



Jerusalem Kit



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(Front cover: View of Jerusalem from Givat Hamatos where more than 2,000 housing units are planned for the city's Arab residents)

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ABOUT TIP

The Israel Project (TIP) is a non-profit educational organization that gets facts about Israel and the Middle East to press, public officials and the public. The Israel Project is not affiliated with any government or government entity.

Our team of trusted Middle East multi-lingual experts and former reporters provides journalists and leaders with fact sheets, backgrounders and sources. TIP regularly hosts press briefings featuring leading Israeli spokespeople and analysts that give journalists and members of the diplomatic community an opportunity to get information and answers to their questions face-to-face. By providing journalists with the facts, context and visuals they need, TIP enables hundreds of millions of people around the world to see a more positive public face of Israel. This helps protect Israel, reduce anti-Semitism and increase pride in Israel.

The Jerusalem Office

The Israel Project's (TIP) Jerusalem Office is a non-governmental resource working with foreign journalists and leaders based in Israel. It provides reporters and members of the diplomatic community with needed facts and information before they file their stories and reports. TIP's Jerusalem team features several Middle East experts and former journalists. TIP's Israel team, led by Marcus Sheff, includes experts who are fluent in English, Hebrew, Arabic, French, German, Farsi and Russian.

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Jerusalem by the Numbers

- 481,000: Jews and others¹
- 252,000: Arabs²
- Total Population: 789,000³
- 31.8 percent of the population is between 5-19⁴
- 32.5 percent of the population is between 20-44⁵

Places of worship in Jerusalem:⁶

- 72: Mosques
- 139: Churches
- 996: Synagogues

Tourism in Jerusalem:

- 66: Hotels, with a total of 9,107 rooms⁷
- 35: Hotels in West Jerusalem, with a total of 7,167 rooms⁸
- 31: Hotels in East Jerusalem, with a total of 1,950 rooms⁹
- 2,788,800: Tourists in Jerusalem in 2010¹⁰

School system:

- 524: Schools in Jerusalem¹¹
- 163,913: Students registered in the Jerusalem Department of Education¹²
- 26: Average number of students per class¹³
- 300: Millions of shekels invested in constructing 285 new classrooms in East Jerusalem in 2010¹⁴

Internal migration to and from Jerusalem in 2006:

- 10,600: People who migrated to Jerusalem¹⁵
- 17,600: People migrated from Jerusalem¹⁶

¹ Information provided by the Jerusalem Municipality for the year 2007. "The Jerusalem population by population groups," the Jerusalem Municipality web site, http://www.jerusalem.muni.il/jer_sys/publish/files/27013/1228133315.doc, accessed Oct. 30, 2008

² Ibid.

³ "44th Jerusalem Day: Progress and Statistics," Jerusalem Municipality news release, June 1, 2011.

⁴ "Jerusalem Population by age groups for the year 2006," The Jerusalem Municipality website, http://www.jerusalem.muni.il/jer_sys/publish/files/27013/1228134633.doc, accessed Oct. 30, 2008

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ There are no official figures regarding for the number of places of worship in Jerusalem. Officials at the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Institute for Israel studies offered rough estimates. The Jerusalem Municipality based their number on the classification of municipality tax exemption which places of worship enjoy, whereas the numbers given by the Jerusalem Institute are based on figures garnered from a survey conducted between 1999 and 2000.

⁷ "Jerusalem Hotels June 2007," The Jerusalem Municipality website, http://www.jerusalem.muni.il/jer_sys/publish/files/27013/1228144855.doc, accessed Oct. 30, 2008

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "44th Jerusalem Day: Progress and Statistics," Jerusalem Municipality news release, June 1, 2011.

¹¹ "Schools, Classes, Students and Average Students per Class in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv-Yafo, Haifa and in Jerusalem Surrounding Localities, 2005-2006," The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies website, http://www.jiis.org.il/imageBank/File/shnaton_2007/shnaton_m1106.pdf, accessed Oct. 30, 2008

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "44th Jerusalem Day: Progress and Statistics," Jerusalem Municipality news release, June 1, 2011.

¹⁵ "Internal Migration to and from Jerusalem 1996-2006," The Jerusalem Municipality website, http://www.jerusalem.muni.il/jer_sys/publish/files/27013/1228134156.doc, accessed Oct. 30, 2008

¹⁶ Ibid.

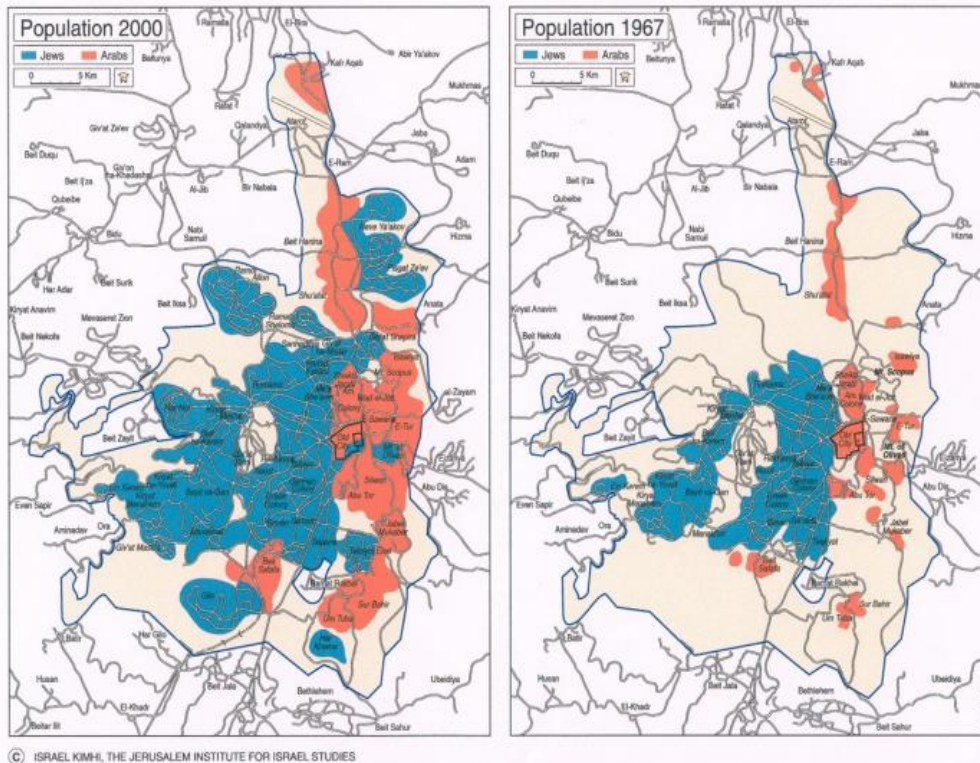
- 97,000: People who migrated to Jerusalem while 163,400 left the city from 1996 – 2006.¹⁷ Jerusalem has been suffering a negative migration rate since 1988.¹⁸

Table of Population of East Jerusalem and West Bank Cities between 1947 and 1967*

	1947	1967	% increase
Jenin	4,000	8,346	109
Nablus	23,250	41,537	78
Tulkarm	8,000	10,157	27
Qalqilya	5,850	8,922	52
Ramallah	5,000	12,030	141
El Bira	2,920	9,568	228
East Jerusalem*	65,000	65,857	1.3
Bethlehem	9,000	14,439	60
Beit Jala	3,700	6,041	63
Hebron	24,600	38,091	55
Jericho	3,000	5,200	73

*Comprising those parts of Jerusalem annexed in 1967 to “Greater Jerusalem”¹⁹

Jerusalem population 1967-2000: Maps illustrating the expansion of both Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem since 1967. After Israel annexed East Jerusalem, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians moved to the area.



¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Internal Migration to and from Jerusalem" The Jerusalem Institute for Israel studies, http://www.jiis.org.il/imageBank/File/shnaton_2007/shnaton_E0106_2007.pdf, accessed Oct. 30, 2008

¹⁹ Efrat, Elisha, "Changes in the Settlement Pattern in Judea and Samaria under Jordanian Rule," Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 13, No. 1. Jan 1977, Pg 107.

Freedom of worship

Protecting All Religions: Quotes by Israeli Leaders

*"To our Arab neighbors we extend, also at this hour - and with added emphasis at this hour - our hand in peace. And to our Christian and Muslim fellow citizens, we solemnly promise full religious freedom and rights. We did not come to Jerusalem for the sake of other peoples' Holy Places, and not to interfere with the adherents of other faiths, but in order to safeguard its entirety, and to live there together with others, in unity."*²⁰ -- **Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan** at the Western Wall when Israel took control of Jerusalem on June 7, 1967.

"Israeli law does not discriminate between Jews, Muslims, and Christians or between eastern and western Jerusalem." -- **Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat**, 2009.

"Israel plans to invest significant amounts in infrastructure that will increase the accessibility of holy sites to all worshipers. By doing so it aims to honor and allow freedom of worship to all, irrespective of their faith, and protect the holy sites." -- **Israeli President Shimon Peres**, when he met with U.N. Special Coordinator Robert Serry, 2010.

- Israel has maintained **free and open access** to all religious sites for all religions.
- All **religions are protected** in Israel.
- Under Israeli control, there has been unprecedented access and **freedom of worship** for Christians, Muslims, Jews and all religions to visit and pray at holy sites in Jerusalem.
- In 2010, about **two-million Christians** were estimated to have visited or made pilgrimage to Israel, namely Jerusalem during Christmas.
 - Israel opened and **eased border crossings** for them in order to facilitate easy travel between Nazareth (in Israel proper), Jerusalem, and Bethlehem (in the West Bank).
- *"Practically the only place in the region where the **Christian population is growing** is in Israel,"* reported *The New York Post* in December 2009.
- *"The fact is that the only place in the Middle East that Christians are **really safe** is Israel,"* Reverend Canon Andrew White, the "Vicar of Baghdad," told The Israel Project in December 2010.

Israel and the Freedom to Worship

Israel long ago put into place comprehensive laws protecting all such sites and ensuring access for people of all religions.²¹ Israeli law mandates that all people, regardless of religious affiliation, have the right to visit all holy places within Israel.²²

²⁰ "Statement at the Western Wall by Defense Minister Dayan, 7 June 1967," Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Foreign+Relations/Israels+Foreign+Relations+since+1947/1947-1974/11+Statement+at+the+Western+Wall+by+Defence+Minist.htm>

²¹ "Protection of Holy Places Law," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, June 30, 1998, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace+Process/Guide+to+the+Peace+Process/Protection+of+Holy+Places+Law.htm>

²² "General Assembly, Forty-Third Session, Item 77: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories," United Nations – General Assembly Security Council, April 19, 1988, <http://domino.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/t45643a78fcba719852560f6005987ad/19e1c7957dd5a925052567f3006e9f93!OpenDocument>; "Protection of Holy Places Law, 1967," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Web site, June 30, 1998,

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace%20Process/Guide%20to%20the%20Peace%20Process/Protection%20of%20Holy%20Places%20Law> target= blank><http://www.israel-mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace%20Process/Guide%20to%20the%20Peace%20Process/Protection%20of%20Holy%20Places%20Law>

In 2008, about three-million people visited Israel; of those, two million were Christians.²³ In 2010, some two-million Christians visited Israel again.

To ensure the protection of all holy sites, the Knesset (Israeli parliament) enacted the Protection of Holy Places Law of 1967 to ensure that anyone who vandalizes a holy site could suffer legal consequences. The law states:

“It is my pleasure to inform you that the Holy Places in Jerusalem are now open to all who wish to worship at them - members of all faiths, without discrimination. The Government of Israel has made it a cardinal principle of its policy to preserve the Holy Places, to ensure their religious and universal character, and to guarantee free access.”²⁴

Additionally, the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (also known as Oslo II), signed in September 1995, explicitly states that *“each side undertakes upon itself to respect sites in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which are regarded as holy, or which hold archaeological value.”²⁵*



Copts, a Christian minority from Egypt, outside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem (Israel Wonders)



²³ Israel Ministry of Tourism communiqué, Jan. 21, 2009; Rosenblum, Irit, “New Israeli tourism initiative calls on Christian pilgrims to pedal the Nazareth - Jerusalem route,” *Haaretz*, Jan. 22, 2009 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1057380.html>

²⁴ Protection of Holy Places Law, 1967, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, June 27 1967, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Foreign+Relations/Israels+Foreign+Relations+since+1947/1947-1974/14+Protection+of+Holy+Places+Law.htm>

²⁵ “Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,” Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sept. 28, 1995, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace+Process/Guide+to+the+Peace+Process/THE+ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN+INTERIM+AGREEMENT.htm>

Equal rights

Jerusalem is a capital city of all its residents. Regardless of religion or ethnicity, Jerusalem serves its tenants. All people enjoy the same tenets of equality and rule of law under the municipality of Jerusalem and under Israel's legal system. Israeli human rights groups like Gisha and Hamoked, Center for the Defense of the Individual, continue their work to promote the transparency of Israel's legal system - whether they are Israeli citizens or residents.

For example, the Jerusalem municipality is in the process of approving a project that in conjunction with the Jerusalem Development Company will create 2,500 homes in predominantly Arab areas of the city: Jabal Mukaber, Nahal Kidron and the brand new community **Sawahrah**. The plan includes housing units, hotels and country clubs.

The program also includes a wastewater treatment facility, found partly in Israel and partly under Palestinian Authority (PA) control. The water program was secretly discussed by Israel and the PA and is intended to solve the sewage problem of Jerusalem's neighboring Palestinian villages.²⁶

- All Israelis – Arab or Jews - have the **same rights** to live and work in Jerusalem.
- All people enjoy **social and political equality**, regardless of race or religion. **Rule of law** is carried out and applied evenly to all people.
- *“My commitment to serve people is irrelevant to what they believe in. I have to serve all citizens of Jerusalem. Secular, religious Jews, Christians, Arabs. We have them all and the role as mayor of Jerusalem is to look for the **common denominator**. And the residents whether Arab or Jews, my role as public servant is to improve their **quality of life**, their education, their ability to work in a better job,”* Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat, said.

Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital: Example of Healthcare for All

Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Organization has been, and continues to be, a formative influence in the development of Israel's health care system, and is also one of the world's leading institutions in healthcare. Hadassah operates two medical facilities in Jerusalem – the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem and the Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus - ²⁷ in addition to five schools, out-patients clinics, research facilities and community health centers. Combined, HMO facilities treat more than one million patients annually.²⁸

Hadassah Medical Organization prioritizes clinical and scientific research and is committed to educating health care professionals without regard to race, religion or national origin. Half of all medical research in Israel is conducted at Hadassah facilities.²⁹

²⁶ “פרוייקט בנייה לערבים במזרח ירושלים,” *Maariv*, June 20, 2011, <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART2/251/921.html>

²⁷ “Hadassah Medical Organization,” Hadassah Medical Organization Web site, http://www.hadassah.org/pageframe.asp?section=health&page=medical_org.html&header=medical_org&size=55, accessed April 9, 2008

²⁸ “About Hadassah,” Hadassah Medical Organization Web site, <https://www.hadassah.org/pageframe.asp?section=about&page=work/health.html&header=work&size=55>, accessed April 9, 2008

²⁹ “Hadassah Medical Organization,” Hadassah Medical Organization Web site, http://www.hadassah.org/pageframe.asp?section=health&page=medical_org.html&header=medical_org&size=55, accessed April 9, 2008

Security

In September 2000, the second Palestinian uprising erupted and Israel experienced a wave of suicide bombings and other terrorist attacks in which more than **900 Israeli civilians were killed** and thousands were wounded.³⁰ As a defensive measure to protect its civilian population from these suicide bombings, the Israeli government concluded that a temporary anti-terrorist security fence was the only conceivable option to save lives.³¹

Israel's security fence has been extremely effective in preventing Palestinian suicide bombers entering Israel. At the height of the intifada in 2002, 53 suicide bombings were carried out. As construction of the fence progressed, suicide bombings continued to fall - despite the on-going efforts of terrorist organizations. In 2005 there were 8 bombings, in 2006 there were 6, and in 2007 and 2008 there was just 1 bombing per year.

The number of suicide bombings was zero in 2009 and 2010.³² Unfortunately, 2011 saw a return to violence, as one person was killed and some 30 others injured in Jerusalem with a single remotely-detonated bomb at the Central Bus Station on March 23, 2011.³³

For suicide bombers and terrorists, Jerusalem is a key target because it is the capital of the State of Israel and because of their ability to infiltrate the city's large Arab population.³⁴ A total of **635 terrorist attacks** occurred in Jerusalem between September 2000 and October 2005, 30 of which were suicide bombings that killed 174 civilians and wounded 1,643.³⁵ Jerusalem was target with more suicide bombings than any other Israeli city: 17 bombings took place in 2002 alone.³⁶

Terrorists also perpetrate shooting attacks, stabbings and detonate explosive devices in the form of Molotov cocktails in and around Jerusalem. Those attacks have also declined in recent years.³⁷

The anti-terrorist security fence deters suicide bombers and other terrorists originating in the West Bank from perpetrating attacks in Jerusalem. However, a number of attacks were carried out by Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem. Terrorists are recruited by Iran-backed Hamas' Ramallah and Hebron cells, and Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades Bethlehem cell. Residents of the East Jerusalem neighborhood Abu Dis were involved in several attacks.³⁸ In 2008, three terrorist attacks in Jerusalem were perpetrated by East Jerusalem residents.



With the newfound security, life has returned to normal in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market. The busy street souk was hit by terror attacks in 1997, '98 and 2002.

³⁰ "Saving Lives - Israel's Security Fence," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nov. 26, 2003, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Palestinian+terror+since+2000/Saving+Lives-+Israel-s+Security+Fence.htm>

³¹ Israel Ministry of Defense, "Israel's Security Fence: Purpose," Seamzone, Jan. 31, 2007, <http://www.seamzone.mod.gov.il/pages/eng/purpose.htm>

³² "2009 Annual Summary – Data and Trends in Palestinian Terror," Israeli Security Agency, Dec. 24, 2009, http://www.shabak.gov.il/SiteCollectionImages/english/TerrorInfo/reports/terrorreport2009_en.pdf

³³ Lidman, Melanie and Katz, Yaakov, "Woman killed, dozens hurt in Jerusalem bombing," *The Jerusalem Post*, Mar. 23, 2011, <http://www.jpost.com/VideoArticles/Video/Article.aspx?id=213442>

³⁴ "Jerusalem as a preferred target for Palestinian terrorism during the five years of violent confrontation," Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, Nov. 8, 2005, http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/ct_iss_be.pdf

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

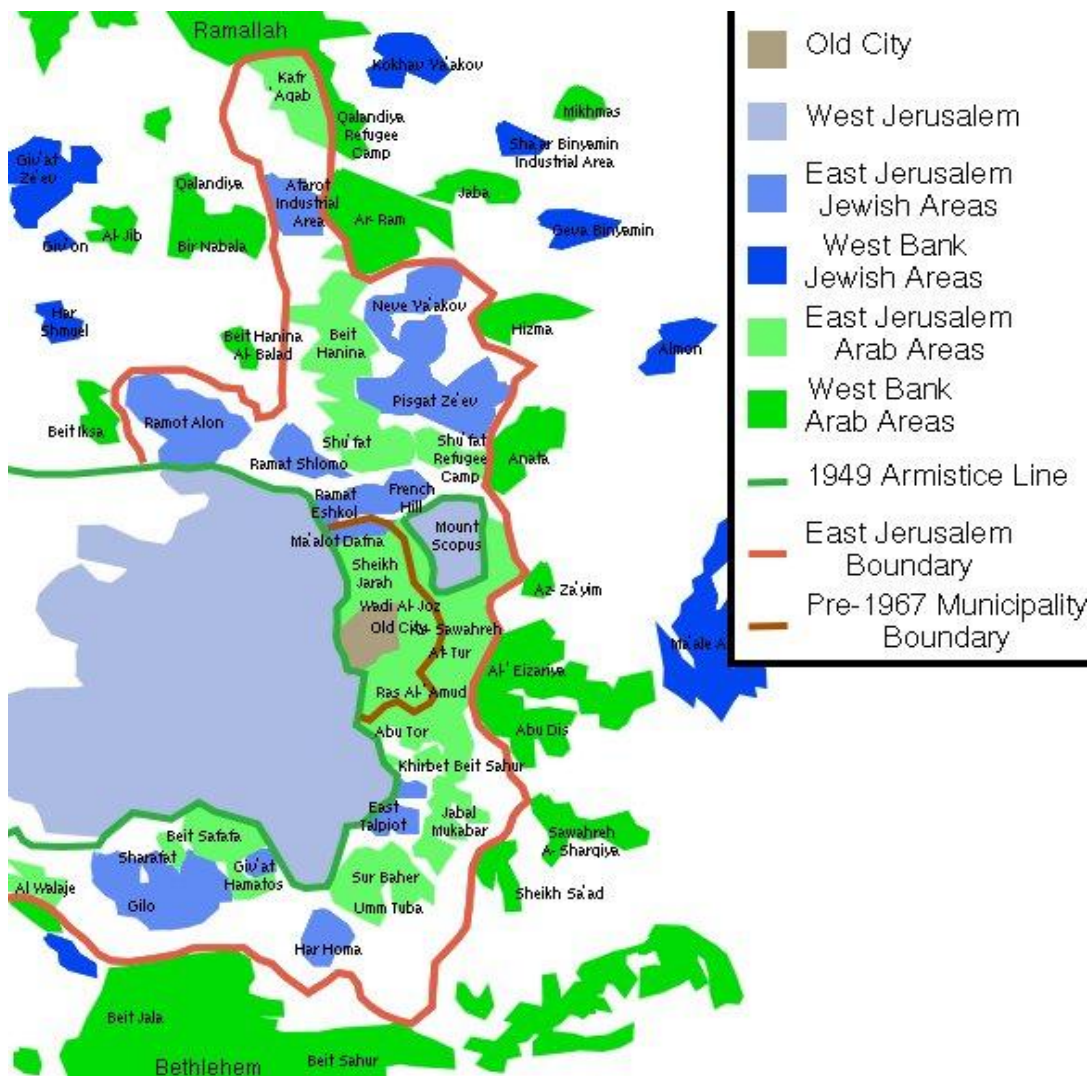
³⁷ "2009 Annual Summary – Data and Trends in Palestinian Terror," Israeli Security Agency, Dec. 24, 2009, http://www.shabak.gov.il/SiteCollectionImages/english/TerrorInfo/reports/terrorreport2009_en.pdf

³⁸ "Jerusalem as a preferred target for Palestinian terrorism during the five years of violent confrontation," Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, Nov. 8, 2005, http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/ct_iss_be.pdf

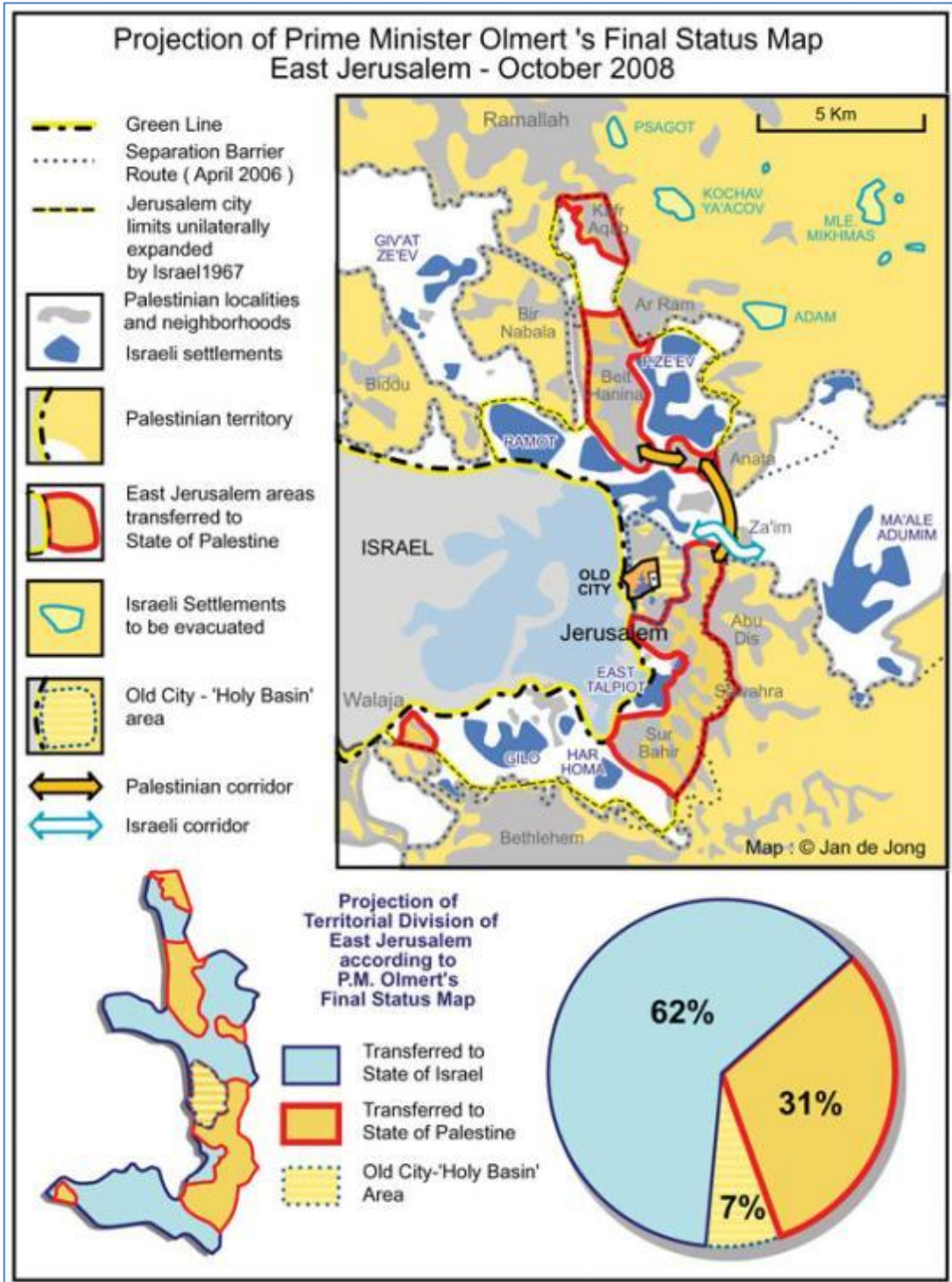
Borders

- Jerusalem is a **shared city**.
- There are complex power grids and **shared water and sanitation systems** that transverse the city.
- Jerusalem is an **intricate mosaic of small neighborhoods**, with people and buildings intertwined, particularly in East Jerusalem. Each building has a different history, making it hard to draw a definitive “line” that divides the city.
- **All Israeli citizens have the right to live in all areas of Jerusalem**. Just as Arab residents can buy or rent property in Jewish neighborhoods, Jews can buy or rent property in predominantly Arab neighborhoods.

These maps illustrate the integrated nature of Jerusalem and its suburbs. The city is often described as a mosaic, intertwining neighborhoods of different people and backgrounds. This map shows Jewish and Arab Neighborhoods within municipal Jerusalem and beyond before and after 1967.



Many Israeli leaders have proposed returning parts of East Jerusalem in a future peace deal. This map illustrates a two-state solution, with final status borders of Jerusalem, as proposed by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert. (Map courtesy of Foundation for Middle East Peace.)



Building

Quotes on Jerusalem housing by Israeli leaders

"Just as Arab residents of Jerusalem can buy or rent property in predominantly Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem, Jews can buy or rent property in predominantly Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem," -- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a media statement in January 2011.

"Israeli law does not discriminate between Jews, Muslims, and Christians or between eastern and western Jerusalem," -- Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat in 2009.³⁹

"The Municipality of Jerusalem will implement the rule of law evenly, without regard to race, religion, gender, national identity or political leaning, to every illegal building with court orders against it," -- Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat in a statement in January 2011.

"This is important for the sake of maintaining justice," -- Israel's Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein, referring to illegal structures in Jerusalem, in November 2010.

Building in Jerusalem

Jerusalem is a mosaic of 31 neighborhoods, Jewish and Arab, religious and secular. Jerusalem's population of about 800,000 individuals is broken down roughly as: 35 percent Arabs - mostly Muslims; 25 percent ultra-orthodox Jews; and 40 percent mixed between Christians, secular Jews, orthodox Jews and others.

Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Naomi Tzur has explained that city's planning division takes into consideration both the city's current population needs as well as its potential population needs in order to better estimate and provide future public services like housing, water, sewage, health and transport.

In Jerusalem, the process for acquiring building permits in East Jerusalem neighborhoods is the same for Arabs and Jews,⁴⁰ and Israel's High Court has ruled that Muslims, Christians and Jews alike can purchase land in all parts of the city.⁴¹

There was a zero percent population growth in East Jerusalem during period of Jordanian rule from 1949-1967. After Israel annexed East Jerusalem, hundreds of thousands moved to the area.

- The Jerusalem Municipality has made a clear decision to build and invest in all areas of Jerusalem, regardless of future borders and political considerations.
- One of the city's main aims is urban revitalization, which includes building new houses and roads and green innovations such as open spaces and wastewater treatment.
- There are between 20,000 to 30,000 illegal structures in East Jerusalem. The municipality does not remove most of these illegal structures.
 - **In 2010, 58 houses were taken down in West Jerusalem as compared to 23 in East Jerusalem.**
- For example, in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, there are 2,000 illegal structures (only 6 have building permits). Nonetheless, only 10 to 20 structures are being looked at for restructuring as part of the city's rezoning and planning initiatives.
- Jerusalem's Municipal Conservation Commission ensures that historic buildings built before 1948 are not harmed or destroyed.
- There were 6,000 Palestinian houses built in Jerusalem without permits between 1998 and 2002. Of these, only 3.3 percent were taken down.

³⁹ "Jerusalem Mayor Barkat, strongly objects to the American demand to halt construction in Jerusalem," Israel Government Press Office, Nov. 17, 2009.

⁴⁰ Weiner, Justus Reid, "Illegal Construction in Jerusalem," *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*, retrieved February 26, 2010, from <http://www.icpa.org/ilmbldg.htm>

⁴¹ "Behind the Headlines: Background information from the Municipality of Jerusalem regarding the Shepherd Hotel building," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 19, 2009, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/About+the+Ministry/Behind+the+Headlines/Behind-the-Headlines-Background-information-regarding-the-Shepherd-Hotel-building-19-Jul-2009>

The city's Palestinian population grew from 26 percent in 1967 to 35 percent of the city's population in 2007.⁴²

The Jerusalem municipality is in the process of approving a housing project specifically for the city's Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem. The plan includes thousands of homes - as well as hotels and country clubs - in the East Jerusalem areas of Sawahrah, Jabal Mukaber and Nahal Kidron.

It also includes a wastewater treatment facility, found partly in Israel and in the Palestinian territories, which will help Palestinian villages solve sewage treatment concerns.⁴³

In December 2009, Israel approved the construction of 1,192 new housing units for both Arab and Jewish residents of East Jerusalem; 500 housing units were authorized in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan for the Arab population, and 692 housing units were authorized for the predominantly Jewish neighborhoods of Har Homa, Neve Yaakov and Pisgat Zeev.⁴⁴

The majority of the land on which Neve Yaakov and Har Homa are built was purchased by Jewish organizations or individuals before the State of Israel was established in 1948, or was legally acquired by the Israeli government post-1967.⁴⁵

Both Arabs and Jews have the same rates of application approval, wait four to six weeks for their permits to be approved and pay the same fee (\$3,600) for sewage and water installation.⁴⁶

Planning for New Housing in Jerusalem

The city of Jerusalem continues to build around the city – in both East and West Jerusalem.

While there has been a lot of speculation surrounding the city's plans to build new units in East Jerusalem, many of the housing projects are "inland" facing, meaning towards areas within municipal Jerusalem that are already established rather than "outward" in terms of city limit expansion. The plans involve expanding *existing* neighborhoods rather than building new Jewish neighborhoods.

For example, Givat Hamatos – a south east Jerusalem area slated for new construction projects - is adjacent to Beit Safafa, an Arab neighborhood, Gilo and Har Homa, predominantly Jewish neighborhoods.

Givat Hamatos is comprised of land that belongs to a few partners: Arab residents, Jewish residents, Christian Churches and The Israel Land Administration (ILA). Essentially, those who own property in Israel technically "lease" the land from the ILA for 49 or 98 years. The ILA owns some 93 percent of Israel's land. Yet most housing units in East Jerusalem are privately owned by residents rather than by the ILA.

The Jerusalem municipality is initiating a rezoning of East Jerusalem neighborhoods that includes a "**new legal mechanism intended to assist Arab residents with proof of land ownership**," a municipality press release stated in September 2011.

The initiative is part of the city's efforts to address social gaps. With proof of ownership, Palestinian residents may be inclined to use city hall as a tool for personal housing projects, in turn helping the city account for many of those buildings.

Other efforts include naming unnamed streets in East Jerusalem with the cooperation of local residents and the opening of Post Office branches in a-Tour, Ras el-Amud, Issawiya and Beit Hanina.

⁴² Choshen, Maya; Korach, Michal; Kaufman, Dan, "Jerusalem: Facts and Trends 2007 / 2008, Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, 2010, <http://www.jiis.org/upload/publications/facts-2008-eng.pdf>

⁴³ "לראשונה מאז 1967: פרויקט בנייה לערבים במזרח ירושלים," *Maariv*, June 20, 2011, <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART2/251/921.html>

⁴⁴ Sofer, Roni, "Atias: 500 housing units okayed for Arabs in J'lem," *YnetNews*, Dec. 28, 2009, <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3826187,00.html>

⁴⁵ "Neve Yaakov," Nationmaster Encyclopedia, <http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Neve-Yaakov>. Accessed Dec. 7, 2008; "The Neve Yaakov Neighborhood in Jerusalem," Jerusalem.com, Oct. 15, 2008, http://www.jerusalem.com/news_99/The-Neve-Yaakov-Neighborhood-in-Jerusalem; "Israel's Changing Borders," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/CD41289E-0875-4D84-A2D1-5BBF34BCF91A/0/mapstorypart2.pdf>, accessed Dec. 28, 2009

⁴⁶ Weiner, Justus Reid, "Illegal Construction in Jerusalem," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 2003.



One-third of the Givat Hamatos project will allow for the expansion of the neighboring Arab district Beit Safafa.

The final part of the plan was announced in October 2011 after it was pushed forward by the ILA. It will offer housing units to the highest bidders - Arab or Jewish - but has gained media attention because it is located between the Jewish and Arab areas beyond the 'green line,' or the armistice line of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The project will also create needed housing for Arab residents of Beit Safafa. A third of the housing will be specifically for the Arab population.

In early November 2011, Ofer Gridenger, Jerusalem's city planning manager, told a group of diplomats at a briefing organized by The Israel Project that the city has four main stages for new construction projects: a preparatory phase, the local

planning committee phase, the district planning committee phase, and lastly, the appeals or 'public scrutiny' phase – where residents and activists can submit complaints and take the projects to a higher planning council or to court. While the city does not physically "build" the housing units itself it does supervise the process of decisions on housing projects.

East Jerusalem Building Plans in Arab Neighborhoods as of November 2011	Number of Units
Tel Adaseh	2,500
Area west of Beit Haninah	800
Area west of Shuafat	800
South of Issawiye	800
North of A-Tur	800
Center of Ras al-Amud	300
East of Abu Tor	300
Ein Ilouza	1,000
Arab a-Sawahra, east of the American Road	2,500
Center of Arab a-Sawahra	Development plans rejected thus far
North of Arab a-Sawahra and south of Ein Ilouza	250
Dir al-Amud and Al-Muntar	Submitted plan: 50 units Comprehensive plan: 750 new housing units (ahead of discussion by the local committee)
South of Sur Baher	500
Givat Hamatos	2,485
Total	14,185 units

Gridenger said the city plans housing projects in both Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in order to meet the housing needs of the city's residents within municipal Jerusalem only. In Givat Hamatos, for example, the preliminary plan calls for 5,285 housing units in a space of 1,000 dunams of land (247 acres). The plan calls for 2,800 units for the ILA and Jewish housing and 2,485 housing units for Arab residents.

Improving Quality of Life in East Jerusalem

Jerusalem's Mayor Nir Barkat and Israel's Ministry of Health are making large strides to improve socio-economic conditions in Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. A new infant care center that provides free services to families was opened in Silwan, a populous East Jerusalem neighborhood, in September 2011. The center offers free services to families from doctors, nurses and social workers.



Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat (left) at the opening of a 'tipat chalav' center (a free infant and mother health clinic) in Silwan.

It is the 30th of its kind in Jerusalem.

"The center in Silwan is the first to open under Mayor Barkat's administration, and is part of his strategy to close gaps in Arab neighborhoods throughout Jerusalem in the areas of education, infrastructure, community services, culture, permitting process, and welfare services," a media statement explained.

As part of a collective effort to invest in Arab residents of Jerusalem, city hall is closing gaps by focusing on community administration, business, education and welfare.

allocated to the design and construction of 300 new classrooms and advanced computerization capabilities for many of them. Some 5,000 children in East Jerusalem attend summer camps run by the city's community councils.

An unprecedented \$80 million (300 million NIS) is being

Another element is the expansion of community council budgets in Silwan and Zur Baher, two East Jerusalem neighborhoods. The project includes a new community center, nursery schools, infant welfare centers and a cultural, sports center.

\$135 million (500 million NIS) is being invested in the construction of new roads and sidewalks in East Jerusalem. Jerusalem's new light rail system also provides cheap and convenient transport between the Old City and certain East Jerusalem communities.



City hall is constructing classrooms, sports halls and community centers for Arab neighborhoods.

Barkat said the following in a media statement: "The city of Jerusalem will continue to invest in Arab neighborhoods in cooperation and coordination with the Arab residents of Jerusalem in order to improve their quality of life."

The Rule of Law and Illegal Structures

Jerusalem operates under transparent and open rule of law. Israel's Supreme Court and its attorney general regularly adjudicate on housing issues and call on equal enforcement of the law and safety for all. **Israel's court system is fully independent.**

The municipality occasionally enforces court orders and ensures safety by taking down structures that are dangerous or illegal.

For example, a court order from Israel's Attorney-General Yehuda Weinstein recently declared Beit Yonatan, a 7-story Jewish residence in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, illegal.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ "Jerusalem mayor told to 'evict' Silwan settlers," Yahoo News, Nov. 17, 2010, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20101117/wl_mideast_afp/israelpalestiniansconflictsettlerjerusalem

Weinstein questioned the legality of the building because it lacked the proper building permits from the city.⁴⁸ *"This is important for the sake of maintaining justice, and in the face of claims that there has been selective enforcement [in evacuations],"* Weinstein said.⁴⁹

Israel usually removes illegal buildings only in severe cases, such as when a structure is built illegally on roadbeds or on land designated for public institutions such as schools and clinics.⁵⁰

In recent years, about a third of the houses removed were from Jewish parts of Jerusalem.⁵¹ The municipality applies the same criteria for Jewish and Arab structures.⁵² In 2009, Jerusalem municipality removed 25 percent fewer structures.⁵³

Illegal structures in predominantly Arab neighborhoods often involve entire multi-floor buildings, frequently with 4 – 25 living units. In Jewish neighborhoods, illegal construction often takes the form of non-authorized additions onto pre-existing legal structures.⁵⁴

Israel carries out evictions based on legal rulings decided by its justice system.⁵⁵ Spokesman for Prime Minister Netanyahu, Mark Regev, said: *"The Israeli court system is independent and professional... Many times [the courts rule in favor of] the Palestinian side if they think that's where the justice is..."*⁵⁶

Fostering Illegal Construction

The Palestinian leadership has actively encouraged and subsidized illegal building as part of a strategic demographic battle to the extent that Arab construction in Jerusalem has actually outpaced Jewish construction since 1967.⁵⁷

The PA has orchestrated a well-funded campaign of illegal construction in East Jerusalem. A PA official stated that in a four-year period Palestinians had built 6,000 houses without permits. Of these, less than 3.3 percent were removed.⁵⁸



Beit Yonatan is a tall, narrow seven-story building (center) in Silwan. The building lacks the proper municipal permits for its height and was issued a court order for removal. It houses Jewish residents.

In July 2009, the head of Israel's internal security agency, Yuval Diskin, exposed the PA's demographic battle when he reported on its efforts to prevent Arabs from selling land to Jews in Jerusalem. He said the

⁴⁸ Selig, Abe, "Barkat agrees to evacuate Beit Yehonatan," *The Jerusalem Post*, Feb. 2, 2010, <http://www.jpost.com/LocalIsrael/InJerusalem/Article.aspx?ID=167736>

⁴⁹ "A-G says Beit Yehonatan in Silwan will be evacuated ASAP," *The Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 17, 2010, <http://www.jpost.com/Headlines/Article.aspx?id=195721>

⁵⁰ Weiner, Justus Reid, "Illegal Construction in Jerusalem," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 2003

⁵¹ Schneider, Howard, "U.N. Finds 60,000 Palestinians Risk Eviction in East Jerusalem," *The Washington Post*, May 2, 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/01/AR2009050103683.html>

⁵² "Response by the Jerusalem Municipality," Office of Mayor Nir Barkat, May 21, 2009, <http://www.imra.org.il/story.php3?id=43656>

⁵³ "Municipality slams BBC demolition report," *The Jerusalem Post*, Jan. 21, 2010, <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=166317>

⁵⁴ Weiner, Justus Reid, "Illegal Construction in Jerusalem," *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*, retrieved February 26, 2010, from <http://www.jcpa.org/ilmbldg.htm>

⁵⁵ "CNN interview with Mark Regv, Spokesman for Israeli PM Netanyahu," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Aug. 3, 2009, http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Speeches+by+Israeli+leaders/2009/CNN_interview_Mark_Regev-Spokesman_Israeli_PM_Netanyahu_3-Aug-2009.htm?DisplayMode=print

⁵⁶ "Israel defends Jerusalem evictions," CNN, Aug. 3, 2009, <http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/meast/08/03/israel.evictions/index.html>

⁵⁷ Weiner, Justus Reid, "Illegal Construction in Jerusalem," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 2003

⁵⁸ Ibid.

PA and its security forces work actively to thwart Palestinians from selling land to Jews, especially in East Jerusalem.⁵⁹

In 2002, Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, the PA commissioner for Jerusalem affairs at the time, estimated that Arab Jerusalemites would need about 20,000 housing units to provide for natural growth through 2020. But since 1999, the Jerusalem Municipality had already approved plans authorizing more than 33,000 units through 2020.⁶⁰ In spite of this, the PA continues to support illegal building in Jerusalem, as illustrated by the following examples:

- The PA offers to pay fines and legal fees of Palestinians who build illegally. In 2000, the PA received at least 38 requests for financial aid to build illegally. Some wanted help in expanding or renovating housing units that were at risk of demolition. Others appealed for help because they were building on the border of a Jewish neighborhood to prevent its expansion. The documented requests show that the PA regularly comes to the aid of Arab Jerusalemites who build illegally.⁶¹
- In 2000, the PA's governor of the Jerusalem district, Jamil Othman Nasser, wrote to Yasser Arafat saying "any Arab who builds in Jerusalem has accomplished a national act of the highest order."⁶² He stated that such a stance ensures the Arabization of Jerusalem and protects their land from invasion by Jewish settlers. Nasser then asked Arafat to follow through on paying the fines for the illegal construction.

Quotes on Illegal Building by Prominent Palestinians

*"The Palestinian program is to create a Palestinian belt around the Israeli belt [of post-1967 new Jerusalem neighborhoods]...The most important Palestinian challenge is building, even without permits."*⁶³ -- **Faisal Hussein, PA Minister for Jerusalem Affairs**, June 1997.

*"We can build inside Jerusalem, legal, illegal - rebuild a house, whatever we can do. Maybe we lose ten houses, but in the end we build 40 more houses in East Jerusalem."*⁶⁴ -- **Khalid Tufakji, a Palestinian demographer who worked in the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem**, September 1998.

⁵⁹ "Shin Bet warns: Qatar Sheikh funding Hamas activities in Jerusalem," *Haaretz*, July 19, 2009, <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1101384.html>

⁶⁰ Weiner, Justus Reid, "Illegal Construction in Jerusalem," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 2002

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Savidge, Martin; Rodgers, Walter, "Jerusalem Faces Demographic War," CNN Worldwide, 6PM EST, Sept. 9, 1998, transcript no. 98091902V18

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Coexistence Programs in Jerusalem

Abraham Fund

The Abraham Fund Initiatives works to advance coexistence, equality and cooperation among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens by creating and running a number of initiatives, providing strategic projects and conducting public education and advocacy. The main idea of the organization is to promote its vision of shared citizenship and opportunity for all of Israel's citizens.

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Web site: <http://www.abrahamfund.org>

Bridges for Peace

Bridges for Peace works to foster relationships between Christian and Jews worldwide. It educates Christians about Jews and Israel, combat anti-Semitism and support Israel as a Jewish homeland.

Tel: +972-2-624-5004

<http://www.bridgesforpeace.com/>

Citizens Accord Forum

The Citizens Accord Forum orientated to advance the position of Israeli Arabs in Israeli society through "advocacy, education, local and community development, media, and networking.

Tel: 972-2-673-1118

E-mail: yachad1@netvision.net.il

Web site: <http://www.caf.org.il/Index.asp>

The Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel

ETRFI concerns itself with Christian-Jewish dialogue in Israel and is an umbrella organization for Christians in Israel with a range of members from all the historic churches. It works with various Christian and Jewish organization and institutions in Israel

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Hadassah Hospital

Hadassah Medical Organization has two hospitals in Jerusalem – the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem and the Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus. The staff of Hadassah Medical Organization comprises of Jews, Israeli Arabs and Palestinians. Doctors at Hadassah work side by side without regard for race, religion or ethnic origin. Jewish doctors also treat Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza.

Contact: Barbara Sofer, Director of Public Relations for Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

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Website: <http://www.hadassah.org.il/english>

Hand in Hand Schools (Yad B'Yad)

Hand in Hand Schools is a program which has founded bi-lingual schools in Jerusalem and the Galilee region for which there is a Jewish and Arab principal for each school. The idea is to build understanding, friendship and peace through educational methods. According to the project, there is one Jewish and one Arab teacher jointly leading each class. Classes are composed evenly of Jewish and Arab students, who learn each other's language and culture.

Tel:+ 972-2-673-5356

Email: info@handinhand.org.il

Web site: <http://www.handinhand12.org/>

Hapoel Jerusalem Youth Program

Hapoel Jerusalem Youth Program believes understanding can be reached through sports. Hapoel Jerusalem Youth Program has a three-stage strategy: This program provides training for Arab coaches and joins them with teams from Jewish Public Schools in training and classes.

Web site: <http://www.maxexchange.com/mpdn/hjyp.htm>

Interfaith Encounter Association

The Interfaith Encounter Association is dedicated to promoting peace in the Middle East through interfaith dialogue and cross-cultural study. Projects include Youth Interfaith Encounter in Jerusalem that fosters dialogue between youths of different faiths.

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Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel

The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI) works to foster reconciliation, coexistence and understanding between the three faiths.

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Email: communications@icci.org.il

Website: <http://www.icci.co.il/>