

JERUSALEM

Chronology of Main Events 2011

JANUARY:

Jan. 1: *Yediot Aharonot* quotes an official Israeli study according to which some \$559 million are needed to upgrade Palestinian districts if they are to be at par with Jewish neighborhoods.

Jan. 2: Israeli media reports that sportswear company Adidas forced the WJM to reroute a planned marathon to avoid occupied Palestinian neighborhoods.

- Israel extends for six months a ban preventing Palestinians married to Israelis from family unification.

Jan. 3: Israeli authorities demolish part of Nasser Yousef Seyam's home north of Sheikh Jarrah following a six-year legal dispute.

Jan. 4: Israeli officials demolish the house of Nayef Uweida in Beit Hanina

Jan. 5: Israeli forces demolish 11 structures in the At-Tur neighborhood for being built without permits.

Jan. 9: Under the protection of Israeli forces, bulldozers begin demolishing the Shepherd Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah to make way for a planned new 20-unit settlement. The move sparks harsh criticism from Palestinians, the EU, the UN and the US.

Jan. 10: Israeli forces demolish a horse and poultry barn in Wadi Joz and a tin and wood shed in Suwaneh.

- In an internal memo, 25 diplomatic representatives to the EU in Jerusalem tell the EU that Israel's attempts to emphasize the exclusively Jewish identity of the city had potential global repercussions, stating: "If current trends are not stopped as a matter of urgency, the prospect of East Jerusalem as the future capital of a Palestinian state becomes increasingly unlikely and unworkable."

Jan. 14: Jewish settlers have filed a planning application for 50 housing units, in addition to the 20 already approved for construction on the site of the Shepherd Hotel.

- Press reports state that Atty. Gen. Yehuda Weinstein had once again written to WJM mayor Barkat, insisting he obey previous instructions to evict the Silwan settlers and close off the building, known as Beit Yonatan.

Jan. 16: Israeli military radio reports a new construction project of at least 1,400 homes that is about to be authorized in Gilo.

Jan. 17: UN agencies and EU officials in the OPT call for the implementation of international humanitarian law to protect the Palestinian population in East Jerusalem from forced displacement.

- The WJM council approves the building of another 92 settler homes in East Talpiot, all in a 12-storey building.

Jan. 23: Palestinian negotiators offered in 2008 to cede vast swathes of annexed East Jerusalem in peace talks with Israel, incl. French Hill, Ramat Alon and Gilo, *Al-Jazeera* reported, citing "secret documents," which are dismissed by chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat

Jan. 31: The cornerstone for a new settlement at the Beit Orot Yeshiva is laid in a ceremony attended by MKs, municipality employees, and other officials.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 6: the High Court rules that the Ministry of Education and the WJM have five years to absorb all the students from East Jerusalem within the public school system, otherwise they will have cover the

tuition fees of the children who are obliged to attend private schools due to a the classroom shortage.

Feb. 7: The WJM council approves plans for construction of 16 new apartments by a Jewish settler group in Sheikh Jarrah.

Feb. 12: After Friday prayers clashes erupt between Palestinian youth and Israeli forces in Silwan, Ras Al-Amud and Wadi Ar-Rababa

Feb. 14: THE WJM Council approves the construction of 120 new homes in Ramot settlement

Feb. 21: Israeli forces shoot and injure a Palestinian man during clashes in Al-Isawiya.

Feb. 22: Israeli police detain Islamic Movement leader Sheikh Raed Salah while he was visiting a sit-in protest tent in Silwan.

- The Anglican Bishop Suheil Dawani of the Jerusalem Diocese files a lawsuit against the State of Israel over the denial of his Jerusalem residency permit. The Israeli Ministry of Interior told him in August 2010 that he and his family should leave Israeli-occupied Jerusalem immediately, as their A5 permit for 'temporary residency status' would not be renewed.

Feb. 24: Officials from 28 civil society groups and local councils in the Jerusalem governorate announce they would no longer accept projects with American organizations, following the country's veto of a draft resolution condemning Israeli settlement construction.

Feb. 28: Settlers protest and try to block the main entrance to Jerusalem in solidarity with West Bank settlers who clashed with police earlier the day.

MARCH

March 1: Israeli undercover forces detain five children in Silwan.

- Israeli forces shut down two events in East Jerusalem, citing "security reasons": a conference on "Defending Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem" at the Capitol Hotel on Salah Eddin Street and a conference scheduled for the following day at the Al-Bustan protest tent in Silwan.

March 7: Israeli police and WJM workers hands out 15 eviction notices to families in the Ar-Rashid building in Beit Hanina ordering them to leave within 10 days, after which the building would be demolished.

March 10: After an 11-year battle between the Hamdallah family and US-Israeli billionaire Moskowitz, an Israeli court issues a decision allowing Israeli settlers to take part of the Hamdallah family home in Ras Al-Amud.

March 18: Israeli authorities announce a "general closure" of the West Bank for four days due to Purim.

March 21: Fierce clashes erupt at night between settlers, Israeli police and Palestinian youth in Silwan.

March 22: Israeli forces raid Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and detain five worshippers.

March 23: An Israeli woman was critically wounded when a bomb explodes near a West Jerusalem bus stop.

March 29: The WJM District Planning and Construction Committee approved the construction of 983 housing units in Har Homa

March 30: Israeli police on Wednesday raided the Wadi Hilweh information center in Silwan.

March 31: WJM mayor barkat says that three new postal outlets would be installed in At-Tur, Ras Al-Amud, and Jabal Al-Mukabber in the coming months.

APRIL

April 1: Peace Now reports that an Israeli landowner is seeking to sell plots for 30 homes in Ras al-Amud, where 117 settler families already live.

April 4: THE WJM Council approves the construction of 942 new Jewish-only homes in Gilo, while plans for another 850-900 units (Mordot Gilo West - Plan No. 13157) are published for public review.

April 5: The Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Committee approves a plan to build a national park on the slopes of Mt. Scopus, close to the E-1 area, which will prevent the expansion of Issawiya and At-Tur, while creating a physical link between Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem.

April 18: *Al-Quds* newspaper reported that the WJM had approved the plan for a new 549-unit settlement on 153 dunums near Beit Safafa (Givat Hamatos).

April 21: The PLO has denounced indications that Israel will confiscate 27 Palestinian homes and expel their residents from Sheikh Jarrah, urging the Quartet to immediately intervene in order to prevent the plan.

- Israeli Army Radio reports that the Israeli Ministry of Housing has deposited plans to build a new 800-unit neighborhood south of Givat Ze'ev in a bid to link it with Jerusalem

April 27: The Alternative Information Center (AIC) reports that the WJM District Committee for Planning and Construction had approved a plan (No. 11092A) according to which Issawiya's last remaining land reserves - the slope leading up to the Hebrew University campus - will be used as part of the national park around the Old City.

MAY

May 9: The Israeli High Court of Justice rejects a petition filed by Palestinians from Jaba', Yesh Din, and Bimkom against the planned settlement expansion and the route of the separation barrier, which would cut them off from their land.

May 13: Palestinian teenager Milad Ayyash, 16, dies of his wounds after being shot during clashes in the Ras Al-Amud area. Clashes also occur in Silwan and Shufat camp.

- Thousands of Israeli police flood the streets of Jerusalem as Palestinians begin marking the Nakba day.

May 22: Jerusalem police has closed an East Jerusalem community center, the Heritage Committee in Wadi Joz, on the pretext that it is affiliated with Hamas.

May 25: The municipal border of Jerusalem is expanded on 25 May 2011 by 243 dunums in the area of Kibbutz Ramat Rachel. Some 187 dunums (77%) is west of the Green Line, while 56 dunums (33%) is "No Man's Land" (which no side is allowed to enter or use according to the 1949 Israel-Jordan ceasefire agreement).

- Several Israeli ministers, as well as Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin and Mayor Barkat, participate in the inauguration of the new Ma'ale David settlement in Ras Al-Amud.

JUNE

June 5: The WJM, in cooperation with Ministry of Transportation and Morea Company, begins "development and enhancement" work on a NIS 30 million infrastructure project in Wadi Al-Joz (from the Hebrew University junction along the Wadi Joz Rd. and Al-Maqdesi St.) which will last for two years and will first and foremost serve the existing and planned settlement enclaves in the area.

June 14: The Jerusalem Sub-committee for Accelerated Construction convenes for the first time and expedites the construction of 105 units in the Mitzpeh Naftoah area of Ramot (Plan 6885).

June 15: The Jerusalem Magistrates' Court rejects the request by settlers to evict the Farhan family from its home next to the burial cave of Simon the Just in Sheikh Jarrah due to several flaws in the lawsuit.

June 19: The Israeli Ministry of Interior approves ten town plans (Nos. 14000 A-14000 I), each dealing with areas of Ramat Shlomo and cumulatively allowing each of the approx. 2,200 existing units to add a room.

June 22: In an attempted takeover, the Zawahra family home is in Beit Safafa attacked by settlers.

June 23: Right-wing and Ultra-Orthodox Jews at the WJM announce a general recruitment of members of the Planning and Construction Committee to thwart mayor Nir Barkat's plan to construct 2,500 homes for Palestinians in Sawahreh.

- A plan (No. 12259) for a third settler complex of 30 housing units at the site of a gas station 50 meters away from Ma'ale David in Ras Al-Amud is deposited for public review.

June 28: *Ha'aretz* reports that Israeli police officials have recommended the building of a permanent bridge at the Mughrabi gate in September, anticipating that the world's attention would be focused on the Palestinian bid for statehood in the UNGS.

JULY

July 4: Plan No. 13157 for some 900 new units in Gilo is approved by the WJM and passed to the District Planning Committee for consideration.

July 15: UNESCO releases a statement confirming the occupied status of East Jerusalem: "UNESCO wishes to reiterate that, contrary to recent claims, there has been no change in UNESCO's position on Jerusalem," ... "In line with overall UN policy, East Jerusalem remains part of the occupied Palestinian territory, and the status of Jerusalem must be resolved in permanent status negotiations."

July 21: Israeli bulldozers begin to uproot olive groves in Beit Ikxa, adjacent to Ramot, apparently to make way for a wall to be erected along the village's southern and western sides.

AUGUST

Aug. 1: Settlers from Kfar Adumim, Shchunat Alon and Nofei Prat file a petition, demanding a court order for the demolition of a school constructed for the Bedouin Jahalin tribe in Khan Al-Ahmar village.

-Israel approves construction of 900 new homes in Har Homa.

Aug. 2: The High Court of Justice orders the state to evacuate the Migron outpost by 31 March 2012 and criticises it for failing to draw up a reasonable evacuation schedule and agreement with the settlers earlier.

Aug. 4: The WJM approves two plans for Har Homa: 983 units for Har Homa C (Plan No. 10310) and 50 units (including public buildings) in Har Homa B (Plan No. 12825).

Aug. 9: In a preliminary reading, the Knesset passes an initiative to allow privately owned corporations to manage sites of national importance, in a bid to legalize the operation of the "City of David National Park" by the Ir David Foundation, which works to "Judaize" East Jerusalem.

Aug. 11: Israel's Interior Minister approves construction of 1,600 new homes in Ramat Shlomo settlement and 625 units in Pisgat Ze'ev.

- Interior Minister Eli Yishai announces final approval for 2,337 new units in Givat Hamatos (Plan 5834 A)

Aug. 19: The controversial light rail system begins operation after years of delays, taking its first passengers.

Aug. 23: The Israeli Supreme Court rejects a petition by villagers from Walajeh to prevent a 700 m section of the separation barrier from being erected, which will cut them off from their farmlands and leave the entire village encircled.

Aug. 28: *Maariv* reveals that the WJM attempts to confiscate four dunums – owned by Kamal Obeidat - in the Shimon HaTzadik area of Sheikh Jarrah, apparently to build a car park for settlers.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1: The Jerusalem District Court again rejects petitions by right-wing settlers and ordered them to immediately evacuate a seven-storey building named Beit Yonatan in the heart of Silwan, which was built illegally by Ateret Cohanim.

Sept. 6: Israeli troops block the entrance to a building being used as a school in Silwan, claiming it

belonged to Hamas.

Sept. 12: In the early hours settlers in Sheikh Jarrah torch and destroy a protest tent inhabited by locals and international volunteers and observers.

- WJM council member Yair Gabai of the right-wing National Union Party suggests reviving the shelved plan for a new 10,000-unit settlement in the Atarot/Qalandia area and suggests changing the Jerusalem Master Plan by rezoning the area as a residential neighborhood.

Sept. 13: As part of its 'City of David' project, Elad - under huge military protection - officially opens its double tunnel: one stretching underneath Silwan from Wadi Hilweh to Al-Ein Mosque and the Orthodox Church, the other from beneath the Old City's Dung Gate to Al-Aqsa Mosque – both threatening the buildings above-ground.

Sept. 27: The Jerusalem District Planning Committee is set to approve 1,100 new housing units in Gilo settlement, despite past US objections.

OCTOBER

Oct. 11: Israel publishes a reparcelization plan (Plan No. 14295) for the Givat Hamatos area, now calling for the construction of 2,610 units, one third of them possibly as part of an expansion of Palestinian Beit Safafa.

Oct. 27: Israeli authorities handed over closure orders to four institutions in Jerusalem: Ash-Shu'a' Women Society, Al-Quds Society for Development, Sa'ed Society and Work Without Borders Society.

Oct. 31: Israeli forces demolish five homes in the Khan al-Ahmar near Ma'ale Adumin settlement, displacing 71 people, including 60 children.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1: The 'Odeh, Jalajel and Al-'Abassi families from Silwan receive administrative orders from the WJM to demolish their five houses for having been built illegally.

Nov. 2: Israeli forces level two sheds and a shack as well as an agricultural field of some 1,250 m² planted with trees owned by Aziz Zablah in At-Tur.

Nov. 3: Israeli bulldozers demolish two rooms and a 30 m² barrack, uproot 80 olive, grapes and fruit trees and raze 1.2 dunums of lands in the Sheikh 'Anbar area of At-Tur, owned by 'Aziz Abdel Rahman Zablah, for being built without a license.

Nov. 7: *Maan News* quotes a *Ma'ariv* report about a study commissioned by WJM Mayor Nir Barakat to address housing shortages in Jerusalem, according to which 60,718 housing units are planned in the city, 52,363 for which in East Jerusalem. Some 23,628 of those units have already been approved (20,263 in East Jerusalem), while 13,824 are pending review (12,819 in East Jerusalem) and 23, are still in planning stages (19,281 in the East Jerusalem).

Nov. 13: *Al-Ayyam* reports that the WJM plans to double *arnona* tax on Palestinian Jerusalemites who spend most of their time outside the municipal borders.

Nov. 14: Israeli forces raid a number of commercial stores in Al-Issawiya.

- A WJM Inspector hands a demolition order to Ashraf Swelem and warns that if the family does not remove their paint shop in Shu'fat themselves within one month the WJM will do so on the family's expense.

Nov. 15: The Israeli Ministry of Interior announces the marketing of 750 housing units in Gilo settlement and 65 housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev.

- The Ministry of Housing announces the intention to publish tenders for 2,230 new housing units beyond the Green Line, including 1,557 in East Jerusalem (749 in Har Homa, 743 in Ramot and 65 in Pisgat Ze'ev),

Nov. 16: *Al-Ayyam* reports that Israeli authorities have stripped Ammar Khaled Badriyya and his

family off his residency rights because part of his house in Al-Matar neighborhood, Qalandia, lies within the West Bank.

- The WJM has reportedly seized an 850 m² piece of land in Ath-Thori, which leads to Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood, saying it would turn it into a public park and parking lot. The land is owned by a Palestinian family from Silwan and the Greek Orthodox Monastery.

Nov. 17: *Al-Quds* reports that Israeli bulldozers have demolished walls and wires surrounding the land of Omar Yousef Hleisi in Silwan, and confiscate the 600 m² plot.

- The forces demolish five houses, home to 37 people, in the 'Al Ideisa area of Beit Hanina without prior warning.

Nov. 19: *Al-Quds* reports that Plan No. 11092A for the Mount Scopus Slopes National Park on 700 dunums of lands deposited for public review, granting the public 60 days to put forward any objections. The planned park, located between Al-Isawiyya and At-Tur, is meant to link the Old City basin and E-1 area and will prevent any potential development in those Palestinian neighborhoods.

Nov. 21: The Sumarin family in Silwan receives an eviction order for their house, which the Israeli government had declared 'absentee property' and transferred to the Jewish National Fund subsidiary Himnuta in 1991. Tellingly, the house is located next to the 'City of David' tourist site.

Nov. 22: Two concrete homes and two residential tents belonging to three Bedouin families of the Ka'abna tribe are demolished in Beit Hanina Al-Balad, displacing at least 17 people.

- Hussein Hajjo receives an eviction order for the house he rents from the Abu Diab family in Silwan's Wadi Hilweh area.

Nov. 24: Israeli bulldozers demolish two houses in Bir Nabala rendering at least 11 people homeless.

Nov. 25: The Israeli company 'Euro Israel. commences with the building of 78 new units in four 9-storey buildings in Neve Ya'akov.

Nov. 28: Israeli forces demolish four barracks inhabited by 40 people as well as animal barns belonging to Jahalin Bedouin families near Az-Za'im.

- Israeli authorities hand the Nawal Al-Jahalin family in Jabal Al-Mukabber a military order giving them 45 days to demolish their house for lacking a building permit.

Nov. 30: The Israeli Magistrate Court approves a bill that allows El Ad to seize the house of Hussein Hijjo (owned by the Abu Diab family) in Silwan.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1: *Wafa* reports that the Islamic-Christian Commission in Support of Jerusalem and Holy Sites warns of an Israeli plan to expand the prayers area for Jewish women at the Wailing Wall by constructing an underground floor.

- Israeli authorities extend the closure order of four institutions in Jerusalem for a year and seal their entrances (see Oct. 27).

Dec. 2: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM commenced work on Road 20 that will connect its northeastern neighborhoods - Pisgat Ze'ev, Neve Yaakov, Anatot, Shu'fat, and Beit Hanina - to the Begin Boulevard and with Road 443 . which partly runs through the West Bank. The NIS 150 million project will last 14 months and include two bridges, one over Road 50, the other over Nahal Atarot.

Dec. 3: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM Regional Planning and Construction Committee ratified the construction of 625 units in Pisgat Ze'ev settlement (Plan No. 11647).

Dec. 5: Israeli forces demolish the house of Majdi Salaymeh Wafa in the Ashqariyeh neighborhood of Beit Hanina for lacking a building license.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish the house and animal barracks of Burhan Zakariya Burqan in Silwan's Yasul neighborhood for lacking a building license. The family is given no time to rescue any of its properties.

Dec. 6: Husni Al-Kilani is forced to demolish a room of his residence in Suwaneh for being built without permit.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish the 15 years-old house Khamis Ad-Daddou in Al-Khaliliyeh area of Al-Jib for lacking building permits.

Dec. 7: Israeli forces raid the house of Kamil Al-Khayat in the Old City Al-Wad St. and occupy the roof.

- The WJM approves the construction of 14 new settler housing units in Ras Al-Amud.

Dec. 11: Israel officially opens the new permanent military checkpoint outside Shu'fat refugee camp thus cutting it off from East Jerusalem.

Dec. 12: Israeli forces demolish the residence of Cesar Al-Yasini in Beit Hanina without any prior warnings for being built without a permit.

- Israeli forces demolish the 'Suzie Beauty Saloon' in Beit Hanina under the pretext of unlicensed building.

Dec. 13: Israeli forces demolish without prior notification the house of Zizar Adnan 'Akel in Beit Hanina under the pretext of unlicensed building.

Dec. 14: As part of their "price tag policy" Israeli settlers write slogans on and set fire to An-Nabi 'Ukasha Mosque in West Jerusalem, burning one of its rooms.

Dec. 17: The family of Ashraf Swelem is forced to demolish their paint shop in Shu'fat - the only source of income for the family. Otherwise the WJM would have demolished the shop at their expenses.

Dec. 18: The WJM Planning and Building Committee has approved additional 23 housing units in two apartment buildings in the settlement outpost in Ras Al-Amud as well as a third building at the site of a gas station near the Ma'ale David enclave.

- The Israeli Ministry of Housing is announcing the intention to publish tenders for another 1,028 settlement units, including 500 units in Har Homa C and 180 units in Givat Zeev.

Dec. 19: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court has rejected two separate lawsuits by settler-linked plaintiffs seeking the eviction of two Palestinian families from homes in Silwan, claiming ownership. In the case of the Qara'in family house Judge Yechskiel Barkali rejected a suit filed by Lowell Investments, annulling the sale saying that at best, the alleged seller owned a 16th of the house in question. Regarding the other suit, filed by the Yad Yaffe organization, Judge Rachel Shalev-Gertel said that the Faraj family house, located next to the 'City of David', was protected by the Tennant Protection Law and ruled against their eviction.

Dec. 20: In the Shama'a' area of Ath-Thori, Israeli forces level a 1,000 m²-farm, demolishing barracks and a barn, uprooting trees, and killing birds.

- The Israeli Environmental Protection Agency orders the demolition of a playground belonging to Al-Ibrahimiyye College in Suwaneh, apparently on the pretext of 'beautifying the city'.

- Without issuing any warning, Israeli bulldozers demolish a shed and a barn in Beit Safafa belonging to the family of Ali Salah, who have previously been evicted from their house by settlers.

Dec. 22: Israeli authorities hand a number of Palestinians from Al Isawiyya military orders to demolish their houses. WJM and INPA workers furthermore seize olive trees belonging to residents.

Dec. 24: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM has released plans for 8,000 new settlement units in East Jerusalem over the next five years, including 3,000 units in Giv'at Hamatos settlement and 1,600 in Ramat Shlomo.

Dec. 28: The Jerusalem Municipal Planning Committee approve 130 housing units in Gilo (Town Plan 13290) on some 6 dunums of land located between Gilo and Sharafat.

- The Jerusalem District Planning Committee approves two new plans initiated by the El 'Ad settler organization: a tourist center at the Givati site (Town Plan 13901), including 250 parking spaces, an archaeological park, a museum, offices, an events hall and a library and tourist installations, a ritual bath etc. on the slopes of Wadi Hilweh in Silwan (Town Plan 13542).

- Israeli authorities hand 85-year old Rifka Al-Kurd a notice demanding her to pay rent for the house she owns in Sheikh Jarrah, warning that if she fails to pay she will be evacuated.