

Urgent Jerusalem Appeal: A Call for Collective Action to Protect Jerusalem, Its Holy Sites, and Its Historic Identity

Issued by: Arab and Palestinian institutions and organizations

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We are following with profound concern the unprecedented Israeli escalation in occupied Jerusalem, which directly targets Al-Aqsa Mosque, the people of Jerusalem, and the city's Arab, Islamic, and Christian identity. This escalation forms part of a systematic policy aimed at creating new realities on the ground and consolidating control by force, in clear violation of international law and universally recognized humanitarian principles.

Jerusalem is currently facing one of the most critical periods in its modern history. The frequency of incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque by extremist settlers, under the protection of Israeli forces, has increased at an alarming rate. At the same time, efforts to impose a temporal and spatial division of the Mosque are intensifying, accompanied by attacks on worshippers, the banning of the Murabitun and Murabitat, exclusion orders against religious and national figures, targeting of Al-Aqsa guards, and restrictions on freedom of worship. These violations represent a deliberate attempt to alter the historic and legal status quo of the holy site.

In parallel, Israeli policies aimed at weakening the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem continue through home and property demolitions, forced displacement, residency revocations, settlement expansion, intensified excavation activities around Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Old City, attacks on Islamic and Christian holy sites, and the targeting of religious and national figures. These measures threaten the city's historic character and seek to undermine its rich civilizational and cultural identity.



Extremist Temple organizations, with support from the Israeli government and with the direct backing of far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, continue their efforts to impose greater control over Al-Aqsa Mosque, restrict Muslim access, undermine the role and authority of the Islamic Waqf, and permit provocative religious practices at the site. If these actions continue, they risk eroding the historic status quo that has governed Al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem for decades.

The policies targeting Jerusalem also threaten the city's longstanding Christian presence through restrictions on Christian institutions and religious figures, as well as attempts to alter the historic and pluralistic character of Jerusalem, a city that has long represented religious diversity, cultural richness, and human coexistence.

This dangerous escalation, occurring while the international community remains focused on multiple global crises, demands a responsible and collective response that reflects the seriousness of the threats facing Jerusalem. Statements and condemnations alone are no longer sufficient. Protecting Jerusalem requires moving beyond expressions of concern toward coordinated, sustained, and meaningful action.

The gravity of the situation in Jerusalem lies not only in the scale of daily violations, but also in attempts to turn temporary and exceptional measures into a permanent reality, one that threatens the city's historic and legal character and undermines regional stability. Immediate action is required before these developments become irreversible.



Accordingly, we call upon Arab, Islamic, international, legal, humanitarian, and civil society institutions to assume their historic and moral responsibilities and work collectively to establish a comprehensive framework combining political, legal, media, humanitarian, and developmental efforts through the following actions:

- Launching urgent and sustained international political, legal, and human rights initiatives to halt violations targeting Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque, and Jerusalemites; ensure accountability for those responsible; and prevent illegal actions from being normalized or legitimized.
- Activating legal mechanisms before international courts and institutions to hold accountable those responsible for ongoing violations, including settlement expansion, forced displacement, and attempts to alter Jerusalem's demographic character, while ensuring legal protection for Jerusalemites and targeted institutions.
- Intensifying political and diplomatic pressure on governments and international bodies to compel respect for international law and end violations, including through legal and economic measures against entities involved in supporting settlements or benefiting from policies targeting Jerusalem and its residents.
- Safeguarding the historic and legal status quo at Al-Aqsa Mosque and all Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, while rejecting any unilateral or coercive measures aimed at altering it in furtherance of the occupation's policies.
- Calling on the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as the custodian of Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian holy sites, to fully utilize its political and diplomatic standing and international relations, and to work alongside Arab, Islamic, and international institutions to mobilize an effective global position that protects the holy sites, halts Israeli measures undermining the Hashemite custodianship and the historic and legal



status quo in Jerusalem, and prevents the imposition of any new realities that undermine the city's identity and status.

- Establishing an urgent and sustainable financial and humanitarian support program for the Jerusalemites to strengthen their resilience and assist them in confronting daily hardships and economic constraints imposed by the occupation, including support for families facing displacement and owners of homes and properties threatened with demolition or closure.
- Strengthening Jerusalem-based institutions that provide social, educational, and cultural services, and ensuring they receive the resources needed to preserve the Arab, Islamic, and Christian presence in the city and support Jerusalemites in remaining steadfast in their homeland.
- Developing a unified international media strategy for Jerusalem that documents violations, produces multilingual legal and media materials, provides international media outlets with verified information and documentation, and counters misinformation and attempts to distort the historical narrative.
- Establishing an international media network dedicated to Jerusalem that brings together independent media, legal, and human rights organizations to communicate the realities on the ground and keep Jerusalem at the forefront of international attention.
- Calling on peoples across the Arab and Muslim worlds and supporters of justice worldwide, as well as civil society organizations, unions, and community groups, to strengthen global awareness and advocacy for Jerusalem by organizing initiatives and activities in support of the city and its people, and to play an active role in mobilizing public pressure to halt Israeli violations against the holy city.



The steadfastness of Jerusalemites cannot continue to rely solely on individual sacrifice. It requires genuine, organized, and sustained support. What is unfolding in Jerusalem is a true test of the commitment of the Arab and Islamic worlds to their religious and moral responsibilities, and of the international community's commitment to the very principles of international law and human rights that it calls upon others to uphold.

We affirm that continued silence regarding these violations risks enabling further actions aimed at changing Jerusalem's identity and creating irreversible realities on the ground.

Therefore, we call for immediate and responsible action from all relevant parties, each according to their role and capacity, to defend Jerusalem and its people, protect Al-Aqsa Mosque and the city's holy sites, and reject measures that violate international law and threaten regional peace and stability.

Jerusalem is not a temporary political issue. It is a historic, cultural, religious, and humanitarian responsibility shared by all. The time for meaningful action has arrived. What Jerusalem needs today is clear commitment, collective resolve, and concrete steps to protect its people, heritage, and holy sites.

History will judge the positions taken by states, institutions, and international bodies in response to what Jerusalem is facing. The city does not need further statements alone, it needs decisions and actions that preserve its status, protect its holy sites, and prevent imposed realities from becoming permanent.

In closing, we place this responsibility before all those with the ability to act. Through this appeal, we have fulfilled our duty to speak out in defense of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem, its people, and its Islamic and Christian holy sites.



Issued by the following institutions and entities:

Popular Conference for Palestinians
Abroad

Al Quds International Institution

Arab National Congress

Palestinian Federation of Latin America

European Palestinian Conference

Islamic National Conference

Palestinians Popular Conference

Palestinian National Conference
For Palestine

Salvadoran-Palestinian Association

Academic Network for Solidarity with
Palestine – Mexico

Palestinian National Movement

International Arab Center for
Communication and Solidarity

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