

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECURITY COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/33/60
S/12575
7 March 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-third session
Item 55 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-third year

Note verbale dated 21 February 1978 from the Permanent Representative
of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations presents his compliments to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to communicate to him, upon instructions from the Government of Jordan, the text of the communication attached herewith, pertaining to very ominous and serious encroachments by the Israeli occupation authorities upon historic, religious, cultural and residential new areas adjacent to the Western Wall of Al-Haram-al-Shareef Holy Sanctuary.

Although the encroachments are still in an incipient stage, at the location which is the subject of this complaint, they merit the most vigilant attention of the distinguished Secretary-General, to the extent that they are viewed by the Government of Jordan as another step towards an eventual Israeli take-over of the Haram-al-Shareef Holy Sanctuary itself.

In the meantime, to state the least, it would involve changing the historical, religious, cultural and demographic landscape of occupied Arab Jerusalem, in flagrant violation of numerous resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on this matter.

It is the earnest hope of the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations that His Excellency will do everything possible to ensure a cessation of the new Israeli encroachments upon the historic structures and the people of those areas.

In view of the seriousness with which my Government views these unfolding developments, the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations further requests that this and the attached communication from the Government of Jordan be circulated as official documents of the General Assembly, under item 55 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

* A/33/50.

ANNEX

Memorandum dated 5 January 1978 received by the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with instructions to bring it to the attention of His Excellency the Secretary-General and to exert every possible effort at the United Nations to bring about a cessation of the diggings, sequestrations and demolitions presently under way, which threaten four Arab quarters adjacent to the Western Wall of the Haram-al-Shareef Sanctuary

At a time when zionism is preoccupying world public opinion with pretenses of responding positively to the peace negotiating process, several of its organs are engaging in an ominous and serious infiltration operation. The aim is to create a new Wailing Wall, which the Israelis name "The Small Wailing Wall".

The operation is intended simultaneously to establish a new religious fait accompli, the confiscation of additional Arab quarters, and involves demolition operations - as a preliminary phase - encompassing four Arab quarters adjacent to the Western Wall of Al-Haram-al-Shareef Holy Sanctuary and the displacement of close to 3,000 of their proprietors and inhabitants. This is identical to what had befallen the Arab quarters, adjacent to the "Old Wailing Wall", which started by virtue of Islamic complacency and led eventually to the Al-Buraq rebellion of 1929 and the Israeli claims which followed in its aftermath. (A British Royal Commission which had intensively studied the claims and the counter-claims then, proved conclusively that the Arab position was juridically the right one.)

Subsequent to the Israeli occupation of Arab Jerusalem in 1967, the occupation authorities confiscated five Arab quarters, demolished them and displaced 6,000 of its Arab Muslim proprietors and residents.

The Government of Jordan has received this week reports from highly informed sources to the effect that the Israeli occupation authorities have latterly started the installation of water pipes in an open segment of the Western Wall of Al-Haram-al-Shareef Holy Sanctuary, in a location known as "Ribat al-Kurd", as a prelude to transforming the area into a Jewish centre of worship.

Ribat al-Kurd is a cluster of historic Islamic Waqf (foundation) premises, constructed by Muslim philanthropists in the Hijra year 693 (1293) A.C. and registered as an endowment in perpetuity, to house members of the teaching faculties, in adjacent religious centres of learning. It is presently inhabited by some members of al-Shihabi family, descendants of one of those families. The "Ribat" is located at one of the entrances to the Holy Sanctuary to the West. The name of this entrance is Bab-el-Hadeed (The Gate of Iron).

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This Ribat has, between 1971-1976, been the object of a series of aggressive acts of encroachment. Diggings beneath it had reached a depth of 10 metres and a width of nine metres. In 1971, the diggings caused the destabilization and near-collapse of four buildings. In 1973-1974 the al-Juhariyah religious-historic school suffered a similar fate and, in 1976, the open indoor courtyard of the historic school collapsed.

The Government of Jordan has incessantly complained against such acts and encroachments, whenever committed, to UNESCO, coupled with requests for on-the-spot investigations and condemnations. The Jordanian Government's many complaints had unfailingly demanded that damaged buildings be repaired and that the occupation authorities be sternly warned to refrain from continuing such illicit acts. UNESCO had, on every occasion in which such complaints had been made, carried out its investigations on the spot. When the complaints had been verified to the satisfaction of UNESCO, such acts of aggression were invariably condemned, and the Israeli occupation authorities were requested to cease their encroachments forthwith and to repair damages incurred.

In the wake of some of those resolutions, the Israeli occupation authorities sometimes responded to the international will and accommodated to its wishes but, while doing so, they continued their provocative encroachments in other areas.

Ribat el-Kurd, al-Jawhariyah school and contiguous buildings in the area enjoyed a respite in consequence of international intervention. Diggings in that area were temporarily halted, six buildings which had been damaged were repaired and six families evicted earlier were enabled to live again in their homes. The occupation authorities' positive response in this area proved to be a cover-up for the continuance of the acts of confiscation, demolition and eviction of the residents of the five other Arab quarters adjacent to the old "Wailing Wall".

Now that the military occupation authorities had completed and solidified their aggression, at the other western end of the Wailing Wall, they sprung upon us their preliminary steps at the other end, with a view to completing their expansionist designs, whose clear purpose is to expose naked the remaining segments of the Western Wall of Al-Haram-al-Shareef Holy Sanctuary by demolishing buildings and evicting their residents. This is being perpetrated on the false assumption that the entire Western Wall of Al-Haram-al-Shareef is an extension of the Wailing Wall which they sanctify.

The area which is the object of this new encroachment is located at the mid-point of the Western Wall of the Holy Sanctuary, as the attached map shows (see appendix). A reading of the map itself reveals the extent to which Islamic properties surrounding the Holy Sanctuary, including the Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock holy mosques, have been the object of Israeli confiscations, within an over-all plan, to expose the Holy Sanctuary from all sides and to erase the cultural and Islamic hallmarks which surround it. It also aims at evicting the Arab and Muslim inhabitants of those areas.

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Since the Israeli occupation of the second part of Jerusalem in 1967, the aforementioned location has been specifically the object of visitations by members of various Jewish religious groups in their efforts to worship behind it. But the residents of the area and the alertness of the Islamic Waqf Department thwarted their designs. In the course of repairing the damaged buildings within the Ribat el-Kurd area from the digging operations in 1972, workers doing the repairs on behalf of the contractor found it necessary to place some iron nails in a section of the Western Wall contiguous to the buildings under repair.

Religious Jewish organizations and Israeli politicians of various party affiliations raised a vociferous outcry, in which they accused the contractor and the municipal authorities of the occupation - which had assigned the repairs to the contractor - of transgressing on the "sacred" stones of the wall and demanding that the nails be removed and repairs suspended, and also calling for demolition of all the buildings adjacent to this wall, which they named, at that time, "The Small Wailing Wall".

The Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz published on 27 February 1972 an impassioned appeal from Chief Rabbi Isaac Nassim, addressed to the then Minister of Justice - in his capacity as Chairman of the Ministerial Committee, for the whole of Jerusalem. The appeal discloses the innermost depths of the Jewish leaders' designs.

The appeal stated inter alia:

"The Small Wailing Wall and continuation of efforts to disclose it, is a pivotal religious duty. Beware that the fate of this Wall should be similar to the fate of Notre Dame Monastery, which the Minister of Justice had foreclosed by a stroke of liquidation and returned to the Vatican. Beware surrendering this Wall, which was delivered by the blood of our infantry and paratroopers and which was never foreclosed by the Almighty in heaven. Our outcries will continue without stop and our struggle will not cease until the discovery of its length and height from its southern corner to its north-western corner in the vicinity of Bab-el-Asbaat. We do not want a temporary solution; our aim is to 'cleanse' the area of all the old buildings, which had been built and stuck upon, with premeditation, and with the approval of the Judges and the successive chiefs of the Islamic religion, upon the remaining stones of our Temple, with a view to vilifying and hiding it!"

The installation of waterpipes to this important location, in the middle of Western Wall of Al-Haram-al-Shareef, is a most ominous move designed covertly to consolidate the Jewish claims on this location by turning it into "a small Wailing Wall" and a new Jewish religious shrine. This is identical to what world Jewry did, in the first Wailing Wall adjacent to Al-Haram-al-Shareef Sanctuary, having turned it into a sacred Jewish shrine, and which has become a source of eternal conflict between Islam and Judaism. It led to the Al-Buraq rebellion of 1929 and, after 1967, brought about the tragedy of confiscations and demolitions of five Arab quarters and the eviction of their inhabitants.

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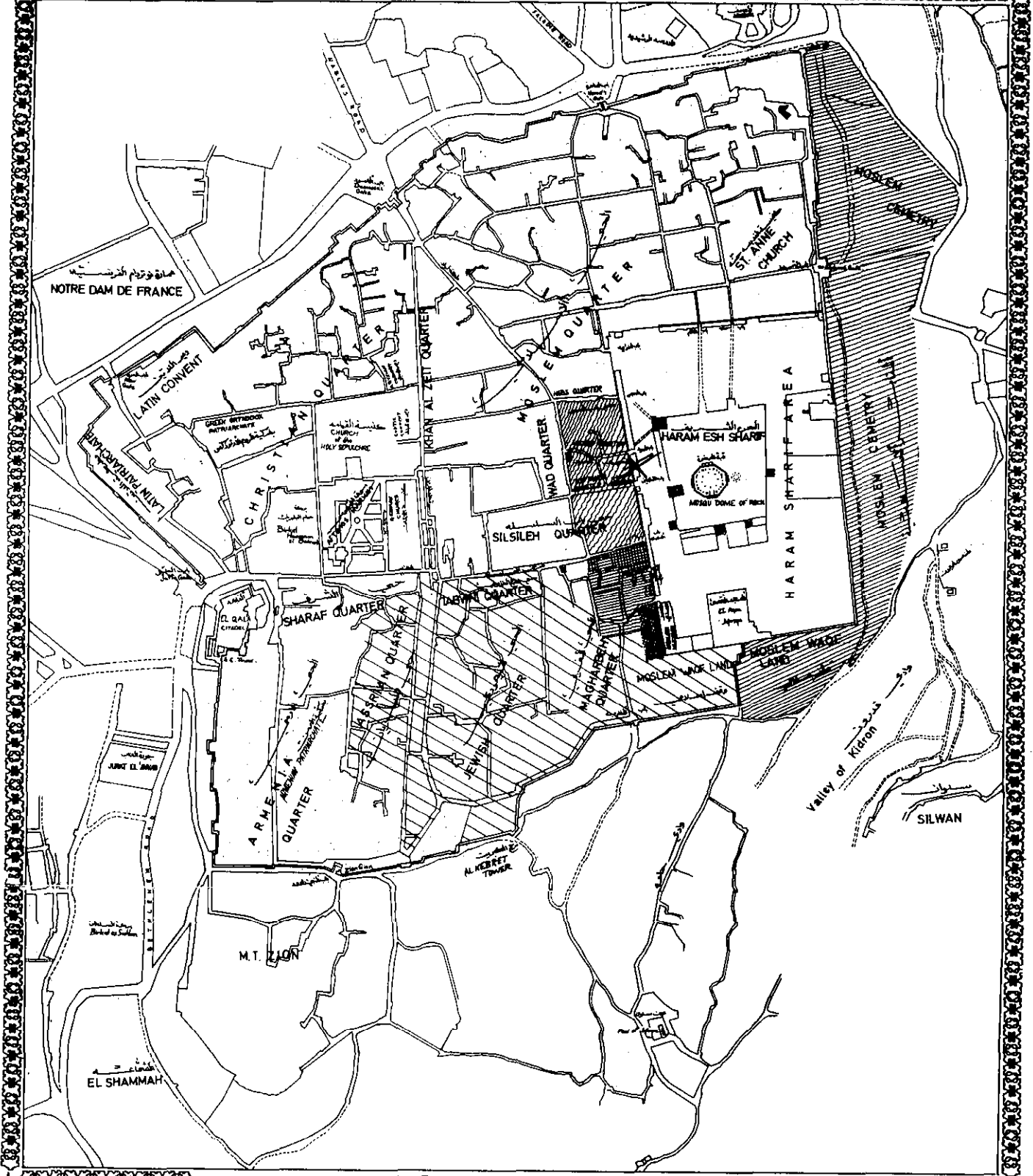
The dreams of Judaism, as disclosed by the Chief Rabbi, are not confined to the four quarters surrounding Ribat al-Kurd. It exceeds them to encompass all the Islamic religious, cultural and residential buildings, all along the rest of the Western Wall, and the Northern Wall of Al-Haram-al-Shareef Holy Sanctuary. These are the only remaining buildings which are adjacent to the Holy Sanctuary.

The installation of the waterpipe is but a first step in a newly-unfolding criminal plan whose ultimate objective - as Jewish religious and political circles do not tire of stating is: to carry out a Jewish take-over of Al-Haram-al-Shareef Holy Sanctuary itself.

I request you to bring this matter to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to make all possible efforts, at the United Nations, with a view to bringing about a cessation of this serious infiltration, which has as its underlying purpose the implementation of a far-reaching criminal plan against the Holy Sanctuary.

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JERUSALEM القدس



SCALE 1:2500

EXPLANATIONS		التوضيحات										
<p>A. Schedule of properties inside City Walls</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>1. Christian Property</td><td>= 420 Dunsoms</td></tr> <tr><td>2. Moslem</td><td>" = 405 "</td></tr> <tr><td>3. Jewish</td><td>" = 640 "</td></tr> <tr><td>4. Public</td><td>" = 662 "</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>= 2127</td></tr> </table> <p><small>Note: One Dunsom = 1000 square Meter.</small></p> <p>B. Israeli Violations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) (135) Moslem apartments and (2) Mosques bulldozed by Israeli forces on 11.6.1967 (2) (395) Moslem building, including 1000 living apartment, (957) Shops, (6) schools and (8) Mosques appropriated by the Israeli Government on 10.4.1968 (3) (19) Moslem Buildings including one Mosque bulldozed by Israeli forces on 16.6.1968 (4) (12) Moslem Buildings including one Religious school, confiscated by the Israeli Government on 20.6.1969 (5) Area under Israeli excavations being carried out under (200) Moslem buildings including (18) Mosques, one Minaret, one old tank and number of cultural and historical buildings. All threatened to destruction. (6) Moslem Cemeteries and Moslem winged property surrounding the Haram-sharif Area and the two great Moslem Mosques, the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque, ordered for expropriation by the Israeli government on 20.8.1970. 	1. Christian Property	= 420 Dunsoms	2. Moslem	" = 405 "	3. Jewish	" = 640 "	4. Public	" = 662 "	Total	= 2127	<p style="text-align: center;">مديرية الآثار والساحة DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES JORDAN</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ممتلكات مسيحية = 420 دانسون 2. مسلمة = 405 " 3. يهودية = 640 " 4. عامة = 662 " المجموع = 2127 <p><small>ملاحظة: كل دانسون = 1000 متر مربع.</small></p> <p>ب. انتهاكات إسرائيلية</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (135) شقق إسلامية و (2) مسجدين تم تدميرهما بواسطة القوات الإسرائيلية في 11.6.1967 2. (395) مبنى إسلامي، بما في ذلك 1000 شقة سكنية، (957) متجر، (6) مدارس و (8) مسجدين تم التنازل عن ملكيتهم للحكومة الإسرائيلية في 10.4.1968 3. (19) مباني إسلامية بما في ذلك مسجداً تم تدميره بواسطة القوات الإسرائيلية في 16.6.1968 4. (12) مباني إسلامية بما في ذلك مدرسة دينية، تم ضبطها بواسطة الحكومة الإسرائيلية في 20.6.1969 5. منطقة تحت إشراف إسرائيلي حيث يجري حفر تحت (200) مبنى إسلامي بما في ذلك (18) مسجداً، منارة واحدة، خزان قديم و عدد من المباني الثقافية والتاريخية. جميعها مهددة بالتدمير. 6. مقابر إسلامية و ممتلكات إسلامية الجناح المحيطة بمنطقة الحرم الشريف و المئذنة و المسجدين العظيمين، المسجد الأقصى و المسجد الحرام، أمرت بحجزها بواسطة الحكومة الإسرائيلية في 20.8.1970.
1. Christian Property	= 420 Dunsoms											
2. Moslem	" = 405 "											
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إسلام الدين اعديل داران