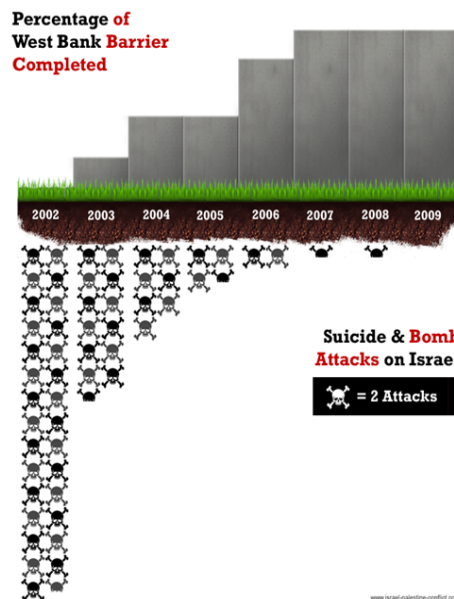


# The Security Barrier and 'Checkpoints' in Judea & Samaria: Why They Exist

- As a result of the second Intifada (a wave of Palestinian-Arab terror that murdered almost 1,000 Israeli civilians between 2000 and 2005), Israel was forced to build a security barrier and 'checkpoints' to stop terrorists from infiltrating the Jewish state.
- The 'checkpoints' talked about in the media are actually **border crossings** between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.
- **Nearly every country in the world has border crossings to ensure the safety of its citizens.** For example, the United States has border crossings with Mexico.

- Neither the security barrier nor many of the 'checkpoints' existed prior to 2002.
  - Prior to 2002, Palestinian-Arab terrorists passed freely from the Palestinian Authority into Israel and murdered Jewish and Arab civilians. **In 2002 alone, these terrorists murdered 457 Israelis.<sup>1</sup>**
  - Like any other country seeking peace and security, Israel built border crossings and a security barrier to catch these terrorists before they could enter Israel.
    - These measures have been successful (see chart below), seeing as today, terrorist attacks are rare:



## Security Barrier:

- Following the Second Intifada, the Israeli government authorized the construction of a security barrier **that would prevent Palestinian-Arab terrorists from conducting vicious attacks.**
- The number of Israelis killed **significantly decreased** due to the presence of the barrier since 2002.<sup>ii</sup> In 2013, only **seven** Israelis were killed in terrorist attacks (compared to 457 in 2002).<sup>iii</sup>
- **Only roughly 5 percent of the security barrier is a wall.**<sup>iv</sup> The rest of it is a small fence.
  - Israel built a wall only where Palestinian-Arab terrorists had been shooting at and carrying out a high number of attacks against Israeli civilians.
- There is **no difference** between the reason the Israeli security barrier was erected and the **security barrier built by Turkey on its Syrian border in 2014;**<sup>v</sup> **Israel must protect its citizens from terrorism.**

### **‘Checkpoints’:**

- Currently, in addition to the border crossings, **13 checkpoints** exist (as of 2013) within Judea and Samaria (the ‘West Bank’) to **catch terrorists from entering Israel and killing civilians. Israel operated 40 checkpoints in 2008, but as terrorism declined, Israel took down most of the checkpoints.**<sup>vi</sup>
- Today, Israel operates 40 border crossings. These border crossings catch those trying to murder Israeli Jewish and Arab civilians.
- Everyone (Jews *and* Arabs) is searched at each border crossing.
- In 2012, the IDF caught nearly 1,500 people at border crossings trying to enter Israel either illegally or with weapons.
  - Before these checkpoints existed, those 1,500 potential terrorists per year could enter Israel and attack the civilian population (which they did: before these border crossings existed, terrorists carried out hundreds of attacks against Jewish and Arab civilians).
  - Now, however, the IDF catches these terrorists at the checkpoints and prevents these attacks from occurring.
- Checkpoints exist everywhere in the world to prevent terrorist attacks; this is not unique to Israel. For example, all airports have checkpoints to keep travelers safe.

***If Israel did not have the security barrier and border crossings, more Israeli Jews and Arabs would likely be killed. A barrier can be taken down or moved; murder is permanent.***

<sup>i</sup> “Terrorism Against Israel: Number of Fatalities,” *Jewish Virtual Library*.

<sup>ii</sup> “Calev Myers - The Wall, Israel’s Response to Palestinian Terror,” *The Jerusalem Institute of Justice*, May 27, 2014.

<sup>iii</sup> “Terrorism Against Israel: Number of Fatalities,” *Jewish Virtual Library*.

<sup>iv</sup> Ministry of Defense, Israel’s Security Fence (<http://www.securityfence.mod.gov.il/Pages/ENG/operational.htm>)

<sup>v</sup> “Turkey builds wall in token effort to secure border with Syria” *Reuters*, May 5, 2014.

<sup>vi</sup> “What’s the Truth Behind the Checkpoints and Crossings in Judea and Samaria?” *Israel Defense Force Blog*, May 6, 2013.