

Jerusalem 'Old City' Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and city in the Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages in Jerusalem Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment," the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in the Jerusalem Governorate.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in the Jerusalem Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

All village profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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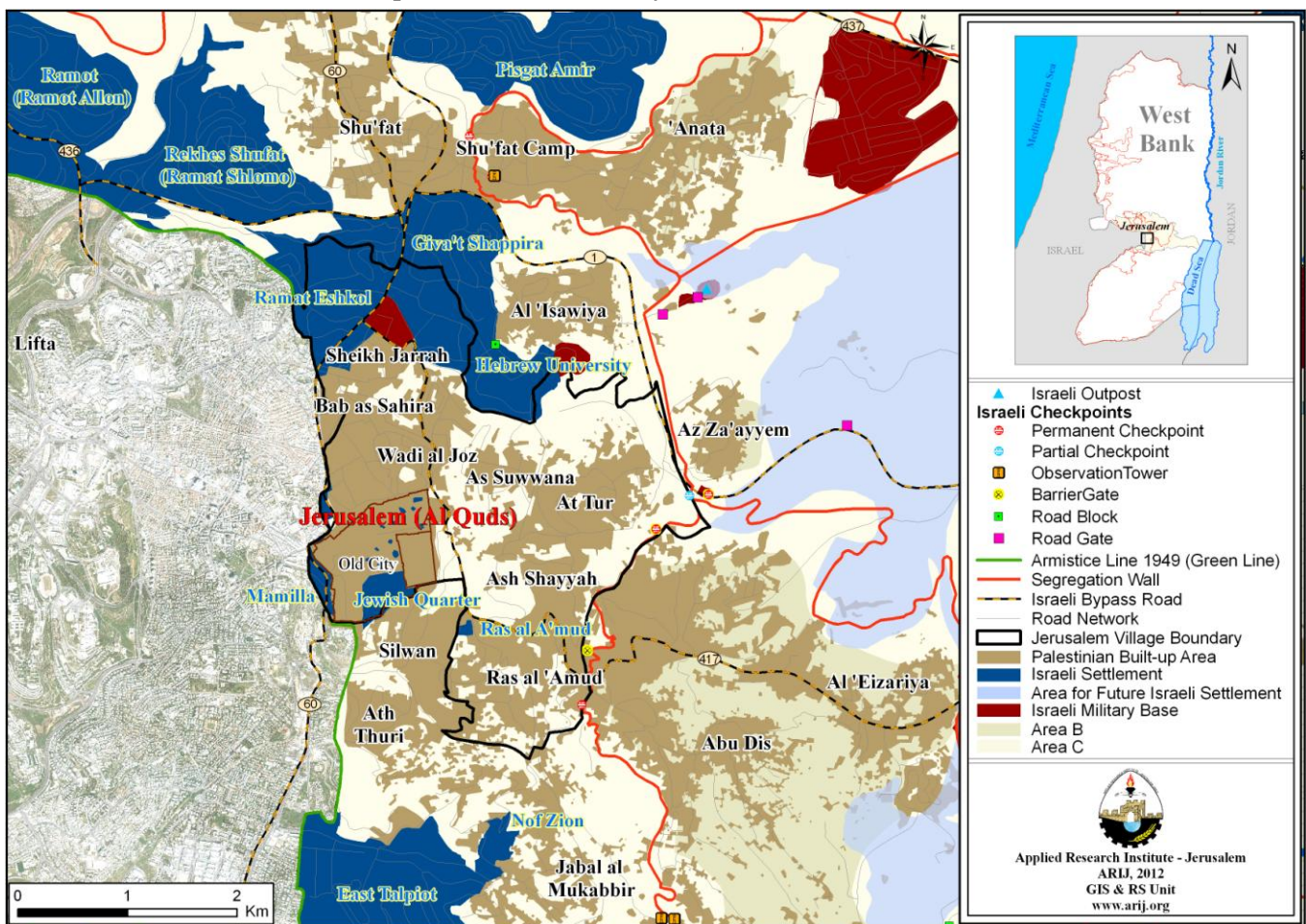
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Jerusalem ‘Old City’ Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Jerusalem ‘Old City’ is a Palestinian city and the only city in Jerusalem Governorate. It is bordered by Az Za’ayem, El ‘Eizariya and Abu Dis territories to the east, ‘Isawiya and Shu’fat to the north, Western Jerusalem to the west, and Jabal al Mukabbir and Silwan & Ath Thuri to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (see map 1).

Map 1: Jerusalem ‘Old City’ location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Jerusalem ‘Old City’ is located at an altitude of 745m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 422.3mm. The average annual temperature is 17°C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Jerusalem ‘Old City’ has several committees, including the Magistrate Clan Committee which is currently administrated by 7 members. There is also a youth committee in each neighborhood of the city,

each of which is administrated by 7 members, but none of which owns a permanent headquarters, as they meet in active institution headquarters in Jerusalem city (The African Community Society, 2012).

Jerusalem ‘Old City’ also contains four neighborhoods: the Islamic, Christian, Armenian and Jewish quarters. It also includes some localities, namely Ash Sheikh Jarrah, Wadi al Jozz, As Sawwanah, At Tur, Ras al ’Amood, Bab as Sahira and At-Tur, Mount of Olives (The African Community Society, 2012).

All services are provided by the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem (The African Community Society, 2012).

History

Jerusalem ‘Old City’ is the largest city in historic Palestine in terms of area, population and economic and religious importance. Jerusalem is known by other names, including Beit al Maqdis, Al Quds ash Sharif, and ‘Ola al Qiblatain. The earliest recorded name of Jerusalem city is Or Salem, which appears in the Tal al ‘Amarna Egyptian letters and means ‘foundations of Salem’. Salem or Shalem is the Canaanite god who protects the city. Jerusalem has also been known as the City of Peace (‘salam’); this name appears twice in ancient Egyptian documents from 2000 BC and 1330 BC. The city then became known as ‘Jebus’ after the Jebusites, descendants of the Canaanites, who built the city’s castle. Historical sources have also mentioned the Jebusite king Melchizedek, referring to him as the original builder of Jebus or Jerusalem. Melchizedek was known as King of Peace, hence the city’s name, and it may have been Melchizedek who named the city ‘Or Salem’ (City of Salem).¹

The city was established over 5000 years ago, and its current residents are descended from residents of many different nationalities, including Turkish, Indian, Moroccan, Syrian and many others (The African Community Society, 2012) (see photo 1 of Jerusalem ‘Old City’).

Religious and archaeological sites

There are 12 mosques and 10 churches in the city and numerous sites of archaeological interest, including Al Aqsa Mosque, Dome of the Rock, Ottoman fountains (water sources), the Church of the Resurrection, hospices, Roman pools, Islamic and Turkish water wells (approximately 63 wells), and old markets. The ancient markets include Khan az Zeit, Khan al Attarin (spice dealers), the tanning market, and Al Attarin market. There are also 3 Turkish baths, the Via Dolorosa, Church of Mary Magdalene, Jaffa Gate, Herod's Gate, Lions Gate, the tomb of Mary, Montefiore mill, Damascus Gate, the castle tower and the Wailing Wall (The African Community Society, 2012).

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- ¹ History of old Jerusalem during the Arab Canaanite period: 1800-1000 BC.
 - The Jerusalem Case - Dr. Abdel Tawab Mustafa, a series of Islamic issues, September 2006, No.139, the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Egypt.
 - Freedman, David Noel (2000-01-01). *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing. pp. 694–95.
 - G. Johannes Botterweck, Helmer Ringgren (eds.) *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, (tr.David E.Green) William B.Eerdmann, Grand Rapids Michigan, Cambridge, UK 1990, Vol. VI, p.348.

Photo 1: Jerusalem ‘Old City’



Population

Unfortunately, no census has been conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) to ascertain the population and housing figures in Jerusalem ‘Old City’, however, according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, the city’s population reached 119,349 in 2011 (The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, 2012).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team showed that around 3,000 people have left the city since the Al Aqsa (Second) Intifada in 2000 (The African Community Society, 2012).

60 houses have been confiscated during the last 10 years (The African Community Society, 2012).

Education

There are 16 governmental schools in the city run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 25 private schools and one school run by UNRWA (Directorate of Education – Jerusalem, 2011), in addition to 17 schools run by Jerusalem Municipality (The African Community Society, 2012) (see Table 1).

Table 1: Schools in Jerusalem ‘Old City’ by name, stage, sex and supervising authority, 2010/2011

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
The Orphans’ Islamic High School	Government	Male
The Orphans’ Islamic Elementary School (A)	Government	Male
The Orphans’ Elementary School (C)	Government	Male
The Orphans’ Islamic Elementary School (D)	Government	Male
An Nahda Islamic Elementary School (A)	Government	Female
Ar Rawda Modern Islamic School	Government	Female
The Orphans’ Islamic Elementary School (B)	Government	Male
Al Dawha Elementary School	Government	Female
The Muslim Young Females’ High School	Government	Female
Al Fatat al Laji'a Elementary School (C)	Government	Female
Dar al Fatat al Laji'a High School	Government	Female
An Nahda Islamic Elementary School (B)	Government	Mixed
Al Fatat al Laji'a Elementary School (D)	Government	Mixed
Al Fatat al Laji'a Elementary School (A)	Government	Female
Al Fatat al Laji'a ash Shamila High School	Government	Female
An Nahda (C) Co-educational School	Government	Mixed
Dar al Awlad School – Jerusalem	Private	Male
Ash Shar'iyah Girls' High School	Private	Female
Al Aqsa ash Shar'iyah Boys' High School	Private	Male
Al Haram ash Sharif School	Private	Mixed
The Abrahamic College School	Private	Mixed
Al Huda School	Private	Mixed
Siraj al Quds School	Private	Mixed
Al Antwaniya Coptic College School	Private	Mixed
The Bishop High School	Private	Mixed
Schmidt College Girls' School	Private	Female
Mar Mitri High School	Private	Mixed
Lady of Pillar School – Jerusalem	Private	Female
Terra Sancta Boys' High School	Private	Mixed
Princess Basma Foundation Co-educated School	Private	Mixed
Terra Sancta - St. Joseph Sisters Girls' High School - Jerusalem	Private	Female
Frères High School - Jerusalem	Private	Mixed
The Martyr Demiana Coptic College Girls' School	Private	Mixed
Az Zuhoor School & Kindergarten	Private	Mixed

Mount of Olives Children School & Kindergarten	Private	Mixed
House of the Arab Child High School	Private	Female
Az Zahra' Model School	Private	Mixed
Nadi al Ansari School	Private	Mixed
Al Hidaya School	Private	Mixed
Noor al Quds School	Private	Mixed
Al Firdaws (Paradise) School	Private	Mixed
Al Quds Boys' Elementary School	UNRWA	Male
Emilison Co-educational Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Mixed
At Tur Girls' Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
At Tura Girls' Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Ras al 'Amood Boys' Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Ras al 'Amood ash Shamila Girls' School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Khalil as Sakakini Girls' Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Al Mailawiya Girls' Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Al 'Omariya Boys' Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Ar Rashidiya Boys' High School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Al Ma'muniya Girls' High School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Abd Allah Ben al Hussein Boys' High School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Abd Allah Ben al Hussein Girls' High School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
At Tur Girls' Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
The Boys' (B) Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
At Tur Boys' Primary (A) School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
At Tur ash Shamila Boys' School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Ibn Khaldoon ash Shamila Boys' School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male

Source: The African Community Society, 2012 & Directorate of Education – Jerusalem, 2011

There are 27,381 students and 994 classes. It should be noted here that the average number of students per class is approximately 28 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There are 18 local kindergartens run by different bodies, attended by 1,761 children in total in 2012. Table 2 shows these kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Table 2: Kindergartens in Jerusalem 'Old City' by name and supervising authority

Kindergarten name	No. of children	Supervising authority
Al Hidaya Kindergarten	124	Private
Mount of Olives Children Kindergarten	332	Private
Al Aqsa Islamic Kindergarten	65	Islamic Civil
Az Zuhoor Kindergarten	65	Private
The Abrahamic College Kindergarten – Jerusalem	110	Islamic Civil
Al Huda Kindergarten	148	Islamic Civil
Bara'em Wadi al Jozz Kindergarten	50	Private
Terra Sancta Boys' Kindergarten	30	Christian Civil
House of the Arab Child Kindergarten - Jerusalem	144	Private

St. Joseph Sisters Kindergarten	52	Christian Civil
Lady of Pillar Kindegartgen - Jerusalem	25	Christian Civil
Schmidt College Kindergarten	58	Christian Civil
Princess Basma Foundation Kindegarten	134	Christian Civil
Mar Mitri Kindergarten	34	Christian Civil
Freres School Kindergarten	141	Christian Civil
The Bishop School Kindergarten	68	Christian Civil
Nadi al Ansar Jerusalem Kindergarten	63	Private
Noor al Quds Kindergarten	118	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

The educational sector in Jerusalem ‘Old City’ faces some obstacles, primarily:

1. The residents are not allowed to construct new schools.
2. The overcrowded classrooms.
3. The lack of playgrounds for students.
4. The lack of land for the construction or expansion of schools.

(The African Community Society, 2012)

Health status

There are various health centers available in Jerusalem ‘Old City’. These include 20 health centers run by the Israeli National Insurance (Patients’ Fund), another 3 health centers run by an NGO, 6 private dental clinics, 2 pharmacies, an ambulance owned by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and an ambulance owned by the David Star Society (The African Community Society, 2012).

However, the health sector in Jerusalem ‘Old City’ faces some obstacles, primarily:

1. The lack of space for patients in hospitals.
2. Discrimination between Arab and Jewish patients.

(The African Community Society, 2012)

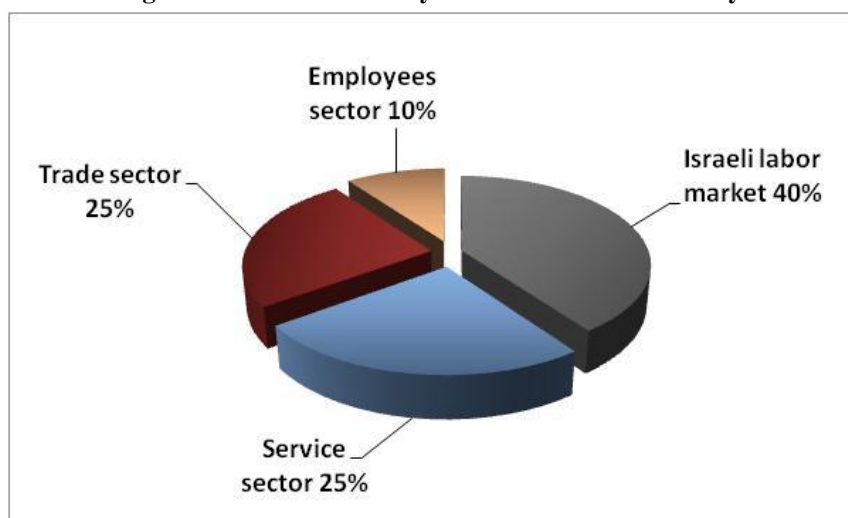
Economic activities

The economy in Jerusalem ‘Old City’ is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 40% of the workforce (The African Community Society, 2012) (see figure 1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2012 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Jerusalem ‘Old City’ is as follows:

- Israeli labor market (40%)
- Services sector (25%)
- Trade sector (25%)
- Government or private employees sector (10%)

Figure 1: Economic activity in Jerusalem ‘the Old City’



Source: The African Community Society, 2012

In terms of commercial and industrial productions in Jerusalem ‘Old City’ there are 700 grocery stores, 12 bakeries, 40 butchers, 20 fruit and vegetable stores, 13 different services stores and 20 different professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry etc.) There also are two sesame tahini presses (The African Community Society, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Jerusalem ‘Old City’ reached around 12% in 2012 and it was found that the social groups most affected in the city as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures are:

1. Workers in the tourism sector.
2. Workers in the trade sector.
3. Workers in industry.

(The African Community Society, 2012)

Agricultural sector

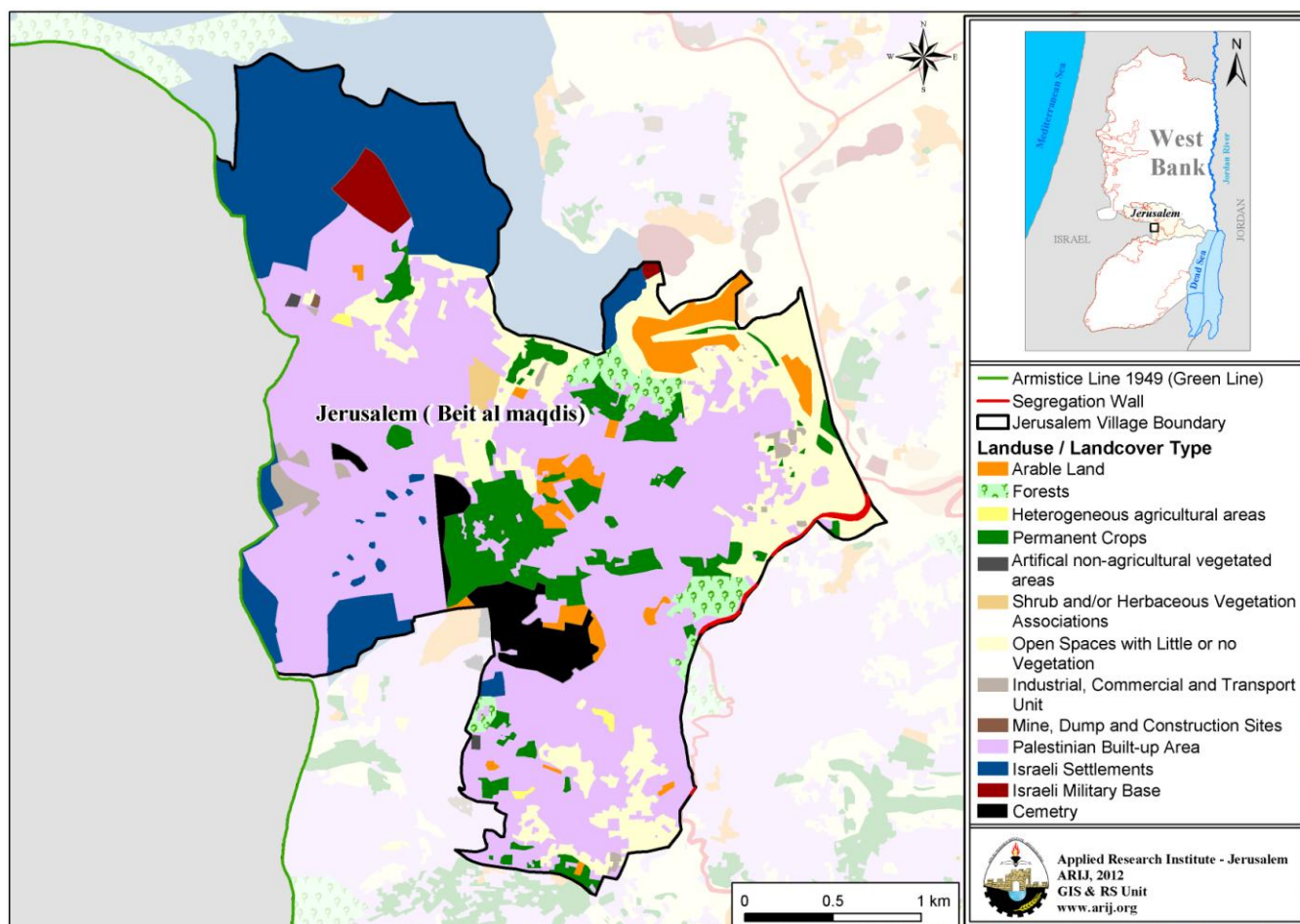
Jerusalem ‘Old City’ has a total area of around 9,108 dunums, of which 1,067 are considered ‘arable’ land and 4,498 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (see table 3 and map 2).

Table 3: Land use and land cover in Jerusalem ‘the Old City’ in 2010 (area in dunums)

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (1,067)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent crops	Greenho uses	Rangel ands	Arable lands					
9,108	4,498	715	0	37	315	0	215	1,269	398	1,660

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012

Map 2: Land use/land cover in Jerusalem ‘the Old City’



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Table 4 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. The city is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 38 dunums in the city cultivated with olive trees.

Table 4: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Jerusalem ‘the Old City’

Fruit trees	Rain fed (dunums)	Irrigated (dunums)
Olives	38	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone fruits	0	0
Pome fruits	0	0
Nuts	4	0
Other fruits	2	0
Total area	44	0

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ’s GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) conducted a survey which used a definition of

agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas instead of seasonal ones. The survey did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that 30 families in Jerusalem 'Old City' rear and keep birds (pigeons) (The African Community Society, 2012), and that there are 20 beehives owned by residents in the city (Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010)

There are no agricultural roads in the city (The African Community Society, 2012).

Institutions and Services

Jerusalem 'Old City' has very few governmental institutions. There is a police station and a few local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (The African Community Society, 2012):

- **Al Laqlaq Tower**
- **Sons of Jerusalem Club**
- **Sabafort Children Center**
- **Zahret al Mada'en Society**
- **The African Community Society**
- **The Old City Youth Society**
- **Saraya Center**
- **The Arabs Catholic Group**
- **Sons of Virgin Mary Society**
- **The Syrian Club**
- **The Armenian Club**
- **Ladies of the Annunciation Society**

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Jerusalem 'Old City' has been connected to a public electricity network since 1967. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the city. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the city are connected to this network (The African Community Society, 2012).

Jerusalem 'Old City' is connected to a telecommunication network through the Jerusalem Municipality and approximately 100% of the housing units within the city boundaries are connected to phone lines (The African Community Society, 2012).

Transportation Services

There are no means of transportation in Jerusalem 'Old City' (The African Community Society, 2012)

Water Resources

Jerusalem 'Old City' is provided with water by Jihon, an Israeli company, through the public water network established in 1967 and approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network (The African Community Society, 2012).

Information about the quantity of water supplied monthly by Jihon to Jerusalem 'Old City' was not available. Each cubic meter of water from the network costs between 7 to 15 NIS (The African Community Society, 2012).

Sanitation

Jerusalem 'Old City' has a public sewerage network, established in 1967; almost all of the city's housing units (100%) use the sewage network as a major means for wastewater disposal (The African Community Society, 2012).

Solid Waste Management

Jerusalem Municipality is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the city. No specific fees are charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services; citizens pay the Arnona tax to Jerusalem Municipality which range from 3,000 to 10,000 NIS/ year depending on the size of household. This tax covers all services provided by Jerusalem Municipality to the city residents, including the collection of solid waste services (The African Community Society, 2012).

Most of the population in Jerusalem 'Old City' benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 130 containers, each with 1 cubic meter capacity, distributed throughout the city. Jerusalem Municipality collects the solid waste twice a week and then transports it using a waste vehicle to El 'Eizariya dumping site, where it is usually buried and sometimes burnt (The African Community Society, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Jerusalem 'Old City' is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day by residents is nearly 100 tons, or 36,667 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Geopolitical Status of Jerusalem City

Due to its historical and religious importance, Jerusalem, as a holy city for the monotheistic religions remains a major conflict point between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Christians and Muslims. Jerusalem remains the disputed capital of the Palestinian Territory; it represents the main religious, commercial and economic center for Palestinians but in 1976 has been illegally declared by Israelis as their 'eternal and unified' capital city. Since the beginning of Israel's occupation of Palestine in the twentieth century, the city of Jerusalem has been the most prominent place for destructive Israeli military, colonial, cultural, and religiously targeted activities. The Palestinian capital city became a target for 'Judaization'², isolation, colonization and ethnic cleansing with the old city of Jerusalem which contains the holy sites of Muslims and Christians, such as Al-Aqsa Mosque and Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The successive Israeli Governments have launched targeted attacks at Jerusalem city that aimed at completely controlling the city and its holy sites, and expelling as many Palestinians as possible of those living in it in order to reach the Jewish majority within the city at maximum through the construction of Israeli settlements in and around the city, and the confiscation of Palestinian lands and designate these lands for further settlement expansion .

Background:

Following the 1967 war, Israeli authorities declared Jerusalem city as its "eternal unified capital," and succeeded afterwards in altering the geographic and demographic layout of the city. Tremendous efforts on the part of the Israelis have been made to promote their colonizing and illegal actions as a legitimate means of democratic governance over the city. This has been achieved using a de jure policy of fluid city boundaries. The "artificially created" Green Line, Israel's internationally recognized 1949 border, was deeply repressed, as Jerusalem's boundaries became fluid and elastic to insure a Jewish superiority, achieving the Zionist myth of; "a land without people for a people without land." This, in turn, blurred and gerrymandered the difference between "the political space of the state and the cultural space of the nation" a difference hidden by the hyphenated concept of "nation-state" (Kemp, 2000).

Chronological changing of boundaries

In the period 1948-1967, Jerusalem was to remain separate under international supervision; a 'Corpus Separatum' in the words of the United Nations (UN). In November 1947, the United Nation General Assembly (UNGA), in its 128th plenary session, passed Resolution No. 181 which partitioned Historic Palestine into two States, one for Jews and the other for Arabs. The Arab-Palestinians rejected the plan as it confiscated 55.5% of what they owned from Mandate Palestine to the Jews. The Jews who only owned 6% of the land were allocated 55.5% against 44.5% to the Arabs who had previously owned 94% of the land of Historic Palestine. However, because of 1948 War, Israel ran on 78% of Mandate Palestine, destroyed 419 Palestinian villages and caused the displacement of more than 900,000 Palestinian refugees (Issac et. al., 2008).

Jerusalem has drawn the world's attention over the past forty-six years, since its occupation during 1967. Shortly after the 1967 war, the city was divided into two parts, the Jewish West Jerusalem and the

²**Judaization** is a process of cultural assimilation in which a person or a demographic group acquires Jewish cultural and religious beliefs and values.

occupied Arab East Jerusalem. In order to ensure Jerusalem represents Israel's largest city, Israelis' redrew the administrative boundaries of the Palestinians Governorates, expanding the Jerusalem municipal boundaries from 6.5km² (including the old city) to 71 km² (ARIJ-GIS, 2012)

The new boundaries of the city were delineated for security reasons and demographic considerations; to create a geographic integrity and demographic superiority to Jews in Jerusalem. (Shaul Efraim Cohen 1993, p. 78) points out that the placement of the new boundary line: **“was determined according to strategic-demographic policy and not according to pure planning considerations. The interest of this policy was to include within the city ridges and sites which provided strategic control of the city and the roads leading to it, along with large additional territories containing a minimum Arab population.”** (Cohen, 1993)

In order to accomplish this, the redrawing of Jerusalem municipal boundaries excluded the densely populated Palestinian communities (the mythic of “land without people”) in the north, including Beit Iksa and Beir Nabala, whereas the sparsely populated communities' lands in the south were included (Bethlehem and Beit Sahour)(ARIJ,2009).However, the municipal planning deliberations were of secondary importance in setting the new boundaries.

In 2004, the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality disclosed its “Town Planning Scheme of 2000,” which sets out plans until the year 2020. Accordingly, the boundary of the western part of the city is extended by 40% (i.e. 142 km²). According to the new Master Plan, more than half of the eastern part of Jerusalem city is zoned as built-up areas and 24.4% are zoned as open “green natural” areas (ARIJ GIS-Database, 2012).

In September 2008, a new chapter of the Israeli colonial and expansionist policies in Jerusalem city was revealed through the announcement of ‘Jerusalem Regional Plan, 2008’, which stressed on the Jewish dream of Jerusalem “unified” and eternal capital of the state of Israel, after it has been eradicated from the West Bank, which in turn, eliminated the “one State” and two-states solutions (Oren Yiftachel, 2005). The Jerusalem regional plan comes 50 years after the last regional plan of Jerusalem city was issued and was prepared and named after the British planner, Henry Kendel. The plan was also known as “RJ4” plan (Coon, 1992). However, this plan was not finalized and was lost during the 1948 war.

Jerusalem City after 1967:

Most of the land of Jerusalem City (a total area of 9,108 dunums) is located under Jerusalem Israeli Municipality's control. Jerusalem Governorate was divided into two main regions: J1 area which is located inside the borders and under the control of the Jerusalem Municipality. J1 area includes many Palestinian Jerusalemite communities such as the communities of the Old Town and Jerusalem City (Beit Al-Maqdis), in addition to Jerusalem city which is located in (J1) area to the north. The other classified region is J2, which is located outside the borders and the control of Jerusalem Municipality. This area is under the Palestinian Authority's control within Jerusalem Governorate and includes its eastern and western parts, whereas the central part of the Governorate remains under Israeli occupied control. It is noted that in this report, the area of Jerusalem under discussion is the central part of East Jerusalem which includes neighborhoods such as: the Old Town and the holy places within it including

Al-Aqsa Mosque and Church of the Holy Sepulcher, in addition to the neighborhoods of Ash Sheikh Jarrah, Wadi al Joz, As Suwwana, At Tur and Ras al ‘Amud.

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, which divided the West Bank into areas “A,” “B” and “C.” Jerusalem was not a subject to this classification, but remained as it was before this agreement; under the control of Jerusalem Israeli Municipality. It is further noted that Israeli Occupation Authorities have used the separation plan which is represented by the construction of the Segregation Wall to illegally and unilaterally redraw the boundaries of Jerusalem Municipality where the Wall has separated the whole area of J1 from Jerusalem Governorate except for Kafr ‘Aqab, Shu’fat Camp and part of Shu’fat town, which are isolated outside of the J1 area.

Israeli Occupation Practices in Jerusalem City

Jerusalem city has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli targets. Confiscations have included; the construction of Israeli settlements, outposts, military bases, military barriers and bypass roads on the city territories and its surroundings, in addition to the Israeli segregation plan. That which follows discusses a number of major Israeli confiscations within Jerusalem city territories:

During Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian Territory, the Israeli government confiscated 1,516 dunums in Jerusalem city (16.6% of the total city area) to establish seven Israeli settlements surrounding the old town from all directions. These settlements are currently inhabited by approximately 28,000 Israeli settlers. The city has been disastrously affected by these settlements and now represents a closed canton surrounded by settlements and the Separation Wall, from all directions. The seven Israeli settlements which have been built on the city’s territories are: “Ramat Eshkol”, “Hebrew University” and “Giva’t Shappira (French Hill)” settlements to the north of the city, the “Jewish Quarter”, “Mamilla” and “Ras al ‘Amud (Ma’ale Hazetim)” settlements to the south of the city, in addition to the “Settlers’ Houses” in the Old Town. The western direction of the city was totally suffocated by the “Israeli settlements of West Jerusalem” whereas the Governorate completed the isolation ring in the eastern direction of the city (Table 5).

Table 5: Israeli Settlements constructed on Jerusalem City lands

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated from Jerusalem City (dunums)	Population of settlers (2009)
Ramat Eshkol	1968	711	10294
Hebrew University (Har Hatzofim)	1968	413	1236
Jewish Quarter	1968	131	3094
Giva’t Shappira (French Hill)	1968	126	9000
Mamilla	1997	100	3272
Ras al ‘Amud (Ma’ale Hazetim)	1998	15	670
Settlers Houses in the Old Town	--	20	282
Total		1,516	27,848

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

Moreover, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) confiscated hundreds of thousands of dunums of Palestinian land to construct many Israeli bypass roads which are extended thousands of kilometers over the West Bank. This has been achieved through the confiscation of agricultural and non-agricultural lands to connect the settlements and to divide the Palestinian land in a way that strengthens Israeli security control over them. Within Jerusalem territories, IOF have constructed Israeli bypass roads no.1, 60 and 417 on confiscated lands. It is worth mentioning that the real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF along these roads, extending to approximately 75 m on the roads' sides.

Furthermore, the Israeli Occupation Authorities confiscated additional lands from Jerusalem city to establish two Israeli military bases on the city's territory near "Hebrew University" and "Ramat Eshkol" settlements. The area confiscated for this purpose is estimated at 118 dunums. These bases were established under the pretext of protecting the Israeli settlements that were constructed on and nearby to the city's territory.

Israeli military presence in the city is not limited to these two military bases, as Israeli soldiers are highly present (visible) and spread across the city in many contexts; infantry, cavalry, in vehicles and at checkpoints. IOF are always present in all the city's neighborhoods particularly in the Old Town and the area surrounding Al-Aqsa Mosque, where military bands are distributed on all the internal and external gates of the Old Town and Al-Aqsa Mosque. Resultantly, all persons wishing to enter this area are subject to inspection. During Fridays and the Muslim Ramadan celebrations, the city witnesses intensive military presence with soldiers preventing people from reaching Al-Aqsa Mosque for prayer. This frequently affects Palestinians who hold the Palestinian (Green) identity in addition to Arab youths who are regularly inspected and prevented from access to the mosque yard. The type of persons most able to reach the mosque are the elderly and women who hold the Jerusalemite blue ID.

Jerusalem City and the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan

The construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall has had a negative impact on Jerusalem city. According to the last amendment of the plan that was published on the webpage of the Israeli Defense Ministry on the 30th April 2007, the Segregation Wall is isolating all the lands of Jerusalem city from the remaining Palestinian territory in the West Bank. The isolated lands include all Palestinian built-up areas in the city, illegal settlements and military bases constructed on the city's land, open spaces, agricultural areas, forests and others (Table 6).

Table 6: Land classification of the isolated areas to the west side of the Segregation Wall in Jerusalem city - Jerusalem Governorate

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Palestinian built-up area	4,502
2	Israeli settlements	1,516
3	Open spaces	1,260
4	Agricultural areas	1,030
5	Cemeteries	283
6	Forests	215
7	Israeli military bases	118
8	Industrial, commercial or transportation units	97
9	Shrub and/or herbaceous vegetation associations	37
10	Wall zone	27
11	Playgrounds	20
12	Construction Sites	3
Total		9,108

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

The Segregation Wall and the Suffering of Jerusalem City Residents

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in September 2000, citizens of Jerusalem city and the nearby towns have lost their association with Palestinian cities in the West Bank, where the city of Jerusalem along with some surrounding towns were separated from the West Bank, by the Segregation Wall. Jerusalem citizens who hold the Jerusalemite identity (Blue ID) can enter West Bank areas through Israeli terminals which often witness huge congestion, while being subjected to thorough inspection from Israeli soldiers which causes restriction on Palestinians' freedom of movement.

However, the Palestinian citizens of the West Bank who hold the Palestinian Identity (the Green Identity) are prohibited from entering the city of Jerusalem and its surrounding towns because the Segregation Wall is isolating these West Bankers totally from Jerusalem. This restricts such residents from accessing services in the sectors of; health, education and socio-economic facilities. In reality this represents a restriction to hospitals, schools and medical centers, in addition to isolation from their places of work in Jerusalem. Those with West Bank IDs will not be able to reach the city except for those who have special Israeli permits which are rarely given to them, and through the military checkpoints where they precisely inspected on a daily-basis. This causes suffering for Palestinians and difficulty in movement and interaction, and also causes the dismantling of family bonding social interaction and dispersal of many Palestinian families, especially in cases where one of a couple holds Palestinian identity (Green), and the other one the Jerusalemite identity (Blue).

The Segregation Wall plan shows that upon wall completion, the lands of Jerusalem City will become isolated from neighboring Palestinian towns and villages, where the Segregation Wall along with the settlement's belt around Jerusalem City will isolate East Jerusalem area from the rest of the West Bank.

The existing Segregation Wall is surrounding the city from three directions, which makes the city greatly affected by Israel's colonization, occupation and settlers' practices.

Parallel to the establishment of the Segregation Wall, the Israeli Occupation Authorities constructed a settlement belt around Jerusalem City which aims at founding an isolation area, in addition to the prevention of urban expansion in the Palestinian towns of Jerusalem. The Israeli Occupation Authorities have constructed these settlements close to the urbanized areas in the Jerusalemite towns, which has led to the increase of the total area confiscated in these towns, and minimizing the area available for future urban expansion for the people. In addition this move has created a new reality on the city residents that will be difficult to change.

These Israeli policies and plans particularly in Jerusalem, have led to the creation of high population densities as a result of the lack of lands needed for urban expansion which has forced people to expand BOTH internally and vertically. Jerusalem city and its surrounding towns are considered to have one of the world's highest population densities. The population density in the Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem is about 13,500 person/ km² compared to 9,000 person/ km² in the settlements of East Jerusalem and 8,300 person/ km² in West Jerusalem.

The Dilemma of Land and Building's Licenses in Jerusalem City

The problem of the land and building's licenses is considered one of the most difficult problems in Jerusalem city and in other areas of East Jerusalem. The reason for this is two-fold; the high prices of lands and the very high cost of licenses for construction.

Jerusalem city is characterized by its strategic location in East Jerusalem and its closeness to the old city and Al-Aqsa Mosque, which has made it an important target for Judaization and colonization in addition to restrictions related to buildings' licenses imposed by the IOF. Regarding the availability of lands, Jerusalem city is lacking lands and open spaces for Palestinian urban expansion and it is suffering from a high population density.

According to citizens of Jerusalem, land prices (price per dunum) in East Jerusalem area, most specifically land located within the borders of the Jerusalem municipality -which is rarely available- is relatively higher than land located outside the borders of the municipality, and are even doubled in places closer to the city center and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Israeli Occupation Authorities have used the money as an effective instrument to buy the Palestinian lands in Jerusalem for enormous prices and 'Judaize' these lands by implanting Jewish settlers in the city. Israeli forces offer Palestinians unlimited prices for such lands and houses especially in the city center and its neighborhoods. For anyone in Jerusalem who has a land and want to build a house, or buy additional land, has to take authorization and permission from the Municipality of Jerusalem which puts obstacles in the way of Palestinians who want to get a license for the building. This is because the Israeli Authorities aim to expel Palestinians out of Jerusalem to change the demographic situation in the city for the benefit of the Jews and to make the Palestinians in Jerusalem a minority.

One of the main obstacles that comes in the way of obtaining a building license is that one has to prove the ownership of the land. The Israeli Occupation Authorities require that Palestinians seeking to build a

house/structure, must prove their ownership of the land, which is considered a political problem related to the occupation since 1967.

According to a report prepared by Bimkom Organization (Planners for Planning Rights), approximately 50% of the East Jerusalem lands are unregistered in the archive of ownership such as the town of Kafr 'Aqab and the area extending from Al 'Isawiya town in the north to Sur Bahir in the south. Additionally, 25% of the lands in East Jerusalem are in the process of survey and registration (such as Beit Hanina and Shu'fat towns); and only 25% of the lands in East Jerusalem are officially registered and include parts of Al Bireh, Qalandiya, Beit Hanina, Hizma and 'Anata, Ash Sheikh Jarrah and Beit Safafa (Bimkom, 2004).

According to the testimonies of Palestinians in the city of Jerusalem, anyone from Jerusalem city who wants to get a license for building, the licensing procedure is lengthy (sometimes lasting years) and carries very high costs. Depending on the land area and type of building for which a permit is being sought, the license will cost between 150,000-300,000 NIS. Because of the political problem of land registration and ownership, the unreasonable prices of licenses, in addition to the lengthy time it takes to secure licenses many citizens because of humanitarian needs and the natural family growth resort to building without licenses or after rejection from the Municipality. In these cases, the Israeli Occupation Authorities usually demolish the building and force the owner to pay the fine and even the cost of demolition. Subsequently, the owner must submit a new application for the license with a new fee and time procedure. On top of this, the majority of Palestinian people within Jerusalem are living in difficult conditions because of high poverty rates, which is a consequence of the Israeli Occupation closures which restricts the movement of the Palestinians, thus preventing them from reaching work which also increases the unemployment rate in the occupied territory. These Israeli restrictions and harassments against the Palestinians in Jerusalem, along with the problems of housing, inflation, lack of lands and jobs, force many Jerusalemites to migrate outside the borders of the Municipality towards the West Bank or even outside the country to find an improvement humanitarian situation. This forced migration of Jerusalemites and Palestinians is the ultimate goal of the Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territory.

According to the 'Civic Coalition for Defending Palestinian Rights' in Jerusalem, (CCDPRJ, 2009), the Israeli Authorities adopted many policies that aim at enacting pressure on Jerusalemites to leave the city of Jerusalem; for example, in the case of the demographic status and urban growth in Jerusalem, the area that is allocated for the development of Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and lies under the jurisdiction of the Jerusalem Municipality is estimated at approximately 9,200 dunums which represents only 13% of the total area of East Jerusalem; whereas the remaining area (of East Jerusalem and under the jurisdiction of the Jerusalem Municipality) is classified as Israeli settlements, green areas -which are off use to the Palestinian urban growth-, public buildings, roads and others. Furthermore, the Israeli Authorities often don't prepare the needed Master Plans for the Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem which are necessary for the urban planning process. In cases when the Israeli Authorities prepare master plans for Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, Israeli Authorities usually put restrictions and give limited percentages of areas designated for Palestinian urban expansion which are below the needed percentages for natural urban growth, which is between 25% and 75%. If one compares these percentages with the percentage of lands used for Israeli settlements, it is found that urban growth varies between 75%-120%.

Israeli Escalation in Jerusalem Housing Demolitions

During the past years, Israeli Occupation Authorities have escalated their attacks against the houses of Palestinians living in Jerusalem through targeting them with demolitions under the pretext of “unlicensed construction”. An estimation of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) shows that since 1967, the Israeli Occupation has demolished approx. 2,000 houses and thousands of other constructions in East Jerusalem (ICAHD, 2011). According to Al Maqdese Organization for Society Development, approximately 1,059 houses and constructions were demolished in East Jerusalem between the years 2000 and 2011, which resulted in the displacement of 4,865 Palestinians from Jerusalem, of whom 1,290 were women and 2,537 were children (Al Maqdese 2012). Regarding demolitions in Jerusalem city during 2011, Al Maqdese Organization further noted that the past year has witnessed the demolition of 46 constructions in East Jerusalem, 21 of which were in the city center, including 9 residential constructions. This demolition of these residential constructions has led to the displacement of 37 Palestinians, of whom 17 were children (Al Maqdese 2012).

These Israeli assaults against the Palestinians of Jerusalem aim to punish them and force them to leave the city and its surrounding towns. It is further noted that there are hundreds of houses under threat of demolition in Jerusalem city under the pretext of “unlicensed construction”. These claims are made despite the fact that the residents are fulfilling the needed procedures for the license. In the majority of cases, the Jerusalem Municipality procrastinates in granting the license and finally they refuse the request under non-justified pretexts.

The Municipal Tax (‘Arnona’) negatively affects the living status and economic situation of Palestinians in Jerusalem

The Municipal tax, named in Hebrew as “Arnona” is imposed by the Jerusalem Municipality on the holders of buildings and lands in Jerusalem. This tax is considered one of the greatest burdens faced by Palestinian residents of the city. The Israeli Authorities use this tax as an instrument to put pressure on Palestinians to force them to leave the city. The Palestinians in East Jerusalem are exposed to unfair tax system because they are required to pay the same rates of Arnona tax as the Israelis whose salaries are almost six to eight times higher than that of the Palestinians. Additionally, there is a discrepancy in spending the money collected from the Arnona Tax between West and East Jerusalem; while East Jerusalem suffers from inadequate and insufficient infrastructure and sewage system, West Jerusalem is being allocated huge municipal budgets for infrastructure development and is well cared for and is far more opulent than East Jerusalem, (Electronic Intifada, 2009).

The “Arnona” tax which is imposed on Jerusalemites is calculated based on a criteria, which takes in consideration the classification of the area and the land-use classification of the Jerusalem Master Plan (residential areas, commercial, industrial, agricultural, public buildings, parking... etc.). They additionally take in consideration the zone type, the type of use and the area of building or land (Jerusalem Municipality, 2012). Regarding the residential areas they classify these into four categories (A, B, C and D), and based on this zoning, along with the area of building, they determine and calculate the amount of tax that must be paid for the municipality or example, the tax tariff in the residential areas varies in the four zones between 35-98 NIS/m² which is equivalent to approximately 10-25 US\$/m². This means that a small house (apartment) with an area of 100-150 m² will cost his owner 3,000-10,000

NIS a year. This is equivalent to approximately 800-3,000 US\$. For commercial shops, the tax imposed by the Municipality forces the merchants to increase prices. The tax tariff for the commercial shops varies between 309-319 NIS/m² depending on the area of the shop which is equivalent to approximately 80 US\$/m². In addition to the taxation on the residential and commercial areas, the Municipality imposes taxes on worship places, agricultural areas, schools, kindergartens, elderly homes and others.

In terms of economic impact the segregation plan which has focused on the isolation of Jerusalem city from the Palestinian Territory had a huge negative impact on the economic situation of the Palestinians living in Jerusalem in general and on the commercial sector particularly, which has also suffered from global recession. Much of the trade in Jerusalem is largely dependent on the Palestinian visitors of the Holy City from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Palestinians from the occupied land in 1948, but Israeli closure of the city has negatively affected the economic situation of the city and its residents. Despite these difficult situations, the Occupation Authorities impose taxes without taking into consideration the situation of the Jerusalemites, who represent the poorer class in the Holy City. Moreover, the Municipality by the beginning of last year (2012) decided to increase the “Arnona” by approximately 3%, which increases the burden on the Palestinians of Jerusalem.

It is further noted that in the case of Jerusalem, the Palestinians are forced to pay these taxes in order to preserve their presence in the city without receiving a decent level of Municipal services. The planning process in the Municipality of Jerusalem focuses on the political-demographic dimension that aims to Judaize of the city more than planning for the purposes of prosperity and well-being of its citizens. Furthermore, the Palestinian neighborhoods and communities in Jerusalem are deliberately neglected in the different services provision. For instance, the municipality rarely makes the needed maintenance for the infrastructure of the Arab neighborhoods, including; roads, water and waste water networks, solid wastes and others. The most obvious problem that the people of Jerusalem suffer is the lack of cleaning service and the accumulation of solid wastes despite their commitment in paying the taxes for the Municipality. This can be easily understood if we compare the situation of the Palestinians in Jerusalem with the situation of the illegal settlers living in the city who get all the facilities and services in order to stay in the Holy City, while Palestinians live in poor conditions and lack services and rights that they should receive in return for paying the Arnona tax.

Targeting Al-Aqsa Mosque:

Al-Aqsa Mosque -which represents one of the most important holy sites for Arabs and Muslims, is considered the ultimate goal for the Zionist Colonial Program in Jerusalem as believed by The leaders and founders of Zionism that Judaizing of Jerusalem city and Al Aqsa Mosque would not be fulfilled unless Islamic and Christian sanctities of Jerusalem city are devastated to build the Solomon Temple at the site of Al-Aqsa mosque. This was represented in the Father of modern Zionism movement speech, Theodor Herzl, in the first meeting of the Zionist Congress in the Swiss city of Basle in 1897 who said, “The moment we occupy the city of Al-Quds, if I will be alive and I be able to do something, I will not hesitate a single moment to destroy whatever is not sacred for the Jews in Quds which has taken shape during long years.”

The Israeli plans to control the city of Jerusalem started with the establishment of a set of Israeli settlements, settlements’ outposts and military bases in and around the city of Jerusalem to obstruct the

development of the Palestinian communities in the city. The settlements, outposts and military bases were also linked together and with settlements outside the city of Jerusalem and those inside Israel, through the construction of bypass roads. The Israeli plans further targeted the city to segregate it from its Palestinian environs through the erection of checkpoints, terminals and later by the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall which aimed at consolidating the control over the city and ensuring its segregation from the rest of the West Bank Governorates. This in turn, reinforced the Israeli ethnic cleansing plans in the city which was and is still represented by the demolition of Palestinian houses, harassments, imposing taxes on Palestinians three times higher than taxes imposed on Israelis living in the city, building prohibition, denying Palestinians building licenses, freezing land registration procedures, Israeli military presence in the city and around Al Aqsa Mosque, excavations under Al Aqsa Mosque, among other ways of targeting the Palestinians of Jerusalem. All the mentioned violations have the target of suffocating Al-Aqsa Mosque, where the extreme Jewish organizations (The Western Wall Heritage Foundation as one example) are trying to demolish the Holy Mosque to build a “The Jewish Temple” on its location.

The IOF impose its military and security control over the Mosque through an intensive military presence which controls all gates leading to the Old city and Al-Aqsa Mosque. Furthermore, the Israeli Antiques Authority along with the Municipality of Jerusalem and in cooperation with extreme Jewish organizations (such as Ateret Cohanim and El Ad organizations) have worked hard on digging a large network of tunnels underneath Al-Aqsa Mosque in the search for the “ruins of the Jewish temple.” In addition, they have established Jewish museums and three-dimensional models on the land of Al-Aqsa that simulate the “Talmudic Jerusalem” and the “Jewish Temple”.

The IOF, and after many years of conducting excavations underneath Al-Aqsa Mosque (since 2005), have weakened the foundations of the mosque as it has become vulnerable to demolition due to natural causes such as earthquakes or because of Israeli artificial quakes, as many official Palestinians and Arab institutions warned. According to Al-Aqsa Foundation for Waqf and Heritage, the network of tunnels under Al-Aqsa Mosque stretch from the city of Silwan in the south, passing beneath Al Aqsa Mosque and its environs to the north of the Old Town. There are also tunnels linking the eastern part of the Old Town of Jerusalem with its western part, where the total length of this network of tunnels may reach approximately 1,600 meters, ([JCSER2011](#))

Targeting Bab al Maghariba Neighborhood:

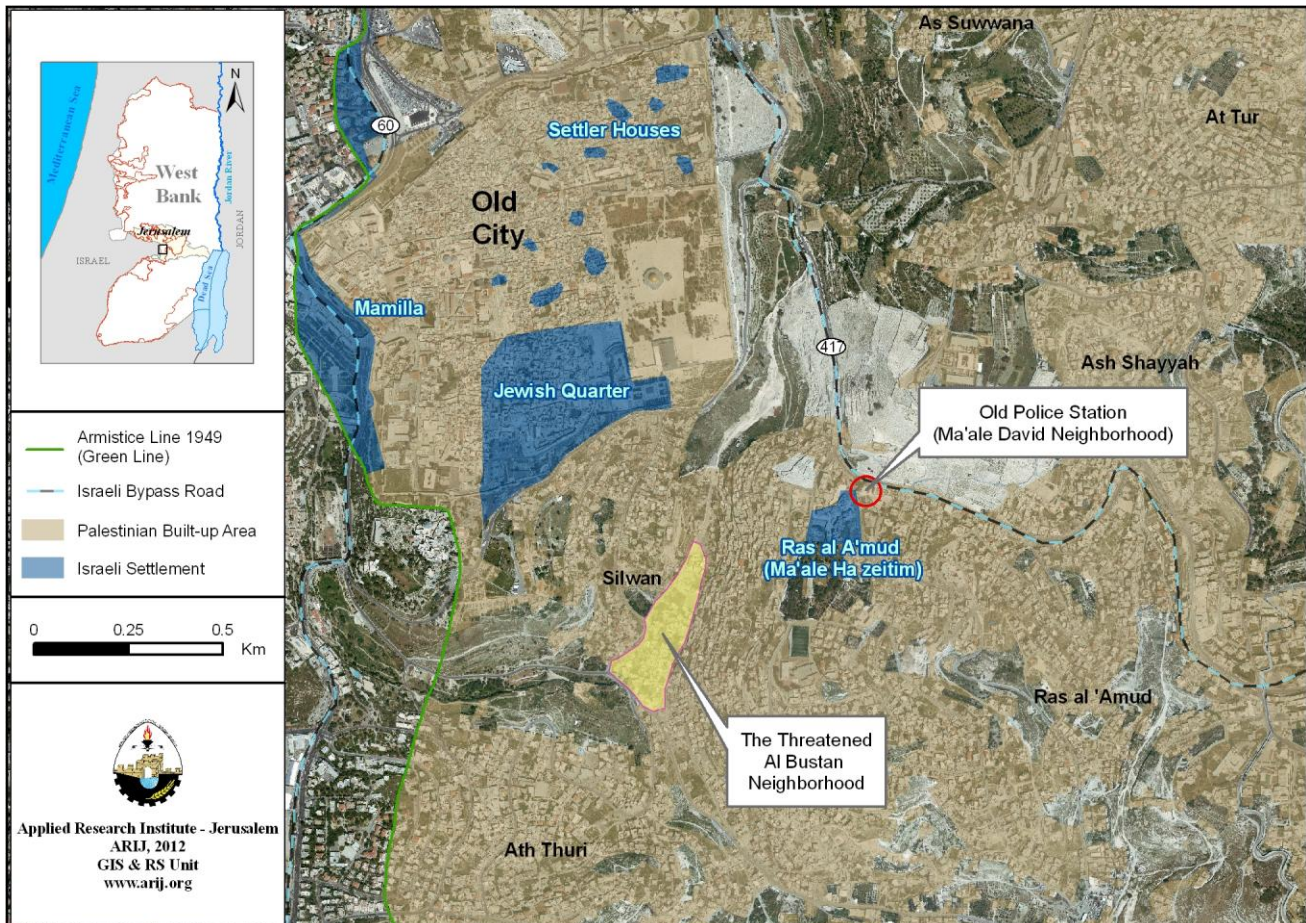
The name of this neighborhood refers to its inhabitants who came from Morocco (Moroccan/Maghariba) after the re-capture of Jerusalem by Salah ed Din al ‘Ayyubi. This neighborhood has been subjected to Israeli demolition in 1967 where 135 archaeological buildings and houses built on an area of 45 dunums of land were demolished. The Israeli occupation confiscated this area and established the Jewish quarter colony which includes Al Buraq Wall Square, Jewish Synagogues and settlers houses. This neighborhood is considered one of the main important targeted locations within the Old Town by Israeli forces and settlers because of its strategic location adjacent to Al-Aqsa Mosque from the western side near Al Buraq Wall which has been occupied by Israelis and later renamed “The Wailing Wall.”

Additionally, many Jewish organizations sought the control of the Wailing Wall and its square claiming that it represents the western wall of their “Jewish Temple” which they are seeking to establish on the location of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Throughout history, Israel has used this neighborhood as a passage gate to

Al-Aqsa Mosque from the direction of the Jewish neighborhood in the Old city of Jerusalem. And since 1967, this neighborhood (Bab al Maghariba Neighborhood) has been subjected to Israeli demolitions and Judaization for the purpose of establishing an access to Al Buraq Square area and controlling it. The recent period has witnessed an unprecedented escalation of Israeli activities in the neighborhood where the Israeli occupation Authorities have started the implementation of a plan that aims at demolishing Bab al Maghariba Road with demolition to construct an “Israeli Military Bridge” that leads to the “Jewish neighborhood” settlement in the old city of Jerusalem, in addition to intensifying the Jewish presence in this area by establishing Jewish synagogues and the implementation of other colonial projects which target Al-Aqsa Mosque and establish the “Jewish Temple” in its place. Note that the plan to demolish Bab al Maghariba Road has not been completed as the plan was put on hold due to the international pressure practiced on the Israeli government by many Arab states, including Jordan and Egypt.

Targeting Al Bustan Neighborhood: 88 homes under threat of demolition

Al Bustan is a Palestinian Neighborhood located 400 meters south of the Old City of Jerusalem in the center of Silwan town. According to the British Mandate classification of lands and properties, the entire lands of Al Bustan neighborhood which spreads over an area exceeding 70 dunums have been registered as “Exclusive Jerusalem Palestinian Properties,” owned by Palestinian Jerusalemites.



Israeli Occupation Authorities in collaboration with Jewish extremist organizations such as “Ateret Cohanim” and “El 'Ad” (established in 1986) illegally started seizing Palestinian properties in Silwan town in order to build the “City of David” on the ruins of the Palestinian houses in Al Bustan neighborhood.

The Municipality of Jerusalem has classified some areas within its boundary including Silwan and Ath Thuri as “Green Areas”, on which the Occupation Authorities prohibit Palestinian building. The Israeli authorities have additionally changed the land-use classification within the Municipality according to Israeli interests in order to confiscate Palestinian lands and change their classification into ‘built-up areas’ for Israeli settlers. The most common example of this is Jabal abu Ghneim, where Israeli Authorities changed its classification from “green areas” into ‘Jewish built-up areas’ represented in the construction of “Har Homa” settlement. The planning team of Jerusalem Municipality also recommended that **“Israel should turn the green areas in Jerusalem and its villages into areas for building settlements, thus, forcing Palestinians to leave to the West Bank; this way, the Israeli Demographic project which would deprive Palestinians from having a political identity in Jerusalem will be accomplished.”** (Maannews Agency, 2010)

It is further noted that Jerusalem Municipality has demolished many houses in Jerusalem under the claims that these houses were built on “Green Areas”, as represented in the ethnic cleansing process in “Al Bustan Neighborhood” in Silwan. The process of demolitions and land seizures in Al Bustan came after the Municipality announced on February 20, 2009 a plan to relocate more than 1,500 Palestinian citizens living in 88 houses in Al Bustan neighborhood in Silwan town to alternative locations. The plan further announced a plan to demolish these 88 houses (all houses in the neighborhood) to establish “King David Garden” as part of the “Biblical Gardens” around the Holy City. The Israeli decision for demolitions in Al Bustan comes as part of a larger plan to judaize the “Holy Basin” surrounding the Old Town. Israeli authorities put forward this project during the 1990’s. The project includes the whole Old Town and parts of the surrounding neighborhoods, such as Ash Sheikh Jarrah and Wadi al Joz neighborhoods to the north, At Tur neighborhood to the east and Silwan neighborhood to the south. This plan includes establishing an archaeological city that is identical to the biblical description of the “Holy Yerushalim” under Al-Aqsa Mosque and in parts of the Islamic Quarter and Silwan neighborhood. Furthermore, the plan includes replacing the Palestinian residence of the Old Town and its surrounding neighborhoods such as; Ash Sheikh Jarrah, Wadi al Joz, At Tur and Ras al ‘Amud, with Israeli Jewish settlers.

Jerusalem as "A National Priority Area": Israeli Colonial Plans inside and around Jerusalem City

On October 24 2010, the Israeli ministerial committee for Legislative Affairs ratified a project which considers Jerusalem 'as a national priority area of the first grade in the housing, employment and education sectors.' (ARIJ , 2010). It is expected that the project proposed by the Knesset member Ori Ariel, a member of the National Union party, will be presented to the Knesset in the near future for initial voting by Knesset members. According to the project, priority will be given to many Israeli settlements inside the city, including those in east Jerusalem. This project received the support of several Israeli ministers such as the Ministers of Communications, Environment, Information, Tourism, Religious Affairs, Security Affairs and the Minister of Immigration (ARIJ , 2010).

Jerusalem city, and most specifically its eastern part has always been a priority in the eyes of successive Israeli Governments for its historic, religious and economic importance. Since Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967, Israel imposed unilateral facts on the Palestinian territory through changing city boundaries and imposing laws on land registration processes in order to annex it to its borders. Israel also started building settlements and issuing tenders for constructing new ones, constructing bypass roads, demolishing Palestinian homes, and constructing the Israeli Segregation Wall to complete the separation of the city from the rest of the West Bank Governorates.

Systematic Targeting of Ash Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood:

Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, located one kilometer north of the old town of Jerusalem is one of the neighborhoods most subjected to ethnic cleansing in Jerusalem because of its strategic location in close proximity to the Old Town and being adjacent to the settlements of "Ramat Eshkol, Giva't Shappira and the Hebrew University." A number of Jerusalem based Palestinian families have been exposed to forced displacement, including: Al Kurd, Hannon and Ghawi families. According to the Land Research Center (LRC), the number of families in the neighborhood forcibly displaced from their towns and villages during the 1948 War is estimated at 63 families, which represents approximately 550 people living in 28 buildings consisting of 63 small houses.

In 2005, Irwin Moskowitz an American-Jewish pioneer of private Israeli neighborhoods initiatives revealed a plan to establish an illegal neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem. Moskowitz's initiatives have contributed to increasing the illegal residency of Israeli settlers in occupied East Jerusalem to extreme levels. At the end of 2005, the planning committee at the Jerusalem Municipality initiated the first step to the latest Moskowitz project by authorizing the demolition order of the Shepherd Hotel located in Karem al Mufti, within Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. Moskowitz illegally acquired the Shepherd Hotel site in 1985 through the Israeli custodian of absentee property law. This took place despite the fact that the heirs of the rightful owner of the hotel (Grand Mufti al Hajj Amin al Husseni) are alive, and had been legal residents of Jerusalem prior to the establishment of the state of Israel. In addition to the demolition order, Moskowitz has sought to obtain multiple city committee approvals to add to the application file number 11536 submitted to the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality to build a complex project on 40 dunums (including the land where the hotel was standing). This project will involve the construction of 90 housing units, a kindergarten and a synagogue. The plan for the new Israeli neighborhood will form the missing link between the illegal Jewish neighborhoods stretching from Mount Scopus (south of Shepherd Hotel) at the Shimo'n Hassidic Tomb area. This new development will become home to some 8 Israeli families with an additional 48 yeshiva students and a cluster of various governments institutions, including the national police headquarter to the north.

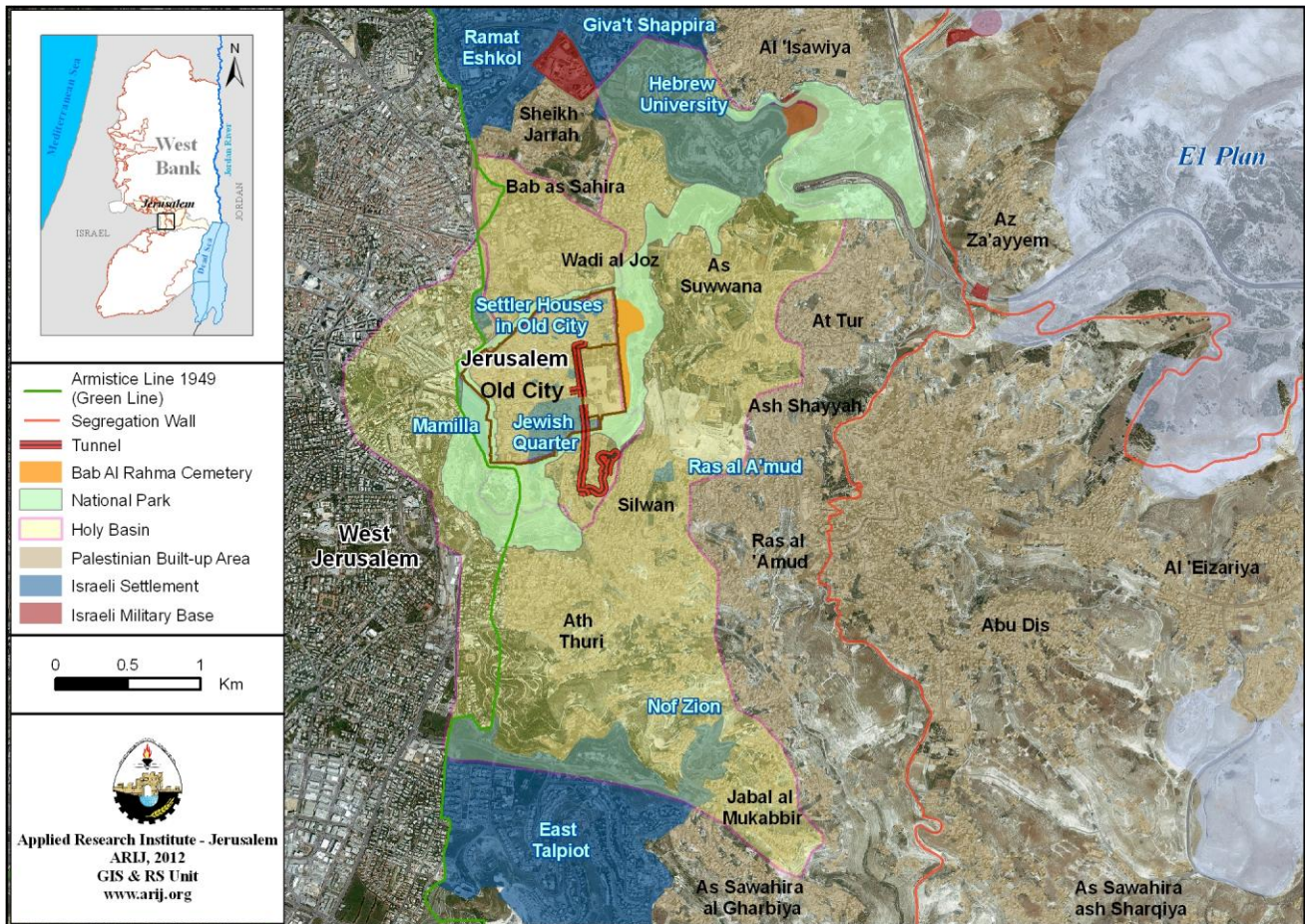
Moskowitz's plans for the new illegal neighborhood go further than the immediate plan to remove the shepherd hotel. The published plan aims to confiscate further lands from the hotel's surrounding area to include an entire area in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood called, "Karem al Mufti". In addition to the 30 dunums that encompass the shepherd hotel and the lands surrounding it, an additional 110 dunums (mostly cultivated with olive trees) of Karem al Mufti area are threatened of being reclassified from an 'open and public space area' to 'residential area' once plans are developed to build the new Jewish neighborhood. Precedents to such activity have taken place over many years, where the Jerusalem municipality reclassified the status of the mountain areas from 'nature reserve or green areas' to

'residential areas.' A key example of this case is the change in status of the Abu Ghneim Mountain in Bethlehem Governorate to Har Homa settlement.

Judaization Project of the Holy Basin:

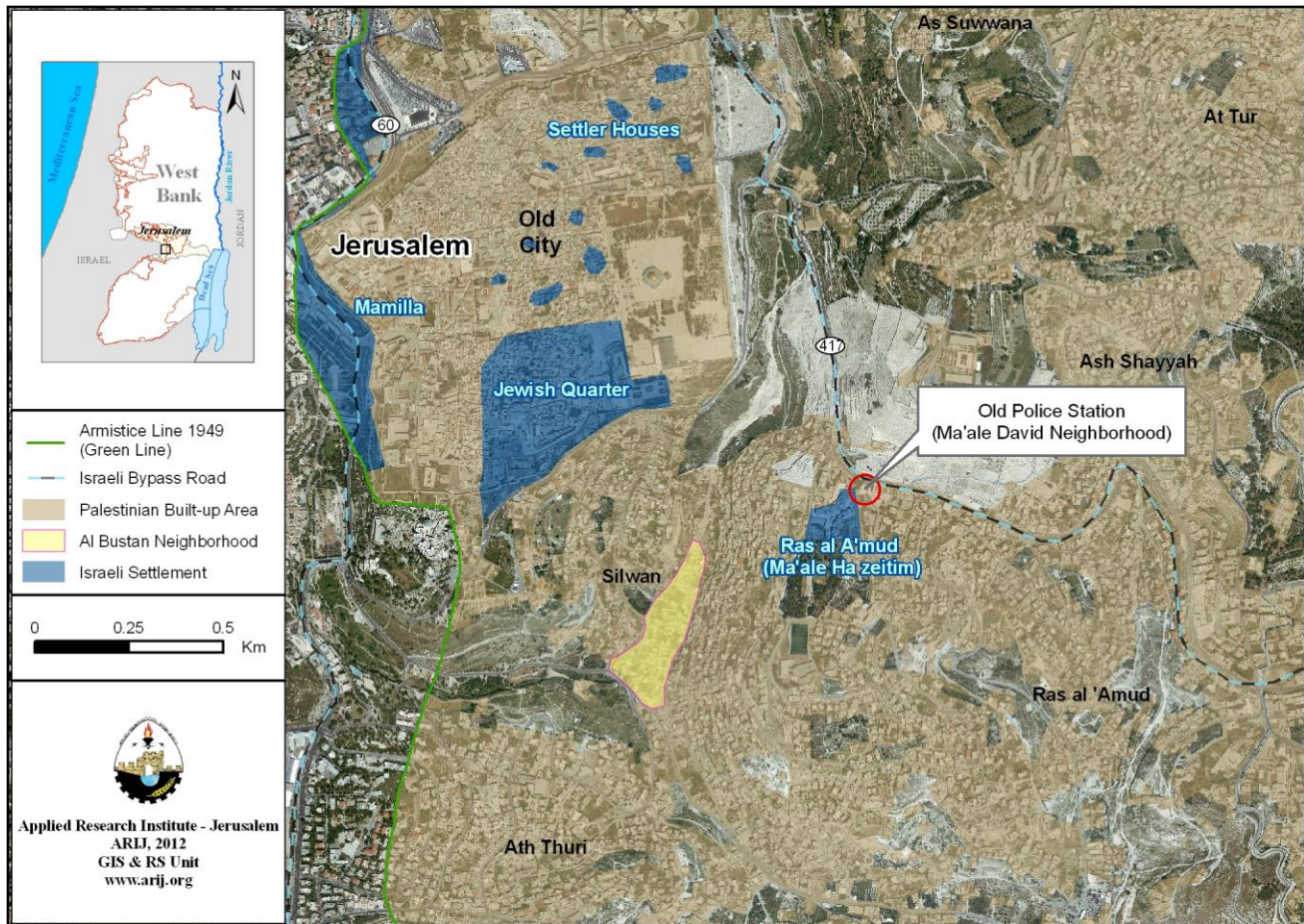
During the 90s, the Jerusalem Municipality submitted a plan aiming to Judaize the area Israel calls "the Holy Basin". The targeted location includes the entire area of the Old City of Jerusalem in addition to vast areas from adjacent neighborhoods and Palestinian communities, starting from Ash Sheikh Jarrah and Wadi al Joz Neighborhoods in the north, At Tur neighborhood in the east and Silwan city in the south. The plan includes (1) the construction of an archaeological city in conformity to the biblical description of 'Holy Jerusalem' under Al-Aqsa Mosque, Silwan neighborhood and parts of the Muslim Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem and (2) Evacuating Palestinian inhabitants from their living places and replacing them with Jewish residents starting from Silwan city, and moving towards At Tur neighborhood, Wadi al Joz, and Ras al 'Amud.

The 'Holy Basin' project is not only confined to land but it also aims to Judaize the city's cultural, political, demographic and religious status by adopting the following steps: (1) Erasing the Arab identity within the city of Jerusalem and replacing it with a Jewish identity; (2) Evacuating as many Palestinian Jerusalemites as possible from the "Holy Basin" area in addition to the wider city of Jerusalem; (3) Isolating the "Holy Basin" area from Palestinian Arab neighborhoods and, (4) Completing the Israeli settlement project which aims to link Israeli outposts in and around the Old city with Israeli settlements around the city of Jerusalem such as the French Hill settlement in the north, the E-1 neighborhood to the east, and east Telpiot settlement south of Jerusalem.



“Ma’ale David”: A new Jewish neighborhood in Ras al ‘Amud area of Jerusalem

On the 28th April 2008, a group of Jewish settlers from 'Redeeming Jerusalem' committee coercively took residency in the former building of the Police Station in Ras al 'Amud neighborhood after the Israeli police vacated the building and moved into the new Police headquarter in “Ma'ale Adumim” settlement bloc. The neighborhood will be comprised of 110 settlement housing units on 10 dunums of vacated land which represents the site of the old police station in addition to its surrounding lands.



The “Atarot” Israeli Neighborhood Plan:

On February 28, 2007, Israeli daily newspaper 'Haaretz' published a plan submitted by the 'Israeli Ministry of Housing and Construction' to establish a new Jewish neighborhood comprising of 11,000 housing units in north East Jerusalem. The neighborhood, according to Haaretz, will accommodate more than 44 thousands Israeli settlers. The Jewish neighborhood is planned to be constructed near “Atarot” industrial settlement within the Israeli redrawn Jerusalem municipal boundaries of 1967 (ARIJ2010).

“Shimon HaTzaddik” Jewish Neighborhood in Ash Sheikh Jarrah

The 'Israeli Committee for Planning and Building' at the Municipality of Jerusalem ratified the construction of Shimon HaTzaddik neighborhood in 2005 after legalizing the confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood for the benefit of Irving Moscovitch, a prominent funder of settlements in the Old City of Jerusalem, by declaring them as "Absentee Properties". The neighborhood plan states the demolition of the entire Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and the construction of 500 new settlers' units and a synagogue.

“Ma’ale Hazeitim” Neighborhood in Ras al ‘Amud area:

The Israeli colonial neighborhood, Ma’ale Hazeitim, lies in the heart of Ras al ‘Amud neighborhood, in East Jerusalem. The land on which Ma’ale Hazeitim Jewish neighborhood stands today on 14.5 dunums of lands that were previously confiscated (in the nineties of the last century) from Al Ghoul Family at the hands of Jewish organization that support settlement building and expansion in the city. The neighborhood is occupied today by 100 Jewish families.

Note that the family of late Hussein El Ghoul family was using the land since 1837 and didn't comply with the Ottoman rule regarding land registration that was issued in 1859. Taking advantage of this fact and the fact that the British Mandate authorities were sympathetic with the Jews, two Zionist movements (Chabad and Fahlin) registered the same piece of land in their names in 1928. This registration took place without informing the El Ghoul family who continued living on and benefiting from the land. During the Jordanian rein over the West Bank, and according to the secret registration of the land for Chabad and Fahlin movements, this land was registered at the department of 'Custodian of Enemy Properties' (CEP). Based on that fact, and due to the relevant Jordanian authority's refusal to register the land for the family, the representative of El Ghoul family filed their cases against Chabad and Fahlin movements in the Jordan courts. The case continued in the courts until the year 1962, where the court of appeal and the court of cessation recognized the ownership of El-Ghoul family of the land and registered it officially in the name of the family.

After the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, Chabad and Fahlin societies sued the owners and users of the land. The societies relied on the registration decree issued in 1928 during the British Mandate. They have ignored the decision of the Jordanian Appeal and Distinction Courts. The Israeli Central Court issued a decree canceling the Jordanian registration and considered the land as a disputed one. That was the first stage in the taking hold process. During the 1990's the Moskowitch purchased the 14.5 Dunums of this land (14500 square meters) from the above-mentioned religious societies. In 1998, the construction work of new Jewish settlement named ‘Ma'ale Hazeitim’ started in Ras al ‘Amud. The settlement is composed of 133 housing units.

A new Colonial Neighborhood near the Rockefeller Museum

On the 2nd January 2012, the Jerusalem Municipality served citizens of Wadi al Joz in Jerusalem city military order, signed by Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barakat, on the 20th September 2011, to confiscate lands located in the northwestern area of the Rockefeller museum in Jerusalem. The targeted lands are located in block number 30524 and block number 30523. According to the order which holds number 2639 and the analysis of the attached maps, the targeted area is 12707 square meters (12.7 dunums).

Usually, land owners or those who act on behalf of ownership are given the right to object the military order in 60 days from the date it was issued at the Office of the Municipality. However, in the case of this order, citizens of Wadi al Joz received it three months after it was issued, which means that the period that was set for objections ended, thus denying Palestinians of the area their legitimate right to object to the order.

A new neighborhood in Ramat Shlomo settlement

On the 10th March 2009, the Israeli Regional Committee for Planning and Building in Jerusalem city ratified the construction of a new neighborhood in Ramat Shlomo settlement north of Jerusalem. This includes the building of 1,600 new settlers' units. Ramat Shlomo settlement was established in 1990 on lands originally confiscated from Beit Hanina, El 'Isawiya (including Shu'fat and Shu'fat refugee camp) and Lifta communities. Today, the settlement occupies a total land area of 1,624 dunums and is inhabited by 15,350 Israeli settlers.

The area where the settlement of Ramat Shlomo sits today was marked by the Municipality of Jerusalem, following its confiscation, as a "Green Area" (an open area which cannot be used for building and construction). The classification 'Green Areas' was used by Israel to undermine the Palestinian urban expansion in east Jerusalem so that it easily confiscates the land and change it to areas for exclusive Israeli use such as building of settlements and other colonial structures. In addition, Ramat Shlomo is considered a geographical link between Ramat Eshkol settlement north of Jerusalem city and Ramot settlement in the northwest of Jerusalem; thus tightening the closure of the northwestern entrance to Jerusalem with a belt of settlements to segregate the city from Palestinian expansion.

A new Israeli outpost on the Mount of Olives area

On April 3 2012, a new illegal outpost emerged nearby the 'Seven Arches' hotel on the Mount of Olives (500 meters away from the Old City) and overlooking Al-Aqsa Mosque in the eastern part of occupied Jerusalem. It is worth mentioning that Israeli security forces were residing in the site of the outpost before they installed additional new mobile homes and offices in one of the most sensitive locations in the city of Jerusalem, in an attempt to transform it into an outpost.

A Military College on lands of As Suwwana and At Tur in East Jerusalem

The Israeli daily newspaper, JPOST, published on its website on the 2nd July 2012 that the Israeli Interior Ministry gave its initial approval for the construction of facilities for a military college in east Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives. The military college will be built on 42 dunums of lands, in the open area between Beit Orot settlement and the Hebrew University's (Har Hatzufim) settlement campus, on lands previously confiscated from At Tur and As Suwwana Palestinian Jerusalem communities in 1968. The college's planned location is a few hundred meters from the Old City of Jerusalem. The plan of the college holds number TPS 51870 (Town Planning Scheme No. 51870) and includes the construction of eight stories building.

A new colonial neighborhood near Beit Orot settlement

On December 15 2010, the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem gave a final approval to the building of twenty four new settlers' units (4 buildings, 6 units in each building). These units are to be located near Beit Orot settlement and the Yeshiva in occupied East Jerusalem, on lands previously confiscated from At Tur town near the Hebrew University settlement (Har Hatzufim). Upon completion, 24 new Jewish families will reside in the area. The project is considered an extension to the existing settlement and Yeshiva of Beit Orot and is funded by Irwin Moskovitch(YNETNEWS, 2010)

The Greater Jerusalem Plan

Israel's plan to circulate Jerusalem and isolate it from its traditional and natural extension to the occupied West Bank territory with the Segregation Wall is fortified with several terminals set-up at the entrances points to Jerusalem. This is to create a unified Jewish Jerusalem or a "Greater Jerusalem" upon which Israel seeks to impose a de-facto geographical reality. The work on the "Greater Jerusalem" plan started as early as the 1970s where Israel started the expansion of area of Israeli settlements located outside the Jerusalem municipality area. Israeli settlement construction is a continuous process, with an ultimate aim to manipulate the demographic reality of the occupied city. According to the Israeli Segregation Wall plan, many Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem will be secluded from the city's boundaries, whilst four of the six Jerusalem settlement blocks will be included within the "Greater Jerusalem plan," with the Wall defining its border; Ma'ale Adumim settlement bloc in the east, Giv'at Ze'ev settlement bloc in the northwest, Modi'in Illit settlement bloc and Gush Etzion bloc in the south.

Giv'at Yael Settlement plan

In June 2004, the Israeli Occupation Authorities announced about a plan to build a new Israeli settlement on lands of Al Walajeh village, northwest of Bethlehem city. The plan includes the construction of 13,000 new housing units to absorb more than 55,000 Israeli settlers in the area between Gilo settlement, northwest of Bethlehem city and the Israeli Gush Etzion settlement bloc southwest of Bethlehem city.

The plan will come on 2976 dunums of lands of Bethlehem Governorate, of which, 1126 dunums of Al Walajeh lands, 1279 dunums of Battir lands and 571 dunums of lands of Beit Jala city, (Al Ayyam, 2004). Additionally, the new settlement plan, which will hold the name of "Giv'at Yael, will physically complete the ring of settlements that separate Jerusalem and encircle Bethlehem, starting from Abu Ghneim settlement (Har Homa) located to the northeast of Bethlehem city, extending towards Giv'at Hamatos and Gilo settlements in the north, then to Har Gilo settlement, to the west of the city of Bethlehem to finally reach the location of the planned settlement, which eventually will make a geographical connection between Israeli settlements south of Jerusalem and the Gush Etzion settlement bloc southwest of Bethlehem city, as part of the "Jerusalem Envelope" plan, to encompass as much land as possible and to increase the number of Jews within Jerusalem illegal boundaries to create facts on the ground in order to alter the demographic status of the city and influence the outcome of future negotiations regarding Jerusalem as stated by Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Yehoshua Polak: ('We want as many Jews as possible in Jerusalem to influence the demographic situation').

Two new settlements to neighbor Har Homa

The "Master Plan 2020" set by the Jerusalem Municipality indicates the presence of two new neighborhoods to be added to Har Homa settlement located north of the Bethlehem Governorate; one to its southeast and the other to its northwest. The two settlements will include some 6,000 housing units to accommodate more than 24,000 Jewish settlers. These new neighborhoods will cover an approximate area of 1,080 dunums. The Master Plan also indicates that the residential area of Har Homa is planned to increase to 1,410 dunums, representing a 352% increase in its current size (400 dunums). Together, Har Homa settlement and the additional neighborhoods are to sit on a total of 2,500 dunums of the Governorate's land.

The Israeli Settlement building in and around Jerusalem city

The Israeli Government announced plans to build thousands of housing units in Israeli settlements in the West Bank with particular focus on East Jerusalem, in a way to intensify settlement construction within the Municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, its surroundings, and in Israeli settlements located within the 'Greater Jerusalem' plan. These plans shed light on the Israeli Government's intention to change the geographic and demographic status of Jerusalem in a way that matches the Israeli Vision in the city to annex as much Palestinian land as possible to Israel and at the same time, obstruct the Palestinian urban development in the city.

It is noted that Israel considers that settlement building in Jerusalem is not subjected to any negotiations with the Palestinians and is beyond any decision that might be taken to freeze settlement construction. This contradicts with International Laws and conventions and Israel's commitments to the Road Map Peace Process. It further contradicts with UN resolution No. 252 of 1968 which claims that "all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, including expropriation of land and properties thereon, which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem are invalid" and calls upon Israel "to rescind all such measures already taken and to desist forthwith from taking any further action which tends to change the status of Jerusalem." It is also in opposition to Security Council Resolution no. 298, issued in 1971 which recommends that the United Nations Secretary-General should investigate Israel's compliance with the Security Council resolutions and to provide a report on it within 60 days, in addition to Security Council Resolution 446, issued in 1979, which announced the illegality of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Jerusalem 'Old City' Committee has not implemented any development projects (The African Community Society, 2012).

Proposed Projects

Jerusalem 'Old City' Development Committee, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the city and the city residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the city. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Restoring all houses in the Old City (around 1500 houses).
2. Establishing home gardens on rooftops.
3. Providing new containers (500 liters capacity).

Old City Development Priorities and Needs

Jerusalem ‘Old City’ suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 7 shows the development priorities and needs in the city according to the Development Committee’s feedback (The African Community Society, 2012).

Table 7: Development priorities and needs in Jerusalem “the Old City”

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			15km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network			*	
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			100 containers (500 liters capacity)
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			computer devices
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands			*	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns			*	
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*	

*15km are sub roads.

Source: The African Community Society, 2012

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