

Israel closes villages of Bilin and Nilin to protests

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The Israeli Defence Force has barred Israelis and foreigners from two West Bank villages, the scene of protests against Israel's "separation wall". Soldiers have posted flyers declaring areas around the villages of Bilin and Nilin are "closed military zones".

The restriction applies to the areas every Friday, the day that protests are held, for the next six months. Activists have been protesting against the barrier for five years in what they say are mostly peaceful demonstrations. But the Israeli Defence Force says it considers the riots to be "violent and illegal".

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