

Jerusalem 2008 - CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Jan. 1: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM has ordered shop owners in Salah Eddin and Suleiman Streets to replace their stores' current front shades with plastic ones at a cost of NIS 4,000 or otherwise face penalties.

- *Al-Quds* reports that the ILA has authorized the construction of 440 new housing units in Talpiot East on land belonging to Sur Baher and Jabal Mukabber.

- The Israeli High Court rules that eight settler families must evacuate the 7-storey house in Silwan they are occupying since 2004 must.

Jan. 4: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Housing and Construction Min. intends to move forward with plans to construct over 1,000 housing units in Har Homa on absentee land belonging to Palestinians despite the opposition of Atty. Gen. Mazuz and a promise to the US not to invoke the absentee law in Jerusalem.

Jan. 6: *Ha'aretz* reports that 18 dunums of the 24-dunum area slated for construction of 300 units to complete Stage B of the Har Homa plan, belongs to residents of Beit Sahur who were declared "absentees" after the 1967 War. This is in direct contradiction to the February 2005 instructions of Atty. Gen. Menachem Mazuz, ordering the "immediate cessation of the application of the absentee law on East Jerusalem assets."

Jan. 7: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Israel Police has delayed moving into a new building in the E-1 area.

- *Ha'aretz* reports the start of construction of 60 housing units in Ma'ale HaZeitim settlement of Ras Al-Amud.

- *Ma'ariv* reports that right-wing groups have purchased 20 dunums of land between Bethlehem and the Tantar Ecumenical Institute south of Gilo settlement, where they intend to build a small new neighborhood.

Jan. 9: PM Olmert tells visiting Pres. Bush that Israel will not accept the American demand to stop building in East Jerusalem's Jewish neighborhoods and in the settlement blocs, saying that "Jerusalem's status is different than that of the settlements."

Jan. 12: *Al-Quds* reports that settlers have attacked the home of Hashim Salameh in Sheikh Jarrah, destroying furniture and other properties.

Jan. 14: The Knesset Finance Committee approves a request by treasury officials for an additional 16 million NIS (US\$4.6 million) to fund private security services for some 2,000 settlers in the Abu Dis area, which already receive NIS 38 million from the Housing Min.

Jan. 15: *Ha'aretz* reports that construction has begun on another 60 housing units in the Ma'ale HaZeitim settlement in the heart of Ras Al-Amud, where now 51 settler families live.

Jan. 16: Israeli bulldozers destroy the houses and barracks of the Abu Dahouk tribe in Arab Jahalin near Al-Jib and Nabi Samwil to make way for the construction of the separation barrier.

- In Silwan's Wadi Al-Hilweh area, 11 settler families, protected by Israeli troops, take over 11 houses belonging to the Baidoun and Ajlouny families.

- Near the Old City's Mughrabi Gate, settlers, with the help of the El Ad association, take over two apartments and some 5 dunums of land, claiming ownership.

Jan. 17: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Jerusalem Planning and Construction Committee has approved the expansion of the women's section of the Wailing Wall bordering the Mughrabi Gate.

- In Silwan, Israeli bulldozers and settlers demolish a wall surrounding land of the the Shaban family and raze another plot to prepare for a car parking for the settlers who took over the 11 houses a day earlier.

Jan. 20: The Israeli High Court decides to evict the family of Abdel Mu'atee Abu Qtaish from their house in Sheikh Jarrah, where he had lived since 1967, giving him 45 days to move his belongings. The court based its decision on the ownership claim of two Jewish families, saying the land on which the house was built was theirs. Abu Qtaish is also ordered to pay a penalty of NIS 140,000.

- In Beit Hanina, Israeli bulldozers raze some 10 dunums of land and uproot hundreds of trees belonging to Al-Quds University to make way for a bypass road.

Jan. 22: The WJM announces plans to build 40,000 new apartments throughout Jerusalem over the next decade, incl. several thousand in various settlements.

- Under the protection of Israeli soldiers, a group of settlers push their way into Al-Aqsa compound and try to conduct religious practices there.

Jan. 26: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM has begun replacing the Arabic names in Silwan with Jewish ones.

Jan. 28: Israeli bulldozers demolish the 5th and 6th floor of a six-storey building belonging to Khalaf Mahmoud Ideiss and Ahmad Hassan Al-Qam in Shu'fat for being not licensed.

Jan. 31: The Israel Antiques Authority begins erecting a new tunnel underneath the Muslim Quarter in the Old City.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that the Yemin Yehuda non-profit association has begun building 200 housing units in Sheikh Jarrah. As part of the project dozens of Palestinian homes are slated for demolition. The new settlement is to stretch over 18 dunums next to the tomb of Shimon Hatzadik and is designed to create a Jewish continuum surrounding the Old City and to cut it off from the Palestinian neighborhoods in northern Jerusalem.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1: *Arutz 7* reports that construction has begun on 200 new housing units to be constructed on 4.5 acres in Sheikh Jarrah.

Feb. 2: *Ha'aretz* reports that construction of the new Agan Ayalot neighborhood in the Givat Ze'ev settlement in the 'Greater Jerusalem' area has been suspended in the wake of the recent Annapolis conference. (see also March 10).

Feb. 6: Israeli forces demolish a two-story house on Al-Buraq Street in the Old City for being built without a permit.

Feb. 7: Israel renews closure orders for Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem – incl. Orient House and the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce, closed since 2001, despite the renewal of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians and the international conference in Annapolis in Nov. 2007, where both sides had agreed to immediately implement their respective obligations under the road map.

Feb. 11: WJM forces demolish the house of Sa'di Aramin in Wadi Al-Joz without pre-notification for being built without a permit.

Feb. 12: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM plans to go ahead with its plans to build over 10,000 new housing units in the settlements in East Jerusalem, incl. in Har Homa and Pisgat Ze'ev.

- *Ha'aretz* reports on plans to construct 4,000 new housing units on 3,000 dunums of land in Givat Hamatos near Beit Safafa.

- Israeli forces demolish the store of Saeb Al-Khatib in Hizma.

Feb. 14: Five Israeli companies have won the ILA tenders to build 307 housing units in Har Homa.

Feb. 15: It is announced that a sum of NIS 250 million would be allocated to renew construction, specifically at the 'Jerusalem Envelope', of the separation barrier, which had been halted for several months due to budget problems.

Feb. 16: Israel extends the closure of Orient House, the Chamber of Commerce, the Arab Studies Society and the Palestinian Prisoners' Society for another year.

- Settlers uproot over 30 olive trees belonging to Mohammed Siam in Silwan.

Feb. 19: Israeli Housing Min. Ze'ev Boim announces plans for 1,000 new housing units in Har Homa.

Feb. 20: The WJM's Planning and Construction Dept. publishes an official notification for a plan to construct 393 new housing units in Neve Ya'akov.

Feb. 21: According to a *Yedioth Ahronoth* report PM Olmert's statement that negotiations over Jerusalem would be postponed spurred Palestinian officials to renew efforts to offer services in the city, with Jerusalem affairs advisor to Pres. Abbas, Hatem Abdel Khader, saying, "In the first stage we are renewing the activity of several departments that operated in the Orient House... This refers to the youth and sports department, the education, relief and welfare department, and the conflict resolution department, which serves as a substitute for the legal department." Some 30 of the 140 Orient House staff have reportedly resumed working, though not from within the sealed building, with their salaries paid by the PLO office in Amman.

Feb. 22: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Canadian Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by Eliyahu Veffler, who had petition to have his Canadian passport show that he was born in "Jerusalem, Israel," rather than "Jerusalem."

Feb. 24: In Silwan, Israeli forces destroy two lethal workshops belonging to Jamil Abassi for not being licensed.

- Israeli forces destroy the roof of the Nofal family in the Old City and charge them with a 20,000 NIS fine.

Feb. 25: Israeli forces destroy two houses belonging to the Matour family in Beit Hanina and the home of Fayez Irshed in Ath-Thori for not being licensed.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that 3% of immigrants to Israel settle in the West Bank and 19% settle in East and West Jerusalem.

Feb. 28: Israeli forces destroy the house of Ahmed Abu Nab in Beit Hanina for not being licensed.

Feb. 29: *Kol Ha'Ir* reports that the ILA plans to sell five construction plots in the Har Homa settlement.

- The family of Mohammed Al-Fuheidat receives a demolition order for its house in Anata under the pretext that it was too close to a military camp, the separation barrier and a by-pass road.'

MARCH

March 1: *The Times* reports that Jewish settler groups are digging an extensive tunnel network under Muslim areas of the Old City while building a ring of settlements around it to bolster their claim to the disputed city in any future peace deal. The tunnels are largely based on historical water wells or buried pilgrim routes, stretching from the Pool of Siloam in Silwan to the south and joining up with the Western Wall.

March 6: An armed Palestinian, Alaa Abu Dhaim from Jabal Mukabber, opens fire at the Mercav HaRav yeshiva in Jerusalem's Kiryat Moshe neighborhood, killing eight yeshiva students and wounding another nine, before being shot dead himself. According to Hizbullah's *Al-Manar TV* an organization calling itself 'Galilee Freedom Battalions-the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh' claims responsibility for the attack.

March 9: PM Olmert has approved the construction of 750 new housing units in Givat Ze'ev.

March 10: Israeli Housing Min. Ze'ev Boim announces plans for some 2,000 new housing units in settlements, incl. 750 each in Givat Ze'ev's Agan Ayalot neighborhood and in Pisgat Ze'ev, 360 in Har Homa, and 52 in Ma'ale Adumim.

- Shas Chairman Eli Yishai demands that PM Olmert immediately unfreeze the construction of the Kidmat Zion settlement near Abu Dis, where 300 housing units are planned.

- *Ha'aretz* reports about WJM plans to build 400 new housing units in Neve Ya'akov. EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana immediately deplores the announcement, saying "That may put in jeopardy the peace process".

- A British Foreign Office spokesman states, "We are concerned by reports that Israel plans to build in the settlement of Givat Ze'ev. We see this as unhelpful - particularly when Israelis and Palestinians should be focusing on full implementation of their

obligations under phase one of the road map, which include freezing all settlement activity, including natural growth."

- UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-Moon calls on the Israeli govt. to halt settlement construction, saying in a statement that "Any settlement expansion is contrary to Israel's obligations under the road map and to international law."

March 11: Israeli forces demolish the unfinished 250 m² house of Na'im Al-Ayyan in Al-Issawiyya for not being licensed.

March 12: Israeli Min. of Industry, Trade and Labor Eli Yishay expresses his intention to demand that PM Olmert unfreeze construction of the "Kidmat Zion" settlement in Abu Dis, where 220 housing units are planned for settlers.

March 17: The Israeli Court orders the Israeli Min. of Antiquities and El Ad settler association to stop excavation works under the property of Ahmad Siam in the Wadi Hilweh area of Silwan.

March 18: Israeli forces raid a body building center in Al-Izzariyya, damaging properties.

March 19: In Hizma, Israeli forces destroy two houses, belonging to Yousef An-Nunu and Saed Sa'adeh for being located in Area C. In Al-Jib, another house, belonging to Fawzi Ka'abneh, is destroyed to make way for the construction of the separation barrier.

- A Palestinian stabs a settler in the Ramot settlement.

March 20: Settlers from the Ateret Cohanim group take over a store belonging to Wissam Arnaout near the Dung Gate in the Old City.

March 25: Israeli forces raid the shop of Walid Zarba in Al-Wad St., Old City, and confiscate some electronic devices for not having paid *arnona* tax.

- Israeli police break up an event at the Palestinian National Theater meant to announce the winner of an art contest designing a logo for Jerusalem's selection as the 2009 "Capital of Arab Culture."

March 28: Israeli authorities announce the construction of 813 new housing units – out of a planned 4,000 units - in Givat Hamatos settlement near Beit Safafa.

March 30: The WJM has approved the construction of 600 new housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev settlement.

APRIL

April 1: During a tour of Betar Illit settlement, Shas leaders say that PM Olmert had promised to thaw frozen construction plans in all the settlements near Jerusalem, incl. on 800 homes in Betar Illit.

- The WJM announces plans to build 600 new apartments in Pisgat Ze'ev.

April 2: *PNN* reports that Israeli forces have razed some 2.5 dunums of land in Sheikh Jarrah belonging to the Barakat family, claiming it has been rented by the Custodian of Absentee Property.

April 4: *Israeli forces* demolish two houses of the Hamdan family in Anata for being built without a license.

April 7: The Jerusalem District Court postpones the evacuation of 27 Palestinian homes in Sheikh Jarrah, where settlers plan to build a new settlement consisting of 200 units.

- *Jerusalem Post* quotes Ir Amim as criticizing the Knesset Finance Committee for approving the allocation of another NIS 15 million towards security for settlers in East Jerusalem, bringing the total to NIS 47 million per year.

April 8: WJM bulldozers demolish the house of Khaled Shuman in Beit Hanina for being built without a license.

April 10: The house of Abdul Raziq Asileh near the Old City's Dung Gate is partly destroyed along with a yard due to Israeli excavation work underneath it.

April 14: *Israeli forces* demolish the house of Yunis Sbeih in the Salam area near Shu'fat RC for being built without a license and being located close to the separation barrier.

April 16: In Al-Jib, Israeli forces raze land planted with olive and almond trees to make way for the separation barrier.

April 21: An Israeli Committee has endorsed the construction of a new settlement ("*Ma'ale David*"), consisting of initial 110 units, on 10 dunums of land in Ras Al-Amud.

April 22: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Jewish right wing group "Fund for Lands of Israel" plans to seize some 1,150 dunums of land in the Atarot area belonging to villagers from Judera and Bir Nabala.

April 28: *Ha'aretz* reports that settlers plan to take over the police station in Ras Al-Amud once the police has completely moved to its new complex in the E-1 area, from where it has already begun operating.

- The WJM forces Khaled As-Sayyad to demolish parts of his house in At-Tur for being unlicensed.

MAY

May 4: The Israeli Property Taxation Authority, accompanied by police, raids Palestinian shops in and around the Old City.

May 6: The Israeli army raids tens of houses and buildings in Shu'fat RC, causing losses and damages.

- The Israeli Property Taxation Authority, accompanied by police, raids Palestinian homes and stores in Al-Issawiyya.

- Ma'ale Adumim municipality places a new caravan in the disputed E-1 area, with mayor Benny Kashriel claiming that the move was "in coordination with the Ministry of Defense."

May 12: Peace Now reports that settler leaders, with the help of Israel's DM, have begun placing a mobile home in the E-1 area.

- The Israeli Min. of Antiquities has reportedly been earmarked to receive NIS 3,5 millions to continue its excavation works near the Mughrabi Gate of the Old City.

May 14: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM is in the process of approving a plan by the El Ad association to establish a new settlement, including synagogue, kindergarten, underground parking and 10 apartments in Silwan.

May 15: WJM officials hand administrative demolition orders to 18 house owners in Jabal Al-Mukabber under the pretext of lacking building permits.

May 16: *Kol Ha'Ir* reports that the Jerusalem Committee on Planning and Construction has approved 150 additional housing units for Gilo settlement.

May 19: *The Jerusalem Post* reports that the new Police HQ on a hilltop in the E-1 area has quietly opened and 99% of the police units have already moved in.

May 20: Israeli forces demolish four apartments belonging to Amin Al-Abbasi and two apartments belonging to Majed Salaimeh in At-Tur for being unlicensed.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM has begun the process of approving a plan, submitted by the Elad association, for a new housing complex, incl. 10 apartments, a synagogue, kindergarten, a library and underground parking, in the heart of Silwan. The land in question is located 200 meters from the Old City walls and belongs to the ILA, which has leased it to Elad.

May 22: *Ma'ariv* reports that approximately 50,000 Palestinians have moved into Israeli neighborhoods in West Jerusalem because of a lack of affordable housing in East Jerusalem.

May 27: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM has sealed the house Ibrahim Abu Idhaim in Jabal Mukabber for having added 300 m² structure to the existing building without license.

May 30: Israeli forces demolish the house of Zaidan Al-Shweiki in Beit Hanina for the second time since 2006.

JUNE

June 1: Israel's Housing Min. Ze'ev Boim announces the construction of 884 houses in East Jerusalem with spokesman Eran Sidis saying: "We will invite tenders for the construction of 121 housing units in Har Homa and 763 others in Pisgat Ze'ev." Peace Now Dir. Yariv Oppenheimer slams the announcement, saying: "More settlements in Jerusalem will mean that the physical ability to have compromises between Israelis and Palestinians will be harder," and telling *Israel Army Radio* that the move "constitutes one more nail in the coffin of the Annapolis understandings... The Olmert government is opening a 'going out of business sale' when it comes to houses in settlements. Sadly, the legacy of the current government will not be a peace deal with the Palestinians, but rather turning the final status agreement into something nearly impossible to achieve."

- Israeli Police prevents Palestinian Jerusalemites from holding an event commemorating the 9th anniversary of the death of the late Faisal Al-Husseini at Al-Hakawati Theater.

- Pres. Abbas' office calls Israel's decision for new construction in Jerusalem settlements a "dangerous threat" to the peace process, saying that it "cannot advance without a complete and total halt to settlement activity."

- A poll released by Ir Amim reveals that 78% of Jewish Israelis believe that Jerusalem is already divided, while 65% agree that in the context of a final status agreement, Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem would come under Palestinian rule.

- For the second time in two years, religious-Zionist rabbis enter the Haram Ash-Sharif.

- *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Antiquities Authority has begun with the restoration of the Old City's wall.

June 2: The ILA publishes tenders for 47 housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev.

- In Jabal Mukabber, Israeli Authorities have handed the Surour and Mashahra families military warnings to demolish 18 buildings for not having permits.

- Israeli authorities inform Beit Hanina Village Council of the decision to confiscate 5,500 dunums of its lands to construct segments of the separation barrier.

June 4: The Knesset approves in a preliminary reading an amendment to the Israeli Basic Law making Jerusalem not just the capital of Israel but of the entire Jewish people.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish the house of Zeidan Ra'fat Al-Sheiwaky in Beit Hanina for not being licensed.

- Israel conducts extensive land leveling in the vicinity of the Har Homa settlement.

June 6: Israeli forces survey lands of Walajeh after giving the Village Council a notification of the proposed route of the separation barrier.

June 7: *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Local Committee for Building and Construction has endorsed the first stage of a plan to build 2,337 new housing units, 1,837 of which in Givat Hamatos settlement and 500 for Palestinians of Beit Safafa.

June 8: A group of settlers assault Palestinian stores near Dung Gate in the Old City, causing damage and losses.

June 10: In At-Tur, Israeli bulldozers destroy for the second time the house of the Faqih family for lacking a permit.

- In Al-Issawiyya, Israeli forces demolish the house of Khamis Tahhan, rendering 9 family members homeless.

- In Beit Hanina, Israeli forces destroy the house of Fatina Al-Ajrab, home to 8 people, without any prior warning.

June 11: Nabil Al-Imwasi is forced to demolish his family house in Beit Hanina to avoid being fined NIS 80,000 in case the WJM carries out the demolition.

- *Al-Quds* reports that a second stage of constructing 60 housing units in Ma'ale HaZeitim settlement in Ras Al-Amud has begun.

- The WJM issues eviction and demolition orders against three adjacent houses in the Ras Khamis area of Shu'fat RC, belonging to Maher Rajabi, Suleiman Turk and Amjad Abu Turki. All three houses are located near the barrier separating Ras Khamis from Pisgat Ze'ev.

June 12: Israeli forces demolish the 50-m² house of Ihab Zuhdi At-Tawil in Beit Hanina's Wadi Al-Dam – Housh Al-Tawil area for the second time since 2005 for being built without a permit in a "Green Area".

June 13: The WJM's Regional Committee for Housing and Planning has agreed to construct 1,300 new housing units in Ramat Shlomo settlement.

June 15: The Jerusalem Planning Committee approves the construction of 40,000 housing units across the city, incl. in East Jerusalem settlements, and for the first time, in Palestinian neighborhoods, among them Al-Issawiya, Shu'fat, and At-Tur.

- The Israeli Company of Developing Jerusalem and WJM employees try to take over a 2-dunum plot owned by the Orthodox Patriarchate in Silwan to construct a parking plot.

- The WJM hands out military warnings to demolish three houses in Ras Khamis in Shu'fat RC being unlicensed and located close to the separation barrier.

- The WJM distributes demolition orders against 18 houses and buildings in Jabal Al-Mukabber for lacking permits.

June 16: *Wafa* and *Al-Quds* report that a settler group calling themselves "Yeshiva Hayim Ha'olam" hands military warnings to the Kastero and Al-Hashim family in Aqbat Al-Khalidiyya area near Al-Aqsa Mosque to evacuate their houses within 14 days, claiming their ownership of the buildings since 1948. The nearby house of Mohammad Sidawi had already been targeted by the same organization seven months ago.

- Israeli forces demolish two houses belonging to Ihab Tawil and the Jaba'ari family in Beit Hanina and another house belonging to Anwar Assila in Ras Al-Amud for lacking building permits.

June 20: The Israeli army distributes a military order to confiscate 1,500 dunums of Palestinian land to construct the separation barrier between Beit Hanina and Ramot settlement.

June 23: Israeli bulldozers uproot some 300 olive trees and raze lands in Beit Hanina Al-Tahta near Ramot settlement to make way for a section of the separation barrier.

June 24: A WJM court issues an order to stop the evacuation of Mohammed Al-Kurd's house in Sheikh Jarrah.

June 25: Israeli forces raid several car workshops in Hizma, Anata, Az-Zaim and Al-Izzariyya, confiscating cars and properties.

June 28: At night, hundreds of Israeli forces raid the 5-story building of Majed Abu Aisha near the Dajani Hospital in Beit Hanina, home to seven families. Its over 60 residents are violently forced to leave, before the entire house is demolished and eventually blown up by remote control burying all the furniture and property of its inhabitants. Hundreds of Palestinians, incl. national and religious figures, demonstrate nearby against the demolition, but are attacked and partly injured or arrested by police.

June 29: The Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee tours East Jerusalem to prepare for the first reading of a bill requiring a two-thirds Knesset majority to transfer control or authority in the city.

June 30: With a focus on East Jerusalem and the Golan, the Knesset approves with 65:18 the first reading of a referendum bill, which mandates a national referendum or a two-thirds Knesset majority vote prior to a withdrawal from any territory under Israeli control.

JULY

July 1: *Al-Quds* reports that an Israeli restraining order stops the demolition of the Abdel Fattah Abed Rabbo cave and the confiscation of 50 dunums of lands located in the northern part of Al-Walaja, where the Givat Ya'el settlement is planned.

- *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM intends to revive a plan – frozen two years ago - of demolishing 100 Palestinian houses in Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood.

July 2: A Palestinian, Hussam Dwayat from Sur Baher, working for a construction firm laying the foundations for the city's new railway system, drives his bulldozer into a bus and several cars in Jaffa Road, killing three people, before being shot dead.

- Israeli authorities order close the headquarters of the Palestinian Housing Council in Jerusalem.

July 3: Israeli bulldozers demolish without any pre-notification the house of Kamil As-Sa'ou in Beit Hanina and another house owned by Mohammed Nasser in Al-Issawiyya.

- In the wake of the bulldozer incident a day earlier, Vice PM Haim Ramon tells *Army Radio* that Israel should treat the East Jerusalem neighborhoods of Jabel Mukabber and Sur Baher as West Bank villages, wall them off the city, and revoke the permanent residency status of their residents.

July 6: In Sur Baher and Jabal Mukabber, groups of settlers try to attack the houses of the Dwayat and Abu Dhaim families, whose sons had perpetrated the 2 March attack on a yeshiva and the bulldozer stack on Jaffa Road four days ago.

- Israeli bulldozers raze a piece of land owned by 'Awad Samrin near Ein Silwan Mosque.

- The WJM forces Khaled Sharabati to demolish his house in Wadi Al-Joz under the pretext of lacking building permits.

July 9: The Interior Min. has tentatively approved a WJM plan to build 910 new homes in Har Homa's Homat Shmuel

C area.

- The Jerusalem Regional Construction and Planning Committee has approved another 900 housing units for Pisgat Ze'ev settlement.

July 13: In Anata, Israeli forces raid garages and workshops, confiscating several yellow-plated cars under the pretext that Palestinian Jerusalemites are not allowed to have their cars repaired at West Bank workshops.

July 15: *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Supreme Court has issued an evacuation order to Fawziya Al-Kurd from Sheikh Jarrah, claiming her house was Jewish property (being one of 28 Palestinian houses in the area threatened under the same pretext).

- Israeli bulldozers demolish the two-storey house of Ishaq Hamdan in Al-Issawiyya and hand military warnings to the owners of 20 other houses in the area for lacking building permits. For the same reason destroyed are two apartments owned by Osama and Munther 'Abdel Salam Ar-Razim in Beit Hanina.

- Over 47 residents of Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan receive military orders to demolish their houses within a week.

July 17: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM has handed demolition orders to the owners of 32 buildings and housing units in Al-Issawiyya under the pretext of being unlicensed. Another 28 buildings are threatened as well. Three days later, the Office of the PM's Legal Adviser for Jerusalem Affairs issues a precautionary order from the WJM court to prevent the demolition of 29 out of the 32 units.

- Israeli forces destroy the house of Ahmad Mohammad Al-Aramin in Al-Izzariyya.

July 22: Ghassan Abu Ter from Sur Baher rams his tractor into cars and a bus on King David St., injuring over 20 people and destroying a bus and five cars before being shot dead by a motorist and a policeman. The attack is seen as a copycat act of to the July 2 attack, although some witnesses and the perpetrator's family claim he had lost control over the vehicle and the incident had been an accident.

July 23: For the second consecutive day, Israeli forces raid Umm Tuba and Sur Baher, detaining a number of young people.

July 24: Israeli forces raid a stone, pottery and seedling shop at the Hizma intersection, confiscating large amounts of stones under the pretext that it is prohibited to build houses and establish shops in the region.

- A poll published by *Israel Radio* shows that an equal percentage of Israelis (43%) support and oppose a physical separation of Jerusalem in light of recent attacks.

July 26: The Israeli High Court of Justice has issued a ruling to evict Mohammad Kamel Al-Kurd and his family consisting from their house in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming it belongs to Israeli settlers.

July 27: Israeli bulldozers demolish the five-storey building of Majed Abu 'Eisheh in Beit Hanina for being built without a permit, rendering some 70 people homeless.

- Israeli forces raid the houses of Saleh Al-Khalid and Fayez Bishara in Shufat's Ras Khamis area, claiming they are searching for weapons.

July 28: With regard to another bulldozer incident in Jerusalem, PM Olmert says, "Whoever thinks it's possible to live with 270,000 Arabs in Jerusalem must take into account that there will be more bulldozers, more tractors, and more cars carrying out attacks."

- Former Likud DM Moshe Arens acknowledges in an article in *Ha'aretz* that Israel's failure to meaningfully unite the city was a factor in the recent attacks in Jerusalem, saying: "had progress been made over the years in properly absorbing the Jerusalem Arab population into Israel, the task facing the Palestinian extremists would have been more difficult." He also states that the wall built around Jerusalem "does not in any way alleviate the problem. It only exacerbates it. Jerusalem's Arab population - rightfully feeling that the policy of the Israeli government and the Jerusalem Municipality discriminates against it - is being fenced in. Nothing good can come of that. And the destruction of the homes of the families of the perpetrators of recent acts of terror will only breed bitterness and resentment." Arens further argues that to integrate Jerusalem's Arab population, "equalizing the municipal services provided to Arab and Jewish neighborhoods, as well as welfare, health-care and educational services," and "encouraging the participation of the Arab population in municipal elections" are needed.

July 29: Israeli Pres. Shimon Peres says that "Jerusalem has become a security problem of late. We have to make both a wall and a bridge in Jerusalem. We have to ensure separation and also let [Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem] live differently, otherwise [the city] will be like a pressure cooker that is liable to explode."

- A group of Israeli settlers forces itself into a Palestinian home in Shu'fat's Ras Khamis area, claiming ownership of the 20-dunum property, saying it belonged to Ramat Gan resident Eliyahu Cohanim and constitutes part of the 'Eastern Gate' compound between the French Hill and the outskirts of the Pisgat Zeev settlement, where the WJM has previously proposed to build a 2,000-unit settlement ('Sha'er Mizrah').

July 30: *Al-Quds* quotes MK Hanna Suweid as saying that some 15,000 Palestinian houses in Jerusalem are threatened by demolition for not being licensed.

- An Israeli court issues a restraining order to stop razing the land of Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan, which is mainly slated for the establishment of a touristic park.

- The Jerusalem District Court rejects a petition submitted by Israeli right wingers, ordering them to evacuate the 7-storey building ("Beit Yehonatan") they are evacuating in the heart of Silwan.

AUGUST

Aug. 1: A public opinion poll by the Tami Steinmetz Center at Tel Aviv University finds that 56% of Jewish Israelis believe that for all intents and purposes the city of Jerusalem is already divided.

- The ILA and the Israeli Housing Min. issue tenders for the construction of 735 housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev.

- After objection filed with the WJM by Ir Amim, Israeli authorities decide to amend the plans regarding the bridge at the Mughrabi Gate to include preservation of all archaeological findings, incl. those from the Ottoman period.

Aug. 4: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM is working to prevent the evacuation of settlers from a seven-story building (dubbed "Bet Yehonatan") in Silwan, which was ordered by the Jerusalem District Court on 30 July.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish for the second time the house of Amin Ibrahim Abbasi in At-Tur.

- Israeli forces also destroy a hut near the Panorama Hotel in Ras-Al-Amud and an yet unfinished house in Silwan's Wadi Qaddoum area.

Aug. 5: Israeli Internal Security Min. Avi Dichter renews the closure of East Jerusalem institutions, incl. Orient House, the Chamber of Commerce, the Prisoners' Club, the and Arab Studies Society, for another six months.

Aug. 7: Settlers and right-wing MKs tour a hill located between French Hill and Anata, near Shufat RC, where settlers attempt to establish a new outpost ("Sha'ar Mizrahi" - Gate of the East) on an estimated 180 dunums defined as agricultural property.

Aug. 8: Israeli authorities approve the construction of 300 housing units in Neve Ya'akov settlement.

Aug. 12: Israeli police intercept a group of settlers, trying to put the cornerstone for a new settlement - dubbed Sha'ar Mizrahi - on a hill near Shu'fat RC. Ten settlers are detained for questioning.

Aug. 13: Israeli forces destroy two houses, belonging to the Ajlouni and Abu Sbeih families, in Beit Hanina's Ashqariya area, without allowing the owners to rescue their belongings.

- In Issawiyya, the house of Mohammed Durbas, still under construction, is demolished for being built unlicensed.

Aug. 18: In Beit Safafa, Palestinians prevent settlers from taking over the house of Bah Eddin Darwish.

Aug. 19: Israeli authorities install cameras at Lion's Gate in a bid to further control the entry of worshippers to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Aug. 20: In Ath-Thori, settlers tried to build iron fences around some four dunums of land they intend to seize near Dar Al-Aytam School.

Aug. 21: In response to a petition by Palestinian landowners, PM Olmert and DM Barak decide to reroute the path of the separation barrier near Ma'ale Adumim so as to restore Palestinian access to some 4,000 dunums of land which the original plan would have placed on the Israeli side of the wall.

Aug. 26: Israeli forces raid Wadi Al-Joz and Anata neighborhoods, causing damage to Palestinian property.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3: Israeli DM Barak tells *Al-Jazeera* that Israel's "basic position is that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel but that we can find a formula under which certain neighborhoods, heavily populated Arab neighborhoods, could become in a peace agreement part of the Palestinian capital, and it will of course include all of the neighboring villages around Jerusalem."

- Vice PM Haim Ramon tells *Ma'ariv* NRG that "Anyone who thinks that the problem of Jerusalem and terrorism is pinpointed and that the demolition of one or another house will help hides his head in the sand. The central question is whether the government wants Jabal Mukabber and Sur Baher as part of Israel or not."

Sept. 4: Yehiam Weitz, Professor at Haifa University's Land of Israel Studies Dept., writes in a *Ma'ariv* op-ed that Israelis are more prepared for a substantive discussion over the city's future, saying that in the past decade "a great deal of water has flowed in all the rivers and seas, and today [the future of Jerusalem] can be addressed without the emotionally charged attitude of a decade ago. We do not have to see every attempt to deal with Jerusalem's future as the violation of a sacred taboo. It can be examined rationally."

- Israeli Police arrest seven Jewish settlers and evicted 30 others trying to place a mobile home on a new outpost ("Sha'ar Mizrahi") on a hill near Shufat RC.

Sept. 5: DM Ehud Barak tells *Al-Jazeera* TV that some Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem could become the capital of a future Palestinian state as part of a final peace agreement, saying: "We can find a formula under which certain neighborhoods, heavily-populated Arab neighborhoods, could become, in a peace agreement, part of the Palestinian capital that, of course, will include also the neighboring villages around Jerusalem".

Sept. 9: *Ha'aretz* reports that Israeli police restricts the entry to Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan, banning men under 45 years and requesting married men aged 45-55 and women aged 30-45 to obtain a permit.

Sept. 10: Israeli police raids the houses of Abu Ahmad Atwan and his son in Sur Baher.

Sept. 13: At the northern entrance to Shufat RC, Israeli bulldozers raze without prior warning 1,5 dunums of land, incl. 7 olive trees, belonging to Fawzi Issa to make way for a planned crossing.

Sept. 18: In a letter to WJM Council member Nir Barkat (Kadima), Dep. PM Ramon outlines his official political agenda, saying he believes Israel should cede control of the Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem to the Palestinians and establish joint sovereignty over the city's holy sites.

Sept. 18: Israeli Transportation Min. Shaul Mofaz disparaged Dep. PM Haim Ramon over his call on the government to cede control of Arab East Jerusalem to the Palestinians and establish joint sovereignty over the city's holy sites, telling a Kadima party convention that "Jerusalem is not a piece of real estate, and no one has the authority to redivide it." Internal Security Min. Avi Dichter remarks that Israel should unilaterally demarcate its final borders with the West Bank, saying: "It is a mistake to speak of a final agreement ... We need to demand the demarcation of the borders as mentioned in Kadima's election program, which includes a united Jerusalem." - Israeli forces raid houses in Al-Izzariyya.

- El Ad begins building a parking lot in Silwan's Wadi Al-Hilweh area..

Sept. 21: The Aqsa Foundation for Endowment and Heritage reveals Israeli plans to open a synagogue on Wad Street near Hamam Al-Ein, close to Al-Aqsa Mosque, and connect it to a tunnel underneath it.

Sept. 22: A Palestinian teenager, Qassem Mughrabi, 19, from Jabal Mukabber, drives a BMW into a group of off-duty soldiers standing on a Jerusalem street at Tzahal Square, injuring 19, before being killed by a soldier. While widely portrayed as an apparent copycat attack to the bulldozer and tractor attacks earlier in the year, the driver's family denies that it was a terror attack, saying he did not have a driving license and lost control of the car.

Sept. 27: Al-Quds reports that WJM police has designated a special lane for settlers at Az-Za'im checkpoint to facilitate their movement to and from Jerusalem.

Sept. 29: In an interview with the *Yedioth Aharonoth*, outgoing PM Olmert says that Israel would have to withdraw from East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights if it was serious about making peace with the Palestinians and Syria.

OCTOBER

Oct. 5: MKs Uri Ariel and Eli Gabai from the National Union/National Religious Party and a WJM councilman, David Hadari, lead a tour for reporters to some Arab areas of Jerusalem demanding that the homes of local "terrorists" be demolished and their families restricted from doing business in the city, as well as that more be done to combat illegal construction and tax evasion in the Arab neighborhoods.

Oct. 12: The "Ohel Yitzhak" synagogue is opened in the Old City's Muslim Quarter, located between the Cotton Merchants Gate and the Heavy Chain Gate, only 80 m from the Haram Ash-Sharif, creating outrage among Muslim, Christian and Greek Orthodox residents and religious officials, who set up an emergency meeting to condemn the move.

Oct. 17: WJM mayoral candidate Nir Barkat tours the area near Shufat RC where settlers attempt to establish a new settlement ("Sha'ar Mizrahi") and expresses support for the 2,000-housing unit project in the area.

Oct. 19: Six Palestinians are injured in a brawl with a group of Jewish youths . In a separate incident, police arrested three young Jews after scuffles broke out with Palestinian when a garbage truck driven by an Arab was stoned on Bar-Ilan Street.

Oct. 22: Ultra-Orthodox youths riot in Mea Shearim overnight, throwing stones at passing cars and beating Palestinian taxi drivers after stopping them to find out whether they were Arab.

Oct. 23: Near Gilo, a Palestinian – Mohammed Al-Badan, from Tekoa near Bethlehem - stabs two Israelis, killing an elderly man and wounding a policeman, before being killed himself. Hamas say such attacks were a "natural response" to Israel's continued aggression.

Oct. 27: WJM mayoral candidate Arcadi Gaydamak makes a five-hour election tour of East Jerusalem, incl. encounters with Palestinian residents, a businessmen meeting in the Golden Walls Hotel, a visit of Silwan, Shu'fat and Beit Hanina.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2: Ali Bahar, Chairperson of the Palestinian Student Union at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is detained for three hours by university and presidential security officials and has his student card confiscated after refusing to shake the hand of visiting Pres. Shimon Peres, calling him "responsible for the murderer of children."

Nov. 5: WJM forces partially demolish - without prior notification - a wedding hall owned by Samir Qirresh in Beit Hanina.

- In Shu'fat, Israeli bulldozers demolish the house of Abdullah Bisharat for lacking a building permit.

- Clashes between residents and Israeli forces erupt in Silwan's Bustan neighborhood, when the latter try to demolish five houses, two of which – belonging to Mohammed Siam and Said Abu Sanad - are eventually destroyed and 22 protestors are arrested.

Nov. 9: Israeli police storms the house of Kamel Al-Kurd in Sheikh Jarrah and forcibly evict the owner of the house, 62-year-old and sick Mohammad Al-Kurd and his wife from their home.

Nov. 11: Mayoral elections for the WJM are held;

Nov. 14: In response to a Peace Now petition submitted together with Arab residents of Silwan, the Supreme Court ordered a stop to all unauthorized construction and earthworks that is taking place in the Givati Parking Lot in the Old City (except support work on the northern wall is allowed to continue for safety purposes).

Nov. 18: Israeli Police confiscates loudspeakers of a mosque in Sur Baher because of complaints of Jews in the adjacent neighborhood regarding the noise coming from the Mu'ezzin calling for prayer every day.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish a house in Issawiya for lacking a building permit.

Nov. 19: Infrastructure work re-starts for the planned “Tolerance Museum” in West Jerusalem, on the site of an historic Muslim cemetery.

Nov. 27: Israeli Police arrests 20 teenagers (aged 14-15) from their homes in Silwan, taking them to an investigation in the police HQ.

DECEMBER

Dec. 3: The WJM destroys a Palestinian home in Silwan, while many of the residents are demonstrating in front of the Municipality building against the house demolitions.