



THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

and

THE STATE OF PALESTINE

STATUS REPORT

**THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE OLD CITY OF
JERUSALEM AND ITS WALLS**

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STATUS REPORT

INTRODUCTION: THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM AND ITS WALLS

This report is an update of the state of conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem and Its Walls, inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (proposed by Jordan) in 1981 and as a World Heritage Site in Danger since 1982. While the report brings in some conservation plans and actions taken at the Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif by the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf (JJA), it focuses on violations and aggressions by the Israeli Occupation Authorities (IOA) against the authenticity, sanctity, identity, and integrity of many sites in the Old City of Jerusalem and Its Walls during the period of January 2015 through February 2016. Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf, Palestinian NGOs and domestic observers have contributed to gathering information and documenting the IOA's violations, highlighted in this report. Israeli media, experts and NGOs' reports were also used in this report, especially to obtain evidence and some details regarding the covert digging and tunneling. This report also reconfirms the position and concerns of Jordan and Palestine regarding many IOA's violations, claims and aggressions, some of which have already been deplored by the UNESCO decisions of the Executive Board Sessions in Paris and the World Heritage Committee 39th Session in Bonn.

CHAPTER 1: AL-AQSA MOSQUE / AL-HARAM AL-SHARIF: ISRAEL'S VIOLATIONS AND JORDAN'S POSITION

A- DEFINITION OF THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE / AL-HARAM AL-SHARIF

“Al-Aqsa Mosque” and “Al-Haram al-Sharif” are identical terms. They *must* be consistently referred to jointly as the “Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram al-Sharif”. It is the mosque that God Himself, Exalted be He, named “Al-Aqsa Mosque” in the first verse of *Surat Al-Isra’* (The Holy Qur’an, Al-Isra’ 17:1). It is Islam’s First Qibla and it is the Mosque to which Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) ordered Muslims to make pilgrimage, as one of the three holiest mosques in Islam. The Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram al-Sharif is a sacred site of great significance to Muslims all over the world. (See full definition of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif).¹

“Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement to Jointly Defend Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif,” signed by His Majesty King Abdullah II and His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas in Amman on 31 March 2013 defines Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram al-Sharif (in the Preamble at paragraph C) as the 144 Dunums (= 144,000 m² - with lengths of 491m west, 462m east, 310m north and 281m south), which includes the Qibli Mosque of al-Aqsa, the Mosque of the Dome of the Rock and all its mosques, buildings, walls, courtyards, attached areas over and beneath the ground and the Waqf properties tied-up to Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, to its environs or to its pilgrims.²

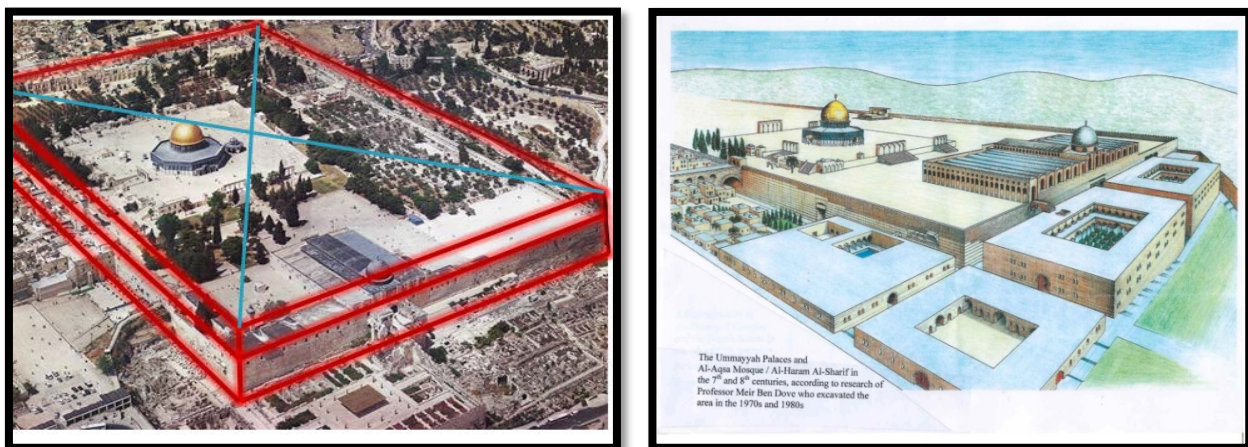


Figure 1: Right: Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif; Left: Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif during the Umayyad period, third Islamic Era

¹ <http://al-aqsa-mosque.org/en/2/3/191/Definition-of-Al-Aqsa-Mosque--Al-Haram-Al-Sharif.htm#.VsL8bE0cSM8>

² See e.g. the Agreement to Jointly Defend Al Masjid Al Aqsa signed by His Majesty King Abdullah II and His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas in Amman on 31 March 2013, Preamble, paragraph C.
http://kingabdullah.jo/index.php/en_US/news/view/id/10779.html

B- THE *STATUS QUO* AT AL-AQSA MOSQUE / AL-HARAM AL-SHARIF

The *Status Quo* regarding the regulations at Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif is the situation that prevailed up until September 2000, under which the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf Department exercised exclusive authority over Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and its mandate extended to all affairs relating to the unrestricted administration of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, including maintenance, restoration, and the regulation of access of Muslim worshippers and non-Muslim visitors. The Peace Treaty of 1994 between Jordan and Israel respected this *Status Quo*, as part of the special role of Jordan, at Al-Aqsa Mosque Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

The *Status Quo* regarding the Occupied City of Jerusalem, its heritage and Holy Sites is the pre-1967 situation. The clarification of pre-2000 regulations above is made without prejudice to the broader pre-1967 *Status Quo* and the administrative and property rights of the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf including and without limitations the possession of the key of Al-Magharbeh Gate and other historic rights and remains confiscated by the IOA from Waqf, Islamic and Christian properties. The United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council and the UNESCO, in many resolutions since 1967, have declared the measures taken by Israel, the Occupying Power, to change the status of Occupied Jerusalem as invalid. For example, the Security Council resolution 252 (1968) considered “that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem are invalid and cannot change that status”. Israel was urgently called upon “to retract all such measures already taken and to desist forthwith from taking any further action which tend to change the status of Jerusalem”.

Following are main elements of the pre September 2000 *Status Quo* regarding the administration of the access of non-Muslim tourists to Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif:

- a. Access of non-Muslims was subject to the approval by the Jordanian Awqaf Department through a prior written request to the Jordanian Awqaf Department.
- b. Non-Muslim prayers were not permitted in Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif nor were prayer tools\ instruments allowed in.
- c. Deployment of armed personnel in Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif was not allowed.
- d. The Jordanian Awqaf Department had the authority to regulate entry and access to Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif for non-Muslims, which included determining:

1. The respectful appearance, conduct, and behavior in Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif.
2. The security measures that were intended to preserve order in Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif.
3. The security escort in Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif was exclusive for the Jordanian Awqaf Department.
4. Tourists who breached visitations regulations were put on a black list and were prohibited from entering in the future.
5. The time, route, and duration of visits were predetermined by the Jordanian Awqaf Department;
 - Size of Jewish tourist groups (usually three and not exceeding five).
 - The route of the visits. (The route was predetermined by the Jordanian Awqaf Department, usually 150 meters in each direction).
 - The frequency of the visits.

C- THE ISRAELI VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE *STATUS QUO* OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE / AL-HARAM AL-SHARIF

In a flagrant violation against the International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Jordan–Israel Peace Treaty of 1994, Hague conventions and UNESCO decisions, Israeli Occupation Authorities (IOA) continued to carry out many aggressions against the authentic character of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, the Muslim worshippers and the staff of the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf in 2015. Israel has bluntly targeted the changing of the pre-1967 authentic *Status Quo* of function and shape of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings. Among the major violations against Al-Aqsa are the following:

1- Jewish Extremists Storming of Al-Aqsa: Jewish extremists continued their storming into Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif almost on a daily basis during the year 2015. JJA records say 11524 extremists intruded Al-Aqsa in 2014 and 11645 in 2015. These aggressions of storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif protected by hundreds of Israeli armed police and soldiers have led to many injuries, abuse of Awqaf employees and physical damages of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The aggressions, attempting to impose the Israeli right wing policy of Judaization of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, threaten the historic identity of the mosque and thus the security and stability of Jerusalem and the region.

2- Allowing Jewish prayer and rituals: In spite of the official Israeli Occupation and Chief Rabbinate announced position that Israel does not allow Jewish prayer inside Al-Aqsa, the police has been tolerant

with hundreds of incidents of Jewish prayer, rites and religious behavior during the year 2015. The Israeli police banned some Jewish prayer and ritual practices only when there were recordings and protests by JJA and Muslim worshippers.

3- Allowing bare footed extremists into Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif: In an unprecedented 2015 violation of the sanctity of Al-Aqsa, the IOA has allowed hundreds of extremist Jews to intrude Al-Aqsa barefooted in a symbolic aggression passing a provocative message to Muslims showing that “these Jews are inside their holy site”.

4- IOA’ Police and Special Forces incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif: 2015 has witnessed daily presence and incursion of tens of Israeli armed police and special forces who intruded Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif in a violation of the sanctity, spirituality and historic regulation and character of the Muslim Worship Holy Site.



Figure 2: Extremist Jews storming of Al-Aqsa protected by IOA’s Special Forces and Police

5- Aggressions against Muslim worshippers: Severe Occupation military forces were frequently deployed inside the Muslim Holy Site of AL-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif during the year 2015.

Tens of Muslim worshippers were injured, arrested and insulted by the IOA military, especially during the period between August 23rd and October 6th 2015.

6- Worship and access restrictions: Israel Occupation Police and Military personnel continued to obstruct Muslims' access to their mosque during most of the year 2015, especially Palestinian Muslims who come from the West Bank. In an attempt to detach the Palestinians from their Holy Sites, most East Jerusalem neighborhoods have been blocked in order to isolate Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif from its demographic dimension. Against simple rights of freedom of worship, Muslim women who do worship at Al-Aqsa on regular basis have also been frequently punished by the Israeli security forces since the beginning of 2015.



Figure 3: Examples of Israeli military aggressions and threats against worshippers

7- Obstruction of Al-Aqsa renovations: the IOA are banning the implementation, by the competent organs of Jordanian Awqaf, of more than 20 restoration, consolidation and renovation projects in Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif including the following:

1. Completing the firefighting system.
2. Installing ventilation system for the Dome of the Rock.

3. Tiling of al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif courtyards.
4. Taking out construction waste from eastern part of Al-Aqsa.
5. Renovating the stone columns at the Marwani Mosque.
6. Installing a metal and glass umbrella at the entrance of the Marwani Mosque.
7. Tiling the side walks around the generator area.
8. Renovating the western side of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa / The Qibli Mosque.
9. Restoring wooden blocks on the windows on the western part of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa.
10. Planting of new trees in place of the old ones, which fell down in the winters of 2012-2015.
11. Installing protection window grid in the southern wall of al-Marwani Mosque.
12. Installing prayer loud speakers in the western part of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa.
13. Renovating Bab Al-Rahmah / the Golden Gate of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif.
14. Completing the restoration of the eastern wall of al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif.
15. Covering of the electrical generators with protective ceiling of wire.
16. Renovating the electricity cabinet located at the entrance of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa.
17. Installing of a protection grid on the gate of the Restoration Committee storehouse.
18. Installing an outside lighting system for the Dome of the Rock.

8- Closure of Bab al-Rahmah (the Golden Gate): The IOA continues to force the closure of the building of Bab Al-Rahmah and to ban its use for worship, lectures and to obstruct its renovation without any acceptable justification, much less any legal basis since 2003. The prevention by IOA of the Awqaf's renovation works at Bab Al-Rahmah threatens its integrity, especially because the building had water leak in its roof during the last two years.



Figure 4: Left is the location of Bab AL-Rahmah; Right: Inside the structure of Bab Al-Rahmah (the Golden Gate)

9- Confiscation of Ribat al-Kurd: The IOA continues to confiscate the Islamic Waqf of Ribat al-Kurd (western part of Al-Aqsa Mosque) next to Bab Al-Hadid (the Iron Gate) and to convert it into a Jewish prayer place called “mini western wall.” IOA continues to ban Jerusalem Awqaf from practicing its legal and historic right to renovate the site.

10- Excavations and digging threats: It is important to highlight that there are now about 20 excavations points capable of breaching the walls of al-Aqsa Mosque. The IOA continued illegal archeological digging, excavations, demolitions and tunneling projects adjacent to the walls of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, especially from the western side (under the Muslim Quarter) and southern side of the Umayyad palaces. Jordan is highly concerned regarding the increasing number of covert excavations that might breach or threaten to breach the walls of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif. Detailed explanations will be highlighted in Chapter 2 on excavations and tunneling in the Old City.

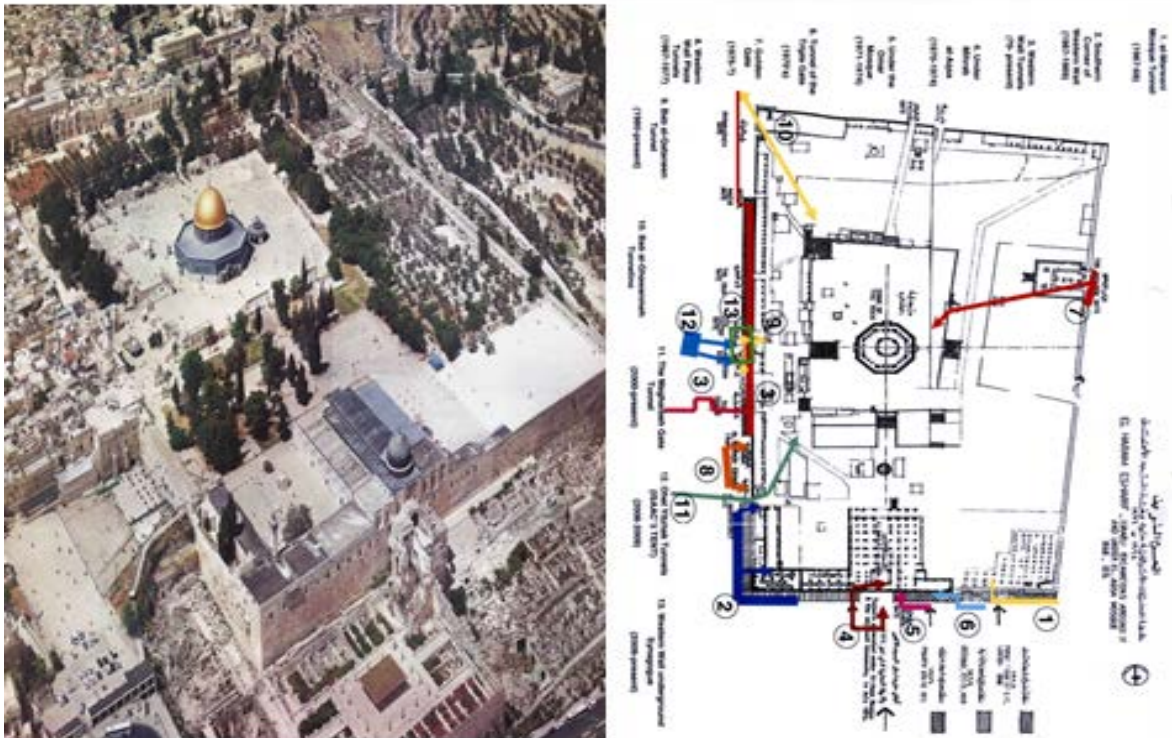


Figure 5: 13 points where settlers breached through the wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif during the period between 1967 and 2012

11- Al-Aqsa Magharbeh Gate Pathway (MGP): Observers and Jerusalem Awqaf have documented IOA's continued concrete constructions and irreversible demolition of major parts of the Magharbeh Gate Pathway (the Mughrabi Ascent), an inseparable and integral part of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

12- Damages to the structure and furniture of al-Jame' Al-Aqsa (the Qibli Mosque): The IOA, extremists, police and army's storming of Al-Aqsa were accompanied by flagrant physical damages to all 7 gates of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa, its windows, carpet, lighting system, sound system and historic columns inside al-Jame' Al-Aqsa, especially during the military and security forces' attack against Al-Aqsa on September 13th 2015, which resulted in damaging 6 historic windows, burning electric boards, crushing iron grid of 6 windows and setting fire in 12 carpets among other major damages. The needed cost to restore the damages of September 13th 2015 exceeds 450,000JOD (about 700,000USD).



Figure 6: Damages by the IOA's security forces against the doors and windows of the Qibli Mosque / Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa (July and September 2015)

13- Enforcing Jewish names on the Pathways leading to Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif:

The period of November 2014 through February 2015 has witnessed an unprecedented shocking violation as IOA forced the "Temple Mount" name on signs at Al-Aqsa Gates of al-Asbat, al-Magharbeh, Al-Silsilah, al-Hadid and al-Majlis. The flagrant aggressive policy of Judiazation is manifested by the signs below which completely ignore mentioning the fact that Al-Haram Al-Sharif is Al-Aqsa Mosque.



Figure 7: 2014-2015 forcing Jewish names on Al-Aqsa gates and entrances

14- Confiscation and ban of renovation of the Tankaziyyah School/ the Islamic Shari'yah Court:

IOA have converted the main hall of the Islamic historic Tankaziyyah School into a police station and another part of it into a Jewish synagogue in 2013-2014. Tankaziyyah school has been confiscated from Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif and been occupied by the Israeli police since 1967. Jerusalem Awqaf has been denied access to the school and its gates from inside Al-Aqsa have been closed off.

15- Confiscation of parts of Al-Rahmah Cemetery and Planting Jewish fake graves:

Since the beginning of 2013, the Jewish extremists groups planted more than 5000 fake graves in the Waqf land next to the eastern and southern wall of Al-Aqsa. In 2014, the IOA continued to tolerate extremists' aggressions of planting fake Jewish graves around Al-Aqsa Mosque in Ras El-Amoud, Mount of Olives, and Sloudhah Waqf land in Silwan. In 2015, two new Jewish fake cemeteries were planted in the Waqf areas of Sloudhah and the Qidron Valley. The main purpose of fake graves is to confiscate the land and to Judaize the Waqf properties. In the second half of 2015, the IOA has confiscated and fenced three

parts of Bab Al-Rahmah Cemetery: part of Al-Husseini family waqf property, part of Al-Ansari family waqf property and third part is a public true waqf.

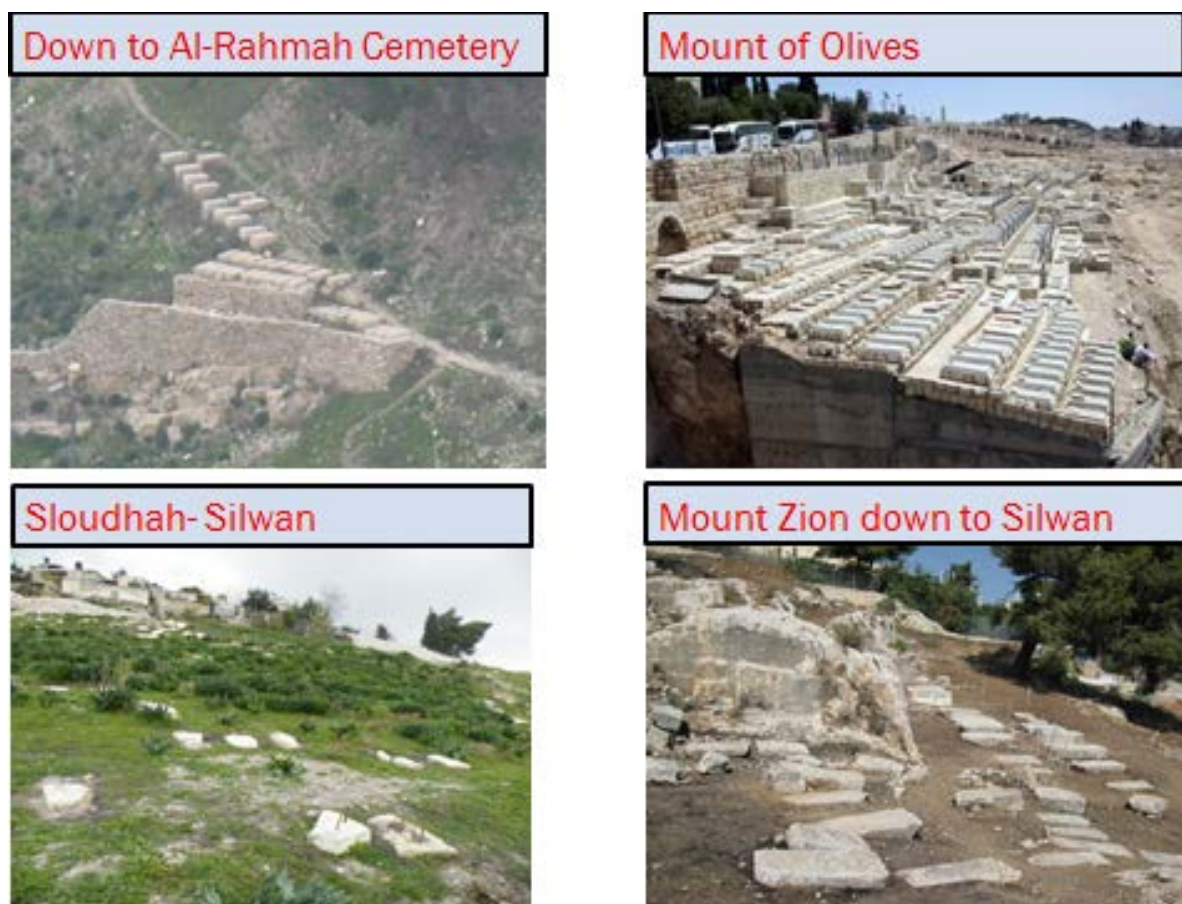


Figure 8: Jewish fake graves 2013-2015

D- HASHEMITE RESTORATION PROJECTS AT AL-AQSA MOSQUE / AL-HARAM AL-SHARIF

In spite of the IOA's obstruction of more than 20 urgent renovation and restoration projects at Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, the Hashemite Fund for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Hashemite Restoration Committee continued in accomplishing some major and necessary projects, including the following :

1. Restoration of the plastering and mosaic decorations inside the Dome of the Rock .



Figure 9: Hashemite restoration of the mosaic of the Dome of the Rock in 2015

2. Historic renovation of the mosaics in the major eight hallways of the Dome of the Rock.
3. Renovation of the mosaics of the façade of the main arcade and the dome of the Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa (the Qibli Mosque).
4. Renovating the inside marble of the Dome of the Rock.
5. Renovating part of the Eastern Wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif. This project has been stopped by the IOA although it is one of the urgent projects needed to conserve the historic wall, which is also the eastern wall of the Old City of Jerusalem.
6. Conducting studies for renovating the lead and covering the roof of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa / the Qibli Mosque with lead.
7. Varied urgent renovations inside the Marwani Mosque.
8. Restoring two Mamluk wooden gates of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa / the Qibli Mosque out of seven gates damaged by the Israeli police have been restored; the two gates were damaged again by the IOA on September 13th, 2015.

9. Finishing extensive studies, experiments and tender for lighting the outside of Dome of the Rock.
This project is banned by the IOA.
10. Renovating and coloring wooden column tie beams at Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa / the Qibli Mosque.
11. Finishing studies and preparing tender documents for the restoration of the chandleries of Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa / the Qibli Mosque.

CHAPTER 2: ISRAELI OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES' AGGRESSIONS AND VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

This chapter is an update of the continued Israeli illegal intrusive tunneling, excavations, projects of Judaization of historic sites in the Old City of Jerusalem and its surroundings and it brings examples of the ongoing Judaization process, through which many non-Jewish historic sites are either removed and/or converted into Jewish prayer spaces. One great risk is that the Israel Antiquities Authorities (IAA), which is part of IOA, has been illegitimately self-declared as having jurisdiction to conduct the excavations; and IAA writes an exclusivist Jewish narrative to many sites in the Old City and in its environs. A greater risk is the fact that most of the recent excavations have been delegated by the IAA to be the extremist settlers' organizations, such as *Elad* and *Ateret Cohanim*. During the year 2015, excavations have been taking place intensively within the areas at the western and southern walls of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif and in the spaces that extend westward to El-Wad Street, beneath the residential houses of the Muslim Quarter. Facts on the ground prove that hundreds of square meters are under excavation and unearthing, and the illegal excavations involve removing large amounts of historic remains (e.g., walls, rooms, graves, Mamluk and Ottoman baths and arches). Only few samples of the removed remains are logically documented.

A- INTRUSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS, TUNNELING And UNDERGROUND EXCAVATIONS AT THE WESTERN WALL OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE And AL-BURAQ PLAZA

The Western Wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif extends from south to north 491 meters long (see lined in red in the figure below).

Al-Buraq Wall is historically believed to be the place, where the Prophet Muhammed (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) tied the Buraq, the winged riding animal upon which he rode during the Night of Ascension (see lined in green in the figure below).

Al-Buraq Plaza is part of the Western Wall of Al-Aqsa and it is the Western Wall of Al-Buraq Mosque located inside Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif. **Al-Buraq Plaza** has been known and used for decades, as the “**Wailing Wall**”³, defined as the Jewish prayer area, which, according to pre-1967

³ Under the terms of the Status Quo on holy sites, a decree fixed the Ottoman Sultan in 1757 and codified in more detail by a British government Commission in 1922, 1929 and 1933 the Wall is a Muslim Waqf property and the Waqf owns the Buraq

Status Quo, used to be 3 meters wide by 22 meters along part of the Baraq Wall outside al-Aqsa. After 1967, the Israeli military demolished the houses, mosques and schools of the **Magharbeh Quarter** and started an ongoing violation of the *Status Quo* by expanding the “Wailing Wall” Jewish prayer area into the so-called the “**Western Wall**” Jewish prayer area, **expanded from 3meters wide by 22meters long in 1967 to more than 90meters wide by 70meters long in 2015**. Major violations of the historic shape and function of the so-called Western Wall Jewish prayer area have been conducted during the recent years 2004 through 2016 to be explained in this section below.



Figure 10: Left: western wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, Al-Buraq Wall and “the Wailing Wall”; Right up: expansion of “the Wailing Wall” from 3x22sqm before 1967 to unlimited plaza

1- New Construction at the Northern Edge of Al-Buraq Plaza – “Beit Strauss”:

Beit Strauss (the ‘Strauss Building’), a building located on the northern edge of Al-Buraq Plaza, the expanded Western Wall Plaza. The IOA’s so-called **Western Wall Heritage Foundation** presented the architectural plan to the planning authorities **to expand the structure**, by confiscating 360 square meters from the open plaza. The additions were intended to provide space for toilets (160 square

Wall and the Buraq Plaza in front of the wall. In these decrees, Jews have the right to stand on the pavement in front of it and pray. The 1920s confrontations led the British Mandate to form a commission in 1930 with the approval of the Council of the League of Nations, to determine the rights and claims of Muslims and Jews in connection with Al-Buraq Wall, referred to by Jews as Wailing Wall. The report concluded: “*To the Moslems belong the sole ownership of, and the sole proprietary, right to, the western wall, seeing that it forms an integral part of Al-Haram Al-Sharif area, which is a Waqf property. To the Moslems there also belongs the ownership of the pavement in front of the wall and of the adjacent so called Magharbeh (Moroccan) Quarter opposite the wall, inasmuch as the last mentioned property was made Waqf under Moslem Shari’ah law.*” See Harman, Graham; *The Mufti and the Wailing Wall, A History of Palestine*, Princeton University Press, 2008. And Kassim, Anis F; *Special Report, The Palestine Yearbook of International Law 1996-1997*, Martinus Nijhoff 1998.

meters), a lobby, a police station (125 square meters), offices, the "Jerusalem Traveller's Hall" (125 square meters), and more.

Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf has kept an eye and reported on different phases of the project in the previous Jerusalem status reports submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The major violations by Israeli Occupation Authorities and the project organizers of the new construction of Beit Strauss were:

1. The IAA's intention here was to come to an agreement with the designers that the building would rest on a piles foundation, allowing the IAA to avoid salvage excavations and to restrict its role of observation, while any foreign entity, Awqaf or UNESCO were banned access of oversight of the works.
2. Beit Strauss is a visual pollution, disappointment and direct threat to the historic complex fabric and the archaeological environment of the area.
3. Beit Strauss is flagrant damage to the historic skyline view of most important part of the Old City.
4. In April 2013, tons of cubic meters of concrete were poured in deep holes that were used as foundations to the new building over the historic walls and remains.
5. Extensive drilling in the site damaged invaluable walls and rooms beneath the surface.
6. Experts, journalists and domestic people were shocked of eye witnessing and documenting process of bulldozing earth and stones.
7. It is very terrible that the building of two stories kept a few historic vaults and renovated them to be used as toilets at the place where ancient walls of schools of religion stood for centuries.
8. Beit Strauss building of 2013-2014 blocked the walls of the Muslim Quarter. In 2015-2016 an extra floor has been built threatening to block the windows of the Arab families of Sub Laban and Al-Khalidi.
9. Security cameras have recently been installed with an over sightseeing and recording movement of members of Sub Laban Arab family inside their living rooms under security IOA's excuses.

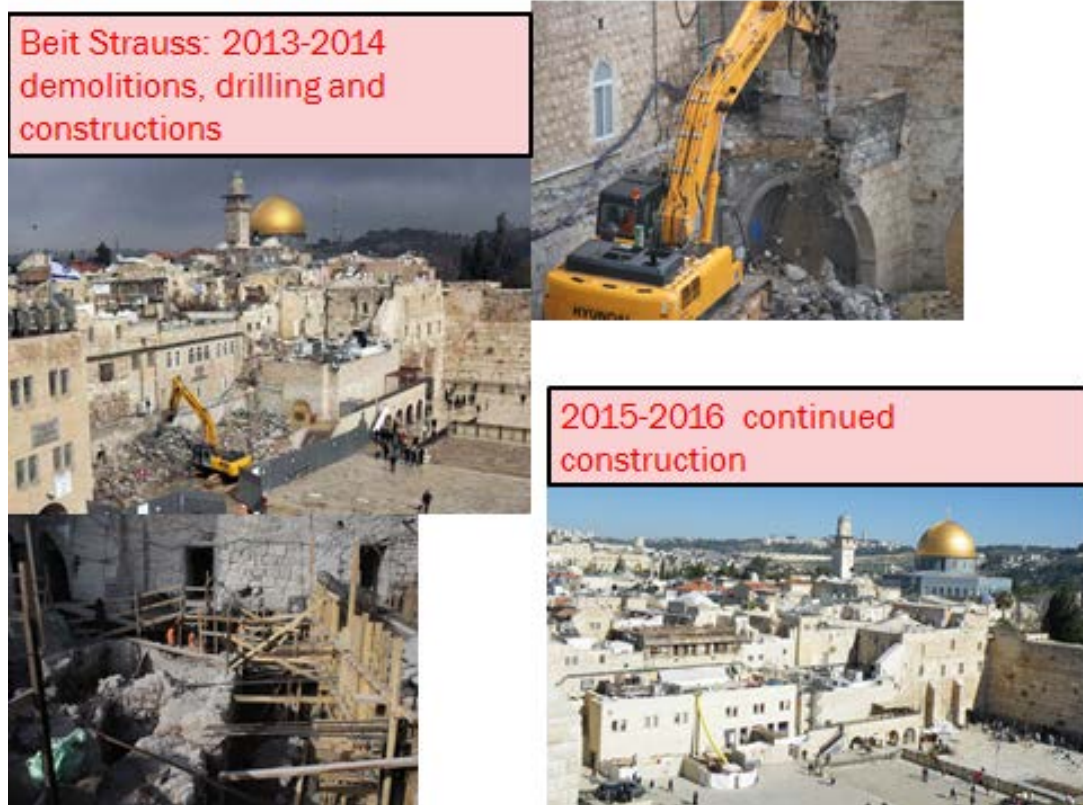


Figure 11: 2013-2016 demolitions for the construction of Beit Strauss on Muslim Waqf real-estate

2- Intrusive Excavations at Al-Buraq Plaza and the Magharbeh Quarter – “Beit Haliba”

The Magharbeh Quarter was standing for decades in the place of the contemporary expanded “Western Wall Plaza”, which was known for decades as Al-Buraq Plaza, on part of which stood the “Wailing Wall”. The last few houses of the Magharbeh Quarter were confiscated and demolished in 2003-2004 in order to prepare the space for constructing the planned Beit HaLiba. First designs by the so-called the Western Wall Heritage Foundation were to construct a large structure to serve the organization for various purposes such as classrooms, an exhibition hall, administrative offices and more.



Figure 12: IOA demolition of the historic Waqf of the Magharbeh Quarter in June 1967

The IOA has violated and changed the *Status Quo*, in blatant violation of international law and UNESCO conventions and decisions of conservation of Jerusalem Heritage in place of the Magharbeh Quarter by the following violations:

1. In 2003-2004, the IOA has confiscated and demolished the last houses of the Magharbeh Quarter a few days after the June 1967.
2. The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) conducted covert excavations at the site between 2005-2009. Israeli leaks and reports say important finds were exposed in the course of first excavations including large vaulted structures, a Sheikh's tomb, a bakery, shops and other findings from the Ottoman, Mamluk and early Islamic Periods.
3. The IAA has closed off the site in front of observers, the public and Israeli experts, who called on the IAA to conserve and not to remove Islamic layers of history.
4. At Beit HaLiba, the IAA promised approval of construction to the developer of the project in advance, and hastened to begin salvage excavations before receiving a construction permit.
5. The same way as in most excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem and surrounding its walls, most of the remains from the Islamic periods were removed in order to expose earlier remains. Observers say the remains at Beit HaLiba were scarce large structures with elaborate façades and vaults built above the eastern Cardo centuries. Some of them survived to their full height. East of the Cardo, part of a large public building was exposed. These were the remains of al-Madrasah al-Afdaliya (later known as Sheikh Eid Mosque), constructed around the 12th century. There is no record of what has been preserved or removed of these remains.

6. Israeli experts say that the archaeological and salvage excavations were extensive and professional, but most of the remains from the Islamic periods were dismantled, and the archaeology was pushed to the ideological restrictions.
7. According to Israeli experts and IAA sources, all of Al-Buraq Plaza, part of which is the Western Wall Plaza will be excavated to the depth of a full story that will later be covered by a roof resting on rows of pillars. The plaza above will remain open and expanded, while the underground level will serve various purposes: security checks, elevators, passages for visitors and other unannounced functions.
8. Israeli experts, who protested “Beit HaLiba” say there was no architectural competition, except between ideologists, extreme settler groups and religious foundations.
9. It is clear from all plans and reports that the IOA is giving an upper hand in planning the area to the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, *Elad* Foundation and *Ateret Cohamin* (all are extreme ideological organization), whose announced plans are bluntly to improve transportation, parking places and capacity of Jewish visitors to the area. Archaeological ethics saying it is forbidden to excavate everything at once are ignored and covert works and excavations have been running since 2004.
10. Israeli Antiquities Authority claims it keeps samples of the remains. It is well known that it will be impossible to preserve and to display archaeological remains in the areas planned for new constructions and public serves.
11. As in the case of many excavations run by the IAA and other extreme settlers’ organizations, only at the end of the excavations, it is impossible to know whether there are important remains at the site that require reservation and preventing new construction. Observers will never know what had been removed and a polish of the remains will be inscribed, as part of or remains of Jewish heritage. Then, removal of historic remains will be irreversible.



Figure 13: Continued covert, expanded and illegal excavations at the site of the historic Magharbeh Quarter

3- Systematic Demolition of the Magharbeh Gate Pathway (MGP) 2004-2016: The extensive aggressions against the MGP and its surroundings continued in 2014-2015, among them are the following violations:

1. While 2010-2012 witnessed the most intensive demolitions and construction plans at the MGP site, the year 2014-2015 has witnessed extensive underground tunneling beneath the MGP remains.

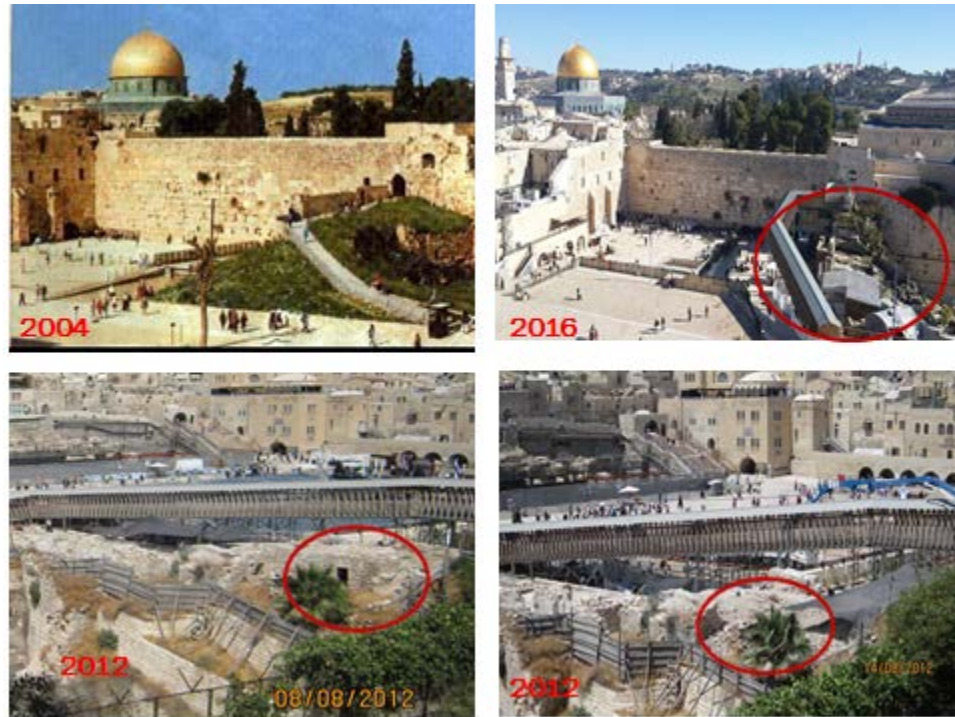


Figure 14: Systematic demolitions of historic room, walls and continued excavations and constructions at the MGP, 2004 through 2016.

2. A lot of the illegal covert work going on under many tents in the MGP area.
3. Historic remains, including entire rooms and parts of the Al-Afdaliyya Mosque were removed.
4. Demolishing and erasing parts of the MGP is an utter manifestation of the Judaization policy of the area, whereby new Jewish prayer areas have been expanded and newly created on the account of the Islamic and Roman remains located just south and down to the MGP.
5. The expansion of the Jewish prayer areas involved leveling and lowering large areas of the MGP and many new constructions and excavations are continuing through 2015. Of these constructions is the erection of a huge wooden platform for Jewish reform and conservative prayer places labeled as a new expansion of the "Western Wall," which constitutes an imposed change of Al-aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif *Status Quo*, seriously indicating that other Judaization projects will gradually undermine any non-Jewish remains and their important history.
6. In addition to the non-Orthodox platform, known as Sharansky or US Liberal Jews prayer platform built up in 2013, there are two new platforms constructed exactly on the Western Wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque in 2015. Observers witnessed Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews practicing prayers at the two

platforms and hundreds left Jewish prayer paper pieces in between the stones of Al-Aqsa Wall in order to Judaize it and to consider it an extension of the Wailing Wall.



Figure 15: construction of new Jewish prayer platforms next to and at the wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque allegedly for US and liberal Jews, September 2013 through January 2016

7. The IOA continues to prevent the owner of the MGP, the entrusted Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf, from performing emergency restorations and stabilization measures to the Ummayyad, Ottoman and Mamluk walls at the site of the Magharbeh Gate Pathway.
8. The IOA continues to ban the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf from implementing its design of the MGP although this demand has been reaffirmed by many UNESCO resolutions since 2012.
9. Some of the historic treasures at the MGP site have recently been removed or some of them have been covered with concrete and new concrete walls were erected by the IOA. The pictures below show the result of the Israeli Occupation Authorities' systematic demolition of the Magharbeh Gate Pathway.

B- INTRUSIVE TUNNELING, EXCAVATIONS AND JUDAIZATION OF THE UMMAYYAD PALACES AREA

The Umayyad Palaces located south and West of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif were built in the period, when the current structure of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif was built by the Umayyad Khalifs Abdel Malik Bin Marwan and his son Al-Walid Bin Abdel Al-Malik and the late Khalifs during the period 662AC (41Hijri) to 750BC (132Hijri), which is the second Muslim Khilafah state. The Umayyads gave high importance to Jerusalem and considered it their spiritual capital, as it is one of the third holiest sites in Islam. Archaeological excavations, led by Israeli professors Me'ir Ben-Dov, Dan Bahat and Benjamin Mazar during the 1960s through 1980s have explored foundations of four large palaces. These palaces surrounded the south and south-western walls of Al-Aqsa Mosque and these palaces were connected by stairs, bridges, pathways and gates to Al-Aqsa Mosque different levels, including the well known Al-Aqsa Al-Qadim (the Old Aqsa) also known as the Lower Al-Aqsa beneath the current upper Qibli Mosque / Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa, which was almost double size of the current Qibli Mosque / Al-Jame' Al-Aqsa (please see the figure below). The Marwani Mosque was also well known as the Old Aqsa before the crusaders. Israeli Professor of Archaeology Meir Ben-Dov, who led and documented most of the excavations at the Umayyad Palaces, has written tens of articles and books, such as "the Discovery of Ancient Jerusalem" describing the structures of the Umayyad Palaces.

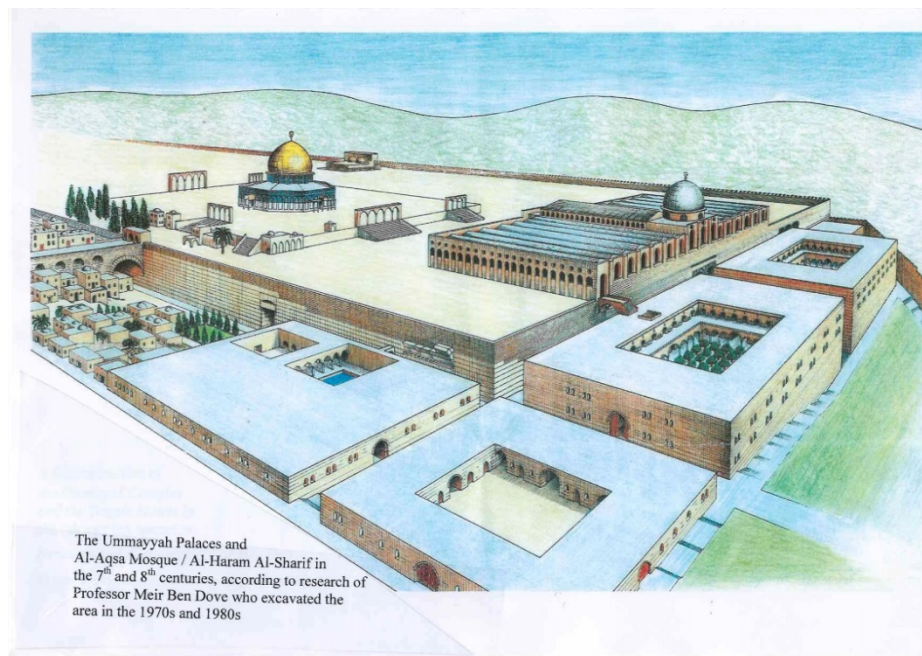


Figure 16: Umayyad Palaces and Al-Aqsa Mosque in the 7th and 8th Centuries AC



Figure 17: examples of illegal and damaging excavations and tunneling at the Umayyad Palaces for the purpose of imposing Jewish narrative on findings

Until the end of the 20th Century, Israeli Occupation Authorities and excavators in the area respected, to certain extent, the remains of the Umayyad period and the scientific narrative of it.

Since the year 2000, a move of Judaization by many Israeli official actors and illegal developers of the area have been changing the *Status Quo* and narrative of the Umayyad Palaces by carrying out the following violations:

1. In the year 2001, the IOA and the IAA have delegated the administration of the entrance to the Umayyad Palaces next to the Silwan Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem to an extreme settlers' organization of the Davidson Centre.
2. Davidson Centre developed the entrance of the Umayyad Palaces into an extreme Judaization narrative museum, which educated many Israeli students and tourist guides how to show the possibility of demolition of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif and to rebuild "Jewish Third Temple" in its places. The tools of education at this museum are simply movies, guiding pamphlets and wooden and

plastic models of “Second and Third Temple”. This move has created a phenomenon of more than 30 museums of Jewish Temple in the place of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-sharif.

3. More dangerous, the Davidson Centre has encouraged the extreme settlers’ organizations to change the description of the Umayyad Palaces remains into Jewish ritual rooms and baths. This kind of enforced Judaization management of the site has also encouraged some authorities and extreme actors to remove many Islamic layers in the search of Roman remains, which were mistakenly alleged as Second Temple remains.

4. The Davidson Center, hooked up to municipal infrastructure without the necessary permissions and without proper studies of its strange shape and strange narrative to the area, is now a leading tourist guidance organization in the southern and western area of the Umayyad Palaces. Moreover, it is a socialization center, which is open to teaching Jewish youth on their social occasions how they can contribute to remove Islamic historic and Holy sites in literature and on the ground in order to achieve their vision / dream of building “Jewish third temple” in its place.

5. With blind ignorance of the documents in their hands proving this area is a Waqf property and it has to be run by its owner, the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf, Israeli authorities still discuss an internal conflict on the property of the area between the Davidson Centre and the Jewish Quarter Development and Reconstruction Company.

6. The worst development was in 2013, when the Jerusalem Municipal East Jerusalem Development Company and the Jewish Quarter Development and Reconstruction Company agreed that the extreme settlers *Elad* Foundation would receive extensive rights to the Davidson Centre and thus to almost half of the Umayyad Palaces. *Elad* is now the official manager of the site.



Figure 18: Judaization of the Umayyad Palaces by enforcing Jewish narrative, descriptions and practice of Jewish prayer at the wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque

7. The extreme settler *Elad* Foundation has taken responsibility on management of archaeological excavations on the grounds of the archaeological park and it has conducted two major violations: First, *Elad* is running extensive efforts to falsely describe all Ummayyad and Roman remains as Jewish temple remains.

Second, *Elad* is converting tens of historic areas into practical Jewish prayer and Jewish celebration spaces, platforms or ritual baths.

8. *Elad*, going on excavations on the grounds of the Ummayyad archaeological park, is linking underground site, managed by *Elad*, in Silwan with the area of the Western Wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

9. Linking the Western Wall tunnels with Silwan tunnels already controlled by extreme settlers will encourage *Elad* to accelerate their announced plans to breach in underground parts of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif and to Judaize them.

10. In all excavations managed by *Elad* Roman, periods are predominantly emphasized and displayed as “first and second temple period remains”, while the majority of other remains are ignored or removed.

Below is a letter by Sheikh Azam Al-Khatib, the Director General of Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf to Israeli Jerusalem District Police Chief protesting the major violations against the Umayyad Palaces:

**"By Fax and By Hand
Mr. Yoram Halevy
Jerusalem District Police Chief
State of Israel**

Hashin Street 1, Russian Compound, Jerusalem, Tel: 5391100, Fax: 5898988

In my capacity as the General Director of the Jerusalem Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs, which is one of the departments of the Ministry of Awqaf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and in the exercise of His Majesty King Abdullah II's Custodian of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, including its 144 Dunums, which includes the Qibli Mosque of al-Aqsa, the Mosque of the Dome of the Rock and all its mosques, buildings, walls, courtyards, attached areas over and beneath the ground and the Waqf properties tied-up to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, to its environs or to its pilgrims,

I protest and call upon Israel to address violations of its international law obligations, including those pursuant to Israel's status as Occupying Power and those pursuant to Article 9(2) of the Treaty of Peace Between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan signed on 26 October 1994.

In particular, the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf protests against Israel's aggressions against the Waqf Property known as the Umayyad Palaces area located to the South and South West of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif; and demands the following:

- 1) Halt all excavations, removal and illicit transfer of the Arab and Islamic Heritage remains from the Umayyad Palaces area.
- 2) Remove the metal shade that has been set up at the center of the Umayyad Palaces area.
- 3) Remove all the wooden and metal platforms that have been recently installed and used as spaces for Jewish prayer adjacent to the Western Wall of al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif.
- 4) Cancel the last week Israeli Government's decision to expand the abovementioned Jewish prayer platforms to be used by non-orthodox Jews at the expense of the Waqf Property and of the Arab and Islamic Heritage of the area adjacent and surrounding the Western Wall of al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif.
- 5) Take out Judaization signs and names that have been installed in the area.
- 6) Halt all Jewish prayers and celebrations that have recently been permitted to take place in the area.
- 7) Return the area to its lawful owner, that being the Jordanian Jerusalem Islamic Awqaf, to manage and maintain it duly.

The General Directorate of Jerusalem Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs reserves all its rights and calls upon the Israeli police to bring to immediately halt all these violations and aggressions; as they constitute a serious breach of the historic *Status Quo*; standing well before the 1967 occupation of Jerusalem .

With respect,

General Director of Jerusalem Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs

Sheikh “Mohammad Azam” Al-Khatib Al-Tamimi”

----End of Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf Letter----

C- INTRUSIVE TUNNELING AND EXCAVATIONS UNDER THE MUSLIM QUARTER AND AL-WAD STREET

1- The Kittan Cave excavations: with an opening access from outside the Jerusalem Old City’s northern wall, between the Damascus and al-Sahira gates of the Old City, this cave extends beneath the Sa’diyah neighborhood of the Muslim Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. Covert excavations have been taking place inside the cave since 2008. The purpose of the excavations and digging is likely to connect the Kittan cave and tunnel to the Western Wall tunneling network.

The Kittan Cave served as a quarry for hundreds of years during the Ottoman time. The following violations have been carried out by the IAA and other IOAs in the Kittan cave:

- 1.** Massive amounts of concrete have been poured to establish a new exit gate, which had been dug up in the northern wall of the Old City near the Sahira Gate in 2013 through 2014.
- 2.** An exclusivist narrative has been imposed on the location in order to undermine the historic significance of the location as the cave from which the building stones of the Ottoman Wall of the Old City were extracted, a project commissioned by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Great.
- 3.** A Jewish name has been imposed on the cave and it is now being referred to as “Zedekiah’s Cave” in an attempt to advocate a claim that this is the cave from which the stones of the “First Temple of Suleiman” were extracted.

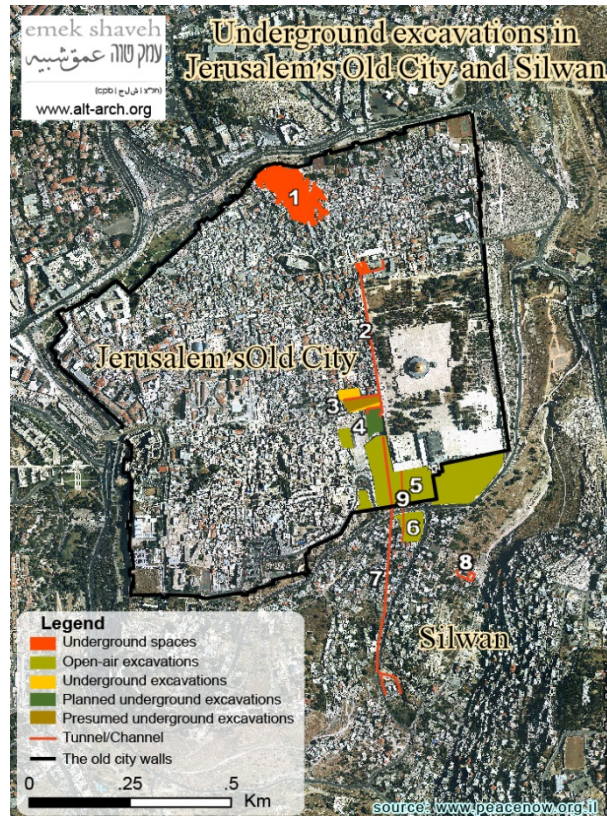


Figure 19: Israeli NGO Emek Shaveh's record of the major places of underground excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem

2- Al-Wad Street excavations: Underground covert and overt illegal excavations, tunneling, unearthing and concrete pouring has continued since the beginning of 2012. Islamic period relics and Roman remains were removed without documentation or documented in a way that serves exclusivist Judaization narrative. Observers mention that the illegal works included:

1. Excavated galleries, ancient drainage channels, and large underground spaces that were cleared of their historic contents.
2. Important Roman stones have been removed from the middle of Al-Wad Street. These were original stones of the Roman Cardo Street. This move of the Roman stones is only one example among hundreds of illicit trafficking of historic remains and nobody knows where these stones have been taken away.



Figure 20: Roman stones removed from Al-Wad Street (the eastern Cardo) to unknown destination in 2013. The removed stones were replaced by new tiling.

3- Sabil Al-Wad, Sabil Bab Al-Nazer and Sabil Al-Asbat: There are many Wqaf property places, where the IOA banned the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf from performing its right to renovate 1) Sabil Al-Wad at the entrance of Hamman Al-E'in (close to Al-Buraq Restaurant) next to the Qataneen Market; 2) Sabil Bab Al-Nazer, located at the junction of Aqbat Al-Takkiyeh and Al-Wad Street and 3) Sabil Al-Asbat at Al-Asbat Gate. According to the Shar'iyah Court documents, the three Sabils were endowed as public Waqf properties by the Ottoman Sultan Salim Al-Qanouni (1536 to 1537). However, the IAA has not only banned the Awqaf from renovating their properties but also the IAA interfered illegally and by force and renovated these Muslim Waqf historic sites in contrary to the UNSC resolutions and the obligations of the Occupying power that this is the right of the national authority and the owner of these properties, which is the Jordanian Administration of Jerusalem's Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs.

4- Hamman Tankaz– the Mamluk Bathhouse and Caravansary - “Ohel Yitzhak”

Hamman Tankaz, according to Waqfiyat Tankaz, endowment document preserved among Waqf documents of the Islamic Shar’iyah Court, is a Mamluk Hammam (bathhouse) that was established and constructed by the Mamluk Amir Tankaz Al-Nasiri in 1337 AC / 737Hijri. Amir Tankaz is one of the Amirs of Sultan Al-Naser Muhammad Bin Qalawoon. Hamman Tankaz is divided into two parts, the northern side is well known as **Hamman El-‘Ein**, which the Waqf authority delegated its administration and renovation to the Department of Archaeology of Al-Quds University and the southern side is **Hamman El-Daraj**, the subject matter of this section, which has been under extensive covert excavations by Israeli Occupation organizations since 2003.

First Israeli covert excavations at the site of the Mamluk Hammam El-Daraj started in 2001, when a plan of the so-called “Ohel Yitzhak” synagogue was approved to be constructed by the extreme settler Organization of *Ateret Cohanim*.



Figure 21: Hamam Tankaz excavated and Judaized.

The excavations at Waqf of Hammam Tankaz are a violation of the international law and all conventions of heritage conservation not only because it has been conducted covertly for the last 12 years but also due to the following violations:

1. At the end of 2007, the “Ohel Yitzchak” project was transferred by the Occupation settlement donor, the Moskowitz family, to the Western Wall Heritage Foundation. The transfer took place even though the area is not owned by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation. It is well documented as Waqf property of Hammam Tankaz. It is an ownership of the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf and any transaction related to Hamman Tankez should be managed and permitted by the JJA.
2. Since 2003 until today beginning of 2016, the Israeli Antiquities Authority in cooperation with the Western Wall Foundation excavated two tunnels, which were created that pass through the eastern section that is not owned by any of the project’s managers.
3. Israeli antiquities sources report that this tunnel breach was not an archaeological excavation, and was performed without a license or authorization for archaeological excavation.
4. Israeli antiquities experts report that a large vaulted hall was discovered without proper documentation or release of details.
5. Visitors to the site observe that there are many passageways, education centers, prayer rooms and museums accommodating visitors and school children of mainly extremist Jewish organizations. The Hammam visitors are provided with many displays and information that link tour to Jewish religious history and to the Western Wall tunnels, the later are knocking the Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif Western Wall tunnels.
6. The significant archaeological finding is the Mamluk caravansary (the main hall), which has recently been occupied by table with Torah scroll and other Jewish prayer tools to teach and practice Jewish prayer. This means that the main hall has been converted into a Jewish synagogue, as announced by the Ateret Kohanim settlers although the IAA claim that these are only education tools.



Figure 22: Hamam Tankaz (left) connected to the so called “secret passage” (right)

7. Visiting the site many times among Jewish Children and visitors, experts reported that the main hall and many other rooms are all focusing solely on Jewish prayer without any correlation to the archaeological finding and the Muslim history of the site.
8. It appeared that only remains that suited the perspective of the managers of the site were to be saved although all Israeli archaeologists who excavated in the site admit that the main hall of Hammam Tankaz is one of the most complete Mamluk structures that has been found in Jerusalem. It is well documented to the Jerusalem Awqaf that the Ottoman building was based on impressive ruins of a Mamluk bathhouse, which, according to the sources, was known as Hammam Darj el-‘Ein and it is part of Hammam Tankaz. The layout of the public bath of Hammam El-Darj is identical to that of the adjacent Hammam al-‘Ein, which was built during the renovation of the Cotton Market in the Mamluk Period.
9. The big violation and contradiction is that the IAA has banned the renovation works at Hammam El ‘Ein by Al-Quds University Department of Archaeology delegated by the owner of the site (the JJA) in spite of the fact that Al-Quds University renovations have been run openly in cooperation with the Jerusalem Awqaf and with a donation by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

10. The work on the ground indicates that the will of the donors supersedes the will to preserve past heritage. Professor Haim Barbé, an Israeli French archaeology expert said that he was shocked to discover the destruction of part of the façade of the building next to the monumental entrance, as well as the destruction of one of the heating pools, all in order to install an elevator and access route to the site.

11. The IAA contradicts its own procedural guidelines and ethical rules of archaeology. Visitors to the site observed massive amounts of concrete, which were poured in and over historic stone remains for the purpose of carrying up the columns of the newly constructed “Ohel Yitzhak” synagogue.

12. The IAA also does not care of the contradiction with its ethics of archaeology that it must at least follow structured and legal approach.

13. The excavations at the site have been conducted with no time and no space limits. Thus, in contrast to an archaeologist work under an excavation permit, the managers of the site and excavations have no legal obligation to excavate using scientific measures. They do not document the findings thoroughly and they hardly publish the findings in an appropriate academic journal.

The Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf has requested the Israeli Occupation Authorities to stop all illegal excavations at Hamam El-Daraj and to return the management of the site to its owner, who is the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf Department, as soon as possible.

D- SILWAN - INTRUSIVE TUNNELING AND EXCAVATIONS SOUTH OF THE WALL OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE / AL-HARAM AL-SHARIF

The Israeli Antiquities Authority, since 2007, has been excavating a tunnel from the Silwan pool/ al-Hamra pool towards the north. In 2012, the tunnel reached the area of the Ummayyad Palaces inside the Old City and new tunneling exits have, in 2014, been opened adjacent to the Western Wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, exactly south of the Maghrabeh Gate Pathway.

The Silwan Tunneling towards the Old City of Jerusalem has been accompanied with the following violations:

1. The ongoing covert tunneling are threats of not only to impose exclusivist Jewish narrative on the tunneled area but more significantly a threat of breaching the western and the southern walls of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, a violation that would be an aggression against the Holiness of the Mosque, and carries a serious risk of weakening its walls, and would disrupt *Status Quo* and security of the Old City of Jerusalem.

2. The Israeli extremist *Elad* Foundation has been conducting a project that promotes and emphasizes a relationship between Upper Silwan, which *Elad* claims it is “City of David” and the so called “the Ophel” esplanade, which is at the core of the site of the Ummayyad Palaces. The project marks exclusivist Juidaization narrative due to ideological aspiration to bolster a particular historical narrative and not according to the importance of the archaeological findings.
3. In June 2011, the Umayyad Palaces site of the so-claimed “Ophel halls” south of Al-Aqsa was opened to the public. No scientific archaeological analysis is presented to prove that the remains dated to the 8th and 7th centuries BCE or, as claimed by the ideological explanations, that these remains refer to the "Kingdom of Judea".
4. The extremist *Elad* Foundation continues to use the Israeli Antiquities Authority, as a tool and umbrella to build up the Judiazation “Kedem Compound” on the site of the Upper Silwan, the so-called “Givati Parking Lot”. In order to achieve this project of “Kedem compound”, many damaging excavations have been running at the entrance of Silwan, and only a few meters from the walls of the Old City.
5. According to “Kedem Centre” plans, the center will cover an area of about 16,400sqm (about 177,000 square feet), and will reach a height of seven stories at southern edge of most sensitive historic site. Lecture halls, classrooms, extensive commercial areas, and an underground parking lot, all will be devoted to the activities of the extremist *Elad* organization.
6. The discovered antiquities in the area of “Kedem Centre” have to face two outcomes: either be removed as it happened with the majority of the archaeological remains at the site or they will ultimately be covered up by new constructions. Since 2003, Roman, Byzantine, Ummayyad and Abbasid historic remains have been uncovered and most of these remains have been completely removed without any procedure of documentation.
7. The interests of the original domestic community of Silwan village are completely ignored. The placement of the building at the northern entrance to Silwan will cut off the Palestinian residents’ direct connection to the Old City and to the Palestinian neighborhoods to the north and east of the village.



Figure 23: layers of Roman, Byzantine and Islamic history were removed in the excavations of “Kedem Centre” (right)

E- ENFORCED JUDAIZATION PROJECTS IN AND AROUND THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM AND ITS WALLS

Many Islamic, Byzantine, Roman and Greek relics of history have been confiscated by IOA and removed in order to construct new Jewish religious and cultural institutions for the purpose of imposing an exclusivist narrative that undermines the authenticity, identity, integrity and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and drastically alters the centuries-old *Status Quo*. Many of such IOA's actions are taking place in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Mosque in a manner that negatively affects the function, visual view and skyline of Old City and, more importantly, contributes to isolating Al-Aqsa Mosque from its cultural surroundings and the Arab and Muslim community for whom it is unutterably holy.

Among the enforced Judaization projects in and around the Old City of Jerusalem are the following:

1- Announcing the Old City and Its Walls, As“Biblical and Talmudic Parks”: The Israeli Occupation Authorities have recently been imposing changes on the status of many confiscated

properties around the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. The confiscation passed initially as a designating phase by inscribing these sites as municipal or natural parks, and subsequently declaring them as national parks, then as Talmudic parks is a final stage of Judaization. The municipality is issuing new jurisdictions of zoning and plans to transform historic areas, the New Gate, Damascus Gate, Al-Asbat Gate (the Friday Market) and at Bab Al-Khalil / Jaffa Gate. Signs hanged by the municipality and other Israeli settlers' NGOs are clear evidence that the official objective of development at all these areas is to Judaize Jerusalem through guided tours, Judaization narrative and educational programs.

2- Converting Muslim and Christian Historic Sites into Jewish Synagogues and Jewish Prayer Spaces: Since 1967, more than 30 Jewish museums of the “second temple” and “third temple” and more than 65 synagogues in the Old City of Jerusalem have been established in the Old City of Jerusalem. Most of them are newly created and enforced in the vicinity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif. Tens of Waqf properties and tunnels have been recently confiscated by IOA and converted into Jewish prayer places. Please see related photos under the subtopics of Hammam Tankaz, Ribat Al-Kurd.

3- Bab Al-Khalil / Jaffa Gate and Qishleh excavations: Many excavations and unilateral works have been going on at the area of the Qishleh building and Bab Al-Khalil / Jaffa Gate. The Qishleh building occupied today by the IOA's police administration was constructed upon orders of Ibrahim Pasha Bin Muhammad Ali during his ruling over the city of Jerusalem (1831 to 1840). The Israeli Antiquities Authority conducted excavations at the building's western courtyard, which is also located north of the Jerusalem Salahuddeen Castle found inside the Old City Walls near al-Khalil Gate. The building is now connected with the Castle through a new gate that was intrusively opened in the wall.

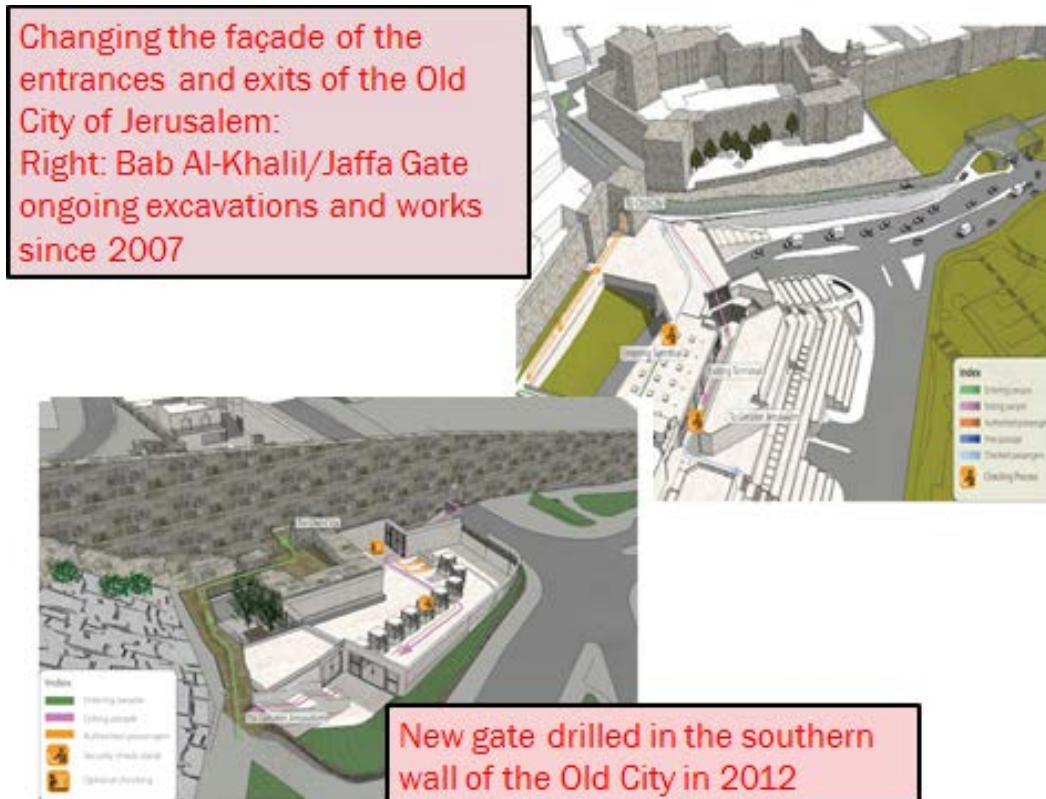


Figure 24: Excavations of Bab Al-Khalil / Jaffa Gate, change of the shape and Status Quo at the eastern wall of Al-Aqsa

4- Bab Al-Khalil / Jaffa Gate and the Old City Wall Excavations: During the period 2012 through the end of 2015, unearthing and cleaning works have been conducted by the IOA at the outside complex of Bab Al-Khalil / Jaffa Gate. In a number of excavations undertaken in this area researchers discovered an aqueduct from the late Roman period, a public bath from the Byzantine period and Ayyubid walls.

5- Ribat al-Kurd / Hosh al-Shihabi: This historic site, located near Bab Al Hadid (Iron Gate) of Al-Aqsa Mosque and is part in parcel of the western wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif. This property consists of a small plaza, an alleyway and a number of houses inhabited by members of the Palestinian al-Shihabi Family. The property is an Islamic Waqf and dates back to the Mamluk Period.

The major IOA's violations against Ribat Al-Kurd are:

1. Confiscating the site and converting it into a Jewish prayer place during the period 2006 through 2015.
2. Banning the Awqaf from renovating the site.

3. Enforcing permanent check point and installing surveillance cameras at the entrance of the site.
4. The Israeli municipality carried out restoration works at the site and despite the continuous protests of the JJA.
5. In November 2015, the Israeli Occupation municipality has also fixed a new sign at the location claiming that the property is named the “small wailing wall”, frivolously and in flagrant violation of the *Status Quo* claiming that it is a wall of “Temple Mount”.
6. Cracks in the property continue to be recorded from time to time due to tunneling taking place underneath it.



Figure 25: Judaization of Ribat Al-Kurd 2013-2016, an example of confiscation of part of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif

6- Jewish Quarter residential and commercial buildings: A plan by the Jewish Quarter Development and Reconstruction Company is to develop new construction over the Jewish Quarter Parking Lot at the southeastern section of the Jewish Quarter, above the existing parking lots. The Company is planning urban construction over an 18,000 square meter area that will include a combination of residential and commercial buildings, hotels and other public spaces. The project is in its

final planning stages by architects. The project is planned to be done in cooperation with the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Development Authority.

7- IOA tramway adjacent to the Northern Wall of the Old City of Jerusalem: In spite of many UNESCO Executive Board and World Heritage Committee resolutions calling on Israel to take the tramway operating since 2011, the tramway dangerously continues passing less than two meters next to the North-Western corner of the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. The tramway negatively affects the visual and physical integrity of the Old City since it passes at the location every five minutes and due to the vibrations of the movement of the train.

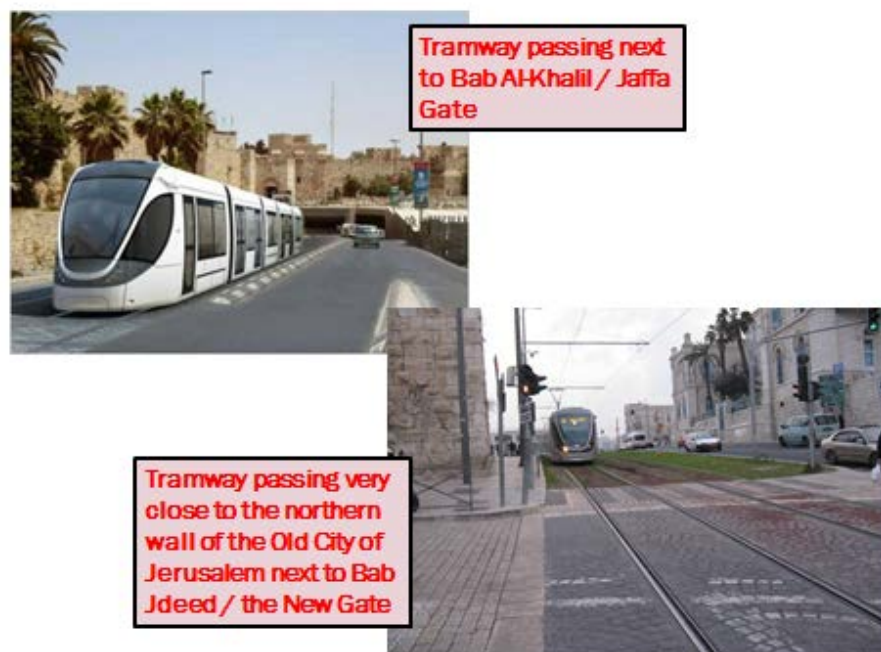


Figure 26: Tramway vibrations threatening the stability of wall of the Old City of Jerusalem

8- Plans to construct cable car system at the southern walls of the Old City of Jerusalem: The IOA, the municipality, the Jerusalem Development Company and other tourism developers have

recently revived plans of the cable car project. The project has been opposed by many experts, the Palestine State and the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf Directorate for the following reasons:

1. It will change the skyline and visual sight view of Jerusalem Old City from the south and the east.
2. The cable car baskets, planned to carry thousands of tourists and visitors to Jerusalem, require planting large number of massive columns over and on the account of very important historic remains.
3. Most of the massive columns will be planted in Waqf properties and the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf demands the IOA to stop aggressions against its land, real estate and properties.
4. The cable car system passes over holy places and cemeteries; the matter which is widely protested by the religious people.
5. The Old City of Jerusalem is a World Heritage Site and such major project has to be consulted and approved by UNESCO.
6. State of Palestine has protested the project in principle because it obstructs peace opportunities since the cable car system connects West Jerusalem with Occupied East Jerusalem, recognized by the international community and the UN as the capital of the future Palestine State.

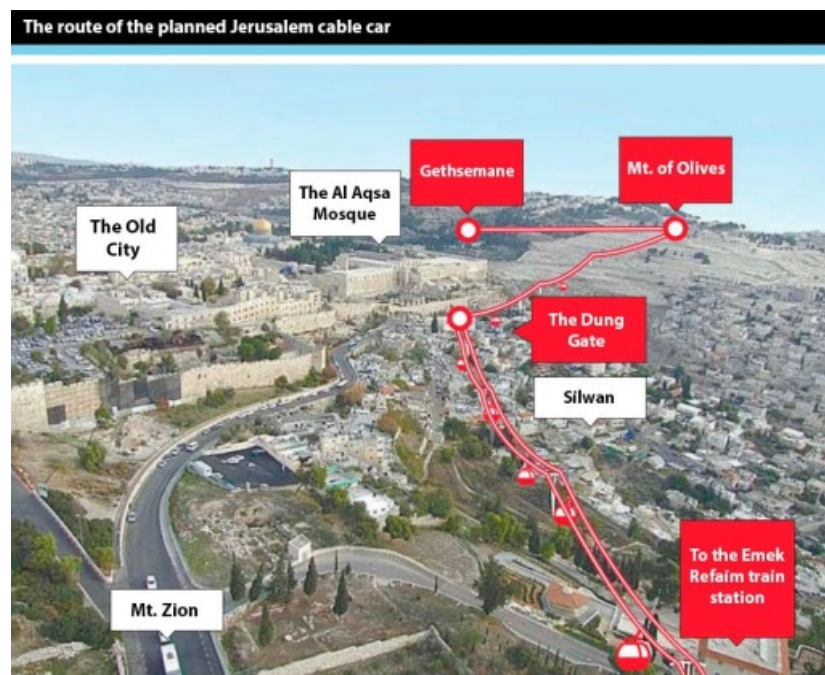


Figure 27: IOA's plan of the Jerusalem cable car, supposed to damage both historic sites by planting massive columns and to change the skyline of historic Jerusalem

9- Converting historical entrances of Old City gates into artificial public parks: IOA is changing the features of main gates and walls of the Old City of Jerusalem by establishing the so called “Biblical

Parks”, such as Damascus Gate, Bab al-Asbat (Lions’ Gate) and Bab al-Sahera (Herod’s Gate). The outside entrances of these gates have been changed and converted into parks and gardens. Some historical grounds have been covered with earth and concrete, planted with trees and new walking pathways have been created in a way that drastically changes the authentic characteristics of the Holy City. Tens of trees have recently been cut off and removed away at the Damascus Gate.

10-Nabi Dawoud Mosque: Nabi Dawoud Mosque, an Islamic Waqf property located next to the southern wall of the Old City of Jerusalem is facing new wave of escalation by the Israeli settler extremists in 2015. Among the recent escalated violations are the following:

1. The majority of the Dajani family Waqf houses of the compound are now occupied by a very radical Jewish religious-zionist school call “Diaspora Yeshiva”, which was established by Rabbi Mordechai Goldstein, who carried out the massacre of 1994 at the Hebron Ibrahim Al-Khalil Mosque, when 34 Muslims were massacred while doing their prayer at Fajr time. The Diaspora Yeshiva is now headed by his son Rabbi Yitzhak Goldstein.



Figure 28: Enforced Judaization of Nabi Dawoud Mosque is alarming model that can be used by extreme settlers to Judaize and divide Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif

2. Extremists continue to demolish and remove Ottoman and Mamluk tiles that decorated the walls of Nabi Dawoud Mosque both at the entrance and inside the Tomb.



Photos 29: few examples of the damage that has been documented before cleaning the evidence of the crime against the historic parts of Nabi Dawood Mosque

3. Extremists continue to damage and ban the renovation of the graves of the Dajani family members at the site.
4. At the same time, these extremist groups have gradually confiscated parts of the Mosque and converted the confiscated parts into a Jewish synagogue at the first floor of the building.
5. More Ottoman period windows and iron grids are removed and replaced by a new iron grid of David star in order to strengthen the enforced Judaization narrative.

Installing Jewish symbols are major steps to Judaize the Nabi Dawood Mosque and the Jesus Last Supper Room at the compound

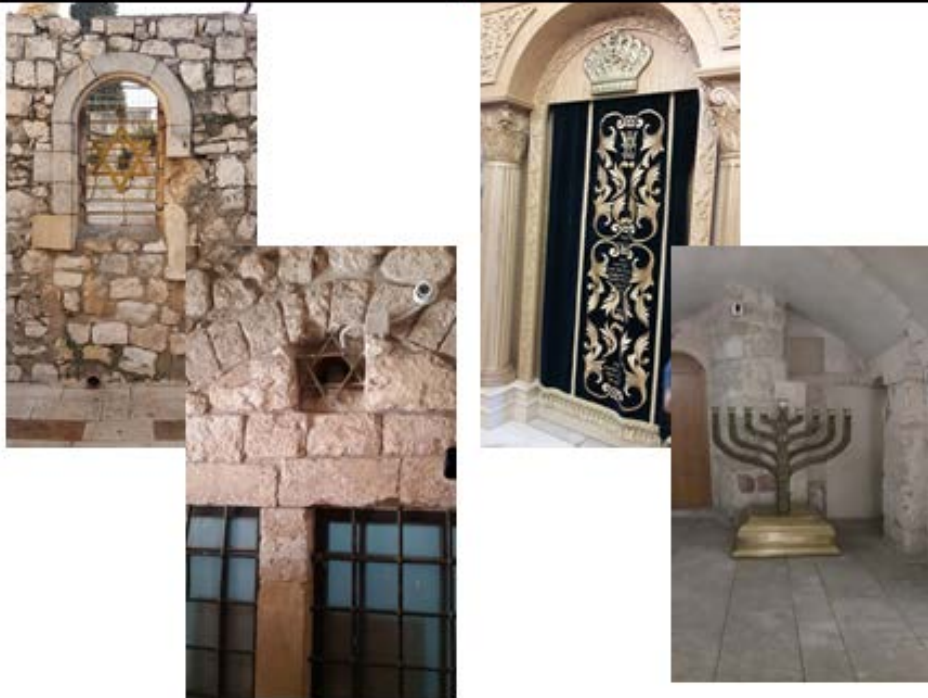


Figure 30: Installing Jewish symbols and replacing historic Ottoman iron grille with David star are flagrant changes of function and shape of the Nabi Dawood Mosque and the Jesus Last Supper Room

6. The hall of the mosque is now a hall of a Jewish synagogue and the Mihrab of the Mosque is hidden by religious bookshelves.
7. Israeli experts say that the IAA has excavated the area underground the tomb of Nabi Dawood at the northern edge of the mosque and when the IAA did not find any cave or chamber beneath the tomb the IAA decided to close off the excavation. It is important to highlight that the first Jewish attachment to Nabi Dawood Tomb in history was in 1950s and most architectural and historic studies say the tomb is an Islamic grave.

F- AGGRESSIONS AGAINST CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN SITES

The Christian heritage sites in and around the Old City of Jerusalem have suffered many aggressions and violations of international law and the Jerusalem *Status Quo*. Harassment against places that are holy to Islam and Christianity has become almost constant in Jerusalem since extremist Jews who violate sacredness of non-Jewish Holy Sites are never held accountable. Among these violations are:

1. **Extremists Price tags and slogans to vandalize the Benedictine monastery:** In the morning of 17 January 2016 monks of the Benedictine monastery, located on Mount Zion, woke up on drawings on the walls of their Church by extremists Jews saying “Christians to Hell,” “Death to the heathen Christians the enemies of Israel,” and “May his name be obliterated”. This incident has recently become frequent against the same Church.
2. **A Greek Orthodox Seminary in Jerusalem** was set on fire on February 26, 2015. The seminary has been vandalized with anti-Christian and ultra-nationalist Israeli graffiti. For ethical reasons, there is no need to translate the graffiti of the many abusing drawings painted at the walls of some Churches in Jerusalem.



Figure 31: Up right: an example of the graffiti at Dormition Abbey reads "May His name and memory be erased."

3. **Ignorance and misrepresentation of Nea Maria Church excavations:** There were new violations committed against the Nea Maria Church located in the southern part of the Old City of Jerusalem in 2015. The site was excavated by Israeli Occupation Authorities in the 1970s. This magnificent Byzantine church was constructed in the Sixth Century A.D. The location is not open for visitors and is highly neglected due to an Israeli municipality plan to establish a parking lot in its place. The Jewish neighborhood already has its own parking lot (as shown in the picture below) and expanding it, at the expense of huge parts of the Nea Maria Church remains, will only enhance Judaization plans. In 2015, many constructions of culture and sport activities have been imposed on the small area between the Nea Church and the Southern Wall of the Old City of Jerusalem while the historic vaults and arches of the Church continue to be neglected and left without any conservation or even a guard to protect the Old Church invaluable remains.



Figure 32: Nea Maria Church remains south of Jewish Quarter's parking lot

4. **ST. Marry Hospice of the German Knights:** The remains of the Church are located in the middle of the contemporary Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. ST. Marry Hospice of the German Nights Church was built during the Crusader period (12th and 13th Century C.E.). The Church is now

almost in ruins although its walls are in good shape. The Church has recently suffered a lot of ignorance and attempts of Judaization. Jewish prayer scroll, known as Mezoza, is at the entrance of the Church and many Jewish religious celebrations are organized in the Church and in its eastern plaza. The hanging of the Mezoza at the main gate of the Church means the site is either used by Jews for prayer or resided by Jews, as their home.



Figure 33: German knights Church, where many religious Jewish celebrations are organized, especially Rosh Khodesh (beginning of the month)

5- IOA removal of historical grille of the Church of Holy Sepulchre: IOA infringed upon the Waqf historical building of Al-Khanqah Al-Salahiya and the Western Wall of the Church of Holy Sepulcher, as well as confiscating the antique metal protection grille located therein, noting that the Israeli Occupation authorities had erected a new unauthentic grille and did not return back the original one

until now, which is considered as a substance breach of *International Humanitarian Law*, the 1954 *Hague Convention*, and the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*.

CHAPTER 3: RECOMMENDATIONS

In reference to the IOA's violations against the heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem mentioned in this annual report and recalling the fact that Israel is completely ignoring UNESCO resolutions that reflect facts on the ground, Jordan and Palestine call on UNESCO to continue taking well-founded language decisions that condemn Israel for its continued aggressions against the *Status Quo* and the Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and Its Walls.

In spite of the fact that UNESCO is unable to implement its decisions taken by the General Conference, the Executive Board and the World Heritage Committee concerning the Old City of Jerusalem and Its Wall, Jordan and Palestine are confident of the crucial importance of these decisions at least for the purpose of documenting many irreversible and reversible changes and violations against the Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem.

The fact that Israel does not deal with the UNESCO decisions seriously required the UNESCO organizations and the UNESCO Director General to consult with state parties in order to assess efficient dynamics that might pressure Israel, the Occupying Power, to abide by the UNESCO resolutions and stop its violations against the *Status Quo* and the historic remains of Jerusalem. It is of crucial importance that UNESCO also thinks of other tools to raise international and educational awareness regarding the dangers threatening the world heritage of Jerusalem.

It is of fundamental significance to call on the UNESCO member states and the international organizations to be careful when they deal with the Occupying Power and not to recognize any illegal change of the *Status Quo* of the World Heritage Site of Jerusalem and Its Holy Sites. These changes are illegal since they are conducted by the illegal Occupying Power and its tools, the Israel Occupation Authorities.

Jordan and Palestine reiterate their request to the World Heritage Centre to refer to the legal status of Israel, as the Occupying Power in Occupied East Jerusalem, according to Decisions & Resolutions of the UN bodies. Therefore, in the working document of the World Heritage Committee, Israel should be described as the Occupying Power. Jordan and Palestine demand that all UNESCO bodies and state

parties use international legal language, which describes Israel in East Jerusalem, as the Occupying Power. This legal language should be reflected and used in all UNESCO monitoring reports, briefings and decisions that are related to the IOA's measures, violations and aggressions in Occupied East Jerusalem, as part of the 1967 Occupied Territories.

Jordan and Palestine also request that the report submitted by Israel be clearly presented by UNESCO, as the report of the Occupying Authorities according to the UN and UNSC resolutions and decisions relating to the status of East Jerusalem under international law.

Jordan and Palestine urge the intervention of UNESCO and the World Heritage Center to resume monitoring reports and to use all possible tools to document the observations, some of them mentioned in this Status Report.

Jordan and Palestine call on Israel, the Occupying Power, to comply with the relevant UNESCO decisions, most importantly to refrain from the attempts to change the *Status Quo* at Al-Aqsa Mosque and to urgently stop all excavations and other illegal measures taken against the heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls.

Jordan and Palestine insist on the demand that Israel, the Occupying Power, shall provide to the World Heritage Center with all relevant information concerning all excavations and illegal works in the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls as stipulated in previous World Heritage Committee and Executive Board Decisions. The World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies should undertake an appropriate analytical study on the effects of the aforementioned violations and to reflect the violations mentioned in this report in the "working document" of the World Heritage Committee's 40th Session in Istanbul.

Jordan and Palestine reject Israel's attempts to interfere in, control, judaize or divide the Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif. These violations constitute an aggression against not only the heritage of the Mosque but also against 1.7 billion Muslims and a threat to international peace and security. Jordan and Palestine demand UNESCO's support and pressure on Israel to return to the pre-2000 *Status Quo* regarding to the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf Department's administration of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-

Haram Al-Sharif, including maintenance and the regulation of access of Muslim worshippers and non-Muslim visitors.

Jordan and Palestine request the World Heritage Centre to present this Status Report in its entirety to all members of UNESCO and to upload this report to the online Web Site of the World Heritage Centre.