

East Jerusalem

BRIEFING CARD

- **85%** of Jerusalem occupied by Israel in 1948
- East Jerusalem occupied in **1967**
- Only **13%** of East Jerusalem zoned for Palestinian construction
- **230,000+** Israeli settlers live in illegal settlements on stolen Palestinian land in East Jerusalem



[Wikimedia Commons]

Since 1948

During Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948 (the Nakba), Israel occupied around 85% of Jerusalem. Up to **80,000** Palestinians were forced out of their homes.

In **1967** Israel illegally **occupied East Jerusalem**. Since then, Israel has demolished over 5000 Palestinian homes in the city.

In 1980 Israel **annexed** East Jerusalem. This is **illegal** under international law and was condemned by UN Security Council Resolution 478 in 1980.

Life in East Jerusalem

Israeli policy focuses on **pressuring** Palestinians to leave.

Israel frequently **demolishes** Palestinian homes to steal more land. It has **destroyed** over **5000** Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem since 1967.

- Israel has been **ethnically cleansing** Palestinians from East Jerusalem since 1967 and continues to do so today.

Today the homes of at least 20,000 more Palestinians in East Jerusalem are under imminent threat of demolition.

Israel imposes a **severely restrictive system of building permits**. Palestinians must have the correct building permit for their home, or it is at increased risk of demolition. These permits are **almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain**. Up to one-third of Palestinians in East Jerusalem lack the permit required for their home.

Israel also uses **residency status** to transfer Palestinians out of Jerusalem forcibly. Palestinians in East Jerusalem are granted 'permanent residency' and not citizenship. Since 1967 Israel has **revoked the residency** of more than **14,000** Palestinians.



A permanent residence permit that Palestinians in East Jerusalem hold as an ID card [Middle East Eye]

Palestinians also face **restricted access to Jerusalem's holy sites**, including Al-Aqsa Sanctuary and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Palestinians face **discrimination in budget allocation** for local infrastructure and services. There are severe shortages in sewage lines, water connections, social services and schools in East Jerusalem. More than **2000 extra classrooms are needed** for Palestinian children.

With only 13% of East Jerusalem zoned for Palestinian construction, East Jerusalem has become **dangerously overcrowded** and many Palestinians live in poverty as a result of Israeli policy.

The 'Greater Jerusalem' Project

For decades Israel has taken more and more land from Palestinians to make way for illegal Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem. There are now over **230,000 Israeli settlers living in illegal settlements**. They receive tax benefits and housing incentives from the Israeli government.

There are more Israelis living in East Jerusalem than Palestinians. This is part of Israel's 'Greater Jerusalem' project to change the demography of the city.

Israel plans to build another **6000 homes only for Israelis** in East Jerusalem.

"The Annexation Wall is the final link assuring Israel's illegal dominion over East Jerusalem"

– Al-Haq, 2011

The Wall



50,000+ Palestinians in East Jerusalem are cut off from basic services and the rest of Jerusalem by the Wall

The Wall around East Jerusalem is 6-8 metres high. It runs around illegal Israeli settlements and completely **cuts East Jerusalem off** from the rest of the occupied West Bank.

It makes it **almost impossible** for Palestinians to travel to other parts of occupied Palestine to see family and friends.

The Wall and checkpoints make it extremely difficult for many Palestinians in East Jerusalem to **access essential services** like education and healthcare.

In 2004 the International Court of Justice ruled that the Wall was 'contrary to international law' and therefore **illegal**. It called on Israel to 'cease forthwith the works of construction of the Wall' and 'dismantle forthwith the structure'. In flagrant violation of this ruling, Israel has continued to construct the Wall.

References:

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