50 YEARS OF ISRAEL’S MILITARY OCCUPATION OF EAST JERUSALEM

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**50 Years of Israel’s Military Occupation of East Jerusalem**

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**Raid on Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound / Al-Haram Al-Sharif**

The Israeli government have allowed and supported Israeli extremists to invade the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, the third holiest site in Islam and a symbol for all Palestinians. In 2016 alone, Israeli extremists made 14,800 incursions into the Compound.

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**Settlement Tunnels and Excavations**

Excavation work is continuing non-stop on three tunnels adjacent to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City: a new 720-meter tunnel stretching from Silwan to the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Another 100-meter long tunnel stretches from Hammam Al-Ein toward the Al-Aqsa Mosque. And the expansion of the “Western Wall” tunnel beneath the Buraq Wall, which is a part of the Al Aqsa Mosque.

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**Cable Car Project**

An Israeli government settlement infrastructural project designed to operate within Jerusalem's discriminatory transportation system to serve the Israeli population, and in particular Israeli settlers and Israeli hosted tourists. The project will link West Jerusalem to the Old City south of the Al Aqsa Mosque, Mount of Olives, and Gethsemane Church.

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**Colonial Settlement Installations (outposts)**

The Israeli government, together with settler organizations, are creating an arc of settlements that surround the Old City. Currently, there are 83 settlement installations within the walls of the Old City. In addition to 87 installations in Silwan neighborhood, and approximately 160 installations in other neighborhoods around the Old City.

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**Talmudic Gardens – Declaration of “National Parks”**

An Israeli project used to control land in the City of Jerusalem. In 1974, Israel declared the Jerusalem Walls Park (1,100 dunums/~270 acres) nearby the Old City. In 2000, Tzurim Valley Park (165 dunums/~40 acres) was declared on an area in Mount Scopus. Israel also plans to declare Mount of Olives Park (467 dunums/~115 acres).

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Israeli settler-colonial policies in occupied East Jerusalem extend from three central strategies: the first creates a Jewish majority in the city through establishing “Jewish only” settlements, the second pursues the same goal by reducing the Palestinian population through policies that either forcefully evict Palestinians from Jerusalem or impede their growth and development as a community, the third isolates East Jerusalem and divides the West Bank into two parts. A policy of spatial colonial segregation, reducing the visibility, if not the demographic ratio, of the Palestinian presence in their city.
The Light Rail
Built to connect Israeli settlements in occupied East Jerusalem with West Jerusalem. The first phase is completed north of Jerusalem, while the second phase of the light rail will connect the rest of the settlements with West Jerusalem.

The Annexation Wall
It cordons the city of Jerusalem and prohibits West Bank Palestinians from entering the city and places of worship. The wall's route fragments the West Bank into two parts and isolates occupied East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank.

The Israeli Ring Road
Most sections of this road are now complete, with the exception of an 11.5 km-long stretch of the eastern ring road running southward from Az-Za'im to Sur Bahir. The Israeli ring road will connect Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem with West Jerusalem.

Revocation of Residency Rights
Since 1967, Israel has revoked residency rights of at least 14,550 Palestinians. Palestinians from East Jerusalem are defined as “Permanent Residents”. They have limited rights and are treated as aliens. Israel can revoke their residency for arbitrarily applied reasons such as leaving the city to live elsewhere, including other parts of occupied State of Palestine.

Right to Housing
A series of discriminatory zoning policies allows Israel to make nearly impossible for Palestinians to acquire a building permit to build new structures or expand existing ones. Consequently, there is a high level of overcrowding, and Palestinians are forced to resort to construction of homes without permits. Moreover, Israel continues its policy of home demolitions under the pretext of unlicensed construction. (25,000 homes are at risk of demolition and 3,500 homes demolished since 1967).