



Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel

Belinda Pyke

East Jerusalem
August to October 2019



Distances

Tel Aviv to Jerusalem – 70 km

Jerusalem to Jericho – 26 km

Jenin to Hebron – 105 km







Qedar



Ma'ale Adumim



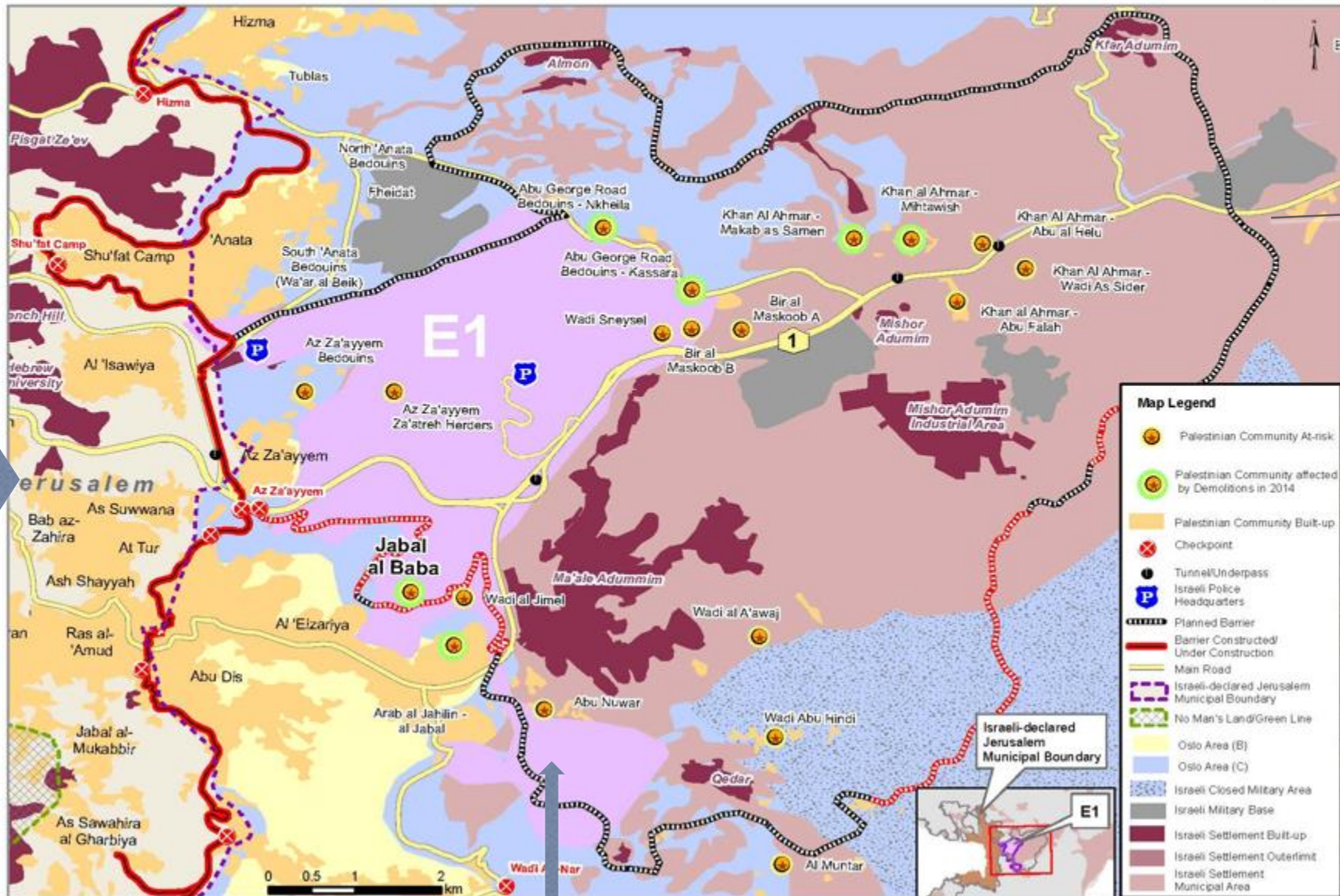
Ma'ale Adumim



Ma'ale Adumim

BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES AT RISK IN THE E-1/MA'ALE ADUMIM SETTLEMENT AREA

May 2014











Demolitions and displacement

Demolitions in West Bank and East Jerusalem 2016- 2020 (27 May)

- 🏠 2801 structures of which over a quarter are donor funded (51 in Abu Nwar, half donor-funded))
- 👤 3867 displaced (77 in Abu Nwar)
- 👥 87737 affected (214 in Abu Nwar)

"The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah note with concern that Israeli authorities have continued to carry out demolitions of Palestinian structures in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2020. These demolitions, including of EU and EU Member States-funded structures, have resulted in the displacement of Palestinians and negatively affected Palestinian communities.

While welcoming Palestinian-Israeli cooperation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU missions note with concern that demolitions have continued since the outbreak of the pandemic in early March. Demolitions have also continued during the Holy Month of Ramadan, which saw a three-fold increase in the number of demolished structures compared to last year.

...In line with the EU's long-standing position on Israel's settlement policy – illegal under international law – and actions taken in that context, such as forced transfers, evictions, demolitions and confiscations of homes, the EU urges the Israeli authorities to halt demolitions of Palestinian structures." *Local EU statement Jerusalem 28 May 2020*



Protective presence



Reporting on demolitions

What do EAs do?



Monitoring checkpoints



Supporting peace groups



International humanitarian law

1949 Geneva Convention IV

Settlements

Article 49 (6)

'The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.'

Demolition

Article 53

'Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.'

The United Nations Security Council confirmed in 2016 that the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable to the occupied Palestine territories.



' ...We do, however, remain deeply concerned about the prospects of annexation of parts of the West Bank. Annexation of any part of the West Bank by Israel would be a clear violation of international law and would profoundly damage efforts to restart peace negotiations. We instead encourage the new Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to work towards a lasting agreement based on a two-state solution. ..

We reiterate our call on the Government of Israel to halt any activity that makes peace more difficult to achieve. This includes advancement of settlement plans including in Givat Hamatos, Har Homa, and in E1. All settlements are illegal under International Humanitarian Law.

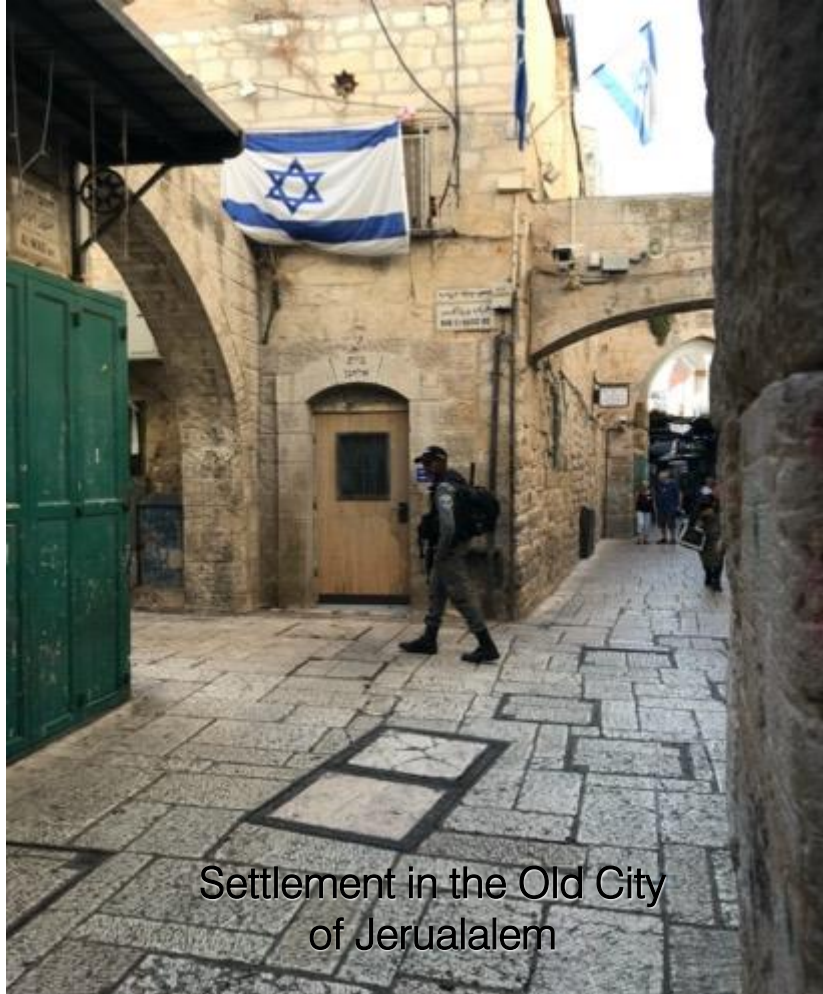
Statement by Ambassador Jonathan Allen at the UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East 20 May 2020

Timeline

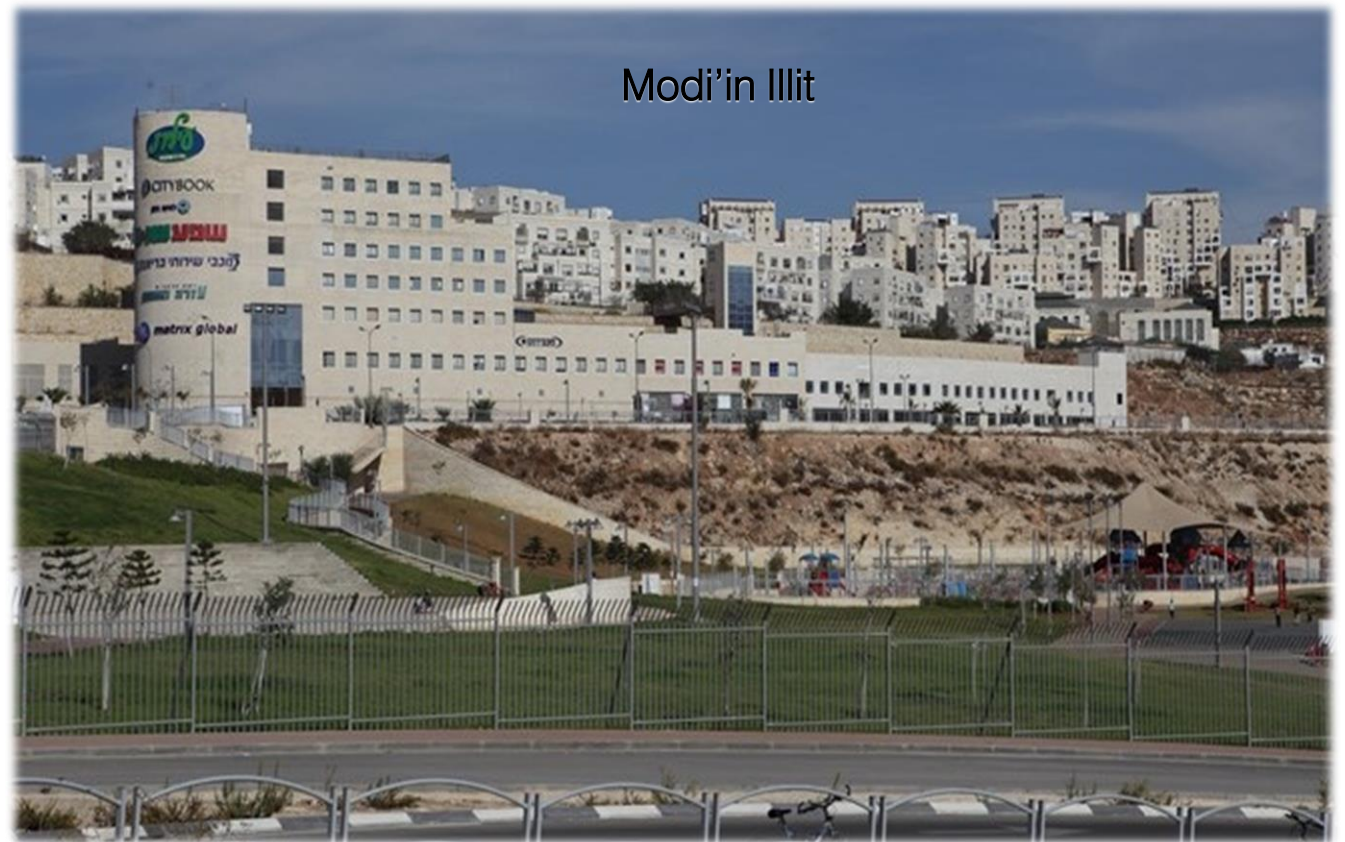
- 1948 Israel becomes an independent state and Palestinians flee
- 1967 Six day war after which Israel occupies the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, Sinai and Golan Heights.
 - First settlement established.
- 1967-92 110 settlements established and linked by highways
- 1993 Oslo I accord: divides West Bank into Areas A, B and C. Parties agree to address the issue of settlements in further negotiations
- 2002 Israel starts to build the 'separation barrier': a key factor to determining its route was the location of settlements
- Now:
 - 132 settlements and 121 outposts in West Bank
 - one in seven West Bank residents is an Israeli settler
 - 642 867 Israeli settlers in occupied Palestine
- April 2020 Coalition agreement for a new Israeli government provides that the Prime Minister can advance legislation to proceed with formal **annexation** of parts of the occupied West Bank, including all illegal Israeli settlements and the Jordan Valley, starting July 1, on the condition that the move is supported by the U.S. administration.



Settlements take different forms



Settlement in the Old City
of Jerusalem



Modi'in Illit



New outpost
east of Qedar

You can't have a democracy
if you're occupying a people

I understand
the conflict –
I just don't
know what to
do with it.

Differing Israeli views

Everyone wants
peace but they
don't trust the
other side to
have the same
view of what it
means

We're not humane,
we're not just and
definitely we're not
the victims

Women in Black weekly vigil
in West Jerusalem



Rabbis for Human Rights help with the olive
harvest in Burin in the West Bank



Israeli and Palestinian human rights activists at
the weekly vigil in Sheikh Jarrah in East
Jerusalem





What can you do?

- Help end trade with illegal settlements – e.g Amnesty's petition about Trip Advisor Advisor
- Urge the UK government to apply sanctions if Israel goes ahead with annexation
- Follow the work of Israeli human rights groups such as B'tselem, Yesh Din, Peace Now, Combatants for Peace Now, Combatants for Peace; and Palestinian groups such as Al Haq and Adalah and Adalah
- Visit Israel and occupied Palestine. See for yourself. Tour groups include ICAHD (icahd.org), Zaytoun ICAHD (icahd.org), Zaytoun (zaytoun.org/visit_palestine.html) and Amos Trust (amostrust.org/amos-trust) (amostrust.org/amos-travel).

And stay updated by signing up to the monthly EAPPI email updates and reading the latest stories from EAs in www.eyewitnessblogs.com



‘I can’t understand why our children can’t have schools but, 500 metres, away kids have everything they need.’