

"מרחב התפר"

Israel's Security Fence



PURPOSE | OPERATIONAL CONCEPT | ROUTE | HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS | EXECUTION ASPECTS | Q & A | NEWS BRIEFS

PURPOSE



Sbarro suicide bombing 9-August-2001
Photo: Magen David Adom
Ministry of Foreign Affairs site



The Hebrew University Cafeteria after bombing
july-2002-31
GPO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs site



Suicide bombing in Egged bus at Meron Junction
august-2002-4

- ▶ The sole purpose of the Security Fence, as stated in the Israeli Government decision of July 23rd 2001, is to provide security.
The Security Fence is a central component in Israel's response to the horrific wave of terrorism emanating from the West Bank, resulting in suicide bombers who enter into Israel with the sole intention of killing innocent people. Sadly, this abhorrent phenomenon has become [common practice since September 2000](#)

- ▶ [Fence Against Terror](#) (Video - IDF Spokesperson production).

- ▶ Information on Palestinian terror organizations can be found at The [Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center website](#) that operates through the center for special studies (C.S.S).

- ▶ Between Israel and the areas of the Palestinian Authority there is no border or natural obstacles, which, to- date, enables the almost unhindered entry of terrorists into Israel. The security fence that exists along the Gaza Strip has proven its defensive robustness and the vast majority of infiltration attempts through it, were discovered and thwarted.

- ▶ The "Security Fence" is a manifestation of Israel's basic commitment to defend its citizens, and once completed, it will improve the ability of the IDF to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and criminal elements into Israel for the purpose of carrying out terrorist attacks or the smuggling of arms and explosives.

- ▶ The Security Fence program was approved by the Defence Cabinet in July 2001. However, at that point of time it was perceived as a means to prevent illegal entry into Israel through the seizure, interrogation and arrest of these elements by the police.

The obstacle itself was referred to as an obstacle in three separate areas: Um el Fahem, Tulkarem and Jerusalem, a total of 80 km.

In the months that followed it became apparent that the ability of the IDF and the police to stop illegal entry into Israel depended on the existence of a contiguous obstacle.

Accordingly, when in April 2002 the responsibility for building the Security Fence was placed with the Ministry of Defence, the original plan underwent modifications based on the principle of continuity.

In June 2002 the Defence Cabinet approved, with minor reservations, the plan based on the principle of a contiguous obstacle.

- ▶ The route from Salem to Elkana and in the northern and



Carmel Market in Tel Aviv after a suicide bombing
nov-2004-1

Reuters: Ofer Vaknin

Ministry of Foreign Affairs site



southern sections of Jerusalem was finally approved in August 2002.

► Other milestones in the Government approval of the fence:

- December 2002- stage B: from Salem towards Bet Shean.
- August 2003- stage C: 68 km of the fence circling Jerusalem.
- October 2003- stage D: Approval of the route from Elkana towards Carmel (Um Daraj).
- In its ruling on June 30th 2004 the Israeli Supreme Court stated that the security fence was built for reasons of national security. The ruling demanded, however proportionality between humanitarian and operational considerations. The routing of the fence underwent a thorough and comprehensive reassessment resulting in a new planning presented to the government for approval.
- 20 February 2005 - Government approval of the new route.
- On April 30th 2006 the cabinet decided to change the route of the Security Fence in several areas:
Ariel area- creation of two thin settlement blocks instead of one. The route of the already constructed fence in Alfei Menashe will be changed leaving three clusters of houses in Ras a Tira, A- Dabaa and Wadi Rasha outside the fence, on the Palestinian side.
Beit Iksa near Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood will be left outside the fence.
The Palestinian village, Jaba which overlooks the Gush Etzion- Elah road, will be inside the fence with a crossing built to allow residents of Jaba to travel to the nearby Palestinian town Tzurif.
Eshkolot and Metzadot Yehuda in the southern Herbon Hills will be inside the fence however quarries will be left out.
The route from Metzadot to Har Choled, has been approved. The cabinet also decided that the Police will be responsible for the Security Fence in Jerusalem nicknamed "Jerusalem Envelope".

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