



**MUSEE INTERNATIONAL  
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE  
ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE**  
17, AVENUE DE LA PAIX  
CH-1202 GENEVE  
WWW.MICR.ORG  
TEL +41 22 748 95 11  
FAX +41 22 748 95 28

# WALLS BETWEEN PEOPLE

**Temporary exhibition from 24 September 2008 to 25 January 2009**  
**Open 10am to 5pm, closed Tuesdays – Free Admission**

*An exhibition produced by the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent based on the book by Alexandra Novosseloff and Frank Neisse, 'Des murs entre les hommes' ('Walls Between People')*

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- Leaflet
- CD-Rom containing:
  - press photos, captions and copyrights
  - press kit copy

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### **Contact:**

Corinne Liardon  
Public Relations Officer  
Tel: + 41 22 748 95 01  
Fax: + 41 22 748 95 28  
E-mail: [c.liardon@micr.org](mailto:c.liardon@micr.org)



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, human beings have built fortifications to protect themselves from “barbarians”. Coldly designed on the basis of military maps, these eight modern walls illustrate a specific geopolitical divide:

**The Demilitarised Zone** between North and South Korea

**The Green Line** that divides the island of Cyprus

**Peace Lines** in Northern Ireland

**Berm**, a wall of sand that crosses the Western Sahara from north to south

**The Fence** built between the United States and Mexico

**Barbed wire** around the Spanish enclaves of Melilla and of Ceuta in Morocco

**The electrified Fence** along the Control Line between Pakistan and India

**The Security / Separation Wall** between Israelis and Palestinians.

The exhibition, based upon the book “Walls Between People” by Alexandra Novosseloff and Frank Neisse, presents them in a unique way by the artist Robert Ireland. Throughout the exhibition visitors become familiar with photographs and testimonials, whilst physically experiencing the presence of the walls.

### **Between protection and separation**

In the short term, a wall fulfils the functions of protection and safeguarding. But alone it cannot guarantee effective protection. It must itself be guarded. In fact, it protects less than it separates. Beyond security and protection, the objective is separation from one’s neighbour.

### **Between resignation and circumvention**

The wall is first perceived as an insurmountable obstacle. Over time, ways to get round it are devised. The appeal of the other, the dream of another world and of somewhere else better often override the dangers of crossing the rampart.

« The temptation of a wall is nothing new. Every time that a culture or a civilisation does not manage to consider the other, to consider itself as with the other, to consider the other within itself, these rigid barriers of stone, iron, barbed wire, electrified fences or closed ideologies are built, demolished and then return to us with new stridence. »

*Quand les murs tombent*, Edouard Glissant, Patrick Chamoiseau, éditions Galaade, Paris, 2007, pp. 7-8

## **2. WHY THIS EXHIBITION?**

Through philosophical and literary quotations, the exhibition invites reflection about the walls that separate people, both physically and mentally. It questions the idea of the Other as 'unknown', 'misunderstood', 'dangerous', which incites people to build walls so as to distance themselves, to reject the other so that they no longer have to see them.

Using documentary photographs, it invites visitors to discover areas of crisis and deep ideological antagonisms that are amongst the most complex in the world, all represented together for the first time in a single space.

Through the resurgence of putting up walls, the exhibition not only highlights the ambiguity of globalisation, based on the notion of free trade, but also reflects new security challenges: countering asymmetric, cross-border and extra-territorial threats, such as terrorism, illegal immigration and networks linked to organised crime.

Through the testimonies of people confronted daily with the reality of walls, the exhibition reveals the impact that they have on a human level.

### **Why this exhibition at the MICR?**

The walls bear witness to the major contemporary challenges facing humanitarian action, such as:

- ❑ migration, particularly for economic motives (Ceuta and Melilla, Mexico).
- ❑ pacification and the resolution of conflicts stemming from the Cold War (Korea).
- ❑ increasing precarity for certain populations due to economic or geo-strategic issues (Kashmir: water; Palestine: water; Western Sahara: coastline, tourism, land; Mexico: cheap labour; Cyprus: land, water, tourism; South Korea: economy).
- ❑ ideological and religious conflicts (Northern Ireland: Catholics/Protestants; Palestine: Islam/Judaism; Korea: Communism/capitalism; Kashmir: Muslims/Hindus).
- ❑ conflicts arising from decolonisation (Cyprus/GB, Western Sahara/Spain, Northern Ireland/GB, Korea/Japan, Kashmir/GB, Palestine/GB) and referendums on self-determination.

### **Why this title?**

Through the divisions that they illustrate, these photographs relate slices of human life where clashes, failures and separations are ever present.

### **Angle**

Specifically, each wall is presented in light of its particular features. Some are in the city, others cross deserts or run along the crest of mountains. Some are located in military zones where access is prohibited. Others symbolise a disputed boundary. Some can be described as armed fronts. Others have been built to combat the exodus of people fleeing poverty and trafficking of all kinds.

The Museum invites the public to discover these eight walls in all their diversity, their historical context, and their multiple origins. The name of some walls, as well as certain regions of the world in conflict, can guide the eye. Accordingly, the Museum decided to employ the designations used by the United Nations.

## **Behind the exhibition**

### ***Alexandra Novosseloff and Frank Neisse, authors of the book 'Des murs entre les hommes' ('Walls Between People')***

For nearly two years, from July 2005 to April 2007, Alexandra Novosseloff and Frank Neisse travelled the world to document the reality of these symbols of withdrawal. They sought to meet those who live near these walls, which have shaken up their lives, their daily habits.

**Alexandra Novosseloff** holds a PhD in Political Science (University of Paris-Panthéon-Assas) and is an associate researcher at this university's Thucydides Centre. She specialised in the field of international organisations, peacekeeping and relations between the United Nations and regional organisations. From 2002 to 2003, she was a guest researcher at the International Peace Academy in New York and in 2000, a guest researcher at the European Union Institute for Security Studies. In 1996-1997, she was a consultant to the UNESCO analysis and forecasting unit. Alexandra Novosseloff is the author of numerous publications, including *Face aux désordres du monde* (Confronting Unrest in the World) with Paul Quilès (published by Les Portes du Monde).

**Frank Neisse**, a graduate of the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris and the University of Berlin, first worked for the French Navy and the Ministry of Defence, in charge of Mediterranean issues and certain aspects of European policy on Security and Defence. He made several journeys to the Balkans and Western Sahara as part of peacekeeping operations. He then joined the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a political adviser. Since October 2006, Neisse has worked at the International Civilian Office in Kosovo, where he is overseeing the reform of the security sector. He has published two articles in *Armées d'Aujourd'hui* and the *Annuaire Français des Relations Internationales*.

### ***Robert Ireland, exhibition designer***

**Robert Ireland**, visual artist, was born in 1964 in the USA. Residing in Switzerland since 1971, he graduated from École Cantonale des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne in 1987. His career includes numerous exhibitions in galleries and contemporary art centres, primarily in Switzerland. He has also completed several temporary and permanent art installations (in Geneva, Lausanne and Buriel), often in collaboration with architects and landscape architects. Alongside his commitment to the visual arts, he has published theoretical writings on imagery and critical texts on various contemporary art approaches. Lecturer at EPFL until 2008, he focused his teaching on the representation of landscapes. He currently teaches theory and practice of art at the École Cantonale d'Art of Valais in Sierre as well as at the Haute École Pédagogique (teacher training college) in the Vaud canton .



## Support

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FONDATION  
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### **3. THE EXHIBITION'S ROUTE**

The documentary photographs are exhibited along eight walls, which are physically represented within the space. Visitors are invited to freely visit one after the other, and to feel their impact through their spatial proximity. Each wall tells the story, through pictures, of its construction. A map and a wall label provide the geopolitical context for each, whilst texts on the walls illuminate the choice of photos displayed. Resonating the themes of these eight walls, an introductory space and a conclusion space each provide literary and philosophical reflections and testimonies on the impact they have on people's lives.

#### **Anteroom**

Upon entering, to the right, is an introductory text providing an overview of the exhibition. After a transition (a blank wall space), the visitor finds a variety of texts and quotations of different sizes, stuck on the walls like posters. The content is of a philosophical and anthropological nature and presents the wall as a recurrent phenomenon in civilisation. The function of these texts and quotations is to provide an overview of the issues surrounding the use of walls, beyond their geographical and physical reality, which is subsequently illustrated. For this reason, this space is referred to as 'the wall of issues'.

#### **Separation**

A white line, like a road safety line, marks a separation between the anteroom and the rest of the exhibition. For visitors, it also symbolises crossing the forbidden, which is necessary to pursue their visit.

#### **The eight walls**

Three double-sided walls and two half-walls (attached to existing walls) occupy the space. A short ramp runs along the bottom of these barriers, in reference to the modular walls of the West Bank. They are light-hued, with tones varying from warm to cold, in order to differentiate them and to contrast with the walls of the exhibition room which are unlit and dark-hued (burgundy, brown, etc). Each wall is entitled (top left) with the name of the wall separating the countries or regions.

A series of documentary photographs are displayed which illustrate the history of the wall. Next to these images, various texts shed light on their context. A map, displayed at the start, relates the geographical location of the wall and some of its features. Transparent pockets contain freely available laminated A4 sheets which offer an historical geopolitical commentary on the wall, while others provide captions for the displayed photographs. Each wall is different with respect to the placement, density, quantity and pace of the photographs displayed. Visitors are invited to move freely from one to the other. A left-right reading, induced by the placement of the texts, encourages the discovery of the history of walls following this design.

#### **The back wall**

At the back of the exhibition room, more than a dozen testimonies on the human consequences caused by the erection of these walls are displayed. This 'wall of testimonies' echoes the 'wall of issues' at the start of the exhibition.

## 4. EIGHT WALLS AND THEIR HISTORY

### 1) The Demilitarised Zone between the two Koreas An ageless border wall

#### *Wall Facts*

Date of construction: 1953

Length: 241 km

Height: 2 to 3 m

Material used: barbed wire, wire mesh

Watchtowers: 131 on southern side, 337 on northern side

Garrison: 700,000 soldiers on the northern side, 414,000 soldiers on the southern side

Communities concerned: North Koreans and South Koreans

In Korea nobody uses the word “wall” to discuss the border dividing the Korean peninsula in two, except in certain propaganda speeches. Yet the wall is ubiquitous: it runs along mountain ridges, hides in valleys and crosses rivers. One cannot approach it without a pass or special authorisation. It is a fully fledged military zone, a 4 km wide *no man's land*, separated by two rows of barbed wire. Its purpose is to prevent any incident that could cause the resumption of hostilities. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, it has been the last frontier legacy of the Cold War, the symbol of a fratricidal and ideological war.

#### **The 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, where the Korean War began and ended**

In 1910, Korea was colonised by Japan. After Japan's defeat in 1945, Korea was divided into two occupation zones: the Soviet-controlled north, and the American-controlled south, bounded by the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. The Soviets refused to allow elections in their zones to be monitored by a United Nations commission. The summer of 1948 saw the creation of the Republic of Korea in the south and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north. On 25 June 1950, North Korea attempted to reunify the country by force, triggering the Korean War. The United States and the international forces of the United Nations intervened in support of South Korea; China backed North Korea. At the end of the conflict, the division of Korea into two states separated by a line of ceasefire was restored. The final front line became the Korean demilitarised zone, or DMZ, which serves as a buffer zone. On 4 October 2007, the two states made a joint declaration emphasizing the commitment of both sides to promote peace and economic prosperity on the peninsula. However, prospects for reunification seem compromised, because the North is fearful that the reunification plan will harm its regime, while the South refuses to take responsibility for the reconstruction of its neighbour's economy.

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COUMONT Barthélémy, « L'Asie orientale face aux périls des nationalismes » : <http://www.diploweb.com/forum/coree06033.htm>

## **2) The Green Line in Cyprus Division in Europe**

### *Wall Facts*

Date of construction: 1964-1974

Length: 180 km

Depth: from 20 m to 7 km

Material used: barbed wire, buildings, sandbags, drums

Garrison: "Blue Helmets" of the UNFICYP [United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus]

Communities concerned: Greek community and Turkish community

The image of Cyprus as an island of beauty and a tourist attraction is a façade hiding a rupture that has torn the country apart for more than 40 years and in one way or another affects the lives of all its inhabitants. The name "Green Line" itself comes from an officer of the British army who, in December 1963, used a green pencil to trace a line on a map of the capital – a line of possible separation suggested by clashes between the two Cypriot communities.

### ***From independence to partition***

A colony of the British Crown from 1925, the island of Cyprus consists mostly of Greek and Turkish communities. On 16 August 1960, Cyprus formally proclaimed its independence. Power was divided between the two communities according to the proportion of the respective populations: the Head of State was to be elected by the Greek community, while the election of the Vice-President was given over to the Turkish community. In the wake of armed clashes between the two communities, with the Turkish community backed by the Turkish government, the United Nations stepped in 1964, sending in peacekeepers (UNFICYP). On 15 July 1974, with the help of Greek officers, the Cypriot National Guard overthrew President Makarios in a coup d'état aimed at uniting the island with Greece. Turkey immediately landed its troops on the island. In less than a month it gained control of the entire northern region (40% of the island). Some 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced to seek refuge in the southern part of the island. From that moment, the mission of the UNFICYP included monitoring the lines of ceasefire and the demilitarised buffer zone, in turn called the Green Line. This line divides the island and its capital, Nicosia. The "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" was self-proclaimed in 1983. It was recognized by Turkey. In 2003, crossing points were opened along the Green Line between the north and south. The Republic of Cyprus is member of the EU since 2004. On 21 March 2008, a new crossing point along the Green Line opened in Nicosia at Ledra Street. It is the 6<sup>th</sup> since 2003.

### Quotes :

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MOURRE Michel, « Chypre » in *Dictionnaire encyclopédique d'histoire*, Larousse-Bordas, Paris, 1996, pp. 1154-1156.

### **3) The Peace Lines in Northern Ireland Walls within the city**

#### *Wall Facts*

Date of construction: 1969  
Length: approximately 15 km across Belfast  
Height: 6-8 m  
Material used: wire mesh, concrete  
Garrison: Police Service of Northern Ireland  
Communities concerned: Nationalist Catholics and Unionist Protestants

The Peace Lines in Northern Ireland demarcate Catholic nationalist neighbourhoods from Protestant Unionist residential areas. These barriers are mostly composed of corrugated iron or brick surmounted by wire fencing and can be up to 9 metres high. Most were built in a hurry during the unrest of the 1970s. They were supposed to be temporary. They have all been reinforced.

#### **Northern Ireland: communities with strong identities**

The year 1919 saw the rise of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which supported the goals of the Sinn Fein party (*Ourselves Alone* in Gaelic) for the independence of Ireland from the United Kingdom. In effect, Ireland had been a British possession since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The war of independence broke out in 1919. At the end of the war in 1921, the island was divided into two parts, which failed to take religious divisions into account. Northern Ireland, with Belfast as its capital, was headed by a governor appointed by London. The Protestant majority of Northern Ireland accepted this division, while the Catholic minority in the North and majority in the South rejected it. On 18 April 1949, the Republic of Ireland was proclaimed in the southern part of island.

In the late 1960s, the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland launched a campaign of demonstrations: violent riots broke out in (London) Derry where the Battle of the Bogside took place in 1969. Some British troops were sent to Northern Ireland. Then, on 30 January 1972, the British army fired on peaceful demonstrators, killing several. In response to this *Bloody Sunday*, the activist faction of the IRA stepped up its attacks. This event marked the divorce between Catholic nationalists and Protestant Unionists. Northern Ireland was then placed under direct rule by London. On 10 April 1998, a peace agreement for Northern Ireland in Belfast was signed between the various nationalists and unionist political parties, the British Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland. Despite a peace agreement being signed, the situation remains delicate.

#### Quotes :

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« *Irlande du Nord* » in Encyclopédie Microsoft® Encarta® en ligne 2008. *Tous droits réservés.*

<http://fr.encarta.msn.com> © 1997-2008 Microsoft Corporation.

#### **4) The *Berm* in Western Sahara Walls of sand in the Sahrawi desert**

##### *Wall Facts*

Date of construction: 1980-1986

Length: 2,000 km in several lines

Material used: sand berms, minefields, barbed wire

Garrison: 120,000 Moroccan soldiers, 8,000 to 10,000 soldiers of the Polisario Front

Communities concerned: Sahrawis and Moroccans

The *Berm*, a sand embankment more than 2,000 km long, was built by the Moroccans beginning in the 1980s to halt the guerrilla actions of the Polisario Front. Some 120,000 Moroccan soldiers, equipped with light artillery, are stationed along it. Minefields complete the defensive structure, while electronic equipment detects any human presence within a 60 km radius.

##### **From colonisation to self-determination of the Saharawi people**

Spain occupied Western Sahara from 1884. In 1975, it left the region and signed an agreement with Morocco and Mauritania giving them two-thirds and one-third of the territory, respectively. The Polisario Front (Popular Front for the Liberation of Saghil Hamra and Rio de Oro), created in 1973 and supported by Algeria, contested this agreement. At Morocco's request, the International Court of Justice delivered a verdict: the right of self-determination was granted to the people of Western Sahara. Hassan II then organised "the Green March" which saw 350,000 Moroccans occupy the northern part of Western Sahara. Nearly 500,000 Saharawis took refuge in Algeria. In 1976, the Polisario Front formed the "Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic" and attacked Morocco and Mauritania. In 1979, Mauritania withdrew from the conflict and abandoned its territory. In the same year the Polisario Front gained a diplomatic success when the UN condemned Morocco over the territory of Western Sahara. In 1980, Morocco decided to build the notorious *Berm*. At the same time, it encouraged Moroccans to settle in the region. In 1991, while ensuring the implementation of a ceasefire signed by the forces present, a United Nations mission was deployed to hold a referendum in Western Sahara. The peace plan was intended to allow the Saharawi people a choice between independence and integration with Morocco. The huge stakes and the uncertain outcome for both sides prevented the swift implementation of the referendum. Several solutions to break this impasse have been proposed, including significant autonomy, but so far without success.

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## **5) The fence between the United States and Mexico The anti-immigration wall of the *Tercera Nación***

### *Wall Facts*

Date of construction: beginning in 1994  
Length: 1,200 km  
Material used: wire mesh, corrugated iron, barbed wire  
Garrison: 12,000 border patrol (18,000 when completed)  
Communities concerned: Mexicans, Latin Americans and Americans

The border between the United States and Mexico, 3,200 km long, crosses an entire continent, from the Pacific Ocean on the Californian coast to the Gulf of Mexico in east Texas. The fence, built by the United States in 2006 along a portion of this border, doesn't appear to exist at first sight, but it is there, made of recovered corrugated steel sheets, rusted by time. Three metres high, topped by electrified barbed wire, it is lined with a parapet walk overhung by radars, cameras, projectors, ground sensors, and supplemented by unmanned aircraft and the latest surveillance technologies.

### **A tradition dating back 100 years**

Between 1830 and 1860, the new boundary between Mexico and the U.S. saw Mexico lose some two million square kilometres of territory. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Mexican peasants began coming to offer their labour, first in large farms in California, then from the 1920s in the emerging U.S. industry. In 1965, the abolition of bilateral agreements prohibited the back-and-forth travel of Mexican seasonal workers. The influx of illegal migrants began to increase, raising the issue of clandestine immigration and its regulation. In 1994, as a free trade agreement had already been signed between the United States, Canada and Mexico, the United States decided to strengthen their border and stop illegal immigrants. On 26 October 2006, U.S. President George W. Bush promulgated the Secure Fence Act, aimed at reinforcing surveillance of the border with Mexico and combating illegal immigration. Totalling 1,200 km in length, representing one-third of the border, the fence should be completed by the end of 2008, and will cross the Arizona desert.

### Quotes :

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## **6) The barbed wire fences of Melilla and of Ceuta The Spanish enclaves walled off from Morocco**

### *Wall Facts*

Date of construction: 1995

Length: 12 km around Melilla and 8 km around Ceuta

Height: 6 m

Material used: wire mesh and barbed wire

Garrison: *Guardia Civil and Moroccan army*

Communities concerned: Spaniards, Moroccans and sub-Saharan immigrants

It is a triple wire fence about 12 km long for Melilla and 8 km long for Ceuta, over 6 metres high and 2 metres wide separating the two Spanish enclaves from Morocco. This barrier, erected in 1995, is completed by the *sirga* ("rope" in Spanish) system, a tangle of thick iron wires, created in 2005. The complex is intended to prevent any person who succeeds in crossing the first barrier from climbing successive ones by entangling their feet in the iron wires. This system is supplemented by radar and video cameras allowing the *Guardia Civil* to monitor a distance up to 2 km inside Moroccan territory.

### **From Melilla to Ceuta, from one wall to another**

Melilla, a territory of 12.3 km<sup>2</sup>, and Ceuta, a territory of 19 km<sup>2</sup>, are Spanish enclaves on the Moroccan coast, founded in 1497 and 1668, respectively. Border cities, they are European at the political level, but follow Moroccan trade customs. In 1985, several countries of the European Union (EU) signed the Schengen Agreement. While this agreement permits the free movement of nationals of these countries, it concomitantly strengthens controls on foreigners. As such, it participates in strengthening the protection of Europe's borders with regard to its close neighbours (in the south, the Maghreb region, Mauritania and Libya). In the mid-1990s, due to the increasingly significant surge of migration by African immigrants circumventing the law to try and enter Europe, Ceuta and Melilla erected barriers of wire fencing. As these obstacles did not prove sufficiently effective, they were regularly raised and reinforced by new technology, particularly in autumn 2005, following the onslaught of several hundred migrants. Since then, they haven't been crossed, but migrants continue to cross the (sea) border by other means, taking ever greater risks.

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« Ceuta et Melilla : l'UE déclare la guerre aux migrants et aux réfugiés », publié le 12 octobre 2005 : <http://www.migreurop.org/article887.html>

« L'Europe, Ceuta, Melilla : la perspective des camps. » par Raúl SÁNCHEZ, publié le 10 février 2007 : <http://multitudes.samizdat.net/L-Europe-Ceuta-Melilla-la.html>

## **7) The electrified fence in Kashmir**

### **The line of control between India and Pakistan**

#### *Wall Facts*

Date of construction: 2002-2003

Length: 550 km

Material used: electrified wire mesh with barbed wire

Garrison: 30,000 Pakistani soldiers in Azad Kashmir and 450,000 Indian soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir

Communities concerned: Pakistanis, Kashmiris and Indians

The electrified fence, 3.5 metres high, is made of three rows of barbed wire mounted on iron bars. Mines, motion sensors and cameras complete the structure. The electrified fence runs along 550 of the 740 km disputed border (Line of Control, or LoC) and along 230 km of the international border.

#### **Kashmir, the heart of Indo-Pakistan rivalry**

The rivalry between India and Pakistan dates from the Partition of the British Empire in India. At the time of its independence in 1947, the Empire was divided between India and Pakistan. The Kashmir valley, a gigantic water reservoir that irrigates the entire region of the Indus Basin, the crossroads of Indo-Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asia and China, and purchased from the British in 1846 by the Maharaja Gulab Singh, has a predominantly Muslim population. Kashmir, which had remained an independent monarchy, was free to join either India or Pakistan. By sending in its troops, Pakistan forced the Hindu prince to ask for help from India, causing war to break out between the two countries. A "Free Kashmir" government was installed in the area controlled by the Pakistanis. The United Nations intervened in January 1949 and imposed a ceasefire. At the end of the conflict, Kashmir was divided in two along the line of ceasefire. The northeast was put under Pakistani administration, while the remainder was given over to Indian administration. As a result of UN mediation, India promised to hold a referendum on self-determination so that the Kashmiris could decide the ultimate fate of their territory. This referendum has never been held.

In July 1972, India and Pakistan signed an agreement, which defined a Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, more or less faithful to the ceasefire line. Rising tensions in the 1990s, due not only to the possession of nuclear weapons by both countries, but also to the continued infiltration in southern Kashmir of militant jihadists from Pakistan, led India to build an electrified fence.

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## **8) The wall between Israelis and Palestinians**

### **From protection to separation**

#### *Wall Facts*

Date of construction: beginning in June 2002  
Length: 723 km (in 2008) of 790 km (planned)  
Material used: concrete, electrified fencing, barbed wire  
Garrison: Israeli army (Tzahal)  
Communities concerned: Palestinians and Israeli settlers

The Israelis talk of a “security fence”, an “anti-terrorist barrier”, even an “iron wall”; the Palestinians themselves speak of a “wall of apartheid”, a “wall of annexation” or a “wall of shame”. In the towns it is made of concrete and is 9 metres high. In the countryside, it consists of a double fence reinforced in some places by an electronic system, called the “intelligent” barrier, where the slightest touch triggers an alarm, and surveillance cameras placed every 50 metres locate intruders.

#### **A disputed territory**

The Palestinian question was born of the partition plan for Palestine, which had been a British mandate since the end of the First World War. The plan envisaged a division into two independent states, one Arab, one Jewish, with Jerusalem remaining under international control, following the decision in 1947 of the General Assembly of the United Nations. A first war broke out in 1948, after which the “Green Line” retraces the borders of the 1949 armistice. Some 720,000 Palestinians left their lands. Later, after the Six Day War in 1967, Israel occupied part of Gaza and the West Bank. In 1993, the signing of the Oslo Accords marked a first step in the “peace process”. At the end of the Camp David II Summit in 2000, the process reached an impasse: territorial concessions by Israel, the final status of Jerusalem and the problem of refugee return prevented the signing of an agreement. A terrible spiral of violence ensued. Neither the surrounding of Palestinian territories from February 2001, nor appeals from the Palestinian Authority to stop terrorist attacks, succeeded in calming the fighting. On 16 June 2002, Israel began the construction of a fence along the “Green Line”. On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice alleged that the construction and its impact on the daily lives of Palestinians were contrary to international law. Nonetheless, it is still there.

#### Quotes :

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MOURRE Michel, « Israël », « Israélo-arabes (guerres) », et « Palestine » in *Dictionnaire encyclopédique d'histoire*, Larousse-Bordas, Paris, 1996, pp.2899 à 2910, pp. 2910 à 2912, pp. 4120 à 4126.  
Chronologie du conflit israélo-palestinien de 2002 à nos jours (document archivé en 2006, in Le Monde diplomatique : <http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/cahier/proche-orient/a12330>)  
« israélo-arabe, conflit » in *Encyclopédie Microsoft® Encarta® en ligne 2008*  
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[http://fr.encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_741534063/isra%C3%A9lo-arabe\\_conflict.html](http://fr.encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_741534063/isra%C3%A9lo-arabe_conflict.html)

## 5. TESTIMONIALS

“When we arrived in Algerian territory, we were all convinced that we would only be there for days or perhaps a few weeks. But 30 years have passed and we are still here.”

Boubih, Algeria

“This was a dangerous work until the 1990s. Now it has become much calmer. When, from a distance, we meet a North Korean patrol in the DMZ, they sometimes ask us to defect and join the ranks of the Kim Jong-Il regime.”

Kim, South Korean soldier at the DMZ

“It is not possible, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, that we should build a wall between two neighbouring nations, between two sister nations, between two related nations. It is a very negative signal, which does not bode well for a country that prides itself on being a democracy built by immigrants!”

Vicente Fox, President of Mexico

“The problem of Kashmir is the Line of Control. It should be demilitarised and then destroyed, rather than allowing a lucky few individuals to cross it, with soldiers stationed throughout.”

Anonymous, Kashmir



## **6. INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

### **General Information**

Open from 10am to 5pm, closed Tuesdays

Boutique – Restaurant

From the Cornavin train station: Bus #8 (towards OMS or Appia), Appia stop

Access for disabled

### **Tours**

#### **Guided tours for groups**

Information and booking

Tel. +41 22 748 95 06

#### **Schools**

Educational aids: [www.micr.org/edu](http://www.micr.org/edu)

Information and booking, tel. +41 22 748 95 06

#### **Free guided tours** (no booking required)

Sunday 5 October, 2 November, 7 December 2008 and 11 January 2009 at 11 a.m. in English and at 2.30pm in French