

Jerusalem Chronology

2003

Jan. 1: Israeli forces demolish the unfinished home of Nasser Sanduqa in the Al-Ashqariya quarter in Beit Hanina for being built without permit.

Jan. 5: Three Jewish families move into a building in the Old City near Damascus Gate, bringing the number of Jewish families in the Muslim Quarter to 58. MK (Herut) Michael Kleiner attends the moving in ceremony.

- The Israeli High Court of Justice rejects petitions asking not to demolish the homes of relatives of the four members of the 'Silwan cell' convicted in Dec. 2002 of organizing attacks on Israeli targets, incl. the bombs at the Hebrew University and the Moment Café.

Jan. 7: Israeli police raid shops, houses and institutions, especially in Al-Hariri Street and the Musrasah area, searching for illegal workers.

- Israeli forces demolish two buildings in Qalandia RC belonging to Thamin Fayyaleh and Jamal Al-Joulani.

Jan. 13: The Jerusalem District Court indicts Majed Abu Ter, 24, of Um Tuba for murdering his niece Nur Abu Ter, 5, who was found dead after a week-long search on 13 Dec. 2002.

Jan. 15: In Silwan and Ras Al-Amud, Israeli forces destroy the house of Wissam Al-Abassi's family and seal three others, belonging to the families of the other three members of the 'Silwan cell', Aladin Al-Abassi, Mohammed Odeh, and Wa'el Kassam.

Jan. 18: *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Ministry of Housing and Constructions started working on a previously endorsed plan for building 70 new housing units in Wadi Al-Joz and areas near Hebrew University, in addition to other settler outlets such as Bet Orot, Ras Al-Amud, Beit Daoud in Silwan, and Shimon Hazadik in Sheikh Jarrah.

Jan. 30: *Ha'aretz* reports that United Torah Judaism becomes the second strongest party (after Likud) in Jerusalem in the Israeli elections, followed by Shas, while the secular bloc (Shinui, Meretz, Yisrael b'Aliyah and Green Leaf) received only 14.4% of the vote in the city.

Jan. 31: *Ha'aretz* reports about a campaign entitled "Temple Mount - Heart of the Nation," launched by a group of Jewish Americans, airing messages on Israeli radio stations that call for strengthening the Jewish presence at the "Temple Mount."

Jan.: Israeli forces raid the Arab Bank branch in Al-Izzariyya, confiscating NIS 17,000 belonging to Hamas activists. The US Embassy condemns the raid.

Feb. 5: Based on recommendations by Israeli police and the Shin Bet, Public Security Min. Uzi Landau extends the order to close down the Orient House, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, the Center for Palestinian Research and the Palestinian Prisoner's Club, by another six months, claiming the PA used these bodies to strengthen its presence in East Jerusalem.

- Israeli police seize some 40 Palestinian taxis in East Jerusalem for operating illegally in the city, take them to Qalandia Airport where drivers are told to pick them up next week.

Feb. 15: Israeli forces demolish the house of 'Eid Ibrahim Mashahreh from Al Sawahreh Ash-Sharqiyya.

Feb. 16: Ehud Olmert resigns as mayor of the West Jerusalem Municipality (WJM) a day before being sworn in as an MK.

Feb. 17: Uri Lupoliansky (Agudat Yisrael Party) becomes the first ultra-Orthodox person

appointed as acting mayor of the WJM.

- Israeli forces close the Center of Social Research, which used to be a part of the Orient House, claiming it was illegally operating on behalf of the PA.

Feb. 21: In Beit Safafa, Israeli forces demolish a house under construction for not having a building permit.

Feb. 25: A rare snowstorm brings life in the city to a near stillstand.

Feb. 26: Two Israeli policemen in civilian clothes attack Ahmad Abu Sbeitan, 32, from At-Tur, when he asks them to identify themselves as police after they stopped him on his way to work.

Feb. 27: Israeli forces raid the Al-Izzariyya branch of the Arab Bank for the second time this year, confiscating documents relating to the Society for Social Development, founded by Sheikh Tawfiq Al-Khatib, who is said to have links with the Islamic Movement in Israel and Hamas.

- WJM police chief Mickey Levy says that Jews would be allowed to pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound after the war on Iraq.

March 3: Israeli DM Mofaz visits Ma'ale Adumim and expresses support for the E-1 Plan to create a contiguous line of settlements between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim saying "The decision to do so has already been taken, the question is how to implement it."

March 4: Israeli forces demolish three houses in Al-Jib belonging to Khalil Suleiman Abu Ghalia, Khalil Jahalin and Odeh Jahalin, for being built on a prohibited area.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish four gas stations in the Atarot industrial zone near Ar-Ram under the pretext that they were built without license.

March 5: *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* quotes PA Min. of Jerusalem Affairs Samir Ghosheh as reporting that the Israeli govt. is planning to introduce housing in 'Greater Jerusalem' – an area of 440 km² - for one million Jews by 2010.

- Israeli forces demolish the house of Fawzi Khalaileh south of Jabal Al-Mukabber for being built without permit, while six other houses are slated for demolition for the same reason.

March 10: Israeli forces destroy three houses in Beit Hanina for being built without permit, incl. one belonging to Jawad Sweiti, despite a pending court order delaying the demolition, one to Usama Dkeidek and one to In'am Shweiki.

March 13: In the Musrara area, an unknown assailant attacks two Israelis, father and son from Beer Sheva, shoots and wounds them before fleeing towards the Old City.

March 15: Israeli forces demolish the house of Musa Qiry in Al-Jib for not having a building permit. The house was located in an area foreseen for expansion of Givat Ze'ev.

March 18: Israeli forces demolish a gas station belonging to Hani Srur in Wadi Qaddoum.

March 19: *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* reports that the Al-Aqsa Institute for the Renovation of Islamic Sites fears Israeli plans to transform parts of Al-Aqsa Mosque into a worshipping area for Jews, similar to the case of Hebron's Al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

March 20: Palestinian and Israeli demonstrators protest in Ras Al-Amud against the new settlement being built there.

March 23: Israeli forces raze 10 dunums of agricultural land near At-Tur and Az-Za'im belonging to the Weihi, Far'oun and Abu Rumi families. Tens of dunums are also confiscated by in the Jaba', Mikhmas, Rafat, Qalandia and Ar-Ram areas, all in order to build the separation fence.

March 24: Ra'af Najam, head of the Jordanian team that is carrying out the repairs of the southern wall of Al-Aqsa, tells *Al-Quds* that once the stones in the bulging part of the wall will be replaced, the danger of collapse will have ceased.

March 25: The Knesset Finance Committee decides to allocate an additional NIS 8.5 million for security measures in Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem, bringing the total amount for

settler security in 2003 to NIS 30.8 million.

March 28: Israeli police ban Palestinians under the age of 40 from entering the Old City for Friday prayers for 'security reasons.'

April 1: The Jerusalem District Court sentences Malek Bakhirat, 24, to 19 years in prison for establishing and commanding a terror cell that planned attacks and murders.

April 2: After PM Sharon gives a green light, Jewish families move into the new Ma'ale Ha'Zeitim settlement in Ras Al-Amud, where 35 of 51 apartments have been sold to date, while another 68 apartments are slated for construction. Peace Now holds a protest vigil at the site, calling it a provocation.

- The Israeli forces demolish the houses of Nur Eddin Ad-Dumeiri and Sa'adi Ghazali in Beit Hanina, near Pisgat Ze'ev settlement, for having no building permits.

April 3: Israeli forces destroy 17 houses in Az-Za'im, Anata, Sur Baher, Qatanna and Dahiet As-Salam for being built without permits, belonging to the Dabash, Shweiki, 'Amira, Bekirat, Saleh, 'Atoun, Abu Jum'a and Shawamreh families.

April 5: Peace Now activists demonstrate against the new Ma'ale Ha'Zeitim settlement in Ras Al-Amud, saying it destroys any chance of a peaceful solution in Jerusalem.

- Israeli forces demolish the house of Nidal Ali 'Atoun in Sur Baher for having no building permit.

April 6: Acting US CG Jeffrey Feltman tells WJM mayor Uri Lupolianski that the moving of settlers into the Ras Al-Amud area is problematic, especially in this "sensitive" period.

April 7: Israeli forces and Palestinian residents of Issawiyya clash as Israeli bulldozers demolish four homes in the village for being built without a permit. Peace Now demonstrates at the site against the demolitions.

- After German FM Fischer refuses to meet with Justice Min. Yosef Lapid at his East Jerusalem office, Lapid turns down an invitation to meet for breakfast at Fischer's hotel in West Jerusalem.

April 8: Israeli forces demolish the house of Said Radi Abu Sanad in the Ras Al-Bustan area of Silwan for being built illegally.

April 9: *Al-Quds* reports that WJM mayor Lupolianski has proposed to build a new govt. compound in Wadi Al-Joz, mainly to help solve the overcrowding at the East Jerusalem Min. of Interior.

- The Jerusalem District Court sentences Salah Alawi, 23, to 12 years in prison for driving one of the murderers of Tourism Min. Ze'evi from Ramallah to Jerusalem and knowing about the plan to kill him (on 17 Oct. 2001).

- The Jerusalem District Court sentences Sami Abed of Issawiyya to eight years in prison for transporting weapons from Jericho and Al-Izzariyya to Issawiyya on behalf of the DFLP.

- Dozens of Jews and Arabs march to the site of the Deir Yassin massacre in commemoration of its 55th anniversary. Settlers from nearby Har Nof curse at the demonstrators.

April 10: The Jerusalem District Court indicts a settler from Givat Adei-Ad near Shilo, Tzuriel Amiur, for participating in the planned bomb attack (28 April 2002) on a Palestinian girls' school on the Mt. of Olives.

April 12: Israeli bulldozers level some 1,000 dunums of cultivated land in Anata to make way for a new bypass road.

April 19: Israeli police turns back some 20 Temple Mount Faithful activists, led by Gershon Salomon, approaching Al-Mughrabi Gate of the Al-Aqsa Compound and calling on the govt. to open the "Temple Mount" to Jews.

April 20: The High Court of Justice hears a Temple Mount Faithful petition, demanding that

Jews be allowed to pray at the "Temple Mount," and saying it is racist to allow Arabs to pray at the site, while prohibiting Jews. (The Waqf has denied access to non-Muslims since Oct. 2000, when riots broke out following PM Sharon's provocative visit).

April 22: Israeli bulldozers level a large area of agricultural land belonging to villagers from Al-Izzariyya and the Jahalin to build a new road between Ma'ale Adumim and Az-Za'im checkpoint.

April 26: At night in Sheikh Jarrah, fights break out as settlers from the Homat Shalem organization, escorted by Tourism Min. Benny Elon and equipped with a lawyer and an eviction order for two Arab houses, try to expel the Palestinian residents.

April 27: Following the events in Sheikh Jarrah a day earlier, United Arab List Chairman Abdul Malik Dahamshe demands that Min. Benny Elon be fired and brought to trial together with "his hooligans," and that Atty. Gen. Rubinstein order the return of Arab families to their apartments.

April 28: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Jewish Homat Shalem organization, which operates in the Shimon Hatzadik (Sheikh Jarrah) area, has acquired the deeds and keys for another 10 apartments in two buildings that are part of the Ghawey and Hanoun family homes. This follows a Jerusalem Magistrate's Court decision of late March, based on an agreement between both sides after four of the Arab plaintiffs canceled their suit and agreed to transfer the apartments to the Jews. Currently, seven Jewish families and several youths live in the area.

May 3: Israeli Tourism Min. Benny Elon (Moledet) and a group of Israeli settlers raid an Arab home in Sheikh Jarrah, throwing a 2-year-old child out of a window, five meters high, who then has to be hospitalized.

May 5: Speaking at a ceremony marking Israel's 55th birthday, WJM police commander Micki Levy says "We are taking steps to open the Temple Mount to Jews," hinting that contacts are underway with the Waqf and the PA.

May 12: The Israeli govt. approves the March 2002 decision of the Min. of Interior to freeze all family reunification applications.

May 14: Public Security Min. Tzachi Hanegbi says that with or without agreement, the "Temple Mount" would soon be opened to Jews for visits and prayers, saying "that is the right, the moral and the logical thing."

May 15: In response to Public Security Min. Hanegbi's comments a day earlier, Waqf director Adnan Hussein says that non-Muslims are not welcome on the Al-Haram Ash-Sharif, telling Israel Radio that "The Arab standpoint, the Waqf standpoint, is that there is no change in the decision of not allowing non-Muslims to enter the place."

May 16: Israeli forces ban men under the age of 40 from attending Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

May 17: Referring to Public Security Min. Hanegbi's 14 May statement, Israeli Pres. Katsav tells Israel Radio that it would be unwise to allow Jews to enter Temple Mount without the consent of the Muslims and the Waqf.

May 18: A suicide bomber - Bassam Takriri, 18, from Hebron - boards Egged bus No. 6 at French Hill, disguised as a religious Jew, and blows himself up, killing seven people and wounding 20 others. Among the killed is Ghaleb Tawil, 42, from Shu'fat RC, who was on his way to work as a cleaner at Hadassah Hospital. A little later, another suicide bomber - Mujahad Aljabri, 19, from Hebron, blows himself up near Dahiet Al-Barid, when ordered to stop, only killing himself. Hamas claims responsibility.

- Israeli media discloses that Israeli forces have arrested an eight-member Hamas cell in Jerusalem that apparently had planned to hijack an Egged bus from Neve Ya'acov to press for the release of Palestinian prisoners and to kidnap a soldier to use in hostage

negotiations.

May 22: The Israeli Min. of Housing issues tenders for the construction of 502 housing units in the neighborhood of Nofei Sela in Ma'ale Adumim settlement.

- Israeli bulldozers raze hundreds of dunums of agricultural land in Anata to make way for a new military road.

March 24: Israeli bulldozers level vast areas of agricultural land in Anata in preparation of building the separation fence.

May 26: WJM bulldozers demolish the house of Sufian and Othman Fares Maswadeh in Beit Hanina for being built illegally, although the family has a WJM document the issuing of a permit for the house was being processed.

May 28: *Ha'aretz* reports that architect Gideon Harla has designed plans to build a synagogue on Al-Haram Ash-Sharif next to the Dome of the Rock at an estimated cost of over \$3 million. mosque.

- New Israeli CBS figures show that 66% of the population of Jerusalem is Jewish and 32% Arab (of which 94% are Muslim and six percent Christians).

May 29: Some 50,000 settlers and other Israelis attend a march in and around the Old City, organized by the right-wing Temple Mount Faithful, to mark 'Jerusalem Day,' the 36th anniversary of the city's "unification" following the 1967 War. At an official ceremony on Ammunition Hill, PM Sharon promises not to redivide Jerusalem.

May 30: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Yesha Rabbi Council has issued a statement calling for the establishment of Israeli sovereignty on the 'Temple Mount' and its opening to Jewish prayer, saying "The Temple Mount belongs solely to the Jewish people and there is no room on it for cooperation with strangers."

June 3: Israeli Min. of Tourism Benny Elon (Moledet Party) and a group of settlers seize and occupy a Palestinian building belonging to Rashid Al-Maqdesiya, in Nablus Street near the American CG, to establish new HQ for the party. They put a poster on the wall reading "Jordan is Palestine."

June 4: Some 20,000 people attend a anti-'road map' rally on Jerusalem's Zion Square, called for by the Yesha Settler Council under the slogan "don't give them a state," to protest PM Sharon 's announcement to dismantle illegal settlement outposts.

- Jerusalem's acting mayor Uri Lupolianski (United Torah Judaism) becomes the first elected ultra-Orthodox WJM mayor, defeating Nir Barkat (Yerushalayim Tatzliach) by a margin of 51 to 42%. In the new City Council, UTJ has 9 seats, YT 6, Shas 5, NRP 4, Likud 3, Labor none, Meretz and Shinui 5.

June 8: Israeli settlers take over two houses belonging to Ibrahim and Ali Diab in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming they bought them.

June 10: Israeli forces demolish the house of Abdel-Rahman Abu Sneineh in Beit Hanina.

June 11: A Palestinian suicide bomber – Abed Al-Muati Shabaneh, 17, from Hebron - dressed as an ultra-Orthodox Jew, blows himself up on a bus on Jaffa Road, killing at least 17 people and wounding over 100. Hamas' military wing Izz Eddin Al-Qassam claims responsibility. Following the bombing, some 100 Jewish right-wing activists attack Arabs at Mahane Yehuda market and Zion Square, but are pushed back by police.

June 14: Hundreds of Israeli peace activists attend a rally outside the Old City, calling for an end to the current violence.

June 17: Israeli authorities demolish a house in East Jerusalem for being built without a permit.

- Mufti Sheikh Ekrima Sabri is questioned at the WJM Police HQ in connection to the allegations against officials of the Islamic Movement in Israel who are suspected of transferring funds to groups linked to 'terror' activities.

June 25: Israeli forces demolish the house of Ghazi Ibrahim Wazwaz in Hizma for being built without permit.

June 30: *Al-Quds* reports about a new plan by the Israeli DM regarding the separation fence to include Rachel's Tomb and Ma'ale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev and Givon settlements, and some Palestinian neighborhoods such as Abu Dis, Izzariyya, Anata, Hizma and Beit Iksa.

July 2: Israeli authorities demolish the house of Fawzi Abu Rmeileh in Beit Hanina for being built without a permit.

July 4: Israeli riot police deny access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque to men under the age of 40, in an alleged attempt to stop potential unrest in the Old City.

July 14: Israeli forces hand demolition orders to several residents of Ras Khamis (Shu'fat), Jabal Al-Mukabber, Sur Baher and Sawahreh Ash-Sharqiyya.

July 18: Following a petition by several Palestinians to the High Court of Justice to protest the expropriation of their land, Atty-Gen. Elyakim Rubinstein and State Prosecutor Edna Arbel tour the site of the planned 'Jerusalem envelope' fence that will surround Jerusalem.

July 22: Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres has suggested resolving the Jerusalem Question by putting its holy sites under UN stewardship and declaring a holy area of sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Old City as 'world capital,' with the UN Sec.-Gen. serving as mayor.

- Israeli police protects groups of Jews allowed to perform religious rituals on Al-Haram Ash-Sharif.

July 23: Israeli police and officials from the WJM, the National Insurance Institute and the WJM's Arnona Dept. raid Shu'fat RC, arresting over 200 residents for questioning and taking photos of recently-built houses.

July 25: Palestinians pray in the streets after Israeli police put up roadblocks in neighborhoods adjacent to the Old City and restrict access for Muslims under the age of 40 to Al-Haram Ash-Sharif.

July 26: Israeli forces expropriate 136 dunums of lands owned by Palestinians from Sur Baher to make way for the construction of the separation fence. Further 46 dunums have been expropriated in Abu Dis.

July 27: Meretz faction leader Zahava Gal-On asks for the disqualification of a "racist" bill by MK Aryeh Eldad (National Union) that calls for "evacuating" Arab East Jerusalem neighborhoods to reduce the security risk for Jews there.

July 29: Israeli forces demolish the second floor of a house owned by Musa As-Silfeiti in Silwan for being built without permit.

July 30: After Israeli police suspend visits to the Al-Aqsa Mosque for non-Muslims, fearing Palestinian protests, right-wing MKs say they will organize daily rotation of MKs to visit the compound.

Aug. 2: *Yediot Ahronot* reports that Israeli Housing Min. Effi Eitam plans to accommodate thousands of Jews in East Jerusalem, especially in Ras Al-Amud and Wadi Al-Joz.

Aug. 3: In a shooting attack at a settler car near Walaja, four settlers from Har Gilo, south of Jerusalem - a woman and her three children - are wounded. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claim responsibility.

Aug. 5-6: Right-wing MKs reiterate their plan to go to the 'Temple Mount' tomorrow, on the occasion of Tisha B'Av (traditional Jewish day of mourning for the destruction of the First and Second Temples), despite opposition from the police and pleas from Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin (Likud) and other ministers, incl. Interior Min. Avraham Poraz (Shinui) who says such a visit "would be an unnecessary provocation," and Infrastructure Min. Joseph Paritzky (Shinui), stating that "Apparently there are MKs who are tired of the quiet and of the attempt to reach a diplomatic agreement and they want to reignite the fire of the

Intifada." Likud MKs Yehiel Hazan and Inbal Gavrieli stress their determination to enter the compound, saying "Every Jew has the right to go to the Temple Mount," and that due to their "parliamentary immunity, nobody can stop [them]."

- The High Court of Justice hears a petition by the Temple Mount Faithful against the police's refusal to allow Jews to visit the Al-Aqsa compound, as they want to lay the cornerstone for the 'third temple' a day later at Tisha B'Av. The next day, the petition is turned down for security reasons.

Aug. 7: Israeli police prevents Likud MK Yehiel Hazan – head of the Yesha lobby in the Knesset - from entering the 'Temple Mount'/Al-Aqsa compound due to "security considerations."

- The Waqf publishes a statement in the local media, calling on Palestinians and Muslims in Israel to come to Jerusalem and "protect the Mount from attempts of Jewish extremists to force their way into the compound."

Aug. 9: Residents of Nu'man, Izzariyya, Abu Dis and Sheikh Sa'ad receive military orders announcing the confiscation of 490 dunums of agricultural lands needed for the construction of the separation fence.

Aug. 10: Jerusalem District Court convicts Othman Kianyah from Silwan of attempting to poison food at the Café Rimon where he used to work, as well as of conspiracy.

Aug. 11: Waqf Dir. Adnan Hussein denounces as "an unnecessary provocation" the statement of Israel's Public Security Min. Hanegbi that the "Temple Mount" would open to non-Muslims next week, even "unilaterally," if the Waqf did not agree, adding that "the Waqf is the only authority."

- Israeli forces hand 20 house demolitions orders to residents of Beit Hanina's Al-Ashqariyeh area, for having built without permits. Among the owners are the Zaloum, Al-Khatib, Idris, Shweiki and Burqan families.

- In Silwan, Israeli bulldozers demolish a garage owned by Jawad Siam.

- In At-Tur, Israeli bulldozers demolish a 900-m wall belonging to Mohammed Ahmad Hadrah for being constructed 'illegally.'

Aug. 12: Israeli forces demolish the houses of Omar Sara and Mohammed Attiyeh in Jabal Mukabber to make way for the separation fence. Some 60 other demolition orders are handed to residents in the area.

- In Sur Baher, Israeli bulldozers demolish two houses, one belonging to Mohammed Abed Rayyan, the other to Mohammed Ali Nimr.

Aug. 13: Israeli forces destroy five homes in Walaja, claiming they were built without permission.

- In Sur Baher, Jabal Al-Mukabber and Sawahreh Ash-Sharqiyya Israeli forces hand residents confiscation orders for 173 dunums of land to build the separation fence.

Aug. 17: Israeli forces demolish two houses in Beit Hanina– belonging to Saleh Mahmoud Muheddin and Khader Al-Ja'bari – and one in Issawiyya, owned by Khaled Mahmoud - for being built without permit.

Aug. 18: Israeli forces demolish 17 structures, incl. houses, walls, and barracks: in Sawahreh Ash-Sharqiyya the second floor of a house owned by Mohammed Qrei'a and a home belonging to Tawfiq Sarkhi, in nearby Abed Ash-Shayyah, two houses, three barracks and two rooms belonging to the Shqeirat family.

Aug. 19: Near Road No. 1 and Mea Shearim, Palestinian suicide bomber, Ra'ed Abdel Hamid Misk, 29, an Iman from Hebron, blows himself up on a bus packed with Jews returning from the Western Wall, killing at least 20 and wounding over 100 people. Hamas and Islamic Jihad claim responsibility, though Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi claims from Gaza that Hamas was not involved, saying "We are committed to the truce."

- *Ha'aretz* reports that Israel has issued land expropriation orders for its "Jerusalem Envelope" fence, which will put some 50,000 West Bank Palestinians on the Israeli side of the barrier while leaving tens of thousands of Palestinian Jerusalemites cut off from relatives, schools and jobs.

Aug. 20: After Israeli police allows non-Muslims to enter Al-Haram Ash-Sharif, some 350 Jewish and Christian tourists visit the compound for two hours. While nationalist Jews had pressed for the opening religious Jewish figures criticize it, saying visitors may tread accidentally on areas where the two Jewish Temples once stood, with Shmuel Rabinowitz, rabbi of the Western Wall, putting up a sign announcing that Jews should not ascend to the mount.

- Israeli forces demolish two Palestinian houses in Silwan belonging to Izz Eddin Shweiki and Khitam Abdel Razzeq, as well as warehouses and offices owned by Fawzi Al-Khalayleh.

- Israel's Security Cabinet approves the new route of the 'Jerusalem Envelope,' part of the separation fence (the plans are not been made public), which will affect mainly lands belonging to Beit Sahour and Izzariyya.

Aug. 21: Israeli police close Al-Aqsa compound to non-Muslims after one hour of opening it to tourists and secular Israelis but not to religious Jews.

- The Islamic Movement (in Israel) condemns the decision of Public Security Min. Tzachi Hanegbi to allow Jews to enter the Al-Aqsa compound.

Aug. 23: The Islamic Movement organizes the "The Al-Aqsa Children Fund Festival" on Al-Haram Ash-Sharif, to protest the reopening of the site to non-Muslims and to raise funds for activities in protection of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Aug. 24: Israeli police allows a group of about 40 Jews, incl. some extremist from the Temple Mount Faithful and the Chai Vekayam movement, to enter and tour Al-Aqsa Compound for some 90 minutes. Some additional 60 Jews are allowed to make "ordinary" visits to the compound.

- Israeli forces hand residents from Beit Iksa, Beit Surik and Qalunya villages confiscation orders over 1,628 dunums of agricultural land for the construction of the separation fence and Abu Dis residents over 45 dunums.

Aug. 25: Muslim worshipers clash with Israeli policemen after trying to prevent Jewish visitors from entering the Al-Aqsa compound at the Mughrabi Gate during the new visiting hours for tourists.

Aug. 26: Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge Haim Li-Ran refuses to order Waqf official Mustafa Abu Zahara away from Al-Haram Ash-Sharif for two months after he was arrested for preventing Jews from entering the compound.

- Residents of Sur Baher receive new orders regarding plans to connect Har Homa with Ma'ale Adumim as part of the separation fence.

Aug. 27: Dozens of Palestinians demonstrate against the construction of Israel's 'security fence' in Abu Dis, which will separate the village from the rest of the West Bank.

Aug. 28: Israeli bulldozers demolish five shops belonging to Iyad Sa'ida and Jamal Khouyes and a cement wall in At-Tur for being built without permits.

Aug. 29: Israeli police limits entry to the Al-Aqsa Mosque to Muslims with Israeli ID cards over the age of 45.

Aug. 31: Israeli police removes three Jewish visitors belonging to the Temple Mount Faithful and the Chai Vekayam movement from Al-Aqsa compound, after they begin to pray and bow down. The incident occurred during a visit by a activists led by Yehuda Etzion, the leader of. Etzion and two other members of the group were issued an order to keep away from the Temple Mount for the next 15 days.

- Wafa reports about more land being confiscated in Abu Dis and new confiscation orders handed to residents of Shayyah for the construction of the separation fence.

Sept. 1: Over 800 Al-Quds University students hold a rally calling to stop construction of the 'security fence' which passes through the university's campus in Abu Dis.

Sept. 2: Israeli forces demolish the house of Omar Iweissat in Jabal Al-Mukabber for being built without permit.

Aug. 3: Near the Old City's Dung Gate, Israeli settlers take over a two-story Palestinian house belonging to the Serandaj family.

- Israeli forces demolish a room and a wall surrounding the house of Issa Abu Sukar in Jabal Al-Mukabber.

- In Abu Dis, more residents receive demolition and confiscation orders for the construction of the separation fence. Among those concerned is the Cliff Hotel near Ras Kubsa.

Sept. 4: In reversion of a long-held halakhic rulings, the Yesha Rabbis Council, rabbis Dov Lior, Daniel Shiloh and Nahum Rabinowitz -issues a ruling, saying Jews can visit the Al-Aqsa compound because "the doubts have been removed" about the location of the original temples, so there was no more danger that the sancticity of the place was violated by treading on the wrong spot.

Sept. 8: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Israeli army refuses to remove an old Jordanian mine field near Sur Baher to prepare for the building of an Arab school, saying the army would not domsuch work for "civil purposes".

Sept. 9: A suicide bomber – Ramez Izzeddin Abu Slim, from Rantis near Ramallah – blows himself up at the Hillel Café in the German Colony, killing at least six people and injuring 40 others. Hamas' Izz Eddin Al-Qassam claims responsibility. A few hours earlier, another Hamas attack at Tzrifin military base had left at least eight soldiers dead.

- *Ha'aretz* reevals that a report prepared by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies for the WJM – entitled "Master Plan for Educational Institutions in East Jerusalem" - shows that some 40% (or 400) of classrooms in East Jerusalem do not meet minimum standards. The report states that due 7%-annual growth rate of Palestinian school-age children in the city, East Jerusalem schools need 40 new classrooms every year. To overcome the current shortage, residential structures are rented and converted into -inadequate – classrooms.

Sept. 12: Israeli police storms Al-Aqsa compound, firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing demonstrators protesting Israel's decision to "in principle" expel Pres. Arafat.

Sept. 15: Israeli bulldozers level hundreds of dunums of cultivated land in the Sheikh Sa'ad, Sawahreh Sharqiyya and Wadi An-Nar areas belonging to the Iweissat, Mansour, Mashhour, Shqeirat and Mashahra families to make way for the separation fence.

Sept. 16: Israeli forces demolish the house of Rashid Shehada in Ras Khamis and, for the second time, the houses of Khader Al-Ja'bari and Abdel-Hadi Al-Hiroub in Beit Hanina.

Sept. 19: In Abu Dis, Palestinian youths clash with Israeli border police, during a demonstration in protest of the construction of part of the separation fence in the town, aimed at cutting East Jerusalem of the West Bank.

Sept. 21: Israeli forces demolish the house of Rashid Za'atreh in Izzariyya, which is built to close to a new bypass road connecting Ma'ale Adumim with the city center.

Sept. 22: Israeli forces demolish a three-story building belonging to Mohammed Taleb As-Sayad in Shayyah for being built illegally.

- At the intersection of the Al-Izzariyya, At-Tur and Az-Za'im neighborhoods, Israeli bulldozers demolish a house belonging to Rashid Za'atreh.

Sept. 24: JCSE reports that Israeli authorities have deported Ali Amin Salem Shqeirat, a father of five, from Jabal Al-Mukabber to Bethlehem on the grounds of 'illegal residency.'

Sept. 26: Israeli police bans men under 40 from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound for Friday prayers, citing fear for possible clashes.

Sept. 28: A group of settlers attacks the home of Taleb Abu Hadwan, located near the Old City's Bab Al-Maghrabeh, and destroys the tires of cars parked nearby.

Sept. 30: *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli DM is to change the path of the separation fence in Abu Dis in order to prevent the razing of 62 dunums from land belonging to Al-Quds University.

Oct. 8: Israeli forces demolish the home of Shafi Shafi in Silwan for being built without a permit.

- Israeli authorities hand a house demolition notice to Isma'il Shkeirat from Sawahreh Ash-Sharqiyya for lacking a construction permit.

- News are released about three East Jerusalem Palestinians - Nissim Za'atari and Majdi Za'atari from Ar-Ram and Abdullah Sharabati from Wadi Al-Joz - who were already arrested on 10 Sept. on suspicion of involvement in the 19 Aug. suicide bombing near Road No. 1 and other planned attacks.

Oct. 12: Hundreds of religious Jews are allowed to visit Al-Aqsa Compound in groups accompanied by Waqf officials and police.

Oct. 13: Israeli police prevents the Temple Mount Faithful to hold a Sukkoth ceremony on Al-Haram Ash-Sharif

Oct. 20: Data released from the 2002 Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem, which is published annually by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, shows that over the last decade, some 164,400 people - mainly secular Jews - have left Jerusalem, while only 97,300 new residents - mainly religious Jews - have moved in. In 2002, 16,400 people left the city, and 9,700 moved in. Of the city's total population of 680,400 Jews constituted 67% and Arabs 33%, whereby the Arab population is far younger than the Jewish.

Oct. 21: Israeli bulldozers raze 200 dunums of As-Sawahreh Ash-Sharqiyya agricultural land and uproot some 500 olive trees.

Oct. 23: Israeli forces demolish a two-story house under construction in Dahiet As-Salam, Anata, belonging to Mohammed Khader, Abdul Jawad and Lafi 'Eid, and two apartments belonging to Rafiq Ahmad Abu Sneineh in Beit Hanina for being built without license.

Nov. 9: According to plans by the Israeli defense establishment, the separation fence east of Jerusalem will extend to the Allon Road and Wadi Qelt, and encompass Ma'ale Adumim, Mishor Adumim industrial zone, Adam and Kfar Adumim settlement and Hizma and Anata villages. The latest revision to the route in north Jerusalem leaves Ar-Ram east of the fence. The fence will be integrated into the E-1 plan.

Nov. 11: The Jerusalem District Court sentences three East Jerusalemites - Sufian Abado, 24, Musa Nasser, 23, and Othman Kianiyah, 23 - to 5-10 years in prison after convicting them of conspiracy over a plan to poison diners at the West Jerusalem Cafe Rimon in 2002.

Nov. 14: The Israeli army prevents men under 45 years and women under 35 years from attending Friday prayer's at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Nov. 20: Following opposition from groups such as Friends of Al-Aqsa and others, the publishing house HarperCollins has agreed not to name Jerusalem as capital of Israel anymore but use the footnote "*de facto* capital, disputed."