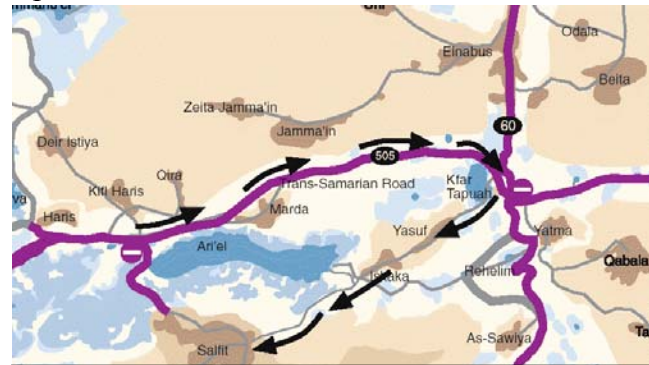


Roads in the West Bank – For Jews Only

Israel has built an extensive road network in the West Bank, intended primarily to serve and perpetuate Israeli settlements. Bypass roads enable travel to settlements without passing through Palestinian villages. Israel built other roads as a physical barrier to limit Palestinian urban development.

Although Israel consistently maintained that these roads also serve Palestinians, for the past four years Israel has restricted Palestinian traffic both on these bypass roads and on many of the main traffic arteries in the West Bank. Israelis travel freely on all these roads. Israeli restrictions affect 41 roads and sections of roads in the West Bank, totaling over 700 kilometers, and can be divided into three categories:



The IDF blocked the northern entrance to the town of Salfit, because this road also serves the Ariel settlement. Villagers dependent on the town must now travel a circuitous route (indicated by arrows) that requires passing a physical roadblock at Yasuf that passengers must cross on foot, and then continue on in another car.

- **Complete Prohibition:** 17 sections of roads, totaling 124 kilometers, are for the exclusive use of Israeli citizens. This includes so-called "sterile roads" which have a staffed checkpoint through which only Israeli vehicles are allowed to pass.
- **Partial Prohibition:** Palestinians require a special permit to travel on 10 sections of roads, totaling 244 kilometers. Permits are issued by the Civil Administration, a patently arbitrary and non-transparent body.
- **Restricted Use:** Palestinians are generally allowed to travel on 14 sections of roads totaling some 365 kilometers, but most access points to the roads are restricted by physical obstacles. In most cases, to reach the road one has to cross a staffed checkpoint.

The Roads Regime is enforced by means of checkpoints and physical obstacles. In addition, Israel maintains a strict enforcement of traffic laws against Palestinians only and confiscates vehicles that travel on forbidden roads. This policy has never been enshrined in legislation, nor stated in official declarations, nor even indicated by road signs on the relevant roads. It is based entirely on verbal orders given to soldiers in the field.

Israel's roads policy is based on the premise that all Palestinians are security risks and therefore their movement can be restricted. This is a racist premise, and cannot justify a policy that indiscriminately harms the entire Palestinian population, in violation of their rights to equality and freedom of movement.

As a result of Israel's Forbidden Roads Regime, Palestinians must use long, winding alternate roads that pass through densely populated urban areas, or use run-down dirt roads between the mountains. **The restrictions impair all aspects of daily life in the West Bank, including the economy, and the health and education systems, and severely disrupt social and family life.**

To view the entire map of the Forbidden Roads Regime: www.btselem.org

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