Jerusalem Chronology

2018

January

- Jan. 1: The Likud Central Committee passes a resolution urging MKs to advance the Greater Jerusalem Bill aimed to annex the large West Bank settlements around Jerusalem (Ma'ale Adumim, Givat Zeev and the settlements in the Etzion bloc) to the, which was put on hold on 30 October 2017.
- Jan. 2: The Knesset passes an amendment to the 'Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel' which among many harmful effects will make it easier for the Knesset to pass legislation to change Jerusalem's municipal borders to *de facto* annex settlements, and/or cut out Palestinian neighborhoods.
- A bill, an amendment to the Basic Law on Jerusalem that requires a special two-thirds majority vote (i.e., 80 out of 120 MKs) to relinquish any part of Jerusalem to the Palestinians under a future peace accord passes its second and third readings by a vote of 64:51 and one abstention.
- Israeli forces demolished a home owned by Imad Ayad in Beit Hanina town for being built without license.
- Haaretz reports that the Jewish National Fund is working together with the right-wing Elad group to evict the Sumreen family from their Silwan home.
- Jan. 3: In violation of a longstanding agreement between Jordan and Israel, which prevents non-Muslim religious rituals at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a group of Israelis performs a marriage ritual inside the compound.
- A bill granting the Minister of Interior full discretion to revoke the permanent residency status of Palestinian residents living in East Jerusalem, or of residents living on the Golan Heights, if, "according to his opinion," the resident is suspected of a breach of trust against the state of Israel (i.e., of being involved in terrorist activity) passes its preliminary reading in the Knesset. The bill would mainly target East Jerusalem Palestinians who attack/have attacked Israelis as well as Hamas members.
- **Jan. 4:** New B'Tselem data shows that in 2017, Israeli forces destroyed 61 housing units in Jerusalem, leaving 155 people homeless, including 86 minors.
- Jan. 7: The KKL-Jewish National Fund sues to evict the Palestinian Sumarin family from its home in Silwan (next to the City of David's Visitors' Center) in favor of settlers.
- Jan. 8: About 34 Jewish extremists tour Al-Aqsa Mosque compound under tight security from Israeli forces.
- Israeli authorities permit excavation work in the Wadi Al-Rababa area of Silwan as part of the plan to construct a bridge (approximately 179 m long and 30 m high) to connect Ath-Thori with Al-Nabi Daoud area.
- **Jan. 11:** Over 40 Jewish extremists as well as 37 yeshiva students enter Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, escorted by Israeli forces.
- **Jan. 14:** Terrestrial Jerusalem reports that the Jerusalem Development Authority has commenced construction of a foot bridge over the Hinnom Valley between Abu Tor and Mount Zion as part of the planning for the cable car, although there are no statutory plans or building permits yet.
- Some 80 settlers accompanied by 25 soldiers tour Al-Agsa Mosque compound.
- **Jan. 14-15:** The PLO Central Council convening in Ramallah decides to reactivate the Jerusalem Secretariat (which was the first municipal council elected in Jerusalem under the Jordanians in 1955) to fill the Jerusalemites' urgent need for a Palestinian body in charge of their daily needs.
- **Jan. 17:** Haaretz reports that the Israeli military is examining the possibility of assuming responsibility for security in the Shu'fat refugee camp and in Kufr Aqab, which are within the Jerusalem municipal borders but cut off from the city by the separation barrier and are home to some 140,000 Palestinians.
- During pre-dawn raids, Israeli police detain five minors from East Jerusalem, all between 14 and 17 years old.
- Israeli settlers from the Ramot settlement, which is built on lands of Beit Iksa, puncture the tires of several vehicles and spray painted "racist slogans" on in the village of Beit Iksa.
- Israeli forces demolished a home {consisting of 2 rooms} owned by the Al-Hadad family in Beit Hanina town for being built without a license.
- **Jan. 22:** At a working lunch with the EU's 28 Foreign Ministers and President Abbas, EU High Representative Federica Mogherini says: "I want to reassure President Abbas of the firm commitment of the European Union to the two-State solution, with Jerusalem as shared capital of the two states."
- Jan. 24: Speaking to media ahead of meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu at the World Economic Forum in Davos, US President Trump says that Israeli-Palestinian talks "never got past Jerusalem. We took it off the

table. We don't have to talk about it anymore." Trump also threatens to cut aid to Palestinians if they don't accept his terms, including Jerusalem's recognition as Israel's capital.

Jan. 26: Overnight in Beit Safafa, settlers spray-paint racist anti-Arab graffiti on Palestinian property saying "Death to the Arabs" and "Price Tag" and torch a Palestinian-owned vehicle.

Jan. 29: At a meeting with President Abbas in Amman, Jordan's King Abdullah assures the Palestinians he will defend their "legitimate rights" to independence and a capital in East Jerusalem in dealings with the international community.

Jan. 31: Israeli forces detain at least 30 Palestinians during pre-dawn raids in Issawiya.

- Israeli forces demolish a home owned by Riyad Ra'fat Shweiki in Beit Hanina for being built without a license.

February

- **Feb. 1:** The EU has allocated over €14 million to support Palestinian projects in occupied East Jerusalem intended to preserve the Palestinian existence and identity in the city.
- **Feb. 3:** The Jerusalem municipality announces that it will start collecting arnona (municipal property taxes) from multi-purpose properties owned by the UN and many of the city's churches, saying new legal examination indicates that the municipality should exercise its power to collect the taxes that it had refrained from doing until now, claiming that while places of worship are excused from payment, churches have been evading taxes on commercial properties, accumulating years' worth of debt. That debt reportedly amounts to some NIS 650 million worth of taxes from 887 properties.
- **Feb. 4:** The PA slams a decision by the Jerusalem municipality to end tax exemptions for church-owned properties as a new aggression against Palestinians in the city.
- **Feb. 7:** The Jerusalem Planning and Construction Committee recommends approval of a plan to build the "Uzia Promenade" to connect the settler enclaves of Beit Orot and Beit HaHoshen on the Mount of Olives. The implementation of the plan requires the expropriation of private Palestinian land. A proposal for a visitors' center on the Mount of Olives is also being advanced.
- Israeli Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel calls for building the Jewish temple in place of Al-Aqsa Mosque in retaliation for the killing of an Israeli settler, saying at his funeral, "The time has come for the recognition of the right of Jews in this land and time has come to build the Temple Mount."
- Israeli forces demolish a home owned by Ali Ta'ma Hamidat in Silwan for being built without a license.
- Feb. 8: Under the protection of Israeli forces, 44 Jewish extremists and 33 US soldiers tour Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- **Feb. 10:** Israeli forces shut down a celebration honoring retired Palestinian teachers in East Jerusalem on the grounds that it was organized by the Palestinian Directorate of Education, with the Palestinian Minister of Education, Sabri Saidam, and several ministry officials set to attend. The Al-Shabbat Al-Muslimat School, where the event was to take place, is declared a closed zone.
- **Feb. 12:** Israeli forces raid Al-Issawiya at night, shooting at homes and vehicles and causing material damage.
- Feb. 13: Israeli forces demolish a Palestinian shop in Al-Issawiya for being built without a permit.
- In a news conference in Moscow after meeting Grand Mufti of Russia Rawil Gaynetdin, President Abbas calls for holding an international conference on the status of Jerusalem.
- Feb. 15: Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi visits Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- A group of Jewish settlers attack and severely beat Palestinian worshippers as they were exiting Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.
- As are part of Israel's attempts to take full control of Jerusalem, Israeli authorities have completed the construction of a police watchtower checkpoint right outside the entrance of Damascus Gate. In addition, surveillance cameras have been set up at almost every corner in and around the Old City to monitor all activity.
- **Feb. 16:** Although a court ordered the Jerusalem municipality to stop work on the new Ein Yael checkpoint between Jerusalem and the Har Gilo settlement, work continues without a permit. The checkpoint will block Walaja's residents from accessing their lands, and cut them off from the Ein Haniya spring and other water resources.
- **Feb. 17:** Israeli authorities complete the construction of a watchtower checkpoint at the entrance of Damascus Gate.
- **Feb. 18:** Israeli authorities force a Palestinian family in Silwan to demolish their store to avoid the high costs of paying for Israeli bulldozers.
- **Feb. 19:** Overnight, Israeli forces detain five Palestinians from Silwan, two of them 14 years old, and one from Issawiya.

Feb. 20: Israeli forces raid the Jabal Al-Baba Bedouin community in Al-Izzariya and demolish a home owned by Musa Al-Jahalin for being built without a license.

Feb. 21: Israeli bulldozers demolish a house and an agricultural structure belonging to Saleh Abu Khdeir in Shu'fat as well as a cosmetic salon belonging to Daoud Muheisen in Beit Hanina.

- Israeli authorities approve plans for the construction of 3,000 new settlement units in an approx. 280-dunum area between Gilo settlement and the bypass road area.

Feb. 22: During pre-dawn raids, Israeli forces detain at least five Palestinians, two from Issawiya, two from the Old City, and one from Shu'fat refugee camp.

Feb. 23: The State Department announces plans to open the new US Embassy to Israel in Jerusalem in May 2018. to coincide with Israel's 70th anniversary.

Feb. 24: Palestinians condemn the news that the new US Embassy in Jerusalem will open in May 2018, coinciding with the anniversary of what the Nakba.

- Turkey says that the US decision to open an embassy in Jerusalem in May disregarded declarations by the UN and OIC and showed the US insisted on damaging peace.
- Israeli forces storm the Philadelphia Restaurant on Az-Zahra Street where Palestinian journalists gathered to eat, search it, force all guests to leave, and order it closed until the next day, on the ground that it was organized by the DFLP, which Israel considers a "terrorist organization".

Feb. 25: Christian leaders in Jerusalem protest an Israeli bill to expropriate church property and a plan to charge the church 650 million NIS in back taxes by shutting down the Church of the Holy Sepulcher indefinitely. **Feb. 26:** After talks between EU and Arab League foreign ministers, both sides affirm that Jerusalem must be a joint capital, and EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini says that the "special status and character of the

Feb. 27: Israeli authorities impose a four-day "security closure" on the OPT for the Jewish holiday of Purim.

- Haaretz reports that the Elad settler group has just been awarded a permit bypassing planning authorities and an orderly planning process for building Israel's longest zipline over Jerusalem's Old City, which will be 784 m long and run from the Armon Hanatziv promenade to the Peace Forest in Abu Tor.
- The office of Israeli prime minister announces the government's decision to suspend legislation regarding collecting taxes from churches and their properties and appoint a "professional team" to come up with a solution to the tax measures which sparked protests.

Feb. 28: The Church of the Holy Sepulcher reopens its gates after a three-day closure in protest of Israeli policies that church leaders said were aimed at weakening the Christian presence in Jerusalem.

March

city must be preserved."

March 5: Following Trump, Guatemala's President Jimmy Morales announces that his country's embassy in Israel will move to Jerusalem two days after the US's, adding he's 'sure many other countries will follow in our steps'.

March 6: Israeli bulldozers demolish a cement wall and a carwash belonging to Abed Odeh in Silwan.

- Israeli forces demolish part of a home owned by the Muheisen family in Beit Hanina for being built without a license.

March 7: The Knesset passes the "Breach of Loyalty" bill, allowing the Interior Minister to revoke the permanent residency status of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, if the status was granted under false pretenses, if the resident endangered public safety or security (by engaging in terror or other anti-Israel activities) or betrays the State of Israel. In addition, the law allows the state to deport anyone whose residency status is withdrawn.

March 8: Israeli Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan issues an order to bar an event organized by the Association of Women for Equality and Democracy on International Women's Day at the Saint George Hotel near Salah Eddin Street, claiming it was organized by the PA to undermine Israeli sovereignity over East Jerusalem. Israeli police also raid the hotel.

March 12: Israeli forces detain 10 Palestinians overnight from Issawiya, Anata, Shu'fat and Shu'fat refugee camp.

- At night, Israeli forces raid Al-Mujahideen cemetery and destroy several tombstones belonging to graves in which Palestinians are buried who were killed by Israeli forces during the wave of violence that erupted in October 2015.

March 14: The Knesset Internal Affairs and Environment Committee meets to discuss the pressure on the population registry office in East Jerusalem.

March 15: HaMoked, in collaboration with WAC-MAAN Workers Union submits a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court in relation demanding that the Israeli Employment Bureau must allow Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem to receive services not only from the office at the East Jerusalem Interior Ministry but also from employment centers in West Jerusalem in order to alleviate the overcrowding and unacceptable conditions at the former.

- Addameer reports that Israel has detained 1,319 Palestinians during January-February 2018, some 381 of them from Jerusalem.

March 18: In order to avoid the heavy municipal demolition fee, Ishaq Shweiki is forced to demolish his home in Silwan for being built without a permit.

- Abed Al-Rahman Bani Fadel, is from the village of Aqraba, near Nablus, is killed after fatally stabbing a settler in the Old City of Jerusalem.
- Overnight, Israeli forces detain five Palestinians, including a minor, from East Jerusalem.

March 19: Israeli settlers damage and vandalize several Palestinian vehicles in Hizma in what appears to be a "price tag attack."

- Israeli police arrest eight Palestinians, including a 15-year-old boy and two people in their 60s all vendors or passersby's at the scene of the stabbing attack a day earlier, accusing them of "not preventing a crime," which can carry a sentence of two years in prison.
- Israeli forces force Faisal Mohammed Musa Jumaa to demolish his house in the Al-Shiyah area of Jabal Al-Mukabber for being built without a license.
- The Director of Land Registration at Israel's Ministry of Justice announces the mandatory opening of registration of lands in East Jerusalem, including in the neighborhoods of Beit Hanina, Sur Baher, Sheikh Jarrah, Hizma, Shu'fat, and As-Suwaneh.

March 21: Israeli forces raid the Shu'fat refugee camp before dawn, breaking into homes and detaining 20 Palestinians.

- Israeli forces raid Al-Makassed Hospital in At-Tur, allegedly in search of a Palestinian youth who had fled towards the hospital.

March 22: Israeli forces carry out massive search and detention raids in Shufat refugee camp for the second day in a row, arresting 16 Palestinians.

March 25: Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge Shmuel Herbst rejects a police request to distance three 14-year-old Jewish girls who prayed near the gates to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, saying that the right of young Jewish women to pray at those gates was no less than the right of the Arabs and that police should allow the young women's prayers.

- Israeli forces attack Palestinian Christians on Palm Sunday as they participate in the annual procession that commemorates the arrival of Jesus to Jerusalem before his crucifixion, confiscating Palestinian flags and barring the Palestinian Christian Scout Teams from marching down its traditional route to the Church.

March 26: *Haaretz* reports that Israeli police in Jerusalem have green-lighted a religious ceremony which involves the slaughter of a Passover lamb closer to Al-Aqsa Mosque compound than ever before: at the entrance to the Davidson Center, next to the Western Wall.

March 29: Israel imposes a comprehensive 8-day closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, because of the Jewish holiday of Pessach.

March 30: Palestinians in Jerusalem closed all local mosques to hold a mass prayer service at Al-Aqsa Mosque in protest of flyers hung up by the right-wing "Return to the Mount" organization across the Old City, telling Palestinians to leave Al-Aqsa because settlers want to celebrate the holiday of Passover there.

March 31: Israeli police attack peaceful demonstrators at Damascus Gate observing a national day of mourning after Israeli forced killed at least 15 protesters in Gaza the previous day.

- A group of settlers enter Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during the Jewish Passover holiday.

April

April 1: 274 settlers break into the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque during the morning prayer.

April 2: Some 294 settlers enter the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque during the morning prayer.

April 3: The Jordanian government has filed an official protest with the Foreign Ministry over the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court's 25 March decision to reject the petition of the police to distance three 14-year-old girls who had prayed at the entrance to Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

April 5: In Beit Hanina, several private cars are vandalized and damaged in a "price tag" incident, including slashed tires and Anti-Arab graffiti sprayed on several vehicles.

April 8: Israeli forces evict members of the Ruwadi family from three houses in Silwan at the request of the Elad settler group which claims it purchased them. A court order to halt the eviction came only after the evictions had taken place, thus the houses will remain empty until further notice.

April 12: The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court rejects an appeal by the Jerusalem Municipality to prevent a dialogue event meant to explain why activists plan to hold a joint Israeli- Palestinian memorial ceremony in Tel Aviv on Remembrance Day next week.

- Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman issues an order to close the Elia Youth Media Foundation on Salah Eddin Street, claiming it is a "terrorist" group affiliated with the PFLP.

April 15: At the opening of the Arab League summit in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Saudi King Salman announces a \$150-million donation for the maintenance of Islamic heritage and to "support the administration of Jerusalem's Islamic property."

April 19: Defying EU Policy, Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dncil submits a draft resolution to the cabinet that would move the Romanian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and the speaker of the Romanian parliament states in an interview that his country intends to move its embassy.

April 20: Romanian President Klaus Iohannis speaks out against government's proposal to move embassy to Jerusalem, saying Prime Minister Dncil did not consult him before submitting draft proposal to cabinet a day earlier and that move could only occur after peace process completed.

April 23: A group of right-wing extremist settlers vandalize dozens of Palestinian-owned vehicles and spray paint racist anti-Arab graffiti on homes in Beit Iksa.

- German Chancellor Angela Merkel has issued a public statement assuring her country will not relocate its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, maintaining Germany's official rejection of a unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and saying, "We have to work for the two-state solution, and according to that, the status of Jerusalem should be clarified."
- Israeli authorities uproot at least 60 olive trees belonging to the Nimr, Dweiyat, Awad and Amira families in Sur Baher near the Armon Hanatziv neighborhood, where 180 new housing units are planned for Israelis (Plan No. 7977).

April 24: The Jerusalem Municipality deposits for public review a plan (No. 470484) for the confiscation of 1.3 dunums in the Jewish cemetery in the Mt. of Olives, adjacent to the Ras Al-Amud mosque, in order to build a visitor center there.

April 25: *Haaretz* reports that work has begun on a new 180-unit neighborhood in East Jerusalem for former defense establishment employees on land adjacent to Armon Hanatziv which was expropriated in the 1970s from residents of Sur Baher.

- The former chairman of the Israeli Palestinian Bereaved Families for Peace, Aziz Abu Sarah, and Israeli researcher and co-director of the Israel Palestine Creative Initiatives think tank Gershon Baskin announce that they will run a joint list, equally divided between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs and with an equal number of candidates of each gender, in the upcoming municipal elections scheduled for November.

April 26: Israeli forces prevent the Waqf's Committee for the Reconstruction of Al-Aqsa Mosque from doing rehabilitation work inside Al-Aqsa Mosque.

- The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee has deposited for public review a plan, backed by settlers, to build a 6-story commercial building at the entrance of Sheikh Jarrah across the street from the so-called Glassman Complex.

April 27: Israeli authorities force the Ramadan family in Silwan to demolish their parking garage built without license to avoid NIS 60,000 in fines.

April 29: Using a March 2018 amendment to the Entry into Israel Law which empowers the Israeli Interior Minister to revoke the permanent residency status of any Palestinian suspected of a "breach of loyalty" to Israel, Interior Minister Aryeh Deri issues an order to strip three Palestinian PLC members - Mohammad Abu Teir, Ahmad Attoun, and Mohammad Totah — as well as former PA Minister of Jerusalem Affairs Khaled Abu Arafeh (all affiliated with Hamas) of their residency rights.

- At a special celebratory event in Asunción to mark Israel's 70th anniversary, Paraguay's President Horacio Cartes pledges to relocate his country's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Peace Now and Emek Shaveh file an appeal to the Jerusalem District Planning and Building Appeals Committee to stop the construction of a new footbridge over the Wadi Rababeh/Ben Hinnom Valley south of the Old City which is meant to provide a path from the slopes of Mount Zion to a plot of land in Abu Tor owned by the Elad settler group.

April 30: Palestinians hold a protest in Jerusalem's Bab Ar-Rahmah Cemetery outside of the eastern walls of the Old City, abutting Al-Aqsa Mosque. Israeli forces attack and arrest one of the protestors, Khaled Al-Zeer,

who is hospitalized and later released on bail along with an order barring him from the Old City and the Cemetery for 15 days.

May

May 1: Israeli forces demolish a three-story apartment building in Issawiya, which housed 17 people and was owned by Jamal Elayyan.

May 2: Israeli authorities serve home detention sentences to Hamed Obeid (10 days) and Suleiman Manasra (7 days) from Issawiya and Ali Abu Ghannam from At-Tur (7 days plus expulsion for one week from his house).

May 4: According to press reports, President Trump has asked Israel to withdraw from four East Jerusalem neighborhoods - Jabel Mukabber, Issawiya, Shu'fat and Abu Dis - in "exchange" for the embassy relocation and as part of the US administration's peace plan expected to be unveiled after the embassy opening.

May 5: Israeli authorities in Jerusalem issue a court order preventing Aya Abu Nab from entering Al-Aqsa mosque compound for 1 month as a condition for her release from detention.

- Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman tells Channel 2 that Israel will have to make concessions to the Palestinians after the US relocates its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, saying, "There is no free lunch."

May 7: At least three US Embassy road signs are hung up in Jerusalem ahead of next week's planned opening of the mission.

- Senior Palestinian official Saeb Erekat calls on foreign dignitaries in Israel and around the world to stay away from next week's opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem, so as not to endorse what he called Washington's "flagrant violations of international law."
- A Paraguay government spokesman announces that Paraguay will move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem by the end of May.

May 10: Israeli municipal authorities serve a resident of Al-Isawiyya a military order for the confiscation of a plot of his land allegedly required for settlement construction purposes.

May 12: A PA Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement strongly condemns the governments of Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic for blocking the release of a statement by the EU that rejected US plans to officially open its Israeli embassy in Jerusalem on Monday, May 14th.

- Israeli authorities order 9 Palestinians not to enter Bab Al-Rahmah Cemetery adjacent to the Al-Aqsa Mosque for five days as a condition for their release from detention.

May 13: Violent clashes erupt between the Waqf and the Israel Police at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound as a record number of Jews (1,620 according to Jewish sources) enter the site and a number of underage Israelis pray there, against regulations.

- Tens of thousands of religious Zionists and rightwing Israelis the vast majority of them teenage boys participate in the provocative annual Israeli 'Flag March' through the Old City's Muslim Quarter, marking the anniversary of the 1967 conquest of East Jerusalem.
- The Israeli cabinet approves NIS 2 billion over five years to strengthen Israeli sovereignty in East Jerusalem, with much of the funding allocated to oversee Palestinian schools using the Israeli curriculum (NIS 68.7 million), physically develop schools that opt for it (NIS 57.4 million), support rent for these schools (NIS 67 million), promote Hebrew-language studies (NIS 15 million), and fund informal education (NIS 206 million) as well as technology studies (NIS 15 million). Another NIS 350 million is allocated to develop the Old City and its surroundings, including events, and additional plans are, *inter alia*, to approve the transportation and health sectors. An NIS 200 million investment to construct a cable car from the First Station in the German Colony to the Dung Gate of the Old City is also approved.

May 14: Following President Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 and amid deadly violence on the Gaza Strip, the US formally opens its embassy in Jerusalem at the US consular compound in the Arnona neighborhood, which cuts across the 1949 Armistice Line. While the move delights Israelis, it has enraged Palestinians and Arabs and has drawn widespread international condemnation.

- Israeli authorities issue an order preventing Ahmad Al-Awar, a security guard at Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, and Shadi Al-Matour, from entering the site for 5 days as a condition for their release from detention.

May 15: Israeli police violently suppress a Palestinian gathering at Damascus Gate in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Nakba, injuring several protestors and blocking Damascus gate for several hours. Clashes also break out in Al-Izariyya, Abu Dis and At-Tur. Israeli forces arrest at least 26 Palestinians from the city.

May 16: Guatemala becomes the second country to officially move its embassy to Jerusalem, opening it in the Jerusalem's southern Malkha neighborhood.

May 17: The Arab League holds an emergency meeting after the opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem and violence along the Gaza border.

May 18: At Al-Aqsa Mosque, thousands of Muslims from across Israel and the West Bank attend the first Friday prayers of this year's Ramadan.

May 20: Israeli police shoot sound grenades and attack Palestinians who gathered Damascus Gate to protest the death of prisoner Aziz Awaisat, 53, from Jabal Mukabber, which is widely believed to have been caused by medical neglect.

- More than 10,000 Moroccans demonstrate in the streets of Casablanca against the US decision to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. The marchers carry Palestinian flags and placards that read "Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Palestine's eternal capital".

May 21: Israeli forces raid the Islamic Museum on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

May 22: During a tour of Bnei Brak Achiya organization for children with learning disabilities, US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman is photographed receiving an aerial image of Jerusalem bearing a simulation of the Third Temple instead of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

- Israeli police place iron gates on the stairs leading to the Old City's Damascus Gate to prevent Palestinians from gathering on the steps, as is customary, and use Damascus Gate as a checkpoint.

May 25: Thousands of Muslims from across Israel and the West Bank attend the second Friday prayers of Ramadan at Al-Agsa Mosque.

May 27: Near Pisgat Zeev settlement, Israeli police shoot a Palestinian woman in the legs, claiming she aroused suspicion after she did not heed calls to stop.

May 29: Israeli courts in Jerusalem city issue orders banning 5 Palestinian residents from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound for 7 days as a condition for their release from detention.

- Israeli police arrested a number of "mosaharatis" (the Ramadan drummers who march through Palestinian neighborhoods to wake up people for the last mealtime before the day's fast begins).

May 30: Jerusalem police have reportedly begun issuing tickets and detaining Palestinian *Musaharati* who awaken Muslims during Ramadan, calling them to pray and have a meal between 2:30 and 3 A.M., before the fast begins. This is the first time police interferes, apparently at the behest of Jewish settlers in the Muslim quarter.

June

June 1: The Trump administration is considering changing the status of the US Consulate General in Jerusalem, which handles Palestinian affairs, turning it into part of its new embassy in the city. If implemented, it will be seen as American recognition of Israeli control over east Jerusalem and the West Bank.

June 3: Several groups of settlers and other extremists tour Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, attempting to perform Jewish rituals although this is forbidden.

June 4: Israeli forces resume excavation work at the Bab Ar-Rahma Cemetery outside the Old City, where Israel plans to build a "national park."

June 5: Israeli forces attack Palestinian worshippers while escorting settler groups at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, arresting at least 15.

- Israeli authorities in Jerusalem ban Karim Alqam and Ahmad Al-Shafadi from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound for a period of 15 and 26 days, respectively, as a condition for their release from detention.

June 6: Israeli forces attack Palestinian worshipers and arrest at least 12 of them inside Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, as groups of Israeli settlers enter the site.

- The Argentine football team officially cancels its highly-publicized match against Israel - originally scheduled to be played in Haifa before the venue was changed to Jerusalem — after massive Palestinian protests denouncing the politicization of sports and other cultural events in order to mask the occupation.

June 7: Israeli police throw stun grenades at Palestinian worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and detain at least two young men during increased tensions at the site as some 87 Jewish extremists "tour" the compound in several groups.

June 8: Israeli police announce that Israelis would be barred from touring Al-Aqsa Mosque until the culmination of Ramadan on June 15.

- Per the orders of Israeli public security minister, Gilad Erdan, Israeli forces invade the Jerusalem Hotel on Nablus Road, disrupt an iftar event organized by the East Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce, arrest its chairman Kamal Obeidat as well as hotel manager Raed Sa'adeh, all on the grounds that the Chamber was affiliated with the PA.

June 10: Israeli government lawyers admit that the Justice Ministry's administrator general (formerly custodian general) had issued a title deed for 5.5 dunums of land in Silwan to the Benvenisti Trust which is controlled by the Ateret Cohanim settler group — without investigating the nature of the trust, the Ottomanera law that applies in the case, or the condition of the buildings now on the land before issuing the title deed in 2002. The move threatens some 700 Palestinians with eviction.

June 11: Some 350,000 worshipers pray Laylat al-Qadr at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

June 14: On the last evening of Ramadan, a group of young female settlers tries to invade Al-Aqsa Mosque through Bab Al-Hutta and Bab Faisal but is confronted and prevented by Palestinians inside the Mosque's courtyard before take away by Israeli police.

- Some 30 settlers provocatively perform religious rituals at Al-Aqsa Mosque's Al-Asbat Gate prompting Palestinians protests and delaying Palestinians from entering compound for prayers and breaking their fasts.
- After Russia recognized West Jerusalem as Israel's capital in April 2017, the Russian Embassy in Israel held for the first time its National Day reception at the Russian Compound in Jerusalem (as opposed to Tel Aviv).
- A plan for 325 new housing units in the settlement of Alon along the northern edge of the E-1/Ma'ale Adumim settlement bloc is deposited for objections.

June 18: Israeli forces detain the head of the security department of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and search the Bab Al-Rahma area while right-wing extremists tour the compound.

- During a meeting with King Abdullah in Amman to discuss regional developments and advancing the peace process and economic ties, Prime Minister Netanyahu reiterates Israel's commitment to maintaining the *status* quo regarding the holy sites in Jerusalem.
- Israeli forces raid the Ambassador Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah and order an event for Russia Day -hosted by the Palestinian-Russian Friendship Society and the Russian Embassy and attended by several PA members banned due to its association with "terrorist organizations." Six Palestinians are arrested.

June 21: During German Chancellor Angela Merkel's visit to Amman and day after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in Amman, Jordanian King Abdullah II says that there will not be peace in the Middle East without establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

- The Israeli Nature and Parks Authority and the Jerusalem Municipality accompanied by Israeli forces raze and level several lands: in Silwan near the Moroccans Gate area they break down and confiscate an iron gate and fences belonging to the Abu Hadwan family.
- Israeli forces raze a piece of land and uproot trees in Al-Thori.
- In Sur Baher, Israeli bulldozers raze a plot of land and destroy stones.
- In Wadi Al-Joz, Israeli bulldozers raze wires surrounding land belonging to several Palestinian families, and take down an iron gate near the Amr family house.
- As part of its response to a petition submitted on 15 March by Hamoked and others to the Israeli Supreme Court, the State announced that "residents of the eastern part of the city are entitled to receive a full range of services in Employment Service offices in the western part," stating that the condition at the Ministry of Interior, where the East Jerusalem bureau is located, "are far from satisfactory, to say the least."

June 22: Haaretz reports that Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan is advancing an amendment that would give Border Police forces operating in East Jerusalem immunity from lawsuits for damages they cause in the course of acting against terror or rioting. Under current law, this only applies to forces acting "on the grounds of combat activity" in the West Bank.

June 25: Israeli forces storm Wadi Yasoul area in Silwan and force Assad Al-Shweiki to demolish two homes still under construction for being built without a license.

- In Sur Baher, Ibrahim Amirah starts demolishing his home to avoid the NIS 90,000 fine in case the Israeli forces carry out the demolition.

June 26: Jerusalem municipal forces raid Hizma and demolish four agricultural structures, stone factories and a local shop as well as raze land to prevent owners from rebuilding - all under the pretext that the structures were built without difficult-to-obtain Israeli building permits.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish a house in the Talaat Hizma area of Beit Hanina.
- In Issawiya, Israeli bulldozers level roads leading to agricultural lands earmarked for confiscation to build an Israeli national park there.
- In At-Tur, Israeli forces raid the area and demolish a fence around a plot of land.
- The PLO Executive Committee affirms its unwavering support for the Palestinian boycott of the Jerusalem municipal elections due in October this year.
- Israeli authorities in Jerusalem issue an order for the deportation of Uday Sinokrot from his home in Ras Al-Amud to the West Bank for a period of 6 months as a condition for his release from detention.

June 27: Haaretz reports that in response to a petition filed by residents of East Jerusalem and human rights organizations Palestinians from East Jerusalem can now be served at the Employment Service bureaus in the western part of the city, although this does only apply to new applicants while those whose files were already opened in East Jerusalem must continue to obtain services there.

June 28: The Israeli government has deposited for public review six plans to expand the settlement of Pisgat Ze'ev, totaling 1,064 new settlement units.

June 30: OCHA reports a 12% increase in home demolitions in East Jerusalem over the first half of 2017.

July

July 2: Israeli forces demolish a parking lot owned by Musa Azmi Dweik as well as the roof to a store in Silwan.

July 3: PM Netanyahu decides that MKs can resume visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound as long as they don't do so more than once every three months and coordinate their visits with the police in advance.

- Israel's Civil Administration's Higher Planning Committee presents the six plans to build 1,064 new housing units in the Pisgat Zeev settlement.

July 4: The Knesset Interior and Environment Committee approves a bill backed by the Elad settler group that would allow for residential construction in areas zoned for national parks within municipal boundaries, such as the City of David "national park" in Silwan. The bill will now go to the Knesset plenum for its first of three votes.

- Israeli forces assault and injure demonstrators, including Governor Adnan Husseini, protesting against the planned demolition of Al-Khan Al-Ahmar and the displacement of its Bedouin community.

July 8: Escorted by Israeli forces, Israeli Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Uri Ariel, enters the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, followed a little later by MK Sharren Haskel (Likud).

- Israeli forces began to set up "caravan" mobile homes in Izzariya for the transportation of to-be-evacuated Khan Al-Ahmar residents.
- During predawn raids in Silwan, Israeli forces detain at least six Palestinian youths.

July 9: A group of Israeli settlers and 3 MKs, including Yehuda Glick, enter Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound protected by Israeli forces, and provoke worshipers.

July 14: Israeli forces raid Hind Al-Husseini College of Al-Quds University in Al-Sheikh Jarrah just before a Palestinian academic conference titled "The Fourth Academic Conference on the Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem" was set to begin there and briefly detained over a dozen participants, some of whom were summoned for questioning, including businessman Munib Al-Masri and former Mufti Ekrima Sabri. An order signed by Israeli Minister of Public Security Erdan criminalized the conference, claiming it was organized by the PA and meant to "undermine Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem" and "fan [the flames of] violence in the city."

July 17: In Shu'fat, Israeli bulldozers demolish the newly built house of Saleh Abu Khdeir, in addition to a surrounding wall and an agricultural structure.

- Israeli forces raid a school in Shu'fat and confiscate several office supplies and equipment for allegedly not paying taxes.
- In At-Tur, Israeli forces demolish a retaining wall surrounding a piece of Palestinian-owned land.
- A court in Jerusalem serves a military order to Waqf employee Najwa Al-Shakhrier preventing her from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound for a period of 3 days.

July 18: Israeli authorities demolish an apartment located on the penthouse floor of a 5-floor building owned by the Abu Sbitan family in At-Tur for being built without a license.

- In Silwan, Jamal Hadiya demolishes his 25-year old house to avoid paying demolition fees to the Israeli municipality for lacking construction permits.
- Ahead of the Jewish holiday of Tisha B'Av, which commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temple, consecutive large groups of Israeli settlers escorted by Israeli police enter the al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

July 19: In response to the newly passed "Jewish Nation-State" law by the Israeli Knesset, President Abbas stresses it "will not change the historical situation of Jerusalem as the capital of the occupied State of Palestine, and will not discourage our people from their legitimate struggle to defeat the occupation and establish their independent state."

- In Beit Hanina, the Shawamreh and Abu Rmeileh families demolish their four homes, where they had lived for 17 years, to avoid paying demolition fees to the Israeli municipality and the prospect of Israeli settlers living in their homes, as Israeli settler Arieh King has claimed ownership of the land they are built on.

July 20: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan intervenes to prevent Israeli Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Uri Ariel from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

- **July 21:** Hundreds of right-wing Israelis march in through the streets of the Old City, singing and dancing, shouting anti-Arab slogans and performing Jewish prayers at the gates of Al-Aqsa.
- Escorted by Israeli forces, a group of Israeli settlers raid the Bab Ar-Rahma cemetery
- **July 22:** Over 1,020 Israeli extremists, among them MK Yehuda Glick, enter the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound under armed Israeli security to mark the Jewish holiday of Tisha B'Av (commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temple).
- Jordanian Minister of State for Media Affairs, Jumana Ghneimat, condemns in the strongest terms the ongoing Israeli violations against Al-Aqsa Mosque, especially the provocative incursions of extremists and settlers.
- **July 25:** Israeli forces demolish a women's center and kindergarten in the Jabal Al-Baba Bedouin community in the E-1 corridor.
- Israeli forces prevent workers on the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound from conducting maintenance work on a door of the Waqf Department and inside the Dome of the Rock for allegedly not having prior permission from the Israeli authorities.
- **July 27:** Following Friday prayers, Israeli forces raid Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound injuring at least 40 Palestinians by shooting rubber bullets, tear gas and sound grenades. Over 20 worshippers, including seven children, are arrested and the gates to Al-Aqsa are closed, prompting Palestinians to pray outside until they are reopened.
- A Jerusalem court bans 19 residents from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound for a period of 1 week and fines them 5000 NIS as a condition for their release from detention.
- **July 29:** Israeli police detain three Palestinian woman, Baraa' Al-Ghazzawi, Nafisa Khuwais and Aida As-Sidawi, at Al-Aqsa Mosque and later release them on condition of not entering the site for two weeks.
- **July 30:** The council of Palestinian muftis has issued a religious ruling barring Muslim residents of Jerusalem from participating in the city's municipal elections in October, either by running for office or by voting.
- **July 31:** Israeli authorities issue a court order to ban two Palestinian residents, Omar Ashayer and Rashid Al-Rashq, from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound for a period of two months and sentences them to home arrest until 8 August as well as fining them 1,000 NIS each as a condition for their release from detention.

August

- **Aug. 1:** Israeli government officials attend an event marking the opening of a settler-run "Jewish heritage center" in the Batn Al-Hawa area of Silwan, on property which was seized from the Abu Nab family by Israeli settlers in 2015.
- **August 5:** Israeli authorities issue a court order to ban two Palestinian residents, Khalid Hassan Al-Zir and Eyad Jabr, from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound and Bab Al-Rahma Cemetery for a period of 1 week. They have also to stay away from Israeli settlers for a period of 1 month and are imposed a fine of 3,000 NIS each as a condition for their release from detention.
- **Aug. 6:** Israeli forces demolish a storeroom and two containers belonging to a supermarket in Jabal Al-Mukabber.
- **Aug. 7:** Israeli forces demolish two apartments owned by Suleiman Al-Muhtasib and Samer Al-Muhtasib in Shu'fat for being built without a license.
- Israeli authorities force Bassam Mahmoud Obeiyat to demolish his allegedly unlicensed home in Jabal Al-Mukabber.
- **Aug. 10:** The Israeli municipality notifies Silwan of an impending land confiscation project for the installation of walkways and irrigation as well as "gardening purposes" over the next five years. Most of the land is in the Wadi Al-Rababa and Al-Absiyat area and owned by Palestinians and the Greek Orthodox Church.
- **Aug. 12:** Israeli police detain a Palestinian woman, Baraa' Al-Ghazzawi, at Al-Aqsa Mosque and later release her upon being banned from the site for two weeks.
- **Aug. 14:** Israeli authorities approve a tender for the construction of 603 settlement units in the Ramat Shlomo settlement next to Shu'fat, which are part of a larger plan for 1,500 units.
- The Jerusalem Municipality's Planning and Construction Committee has approved a plan to build military colleges on Palestinian land located in Ein Karem village despite strong opposition by the Franciscan Church and its followers who fear the construction will drown the holy site of Mary's Spring.
- **Aug. 15:** Israeli bulldozers demolish a residential duplex building under construction belonging to Nader Nasser Abu Riyaleh in Issawiya under the pretext of building without an Israeli permit.
- Israeli police stop and question Palestinian women at Bab Isbat, one of the gates leading to Al-Aqsa Mosque, detaining nine of them, who were released being banned for two weeks from the site.

- The Jerusalem Municipality signs a \$380 million deal with the Israel Land Authority to finance a number of projects across the city, including 20,000 new housing units, including in the settlements of Pisgat Ze'ev, French Hill, and Atarot.
- **Aug. 16:** Israeli forces prevent employees of the Electricity Company from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound to fix the electrical network in the mosque. Security Guard Ghazi Asaliya is also banned from the site for a period of 30 days.
- **Aug. 17:** After shooting dead Ahmad Muhammad Mahamid from Umm al-Fahm in the Old City after he allegedly attempted to stab Israeli officers, Israeli forces close all gates leading to Al-Aqsa Mosque. Palestinians collectively pray outside the compound in protest. Al-Aqsa Mosque is reopened the next morning after 15 hours of closure.
- **Aug. 18:** Israeli settlers puncture and vandalize about 15 Palestinian vehicles and spray racist, anti-Arab slogans on walls in Issawiya.
- **Aug. 19:** Media reports reveal that 83 people, including four employees of the Population and Immigration Authority and residents of East Jerusalem, were recently arrested on suspicion of being involved in a large-scale bribery affair, worth hundreds of thousands of shekels in exchange for ID cards, travel permits and appointments,, at the Interior Ministry's Wadi Al-Joz branch. During the wave of arrests, police raided the homes of 23 key suspects, including the four employees and six real estate agents, and confiscated, among other things, luxury cars and tens of thousands of shekels in cash.
- **Aug. 20:** A day before the Muslim holiday of Eid Al-Adha, Israeli municipality staff, accompanied by Israeli forces, assault Palestinian farmers in the streets in and around the Old City, destroying their fruits and other produce, issuing tickets to the vendors and forcefully removing them.
- In Shu'fat, Israeli settlers vandalize 13 Palestinian-owned cars with graffiti.
- **Aug. 22:** Israeli police remove a banner reading "49 years and the fire is still burning within us" referring to the anniversary of a fire set off inside the mosque, by Jewish extremist Denis Michael Rohan, from one of the walls of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- **Aug. 24:** Emek Shaveh reports that the Jerusalem Municipality has issued "gardening orders" as a means of taking over 27 plots of Palestinian-owned land in the Silwan and Abu Tor areas (known in Hebrew as the Ben Hinnom Valley) on the pretext that they are not being used by their owners.
- President Trump's National Security Advisor John Bolton publicly joins Israeli politicians and settler leaders for dinner in the "City of David National Park," in the midst of Silwan that is run by the radical Elad settler group.
- **Aug. 28:** Israeli authorities issue a court order to ban 14-year old Awad Al-Rajabi from Silwan from his home for a period of 7 days and fine him NIS 3,000 for alleged stone-throwing.
- Israeli authorities issue a court order to ban Palestinian resident Hanadi Al-Halawani from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound for a period of six months.
- **Aug. 23:** *Haaretz* reports that the Interior Ministry plans to open only six polling stations (=3% of the total) in Palestinian neighborhoods during October's municipal elections, compared with 187 in Jewish neighborhoods.
- Two large-scale plans for a 608 new settlement housing units 345 in Gilo (TPS 400812) and 263 in Ramot (TPS 483354) are deposited for public objections.
- **Aug. 25:** Israeli forces detain four Palestinians doing repairs inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. They are released on condition of being banned from entering the Mosque for two weeks.
- **Aug. 26:** According to a Hebrew news outlet, Aryeh Orange, a candidate from the right-wing Me'uchadim (United) political faction running for the Jerusalem municipal council, has announced a plan to construct 324 new units in a new settlement ("Nof Shmuel") in the heart of Beit Hanina, 124 of which have already been approved.
- Israeli authorities ban Palestinian resident Mohammad Al-Hamwi from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound for 15 days as a condition for their release from detention.
- **Aug. 27:** Haaretz reports about plans by the Jerusalem municipality to expand the Western Wall prayer area under the pretext to suit people with special needs, which doesn't require obtaining building permits, and provide mixed prayer space.
- Israeli settlers accompanied by representatives of the Custodian of Absentee Property and Israeli forces attempt to seize a 50-m² piece of land belonging to Abdul Razzaq Al-Sheikh in Sheikh Jarrah's Harun area, razing the land and uprooting trees. Settler leader and municipal council man Arieh King later writes on Facebook that he planned to set up a sukkah hut there for the upcoming holiday of Sukkot.
- The Yoshvei Hahar company owned by settler leader Arieh King posts signs in Sheikh Jarrah announcing the company's plans to build three homes for Jews there.

- The Jerusalem school district has rejected requests from parents to make sure that no Arabs from East Jerusalem are employed as school bus drivers in the new school year, with Jerusalem Education Administration director Aviv Keinan sharply criticizing the demand as "inappropriate" and "not reflect[ing] the values of the vast majority of Jerusalem residents" in an open letter to all parents of children in city schools.

Aug. 29: Israeli forces injure at least eight Palestinians, including three pregnant women, and detain three others from Silwan, while demolishing a 15-year old printing house belonging to Omar Siyam.

Aug. 28: The Jerusalem District Court made a 'precedent-setting ruling' accepting the ownership claim made by settlers from the illegal Mitzpeh Kramim outpost in the West Bank paving the way for regulating dozens of other illegal hilltop communities. The court ruled that the outpost "can be legalised, even though part of the land on which it is built is not state-owned land and Palestinians have claimed ownership," accepting the residents' "legal claim... based on the 'market overt concept' of property ownership, in which transactions conducted in good faith under certain conditions are considered valid – even if they have certain legal faults, such as in the case of the sale of stolen goods."

Aug. 31: A plan (292870) concerning demarcation of nature areas in Jerusalem **is** deposited at the District Committee. If implemented, it will be another obstacle to planning in Palestinian neighborhoods.

September

Sept. 2: The Jerusalem Local Planning and Building Committee discusses public objections filed against a plan (TPS 499699) to build a 6-story office building for settlers at the entrance of the Sheikh Jarrah, adjacent to the site of the planned Glassman yeshiva.

Sept. 3: Israeli bulldozers demolish four homes in Walajeh, located on the West Bank side of Israel's separation barrier, but technically inside the boundaries of the Jerusalem municipality. At least seven Palestinians are wounded resisting the demolitions.

- The Jerusalem Local Planning and Building Committee also discusses retroactively legalizing settler construction (shops and offices at the entrance of the "City of David") in Silwan, which were built unauthorized under the direction of the Elad settler group.
- At a conference sponsored by Channel 2, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat threatens to expel UNRWA from Jerusalem, saying "UNRWA is a foreign and unnecessary organization that has failed miserably" and announcing that he had already instructed his municipal staff to come up with a plan to replace it.
- **Sept. 4:** Israeli forces demolish two homes belonging to the Fahidat family in Anata.
- **Sept. 5:** In Beit Hanina, Israeli bulldozers demolish a home built over 16 years ago by the Farrah family, in Silwan a 5-year old house belonging to Ali Abu Sway, and in Anata two homes belonging to Saleh Fahidat and his mother, Rasmiya.
- The Jerusalem Local Planning and Building Committee advances a plan through its first stage despite an objection filed by the private Palestinian company that owns 45% of the on 10.3 dunums of land in question. The plan is for a large new 150-unit settlement enclave in Beit Hanina, allegedly with half of the units theoretically be earmarked for Palestinians. The Committee also discusses a new plan (TPS 517383) for two 18-story high rises a total of 148 housing units on the edge of Gilo adjacent to Beit Safafa, as well as an already approved plan (TPS 598755) for 36 housing units in Neve Ya'akov.
- Israeli forces escort ultra-Orthodox MK Yehuda Glick as he provocatively tours the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.
- Paraguay's Foreign Minister Luis Alberto Castiglioni announces that his country will move its embassy back to Tel Aviv, less than four months after it followed the US and moved it to Jerusalem. Palestinian welcome the move while Israel responds furiously.
- **Sept. 6:** After detaining them earlier this week and having Israeli forces raid their homes in Silwan, an Israeli court bans five youths from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound for one month.
- Under the heavy protection by Israeli forces, dozens of Israeli settlers enter the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound ahead of the Jewish New Year, with many of them beginning to perform religious prayers.
- A statement by the White House says that the US administration has contacted Paraguay's new President Mario Abdo Benitez, asking him not to reverse his predecessor's decision on moving the embassy to Jerusalem.
- **Sept. 8:** The Trump administration announces a significant cut in US support for hospitals in East Jerusalem over \$20 million transferred via USAID according to the foreign aid budget approved by the US Congress for 2018.
- Sept. 9: Israeli forces are deployed across the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound ahead of the Jewish holidays.

- Israeli MK and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Uri Yehuda Ariel, along with dozens of Jewish extremists and escorted by Israeli forces, tour Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and gives a speech on the occasion of the eve of the Jewish new year.
- **Sept. 12:** A group of young Palestinians disrupt an event held in the American Colony Hotel to launch the new issue of the *Palestine Israel Journal*, which deals with the 25th anniversary of the Oslo Accords, throwing glasses and microphones and condemning normalization with Israel.
- **Sept. 16:** Dozens of Israeli settlers along with heavily armed Israeli forces enter the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and perform religious Jewish prayers, while, large numbers of Israeli police are deployed across the compound to secure the area.
- **Sept. 17:** Dozens of Israeli right-wing extremists tour the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in successive groups and perform religious Jewish prayers under the protection of heavily armed Israeli forces.
- Aryeh King, right-wing, ultra-Orthodox head of the "United" faction and a running candidate for the Jerusalem municipal elections reveals a plan apparently approved by the Israeli Civil Administration to construct 220 new settlement units in Jabal Al-Mukabber as part of the expansion plan for the adjacent Nof Zion settlement.
- **Sept. 18:** Some 326 Israeli right-wing extremists storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, while Israeli forces assault Waqf employees and worshippers, injuring at least 7 of them.
- In preparation for Yom Kippur, Israel Police seals off main roads in Jerusalem, banning vehicles and imposing closures in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Israeli forces shoot dead Mohammed Yousef Alayan, 26, from Qalandia claiming he tried to stab a Jewish man near Damascus Gate, while eye witnesses say the two had only an argument and Alayan was not armed.
- **Sept. 19:** Heavily armed Israeli forces escort large groups of Israeli extremists as they invade the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and perform religious Jewish prayers on the day of Yom Kippur. Israeli forces also confiscate the ID's of Muslim worshipers at the cpompound's entrances before allowing them entry, and ban the head of Al-Aqsa's female guards, Zeinat Abu Sbeih, from entering the compound as well as summoned her for interrogation.
- **Sept. 20:** Israeli forces detain Al-Aqsa Mosque guard Hamza An-Nabali as he was heading to his work at the compound.
- Fadi Shawamreh is forced to demolish his own home in Beit Hanina, built in 2006, following an Israeli order saying that the house was not licensed.
- Municipal staff escorted by Israeli forces deliver a stop-construction notice to Majdi al-Shweiki regarding his house in Al-Walaja.
- Israeli settlers, including settler leader and right-wing Jerusalem City councilman Arieh King, attempt to seize a Palestinian-owned 50 m²-plot of land belonging to Abdel-Razeq Ash-Sheikh in Sheikh Jarrah, but are prevented by residents.
- Two plans for two new 6-story settlement buildings in the Um Harun section of Sheikh Jarrah have reportedly been deposited for public review. If implemented, two Palestinian buildings will be demolished and five families evicted.
- **Sept. 23:** During a pre-dawn raid in Issawiyya, Israeli forces detained the Secretary of Fatah, Yasser Darwish, and raid his home, damaging furniture and other belongings.
- Israel declares an 8-day closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.
- Dozens of rightwing Israelis invade Al-Aqsa Mosque compound under the protection of Israeli forces and perform religious rituals.
- **Sept. 24:** Israeli authorities ban five Jerusalemites from the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound for one week under the pretext of upcoming Jewish holidays.
- Large groups of Israeli extremists invade the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, while many others perform religious Talmudic rituals outside the compound's gates.
- **Sept. 25:** Heavily armed Israeli forces escort at least 420 Jews in several groups into the Al-Aqsa Mosque where many of them behave provocatively, chanting the Israeli national anthem and performing Jewish prayers. Israeli police also confiscate ID cards of Muslim worshipers before allowing them entry to the mosque and prevent restoration work at the site from being completed.
- Israeli forces detain at least six Palestinians, including two minors, during predawn raids in Silwan and At-Tur.
- Aziz Abu Sarah, one of two remaining Palestinian contenders for the upcoming Israeli Jerusalem municipal elections, announces the withdrawal of his candidacy, citing "legal challenges" imposed by Israeli authorities (with regard to his residency status) and strong Palestinian pressure on the candidates and their families as reasons.

- Israel opens a controversial high-speed rail line between Jerusalem and Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, which passes through occupied territory.
- **Sept. 26:** Israeli authorities ban nine Palestinians, including a woman from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound for periods ranging from five days to six months.
- Hundreds of Jewish extremists tour the Al-Aqsa Mosque in large successive groups escorted by Israeli forces and perform religious Talmudic rituals for the third day of Sukkot as well as dance, sing and play musical instruments, while kneeling on the ground.
- Four Palestinian students are assaulted by Jewish youths in the Gonenim Park in the Katamon neighborhood, one of them apparently by a Taser used on him.
- **Sept. 27:** Israeli forces assault a number of Muslim worshipers on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, while some 924 Israeli settlers tour the site in different groups and perform prayers.
- **Sept. 28:** Addressing the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, President Mahmoud Abbas stresses that "Jerusalem is not for sale and the Palestinian people's rights are not up for bargaining" and that there would be no peace without a "an independent Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and not some place in East Jerusalem as its capital, and with all of its holy sites." He also calls on the US administration to rescind its decisions on Jerusalem and refugees, as well as on Israel to abide by the agreements it had signed with the Palestinians over the years, warning that otherwise the Palestinians will not abide by them any longer.
- The State of Palestine institutes proceedings against the US before the International Court of Justice, asking its judges to order Washington to remove the recently relocated US embassy from Jerusalem, with respect to a dispute concerning alleged violations of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961.
- **Sept. 30:** Israeli MK Shuli Mualem (Jewish Home party), along with dozens of Israeli settlers invade the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in successive groups. Many of them perform religious Jewish prayers, while Israeli forces confiscate ID's of Muslim worshipers before allowing them entry.
- Several dozens of Orthodox Jews coming out of the Old City after prayers at the Western Wall attack and injure at least 5 Palestinians near Damascus Gate, throwing chairs and tables from nearby restaurants and stones at them before being dispersed by police.

October

- **Oct. 1:** Dozens of Israeli settlers assault Palestinians in the Al-Musrara, Damascus Gate, and Al-Wadi Street areas, beating and injuring several of them as well as damaging Palestinian-owned vehicles and shops, as Israeli forces stand idly by.
- Israeli police seal off the Damascus Gate and set up iron barriers on the streets leading up to it, in order to ease access for Israeli settlers to the area, which leads to more confrontations between residents and settlers.
- Israeli forces open fire at a group of Palestinians taking part in a peaceful protest as part of the general strike observed jointly by the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in Israel proper, injuring six, during violent clashes near the Qalandia checkpoint.
- **Oct. 3:** Protected by Israeli forces, dozens of Israeli settlers raid a property in the Wadi Hilweh area of Silwan and force the tenants from the Maswadeh family to evacuate their home, which is owned by the Fatiha family (living in the US), who apparently sold it to the settlers
- Haaretz reports that the Israeli government's administrator general has leased vacant lots of land in Sheikh Jarrah to the Yoshvei Hahar company which is owned by right-wing city councilman Arieh King.
- **Oct. 4:** In a video message Jerusalem mayor Barkat announces plans to remove UNRWA from East Jerusalem, claiming that there are not refugees in Jerusalem and accusing the agency of "operating illegally and promoting incitement against Israel." He further says that US aid creates 'rare opportunity' to replace UNRWA with Jerusalem municipality, especially with regard to the about 1,800 students enrolled in UN schools in the city.
- Israeli settlers take over a historical Palestinian building in the Aqbat Darwish neighborhood of the Old City, belonging to the Judeh family and used as a clinic
- **Oct. 5:** The UNRWA expresses deep concern over statements made by the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat, who stated a day earlier that Israeli authorities will take over UNRWA's services, most notably schooling for 1,800 students.
- **Oct. 7:** Over 100 Israeli extremists escorted by Israeli forces tour the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, partially performing religious Jewish rituals and prayers.

- **Oct. 8:** Israeli forces detain two siblings, Suad and her brother Jawad Abu Ramouz from the Batn Al-Hawa area in Silwan after they were assaulted by Israeli settlers.
- Ayman Naim Kawasbeh is forced to demolish his own home in Beit Hanina to avoid the municipality's demolition fees.
- Israeli forces seal off the entrance to Jabal Al-Mukabber with cement blocks without any prior notices or reasons given to residents.
- **Oct. 10:** At least 82 of Israeli settlers storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and tour the site, while Israeli police ban three Waqf employees from entering the Mosque and summon them as well as another guard for further interrogation.
- Two Palestinian boys, 16 and 18, are assaulted by a group of Jews believed to belong to a sect of the Bratslav Hasids.
- UNESCO adopts, *inter alia*, a resolution on Jerusalem, stating "The Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, a site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, is the sacred city of the three monotheistic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam," reaffirming that "all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the 'basic law' on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith."
- **Oct. 12:** In Silwan, Israeli municipality staff, escorted by police forces, tour several areas, photographing buildings and raiding a few of them as well as threatening to demolish them.
- **Oct. 14:** Israeli soldiers, settlers and staff from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority chop down and uproot trees in the Wadi Ar-Rababa area of Silwan.
- **Oct. 15:** Armed Israeli forces escort ultra-Orthodox MK Yehuda Glick into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound protecting him while he performs prayers.
- Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison reportedly has told Prime Minister Netanyahu that he is considering recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and transferring the embassy there.
- The Israeli Jerusalem District Court decides to give the El-Ad settler group authority over the ruins of the Islamic Umayyad Palaces south of Haram Ash-Sharif (previously the company for Jewish quarter development was in charge and prior to that the municipality's East Jerusalem Development Company).
- **Oct. 16:** The PA Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison to reconsider his remarks on recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moving the Australian embassy there, saying, such a move would be "in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 478 (1980)."
- **Oct. 17:** In Jabal Mukabber, Israeli bulldozers demolish the house of Khalil Zaatreh, rendering 8 people, 5 of them children, homeless.
- **Oct. 18:** The US announces that it will close its US Consulate General, which serves Palestinians, and merge with the new embassy into a single diplomatic mission in Jerusalem, to "improve the efficiency and effectiveness."
- UNRWA dismisses threats by the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat, to close down its operations in occupied East Jerusalem, with spokesman Sami Mshasha saying "they will not change facts on the ground since UNRWA exists based on international resolutions and binding bilateral agreements," adding that "This decision is part of an aggressive campaign launched by the Israeli occupation to Judaize the city of Jerusalem and erase its Palestinian identity, especially by targeting the education sector in the holy city."
- **Oct. 20:** Israeli forces intercept a vehicle transporting the Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, in Beit Hanina and detain him at Ofer detention center. Israeli forces also detain Jihad Faqeeh, 50, head of the Jerusalem office in the Palestinian Intelligence force.
- Israeli police prevent a Palestinian youth, citizen of Israel, from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque, assault and detain him all for wearing a shirt of the Palestinian flag.
- **Oct. 21:** At least 49 Israeli settlers tour the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound escorted by heavily armed forces and perform religious Jewish rituals and prayers.
- The heads of the Roman Catholic, Armenian, and Greek Orthodox churches in Jerusalem call on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to block draft legislation, which is aimed at expropriating their property.
- The Israeli army orders Hasan Mustafa Salah to halt construction of his house in Al-Walaja as it lacks a permit. **Oct. 22:** PA Governor of Jerusalem Adnan Ghaith is released from detention but placed under house arrest for seven days and fined NIS 20,000.
- **Oct. 23:** Hours after teams from the Israeli municipality carried out an unprecedented clean-up across Shu'fat refugee camp (which is usually done by UNRWA workers), Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat, escorted by Israeli forces, tours the camp in what is seen part of his anti-UNRWA campaign.

- At least 57 Israeli rightwing extremists enter Al-Aqsa Mosque compound escorted by Israel forces.
- **Oct. 24:** Israeli forces evacuate Jawad Abu Sneineh and his 11 family members from a five-storey building in the Batn Al-Hawa of Silwan and hand it over to settlers from the Ateret Cohanim settler group.
- During a peaceful protest by the Coptic Orthodox Church against an Israeli decision denying it the right to conduct the needed renovation work inside the holy site, Israeli forces assault and injure several Coptic Orthodox priests in front of the Church and detain one of them.
- The headquarters of Israel's *Army Radio* begin its move from Jaffa to Jerusalem, with Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman laying the building's cornerstone near the Knesset. Palestinians see the move as only the latest installment of Israel's "facts on the ground" policy in Jerusalem.
- Oct. 28: The Israeli government has approved the construction of over 20,000 new housing units in the Maale Adumim settlement
- **Oct. 29:** In Anata, Israeli bulldozers demolish a house still under construction, belonging to Saleh Muhammad Fuheidat and his 7-member family.
- **Oct. 30:** Israeli police releases four Palestinian Jerusalemites Fatah movement's secretary in Jabal Al-Mukabber, Iyad Bashir, Head of the Fatah youth movement in the village, Fares Uweisat, and head of a local committee Nabil Bashir, and Hassan Abdo on the condition of being banned from entering their neighborhoods Jabal Al-Mukabber and Sur Baher.

November

- **Nov. 1:** Newly elected far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro announces via Twitter that "As previously stated during our campaign, we intend to transfer the Brazilian Embassy from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem."
- **Nov. 4:** Large numbers of Israeli forces raid the headquarters of the Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and the Jerusalem governorate in Ar-Ram on the pretext of investigating "illegal activity by the PA in Jerusalem", firing tear-gas into the offices, physically attacking staff members, and confiscating documents and material.
- **Nov. 6:** The Palestinian government decides to provide Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem with \$12.5 million to compensate for the cut in US funds.
- In Silwan, Israeli forces demolish a house belonging to the Odeh family for having been built without permit.
- The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee approves the construction of 640 new housing units to expand Ramat Shlomo settlement.
- Nov. 7: In Silwan, Israeli forces stop 15 minors on their way home from school, later detaining five of them.
- Over 300 Israeli soldiers invade Shu'fat Refugee Camp, where bulldozers demolish a four-storey residential building, belonging to Mahmoud Jaradat for lacking a permit.
- Ultra-Orthodox MK Yehuda Glick tours the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound escorted by Israeli forces.
- **Nov. 8:** Israeli authorities ban PA Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, from entry to the West Bank for six consecutive months under the pretext of incitement and posing a "threat to the security of the State of Israel."
- Israeli bulldozers demolish a Palestinian-owned residential building in Az-Zaayim for lacking a permit.
- Heavily armed Israeli forces escort MK Shuli Mualem, as she entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound
- Nov. 12: About 33 Israeli settlers storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.
- **Nov. 14:** Abed Al-Rahman Abu Jamal, 17, is shot and injured after he allegedly carried out a stabbing attack, lightly injuring four policemen at the Jabal Al-Mukabber police station. He succumbs to his injuries 6 days later.
- **Nov. 15:** Israeli forces repeatedly raid the Jabal Al-Mukabber family home of Abed Al-Rahman Abu Jamal, who allegedly carried out a stabbing attack a day earlier, detaining his parents and brothers and sisters.
- Israeli authorities ban six Jerusalemites from entry to the Al-Agsa Mosque compound for one month.
- About 35 Israeli settlers provocatively tour the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.
- The Supreme Court denies the Sabagh family's appeal against the eviction from their building in Sheikh Jarrah and refuses to hear a case on the ownership of the building, citing the statute of limitations. The 40-member family, refugees from Jaffa, now faces eviction from their 5-apartments where they lived since 1956.
- Czech Republic's Foreign Minister, Tomas Petricek, confirms his country's position on Jerusalem is in line with international law and the EU and thus the embassy will remain in Tel Aviv.
- **Nov. 18:** Israeli Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Uri Ariel, joins dozens of Israeli extremists touring the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound under the heavy protection of Israeli forces.
- **Nov. 19:** Israeli forces demolish several Palestinian commercial buildings, including two carwashes, a food store, storage houses, and offices, in Jabal Mukabber and Silwan for being built without a license. They also confiscate several vehicles in Silwan.
- Israeli Nature and Parks Authority and the Jerusalem Municipality raze land in Silwan belonging to Khaled Az-Zir.

Nov. 20: An Israeli settler is lightly injured in an alleged stabbing attack near Gilo settlement.

- Israeli forces along with the Israeli Civil Administration staff deliver demolition notices to over 20 Palestinian shops the Shu'fat refugee camp for being built without a permit.

Nov. 21: Israeli bulldozers demolish dozens of Palestinian-owned shops in Shu'fat refugee camp. Head of the PLO Refugee Department Ahmad Abu Holy accuses the Israeli municipality of waging a war on the camp.

Nov. 22: After rejecting their petition, the Israeli Supreme Court approves a decision to remove about 100 Palestinian families – some 700 people - from their homes in Silwan in favor of the Ateret Cohanim settler group that claims the homes were built on lands owned by Jews before 1948. The court's decision came despite acknowledgment by the judges that Ateret Cohanim's actions in seizing the land were flawed and raised questions about the legality of transferring the land to the right-wing group.

Nov. 23: Israeli settlers vandalize Palestinian vehicles and spray-paint racist, anti-Arab slogans in Beit Iksa.

Nov. 24: Israeli forces fire sound bombs in an attempt to raid a boys' high school in Issawiya, triggering clashes with Palestinian youths.

Nov. 25: After raiding his home in the Silwan, Israeli authorities detain PA Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, for the second time in less than a month on suspicions of cooperating with the PA security services in violation of the Oslo Accords.

- Israeli Civil Administration employees deliver demolition notices to several Palestinian-owned residential buildings in Issawiya.

Nov. 26: Near the Gush Etzion junction, Israeli forces kill Palestinian paramedic Ramzi Abu Yabes, 32, from the Dheisheh refugee camp for allegedly carrying out a car-ramming attack.

Nov. 27: Haaretz reports that the Israel Land Authority (ILA) plans to extend the Har Nof neighbourhood on the western edge of Jerusalem by 2,300 housing units for the city's Haredi population. The 648 dunums of land in question are currently covered by the Jerusalem Forest and partly sit on the ruins of the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin, which witnessed a massacre in 1948.

Nov. 28: In Jabal Al-Mukabber, Israeli bulldozers demolish the home of Mahran Al-Mughrabi and a commercial building nearby both under the pretext of being built without permit.

December

Dec. 2: Israeli authorities release Palestinian Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, and 32 Palestinian activists who were arrested November 24 on suspicion of cooperating with the PA, under strict conditions, which include being banned from entry to the West Bank for two consecutive weeks and to pay a financial bail.

Dec. 3: Ultra-Orthodox MK Yehuda Glick tours the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound along with dozens of Israeli settlers for the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

Dec. 4: Ahmad Siyam is forced to demolish his property of a storehouse, a garage and stairs, in the Ein al-Luza area of Silwan, upon order by the Israeli municipality under the pretext that the structures were built without permit.

- Israeli extremists celebrate the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, lighting lights, dancing and performing religious rituals at the Lions' Gate, one of the Al-Aqsa Mosque's gates.
- Another group of Israeli extremists lit Hanukkah lights and perform religious rituals near the Iron Gate, another gate of Al-Aqsa.

Dec. 5: Israeli forces seal off parts of Jabal Mukabber and demolish an under-construction house without prior notice.

- The Israeli Magistrate Court of Jerusalem orders the eviction of Ilham Siyam and four of her children from their property in the Wadi Hilweh neighborhood in Silwan until March 2019.
- 152 Israeli settlers tour the Al-Aqsa compound for the third day of Hanukkah, some of them provocatively performing Jewish religious rituals.

Dec. 6: Israeli intelligence hand an order to PA Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, banning him from entry to the West Bank for six consecutive months, under the pretext of participation in "illegal and violent activities."

- Israeli municipality staff escorted by Israeli forces deliver demolition notices and summons to Palestinians in the Issawiya.

Dec. 7: Land located behind the Ein Silwan mosque in Wadi Hilweh collapses due to continuous Israeli excavations in the neighborhood.

Dec. 9: Israeli Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Uri Ariel, tours the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound along with dozens of Israeli extremists and under heavy protection of Israeli forces.

- In the Adi Qaddum area of Silwan, Jawhar and Murad Hashimeh are forced to demolish their two homes, built 20 years ago and home to 14 people, to avoid having to pay the costs of the municipality's demolition.
- Israeli forces raid the home of PA Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, in Silwan, taking photographs and measuring the home, in addition to photographing and measuring other homes belonging to Ghaith's siblings.
- **Dec. 10:** Israeli extremists perform religious rituals at the Bab Ar-Rahma Cemetery east of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound while some 127 others tour the compound on the last day of the Jewish Hanukkah Holiday.
- **Dec. 11:** Israeli forces demolish a private garage belonging to Anwar Dawla in Beit Hanina under the pretext that it was built without Israeli permit.
- **Dec. 12:** Israeli forces shoot and kill Majd Matir, from Qalandia refugee camp, after he allegedly stabs two police forces in a suspected terror attack in the Old City.
- **Dec. 15:** Australia formally recognizes West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, reversing decades of Middle East policy, but will not move its embassy there until the city's final status is determined. Prime Minister Scott Morrison confirms Australia's support for a two-state solution with a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem.
- **Dec. 16:** An elderly woman from the Arab-Israeli town of Jit, Sumayya Mahmoud Nasser, 68, dies of a heart attack inside Al-Aqsa Mosque, after Israeli forces prevented ambulances from reaching her.
- **Dec. 20:** At Beit El near Ramallah, Qassem Mohammed Ali Al-Abbasi, 17, from Silwan is shot and killed when Israeli forces open fire at the vehicle he was driving in with friends, claiming they attempted to drive into the checkpoint.
- Israeli settlers puncture the tires of dozens of Palestinian-owned vehicles and spray racist graffiti calling for killing Arabs in the Al-Gharableh neighborhood of Beit Hanina, adjacent to Pisgat Zeev.
- **Dec. 23:** Ultra-Orthodox Israeli MK Yehuda Glick and over 100 Israeli extremist entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.
- **Dec. 31:** According to the Wadi Hilweh Information Center in Silwan, Israel has demolished 143 Palestinian-owned buildings in Jerusalem this year; in 24 cases the owners self-demolished their property to avoid demolition fees by the Israeli municipality.