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# Political Conflict and Environmental Degradation in Jerusalem

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## Introduction

Among all the cities in historic Palestine, Jerusalem possesses a special political, economic and religious status for people around the world, especially its residents -- Palestinians and Israelis. Such importance has however brought political conflicts between its inhabitants which are adversely reflected on the living conditions and the environment of Jerusalem.

After the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967, restrictions have been strictly imposed on the development of the the city's Palestinian communities. Moreover, infrastructure and services for this group of inhabitants, by the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality, became inadequate to provide healthy living environment.

Overcrowding became the norm and the pressure on the Jerusalem's land and natural resources are devastating for the environment.

This paper will present several factors threatening the sustainability of the environment in Jerusalem and the environmental safety for the people inhabiting the city.

## **Present Day Jerusalem**

Soon after its occupation of Palestinian East Jerusalem in 1967, the Israeli government enforced several measures which changed the geopolitical boundaries of the city and legal and physical status, in an effort to facilitate the Israeli subsequent illegal annexation of Jerusalem.

The first measure was the application of Israeli law on the city of Jerusalem. Following this, Israel expanded the municipal boundaries of the city in a jagged manner, enabling it to include as much land as possible while excluding as much of the Palestinian population as possible<sup>1</sup>. The boundaries of the East Jerusalem municipal area were enlarged from 6.5 km<sup>2</sup> to 70.5 km<sup>2</sup> which enveloped land from 28 Palestinian villages and towns in the West Bank<sup>2</sup>. Even with this expansion to more than 10.8 times its original size, only 22,000 Palestinian residents were added to the population of Jerusalem. Land from Beit Hanina, A'nata, Abu Dies, and five other villages, for example, were absorbed into the new extended East Jerusalem but their population of approximately 80,000 people was excluded<sup>3</sup>. The Palestinian inhabitants of the city were given blue identification cards (ID) which distinguished them from Palestinians living in the rest of the West Bank, who are obligated to carry orange ID's.

On 30 July 1980, the Israeli Knesset passed a law declaring East Jerusalem part of united Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, and officially annexed the city to the State of Israel. Regardless of the many international and United Nations resolutions condemning this annexation, Israel continued with its discriminatory policies and, moreover, proceeded to Judaize the city. Many Palestinian lands within the new municipal boundaries were confiscated, closed or assigned for 'public use'. 'Public use' traditionally implies building housing neighborhoods for Israeli Jews. Presently, only 13.5% of Palestinian East Jerusalem is available for Palestinians to live on or develop. The remaining land is reserved for the exclusive use of Israeli Jews.

As of today, not a single new Palestinian neighborhood has been planned in East Jerusalem while more than 15 large Jewish neighborhoods have been built in Palestinian East Jerusalem and several more are planned. Such policies changed the demography of the city from just a few hundred Jews in 1967 to almost 160,000 at the present (Jerusalem Municipality et al, 1995). A number almost equal to the number of Palestinians now living in Palestinian East Jerusalem.

Despite cultural, religious and economic attachment of Palestinians residing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Jerusalem, Israel currently denies Palestinians free access to the Palestinian East Jerusalem. Since January 1991, Palestinians are required to obtain special permits from Israel in order to enter the city, whether for worship, visiting relatives, or seeking medical treatment or jobs. Also, historically,

the economic base of Jerusalem is its role as a market center for the rest of the geographic Palestine and other neighboring regions. The closure of East Jerusalem to the Palestinians living in the remaining parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has therefore greatly affected the trade routes and devastated the city's economy, as well as the economy of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The closure of Jerusalem has brought a noticeable retreat in economic and social standards.

Furthermore, to ensure maximum control over the land, the Israeli government designed a bizarre urban planning scheme for East Jerusalem in which approximately 86.5% of the land became out of Palestinian reach<sup>4</sup>. According to this scheme, few numbers of building permits were granted to Palestinians and, when given, these have great restrictions on the construction size and the number of floors. In sum, development of Palestinian neighborhoods has been stunted and the provision of municipal services are extremely neglected. Such circumstances have led to several serious environmental problems in the Palestinian side of the city, including among others accumulation of solid wastes, overcrowding, land degradation, unhealthy housing and living conditions.

The final status negotiations on Jerusalem are expected to last for several years. Aspects of Jerusalem to be discussed includes: sovereignty over the city, the legal structure, religious freedom, and cultural rights. However, in the meantime, the Israeli government has not stopped its unilateral practices in Jerusalem in which it is creating *de facto* realities on the ground. These *de facto* realities are certainly affecting the outcomes of the negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem, to favor Israel. An action that is totally in violation to all previous Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

## **Infrastructure and Services**

The provision of infrastructure and civil services for East Jerusalem area is currently the responsibility of the Jerusalem Municipality. However, the procrastination of the Jerusalem municipality in approving town planning schemes for most Palestinian areas in East Jerusalem had hindered any serious development in the infrastructure and services since 1967. Without planning schemes it has been impossible to open new roads, lay sewerage networks, extend pipeline systems, designate building areas for new schools or public institutions, or develop public parks and gardens. The inadequate road network had consequently led to traffic jams, low quality services in trash collection, mail distribution, or even fire station services.

## **Waste Water Disposal**

In East Jerusalem, and according to the Jerusalem municipality resources, until August 1994 there were only 15 km of sewerage network lines in East Jerusalem while the need reaches to more than 150.8 km. The new network lines planned for the year 1994 were only 7.2 km<sup>5</sup>.

The only comprehensive activity to develop the sewerage networks in the Palestinian neighborhoods of East Jerusalem was in replacing the old ottoman sewerage networks in the Muslim and Christian quarters of the Old City with a new network. This was necessary as of the touristic importance of these two quarters. Outside the walls of the Old City, sewerage network maintenance and development was partial and sporadic

and currently does not correspond to the increase in water consumption and number of population.

According to PASSIA 1996, the current sewerage networks in East Jerusalem reach approximately 60% of the Palestinian houses<sup>6</sup>. However, our field work showed that major segments of the networks are not fully functional and cover partial areas. For example, the sewerage networks cover only 10% of the houses in Qalandia refugee camp, and 25% of A'nata (Field work, 1996). The remaining 40% of the Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem use cesspits (an earthen cistern which collects disposed sewage) for sewage disposal.

Although using cesspits may be a relatively hygiene method for sewage disposal, yet the main problem in disposal is still unsolved. Cesspits are emptied regularly and their contents are dumped in open places and valleys control or treatment.

At present, most of the East Jerusalem drainage, both runoff rain water and sewage, is emptied into Wadi Al-Nar (Qidron valley), located south east of Jerusalem city. The sewage is dumped into the valley in an area outside the city limits, due to sanitation considerations. The sewage flows down the valley to end at a location close to the Dead Sea. En route, some of the sewage percolates into the ground while the rest ends up in the Dead Sea<sup>7</sup>. Although the groundwater aquifer is at deep depth in that location, prolonged percolation of the sewage into the soil for may cause the pollution of the aquifer.

Sewage treatment plants are not existing in East Jerusalem. The Israeli Jerusalem Municipality has no plans in the near future to construct sewage treatment plants to serve the East Jerusalem area. However, an international tender has been let for construction and operation of a new sewage treatment plant in the Israeli West Jerusalem (Sorek and Refaim), Planned to be functioning by 1998<sup>7</sup>.

Moreover, most Israeli settlements in the Jerusalem District lack infrastructure for sewage disposal. Sewage from these settlements flows down the fields and valleys and in most cases passes nearby or through Palestinian populated areas or agricultural land (Field work, 1995). One example is the sewage flowing from Neve Ya'acov settlement, passing through Hizma village land, and reaching Ein Farrah spring, east of the village. Villagers reported that the sewage flow affects the spring water quality and preventing the villagers from utilizing it for any purpose.

### **Solid Waste Disposal**

To date, there are no sanitary landfills serving Jerusalem and solid waste service for Palestinian communities suffer from negligence by the Israeli Jerusalem municipality.

The main solid waste disposal site serving Jerusalem is located on a land near the Palestinian town of Abu Dies. The site, totaling 300 hectares, was confiscated by the Israeli government on September 2, 1988 and was legally declared as a state land<sup>8</sup>. The dumping area lies southeast of the town core and is almost a kilometer away from the closest Palestinian houses. The site is currently managed by the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality.

This dumping site near Abu Dies village has no adequate measures to prevent leaching of toxic wastes or pollution of groundwater. The site is also unguarded or has no fencing, thus allowing scavengers and people to go into the site, searching for food or recycled material. This setup will increase the chances of disease spreading, especially that medical wastes are dumped in this site without proper treatment.

The compiled data about waste collection in Jerusalem indicate that labor, equipment, and vehicles in the Palestinian part of the city are not adequate to provide the appropriate services. The number of trash collecting staff in East Jerusalem areas is approximately 83 employee, while the number of staff needed to properly serve the area should be 125<sup>5</sup>. Solid wastes are collected using plastic bags, containers of different capacities (75 Liters to >23 CM), compactor truck, and container collection-vehicles. However, the total number of these equipment is much less than what is actually needed.

### **Medical Waste**

The amount of wastes generated from the various medical and health care facilities in East Jerusalem is enormous compared to other areas in the West Bank. This is an indicator of the large activity and number of patients treated in these facilities. However, disposal services for medical wastes are inadequate, comprising a serious threat to public safety.

Field survey of health facilities in the East Jerusalem, conducted by ARIJ's team, covered six out of the seven existing hospitals and seven private medical laboratories. Site inspection showed that all hospitals surveyed are located in residential areas while medical labs are in commercial areas. The location of these health care facilities, although convenient for patients, is certainly inappropriate considering the threat of contagious diseases generated from improper handling of medical wastes.

The quantity of medical waste generated from the surveyed health care facilities in the East Jerusalem is estimated at 130 tons/year (Field survey, 1996). The generated waste is classified as biological wastes (body organs, tissues, blood, urine, stools ...etc), sharp and pointed objects (needles, lancets, syringes, blades, saws, ...etc), and contagious wastes (media culture, diapers, swabs, test tubes, cotton, surgical dressings, dialysis tubes, ...etc). Despite this large quantity, currently no service exists, private or public, which is specialized in treating and disposing of medical waste. Medical waste treatment services exist in West Jerusalem, however they do not accept medical wastes generated from Palestinian hospitals in the city, except for radioactive wastes. Radioactive wastes, only generated by Maqassed Hospital, are sent to Hadassah Hospital facilities in West Jerusalem for treatment and disposal.

Although not all medical facilities were surveyed in the East Jerusalem, the information gathered on disposal methods of medical wastes are more or less representative of the remaining facilities. The disposal methods used for the various medical wastes are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Methods of Disposal of Medical Wastes in the Jerusalem District**

<b>Methods of Disposal*</b>											
<b>Waste Type</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Blood samples	53.8	7.7	23.1	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	100
Blood tubes	46.1	7.7	23.1	0.0	7.7	0.0	7.7	0.0	7.7	0.0	100
Petri dishes	25.0	8.3	25.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	16.7	0.0	8.3	0.0	100
Urine	66.7	0.0	8.3	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	100
Tips	61.5	15.4	7.7	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Cups	69.2	15.4	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Test kits	76.9	7.7	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	100
Sticks	61.5	15.4	7.7	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Swabs	38.5	15.4	7.7	0.0	23.1	0.0	7.7	0.0	7.7	0.0	100
Syringes & needles	38.4	7.7	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.8	0.0	7.7	0.0	100
Lancet	33.3	8.3	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	8.3	0.0	100
Diapers	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Bed sheets	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Beds	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Infusion set	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Tubes	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100

Quick cut	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Urine bags	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Stool	66.7	0.0	8.3	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	100
Toilet paper	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100

**All numbers are in percent.**

\* 1 = Dumped in domestic trash containers without treatment      6 = re-used  
2 = Burned then dumped in domestic trash containers      7 = Disposed off in special containers  
3 = Autoclaving      8 = Treated by special companies  
4 = Disposed off in the public sewerage      9 = Either 2 or 5  
5 = Sterilized by Chlore, Alcohol, or Detol      10 = Either 1 or 5

Therefore, the majority of medical wastes generated in the Est Jerusalem is disposed of without prior treatment or proper handling. In almost one third of the medical facilities that were surveyed, proper precautions were not taken in handling sharp and pointed objects' wastes, thus increasing the infection risks for garbage collectors and children. Petri Dishes which are used for bacterial culture are one of the few types of medical wastes that is treated before being disposed of. Surgery wastes, from general and maternity hospitals, are collected in plastic bags and disposed of in the municipal garbage.

## Health Services

Field survey, conducted by ARIJ's team in early 1996, showed that approximately 150,000 patients refer every year to East Jerusalem seven hospitals for treatment. A major portion of these patients is from areas outside East Jerusalem or from other districts in the West Bank. The well-equipped and highly specialized medical care facilities in East Jerusalem are in many cases the sole provider of medical treatment for thousands of cases. Thus, in this regard, the health system of East Jerusalem is an integral and indispensable part of the overall West Bank health system. The Israeli

closure of East Jerusalem to Palestinians from other areas is therefore depriving thousands of patients from receiving the appropriate treatment.

The provision of health services for Palestinians in Jerusalem has been greatly affected by the Israeli closure and, in particular, the recent tightening of closure of East Jerusalem, started early March 1996. On several occasions, and for extended periods, Israel has prevented doctors and medical staff who are residents of areas outside East Jerusalem from reaching their job locations in East Jerusalem. In a letter sent to the previous Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, dated March 27, 1996, the directors of five major hospitals in East Jerusalem explained that the East Jerusalem hospital's activity dropped by 75% after the closure and that approximately two third of the medical staff come from West Bank and Gaza Strip and have been unable to get to the hospitals. Al-Maqased hospital, for example, was greatly devastated by the closure as 400 out of it's 640 employees were denied from reaching their job location. Augusta Victoria hospital also was deprived from 70% of its staff<sup>9</sup>. Consequently, measures should be taken to improve the accessibility of patients to the health facilities in East Jerusalem in a manner that would not be affected by the political environment.

### **Fire Fighting Services**

A single fire station exists in East Jerusalem, located east of the Old City. This station is responsible for all areas in East Jerusalem, including its northern parts, in regard to fire fighting, investigation of fire incidents, prevention, and extension. The station hires 12 employees who are distributed on three shifts<sup>5</sup>.

The location and setup of the fire station in East Jerusalem are not adequate. The station is located on a highly sloping street and opposite to the vegetable market, which do not facilitate the exit of the fire car in the manner needed in times of emergency. Communication means between the fire station and staff dorms and offices do not exist. Therefore, moving the fire station into a more adequate location is essential and an additional station is also needed to cover the northern parts of the city.

Fire fighting within the walls of Old City is another serious problem. In this overcrowded part of Jerusalem, the narrow streets and stairs do not permit free movement of fire trucks to all parts of the Old City. The number of street water outlets to supply water for fire hoses is not enough to cover all parts of the Old City and thus put its inhabitants in a serious risk. More water outlets are needed in the Old City and the purchase of special fire vehicles suitable for this area is also essential.

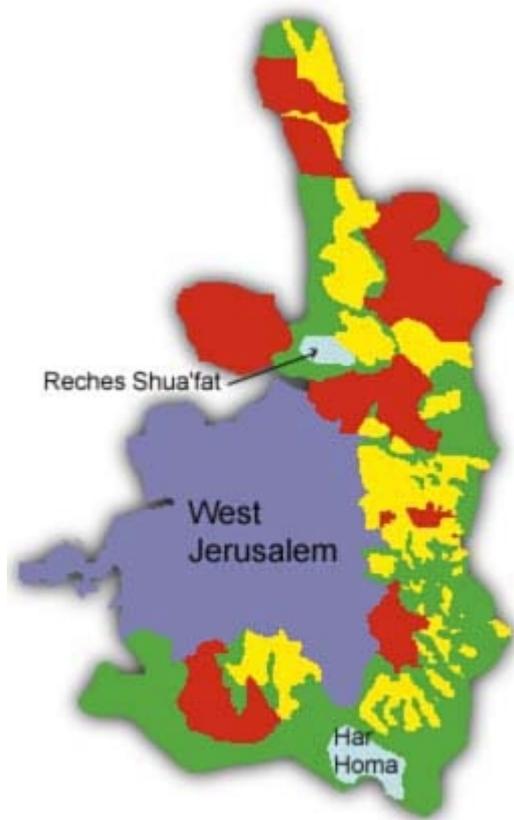
### **Water Network**

After 1967, the Jordanian-built water network was the main backbone of the water network in the area, where the Israeli Jerusalem municipality connected to it and added temporary new lines. The temporary lines were laid over the ground and were supposed to be replaced by a new underground water network. Due to lack of approved town planning schemes, many parts of the temporary network still in use and currently does not correspond with the needs. Being aware of the needs, the Jerusalem municipality assessed the water supply situation and decided in 1984 to

begin replacing the temporary network. As of mid 1995, a new network was laid in the Old City, Bab Al-Zahreh, Sheikh Jarah, and Shua'fat. Only less than 30% of the water network plan was carried out. The remaining part of the project is still undone.

Since 1988, Shua'fat refugee camp suffers from lack of water supply as the Israeli military government ordered the disconnection of the camp from the water network due to accumulation of unpaid water bills<sup>5</sup>.

### Land Use and Town Planning Scheme for Jerusalem



**Figure 2: Town Planning Scheme for Jerusalem**



Although 85 - 90% of the land of East Jerusalem belongs to Palestinians, presently, only 13.5% of East Jerusalem area is available for the Palestinians to build on, live, and develop<sup>4</sup>. The restriction on Palestinian built-up in East Jerusalem has been conducted under the umbrella of Town Planning Scheme (TPS) which the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem formulated for Jerusalem.

Soon after the 1967 war, Israel canceled the town planning schemes that were prepared and approved by the Jordanians in 1966 for East Jerusalem and prevented Palestinians from building unless in areas with approved schemes. As of today, 28 years later, very few Palestinian towns had approved town planning schemes. The process for approving TPS for a Palestinian community was made very complicated and requires several stages and uncountable signatures. Presently, less than 25% of the Palestinian neighborhoods of East Jerusalem has a complete and approved town planning schemes<sup>5</sup>. Moreover, in those few "lucky" towns, major parts of the land were designated as a 'Green Areas'. 'Green Areas' are lands designated for public open space or for the preservation of unhindered views of the landscape; They simply can not be built on. The color green predominates Palestinian town plans in East Jerusalem (Figure 2). Accordingly, building houses for Palestinians in East Jerusalem has been extremely difficult which had led to overcrowding to a point that more than 30% of the East Jerusalem Palestinian families live in a density of more than 3 people per living room (Figure 1).

**Figure 3: Density per room among Palestinians and Israeli Settler families of East Jerusalem**

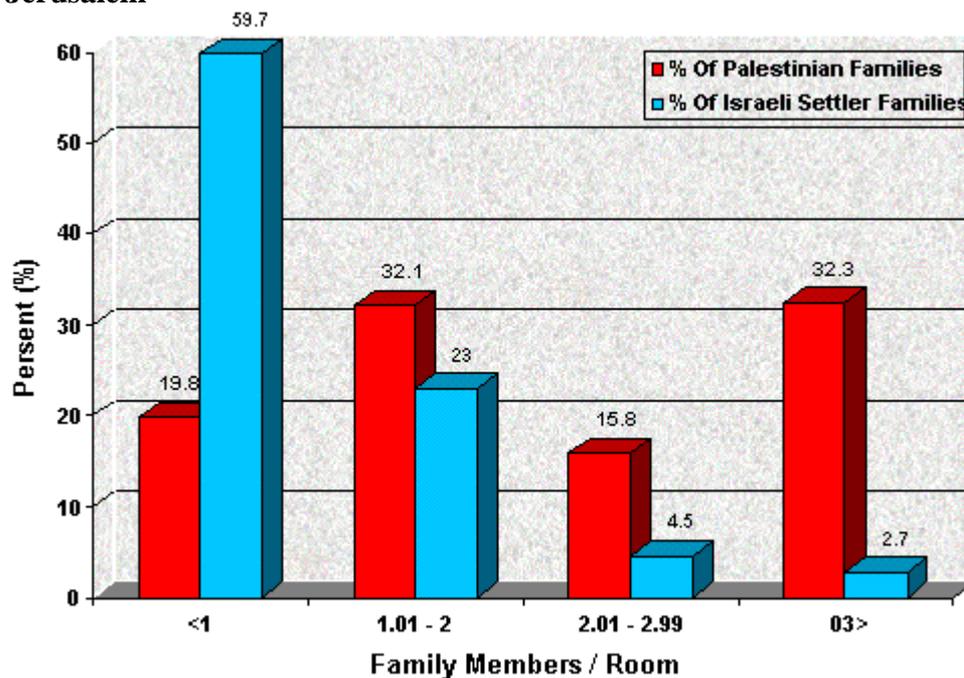


Table 2 shows the East Jerusalem land use distribution according to the Israeli - designed Town Planning Scheme.

<b>Table 2: TPS for East Jerusalem</b>	
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Israeli settlements</b>	<b>34%</b>

<b>For expansion of Settlements</b>	8.5%
<b>Green Areas</b>	44%
<b>Palestinian built-up</b>	13.5%
Source PASSIA	

Furthermore, restrictions are imposed by the Jerusalem Municipality on construction even when building permits are granted. These restrictions are expressed in the following building codes<sup>4</sup>:

1. Palestinians are only allowed to built on 15%, 25%, or 50% of the land plot, depending on the zoning and area of construction. In contrast, Israeli Jews building in East Jerusalem settlements are allowed to build on as much as 200% of the land.
2. Palestinian buildings in East Jerusalem are confined to one or two stories, whereas Israeli settlements can have buildings up to eight stories.
3. Palestinians owning land larger than 0.1 hectare in size are required to divide the land into parcels of a maximum of 0.1 hectare in order to be granted building permits on such lands. This law is strictly applied even when the land is only few square meters larger than 0.1 hectares.

Such laws are not only discriminatory but induce low efficiency of land use and restrict the number of houses that can be built on the limited area given for Palestinian to develop and inhabit. Since 1967, only 6,440 new Palestinian houses were built in East Jerusalem (12% of all newly constructed houses), compared to over than 60,000 new houses which were built by Israeli settlers during the same time period of time<sup>10</sup>.

Palestinian houses built with no license have been already or threatened to be demolished by the Israeli government. As Reported by the Palestine Human Right Information Center (PHRIC) in mid 1994, the result of the Israeli government policy of denying Palestinians building permits, demolition of unlicensed Palestinian houses, and land expropriation was that approximately 21,000 Palestinian families were either homeless and live in caves and tents, inadequately housed, or are forced to double and triple-up with other families<sup>11</sup> (Box 2). PHRIC has documented over 210 Palestinian homes demolished by the Israeli authorities in East Jerusalem since mid-1986 for licensing reasons.

### **Box 2**

Adnan Abu Nijmeh applied for a building permit in spring 1991, to build a house oh his property in the Wadi Qaddoum area of Jerusalem but was rejected. With no place to live, he decided to build a house on his property without a permit. By the end of the year, the family moved into a the house. Several days later, a municipality official told Abu Nijmeh to stop building because the area was classified as a "green area". After receiving a demolition order in May 1993 Abu Niimeh hired a lawvver. paid a heftv fine to the Israeli authorities and assumed his

house would be safe from demolition. To his and his family's surprise, his house was demolished on 16 November 1993 on the basis that it was unlicensed. Border guards, police and special force units accompanied by municipality officials raided the house without warning. The intruders forced Abu Nijmeh's wife, Nufuth, and her 13 children out of their house without allowing them to remove any of its contents before the house was demolished. The family still lives on an open hillside in two shipping containers, donated by friends, on the site of their demolished house. The municipality has since claimed that the shipping containers are illegal and must be removed. To add insult to injury, municipality social welfare workers threatened to place the youngest children in foster care because the parents had failed to provide a habitable and safe environment for them."

Kothari & Abu Shakra, 1995.

Palestinian communities of East Jerusalem are becoming overcrowded and can not handle the population pressure. This policy is adversely reflecting on the Palestinian natural and socio-economic environment, which is further exacerbated by the weak infrastructure and insufficient municipal services.

Furthermore, most of the lands designated as 'Green Areas' in East Jerusalem, which are supposedly to conserve the beauty of the nature, are neither planted, developed into gardens or parks, nor green. these 'Green' areas were selected in places where Israel would like to save the land until the time is ready to build Israeli settlements on them. Sarah Kaminker, a city planner and a member of the Jerusalem City Council, in one of her articles quoted Teddy Kollek, the previous mayor of Jerusalem, "when asked to defend the loss of 1,262 dunums of public open space in Reches Shu[a]’fat, Mr. Kollek stated that the green paint was originally applied to the map of Reches Shu[a]’fat in order to prevent Palestinian construction on the land until the time was ripe to build a new neighborhood for Jews."<sup>4</sup>

The settlement of Reches Shua’fat is not the only one to be build on a pre-designated green area. A forested mountain located at the southern end of the 1967 extended East Jerusalem municipal boundary is another example (Figure 2).

Abu Ghnaim, with an area of approximately 2 km<sup>2</sup>, has been forested by both the Jordanians pre 1967 and the Israelis after 1967. It currently hosts around 60,000 pine trees and provides an oasis for several hundreds of precious wild animals and plants. For many years Mt. Abu Ghnaim and its surrounding areas, as seen in Figure 2, has been designated by the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality as a 'green area', thus preventing the expansion of the Palestinian communities in its vicinity. Few years ago, the forest, although largely are private Palestinian land, was confiscated for the purpose of building an Israeli settlement. Using legal routes, Palestinians were able to defer the construction until today. However, after all legal measures were exhausted, construction of the settlement, which will host 6,500 housing units for Israeli Jews, will start in the very near future.

## Forests

Afforestation by Israel in the Jerusalem District took more of a political nature. Afforestation projects were mostly concentrated in and around East Jerusalem. This is primarily in an attempt to create a green belt around the city and restrict the expansion of its Palestinian communities. Such policy is affirmed by the present TPS for East Jerusalem (see above).

From map analysis, it became clear that the Israeli afforestation in the Jerusalem District is also carried out in areas separating Israeli settlements from their neighboring Palestinian communities. Such forests create a buffer zone between the two communities and prevent the expansion of the Palestinian communities on lands which are to be saved for the expansion of Israeli settlements. The forests east of Pisgat Ze've and Neve Ya'acov are two examples. Similarly, the forests planted around Ma'ale Adumim serve the purpose of securing the land between Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem and around the settlement itself<sup>8</sup>.

## What's Next

The City of Jerusalem suffers from many environmental problems that can not be contained in this summary paper. A comprehensive profile for Jerusalem is currently under preparation by the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)<sup>12</sup>, and expected to be published by mid July 1996. We hope that the research and information will be used by the Palestinian negotiators during their coming negotiation on the final status of Jerusalem and Palestine. The conservation of the environment and its sustainability is as important as any others issues that concern the Palestinian people, and should be dealt with as such.

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