

Assessment “9”
The Effect of the Israeli Occupation on Education
From (28/9/2000-6/4/2004)

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. Increases in 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, humiliating 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, injured, and suffered difficulties on their way to or in schools, they are also subject to some psychological problems in which affected their school performance and future.

Table.1 Summary of Human Losses from 28/9/2000-6/4/2004

Case	Description	28/9/00-30/8/01	1/9/01-30/8/02	31/8/02-31/8/03	1/9/03-6/4/04	Total
Martyrs	Teachers	3	12	10	2	27
	School Students	96	154	145	55	450
	University students					195
	Employees		4	2	1	7
Detainees	Teachers	21	55	45	46	167
	School Students	71	101	140	230	542
	University Students					710
	Employees		13	5	11	29
Injuries	Teachers	-----	31	18	4	53
	School Students	2151	453	387	363	3354
	University Students	-----				1245
	Employees		5	4	3	12

The Israeli occupation had hurt the infrastructure of the educational process in many different ways and means, and the followings are facts about what is happening:

- **498 schools were disrupted and closed because of curfews, sieges and districts closures since the beginning of the new scholastic year 2002-2003. Moreover, 1289 schools were closed since the beginning of the Intifada.**
- **282 school buildings were damaged as a result of rockets and tanks shelling, 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 damage in Palestinian schools.**
- **4.85 Million US\$ is the estimated value of the Israeli damage in Palestinian Universities.**
- **38 schools in Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilia, Jerusalem, & Beithlehem which had nearly 11 thousand students , were affected as a result of the Annexation & Expantion .**

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 disruption in schools during March/2004

District	Disrupted schools Number	Disrupted Teachers Number	Disrupted Pupils Number	Disrupted Days Average
S.Hebron	4	44.5	630	0.1
Hebron	9	197	4336	0.5
Nablus	13	155	4438	0.2
Beithlehem	4	75	1586	0.7
Ramallah	2	37	740	0.05
Jenin	1	28	414	0.04
Salfeet	2	45	844	0.1
Rafah	1	26	362	0.1
N.Gaza	3	----	1936	0.1
Khan Younes	14	235	10440	0.6
Total	53	842.5	25726	2.49

Moreover the buildings of MoEHE and its directorates offices were not safe from the hands of the Israeli soldiers who destroyed many of the MoEHE cars, computers, also stole hard disks and floppy disks containing lots of information; they also damaged the furniture and bulldoze many walls

Table 3. Shows types of physical damage from 28/9/2000-6/4/2004

Kind of Damage	Total
Shelling & breaking in schools	295
Shelling & breaking in directorates	5
Shelling & Breaking in Colleges	3
Shelling & Breaking in Universities	8
Breaking in & Damaging Head Quarters	1
Changing Schools to Military Bases	43
Schools Closure	10
Universities Closure	2
Walls& Classrooms Bulldozing	44
Schools Disruption	1125
Schools Evacuation	51
School Contents Vandalized	49
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: buildings ,educational instruments , furniture, and equipments.

Table 4. A summary of the Damage Cost from 28/9/2000-31/8/2002 Distributed by District and Domain:

Districts	Buildings \$	Educational Instruments	Furniture \$	Equipme nt \$	Total \$
Nablus	51000		35500	115150	201650
Tulkarem	648315	19300	41339	1588780	2297734
Salfit	16585	0	0	990	17775
Bethlehem	82890	300	3300	32550	119040
Ramallah	299597	2825	14825	16320	333567
S. Hebron	0	400	6196	3300	9896
Hebron	34074	3910	4515	6420	48919
Jenin	12960	4000	12950	14759	44669
Qabatya	30100	15510	21580	15245	82435
Jerusalem Suberbus	0	75	1740	195	2010
Jerusalem	7000	0	0	0	7000
Khan Yunis	50445	0	10500	9500	70445
Gaza	1200000	0	10390	0	1210390
Rafah	15000	0	5500	0	20500
North Gaza	55000	0	10000	7850	72850
Gaza Strip	1320445	0	36390	17350	1374185
Total	2503116	46320	178335	1811056	4539130

In addition, table 5 shows the financial damages during the period 1/9/2002-4/8/2003 distributed by Distributed according to District and Domain:

Districts	Buildings \$	Educational Instruments	Furniture \$	Equipme nt \$	Total \$
Tulkarem	9900	0	0	500	10400
Qalqeelya	10650		200		10850
Bethlehem	7600	0	3350	2700	13650
Ramallah	7730	200	780	500	9210
S. Hebron	8000	0	2200	22000	32200
Hebron	9977	300	0	2000	12277
Jenin	5850	4195	1657	50	11752
Qabatya	1000	0	200	0	1200
Jerusalem Suberbus	0	100	320	185	605
Jerusalem	400000	0	0	0	400000
Gaza Strip	89688	5000	18671	30750	144109
Total	579028	9795	27378	58685	674886

- *MOEHE with support of Donors, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations made some repair in the previous districts. The amount*
- *5.2 million\$) is evaluated on the 4th of August 2003.*

Even universities and collages were not safe from the barbaric & brutal Israeli aggression.

- **The Israeli soldiers broke into Bethlehem University on Dec. 8th, 2002 they besieged it & threw poisonous gas bombs and disrupted study. They stayed there for five days. Also they damaged furniture, doors, windows, computers, and 245 books.**
- **The Israeli soldiers broke into An-Najah National University campus on Dec 14th, 2002 in Nablus city. They besieged it and obliged teachers and students to leave it. Studying was disrupted for several days.**
- **The Israeli soldiers broke into Hebron University on Jan. 14th 2003. They damaged labs, computers and closed it for 6 months.**
- **The Israeli soldiers broke into Palestine Polytechnic University on Jan. 14th 2003. They closed it for three months.**
- **The Israeli soldiers broke into Al-Quds Open University /Ramallah, Al-Azhar university/Gaza, Palestine Vocational Girls college/ Ramallah, Palestine Vocational College/ Tulkarm , BirZeit University campus.**

Table 6 shows a summary of the damage cost (US \$) in the Palestinian Universities and colleges on the 15th of March 2003 distributed according to the institution:

Institution	Amount of Loss/million U.S. Dollars
Khaduri	3.6
Agriculture College/Najah University	0.25

Al-Quds University	0.45
Al-Aqsa University	0.20
Ministry Head Quarters	0.35
Total	4.85

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

Yet, many projects were canceled or postponed due to the Israeli incursion, which forced the MoEHE to create a new emergency plan and alternative strategies to deal 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.

In addition to the mentioned violations and incursions, Israel is building now an” apartheid wall” that cuts through Palestinian districts such as Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Salfit, Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Beithlehem. The Wall’s height is 8 meters and it’s long is 360 kilometers or more. It’s not only confiscating Palestinian land, but also affecting the educational process by adding a lot of the obstacles in front of it So Palestinian students are deprived from their right of education. It’s not only our students who are suffering of this” separation wall, but also teachers. 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 it’s school. So the students are forced to pass through one of the wall’s gates in order to reach their school which pushes them face to face with the aggressive Israeli soldiers everyday.

Table7 shows the number of students & teachers affected of building this 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