

## Administrative Detention

Administrative detention is a procedure that allows the Israeli military to hold prisoners, including juveniles (who are often denied access to their family), indefinitely on secret information without charging them or allowing them to stand trial. Although administrative detention is used almost exclusively to detain Palestinians from the OPT, Israeli citizens and foreign nationals can also be held as administrative detainees by Israel (over the years, less than a dozen Israeli settlers have been held in administrative detention).



## Arabs

Persons sharing Arabic language and culture as their principal identity, including adherents to various religions and state citizenships.

**Palestinian Arabs** are those persons and descendants of persons indigenous to historic Palestine, including citizens of Israel, OPT and those in exile having the corresponding linguistic, geographical and/or cultural affiliation.

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## Arabs (contd.)

**Syrian Arabs** are those adherents to Arabic language and living within, or originating from areas within the State of Syria, including the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since 1967.

**Arab citizens of Israel** are those Arabs holding citizenship under Israel's Law of Citizenship but not holding "Jewish nationality" status.

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## Areas of Jurisdiction

The 1995 Oslo II Accord partitioned the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into three administrative areas:

### Area A:

Comprises approximately 18% of the West Bank and is under Palestinian political and military control. It contains the major cities, and their environs, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Jericho and 80% of Hebron, with no (apart from Hebron) illegal Israeli settlements. Israeli citizens are not allowed to enter this area. However, since 2002, Israeli armed forces conduct regular raids, often at night, into area A.

Gaza is also categorised as being an area A zone, despite not being governed by the PA. Even though the Palestinians in this area are "free" they must pass through Israeli checkpoints to reach neighbouring towns/cities or to leave the country. Palestinians do not have their own airport or seaport.

### Area B:

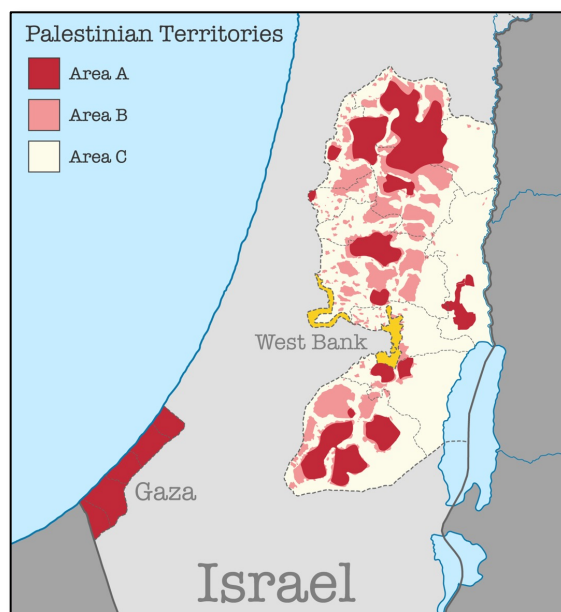
Comprises approximately 22% of the West Bank and is under Palestinian civil law yet supposedly shares security responsibilities with Israel. In reality, Israel holds complete military control over this area, with limited cooperation from Palestinian police. This area covers the vast majority of Palestinian agricultural land with approximately 440 Palestinian villages and no illegal Israeli settlements. Areas A and B are often called the "islands" as they are separated by Israeli-only infrastructure and the illegal settlements in Area C.

## Areas of Jurisdiction (contd.)

### Area C:

Comprises approximately 60% of the West Bank and is under almost complete Israeli control. This area contains all (apart from in Hebron) Israeli settlements and settler roads, with large buffer zones around them. The PA is responsible for providing education and medical services to the approximately 300,000 Palestinians in over 500 villages and towns. This does not include the approximately 20,000 who live in Bedouin communities.

Palestinian accommodation is therefore much poorer, on average, than their Israeli counterparts. Many Palestinians live in fear of having their homes demolished as they did not receive the appropriate permit. Area C also holds most of the West Bank's natural resources. Nonetheless, more than 70% of Palestinian villages in the area are not connected to the water grid; while all illegal settlements come with every basic amenity. In 1972, there were 1,000 Israeli settlers living in area C, now there are at least 360,000 living in 125 settlements and around 100 outposts. Settlers face lower tax rates and generous grants by the Israeli government if they move into the illegal settlements.



## Battle of Gaza

A military conflict between Fatah and Hamas that took place in 2007. The battle resulted in the dissolution of the unity government and the *de facto* division of the Palestinian territories into two entities, the West Bank governed by the PA and Gaza governed by Hamas.

## East Jerusalem

Jerusalem was the capital of the Palestine region during both Ottoman and British rule; however, like the West Bank, East Jerusalem has been occupied since 1967 - the occupation is illegal under international law. In 1980, Israel declared Jerusalem to be its capital, a 'unified city', effectively annexing it. This was not recognised by the international community. In 2000, the PA passed a law stating Jerusalem to be their capital. Currently, Israel's *de facto* capital is Tel Aviv and Palestine's *de facto* capital is Ramallah.

Currently, around 40% of all East Jerusalem residents are Jews living in illegal settlements or previously owned Palestinian homes. The Palestinian residents (Jerusalemites) are allowed to travel throughout Israel, are under Israeli military and civil control yet cannot vote in Israeli elections. There are at least 370,000 settlers living in East Jerusalem.



## Fatah

Formerly the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, it is a Palestinian nationalist and social democratic political party. It is the largest faction of the multi-party Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the second-largest party in the Palestinian Legislative Council. Mahmoud Abbas (below), the President of the Palestinian Authority, is the chairman of Fatah.



## Final Status Lands

Categories of land that Israel reserves under its total control and jurisdiction waiting their status to be determined through protracted and spasmodic negotiations that have yet to be concluded.

These are lands that fall under sole Israeli rule and are excluded from the Interim Process as final-status lands: (1) lands of settlements, (2) lands of annexed Jerusalem, (3) lands of military areas, and (4) borders. Israel enjoys all aspects of jurisdiction in these areas and is, thus, fully responsible as the occupying power. The spatial definition of all these areas remains ambiguous.

## Green Line

Borders determined by armistice with neighboring States (1948–49), separating the State of Israel-controlled territory from the other areas of Palestine (Jerusalem, West Bank & Gaza Strip). Indigenous Palestinians remaining inside the Green Line

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**Green Line (contd.)** became citizens of Israel. Palestinians living in the other areas of Palestine, including refugees originating from inside the “green line,” came under the administration of Jordan (in the West Bank) and Egypt (Gaza Strip) until Israel conquered those territories in the 1967 War.

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**Hamas** An acronym of *Ḥarakah al-Muqāwamah al-Islāmiyyah* (Islamic Resistance Movement), it is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist, militant, and nationalist organization. It became the *de facto* governing authority of the Gaza Strip in 2007.



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**Holy Land** The land encompassing Israel and the Occupied Territories (OT) – the Occupied Palestinian Territories are denoted in this document by ‘OPT’. It can also be broadened to include Jordan (where Moses glimpsed the Promised Land and Jesus was baptised), Syria (where Elijah took refuge and St Paul was converted) and the Sinai Peninsula (where Moses and the Israelites wandered for 40 years) al.

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**Intifada** The common Palestinian — and now international — term for “uprising,” derives from the Arabic verb “to shake off.” The Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation that began on 7 December 1987 is referred to as the first Intifada. The ongoing uprising sparked by Israeli Gen. Ariel Sharon’s militaristic desecration of the Muslim Noble Sanctuary (Jerusalem) and the subsequent massacre of Palestinian faithful there after Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque, 29 September 2000, has come to be known as the second, or al-Aqsa Intifada.

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**Jerusalemite /  
Jerusalem  
Resident**

Any Palestinian born, living, or is a descendant of a Palestinian born or living in Jerusalem, is considered a Jerusalemite. Despite the fact that Israel formally annexed the expanded part of Jerusalem in 1980, the Arab residents of the city are treated as Jordanian residents in Israel and are issued special ID cards different from those given to residents of the West Bank. Moreover, those residents suffer from inadequate infrastructure and poor services despite the fact that they pay the same taxes as their Jewish counterparts.

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**Military  
Government**

Since 1967 Israel has operated a military regime in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank. In 1981 Israel set up a civilian administration as a separate branch of the military government. This further integrated these territories into Israel's administrative and legal infrastructure.

The laws which govern the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories include Ottoman, British Mandatory and Jordanian (West Bank) or Egyptian (Gaza). Israel reinstated the Mandate-era Emergency Defense Regulations which the British had revoked in 1948 and which the Jordanians never used. These laws are rarely used against Israeli Jews, but the authorities use them systematically to deport, detain or arrest Palestinians, to demolish or seal houses and to impose censorship.

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**al-Nakba**

The Nakba, which means "catastrophe" in Arabic, refers to the mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

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**Occupied  
Territories  
(OT) (OPT)**

The lands that Israel controls as a consequence of the 1967 "pre-emptive" war. These include lands acquired by force and where Israel maintains effective control through the Military Government of Israel (MGoI). These remain: the West Bank, including Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in Palestine (OPT); and.

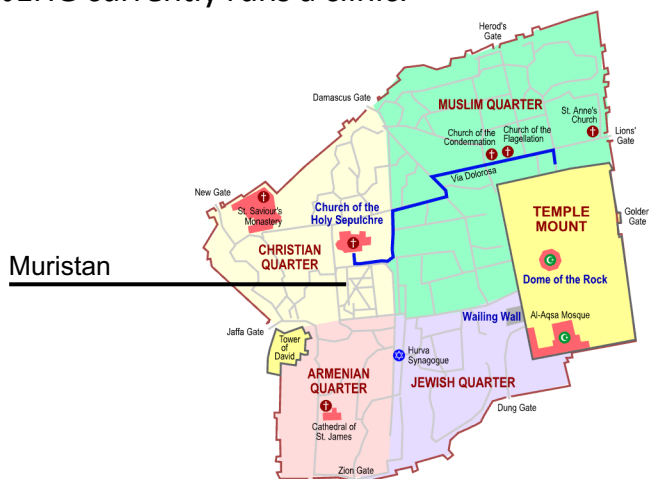


**Occupied  
Territories  
(OT) (OPT)  
(contd.)**

the Golan Heights of Syria (OT). Subsequent acquisition of lands in southern Lebanon through gradual conquest in the 1970s and through its 1982 invasion there has been reduced through Israel's July 2000 withdrawal. However, the territory of Shiba` Farms remains under Israeli military occupation, which neighbouring States affirm is Lebanese sovereign territory.

**The Old City**

The Old City of Jerusalem is traditionally made of of four quarters: Armenian, Christian, Jewish and Muslim. It covers an area of one square kilometre and there are currently seven entry gates. Central to the Old City are three major holy sites: the Al-Aqsa mosque, the third holiest site in the world for Muslims as they believe that the Prophet (pbuh) was carried from Mecca to Jerusalem, and then from Jerusalem into the heavens, where he conversed with prophets before returning to earth; the Western Wall, the last remnant of the second Temple and so the holiest site in the world for Jews; and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which marks the place where Christians believe Jesus was crucified, entombed and resurrected. It is also the home of the Muristan where the first Hospitaller hospital was built in the Twelfth Century and where SJEHG currently runs a clinic.





## Oslo Accords

The Oslo Accords are a pair of agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), signed in Washington DC in 1993; and in Taba, Egypt in 1995. They marked the start of the Oslo Process, aimed at achieving a peace treaty based on UN Security Council Resolutions and at fulfilling the "right of the Palestinian People to self-determination". Among the notable outcomes of the Oslo Accords was the creation of the PA and international acknowledgement of the PLO as Israel's partner in permanent-status negotiations. Bilateral dialogue stems from questions related to the international border between Israel and a future Palestinian state: negotiations for this subject are centred around Israeli settlements, the status of Jerusalem, Israel's maintenance of control over security following the establishment of Palestinian autonomy, and the Palestinian Right of Return. The Oslo Accords did not create a definite Palestinian state.



Bill Clinton, Yitzhak Rabin, Yasser Arafat 1993

## Palestinian Authority (PA)

The Palestinian Authority (PA) is the Fatah-controlled government body that exercises partial civil control over West Bank areas "A" and "B" as a consequence of the Oslo Accords.



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## **Population percentage by religion**

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) classification system (2021 data), approximately 73.8 percent of the population is Jewish, 18.0 percent Muslim, 1.9 percent Christian, and 1.6 percent Druze. The remaining 5 percent consists of “other.” This category includes those who identify as Jewish but do not satisfy the Orthodox Jewish definition of “Jewish” that the government uses for civil procedures and applies to many immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The country is also home to small communities of Samaritans, Karaite Jews, Messianic Jews, Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Baha’is. The majority of non-Jewish citizens are of Arab/Palestinian origin. This includes approximately 75.8 percent of the country’s 185,000 Christians, according to the CBS as of December. Non-Arab/Palestinian Christians are mainly those who emigrated from the former Soviet Union in the 1990s as descendants of Jews or alongside Jewish family members and their descendants.

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## **Right of return**

Within the context of the Holy Land, the Right of Return has two connotations. For the 700,000 – 800,000 Palestinians who became refugees as a consequence of al-Nakba or the 1967 War, and for their descendants, the Right of Return refers to the refugees' right to return to their pre-1948 and/or pre-1967 homes and lands, or to receive compensation if they freely choose not to return. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 affirms this right, as does Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but it has yet to be implemented. The Right of Return for Palestinians remains one of the central issues to be resolved in a political solution between Israel and the Palestinians. By contrast, under the Israeli Law of Return, the Right of Return refers to the right of all Jews worldwide to immigrate to Israel and receive immediate Israeli citizenship.

**Separation  
Barrier /  
Separation Wall /  
Security Fence**

Various terms used to describe the complex of fences, ditches, razor wire, groomed trace sands, electronic monitoring system and patrol roads, 8–9 m-high concrete slabs, forming a physical separation between Settler colonies and Palestinian communities across the West Bank and through Jerusalem. Approximately 85% of the route meanders up to 22 km into the OPT. It runs through populated, agricultural and natural areas, severing access to roads, agricultural lands and services that the Palestinians depend on. Many in Palestine and the international community have accused Israel of designing the barrier route so as to annex the most possible Palestinian land and water resources. The International Court of Justice issued an Advisory Opinion determining the entire construction to be illegal. The Court called for its removal, for restitution and compensation for incurred losses, and “that all States are under an obligation not to recognize the illegal situation arising from the construction of the wall, not to render aid or assistance in maintaining that situation and to cooperate with a view to putting an end to the alleged violations and to ensuring that reparation will be made therefore”.



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## Settlements

Settlements are Israeli civilian communities in territories acquired by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War that are not under Israeli sovereignty. While Israeli settlements previously existed in Sinai and the Gaza Strip prior to Israel's withdrawal from those territories (in 1982 and 2005, respectively), today the term is largely used to refer to Israeli communities in the West Bank (also known as Judea and Samaria).

The international community considers the settlements to be illegal under international law, and the UN has repeatedly upheld the view that Israel's construction of settlements constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Today, one-third of settlers are Orthodox Jews, one-third are religious Zionists and the remaining third are secular Israelis. As of January 2023, there are 144 Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including 12 in East Jerusalem. In addition, there are over 100 Israeli illegal outposts in the West Bank. In total, over 450,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank excluding East Jerusalem, with an additional 220,000 Jewish settlers residing in East Jerusalem. Additionally, over 25,000 Israeli settlers live in the Golan Heights.

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## Status Quo

After many disputes among European states in the 19th century for control over various holy sites in Jerusalem, the Ottoman Empire issued a series of decrees to regulate the administration of Christian holy sites by determining the powers and rights of various denominations in these places; these arrangements became known as the Status Quo.

In 1878, the Status Quo was internationally recognized in the Treaty of Berlin, which was signed between European powers and the Ottoman Empire. Article 62 of the Berlin Treaty extended the Status Quo to include all holy places and not only Christian sites.

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## **Unrecognised Villages**

Hundreds of settlements of indigenous Palestinian habitation inside the Green Line that almost exclusively predate the 1948 establishment of the State of Israel. For no other criterion but that their residents are Arab citizens, and not “Jewish nationals,” Israeli planners have deliberately omitted these villages from all plans, foreclosing their benefit from basic services enjoyed by other settlements of similar and smaller Jewish.

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