

Both sides of the barrier

On Feb. 23, the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, begins hearing arguments on the West Bank separation barrier at the request of the U.N. General Assembly. Israel began building

the barrier to keep out Palestinian attackers after a rash of suicide bombings. Palestinians say the barrier constitutes a land grab and that Israel is building illegally on occupied land.

To date, 125 miles of the planned 452-mile-route have been completed.

Separation barrier
 — Existing
 - - - Planned
 — “Green Line”*

■ Israeli settlement
 ■ Palestinian controlled areas

*Established in 1949 following end of hostilities between Arab countries and Israel in 1948.



Military checkpoint at Ramallah

Before its construction, a suicide attacker could walk from the West Bank into Israel. The barrier makes it more difficult not only for terrorists but also for Palestinians who must cross through any of 40 gates for work, school or health care.

Israeli soldiers conduct body searches

Concrete barriers

Cars go in either direction after being searched.

Exit

ISRAEL

Checkpoint's main station

Fence topped with razor wire

WEST BANK

Waiting lines

Palestinians enter checkpoint

Short, concrete walls

Soldiers conduct interviews

Security camera

Pathway lined with a 10-foot-high fence with razor wire

Waist-high concrete barriers line entryway

Walls under high security

Berlin Wall

Guard tower and bunker

Attack dog corridor

Electric fence

Inside wall

WEST GERMANY

Searchlight

Anti-tank obstacles

12-foot-high wall with a concrete tube at the top

EAST GERMANY

Trip wire

Average 82 feet wide

Israeli barrier

WEST BANK

Barbed wire

Army patrol

10 feet

Nail bed

Anti-car trench

Barbed-wire pyramids 6 feet high

Security cameras

ISRAEL

Ditch to prevent cars from ramming through

Electronically monitored fence; in high-risk areas, there are concrete walls 30 feet high

Average 165 feet wide
 Fine sand to preserve footprints

Why people build walls

Here are some examples of separation barriers built for a variety of reasons around the world.

Berlin Wall

Built: 1961
Dimension: 103-mile perimeter of West Berlin
Height: 12-foot-high concrete wall
Why: To stop people from communist East Germany fleeing to West Berlin



Belfast, Northern Ireland, "Peace Lines"

Built: 1970
Dimension: 20 walls of iron or brick, ranging from a few hundred yards to more than 3 miles long
Height: 25 feet high, topped with metal netting
Why: To separate mobs in British Protestant and Irish Catholic neighborhoods



Cyprus, Nicosia, "Green Line"

Built: 1974
Dimension: A zone as wide as a city street to several blocks long; marked in spots with sandbags, others have soldiers and tanks
Why: U. N. buffer zone dividing the island into Turkish and Greek sides after Turkey occupied the northern part following a Greek-backed coup attempt

