

FREE PALESTINE

The Wall Must Fall
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Stop Connex & Alstom NOW!

FREE JERUSALEM!
STOP CONNEX & ALSTOM

Connex and Alstom are the international investors in the Citypass consortium that won a 2002 tender put out by Israeli authorities for a light rail transportation project in Jerusalem amounting to around 500 million euros. Citypass will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the system for the next 30 years.

The path of the light rail incorporates a number of Jewish settlements around East Jerusalem, built on stolen Palestinian land. It ensures the contiguity of these colonies into the central areas of the city and provides them with a vital transport link. The project boasts that the "Ammunition Hill" station of the network will operate as the feeder station for settler traffic from Ma'aleh Adumim and from the Jordan Valley. The Light rail project plays a key role in **sustaining the settlements** and ensuring they become a permanent fixture upon Palestinian land.

The project, a private-public partnership (PPP) between the Israeli Occupation government and the consortium, is hinged upon the willingness of international business groupings to provide a huge injection of capital. In turn Connex and Alstom will reap significant profits and dividends over a thirty-year period, money stained with the blood and misery of **Palestinians under Occupation** and currently being expelled from Jerusalem.

The rail project must be stopped now!

The French companies decision to fund the project is an act entirely **contradictory to international law** and the rights of the Palestinians. Built on Palestinian land and as an integral part of settlement infrastructure, the rail project is tantamount to a war crime and forms a serious breach of international law including the Geneva Convention. Connex and Alstom directly support the ethnic cleaning of Palestinians, shut out of their capital by the Apartheid Wall and settler-roads, and the overall Zionist project to remove Palestinians from their lands.

Below: The Ghetto

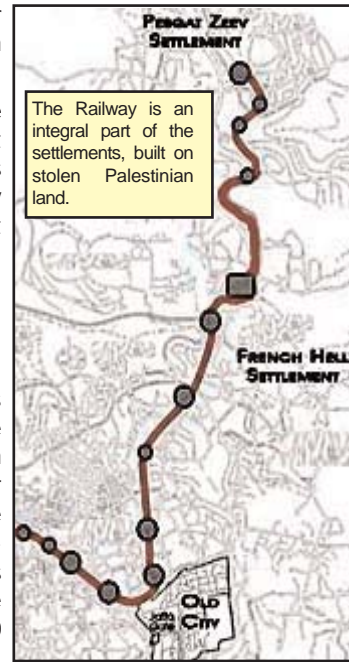


Jerusalem was a hub of cultural, religious and commercial activity for thousands of years. The city reflected a diversity of cultures, a rich ethnic diversity, and served as the major **focal point for the three major religions**. Moroccans, Africans, Syrians and others made pilgrimages to the city. It was a centre for traders and a key meeting point between east, west, north and south. Religious, social and educational institutions and societies thrived. The city prospered and grew over centuries.

The ancient roads that spread out from the city recall the yearly pilgrimages of all religions. The caravans from Jerusalem to the north went through Bieroth (al Bireh today), through Shilo, a Canaanite city (and today settlement), and to Shakim (now Nablus). To the east, roads go to the city of Moon (Jericho) and beyond to the Arabian Desert, to Babylonia and beyond. To the south, through Habron (Hebron) to Bir el Saba, to Gaza, and from there to the east, to the Pharaohs of Egypt. To the west, to Jaffa on the coast and out to the new world. Many of these routes are now **blocked by the Apartheid Wall**. New settlement roads and a railway are

built to continue the efforts to render life in Jerusalem possible for Jewish settlers only.

Already after the 1967 war, when the Occupation annexed Jerusalem, it implemented systematic measures by which to control the city by **racist/discriminatory laws** that restricted Palestinian life. The old Moroccan neighbourhood of the Old City was demolished. Zionist neighbourhoods in the Old City were constructed. Historical mosques, archaeological sites, and historical buildings have all been demolished over the last 38 years. The Occupation replaced historical names with their own, not a new policy but the same measures taken when Israel was created in 1948. Then over 450 towns and villages were destroyed with the expulsion of over 800,000 Palestinians (the Nakba).



This same ideology has been responsible for land theft throughout the West Bank, secured by the Apartheid Wall and expanding settlements. In Jerusalem, Palestinian neighbourhoods have become fragmented as settlements are built around them. Now the Wall - **134kms** of it in Jerusalem alone - isolates and dissects communities. It rips through villages and neighborhoods, separating families, cutting social and economic ties, and leaves Palestinians suffocated. Some 120,000 Palestinians will be forced to leave the city as the Wall and the Occupation policies make life within the city impossible.

Destroying Jerusalem's diversity & history

The railway system **integrates the settlements into the centre of the city**, bypassing Palestinian areas, and securing the Judaization of the city. In August 2005, Ariel Sharon stated at a ceremony for the consortium that: "I believe that this should be done, and in any event, anything that can be done to strengthen Jerusalem, construct it, expand it and sustain it for eternity as the capital of the Jewish people and the united capital of the State of Israel, should be done." Occupation's Mayor Uri Lupolianski described the light rail to be "the fulfilment of Psalm 122", while the Jerusalem municipality views it as the realization of Herzl's Zionist dreams. Palestinians recognise it to be a concerted effort to eradicate their presence, history and culture in Jerusalem.

The Grassroots Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign and the National Committee To Resist The Apartheid Wall have called for immediate **action against Connex and Alstom** to halt the funding for the project. It is a crucial part of solidarity to ensure international support to Israeli violations of international law and Palestinian rights are stopped now.



Connex

Established in 24 countries with headquarters in France. Part of Veolia Group. Has significant investments in privatised service and transportation industries. Over 56,000 employees and around 2 billion passengers per year.

Alstom

Alstom is a smaller company, but a considerable player in the production of trains and rolling stock across the world. Employs some 28,000 people and sells its products in over 50 countries. Headquarters in France.