

ASSESSMENT

The Effect of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Education From (28/9/2000-19/2/2005)

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has committed itself since it took over the responsibility of education in 1994 to rise up with the educational process, and to enhance the quality of education. The increase of schools enrollment have been a major concern, a quality and capacity building within the strategic plans for the various education tends still, in spite of the hard political circumstances.

The educational process has been affected a lot during Al-Aqsa Intifada as a result of the Israeli aggressive policy on the 28th of September until now, despite all the efforts that have been done by the Ministry and all other partners.

The Israeli aggression, sieges and incursions had the worst effect on the educational process and on the human or physical, and psychological sides. Many students, teachers and employees faced arresting, humiliation and suffering by Israeli soldiers on military check points between cities and villages in all of the Palestinian districts. Aside from the fact that many of the students were martyred, others were injured, and suffered difficulties on their way to or in schools, they were also subject to some psychological problems in which affected their school performance and future.

Table (1) shows a summary of the human loss from the beginning of the INTIFADA till now.

Table 1
Summary of Human Losses from 28/9/2000-19/02/2005

Case	Description	28/9/00- 30/8/01	1/9/01- 30/8/02	31/8/02- 31/8/03	1/9/03- 31/8/2004	1/9/2004- till now	Total
Martyrs	Teachers	3	12	10	3	4	32
	School/Students	96	154	145	114	67	576
	University/students				8	2	199
	Employees		4	2	4	1	7
Detainees	Teachers	21	55	45	1	9	176
	School Students	71	101	140	46	61	669
	University/Students				296		720
	Employees		13	5	10		29
Injuries	Teachers	-----	31	18	5		54
	School Students	2151	453	387	386	94	3471
	University Students						1245
	Employees	-----	5	4	4		13

The Israeli occupation had damaged the infrastructure of the educational process in



many different ways and means, and the following are facts about what has been happening:

- * 1289 schools were disrupted and closed because of curfews, sieges and districts closures since 28/09/20006 till now.
- * 269 school buildings were damaged as a result of shelling and clashing by the Israeli forces, since the breakout of the Intifada.
- * 9 schools are still closed, from which 3 schools are changed to military bases; as what is still happening in Usama Ibn-Al-Munqith, Banat Joher and Al-Ma'aref schools in Hebron.
- * 5.2 Million US\$ is the estimated value of the Israeli damages in Palestinian schools.
- * 4.85 Million US\$ is the estimated value of the Israeli damages in Palestinian Universities.
- * 38 schools in Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Jerusalem, & Bethlehem which had nearly 11 thousand students, were affected as a result of the Annexation & Expansion.

The worst scenario is Nablus district, since it is suffering from tight and strict curfews and closures, almost 500 teachers couldn't reach their schools in the district. Despite all these difficulties, 9 schools challenged the hard sieges and closures, and thus the study was not completely disrupted in these schools. Also in Kufor Ain's schools (girls and boys) in Ramallah, studying was disrupted as a result of the tight curfew. Table (2) shows the number of schools, students, teachers, and employees disrupted during the INTIFADA.

Table 2
Disruption in schools from 1/9/2003-

District	Disrupted schools Number	Disrupted Teachers Number	Disrupted Pupils Number
S.Hebron	44	694.5	18280
Hebron	27	147.5	11294
Nablus	91	1566	34784
Ramallah	57	1187	23148
Qabatia	12	253	6018
Jerusalem Suburbs	51	79	3040
Jenin	33	414	17990
Bethlehem	22	411	19019
Salfeet	13	153.5	4525
Jericho	2	30	562
Qalqilya	23	1672	13228
KhanYounes	17	304	12313
N.Gaza	18	0	11768
Gaza	20	560	13433
Rafah	30	717	18061
Total	416	8188.5	197527



Moreover the buildings of MoEHE and its directorate's offices were not safe from the savage aggressive policy of the Israeli soldiers who destroyed many of the MoEHE cars, computers, and furniture; also they stole hard disks and floppy disks containing lots of information. Table (3) shows the types of damages inside the MOEHE directorates

Table 3
Types of physical damages from 28/9/2000-10/01/2005

Kind of Damage	Total
Shelling & breaking into schools	288
Shelling & breaking in directorates offices	6
Shelling & Breaking in Colleges	5
Shelling & Breaking in Universities	8
Breaking in & Damaging Head Quarters	2
Changing Schools to Military Bases	43
Schools Closure	10
Universities Closure	2
Walls& Classrooms Bulldozing	49
Schools Disruption	1125
Schools Evacuation	50
School Contents Vandalized	50
Colleges Contents Vandalized	2
Universities Contents Vandalized	8

However the financial losses were great; the following table has a summary of the Damage cost divided into four domains:

1. Buildings
2. Educational instruments
3. Furniture.
4. Equipments.



Table 4
Summary of the cost of the Israeli invasion to the schools (US \$)

District	Buildings	Furniture	Equipments	Cars	Total
Nablus	51000	221388	95500	0	439168
Tulkarm	220000	11976	24500	0	545082
Qalqilya	8000	10764	20480	0	31764
Salfeet	4000	730	0	0	25480
Baithlehem	12320	2886	3020	0	59224
Ramallah	500	11276	43000	0	199679
South Jericho	15700	7358	91240	0	114178
Hebron	11200	1715	4460	0	7963
Jenin	54560	22300	41560	0	118450
Qabatia	22300	5670	36231	0	64201
West bank	399580	150596	374028	0	924204
Gaza	870520	35320	468345	0	1374185
Total	1270100	185916	842373	0	2298389

* With support of Donors, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, MOEHE made some repair in the previous districts. Especially after the great loss at the Palestinian Universities and schools, where the estimated cost was 4.85 million, and 5.2 million in sequence. of

Even universities and colleges were not safe from the barbaric & brutal Israeli aggression. That the Israeli soldiers violated several campuses sanctity, such as:

* Bethlehem University on Dec. 8th, 2002 they besieged it, threw poisonous gas bombs and disrupted study. They stayed there for five days. Also damaged furniture, doors, windows, computers, and 245 books.

* An-Najah National University campus on Dec 14th, 2002 in Nablus city. They besieged it and forced teachers and students to leave it.

•Hebron University on Jan. 14th 2003. They damaged labs, computers and closed it for 6 months.

* Palestine Polytechnic University on Jan. 14th 2003. They closed it for three months.

* Al-Quds Open University /Ramallah, Al-Azhar university/Gaza, Palestine Vocational Girls college/ Ramallah, Palestine Vocational College/ Tulkarm , BirZeit University campus.

Table 5
A Summary of the cost of the Israeli invasion to the Universiti

University/ College	Buildings	Labs	Salary deficiency	Students allowances	Animals expenses	Total
Al-Azhar / Gaza	4000	16800	887333			908133
Al-Islamyeh / Gaza			1837500			1837500
Birzeit	2000			5000		7000
Al-Qudus	660000		1380000			204000
Al-Qudus open university	34000					34000
An-Najah National University		185000			40500	225500
Vocational and Technical Colleges	2800000					2800000
Total	3536000	201800	4104833	5000	40500	7888133

Moreover, the Israeli violations and aggressions had affected the implementation of many educational projects and programs. MoEHE initiated a five-year plan 2001/2005.

Yet, many projects were cancelled or postponed due to the Israeli incursions, This forced the MoEHE to adopt a new emergency plan, and alternative strategies to cope with circumstances of closures, curfews and to manage the MoEHE with minimum centralized interference in daily management. MoEHE budget was reduced according to the current situation.

Further more, Israel building its” apartheid wall”. The wall’s height is 8 meters and its long is 360 kilometers .cutting through the Palestinian districts such as Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Salfit, Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Beithlehem.

This wall is not only confiscating Palestinian land, but also affecting the educational process by adding a lot of obstacles in front to our Palestinian students and teachers who are deprived from their right of education. Both of them can’t reach their schools or universities easily & safely. For example, in Nazlet Issa School the “apartheid wall” cuts through the village, and separates it from its school. So the students are forced to pass through one of the Wall’s gates in order to reach their school which forces them to confront the aggressive Israeli soldiers everyday.

Table 6 illustrates the number of students and teachers affected by the wall.



Table 6:
Number of students and teachers affected from building the Wall:

School Name	District	Number of Students
Barta Sec Boys School	Jenin	362
Barta Sec Girls School	Jenin	345
Um Al-raihan Basic co-ed School	Jenin	98
Alfarook Basic School	Jenin	85
Total Jenin		890
Nazlit Isa Secondary Boys School	Tulkarem	329
Nazlit Isa Secondary Girls School	Tulkarem	328
Baqa Alsharqia Basic Boys School	Tulkarem	389
Baqa Alsharqia Basic Girls School	Tulkarem	244
Baqa Alsharqia Sec Boys School	Tulkarem	208
Baqa Alsharqia Sec Girls School	Tulkarem	377
Total Tulkarem		1875
Aldaba,Ras Tira	Qalqilya	133
Total Qalqeelia	-----	133
General Total	-----	2898