

## **Abstract**

The construction of the wall is an Israeli pre-planned action that is basically linked with the historical evolution of the Jewish idea of the isolation "ghetto". To study the most important factors and implications of this wall, four areas across the West Bank have been identified to achieve the objectives of the study; these are Umm Alrehan, Marda, Ni'lin, and Beit Ummar.

The results showed two sets of factors have affected the route of the wall, these are:

**Natural factors:** This included groundwater and springs, soil, biodiversity, geomorphology, and visibility. It has been found that ground water and soil are common factors that play important role in drawing the route of the wall in the four areas, especially that the four areas are basically dependant on agriculture.

With regard to biodiversity, its importance was revealed only in Umm Alrehan, which is attributed mainly to the large areas (more than 70%) of forests and biodiversity, followed by Ni'lin and Beit Ummar, and absent in Marda.

Despite the difference in geomorphology; ranging from plains in Umm Alrehan to mountains in Ni'lin and Beit Ummar, but it contributed largely in determining the route of the wall, especially when it has been linked with the visibility from different viewpoints into the annexed areas by the wall. Visibility is an important factor in supervising and controlling the Palestinians' activities, where it could reach 70 km in some of the study area.

**Human factors:** including the Palestinian and settlers population and built-up areas. A positive correlation between the Palestinian population growth rate and the increase in the associated built-up area was found, whereas such correlation is absent in the case of settlers, especially with the large increase in the settlements' built-up area that is much

higher than the settlers natural growth rate. Consequently, such fact denied the Israeli claim of the large settlement expansion due to the natural increase of the settlers number, and at the same time highlights the facts that the main goal of the wall is to control Palestinian land and to legitimize the settlements into any future political solution.

With respect to the socio-economic effects of the wall, the wall has transferred the Palestinian communities into ghettos, where more than 50% of the respondents confirmed the negative effects of the wall on social relations, education, health, and economic aspects of the affected Palestinian built-up area, with an increase in unemployment and poverty rates among inhabitants.