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.\(^1\)
  - 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:

![Percentage of West Bank Barrier Completed](chart.png)

### Security Barrier:

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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.iii In 2013, only seven Israelis were killed in terrorist attacks (compared to 457 in 2002).iii

Only roughly 5 percent of the security barrier is a wall.iv 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;vi 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.vi

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.

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i “Terrorism Against Israel: Number of Fatalities,” Jewish Virtual Library.
iii “Terrorism Against Israel: Number of Fatalities,” Jewish Virtual Library.
iv Ministry of Defense, Israel’s Security Fence (http://www.securityfence.mod.gov.il/Pages/ENG/operational.htm)
v “Turkey builds wall in token effort to secure border with Syria” Reuters, May 6, 2014.