



رابطة برلمانيون لأجل القدس

Parliamentarians for Al Quds

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

MAJOR RISKS AND ESCALATING ATTACKS



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Introduction

The dangers surrounding the occupied city of Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque continue to escalate as Israeli occupation forces persist in their attempts to impose full control over the city year after year. The various arms of the occupation do not cease their efforts to Judaize its sanctities and attempt to expel its inhabitants, transforming it into a Jewish city in terms of landmarks and population.

The rise of religious Zionism and its transformation into a prominent partner in Israeli politics has contributed to the increasing attacks faced by Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, particularly in the religious and demographic domains. This report sheds light on the major risks and provides a set of information to shed light on the reality of Judaization in occupied Jerusalem and the suffering of its residents due to the racist policies of the occupation.



➤ Major Risks in Jerusalem

First: Political Risks

Various religious, political, legal, and security levels within Israeli occupation are striving to determine the fate of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and impose full Israeli control over it. This has led to a series of developments. On the religious level, many rabbis have disregarded official Jewish religious rulings that prohibit Jews from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque due to their lack of ritual purity. They encouraged settlers to storm the mosque, and most recently, their attempts to realize the "Red Heifer" myth to bypass the purity requirement altogether.

The "Temple Organizations" have intensified their targeting of Islamic presence in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and incited against the role of the Islamic Waqf, within the context of achieving Jewish settlement and imposing further blockade on the Islamic community. They have been able to do so through their cooperation with the Israeli police, which facilitates incursions into Al-Aqsa.

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Second: Field Risks

01 Holy Sites

Israeli authorities target both Islamic and Christian holy sites, imposing various restrictions on Muslims and Christians alike, preventing them from accessing the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Christian churches in occupied Jerusalem. They hinder their religious celebrations and worship seasons and subject worshipers and devotees to aggression.

01 Targeting Al-Aqsa

Judaization arms of the occupation escalate incursions into the Al-Aqsa Mosque and work to establish Jewish religious and national holidays as occasions for desecrating the mosque and attacking its human components, while increasing the number of participants in the incursions.

The Israeli occupation authorities seek to solidify the incursions into Al-Aqsa on an almost daily basis and intensify Jewish presence inside it, in an attempt to transform Al-Aqsa or parts of it into a space where the intruders perform their prayers, with the intention of eventually confiscating parts of it for the construction of a synagogue or dedicating it to Jewish prayer.

Attacks on the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque range from almost daily incursions, public Jewish rituals performed within its courtyards, targeting the Islamic worshipers and guards, as well as excavations beneath and around it, and Judaizing its landmarks through Judaization projects.

The occupation authorities are working to empty the mosque of its Islamic human presence by targeting worshipers and guards, expelling them from Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa, preventing them from praying, imposing hefty fines on them, and arresting them.

The number of settlers who have invaded Al-Aqsa between 2009 and 2023 reached about 303,284 intruders, and in 2022 and 2023, around 96,000 intruders entered Al-Aqsa, exceeding the number of intruders into the mosque between 2009 and 2017.

In addition to the "Temple Organizations" that work on attracting settlers to participate in the incursions, Israeli soldiers in civilian clothing, Jewish students, especially those from Talmudic institutes, and foreign "tourists" who receive explanations about the "Temple" also take part in the incursions.

The occupation resorts to punitive measures against the guards and those who face almost daily incursions, with expulsion periods ranging from 3 days to 6 months. The number of Palestinians expelled from Al-Aqsa between 2013 and 2023 reached approximately 3,501 individuals.

02 Judaization of the Al-Aqsa Surroundings

- The occupation authorities are working to change the cultural and historical identity of the city of Jerusalem by surrounding Al-Aqsa with dozens of Jewish landmarks. Various Israeli entities are implementing a large number of excavations as part of the "Rehabilitation of the Holy Basin" project, which aims to establish a Jewish city beneath and around the Old City, connecting it with a network of tunnels and converting some of them into museums and synagogues.
- The occupation has escalated the construction of Judaization landmarks, which aim to manage the incursions into Al-Aqsa and distort the Arab and Islamic appearance of the city. The construction of these landmarks has increased since the opening of the Hurva Synagogue in 2010.
- The arms of the occupation have built more than 100 synagogues and Jewish landmarks in the Old City and its surroundings, including the prominent "Beit Strauss" project located meters away from the western wall of Al-Aqsa.



03 Christian Holy Sites

- The Israeli occupation authorities have restricted Christians and their churches by obstructing the celebration of Christian holidays, attacking churches, attempting to interfere in their administration, and seizing Christian properties.
- The policies of the occupation have led to a significant decrease in the number of Christians, who now constitute only 1% of the population of Jerusalem, with their number not exceeding about 16,200 Christians in Jerusalem in 2021.
- The year 2023 witnessed a major Zionist aggression against Christians, holy sites, properties, endowments, churches, and Christian cemeteries in Jerusalem. This included attacks on churches and restrictions on Christians during holidays and other occasions.



02 Population and Housing Judaization

01 Settlements

- Settlements constitute the backbone of the occupation's policies aimed at intervening in the demographic balance. According to Israeli data, neighborhoods with a Jewish majority contain approximately 174,500 settlement units, and the occupation is working to increase their size year after year.
- In 2023, the Israeli government approved plans to build around 18,300 settlement housing units in the eastern part of occupied Jerusalem, including 12,200 units for new settlements or settlement expansions.
- The number of settlement units that the occupation started building or planned to build in Jerusalem in 2023 exceeded 23,000 units.

02 Confiscation

The Israeli occupation authorities seek to evacuate a number of Palestinian neighborhoods in occupied Jerusalem. Since the beginning of 2023, they have reopened the case of displacing the Al-Khan Al-Ahmar community. Additionally, they continue to target the residents of the Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods, which have a Palestinian population density.

03 House Demolitions

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the occupation authorities have demolished approximately 1,869 houses and structures in occupied Jerusalem between January 1, 2009, and March 1, 2024. This has led to the displacement of around 3,848 Palestinians and affected over 49,000 others.

03 Targeting Palestinian People

01 Arrests

- The number of arrests in Jerusalem in 2023 reached 3,261 cases, including 53 children, 643 adolescents, and 165 females.
- 987 arrests were recorded since the start of the genocide war on the Gaza Strip in October until the end of the year.
- The occupation forces have arrested around 9,052 Palestinians from occupied Jerusalem in the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, which represents about 2.5% of the total Palestinian population in the city.

02 ID Revocations

The occupation authorities work to limit the Palestinian presence in the city by revoking the permanent residency cards of Jerusalemites. They have revoked the IDs of 14,727 Palestinians from occupied Jerusalem between 1967 and 2021.

03 Killings of Palestinians in Occupied Jerusalem

In 2023, approximately 546 Palestinians were martyred in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the territories occupied in 1948, including 19 martyrs from occupied Jerusalem. About 8,574 other Palestinians were injured.

04 Targeting Vital Palestinian Sectors

Education Sector

- The occupation authorities deprive Palestinian schools of the necessary funding to cope with the increasing number of students and the shortage of classrooms. Schools that adhere to the Palestinian curriculum and reject the Israeli curriculum face difficulties and threats of license revocation.
- The occupation attacks on schools and students, along with deteriorating economic conditions, have led to an increase in the dropout rate, with about 32% of Palestinian students not completing 12 years of education.
- On July 28, 2022, the Israeli Ministry of Education revoked the permanent operating licenses of six Palestinian schools, claiming that their curricula contain "dangerous incitement."





Health Sector

- The occupation authorities impose restrictions on the development of the Palestinian health sector in occupied Jerusalem and force Jerusalemites to join Israeli health insurance, using it as leverage against Palestinians and the health sector simultaneously.
- The health sector in Jerusalem suffers from funding shortages and accumulated debts. The occupation tightens its grip on existing health institutions. In early 2022, Al-Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem had debts of around 200 million shekels (approximately 60 million US dollars), affecting their ability to provide medical equipment, pay staff salaries, and more.

Economy of Jerusalemites

- The policies of the occupation, such as imposing high taxes on Jerusalemites and besieging Jerusalem with the wall, have led to the impoverishment of the Palestinian community in Jerusalem. Approximately 77.5% of families live below the poverty line.
- The number of commercial establishments suffering from debt due to tax imposition reached 1,000 in addition to around 800 closed shops in 2020.

Secondly: Recommendations

Proposing legislation to criminalize the occupation's actions in occupied Jerusalem, its attacks on Jerusalem and the Islamic and Christian holy sites, and its various attempts to achieve religious and demographic replacement.

Establishing committees dedicated to Jerusalem and Palestine in world parliaments to address the issues of Jerusalem and Palestine and provide necessary legal and political support.

Urgent international intervention to stop the harsh aggression launched by the occupation against Jerusalem, its people, and its holy sites, and to enforce international resolutions related to Jerusalem and its holy places.

Increasing pressure on the occupation to implement international resolutions regarding Jerusalem, which reaffirm the illegality of settlements and Judaization and the international community's non-recognition of any measures taken by the occupation in Jerusalem.

Activating diplomatic channels to halt the aggressive actions of the occupation against Jerusalem, its people, and its holy sites. Pressuring the occupation to respect the historical status quo of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.





Supporting the right of the Palestinian people to resist the occupation and defend themselves, their land, properties, and holy sites.

Allocating more media coverage to Jerusalem and ensuring that the media coverage of the city is not solely dependent on the escalation of events and is not linked to communication with the occupation.

Not overlooking the role of "Temple Mount organizations" in targeting Al-Aqsa Mosque, which requires pressuring the occupation government to rein in extremist groups that have frequently stormed the mosque.

Halting the occupation's plans to displace Jerusalemites from their areas, especially the eviction of residents of the Khan al-Ahmar Bedouin community, the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, and the Silwan neighborhoods.

Paying more attention to the sufferings of Jerusalemites in general and Christians in particular, and stopping its efforts to seize the properties of Christian churches in the occupied city through deception and force.

Providing support to vital sectors for Jerusalemites, especially the education and health sectors, as these sectors can provide a protective umbrella against falling prey to the occupation's systems.

5. PARLAMENTERLER ARASI KUDÜS PLATFORMU KONFERANSI

THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF THE LEAGUE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR AL-QUDS

المؤتمر الخامس لرابطة برلمانيون لأجل القدس

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