Occupied and Unoccupied Media Spaces

The adoption of separation fence, security fence, separation barrier, security barrier, security wall, separation wall, and apartheid wall in Palestinian. Israeli and Western News.

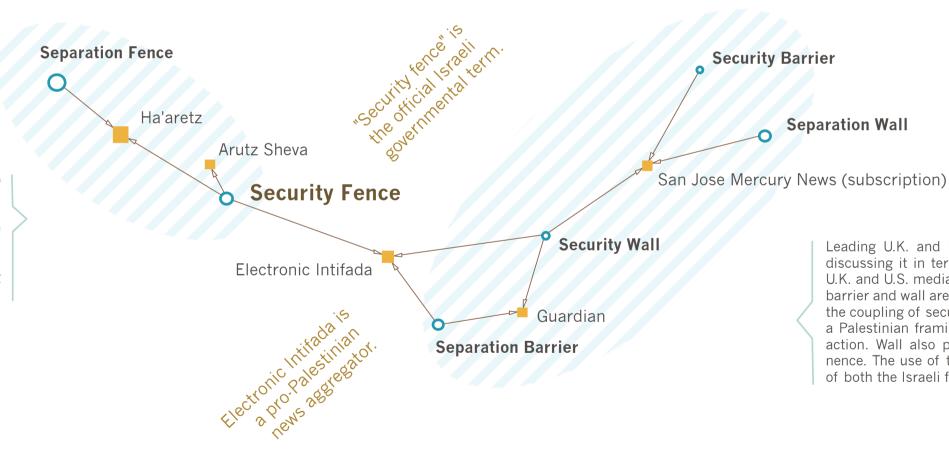
> Apartheid Wall, used by Al Jazeerah and the Palestinian governmental press agency, is a fusion of the former South African apartheid regime and the former Berlin Wall. The richer term may be thought of as an appeal. It implies racism, discrimination, a militarized zone, a bleak future. It also places the Palestinians behind a wall. There is no exit.





Now, anti-graffiti paint is to be used to prevent graffiti-writers from making the fence look like a wall, in the style of the Berlin Wall. (Graffiti is already on both sides of the 'wall'.)

The right-of-center media (Arutz Sheva) uses the official governmental term, "security fence". The left-of-center media (Ha'aretz) is using the more subtle language of 'separation fence', which does not recognize the security aspect. Rather, it connotes the future establishment of two neighboring states. Ha'aretz is alone in the use of this terminology.



Leading U.K. and U.S. newspapers fluctuate between discussing it in terms of security and separation. The U.K. and U.S. media do not use the term 'fence'. Rather, barrier and wall are used. There is an implied critique in the coupling of security and wall. The use of the 'wall' is a Palestinian framing, implying a unilateral, illegimate action. Wall also provides a sense of greater permanence. The use of the term 'barrier' implies a rejection of both the Israeli fence or Palestinian wall.

Conclusion. In not adopting the Israeli fence or Palestinian wall, the Western media leave the (verbally) warring parties to their own devices. The conflict as well as its nonresolution are maintained in the unoccupied media space.

Legend

Manner of speaking Media Source

Co-occurrence analysis of keywords and sources.

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