

“And who are more unjust than those who prevent the name of Allah from being mentioned in His mosques and strive toward their destruction. It is not for them to enter them except in fear. For them in this world is disgrace, and they will have in the Hereafter a great punishment.” (The Holy Qur’an, 2:114)

### **A call to our people in Jerusalem!**

Your honorable steadfastness in defending the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and guarding it against the repeated violations that aim at distorting and falsifying the religious, legal and historical status of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, including the violations at the Bab Al-Rahmah prayer hall and the closure of its main gate with chains, had the greatest impact in stopping the aggression aimed at Bab Al-Rahmah prayer hall. It is a reminder of the heroic and honorable stance that the Jerusalemites took in rejecting the electronic gates, forcing the occupation to remove them.

In its first meeting, the Awqaf Council stressed rejecting and resisting the occupation practices, aggressions and violations at Al-Aqsa Mosque. The president and members of the Council performed the noon congregational prayer inside Bab Al-Rahmah, to fulfill its duty and to assert the Muslims’ right to pray inside this prayer hall, similar to other prayer halls at the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif of Jerusalem. In addition, the Council realized that Bab Al-Rahmah needs urgent maintenance.

In its second session on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Awqaf Council affirmed, in a clear and straightforward resolution, its rejection of all the violations and restrictions that the Occupation Authorities imposed on the freedom of worship and prayers at Bab Al-Rahmah prayer halls. The Council authorized its legal advisor to immediately notify the Occupation Authorities of the Council’s resolution that it will not hesitate to fulfill its responsibilities towards Bab Al-Rahmah by renovating it and praying in it. The Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, including all its courtyards, facilities, above the ground and subterranean prayer halls, including Bab Al-Rahmah, with the total area of 144 dunums, is an exclusive right that belongs to all Muslims around the world. It is an Islamic Awqaf that cannot be shared, and that non-Muslims have no rights to it, and that no law could be applied to it or implemented in it, whether by the Israeli occupation authorities or any other authority.

The Council reaffirms its determination to confront all Israeli practices that are aimed against the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. It also calls on our people in Jerusalem and all members of our people to unite and be steadfast in confronting these arbitrary violations, and to rally behind the Awqaf institution, in order to stand united in safeguarding and defending the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

“...Allah will certainly help those who stand up for Him. Allah is truly All-Powerful, Almighty. those who, when We establish them in the land, keep up the prayer, pay the prescribed alms...” (The Holy Qur’an, 22:40-41)

The Council for Awqaf, Religious Affairs and Islamic Holy Sites in Jerusalem

