

## 2009 – JERUSALEM

### JANUARY

**Jan. 1:** The Israeli High Court decides to demolish the house Walid Al-Ja'bari and confiscate his 700 m<sup>2</sup> land plot in order to build a road leading to a planned new Jewish neighborhood in Beit Hanina.

**Jan. 5:** The Israeli High Court approves the closure of two floors of a building Jabal Al-Mukabber.

**Jan. 6:** The Israeli Supreme Court issues a restraining order not to demolish the four-apartment house of Musa Dweiyat in Sur Baher.

**Jan. 10:** *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM Committee for Planning and Construction has announced a new plan to build a 200-housing unit Jewish complex on 16 dunums of lands belonging to Beit Hanina.

**Jan. 12:** A new Israeli military order (No. 09/01/T) is issued to confiscate 506 dunums of Abu Dis lands for a new section of the Israeli separation barrier near Ma'ale Adumim settlement.

**Jan. 12:** The WJM declares under the law of Land Expropriation its ownership of a 10-dunum plot planted with hundreds of olive trees in the Al-Ghars area in At-Tur.

**Jan. 15:** The Israeli Central Court orders Abdel Mu'ti Abu Qteish to evacuate within two months his 900 m<sup>2</sup> house in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming that two Jewish families own the property.

**Jan. 19:** Israeli forces raid the home of the Abu Dheim family in Jabel Al Mukabber and evacuate the family from the upper floors of the house, closing their windows with cement.

**Jan. 28:** Israeli bulldozers demolish the two-storey house of Mohammed 'Eid Al-Ja'bari in Beit Hanina, rendering 45 family members homeless. As well as, for the second time, the house of Talal Shweiki in Wadi Qaddum/Silwan under the pretext of being unlicensed.

- Israeli bulldozers uproot 30 fruit-bearing trees owned by Fawzi Issa to expand an area of already confiscated land for the establishment of a new border crossing at Shu'fat's RC.

**Jan. 30:** The WJM mayor Nir Barkat freezes the 'Marshall Plan' which foresaw a NIS 200 million investment to rehabilitate the infrastructure of East Jerusalem communities.

### FEBRUARY

**Feb. 1:** The Israeli army has bulldozed a 4-dunum land plot belonging to the 'Abbasi family in Silwan to establish a parking lot for visitors to the 'City of David.'

- The floor of an UN-affiliated school near Al-Aqsa Mosque collapses due to Israeli excavation work under the Old City, injuring 17 Palestinian schoolchildren.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that Israel has invested close to NIS 200 million during the past two years in preparing infrastructure for construction (planned 3,500 housing units) in the E-1 area.

**Feb. 2:** Israeli bulldozers demolish the three-storey house of 'Imran Gheith as well as the 160 m<sup>2</sup> house of Nabil Gheith in Ras Khamis due to being located close to the separation barrier. Both buildings were still under construction. Another 12 Ras Khamis families received demolition orders on the same grounds.

- Israeli bulldozers also demolish a garage of the Net Transportation Company spreading on 5 dunums in At-Tur and belonging to Sami Abu Dayyah, as well as a 250-m wall surrounding the office and a wall surrounding a 2-dunum plot of vacant land owned by Abu Dayyah at the entrance of Az-Za'im. In the same area, Israeli bulldozers also demolish a large warehouse for construction materials causing an estimated loss of NIS 80,000.

- Furthermore, Israeli bulldozers demolish the Idkeik Gas Station in Az-Za'im owned by Hassan Khalil Idkeik, including two offices, infrastructure, the car wash section and gas tanks.

- The WJM gives green light to Aryeh King to build a new settlement outpost called 'Sha'are Mizrahi' located between Shu'fat RC, Anata and Al-Issawiyya.

- Israeli settlers close with cement blocks the windows of the Al-Kurd family home in Sheikh Jarrah.

- In Sur Baher, Israeli authorities close down the Zayed bin Thabet Qur'an Center and confiscate documents and other materials.

- A new Israeli military order (No. S/02/09) declares - in accordance with military order No. 378 of 1970 - the Jabal Al-Sumud area in Ar-Ram a "seam zone", requiring Palestinian landowners to apply for special permits to access their land, while Israelis have free access to the newly declared "seam zone." Furthermore, new specific crossing points are established at Az-Za'im, Mazmura, Dahiet Al-Barid, Beit Hanina East, Beit Hanina West, and Ar-Ram.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that DM Barak has agreed to approve the establishment of a new settlement in the Binyamin region, about 1 km away from the Adam settlement, in return for settlers' agreement to evacuate the illegal outpost of Migron (and then move into the new 250-house settlement).

**Feb. 4:** In Al-Isswaiyya, Israeli bulldozers demolish the still unfinished houses of Musa Mohammed Hamdan and Nabil and Mohammed Ahmad Mustafa, as well as a house belonging to Hatem Hussein Khalil and another one owned by Mohammed Ahmad Mustafa, all for lacking building permits.

**Feb. 6:** *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Antiques Authority has revealed a plan to construct a new tunnel north of 'Ein Silwan Mosque to link it with a network of tunnels that are being built in Silwan and near Al-Aqsa Mosque.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish four barracks belonging to Bedouin families living east of Izzariyya, displacing 35 persons and destroying all their belongings.

**Feb. 7:** A group of settlers seizes a residential building in the Muragha neighborhood of Silwan.

**Feb. 8:** Israeli bulldozers demolish the house of Khaled Sayyad in the Sahel area of At-Tur neighborhood for lacking building permits.

**Feb. 10:** Israeli authorities have declared the area around the Wall in Ar-Ram a "military zone," beginning with the month of February.

**Feb. 12:** In At-Tur, Israeli authorities confiscate two plots of land - 7.5 dunums and 9 dunums, respectively - for "public use," posting signs that anyone able to prove ownership of the land should contact the WJM within two months in order to receive compensation. There are some 45, mostly inhabited housing units on the sites in question.

**Feb. 14:** Jamil Al-Shaludi is forced to demolish his own 120 m<sup>2</sup> house in Beit Hanina to avoid a penalty by the WJM, because the house was built without license.

**Feb. 16:** Israeli forces demolish four barracks belonging to Bedouin families outside Izzariyya near Ma'ale Adumim settlement.

- Israeli forces close the gate at Dahiet Al-Barid, install surveillance cameras on the closed gate, and dismantle the Ar-Ram checkpoint, which was the only remaining passage between Jerusalem and Ar-Ram, thus requiring all travel now to go through the already overcrowded Qalandia checkpoint.

**Feb. 17:** The Israeli Regional Committee for Building and Planning rejects the master plan for the Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan, which was submitted by residents in a bid to legalize the 88 houses (home to over 1,500 people) in the area threatened with demolition.

**Feb. 18:** Israeli authorities order Hasan Al-'Atiq to demolish his house in the Burj Al-Laqlaq area of the Old City or have the WJM to demolish it at his expenses.

**Feb. 19:** Israeli bulldozers resume work atop the Ma'man Allah cemetery to build the "Tolerance Museum."

**Feb. 20:** *Ha'aretz* reports that the residents of Al-Bustan neighborhood have unanimously rejected a WJM offer to voluntarily relocate some 1,500 of them (whose 88 houses are threatened by demolition) to alternative lots in East Jerusalem.

**Feb. 22:** Israeli forces demolish for the sixth time the tent of Umm Kamel Al-Kurd in Sheikh Jarrah.

**Feb. 23:** Israeli authorities hand 88 families of Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan orders to evacuate their houses under the pretext of building without proper licensing. The PLO International Relations Dept. issues a statement in response, accusing Israel of "ethnic cleansing" and a displacement policy against Palestinians in Jerusalem.

- The Jerusalem Magistrate Court orders Ibrahim Farhan to evict his house in Sheikh Jarrah.

- Israeli bulldozers preparing land for the construction of the separation barrier destroy water pipes in Al-Jib, leaving some 300 residents without water.

**Feb. 27:** In the wake of the demolition order handed to residents of the Al-Bustan area in Silwan four days earlier, Israeli police, fearing protests, impose tight restrictions on entry to Jerusalem and on worship at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, barring men under the age of 45 from prayer at the mosque.

**Feb. 28:** 51 Palestinian families from Jabal Al-Mukkaber receive demolition orders as their homes were built without permits.

- In Beit Hanina's Al-Foul neighborhood, 75 houses are threatened with demolition after the residents' master plan for the area is rejected.

- Palestinians participate in a PLO-led strike in protest of Israeli plans to demolish 88 Palestinian houses in the Al-Bustan area of Silwan.

## MARCH

**March 2:** Israeli forces demolish the house of Mahmoud Abassi in Silwan, rendering 10 people homeless, and the house of Muhammad Taha Afanah in Sur Baher, also home to 10 people. Issa Ja'afrah from Wadi Qaddum/Silwan receives a house evacuation order .

**March 3:** The WJM delivers demolition orders to the owners of six structures (55 housing units) in Ras Khamis, Shu'fat.

**March 4:** *Al-Quds* quotes Al-Aqsa Foundation as reporting that Israel plans to open two new tunnels of 56 and 22 meters length to link the Old City's Sharaf quarter with the square west of Al-Aqsa Mosque to protect settlers commuting between Silwan and the Old City.

**March 5:** The WJM delivers evacuation orders to the Ahmad Sheikh and Awadallah families, owners of two seven-storey buildings in Al-Abbasiya, Silwan, home to 250 people. Some 19 other families in At-Tur receive orders to evacuate their houses within 40 days after which they will be demolished as they were built without license.

- Sharif Mohammed Attoun is forced to demolish his 100-m house in Sur Baher for not being able to pay a NIS 120,000 penalty for building without proper licensing documents.

- A bulldozer driven by a Palestinian crushes into a police car and hits a bus before police and a taxi driver shot him dead in what Israel calls a "terrorist" attack.

**March 6:** The Israeli Municipality court orders the demolition of the house of Na'ef Iweda in Shu'fat for being built without proper license.

- The Hanoun and Al-Ghawi families in Sheikh Jarrah receive military orders to evacuate their houses, claiming they belong to Ateret Cohanim. Some 67 people are affected.

**March 7:** *Ynetnews* quotes PM Olmert as saying during a public appearance in northern Israel, that no peace agreement can be secured with the Palestinians "if a significant part of Jerusalem is not the capital of the Palestinian State."

- Khalil Muhammad Tarhuni is forced to demolish his house to avoid paying a NIS 20,000 penalty for illegal building.

**March 9:** A report drafted by the heads of EU member state embassies in Tel Aviv in December 2008 states that Israel destroys prospects for peace with Palestinians by grabbing land, violating civil liberties and "actively pursuing the illegal annexation of East Jerusalem."

- The Israeli Municipality Court of Jerusalem hands Faraj Hussein Alayan from Ath-Thori an order to evacuate his house and demolish it for being built illegally.

**March 10:** The WJM hands demolition orders to members of the Ka'abna tribe in Jaba' for their barracks and animal sheds.

-The Israeli Jerusalem court issues a demolition order for 35 houses in Al-Abbasiya neighborhood in Silwan; six days later, the decision is frozen after a court hearing.

**March 11:** The WJM hands demolition orders seven Palestinian families in the Burj Al-Laqlaq area in the Old City in preparation to confiscate 12 dunums for a new outpost and a synagogue.

**March 12:** Israeli authorities hand over Al-Huda elementary school a military order to demolish a number of rooms in the school under the pretext of being built without a license 15 years ago.

**March 16:** A group of Jewish settlers attack the house of Elias Dweik in Al-Bustan neighborhood, Silwan.

**March 17:** Israeli forces demolish the top floor of a six floor house in Beit Safafa displacing a family of 7.

**March 18:** Israeli forces demolish a house in Al-Izzariya belonging to the Ghazi family.

- In Ath-Thori, 17 house demolition orders are handed to several families for having built without license.

**March 19:** WJM mayor Nir Barkat says he would press forward with the plan to raze the entire Al-Bustan area in Silwan and to "relocate" its over 1,000 residents to make way for a park.

- Residents of Shu'fat, Al-Issawiyya, Sur Baher, Beit Hanina and Jabal Al Mukkaber receive house demolition orders for 90 structures.

**March 21:** Israeli police block Palestinians from holding events in East Jerusalem marking the city's designation as a capital of Arab culture. Some 20 Palestinians are detained at eight different events.

**March 23:** The Israeli Court postpones the decision to freeze the demolition of Al-Ghawi and Hanoun families in Sheikh Jarrah.

**March 25:** *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM has frozen plans for 230 housing units in the Kidmat Zion settler enclave near Abu Dis.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that PM-designate Netanyahu has struck a secret deal with Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman for highly contentious construction in the E-1 area.

**March 27:** The Israeli Interior Min. revokes the ID cards of an Armenian family of four.

- Israeli bulldozers start razing lands and olive trees in the area between Ramot settlement and Beit Hanina in preparation for the construction of the separation barrier.

- US diplomats assess Israeli activities in the "E1" area between East Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim for a report to be sent to Washington.

**March 29:** WJM Mayor Nir Barkat is quoted as proposing to cancel the light rail project after the first two lines are completed and to replace the rest of the planned rail network (five more lines) with Bus Rapid Transport.

**APRIL**

**April 1:** The Israeli Magistrate court rejects a Palestinian petition to confirm ownership of land belonging to Darwish Hijazi in Sheikh Jarrah that is also claimed by Israeli settlers.

- The WJM ratifies the construction of 20 new housing units on 5 dunums of lands in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming it is property of US Jewish Millionaire Irwin Moskovitz.

- The WJM says it fine whoever lives in or leases a non-licensed house in Jerusalem

**April 2:** Settlers from Ateret Kohanim take over the house of Nasser Jaber in the Sa'diya area of the Old City.

- Israeli forces demolish a small shop near the Schmidt School, on Nablus Rd., owned by Musa Shweiki.

- WJM officials hand several demolition orders to residents of Al-Issawiya and survey the area in preparation for the demolitions.

**April 3:** WJM officials hand demolition orders to four families living close to the Electricity Co. regarding a six-floor building owned by Hilmi Ghaban. In the At-Tur area, three other buildings – in all 18 apartments - also receive warning for having violated building regulations.

**April 4:** The Israeli Supreme Court rejects a petition by the Hanoun and Al-Ghawi families against the eviction from their houses in Sheikh Jarrah, despite Ottoman-era documents proving the families' ownership of the land.

**April 5:** WJM officials hand Samir Abu Arrar of Jabal Mukabber a military order to demolish his two-storey house built in 1979 and 1993.

- In the Old City, three Palestinians are injured in confrontations with settlers and forces when they tried to prevent them to reach the Jaber family home (occupied by Jews since 2 April).

**April 6:** The Israeli army has banned all medical personnel and a large shipment of medical equipment from the West Bank from entering Jerusalem, a measure affecting six Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem.

- Israeli forces demolish a house owned by the Al-Fakhouri family in the Burj Al-Laqlaq area in the Old City, home to 14 people. Nine other families living in the area are handed military orders to demolish their illegally built houses.

- Seven Palestinian families in the Old City's Bab Hutta area receive military orders to demolish their houses for lacking building permits.

- Israeli forces evacuate the house of Martyr Husam Duweiyat in Sur Baher in preparation for demolition.

**April 9:** Palestinians are prevented from reaching Jerusalem as Israel imposes a strict "security closure" of the West Bank during Passover, incl. Christian worshippers wishing to celebrate Easter.

- The WJM hands over demolition orders to 15 houses in Sawahreh, Sur Baher and Beit Safafa.

**April 14:** Israeli police orders two Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah to vacate their homes, although they acquired documents from the Ottoman Archives in Ankara showing that the land was theirs.

**April 15:** Israeli settlers and right-wing groups announce plans to invade Al-Aqsa Mosque the next day, causing high tension in the city.

**April 16:** Dozens of Palestinians gather at the Al-Aqsa Mosque to prevent members of the Chabad movement from entering it after they were asked "conquer and Judaize the holiest place on earth, which was being desecrated in such a disgraceful and shameful way." Israeli soldiers ban West Bank men under 50 from entering Jerusalem, and Jerusalem residents under 50 from entering the Mosque.

**April 19:** For the second consecutive day Israeli forces impose restrictions on the entry of Palestinian Christians to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, preventing them to observe Orthodox Easter celebrations.

**April 22:** WJM forces demolish the house of Amar Hdedon in Jabal Mukabber, for having been built without a permit.

**April 24:** The Israeli Regional Committee for Planning and Construction has ratified the construction of two buildings in Sheikh Jarrah, next to St. Joseph Hospital, that will be used by the Amana settler group.

**April 25:** An Israeli Housing Min. committee approves a plan to expand Ma'ale Adumim settlement by 12,000 dunums in spite of objections from the US.

**April 26:** Construction has begun on a new settler enclave - three 7-8 story buildings - near Arab As-Sawahreh, allegedly as part of a development plan for East Talpiot settlement.

**April 27:** The WJM hand over more than 30 house demolition orders to Palestinian houses in East Jerusalem, incl. a 16-apartment building in Beit Hanina, housing over 100 people, and Shu'fat, Al-Issawiyya and Jabal Al-Mukabber.

**April 29:** The WJM announces that all preparations to demolish 50 homes in Silwan's Al-Bustan area have been finalized.

- PLC member Hatem Abdul Qader, PM Fayyad's Adviser for Jerusalem Affairs, says that the WJM has given orders for the demolition of a two-floor addition to the Armenian Catholic Church and monastery in the Old City.

- Israeli authorities announce a plan to build a synogue over the Tankaziyya School next to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

**April 30:** A group of right-wing Israelis rallies against the separation barrier near Shu'fat RC, protesting the walls' route that was cutting their land into separate pieces.

## May

**May 1:** A UN OCHA report states that at least 1,500 (or 28% of all) Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem (affecting an estimated 60,000 residents) are at risk of being demolished for being built illegally. The report also says that although the number of Palestinian requests for building permits more than doubled from 2003 to 2007, from 138 to 283 annually, the number of permits actually granted remained unchanged at about 100-150. The UN demands that Israel freeze all pending demolition orders against illegally built homes because it is almost impossible to built legally.

**May 4:** WJM mayor Nir Barkat outlines a plan to give more building permits to Palestinian residents, a total of 23,550 units until 2030. Jerusalem Governor Adnan Al-Husseini rejects the plan as insufficient to meet minimal housing needs.

- The WJM hands demolition orders to Palestinian families in and around the Old City, for having built their homes without permits.

- Israeli Interior Min. Yishai has approved recommendations by a special Interior Min. committee to expand Ma'ale Adumim by 12,000 dunums.

**May 5:** The WJM Court gives Faraj Hussein Alayan from Ath-Thori 60 days to evacuate his house and demolish it face a \$30,000 penalty for having built illegally.

- WJM Mayor Barkat presents a city master plan for the next 20 years that envisions the capital becoming the greenest city in Israel, with affordable housing for young residents, thousands of new apartments for Arab residents, and the expansion of tourism and employment.

**May 8:** *Al-Quds* reports that the guardian of Absentee Properties in Jerusalem claims ownership of 70 Palestinian houses in Silwan.

**May 10:** *Ha'aretz* reports that the Israeli government was working together with settler groups on secret plans, assigned to the Jerusalem Development Authority, to surround the Old City with nine national parks, pathways and other sites, with the aim "to strengthen Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel."

- Israeli authorities close the iron gate leading to Al-Issawiya, preventing Palestinians from accessing thousands of dunums of their lands.

**May 11:** Israeli forces enter the Ambassador Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah, shutting down a temporary Palestinian Media Center planned in advance of the Pope's visit to Jerusalem.

**May 12:** Pope Benedict XVI celebrates an outdoor mass at the Kidron Valley outside the Old City and visits the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, meeting with Mufti Sheikh Mohammed Hussein. He also meets with Israel's Chief Rabbis Shlomo Amar and Yonah Metzger.

- The WJM hands over house demolition orders to nine houses in Ath-Thori owned by the Ziad, Al-Bardawil and 'Asela families under the pretext of lacking valid building permits. In addition, a 32-apartment building in Beit Hanina owned by Hamada Mahfouz, built in 1999 and housing over 250 people receives a demolish order.

**May 13:** The office of Pres. Abbas' Jerusalem affairs adviser Hatem Abdul Qader says that the WJM has decided a day earlier to demolish nine more Palestinian homes in the Ath-Thori neighborhood near Silwan.

**May 14:** Work on the separation barrier is ordered to halt due to a motion filed against the construction by Aryeh King, Chairman of the National Lands Fund and representative of the Shaar HaMizrach settlers who wants the settlement – unlike the current route - inside the fence.

**May 16:** Abdel Naser Hamdallah is forced to demolish his house in Jabal Al-Mukkaber for lacking valid building permits.

**May 18:** The Israeli Reconciliation Court orders the evacuation of the Al-Ghawi and Hanoun families in Sheikh Jarrah by 19 July 2009 and fines each family \$50,000, with a further fine of NIS 50,000 if they do not comply.

**May 19:** The UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People expresses its utmost concern over house demolitions and settlement activities in East Jerusalem.

**May 20:** An Israeli CBS report shows that by the end of 2008, 492,400 (65%) Israelis and 268,400 (35%) Palestinian lived in Jerusalem.

- According to Peace Now, almost 2,000 settlers live in outposts in East Jerusalem, which are protected by 350 private company guards at a cost of NIS 47,876 million NIS (2008) funded by the Min. of Construction and housing.

**May 21:** Some 200 Palestinians and human rights activists gather outside the Damascus Gate in protest of Jerusalem Day, a holiday in Israel celebrating the unification of the city.

- Right-wing MKs present a bill aimed at blocking any concession to Palestinians on the status of Jerusalem by requiring the backing of 80 (compared with 61 at present) of the 120 MKs for any change in the city's

boundaries.

**May 22:** France accuses PM Netanyahu of prejudicing the outcome of the peace process by declaring that Jerusalem would forever be Israel's undivided capital, saying in a statement: "In France's eyes, Jerusalem should, within the framework of a negotiated peace deal, become the capital of two states."

**May 24:** Israeli Police hands Yabous a military order prohibiting them from holding the 'Palestine Festival of Literature' at the National Theater (Al-Hakawati) in which 27 artists from all over the world participate.

**May 25:** The Israeli army keeps the Mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein, at Qalandia checkpoint after he refuses to answer questions or allow his belongings to be searched.

- The newly appointed PA Min. for Jerusalem Affairs, Hatem Abdel Khader, says in a statement noting that he favored transferring control of Al-Haram Ash-Sharif to the 57-member OIC.

**May 27:** The WJM issues demolition orders for 17 homes in different parts of East Jerusalem, all for having been constructed without permit.

**May 30:** The WJM approves the eviction of hundreds of Palestinians from King's Valley, on the outskirts of Silwan.

## JUNE

**June 8:** Mohammed Ahmad Ghosheh is forced to demolish his house in Suq Khan Ez-Zeit in the Old City to avoid the WJM doing this job and then make him pay the expenses.

**June 9:** Israeli forces partially demolish the house of Khawla Walid Al-Hartouni in the Old City (a room and a bathroom).

**June 10:** Israeli forces serve demolition notices to owners of 88 houses in Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood, based on Israeli Law 212, which allows house demolitions or evacuations without any formal legal charges being brought forth or any party convicted of an alleged violation of the Israeli Planning and Building Law.

**June 11:** Israeli settlers, accompanied by development investors, municipal staff and equipment, attempt to confiscate seven dunums of land on the Mt. of Olives near Beit Orot complex, owned by the Al-Qadamani, Nazzal and Abu Al-Hawa families, but are stopped by Palestinians confronting them. The settlers say

**June 12:** In the Old City, Israeli authorities force the families of Osama Hashima in the Al-Khalidiyya area and of Jamal Sa'id in Bab Hutta to demolish parts of their own homes to avoid huge monetary fines.

**June 15:** WJM officials force Mohammed Najib Al-Jubeh to demolish a section of his house in the Old City's Al-Jabsha area.

**June 19:** Following orders from the WJM municipal council, Mohammed Najib Al-Ju'beh is forced to demolish part of his own home – an extra room built 12 years ago to accommodate the growing family - on Virgin Street near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Old City or pay a NIS 13,000 fine for illegal construction.

- At a sit-in demonstration in Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood, Islamic Movement in Israel leader Raed Salah denounces Israel's plans to demolish 88 houses in the area to build a new Israeli park.

**June 20:** In Jabal Al-Mukabber, WJM officials force the Suroor family to demolish parts of their two homes, as well as the Bashir family to demolish part of their house.

**June 21:** Israeli police, along with municipal workers, ransack 65 houses in Beit Hanina, Shufat and Silwan and hand the families living there demolition orders.

**June 22:** In response to a question from Israel's newspaper, US State Department spokesperson Ian Kelly tells the *Jerusalem Post* at a Washington press briefing, that the US demand for a cease of Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank must include East Jerusalem.

**June 23:** In what Palestinians condemn as a provocation, Israeli Internal Security Min. Yitzhak Aharonovitch of the ultra right-wing Israel Beitenu Party enters Al-Aqsa compound under heavy guard and accompanied by Police Commissioner Dudi Cohen and Jerusalem District Police Chief Aharon Franco.

**June 24:** WJM officials force the family of Mujeer Eddin Qatina to demolish a part of its house the Old City's Al-Wad Street.

**June 25:** PA Minister of Jerusalem Affairs Hatem Abdul Qader, Fateh youth and local residents prevent an Israeli settlers' takeover of a house in Sheikh Jarrah owned by Darwish Hjazi.

- In a statement to *Ma'an* news agency, PA Minister of Public Works and Housing Mohammed Shtayyeh denounces "the systematic policy Israel is carrying out inside Jerusalem, including expelling its Palestinian residents," such as in Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood. He further condemns Israeli "attempts to forge the history of the city by substituting the Palestinian residents with Israeli settlers, substituting the Arabic names of streets with Hebrew words, substituting everything there including Al-Aqsa [Mosque]."

**June 27:** Israeli settlers attack Palestinian homes in Silwan, injuring three residents trying to stop them with gunshots.

- *Al-Quds* reports that some 139,000 dunums of Palestinian lands – much of it near Ma'ale Adumim settlement



- are registered by the Israeli Land Registry Office as abandoned, and that anyone objecting to this must send a warrant to the Beit El DCO within 45 days.

**June 28:** Press reports state that WJM Mayor Barkat plans to freeze demolition orders of some 70% of unlicensed construction in East Jerusalem and compensation terms with families evicted from the remaining 30%. The plan is co-prepared by deputy mayor for East Jerusalem affairs, Yakir Segev, who is quoted by *Ha'aretz* as saying that it was the permits policy that pushed residents to build illegally and that "To get a construction permit in East Jerusalem you have to be more than a saint." This, in addition to the fact that the WJM does not have the means to enforce all demolition orders, was the reason behind the new plan. Concerned homes will be listed as "gray houses" and remain illegal but all legal actions against them will cease, and the WJM will collect the usual municipal taxes, which will be invested in a separate municipal company to improve East Jerusalem.

**June 30:** Nine people are injured, two of them hospitalized, in clashes between Israeli police who demolish a house belonging to Samer Ahmad Abu on the Mt. of Olives and the inhabitants.

- PA Min. of Jerusalem Affairs Hatem Abdul Qader submits his resignation to PM Fayyad in protest of the PA's inability to financially cover Jerusalem's needs, especially fees of lawyers dealing with home demolition issues.

## July

**July 1:** WJM employees hand out demolition orders to seven new families in the Wadi Hilweh neighborhood of Silwan.

**July 3:** Israeli forces disguised as tourists enter the Haram Ash-Sharif and take photos of several sites in the compound.

- During visits to families whose homes were recently demolished, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Atallah Hanna expresses anger at the "inhumanity" of demolishing the homes of Palestinians living in Jerusalem.

**July 6:** The Community of Sheikh Jarrah Residents, sets off a solidarity campaign whereby activists in several countries will erect sit-in tents in solidarity with families in Silwan, whose houses have been or are ordered to be demolished.

**July 7:** Senior Fateh figures, incl. Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Hatem Abdul Qader and Fateh spokesperson Dimitri Diliani, prevent a group of Israeli settlers from occupying another home – belonging to Suleiman Hijazi - in Sheikh Jarrah.

- Fayed Ibrahim Al Toutanji demolishes his house in Beit Hanina to avoid municipal demolition expenses.

**July 9:** On the fifth anniversary of the ICJ's advisory opinion on the legality of the separation barrier, Roman Orthodox Archbishop Atallah Hanna says the wall should be removed immediately, adding that "the wall demonstrates Palestinian suffering and defines their lives, which have turned into hell."

**July 12:** Abdel Rahman Abu Tir is forced to demolish part of his house in the Old City.

**July 13:** Israeli bulldozers demolish the 2-story house of Alaa Shweiki in Beit Hanina and the house of Jamal Masalma in Silwan.

**July 14:** PLC member Hatem Abdul Qader, who resigned as Min. of Jerusalem Affairs two weeks ago over the PA's refusal to fund his work in Jerusalem, announces that Qatar will finance the legal affairs office dealing with the problems of evictions, home demolitions, and revocation of health insurance as well as covering tuition fees for students and low-cost medications.

- After 20 years of closure, PADICO re-opens the former Red Palace Cinema in Salah Eddin Street as hotel and cultural center with halls and event rooms accommodating up to 600 people ("Red Castle initiative").

**July 15:** Israeli authorities raid and close down the Nidal Center for Community Development in the Old City.

**July 17:** Israel's ambassador in Washington, Michael Oren, is summoned to the State Dept. and told to stop the settlement project on the site of the historic Shepherd Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah.

**July 18:** The WJM orders Ali Salah to evacuate his home and land following a court decision claiming the land belonged to the Jewish Agency.

- Saleh Khalil Nimr is forced to demolish his under-construction two-story home in Sur Baher.

**July 19:** PM Netanyahu responds to the US demand not to proceed with plan to build on the site of the Shepherd Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah by telling his cabinet that Jerusalem would remain the undivided capital of Israel, that there would be no limits on Jewish construction anywhere in unified Jerusalem, and that Israeli sovereignty over the entire city was indisputable.

- Following Netanyahu's rejection of a US demand to halt a new housing project in Sheikh Jarrah, Pres. Abbas accuses Israel of destroying the Islamic and Christian character of Jerusalem and of trying to force Palestinians out of the city.

- PLC member Hatem Abdul Qader leads a demonstration against Israel's planned eviction of Al-Ghawi and Hanoun families from their Sheikh Jarrah homes, in which also children from summer camps in Jerusalem as

well as representatives of civic organizations, local human rights groups, and foreign solidarity activists participated.

**July 20:** Jordan rejects PM Netanyahu's claim that Jerusalem would remain the undivided capital of Israel and that the Jewish state has a free hand to set up settlements throughout the West Bank, with Min. of State for Media Affairs and Communication Nabil Sharif saying: "The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are occupied territories according to several resolutions issued by the United Nations."

- US State Dept. spokesman P.J. Crowley says the US has made clear to Israel that it opposes construction in East Jerusalem just as it does oppose settlement activity in the West Bank and that the US believes that unilateral moves on the part of either Israel or the Palestinians could prejudice the result of final status negotiations.

**July 21:** France summons the Israeli Amb. in Paris to demand a halt to plans of a settlement on the Shepherd Hotel site in Sheikh Jarrah.

**July 22:** Israeli police closes Al-Wad Street and force Palestinian shop owners to shut down their shops at 6:00 pm to facilitate and protect a rally by right-wing Israeli groups near Al-Haram Ash Sharif. Near Silwan Girls' School, six Palestinians are injured in a scuffle with some of the Israelis assaulting them.

**July 23:** Israeli police allows 45 far-right Israelis to enter Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, marking Ninth of the month of Av on the Jewish calendar, which is observed in commemoration of the destruction of the first and second Jewish Temples.

**July 30:** The family of Mohammad Siyam is forced to demolish its house to avoid hefty municipality fines.

## AUGUST

**Aug. 2:** Israeli forces evict the Hanoun and Al-Ghawi families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, causing a unanimous international outcry.

**Aug. 5:** Eight Palestinians are injured when they are assaulted by Israeli forces who deliver demolition orders in the Al-Bustan neighborhood of Silwan.

**Aug. 8:** Women and children are among the dozens injured in Sheikh Jarrah after a group of settlers throw stones and bottles at Palestinian families.

**Aug. 10:** A section of a main road collapses in the Silwan area as a result of underground Israeli excavations.

**Aug. 17:** Hundreds of right-wing Israeli settlers demonstrate outside the Shepherd Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah, slated to be razed to make way for a settlement housing complex, as former US presidential candidate Mike Huckabee and Israeli and American right-wing activists attend a dinner there.

- Israeli settlers take over a Palestinian house located near the UNRWA school and the "City of David's" visitors' center in Silwan.

**Aug. 18:** An OCHA report states that 53 people were evicted from Sheikh Jarrah so far, with another 475 still threatened with eviction.

**Aug. 19:** Palestinian-owned shops in the Old City close in protest of multiple arbitrary fines by WJM officers who invaded shops and harassed owners in a bid to enforce a law prohibiting shops to display their goods on tables and racks in front of the stores.

**Aug. 21:** Speaking near the evicted homes in Sheikh Jarrah, former EU parliament Vice-Pres. Luisa Morgantini says the international community must "suspend all military aid to Israel and [...] investment in settlements in the West Bank."

**Aug. 23:** *Ha'aretz* reports a plan for the building of a new 104 housing units settlement, Ma'ale David, on the site of the former Police HQ in the heart of Ras al-Amud.

**Aug. 26:** US envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell has recognized on behalf of the Obama Admin. that PM Netanyahu cannot announce a settlement freeze in East Jerusalem.

## SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 9:** The ILA has published tenders for the construction of 486 apartments in Pisgat Ze'ev.

**Sept. 17:** At least 300,000 Palestinian worshippers attended Laylat Al-Qader at Al-Aqsa Mosque, believed to be the night of the year when the Prophet Mohammed received the first verses of the Qur'an from the Angel Gabriel. Throughout the month of Ramadan, Israeli forces prevented Palestinians from reaching the Mosque and interrupted numerous cultural events.

**Sept. 25:** Israeli forces hand over residents of 'Anata, Al 'Isawiya, Al-Khan and Nabi Musa a new military order stipulating the confiscation of 584 dunums of their lands to expand the Israeli bypass road # 1.

**Sept. 27:** Dozens of Palestinian protesters and Israeli forces clash after a group of right-wing Jews enter Al-Aqsa compound ahead of Yom Kippur. Jerusalem police uses stun grenades and batons to disperse



stone-throwing protesters.

**Sept. 29:** Overnight, Israeli forces arrest some 50 Palestinians in the Old City allegedly involved in the confrontations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

## OCTOBER

**Oct. 4:** Palestinians protesters clash with Israeli forces near the Old City's Lion's Gate, when Israeli forces attempted to evacuate and detain about 200 Muslim worshippers holed up in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

**Oct. 5:** The PA urges the world to "force [Israel] to put off its attempts to take over Jerusalem and Judaize it."

**Oct. 7:** Under tight security a cornerstone is laid for the expansion of Nof Zion settlement near Jabel Mukabber.

**Oct. 8:** After a week of high tension in Jerusalem, Fateh's leadership calls for a general strike throughout the WBGS in protest against "fierce and planned Israeli attacks" on Jerusalem holy sites.

**Oct. 13:** Israeli forces detain PA Jerusalem affairs official Hatem Abdul Qader and Islamic Movement Advisor Ali Sheikha as they crossed the Qalandia checkpoint.

**Oct. 25:** At least 30 Palestinians are injured and 20 arrested when clashes between Israeli forces and youth erupt anew in the Old City after Israeli forces raid the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

**Oct. 27:** In Sur Baher / Jabal al Mukkaber, Israeli forces destroy the 2-story house of the Nimr family as well as the homes of 'Atef Abu Dweh, Khamis Tahhan, and Ahmad Abu Sarhan and pass a demolition order to Abdullah Shqirat.

## NOVEMBER

**Nov. 2:** Israeli bulldozers demolish the houses of Siham Shweiki and Haron Al-Qawasmeh in Ath-Thori for being built illegally.

**Nov. 2:** Palestinian security guards at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound stopped an Israeli man with a machine gun strapped to his back while attempting to reach the area using a ladder. Worshippers reported a struggle as the man attempted to flee, but there were no reports that he tried to open fire. He was handed over to Israeli police, whose spokesperson, Mickey Rosenfeld, confirmed that a "28-year-old disturbed man" had been picked up when he was found wandering around the area, but denied that the man was armed. (*Ma'an News Agency*)

**Nov. 3:** Israeli settlers arrogate the home of the Kurd family in Sheikh Jarrah, throwing their furniture into the street.

**Nov. 4:** UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon implores Israel to bring an end to "provocative" actions in East Jerusalem.

**Nov. 16:** The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee authorizes the construction of 900 new housing units in Gilo.

**Nov. 18:** The EU criticizes Israeli plans to build in East Jerusalem, saying it hampered talks over the establishment of a Palestinian state.

**Nov. 29:** An appeal by the Al-Kurd family to return to their sealed home in Sheikh Jarrah is turned down by an Israeli magistrate's court.

## DECEMBER

**Dec. 1:** Settlers accompanied by Israeli forces occupy the sealed house of Rifka Al-Kurd in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming they have a court order giving consent to the take-over of the house. UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki Moon expresses his dismay at the move.

**Dec. 3:** PNC head Salim Az-Za'noun welcomes in a statement the EU's move toward recognizing East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state.

- Head of the Islamic Higher Commission Sheikh Ekrima Sabri receives an order from Israeli intelligence barring him from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque for six months.

**Dec. 7:** As the Council of EU FMs is set to vote on a resolution that would declare East Jerusalem as Palestinian capital and hint that it would recognize a declared Palestinian state, the PA cabinet urges the EU to adopt "clear positions in accordance with international law".

**Dec. 8:** EU FMs call on Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate a solution wherein Jerusalem would become the capital of both their states.

**Dec. 15:** The Aqsa Foundation for Waqf and Heritage said that large-scale Israeli excavations were being done in the area adjacent to the southern wall of Al-Aqsa mosque, known as the Umayyad Palaces area. (*IMEMC*)

**Dec. 17:** The Al-Aqsa Institute for Waqf and Heritage issued a statement warning of the repeated calls by extremist Jewish groups to collectively break into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied Jerusalem, and

to “practice their religious Jewish rituals related to the construction of the so-called third temple”. (*The Palestine Telegraph*)