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I come from there
from no man's land
I was born like this.
I have a mother
and a father.
I have brothers,
and I have a cousin.
I have a need
that I make of my
own.

I come from there
from the highest peak
of words.
I have a heart
in the middle of
the center.

I come from there
from the sky to its mother when it
weeps for a returning
cloud to know me.
I have learned the words
of home.
I have learned and dismantled all
the words
to construct
a single
one:

HOME

MAHMOUD DARWISH
Objectives

- Consequences of walls on human rights principles.
- Study and analyze direct and indirect consequences of walls on human health, wellbeing and built environment.
Great Wall of China

History
Started: 7th century BC
Length: 8,850 km (5,500 mi)

Protection / define boarders – did it work?
What was the cost?
Jerusalem – Walls & Gates

**History**

Started: 11th century BCE

Area: 0.9 square kilometers (0.35 sq mi) walled area

Protection / dominance / control – The gates / access most important.
Now the wall serves little purpose.
Mexico – U.S. Walls

History
Called: separation barrier
Boarder: 1,951-mile (3,141 km) border
Current: 344.3 miles (554.1 km) of fence
Control / displacement / On going damage - human & ecological consequence. Has it worked?
Prisons – U.S. Made Walls

**History to Current**

- US has the world's largest prison population of over 2 million incarcerated about 1% of the population
- US spends $74 billion on confinement and correction issues
- Post prison more barriers to integration into society
- Racial disparity
- Public health consequences – 1 million black kids no father
Palestine – Israel

**History**

Called: separation barrier
Target: 430-mile (700km)
Height: 26 ft (8 m)
Exclusion area: 200 ft (60 m)
We like Walls - physical or virtual

Walls:

- Make our homes
- Make our class rooms
- Make our work place
- Allow us to drive and fly
- Walls in our control
Purpose / Consequences of Walls/physical or virtual

Walls are:
- Built to separate not protect
- Silence voices / stories we are missing
- Stifle / separate people
- Physical and mental
- Intolerance / racism / prejudice
- Stop learning
- Promote misunderstandings and rejection
- Electronic walls
- On the sea block fishing
- Block access to jobs / to medical supplies / to education / relatives / friends ... etc.
Walls in Perspective

- Military vs private walls – there is a big difference
- Military – defensive, offensive, keeping people, culture separate
Purpose / Consequences of Walls

- Well being & Public health
- Environment & Ecosystem
- Space/home/walking through walls
- Transportation and movement
Well being & Public health

- Socializing
- PTSD
- Hospital/medical supply
- Medical care
- Education/library
- Training
- Food/water
- Child development
- Nutrition-Iron
- Degradation of humanity
- Spirit
- Family and Friends
Environment & Ecosystem

- Drinking water
- Waste water
- Pesticide
- Energy
- Lead
- Gasoline
- Garbage and litter, plastic bags
- Electricity
- Sewage
- Soil
- Air
Space/home/walking through walls

- Displacement
- Demolition
- Buildings
- Construction materials
- Public space
- Buffer zone
- Confiscation /property
- Clothing
- Spirit
Transportation and movement

- Infrastructure/roads/borders
- Technology
- Maintenance and supply
- Limited market exchange
- Economic strangulation
- Censorship
- Social media
- Security measures
Ethics and Walls

- Consent vs no consent
- Ability to move past wall – home / class room vs prison – who controls access
- Human rights
- Public / child health (who is most vulnerable?)
- Well being
Into and Out of Gaza

Walls Intimidating
Wall West Bank
When a child has no place to play..
Walking Through Walls
Destruction – Cast Lead
Lack of Opportunities: Child laborer
Concrete Salvage
Wadi Gaza

- Wadi Gaza is a wetland south of Gaza City
- 60 to 80 million litres of raw sewage from Gaza's Middle Governorate pumped through it daily
- No wastewater treatment in the whole of the Wadi Gaza area
Wadi Gaza Source
Sanitation
Wadi Gaza River
Wadi Gaza River
Sewage Treatment
Lead Batteries
Leaded Gas
Berlin Wall

“We welcome change and openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together, that the advance of human liberty can only strengthen the cause of world peace. There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

Speech at the Brandenburg Gate on June 12, 1987, U.S. President Ronald Reagan challenged Mikhail Gorbachev
Are walls a form of genocide?

Lemkin (1944) defined genocide as follows:

Generally speaking, genocide does not necessarily mean the immediate destruction of a nation, except when accomplished by mass killings of all members of a nation. It is intended rather to signify a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves. The objectives of such a plan would be the disintegration of the political and social institutions, of culture, language, national feelings, religion, and the economic existence of national groups, and the destruction of the personal security, liberty, health, dignity, and even the lives of the individuals belonging to such groups.
Pope Francis (Sept. 2015)

• Asked about barriers being but up in Europe to stop the influx of migrants, the pope said: "All walls collapse, today, tomorrow or after 100 years, but they will collapse. Walls are not a solution."

• He said that while it was true that Europe was struggling in the face of a refugee crisis, the solution had to be found through dialogue. "Barriers last a short time or a long time, but the problem remains and with it, more hatred."
“There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.” — Leonard Cohen

References
www.voicesthroughwalls.org