive Israeli surveillance and suppression.

Population management:

- Ongoing displacement through demolitions, land confiscation, residency restrictions, colonizer attacks, and the overall intensification of the coercive environment.
- Eliminating international presence to reduce oversight and protection.
- UNRWA has been effectively banned, and 37 NGOs have had licenses revoked.





Denying Rights, Denying Sovereignty

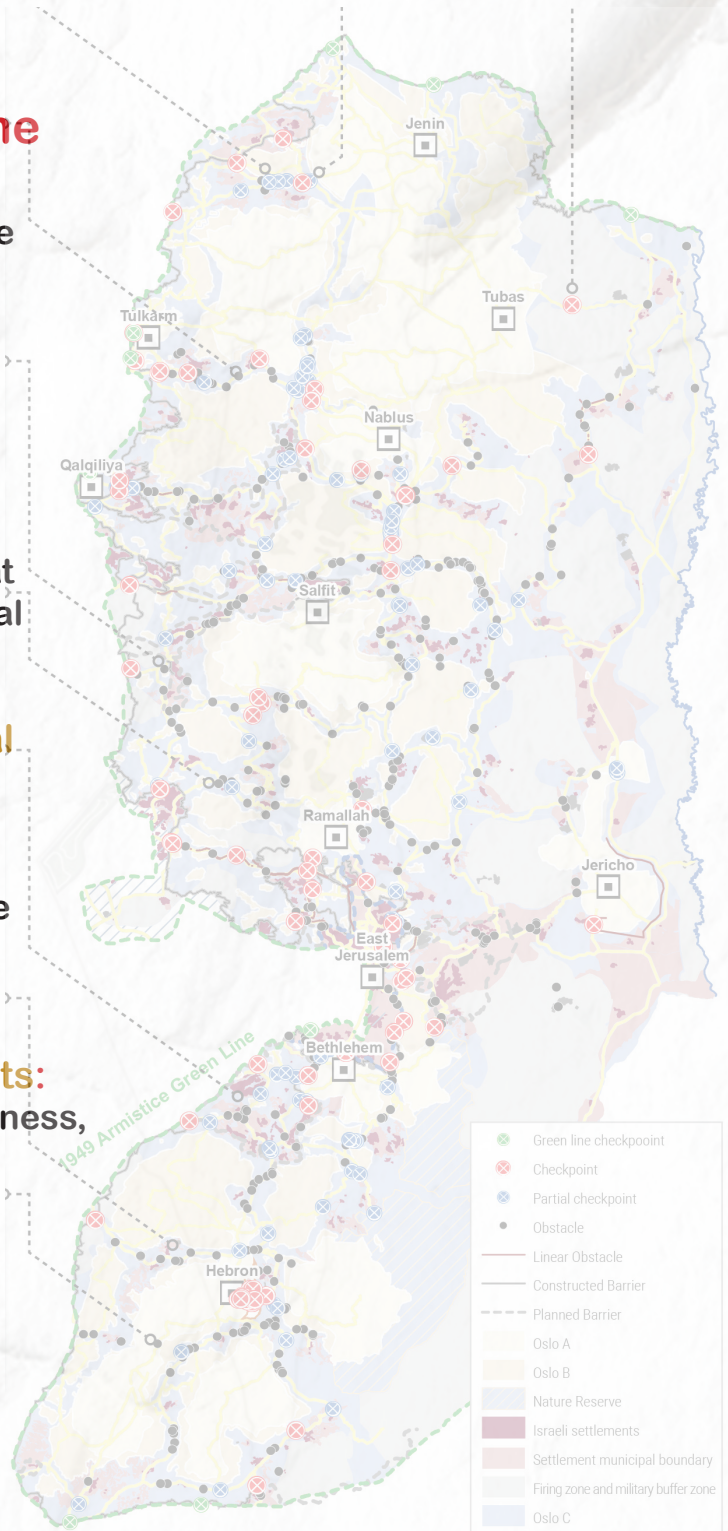
Enclaves are designed to confine Palestinians to fragmented, disconnected spaces where rights, movement, and development are tightly controlled.

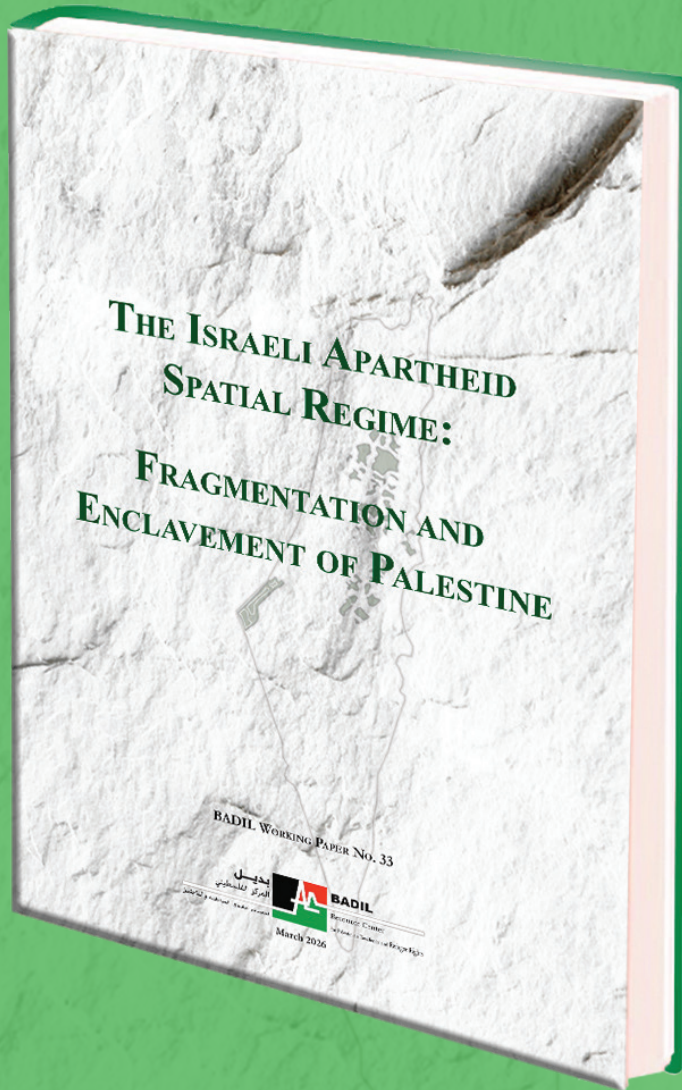
Palestinians are left with limited administrative roles, while the Israeli regime expands its colonization, fragmenting political, social, and economic life, to prevent meaningful sovereignty.

This reflects the Israeli regime's long-standing effort to dismantle the unity of the Palestinian people in order to undermine and ultimately deny their rights to self-determination and return.

What Must Be Done

- **States:** Take concrete action to end their complicity, impose political, economic, and military sanctions on the Israeli regime, and reject and dismantle plans and policies that reinforce Israeli spatial apartheid.
- **Civil Society & Legal Actors:** Strengthen coordinated legal and advocacy efforts to hold the Israeli regime and complicit states accountable.
- **Solidarity Movements:** Mobilize public awareness, support Palestinian resistance, amplify Palestinian voices, and connect the Palestinian struggle to global movements against apartheid and colonization.





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