

Israel Defence Force: a Retrospective Study for Prospective Regional Defence Challenges

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Abstract: *Israel Defence Forces (IDF) comprises of Army Command, Navy, Air Force, Corps, Brigades and Advisory units. The underlying Doctrine is Prepare for Defence and move to counter attack. Military heritage, democratic principles, tradition of Jewish people and value for dignity of human life are the four pillars of spirit of IDF.*

The IDF operational concept encompasses both offensive and defensive strategies. Analogous to a 'sword and shield', the crux of the concept is to proactively respond to threats posed at State of Israel and protect its population from criminal activities. This paper seeks to review the strategy and tactics behind the security fence project implemented to thwart physical and missile based attacks from West Bank. Statistics envisage that on implementation of the barrier, the average attacks declined from twenty six to three per year. Furthermore, an impact risk analysis will be carried out with regard to the Iron Dome which counters aerial attacks from Judea, Samaria and Syria. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis is used.

The Operational strategy from a conceptual view point has multiple implications. Minimum disruption for population density, infrastructure, procurement, archeological, environmental and humanitarian concerns, land ownership, continuity and simplicity of maintenance are inter alia ramifications of the strategy. Defence techniques are executed in compliance with international law and military justice. State owned subsidiaries and private companies render technology knowhow for operational purposes. The Diplomatic strategy is negotiation and conciliation.

On the basis of aforesaid findings, this paper proposes a potential framework to implement a pragmatic defence intelligence system. Israel Supreme Court on a ruling held that 'Israel is in a difficult war against rampant terrorism. It is acting on the basis of its right to self defence'. Ultimatum is to ascertain how effectively and efficiently

'cannons' speak in establishing Shalom (peace) in Israel and the region of Middle East.

Keywords: *Defence, Security Fence, Operational Concept*

I. PREAMBLE

The Tradeoff between use of force and casualties is the prime key. The Ministry of Defence as stated in 2007 highlighted by Toft M.D (2012: 21) holds that 'The sole purpose of the Security Fence, as stated in the Israeli Government decision of July 23rd 2001, is to provide security. The Security Fence is a central component in Israel's response to the horrific wave of terrorism emanating from the West Bank, resulting in suicide bombers who enter into Israel with the sole intention of killing innocent people. Sadly, this abhorrent phenomenon has become common practice since September 2000'.

The rationale behind the wall building in 2002 is in order to address the wave of suicide bombers targeting civilians inside State of Israel. 'Border crossing' has come to the forefront in the light of *Intifada* which denotes rebellion or unrest, where over 1,000 were killed and 6,000 wounded. Special seasons such as Christmas, Easter and Ramadan warrant lawful entry permits increasing upto 36.7% from 2011-2013. Another critical factor is the crossing of Palestinians into Israel and vice versa, classified as daily pedestrian and commercial traffic. 'Allenby bridge' is also an entrance from Amman to Jerusalem where 854,699 persons used the crossing in early half of 2013 as revealed by Israeli Land Crossing Authority (ILCA).

Israel being a religious as well as secular nation, its defence strategies has been tactical and also intelligible. This nation is a Jewish comprising of intellectual citizens. Its protective edge is its high powered defense capabilities and diplomatic strategies portrayed to the World in commercial terms. Thus Israel can be classified as secular perse.

The sacred yet strategic State of Israel is underpinned by its robust Israel Defence Force. *Shalom*; peace the long waiting expectation of the Israelites is supported and not destructed by the tactics and operation of the defence forces.

The Security Fence around Jerusalem has Socio, economic and legal implications to the residents in and around Jerusalem. The Problem to be tested is the impact upon the livelihood of communities and consequential losses impacting the social fabric of State of Israel. The study is analyzed in three pronged approach- demographic, fabric of life and metropolitan. Furthermore, this study can be extended to comparison between Sri Lanka and Israel on common military precepts.

'*Otef Yerushalayim*' has been a functional, social and economic center point for the government of Israel. Construction of the wall had impacted the metropolitan and commerce of Israel. Transit points into and from Jerusalem has been impacted which will be further explained.

The purpose of constructing the wall is to ensure the safety and security of Israel citizens at large and the Jerusalem city and dwellers. Moreover, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of State of Israel is to be preserved against foreign invasions from land, and the air dome provides strategic protection and preservation against aerial attacks.

Religious perspective

Religious notion holds that the wall is a separation and alienation between gentiles and Jews. However, with the death of Christ Jesus the separation was broken down integrating each other. The 'Iron Wall' doctrine has its pros and cons. It is a defence mechanism, while mentioning the phrase 'Endangers his life' is an indication that one is to take caution since trespass is physically harmful and also criminally sanctioned. The Wall in fact demarcates between old city and New Jerusalem, hence the security fence route and Jerusalem jurisdiction need a counter balance for harmonious co-existence.

Security criteria

It is critiqued that the purpose of check points are getting obsolete because of the Iron wall being established. There has been a requirement to deploy military and police personnel to monitor movement across transit points. Implementing new terminal entrants need to be evaluated against

servicing the transit interests of both dwellers and pilgrims who come for veneration. ILCA statistics envisages that removal of checkpoints resulted in reduction of points from 42- 12 within the period of July 2008-May 2013. The 12 that are open are 'normally' activated in compliance with security evaluation criteria.

Urban-municipal criteria

The transit points were under monitoring to track entry and exit of Palestinians. It is to be evaluated whether transit points can further mitigate the impact of the fence. Facts and observation revealed that 97% of fence is chainlink and 3% is constructed in concrete. This is to facilitate countering of sniper attacks inherent in populated areas. It is underpinned by the 'Access and Movement Policy' administered by Israel Municipal and Public Authorities.

Humanitarian criteria

There are many Christian institutions which the fence enclaves which are spiritual refuge centers for many. Hospitals, schools and shops are also situated within this limits to which outer-skirts persons also intend access. Mode of transport is either motor vehicle or on-foot. In order to build a wall, there was a need to demolish certain important buildings, recreational zones which were privileges of the public, taken away from them. This would have also resulted in breach of Fundamental Rights and freedom of citizens, because inability to access and utilize freely public resources. Impact analysis of the fence resulted in tension between dwellers and the State of Israel. Options *inter alia* changing its path, destroy it, stop building, providing all facilities within wall and reconciliation were suggested.

Legal framework

Criminal and civil law of Israel regulates issues pertaining to route of security barrier. Continental law, Jordanian law, security promulgations, extra territorial provisions of law and administrative law are per se relevant. Precepts of International humanitarian law, natural justice and military justice are the corner stones of all prosecutions. Criminal and civil sanction is based upon intrusion and trespass by third parties. Defences may be taken by the offenders to limit their liabilities.

Economic ramifications

Plethora of economic benefits is provided by the iron wall. Sustainable Jerusalem and the State of

Israel is dependent upon the strategy of it. Internalization of cost for loss of lives and property need rationalization. The formidable, Islamism, European or radicals all share a unified opinion of Israel and the impact of defence strategy. Socialist racism would suggest that barrier would ensure effective administration of risk of 'dangerous individuals'. Terrorism is a crime, and risk management is thus vital. In the High Court case of *Council of Beit Surik v. The Government of Israel* (2004: 831), the purpose of the fence was analyzed from a criminal law perspective. It was thus held that

'The purpose of the fence is to allow for an effective security confrontation with the various threats posed by the Palestinian terrorism . . . The Fence is designated to prevent uncontrolled passage of the local [Palestinian] population to Israeli mainland and their infiltration'.

Military areas are demarcated and deemed high security zones. Persons who trespass such security borders (without licence) are regarded as endangering the security and sovereignty of State of Israel since they are not lawful entrants. Emergency Regulations of 1979 enable such apparent security threats to be adjudicated. Trespassers of the barrier may be arrested and detained by military personnel based upon military administrative decrees. However, rules of natural justice ('no man should be the judge of his own cause' and 'both parties should be given equal and fair hearing') may be violated. *Shamgar, M. (1982) envisaged 'Broadly speaking, the decree grants the military an elaborate scope of powers in the name of national security and risk assessment which are not provided to the police, such as eliminating the right to meet with an attorney without delay and limited provability power of the evidences'*. This may result in conflict among judicial and military advocacy. Defence Regulation (Emergency) 1945 states that in the interest of national security and preservation of investigation techniques the trespasser shall be reprimanded. As long as danger exists, irrespective of reasonableness of time the person will be detained without recourse to court or reasons for arrest. It is critiqued as brutal violation of human rights. Nevertheless, under the purview of the Public Security Ordinance and Criminal Procedure of Sri Lanka an offender is required to be produced before the nearest Magistrate within 48 hours of arrest. Police custody or detention is also for reasonable time which enables preservation of

fundamental freedom of movement under the 1978 Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Moreover, reasons for arrest need to be provided to preserve Article 13 (1) of the Constitution guaranteeing freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and punishment.

The rationale of criminal penalties is to penalize past culpable behaviours. On the contrary the administrative decree is to prevent foreseeable dangers. In cases of military personnel aiding human trafficking between Palestine and Israel they are subject to court martial inquiries. Test of reasonableness entails that no military officer should assist such illegal movements. Breach of duty will result in such persons being deemed persons dangerous to national security.

II. METHODOLOGY

The impact analysis of the security wall is based upon qualitative and quantitative methodology. Sample of 30 numbers of Arab Jews and Israel Jews where interviewed. Moreover, the citizens were observed for a period of 14 days, subject to security constraints in carrying on the study. The study is ongoing since there is a conflict between undisputed West Jerusalem and disputed territories of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. "I would be my brother's keeper- the wall should act as a tolerance barrier". The Municipality of Israel territories maintain the Palestinian territories. Thus it is a requirement for tax payments to be pledged to Israel. Palestine pledge allegiance to Israel. Hence the question arises are Arabs in Israel – friends or foes of Israel? There are acts of kidnapping of Israelis in areas such as Hebron, south of Jerusalem. It is a complex mission planned in Gaza for future bargaining.

Preservation of good faith

Israel Haaretz envisages that The IDF reserves the right to act in any way and at any time it sees fit to *defend the citizens of the State of Israel'*. This was a statement by the Israel Defence Forces in response to Gaza, Syria firing on June 02, 2014. Responding from artillery attacks, IDF extends to specific attacks –anti tank missiles to counter salvo of rockets from Gaza into Israel Territory. State of Israel has a prime duty to protect citizens and IDF soldiers against terror. Israel intelligence model is national estimator in both military and civil affairs. A 'fightaholic' and democratic State in the

international system, Israel's military intelligence (AMAN) has shaped policy, economy and State's security. *Gilboa, A. and Matanya, (2006: 37) E emphasized that '.... Israel's security problems are interwoven in every aspect of the state's life'.*

Attacks and counter attacks may result in personal injuries, death or property damage. Tortious liability incurs subsequently and point responsibility at Israel. In the contrary, when Israel citizens are injured, State is entitled to claim legal compensation. 50% of the compensation mechanism is based upon Social Security schemes underpinned by social security benefits legislations. Israel encourages such schemes above insurance and other compensation/damages because of cost effectiveness and efficacy in sustaining risk reduction.

It is essential that the national defence system be responsible for its stakeholders- namely the Legislature (Knesset), Executive (Defence ministry and Prime Minister) and Judiciary. Strategic intelligence can be classified in two-folds: resources dedicated to combat activities (reduced) or tendency in making strategic assessments upon tactical incidents (increased). Israel Air Force raid upon Syria underpinned by "Yemenite Swamp" caused a horrible attack which the Syrians will have to confront by itself. Nevertheless, subject to proportionate force Israel will have to defend itself on any counter-attacks.

A Post attack assessment is vital to quantify the impact and further risks. However, *Gabriel, R. (2005: 410) defence expert critiqued about weakness in military intelligence as a national estimator stating that 'Core military values, such as stiff discipline, conformity, and clear hierarchy, conflict with the basic values of high-quality intelligence-making, which involves openness, original thinking, and, sometimes, informal discussions'.* This may result in weakening the strong pillars of defence, early warning and intelligence operations causing issues in combating attacks by ground or air.

Demographic Ramifications

There are demographic implications upon the constructed wall. Firstly uncontrollable demographic trends and secondly increase in suicide terror attacks by March 2002. The Worldwide Jews residing in Israel territory as seen in the graph below indicates a cubic growth. The strategic question lies upon Israel's decision to implement the wall between the State and

Palastinian occupied territories in the West Bank and the timing of the decision. According to Ariel Sharon however, there would be a shrinking majority but growing minority of Jews resulting in high risk of war. It was published in the first Herzliya annual conference on demography that the Israel population of Jews and Israeli Arabs where 6.4 million and 1.2 million respectively up to 2006.

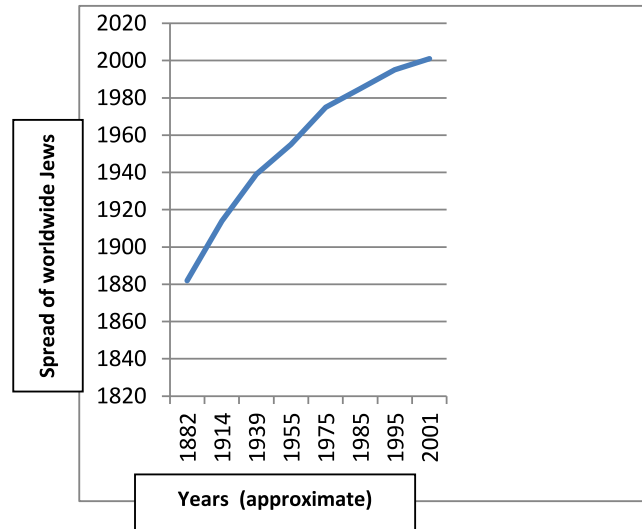


Figure 01: Proportion of worldwide Jews in Israel

Status quo of State of Israel and its relative power are two key variables for the State's approach to implement the wall. Arafat, Y (1993: 77) envisaged that "The high Palestinian birth rates as a 'biological time bomb' which threatens to blow up Israel from within". This was critical since issue of 'babies as weapons'; Arab children under 04 years in Israel outnumbered Jewish counterparts for the first time by 1985. Hence demographic projections imply that Jews would become minority in Israeland Territories by 2025.

Furthermore, the discourse on demography can be enlightened and justified as a national security issue in the context of democratic government and demographic transition. This results in contested borders of the State. The next issue is whether there would be a demographic drift? Assuming

Israel as a basic unit of analysis and comprising rational actors, the answer seems negative subject to political, economic and reciprocal legal

reservations. Voluntary transfer, full citizenship and abridged citizenship encapsulate the transfer policies of Israel. While voluntary transfer enables transfer of Palestinians from Israel, balances equal treatment and national treatment requirements. Full citizenship ensures full equality for Arabs in Israel territory and limits the Zionist paradigm in Israel. This may be deemed a security strategy, nevertheless should minimize any persecutions upon Arab nationals. Abridged citizenship for Arabs may result in less than equal treatment. This may cause 'split of Arabs' thus they named the wall also as 'Apartheid wall'.

It can be critiqued whether the 'Wall' actually qualifies the objective test of physical security. Security analysts have found that the terrorists have found methods to bypass the barrier. *Mossad*, the Israel Security and Intelligence network questions the reasons for bus bomb tragedy upon Israel citizens by the Palestinian factions of Hamas, Jihad and Al-Aqsa brigade. Rationalizing the implications show that the security wall serves minimal defence support for attacks in a sense.

Political analysts may view the wall as 'guardian angel', but security experts may fear the political prominence of the wall. As envisaged by the Jerusalem Post on Ariel Sharon's demographic policy- the positioning of the barrier by leaving proportion of Palestinian villages within it would cause them to integrate with Arab-Israelis and join forces against the Jewish Israelis. Pro-Israeli Security wall may challenge immigration policy of Israel in minimalist manner, demarcating future borders of Israel preserving Jewish majority and refugee's return to Palestine as a maximal strategy. Power transition is feasible, while preserving the just treatment of citizens and non-citizens with equal representation.

As envisaged by Miftah, (2003 : 1) 'The purpose of the Wall is to annex parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territories'. Furthermore, the Wall can be viewed as a source of life for Arabs as well. IDF strategized 26 'agricultural crossings' enabling farmers to access lands on the other side which they may own. Hence the barrier is not motivated merely by security factors, but economic and social concerns alongside it. However, observers of the construction of wall state that the structure-circuitous route of the wall may encircle entire towns. Environmental impact affecting habitats of

animals and species was inevitable, contrary to environmental legislations.

Conflicting terms: Apartheid wall or Security Barrier
Respecting the official Israeli term 'security fence', the media created a complex dialogue viz a viz the due name of the wall causing terminological dilemma. Profound adjectives nevertheless attracted disrepute as well. Prime Minister Abbas' ideology as envisaged by White House US-Palestine exchange on 25 July 2003 calls that the separation wall on confiscated Palestinian land, should 'come down'. On the contrary, ex-president Bush stated that the fence is a sensitive issue and it must communicate not only about security of Israel but ensure that Palestinians will be able to live normal and productive lives. I argue and suggest that the better name would be 'terror prevention fence'; both neutral and politically sound. However Pro-Palestine media such as Aljazeera, Ramallah online and Palestine media center uses the terms separation wall, Apartheid wall or security fence. On the contrary Pro- Israeli media namely Ha'aretz and Jerusalem Post located in Israel, use the terms separation fence or wall. The Legal ramification is that the terminology used by media is determined by the location of the newspaper organization or online broadcaster.

The UN Security council recognized that the terms 'West Bank wall', 'Racist Wall of separation' etc where disqualifying because unethical and harmful to the integrity of both States. Diplomatic negotiation further shows that shared language may still lead to undesirable outcome. Kofi Anan referred to the structure as a 'wall' acceptably via a UN General Assembly Resolution in 2005. Neo-political opinions encourage terms such as 'expansionist wall' expressed by Palestinians, Yemen and Sudan. While UK refers to the structure as 'fence', interestingly only Israel and Germany calls it security fence. On the Contrary Middle East States refer it generally as 'Iranian Racist Wall'. However, the terminology shifts in the diplomatic arena may result in dilemma in the future.

Erection of wall and consequences: unfair or illegal
Dunsky, M (2008) stated that *when the International Court of Justice was asked to render an opinion viz a viz the security wall, a 14:1 vote held that the wall was an illegal construction.* The erection will long term result in political violence, violation of Statehood of Israel and conflict with nationhood – a neoliberal perspective of the wall.

Portraying a negative image the wall imputes features of Berlin wall as viewed by Palestinians. The fence consists of electronic sensors, barbed wires and concrete beams to prevent shooting at persons or property. Furthermore, it is a mechanism to prevent terrorist infiltration. Primitive as it appears has caused severe negative state of affairs in both States.

Commentator Coker (2003: 3A) observes from a religious perspective that "Surrounded by hundreds singing 'Lord Have Mercy', leaders of the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and other churches called for an end to what they brand a 'destructive' project that threatens to divide Bethlehem and separate the West Bank from Israel". The free movement is hindered due to the prison-like wall and the fundamental freedom and rights of religious devotees are restricted. The very legality of the fence is challenged because it intrudes into the West Bank and other towns of Palestine hindering its administration as well.

Wall: a resolution to the native problem

The membrane between Israel and Palestine has enabled the resolution of native problem, is a critical concern. The wall should be able to expel illegal Palestinians from within Israel. This legitimizes the ideology that they are a demographic threat. Neopolitics emphasizes a paradigm shift from racism to propagation of binational values of coexistence, reciprocity and equality. The key elements of separation, exclusion and control seems however paranoid and unstable. In order to remove such lethal structure, it must be made politically inoperative. The strategies should be tactically flexible and diplomatically consistent. The wall revisionism has resulted in consecration of the wall. Strategically the best solution is to avoid all attempts to arrive at a settlement in the present, in order to achieve victory in the future.

III. CONCLUSION

Engrossed with much controversy, Israeli critics also regards the barrier as 'The Transparent Wall'. Both Israel and Palestine since 2005 have come to regard it as 'wall of tears'. The every shifting border wall was and is a source of emanating emotions of citizens. Emotional beautification with sad style of paintings and morally wrong interpretation upon the wall indicates the feelings of citizens both majority and minority. These artists show critical

and deconstructive responses as well. As Wordsworth, W. (1932:163) envisages

*'Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs
That on a wild secluded scene impress
Thoughts of more deep seclusion; and connect
The landscape with the quiet of the sky'*

It is critiqued and also acknowledged that 'bad neighbours require good fences'. The Israel Foreign Ministry evidenced that the fence on being erected have dramatically caused reduction of Palestinian attacks and bombings, saving lives. The wall that attempts to 'Judaize and de-Arabize State of Israel' may be politically incorrect. Nevertheless, is absolutely necessary given the realities of Palestinian terrorism.

Critical analysis envisages that the term Apartheid wall may become controversial. Diligent analysis of South African laws on apartheid compared with Israel Laws would indicate that the former would compel racial separation and latter has no racial laws per se. Makdisi (2006: 533) envisages about the wall that "render Palestinians invisible to Jewish colonists and to 'superimpose' two separate political geographies—one Jewish, one Palestinian—on the same physical landscape". Last but not least the catalyst of the barrier was the pervasive Palestinian terrorism specifically towards the defense monopolistic Israel.

May the barrier respect the values of citizens, Sovereignty of State, military principles in International Law, inculcate human tolerance between people, between populations and men and fellow men. It would not be a source of unrest. Yet protect would be victims from imminent threats.

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