

Approximately 700,000 Palestinians residents in Area B have no regular law enforcement presence. This creates safe havens for criminals, which have evolved into illicit arms depots and terror cells.

To enhance security for all, PA security forces should be authorized to deploy throughout Area B including the areas transferred under the 10% plan, in a manner that expedites or waives the process by which Palestinian security forces receive permits from Israel.

LAW AND ORDER AND COUNTERTERRORISM

As acknowledged by the chiefs of Israeli security agencies, the high level of security coordination with PA security agencies is a major contributor to Israel's security. This measure will ensure that coordination continues by improving the domestic credibility of PA security forces, which suffer from a perception of impotence in the face of Israeli restrictions on their operations. As demonstrated during past periods of constructive, intimate coordination, an effective PA security force also reduces the need for frequent Israeli incursions.

The proposed measure will help dismantle the current safe havens for criminals, which have evolved into illicit arms depots and terror cells. Indeed, there is a clear link between criminal and terror networks, making enforcement of law and order in villages in Area B vital in order to effectively counter terrorism.

Implementation of this proposal must take the needs of both sides into consideration. Therefore, a model of police deployment will be developed for each expanded portion of Area B to account for Israel's security concerns. These models should involve three categories designed to reduce the risk of tension or incidents between Israeli and Palestinian forces stemming from lack of coordination or misunderstandings:

- Areas where PA police operates with no need for advance coordination.
- Areas where advance notice to Israeli counterparts is required but PA forces deploy at will.
- Areas where no deployment takes place prior to Israeli authorization.

The 4% Plan

Legalizing Palestinian natural growth

Over the past 20 years, natural growth of Palestinian villages in Area B exhausted all available space and expanded into their surroundings, all classified as Area C. Unable to obtain building permits from the Israeli authorities, approximately 11,000 structures are considered illegal and currently under demolition orders.

A rough calculation of the cumulative territory occupied by these structures approximates 4% of the West Bank. Recategorizing these segments of Area C as Area B or transferring housing and zoning authority over them to the PA requires no Israeli legislation. It will in no way negatively impact Israel's security, as Israel retains overall security control over Area B.

IMPLEMENTATION

Three criteria should be met in delineating the segments of territory in Area C to be recognized as B:

1. Distance from Area B: Subject to the two other criteria (below), all houses located within 1,640 feet of the outer boundary of Area B should be included.

2. Distance from Israeli settlements: For security reasons, the extended Area B should not reach any closer than 1,640 feet from the nearest Israeli settlement.

3. Distance from the security barrier: For security reasons, the extended Area B should not reach any closer than 1,640 feet from the security barrier.

For the Palestinians it will:

- Apply to Palestinians the concept of natural growth that has long justified expansion of Israeli settlements.

- Legalize the homes of some 200,000 Palestinians.

- Signal that Israeli control over Area C should not be considered permanent.

- Strengthen the Palestinian economy.

- Improve the atmosphere in Israeli-Palestinian relations.