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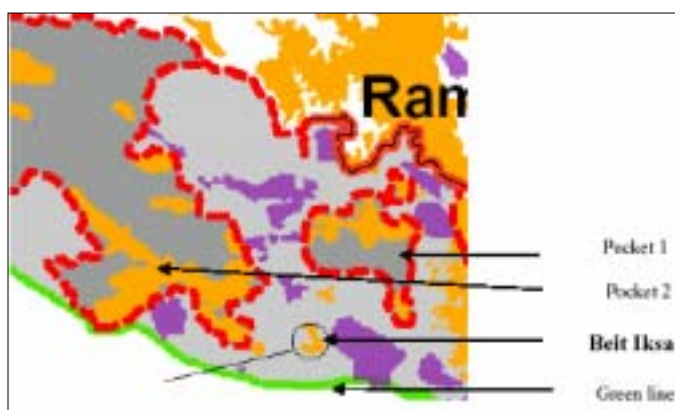
Village Profile

Reports on the West Bank Wall/Barrier

JANUARY 2004

Profile of Beit Iksa, Jerusalem

Beit Iksa is a village located at the north west of Jerusalem near Ramot - with a population of 1,600 residents, most of them holding West Bank ID cards. After the signing of the Oslo Accords, Beit Iksa was classified under Area B. Since then, civil affairs have been under the PA control, and security matters under the control of the Israeli military.



Since the beginning of the current *intifada*, a checkpoint has been placed on the East side of the village. This separates Beit Iksa from the rest of the West Bank. This has placed severe constraints on the movement of residents and their access to services outside the village.

Construction of the Jerusalem barrier will cause even greater harm to the village's connections with the surrounding area. The green line borders it to the South and on each other side it is surrounded by settlements - Har Adar on the West; Ramot Allon and Rekhes Shufat on the East; and An Nabi Samual, Giv'on, Giv'on Ha-Khadasha, up to Giv'at Zeev on the North. Any access to surrounding Palestinian villages will be prevented by construction of 'pocket 1' and 'pocket 2' (see map above), whereby Beit Hanina al Balad, Bir Nabala, Al Judeira and Al Jib and Kalandia al Balad will be completely encircled; and Biddu, Beit Surik, At Tira, etc. will be cut off from Beit Iksa inhabitants.

Over 80% of Beit Iksa's population is composed of UNRWA-registered refugees - 577 families. The majority of them, 440 families, are presently receiving emergency assistance from the Agency. Access for food distribution teams and mobile clinics have already been hindered, in some cases, in the areas affected by the completed section of the barrier in the northern West Bank. Given the high proportion of needy refugees residing in Beit Iksa, if UNRWA relief teams encounter problems accessing the village it will have a serious negative impact on humanitarian conditions.

Access to secondary education will also be badly affected by the barrier's construction. There are only two PA elementary schools in Beit Iksa, one for boys and one for girls, attended by 198 refugee students, among others. The present common practice is for students to enrol in Jerusalem secondary schools, or to commute to some of the Palestinian villages that will now be included in 'pocket 1' and 'pocket 2'. Once the barrier is complete, neither of these options will be available to Beit Iksa children.