

ISRAELI ROAD MAP VIOLATIONS SINCE ANNAPOLIS

18-MONTH SUMMARY

28 November 2007 - 27 May 2009

Since Israelis and Palestinians renewed their respective commitments under the Road Map at the Annapolis Conference on 27 November 2007, Israel has failed to implement any of its Road Map obligations. Following is a (non-exhaustive) summary of Israeli violations that took place in the 18 months since Annapolis with respect to: (1) settlement activity, (2) attacks against Palestinians and their property, (3) internal closures, (4) Jerusalem institutions, and (5) other Road Map obligations.

I. SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

Obligation: *“Consistent with the Mitchell Report, [Government of Israel] freezes all settlement activity (including natural growth of settlements).”*

Status: *Far from being “frozen”, Israeli settlement activity throughout the West Bank has substantially increased since Annapolis in virtually all areas—from planning to authorization to construction—particularly in and around East Jerusalem.*

A. Settlement Construction

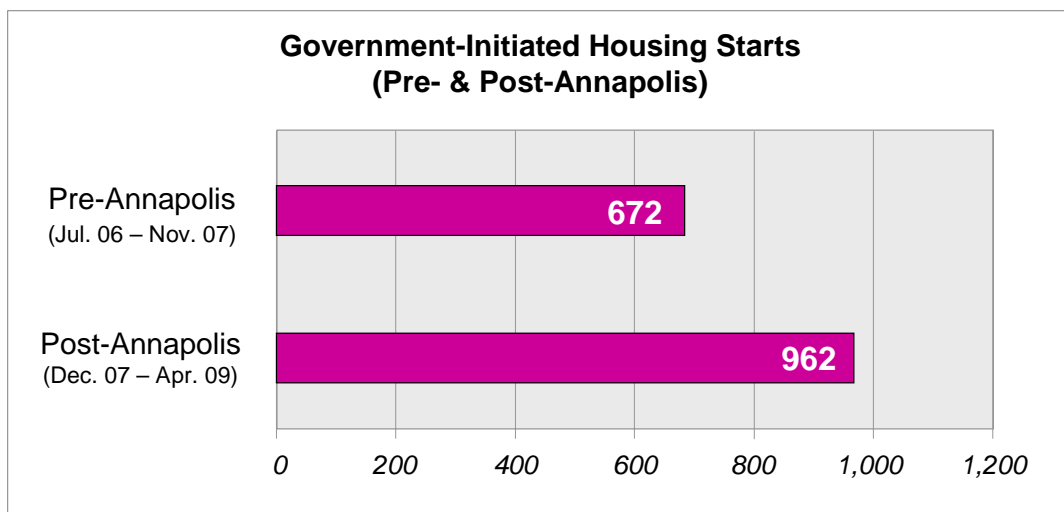
1. Housing Units

- **Construction Projects:** The Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH) currently identifies construction projects, at various stages of development, in at least 73 sites in 11 “urban” settlements in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), totalling **4,048 settlement housing units**.¹ Some **92 percent** of these units are in **Metropolitan Jerusalem**, with 43 percent in Har Homa alone. Following is a breakdown of current settlement construction projects:

Settlement	Governorate	# Housing Units	# Sold
Alfe Menashe	Qalqilya	80	0
Ariel	Salfit	200	105
Betar 'Illit	Bethlehem	230	101
Efrata	Bethlehem	102	88
Elqana	Salfit	52	0
Geva' Binyamin (Adam)	Jerusalem	180	104
Giv'at Ze'ev	Jerusalem	546	115
Har Homa	Jerusalem	1,734	740
Ma'ale Adumim	Jerusalem	838	464
Pisgat Zeev	Jerusalem	56	0
Qarne Shomron	Salfit	30	0
		4,048	1,717

¹ Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing. Available figures are for “urban” construction only (*i.e.*, excluding settlements belonging to “regional councils”).

- Active Construction: According to the latest available data from the Israeli government, as of December 2008, some **3,229 housing units** were under active construction in West Bank settlements (*excluding* those in and around East Jerusalem). This includes 1,482 units (46 percent) in government-sponsored construction and 1,747 units in private construction (54 percent). This represents an overall increase of 16 percent over the previous year (December 2007), at which time 2,780 units were under active construction. Moreover, whereas the number of housing units in private construction at the end of 2008 increased by 9 percent over the previous year, **the number of housing units in government-sponsored construction increased by 26 percent.**²
- Housing Starts
 - *Government-initiated construction*: According to official data, the Israeli government began construction on **at least 962 new housing units** in West Bank settlements in the first 17 months after the Annapolis Conference (Dec. 07 – Apr. 09).³ This is an **increase of 43 percent** over the 17-month period prior to Annapolis, during which the government initiated construction on 672 units. (NOTE: Figures do *not* include construction in settlements in and around East Jerusalem, for which data is not yet available.)



- *Privately-initiated construction*: Construction initiated by the Israeli private sector also increased in comparison with pre-Annapolis levels. According to official data, construction began on **1,324 housing units** in West Bank settlements during 2008, as compared with 883 units begun in 2007.⁴ (Note: Figures do *not* include construction in settlements in and around East Jerusalem.)

2. Roads and Infrastructure

- Throughout the reporting period, construction work continued on three major settlement infrastructure projects in and around Jerusalem:

² Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics.

³ Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing.

⁴ Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics.

- Excavation work for **three tunnels** adjacent to **Al-Aqsa Mosque compound** (Haram al-Sharif) in Jerusalem's Old City and the neighborhood of Silwan.
 - The northern section of the **Jerusalem Ring Road** (Rd. # 20), which will eventually connect with the eastern ring road via the newly built settler bypass road around `Anata and Az-Zaim.
 - The first phase of the **Jerusalem Light Rail** (currently concentrated in the Shu'fat and Sheikh Jarrah areas) which is aimed at linking the settlements of Pisgat Ze'ev, Neve Ya'acov and French Hill with West Jerusalem.
- Road and infrastructure preparation also continued in the **E-1 expansion area** between East Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim settlement, including the **newly constructed police headquarters** in the eastern part of E-1, which was officially inaugurated on 19 May 2008. The new police station, the second to be built inside the E-1 area, replaced the one located in Ras al-Amud neighbourhood in East Jerusalem, which in turn was handed over to settler groups for their use.

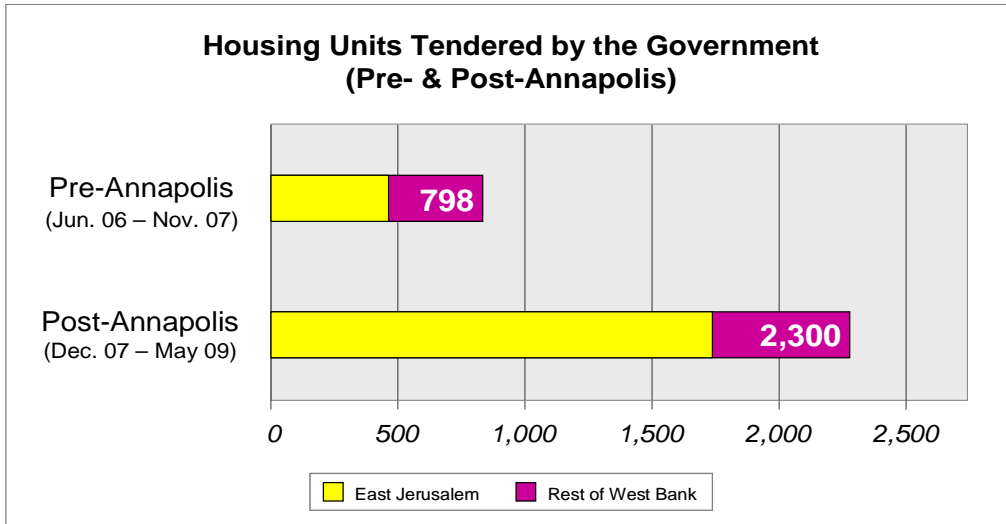
3. *The Wall*

- Work on the Wall, which is an integral component of Israel's settlement enterprise, continued in several places throughout the West Bank, particularly in the Jerusalem area and in the southern West Bank. According to the most recent statistics available from UN-OCHA (as of 11 September 2008), approximately **57 percent** (415 km) of the 723 km planned route of the Wall had been completed, with another 9 percent currently under construction.
- In January 2009, the Israeli army issued 4 military orders **declaring the area between the Wall and the Green Line in Salfit, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates a closed military area**. Israeli citizens and even foreign visitors to Israel will have free access to these parts of the occupied Palestinian territory, while Palestinians – even residents of those areas – will only be able to access and reside in them if they can meet the onerous conditions for obtaining a permit from the Israeli military. In the northern West Bank, the area between the Wall and the Green Line has been closed since October 2003, and according to research conducted by UN-OCHA and UNRWA, only about 20% of those who used to work the land in the area now receive permits. [UN-OCHA]

B. Settlement Authorization and Planning

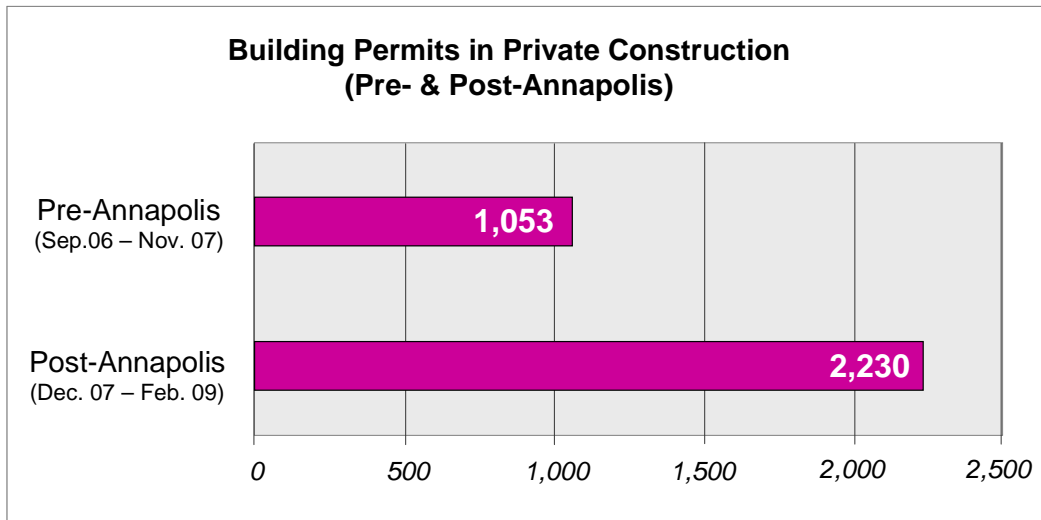
1. *Tenders*

- Government tenders for settlement construction, primarily in and around East Jerusalem, have reached record highs since Annapolis. In the 18 months since Annapolis, Israeli authorities have issued 21 tenders for settlement construction, totalling **2,300 new housing units**, which is **nearly three times** as many as the 798 housing units tendered in the 18 months prior to Annapolis (see graph below). Moreover, **77 percent** of these are in settlements located in and around East Jerusalem, as compared with 60 percent (478) during the 18 months prior to Annapolis.



2. Building Permits

- In terms of privately-initiated construction, the Israeli government issued building permits for **at least 2,230 housing units** in West Bank settlements (*excluding* those in and around East Jerusalem) in the first 15 months after Annapolis (Dec. 07 – Feb. 09). This is **more than double** the 1,053 units for which permits were issued in the 15-month period prior to Annapolis.⁵



3. Plans and Approvals

- In March 2009, Peace Now reported that the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing currently has plans for the construction of **73,302 settlement housing units** in some 24 different settlements. Of these, 15,156 are already approved, including 8,950 units that have already been built.
- In East Jerusalem alone, Israeli authorities have advanced plans for **some 9,617 housing units** in Israeli settlements since Annapolis.⁶ Of these:

⁵ Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics.

⁶ Ir Amim Monitoring Report, "Negotiations toward an Accord on Jerusalem: Declarations vs. Actions," April 2008. May 2009

- Town planning schemes for **4,370 housing units** in East Jerusalem settlements have been approved and are ready for immediate implementation, including in East Talpiot (620 units), Har Homa (2,653 units), Pisgat Ze'ev (759 units), Ramot (338 units) and Gilo (hotels and residences).
- An additional **5,247 units** were submitted for public review and are awaiting final approval, including the settlements of East Talpiot (104 units), Giv'at HaMatos (3,150 units), Neve Ya'acov (393 units) and Ramot (1,600 units).
- In February 2009, the Israeli Ministry of Defense reportedly approved the establishment of a **new settlement near Adam** (Geva' Binyamin) settlement in Ramallah Governorate as part of a plan to relocate Israeli settlers from the outpost of Migron. The new settlement is slated to include 250 housing units in its first phase, 50 of which are intended for the settlers now living in Migron outpost. Said to be built within the "municipal" boundaries of Adam settlement, Israel may attempt to pass off this new settlement as "merely" an extension of an existing settlement. However, the "municipal" area of Adam settlement is several times larger than its built-up area, and the planned new settlement will be located at quite a distance from the built-up area of the existing settlement. [*Ha'aretz*]
- In March 2009, it was reported that Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak had granted **official recognition** to the settlement of **Sansana** (pop. ~300), located along the southwestern edge of Hebron Governorate. Although the settlement is not new, it had previously been considered a "neighborhood" of Eshkolot settlement, located some 3 km to the north. A detailed plan for Sansana calls for a total of 440 housing units—an increase in population of nearly 10-fold—68 of which are slated for immediate construction. [Peace Now, *Ha'aretz*]
- In April 2009, a special committee in the Israeli Interior Ministry presented recommendations to the Ministry's Director-General to **annex Qedar settlement** (pop. ~800) to Ma'ale Adumim settlement (pop. ~33,000) and to **expand Ma'ale Adumim by 12,000 dunums** – an area more than 2½ times the size of the built-up area of Ma'ale Adumim itself. The Ministry first published an official notice regarding the plan in July 2008. The massive expansion plan calls for the construction of some **6,000 new units** (capable of housing approximately 25,000 new settlers) on land belonging to Abu Dis and As-Sawahira villages. The recommendation may well influence the Israeli Supreme Court which is considering a proposal to change the planned **route of the Wall** in the area to leave Qedar east of the Wall. [Israel Army Radio; *Jerusalem Post*, 26 April 2009; Peace Now]
- In May 2009, it was revealed that the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and the Israeli-defined Jerusalem Municipality, in co-operation with the Jerusalem Development Authority and settler organizations, are implementing an 8-year 'confidential' **plan to create a string of 9 parks, pathways and sites, incorporating new or existing settlements, in and around East Jerusalem**. The planned open spaces will link E-1 with the Old City, while fragmenting the Palestinian neighborhoods of Silwan, Ras el-Amud, Wadi Joz, Al-Swana, Sheikh Jarrah, and A-Tur. Some NIS 480 million is earmarked for the plan. [Peace Now; *The Guardian*; *Haaretz*]

C. Settlement Outposts

Obligation: *“GOI immediately dismantles settlement outposts erected since March 2001.”*

Status: *The Israeli government has failed to meet this obligation, or to take any meaningful action against the outposts since Annapolis. Indeed, rather than dismantle the outposts, Israeli authorities are seeking ways to legitimize or maintain the majority of these nascent settlements.*

- Of the approximately 110⁷ outposts in the West Bank, some 58 of which were established since March 2001, **none⁸ have been dismantled** since Annapolis. In contrast, according to Peace Now, **261 new structures** were added to the outposts in 2008, as compared with 98 in 2007 – a **2.5-fold increase**.
- Israeli authorities continued to speak of removing only “unauthorized” outposts (*i.e.*, those established in violation of Israeli domestic law), of which they have identified only 26. The Road Map contains no such distinction between “authorized” and “unauthorized” outposts. Under an agreement previously reached between the Israeli Ministry of Defense and settler leaders, the evacuation of even these limited outposts would take place **in exchange for their relocation to the large settlement “blocs”** or to settlements near Jerusalem, along with government assurances to approve building permits and other expansion plans for more established settlements.

II. ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS

Obligation: *“GOI takes no actions undermining trust, including deportations, attacks on civilians; confiscation and/or demolition of Palestinian homes and property, as a punitive measure or to facilitate Israeli construction; destruction of Palestinian institutions and infrastructure; and other measures specified in the Tenet work plan.”*

Status: *Since Annapolis, Israeli incursions, assassinations, arrests, home demolitions and other attacks on Palestinians and their property have continued more or less unabated.*

A. Palestinian Deaths and Injuries

- As with other post-Annapolis indicators, the numbers of Palestinians killed and injured by Israeli forces increased substantially after November 2007. Whereas 893 Palestinians were killed and another 3,636 injured by Israeli forces in the 18 months before the Annapolis Conference, at least **1,756** Palestinians were killed and another **8,099** injured in the 18 months after Annapolis, an increase of 97% and 123% respectively.⁹

⁷ This number does not include the handful of outposts removed by the Israeli army immediately or shortly after being established, or outposts that are very temporary in nature (*e.g.*, only inhabited during the day or periodically throughout the year).

⁸ This number does not include the handful of outposts removed by the Israeli army immediately or shortly after being established, or outposts that were only partially dismantled.

⁹ Palestinian Monitoring Group.

Palestinian Deaths and Injuries by Israeli Forces since Annapolis (Dec. 07 – May. 09)

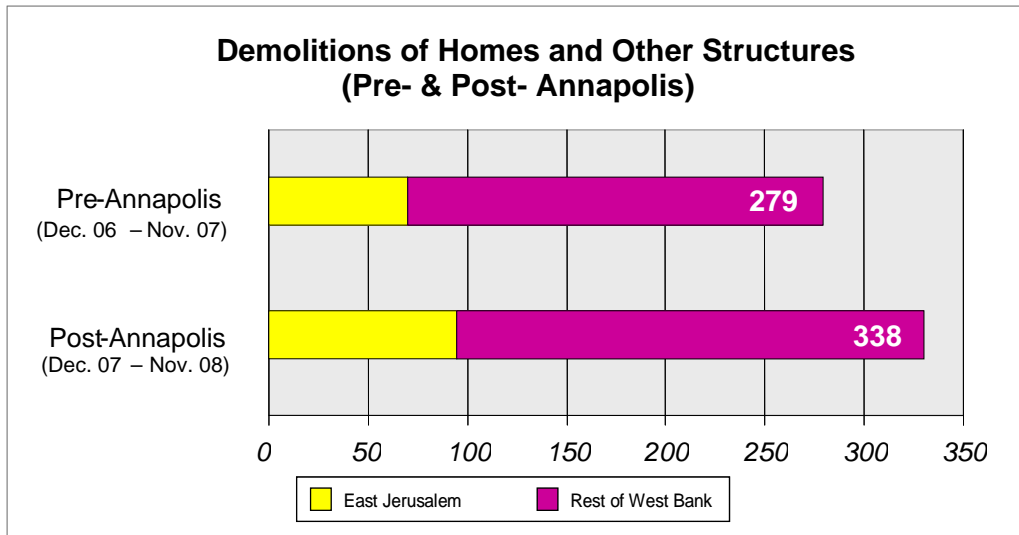
	Deaths	Injuries
West Bank (including East Jerusalem)	74	1,746
Gaza Strip	1,682	6,353
Total	1,756	8,099

B. Land Confiscations

- On 1 January 2009, the Israeli army issued a military order (#T/08/29) for the **confiscation** of **10.2 dunums** of land belonging to **Nahalin** village in Bethlehem governorate for the purpose of constructing a military road. This proposed road will connect Beitar 'Illit and Gava'ot settlements to each other. According to ARIJ, the road will dramatically isolate 4,400 dunums from Nahalin village, forcing land owners to travel 8 km instead of the current 1.5 km.
- On 7 January 2009, the Israeli-defined municipality of Jerusalem published an **expropriation** order for the confiscation of **10 dunums** in the Palestinian neighborhood of **Al-Tur** in East Jerusalem. A Jewish religious school and student accommodation are reportedly planned for the site. [ARIJ]
- On 8 January 2009, the Israeli army issued a military order (#T/09/03) for the **confiscation** of **13.4 dunums** of land belonging to **Husan village** in Bethlehem governorate for the purpose of constructing a new section of the Wall.
- In January 2009, the Israeli Army issued a military order for the confiscation of about **500 dunums** of land belonging to **Abu Dis** town in East Jerusalem, reportedly for the construction of the Wall in that area. [ARIJ]
- In January 2009, Peace Now issued a report showing that at least **275 dunums** of Palestinian land were **confiscated** by Israeli authorities in 2008. On 11 November 2008, 23 dunums of land belonging to Husan village, on which a settler gas station has been built, were declared state land. In July 2008, 90 dunums of land were registered in the name of the Israeli Custodian of Government Property for a park near Efrat settlement. In July 2008, 60 dunums were declared state land for the expansion of the industrial area of Ariel settlement. In May 2008, final approval for the declaration of 100 dunums north of Kiryat Arba settlement as state land was secured.
- In February 2009, an Israeli military tribunal rejected eight separate petitions, each representing dozens of Palestinian landowners against the Israeli Civil Administration's designation of some **1,700 dunams** of land belonging to the village of Artas, south of Bethlehem, as "state land", thus paving the way for the expansion of **Efrat settlement**. According to existing plans for Efrat, some 2,500 housing units are to be added to the existing settlement in three new settlement "neighborhoods": Giv'at Ha-Tamar and Giv'at Ha-Dagan to the north (500 units), on the site of two similarly named settlement outposts, and Giv'at Ha-Eitam to the northeast (2,000 units).

C. Demolitions

- Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes have also intensified since Annapolis, particularly in and around East Jerusalem. According to the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions (ICAHN), Israeli authorities have demolished at least **338 Palestinian homes** and other structures in the year since Annapolis (28 Nov. 2007 – 27 Nov. 2008), 99 of them in East Jerusalem. This represents an overall **increase of 21 percent** over the 12-month period prior to Annapolis.



D. Residency Revocations

- Israel’s policy of revoking ID cards/residency of Palestinians, particularly those in East Jerusalem, is functionally the same as physical deportation. Although recent statistics on the number of Palestinian ID/residency revocations since Annapolis are not yet available, according to the most recent available data, the number of Jerusalem-area Palestinians who had their residency rights revoked by Israel increased sharply in 2006 to **1,363**, which is more than the previous six years combined and more than any single year since 1967.¹⁰

III. INTERNAL CLOSURES

Obligation: *“As comprehensive security performance moves forward, IDF withdraws progressively from areas occupied since September 28, 2000 and the two sides restore the status quo that existed prior to September 28, 2000.”*

Status: *Despite significant progress and ongoing Palestinian efforts to improve security performance, the Israel military has shown no signs of redeploying to its pre-September 28 positions, and instead has expanded its presence and control over the West Bank. Indeed, Israeli-imposed internal movement and access restrictions on the Palestinian population have steadily increased since the Gaza evacuation of August 2005, a trend that has continued since the Annapolis Conference.*

¹⁰ Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B’Tselem).

- As of March 2009, Israel had established some **634 checkpoints, roadblocks and other physical barriers** to Palestinian movement throughout the West Bank. This represents a net increase of 13 percent since Annapolis (Nov. 2007) and a **69 percent increase** since August 2005. [UN-OCHA]

IV. JERUSALEM INSTITUTIONS

Obligation: *“GOI reopens the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce and other closed Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.”*

Status: *The Israeli government has failed to reopen any of the 10 institutions that were closed in August 2001, while at the same time curtailing the activities of other Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.*

- Since Annapolis, Israel’s Minister of Internal Security Avi Dichter **has twice renewed the closure of all 10 Palestinian institutions** that were closed in August 2001, including Orient House, first on 8 February 2008 and again on 5 August 2008.

V. OTHER OBLIGATIONS

Obligation: *“Israeli leadership issues unequivocal statement affirming its commitment to the two-state vision of an independent, viable, sovereign Palestinian state living in peace and security alongside Israel, as expressed by President Bush, and calling for an immediate end to violence against Palestinians everywhere.”*

Status: *Although the governments of Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert accepted the goal of creating a Palestinian state, no Israeli leader or government has ever articulated a clear and unequivocal commitment to the establishment of an “independent, viable and sovereign” Palestinian state as such.*