

SHRINKING SPACE IN PALESTINIAN NEIGHBORHOODS

- ISRAELI EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE CONTROL IN EAST JERUSALEM



INTRODUCTION

For the past 55 years of its occupation, Israel and the Jerusalem municipality have implemented laws and practices which contradict international law and prevent Palestinians to develop East Jerusalem according to their needs. Palestinians are not granted building permits for housing, schools, tourist infrastructure, and others, while Israel's continuous settlement building prevents a natural urban development for Palestinians - all in an attempt to push them out of the city and contain their number at its 1967 ratio.¹ The neglect of East Jerusalem and Israel's discriminatory policies against Palestinians have led to severe overcrowding and economic hardship. Nevertheless, Palestinians are determined to fight for their right to live in Jerusalem as provided for by international law, even though the socioeconomic situation and Israel's policy to prevent family reunions are forcing many to move towards the city's cheaper outskirts.

Today, two-thirds of the Palestinian Jerusalemites live in neighborhoods within the limits of the Israeli Jerusalem municipality and "inside" the separation barrier, while a third – some 120,000-140,000 people – live in overcrowded areas within the municipal border, but cut off from the city by the separation barrier (Kufr Aqab, Shu'fat Refugee Camp) with no services and little law enforcement but affordable housing. Others neighborhoods – such as Anata, Sawahrah, Walaja – lie partially within the municipal limits and partially in the West Bank.

However, there are several issues all the neighborhoods have in common to varying extents. They all:

- face **discriminatory planning rights**² and have hardly any land reserves;
- suffer from **infrastructure neglect, acute housing shortages, overcrowding**, and the threat of **home demolition** - either for lacking permits or for being located too close to settlements or the separation barrier;
- are subject to continuous **confiscation of land** for the expansion of settlements or creation of state-backed settler enclaves (isolated houses, apartments or compounds) in their midst;
- are exposed to an **Israeli roads and transportation system**, including the Eastern Ring Road and the light rail train, that only serves Israel's interests by promoting territorial contiguity for its settlements while fragmenting Palestinian neighborhoods;

¹ According to Israeli records, the city's 1967 ratio was 25.8% Palestinians and 74.2% Jews and the 1973 ministerial "Gafni Commission" stipulated that a demographic balance be maintained at a ratio of 30:70. However, at the end of 2019, the Palestinian ratio had reached 38.3%.

² E.g., in 2019, the District Planning Committee had plans for 21,400 housing units in Jerusalem's Israeli neighborhoods and settlements but only for 2,600 units in Palestinian neighborhoods. In 2020, the Committee advanced detailed outline plans for 12,672 housing units, of which only 1,142 (or 9%) were for Palestinians. "Government Decision 3790" - a plan to narrow socioeconomic disparities in the city, does not provide for Palestinian residential development needs or preparation of outline plans in their neighborhoods. See https://www.ir-amim.org.il/sites/default/files/Planned%20Negligence_June2021.pdf.

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- face discriminatory **land ownership laws** which have been used to transfer land to settler groups, which then begin procedures to evict the Palestinian residents and take over their properties;³
- and are threatened by Israel’s “**settlement of title procedures**” as part of the Government Decision No. 3790, which Palestinians and other critics see as an attempt to register land for future settlement expansion and further dispossess them.⁴

In order to consolidate its control and prevent a political solution for Jerusalem, Israel pursues a policy of **Judaization** in two circles around the Old City, one in its immediate vicinity, consisting of “tourist” sites and national parks,⁵ and one forming a wider ring of settlements around the city (Ramot, Ramat Eshkol, Ramat Shlomo, Neve Ya’akov, Pisgat Ze’ev, the French Hill, Har Homa, East Talpiot, Gilo).

This bulletin provides an overview of the various Palestinian neighborhoods that make up East Jerusalem, describes their current situation, including available statistics⁶, and shows how Israeli policies affect them due to settlement (expansion/enclaves) and other activities and plans.

I. ANATA (NEW)

Israeli policies have deprived Anata of most of its land,⁷ resulting in severe overcrowding and no potential for development.

Location: 4 km northeast of the Old City, adjacent to Shu’fat refugee camp. About half of Anata lies within the Israeli Jerusalem municipality area, while the remainder is part of the PA’s Jerusalem Governorate. Together with the Shu’fat refugee camp, Anata is almost completely surrounded by the Israeli separation barrier, thus cut off from Jerusalem and the surrounding West Bank. From Jerusalem, it is accessible through Shu’fat checkpoint.

Population 0-14 years (2019⁸): 41.2%

Area (2019): 1,031 dunums

Density (2019): 11 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 1,695

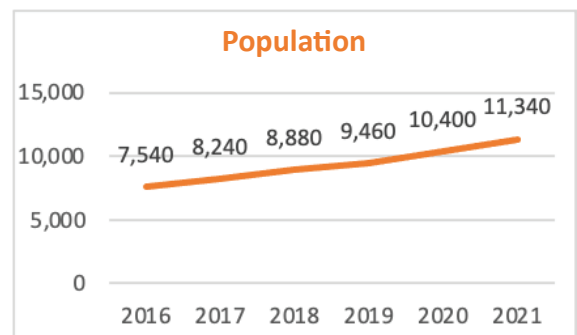
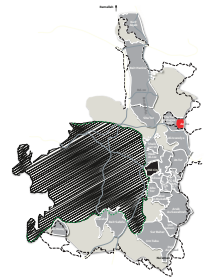
Migration Balance (2019): 520

Settlements built on land: Kfar Adumim, Alon, Almon (Anatot)

– all West Bank

Other issues:

- Anata is (besides Kufr Aqab and Shu’fat) one of three Palestinian neighborhoods located beyond the **separation barrier** which the so-called “Greater Jerusalem Bill”, authored by MK Yoav Kisch (Likud), intended to downgrade to “sub-municipalities” of the city.
- Planned **Garbage Dump**: In February 2015, the Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee rejected an objection filed against a plan to construct a landfill and national park on approximately 500 dunums of confiscated private Palestinian land belonging to Anata, Shu’fat and Al-Issawiya, which is vital for the development of those neighborhoods.



3 The Absentees’ Property Law defines Palestinians who were expelled, fled or left the country after 29 November 1947 as “absentees” and places their properties under the control of the Custodian for Absentees’ Property. The Legal and Administrative Matter Law allows Jews (only!) to claim property allegedly owned by them before 1948.

4 For a surveillance map of the areas targeted by the land settlement procedure see: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/05a7bec8c51f4ddb9d923554ffabef3/?locale=he>.

5 Based on Government Decisions 2678 (2017) and 3788 (2018), Israel has invested over one billion NIS between 2006-2019 alone for the development of the “Historic Basin” with the aim “to form one historical city, above and underground.” Emek Shaveh, Shalem Plan Overview – The Plan to Reveal Ancient Jerusalem, April 2020, https://emekshaveh.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/shalem_eng.pdf.

6 Unless otherwise stated, figures related to population, area, density, number of dwellings, and migration balance are from the annual Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem published by the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research (JIPR), which is the only consistent, regular source and the only one that publishes figures for a large part of the city’s neighborhoods.

7 On the West Bank side, Anata is surrounded by four Israeli settlements (Almon, Kfar Adumim, Allon and Nofei Prat) and two military bases, and there are Israeli bypass roads No. 45 and 70 penetrate its boundaries. <http://poica.org/2004/07/anata-village-profile/>. The Ein Prat National Park lies on lands belonging to Anata, Hizma, and Jaba’, whose residents are denied proper access and the right to cultivate them.

8 Statistics on population, area, density, and migration balance here and in the following are from JIPR, *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2021*.

Shrinking Space in Palestinian Neighborhoods

- Israeli Efforts to Consolidate Control in East Jerusalem



- In 2019, a new segregated **bypass road** opened– dubbed “**Apartheid Road**” by Palestinians, as it separates Palestinian and Israeli traffic between Anata and Az-Zayim.⁹
- The **E-1 Plan** (construction of 3,900 housing units to the west of Ma’ale Adumim on an area of 13,213 dunums) will affect Anata lands.



Apartheid Road

2. ATH-THORI (ABU TOR)

After the 1948 War, Ath-Thori was divided into a Jordanian and an Israeli part, the latter of which was renamed Givat Hanania.

Location: South of the Old City, adjacent to Silwan and the Green Line, east of Hebron Road.

Population 0-14 years (2019): 34.6%

Area (2019): 664 dunums

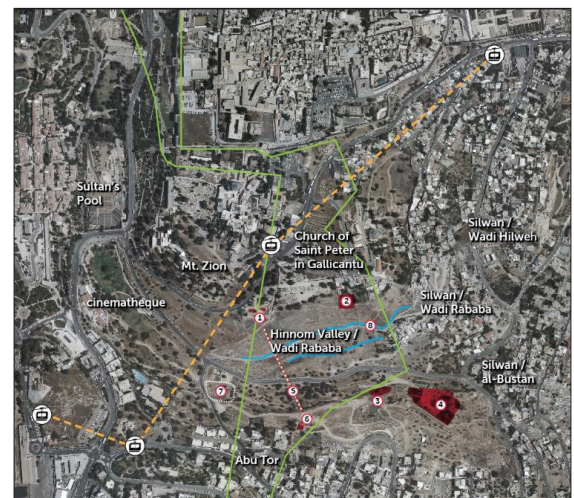
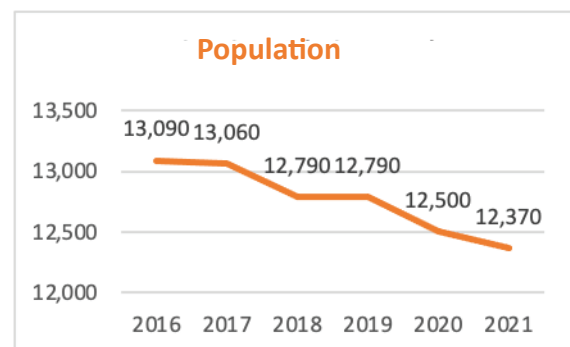
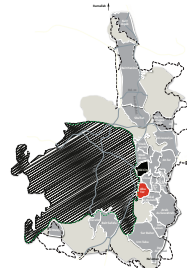
Density (2019): 18.6 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 1,415

Migration Balance (2019): -370

Other issues:

- In June 2022, Israel began the process of registering land ownership of some 240 dunums in the Ath-Thori area,¹⁰ which Palestinians believe only serves the purpose of their further dispossession and displacement.
- An agreement signed between the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) and the Elad settler group (also known as Ir David Foundation) in 2020 put much of the land of Palestinian residents in **Wadi Rababa** (“Ben Hinnom Valley”) on the outskirts of Ath-Thori in the hands of Elad. They opened the “House in the Valley” to serve as an Israeli event hall as well as an “ancient biblical farm” with the assistance of the Jerusalem municipality.¹¹ In order to overcome the issues of private ownership, INPA and Elad facilitated the issuance of “Municipal Gardening Orders.”¹² The goal is clear: denying Palestinian residents any possibility to develop, “while engraving on the landscape pseudo-Biblical themes often reminiscent of a theme park, a ‘Disneyfication’ of Jerusalem and its sacred and historical sites.”¹³ A promenade from the biblical farm towards the City of David is being built by the INPA¹⁴ and tourist activities, including a zip line from the farm to the **Peace Forest** are being developed.¹⁵ On 6 October 2022, a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the bridge was held, attended by Jerusalem Affairs Minister Ze’ev Elkin, Tourism Minister Yoel Razvozov, and Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion.
- The Jewish National Fund tried to incorporate the un-built area of the unrecognized **Wadi Yasul** sub-neighborhood in the southern part of Ath-Thori into the adjacent “Peace Forest.” On 28 November 2021, the Jerusalem District Court cleared the way for the immediate demolition of 58 out of 84 threatened Palestinian homes in the area.¹⁶ As of February 2022, there were 52 outstanding demolition orders in Wadi Yasul.¹⁷



Israeli Plans in Wadi Rababa, courtesy of Emek Shaveh

⁹ Route 4370, which forms part of the controversial Eastern Ring Road, with a western side for Palestinians in the West Bank to go around Jerusalem, and an eastern side serving Israeli settlers going to and from Jerusalem.

¹⁰ Ir Amim, “Israel Initiates Settlement of Land Title Procedure on Land Adjacent to Al Aqsa and Across Abu Thor,” 27 June 2022, <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2869>.

¹¹ <https://peacenow.org.il/en/a-settlement-under-the-guise-of-a-cafe-in-jerusalem>. The place is also called “farm” or “Center for Ancient Agriculture.”

¹² <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2774>.

¹³ <https://t-j.org.il/2022/02/20/insiders-jerusalem-expansion-of-the-national-park-in-the-visual-basin-of-the-holy-city/>.

¹⁴ <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2774>.

¹⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/03/world/middleeast/israel-jerusalem-zip-line.html>.

¹⁶ Wadi Yasul’s residents tried for 15 years to advance planning schemes that would have enabled Israel to rezone the land and legalize the homes.

¹⁷ “Insiders’ Jerusalem: Expansion of the National Park in the Visual Basin of the Holy City,” Terrestrial Jerusalem, 20 February 2022, <https://t-j.org.il/2022/02/20/insiders-jerusalem-expansion-of-the-national-park-in-the-visual-basin-of-the-holy-city/>.

- On 24 May 2022, a tender of the Moriah Jerusalem Development Corporation for the construction of a **pedestrian bridge** over Wadi Rababa (starting from Elad’s “House in the Valley”) to connect Ath-Thori/Abu Tor nd Mount Zion was closed.¹⁸ The plan is seen as part of the intensifying band of settlement around the Old City and to create seamless access from West Jerusalem to Silwan.
- After receiving the right to develop the **Sambuski Cemetery** in the Hinnom Valley, settlers from Elad took over a parking lot and blocked an access road for residents of Wadi Rababa in July 2022.

3. AT-TUR (MOUNT OF OLIVES)

At-Tur (“The Mount” in Arabic) was built on the site of the Roman-era village Beit Faji (Bethpage); the association of the area with Jesus’ life has made it a significant Christian pilgrimage destination. It is also the site of major health institutions (Al-Maqassed and Augusta Victoria Hospitals, Amira Basma Rehabilitation Center).

Location: 1 km east of the Old City atop the Mount of Olives, over 800 meters high, bordering Al-Issawiya (north), As-Suwaneh (west), and Ash-Shayyah (south).

Population 0-14 years (2019): 33.4%

Area (2019): 2,995 dunums

Density (2019): 10 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 5,946

Migration Balance (2019): -30

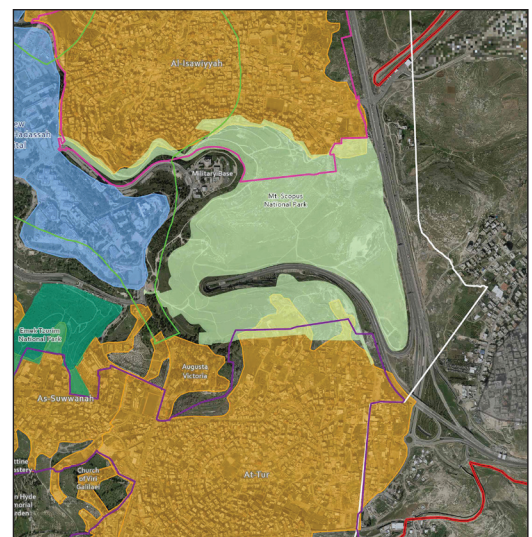
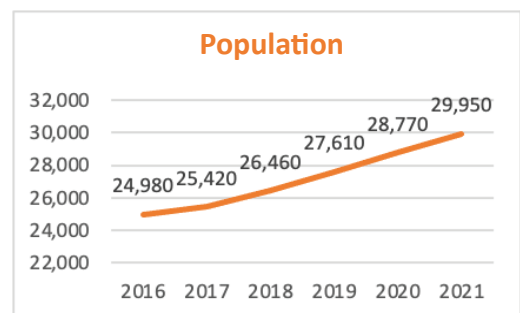
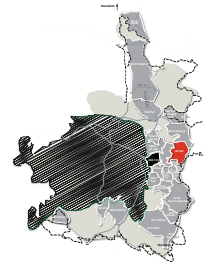
Settlements built on land: Mount Scopus (est. 1968)

Settler enclaves:

- **Beit Orot Yeshiva** (est. 1991 as first enclave in Jerusalem, religious, 150 residents, in 2014 illegally expanded by Elad with four residential buildings right beneath the soccer field on At-Tur’s northwestern slope, for which the settler group later on sought retroactive approval¹⁹)
- **Beit HaChoshen** (est. 2006 behind Al-Maqassed Hospital, religious, 30 residents)

Other issues:

- Its only option for expansion is to the northeast, where the sub-neighborhood of **Khallet Al-Ein** is located and where residents have tried since 2006 to advance a new plan for rezoning, but the Jerusalem Municipality, the INPA, and the Jerusalem Development Authority have been advancing the so-called **Mount Scopus Slopes National Park** (TPS 11092a) instead on 750 dunums of open space stretching from At-Tur in the south to Al-Issawiya in the north.²⁰ The plan was essentially dormant since 2014, but resurfaced in March 2022²¹. If implemented, it would not only connect Jerusalem with the E-1 area and Ma’ale Adumim settlement, while further fragmenting Palestinian territory and hindering any significant development, but also link the area with the “national parks” around the Old City.
- Large areas of At-Tur land have already been declared as “national parks” by the Israeli Ministry of Interior under the pretext of the existence of archaeological, natural or historically significant sites. This includes the **Emek Tzurim National Park** built on the slopes descending along Suwaneh from beneath the Augusta Victoria compound to the Qidron Valley, which connects the area with the City Walls National Park around the Old City. Since 2004, this includes “**Temple Mount Sifting Project**” at the



Site of the planned National Park; courtesy of BIMKOM

¹⁸ <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2774>. The plan was originally submitted in March 2017 by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Development Authority. An appeal against it filed by Peace Now and Emek Shaveh was rejected in 2018.

¹⁹ <http://www.altro.co.il/uploads/252/File/F-Tightening%20Ring%20of%20Israeli%20Settlement%20around%20the%20Old%20City.pdf>.

²⁰ http://bimkom.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2.2_at-atur-Eng-update-Jun-14-v.pdf. It should be noted that there are no natural or archeological values that would justify applying the National Park designation to this area, thus the INPA argued that the intention was to preserve the view of the Judean desert, see <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2778>.

²¹ It is believed that this comes in tandem with an outline plan being advanced for Al-Issawiya and the master plan being promoted for At-Tur, Ash-Shayyah and As-Suwaneh, <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2778>.

Masu'ot Lookout – yet another collaboration of the Elad settler group and the INPA – which sifts earth removed from various excavation places in Jerusalem.

- The **Uziya Promenade** on the western slope of the Mount of Olives, linking Beit Orot enclave to Beit HaHoshen.
- On 22 May 2022, an expropriation order was issued for about 55 dunums of At-Tur lands for the purpose of paving the approximately 3-km long northern part of the **Eastern Ring Road** (or “American Road”), including a 1.6 km-long tunnel as well as two bridges at an estimated cost of over NIS 900 million.²²
- The **E-1 Plan** (construction of 3,900 housing units to the west of Ma’ale Adumim on an area of 13,213 dunums) will also affect land belonging to At-Tur.

4. BAB AS-SAHIRAH (BAB AZ-ZAHRAH)

Founded at the end of the 19th Century as one of the first Arab neighborhoods outside the Old City, this largely commercial area was named after the Old City’s Herod’s Gate (Bab As-Sahirah in Arabic).

Location: Around the Herod’s Gate stretching along Sultan Suleiman, Salah Eddin, Az-Zahra and Nablus Streets up to Wadi Al-Joz on the east, Road No. 1 to the west, and Sheikh Jarrah in the north.

Population 0-14 years (2019): 29.9%

Area (2019): 804 dunums

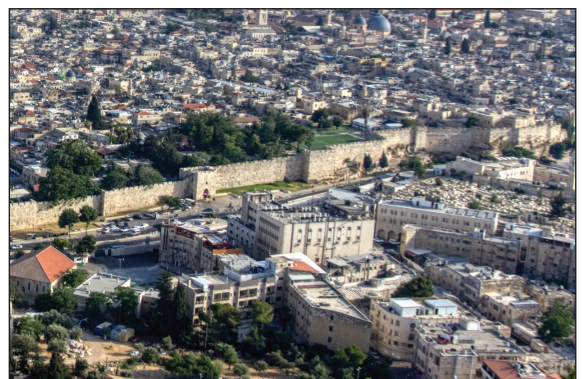
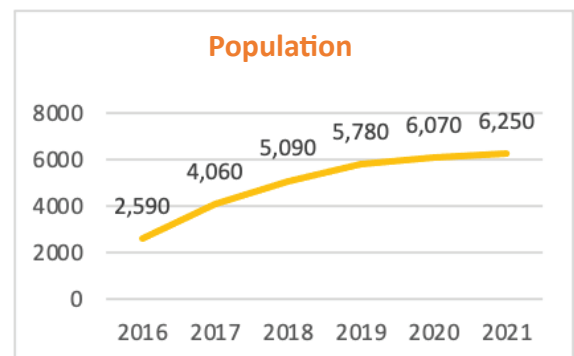
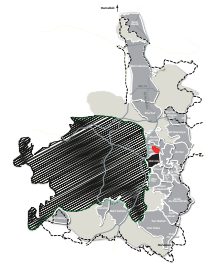
Density (2019): 7.8 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 1,329

Migration Balance (2019): 50

Other issues:

- The area is home to major Israeli government Institutions, including the District Court, the Ministry of Justice and a police station at the main post office – all on Salah Eddin Street.
- The Jerusalem Development Authority (JDA) is promoting an outline plan, initiated in 2020, for the “**East Jerusalem Central Business District (CBD)**” (Plan No. 101-0465229), claiming it aims at reinforcing the status of the area as “a diverse center for employment, public and cultural institutions, entertainment, commerce, education, hotels, and residential uses.”²³ It intends to “upgrade” the two main commercial streets - Sultan Suleiman and Salah Eddin – including traffic and parking solutions – to encourage increased business activity in the area. The original plan has seen many changes over the years with the current version allotting some 80% for commercial, business and tourism use and very little for the much-needed residential development for Palestinians,²⁴ providing only for 76 housing units in the next 30 years.²⁵ Palestinian believe the plan’s real purpose is to reshape the area’s Arab character and identity, make way for settler enterprises, secure Israeli control over the area, and force Palestinians to leave to other neighborhoods due to the lack of housing.
- The plan also obstructs the existing transportation system as it suggests converting streets into pedestrian pathways and cancelling the western section of Sultan Suleiman Street, which serves as an important connection to Ras Al-Amud and At-Tur.²⁶
- Ateret Cohanim bought the offices of the Bezeq Company in the post office building opposite Herod’s Gate in 2014, named it “**Beit Zion**” and opened a Torah study hall yeshiva and a guest house on site.



Part of the area of the “Central Business District”

22 <https://peacenow.org.il/en/confiscation-order-for-the-eastern-ring-road-was-issued>.

23 <https://www.jda.gov.il/en>.

24 BIMKOM, “Recent Israeli Planning for Wadi aj-Joz, East Jerusalem: Eastern Business District & Silicon Wadi,” n.d. <https://fmep.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/Silicon-Wadi-Wadi-Joz.pdf>.

25 Mohammad Al-Qaymari, “The Organizational Project for the Commercial Center in East Jerusalem,” (Arabic) quoted in Miftah, *Analytical Report on Human Rights Violations as monitored by the Young Human Rights Defenders in 2020-2021*, July 2021.

26 “The Illegality of Israel’s East Jerusalem City Center Plan,” Adalah Position Paper, March 2022. <https://www.adalah.org/uploads/uploads/EJ%20City%20Center%20Plan%20Position%20Paper.pdf>.

5. BEIT HANINA

Today's residential suburb Beit Hanina expanded east of the original center of the former village ("Old Beit Hanina"), which was not included in the newly drawn 1967 municipal borders and lies behind the separation barrier, partially in Area B and C of the West Bank.

Location: Some 5-8 km north of the Old City along the main road leading to Ramallah. It borders Shu'fat (south), Hizma (east), Qalandia, Atarot, Ar-Ram and Bir Nabala (north) and Beit Iksa, and Nabi Samwil (west).

Population 0-14 years (2019): 32.8%

Area (2019): 5,420 dunums

Density (2019): 8 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 9,254

Migration Balance (2019): 150

Settlements built on land: Ramot Allon (est. 1973), Neve Ya'acov (est. 1972), Pisgat Ze'ev (est. 1985), Atarot (est. 1970).

On 24 November 2021, the Jerusalem Municipality's planning committee approved the construction of a new **9,000-unit settlement** at the site of the **Atarot** airport, which would drive a wedge between adjacent Beit Hanina, Qalandia and Kufr Aqab. The decision was delayed on 6 December 2021 in order to study the plan's environmental impact, the outcome of which is still pending, but if implemented, it would make any future division of the city very difficult if not impossible.²⁷

Settler enclaves:

- A four-story building near Sinokrot bakery "**Beit Hashiva**" housing 7 settler families (since 1968).
- **Three buildings** in the Ashqariyya area, taken over in 2012. In January 2020, the District Planning Committee approved a plan (TPS 610113) to construct 75 settler housing units there.²⁸
- Plans for two settler enclaves 160 meters apart with two buildings of 72 housing units each in **Beit Hanina** - initiated by deputy mayor Aryeh King in coordination with Israeli individuals who claim to own the land - were approved for deposit by the District Committee on 10 May 2020 (TPS 740993) and 21 June 2020 (TPS 740951).²⁹ Since the land in question is not far from Ramat Shlomo and Pisgat Ze'ev, the plan's implementation would create contiguity between the settlements, while driving a wedge between Beit Hanina and Shu'fat.

Other issues:

- **Roads:** **Road No. 20** (connecting West Bank settlements with Jerusalem), **Road No. 50** (connecting Road 20 with Begin Road and the Tel Aviv Highway), and **Road No. 21** cutting through the neighborhood parallel and to the west of Ramallah Road, connecting Atarot Industrial Zone and Ramat Shlomo settlement.
- **Light rail:** Existing line and three new routes under construction, one from Neve Yaakov to Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital (23 km, Red Line).
- **Separation barrier** runs 6 km into Beit Hanina, along approximately 1,640 dunums of land, including agricultural land and open areas³⁰, destroying its community and commercial life.
- **Atarot Mall** on Route 60 aims to reinforce Zionist sovereignty over so-called "Unified Jerusalem" by creating economic projects that foster "peaceful coexistence" between Palestinians and Israelis. In other words, it is a form of subjugation and hegemony by means of assimilation.
- As part of Government Decision 3790, areas in the Neve Yaacov settlement are also targeted by the so-called **settlement of land title procedures**, which Palestinians believe Israel exploits to take over more of their land.³¹

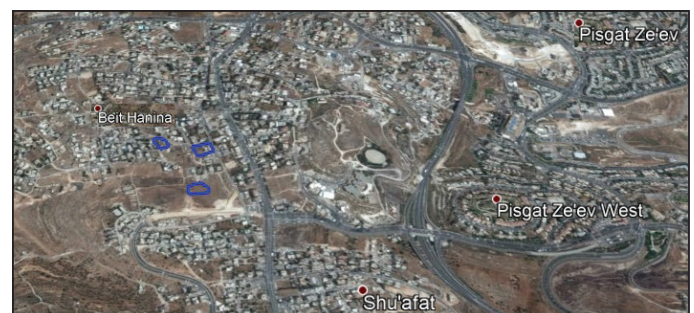
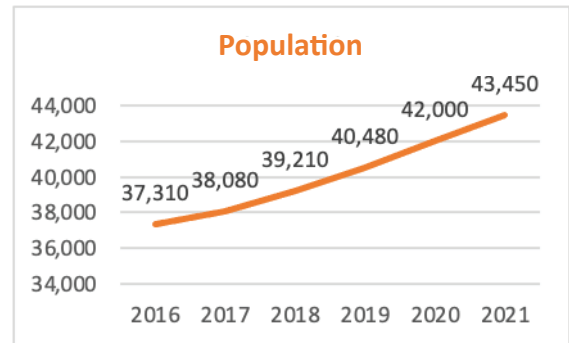
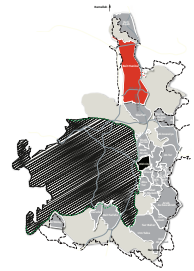
27 For details on the Atarot industrial settlement see *Atarot Settlement - The Industrial Key in Israel's Plan to Permanently Erase Palestine*, Ramallah: Al-Haq, 2020, <https://novact.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Atarot-Settlement-Interactive.pdf>.

28 <https://altro.co.il/newsletters/show/11733?key=c4c47be2e6d6447cf5d764af9f6bc203>.

29 <https://altro.co.il/newsletters/show/11786?key=bc4656583f3e8d6f73259a9cde3f6c50>.

30 Applied Research Institute (ARIJ), *Beit Hanina al-Balad Village Guide*, Jerusalem: ARIJ, 2012), <https://bit.ly/35RZnhN>.

31 Ir Amim, "Israel Initiates Settlement of Land Title Procedure on Land Adjacent to Al Aqsa and Across Abu Thor," 27 June 2022, <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2869>.



Houses taken by settlers (circled in blue), courtesy of Ir Amim

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6. BEIT SAFAFA

Location: Beit Safafa, which from 1948-1967 was divided into an Israeli and a Jordanian controlled part, lies 6 km south of the Old City of Jerusalem, bordering Al-Malha and Qatamon (north), Givat Hamatos (south), Talpiot (east) and Sharafat (west).

Population 0-14 years (2019): 30.8%

Area (2019): 9,222 dunums

Density (2019): 1.6 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 3,520

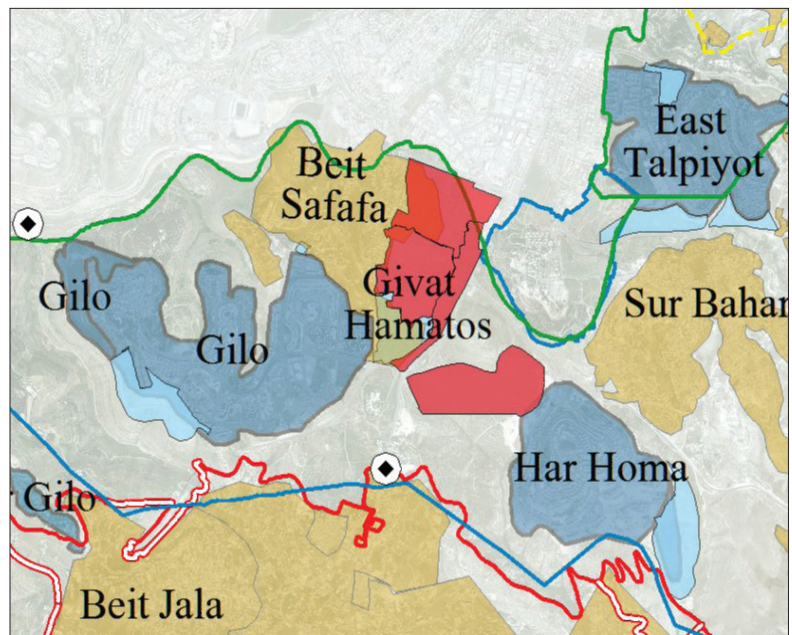
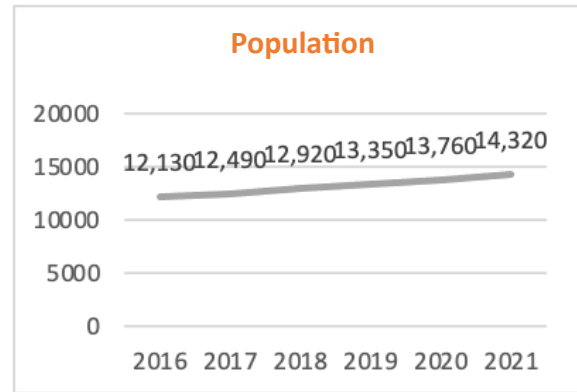
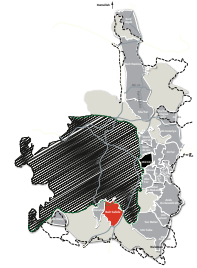
Migration Balance (2019): 190

Settlements built on land: parts of Gilo (est. 1971) and Talpiot, Har Homa (1991), Givat HaMatos (est. 1991)

Settler enclaves: Homes seized under the Absentee Property Law

Other issues:

- Plans to expand **Givat Hamatos** in Beit Safafa's Talbiyah area to provide territorial settler contiguity from Gilo to Har Homa. If implemented, Beit Safafa's remaining land reserves will be absorbed and it will be isolated from any other Palestinian neighborhood. In November 2020, a tender for the construction of the first 1,257 units in **Givat Hamatos A** (TPS 14295) was opened for bidding. Almost a year later, in October 2021, the expropriation of public land for the settlement was approved, and tenders for 83 housing units were published. In March 2022, the Israeli Ministry of Housing and Construction kicked off the housing lottery project to purchase apartments in Givat Hamatos at a discounted price.
- Bypass roads** connecting settlements south and north of Jerusalem to each other and the Jerusalem city center:
 - Dov Yosef Street in the 1990s
 - Road 4, or **Highway 50** (the southern section of the Begin Highway): inaugurated in September 2017, cuts through Beit Safafa and Sharafat lands in order to ease transportation for southern Jerusalem settlement.
- One of the new **Light Rail tracks** currently under construction will cut through Beit Safafa lands (running from Gilo settlement to Mount Scopus)
- As part of Government Decision 3790, areas in the Gilo settlement are also targeted by the so-called **settlement of land title procedures**, which Palestinians believe Israel exploits to take over more of their land.³²



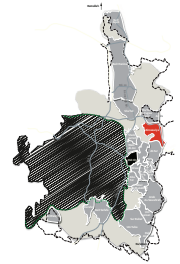
Location of the Givat Hamatos Plan, courtesy of Ir Amim



Road 4 cutting through Beit Safafa and Sharafat lands

³² Ibid.

7. AL-ISSAWIYA



From 1948 to 1967, part of Al-Issawiya was under Jordanian rule and another part was included in the Israeli Mount Scopus enclave, with the residents of the latter coming under UN jurisdiction. After 1967, both parts and about a quarter of its lands were illegally annexed to the Israeli municipality.

Location: Approx. 3 km northeast of the Old City on the eastern slope of Mount Scopus, surrounded by At-Tur, Anata and Az-Zayim as well as the Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital complexes and the French Hill settlement.

Population 0-14 years (2019): 37.2%

Area (2019): 2,028 dunums

Density (2019): 9.7 persons/dunum

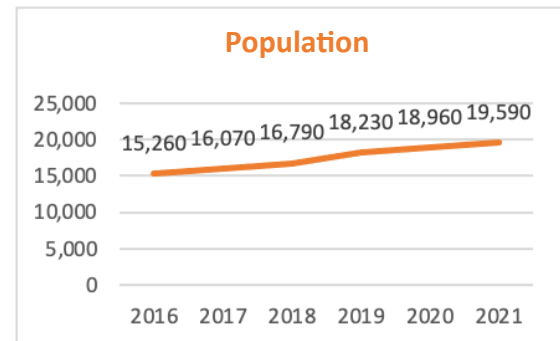
Number of Dwellings (2020): 2,571

Migration Balance (2019): 180

Settlements built on land: Mount Scopus (est. 1968), Givat Shapira (French Hill) (est. 1968), as well as the West Bank settlements of Mishur Adumim (1974) and Ma'ale Adumim (1975).

Other issues:

- In October 2020, the Jerusalem municipality approved an **outline plan** for Al-Issawiya (TPS 790758), that would allow retroactive authorization of much of its unlicensed construction but fails to provide for expansion and future development needs due to the borders of the Mount Scopus Slopes National Park.³³ The plan was officially deposited for objections in late January 2022.³⁴ As of June 2022, the discussion of objections has not yet taken place.³⁵
- **Mount Scopus Slopes National Park** will physically link the national parks surrounding the Old City with the E-1 Plan to the east. Palestinians have no doubt that the park's purpose has nothing to do with the preservation of nature but solely aims at preventing the expansion of Issawiya and At-Tur, since the area in question is the only natural land reserves available for their expansion and development (for details on the plan see At-Tur above).
- Regular **checkpoints** set up at Issawiya's entrances as tools of control and deterrence. During those collective punishment "closures," many times arrest raids take place, often for no reason but to "create arbitrary instances of violent 'friction' that disrupt" people's life, degrade and humiliate with the intent to provoke "reactions", which the police then use to retroactively justify the entire operation.³⁶
- **Landfill plan** to the north of the neighborhood, on lands owned by residents of Shu'fat, Anata, and Al-Issawiya, where the latter had requested, but were rejected, to build a small industrial zone and a high school. Instead, the Jerusalem Municipality advanced plans for a solid waste landfill and treatment plant in the valley, which was deposited for public review in 2012. In February 2015, the Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee rejected an objection filed against the plan, which was subsequently approved in May 2016, but then halted due to environmental issues. It reemerged in March 2021 and the case is still pending in the court as of September 2022.
- **Outside the municipal area:**
- **Military bases:** Ofrit Military Base in the southeast (est. in 1967) and Mitsodat Adumim Base in the east (est. in 2016 as the headquarters of the Border Police's Adumim Brigade).
- The **Eastern Ring Road**.
- The **E-1 Plan** (construction of 3,900 housing units to the west of Ma'ale Adumim on an area of 13,213 dunums) will affect land belonging to At-Tur.



Al-Issawiya

33 Hasson, Nir, "Jerusalem Approves Plan That Would Legalize Homes in Palestinian Neighborhood," *Haaretz*, October 6, 2020.

34 Ir Amim, "Renewed Attempt to Promote Mount Scopus Slopes National Park Plan," 28 February 2022, <https://www.ir-amim.org/en/node/2778>.

35 Bimkom, "El Issawiya Neighborhood – June 2022 update," <https://bimkom.org/> (Hebrew).

36 B'Tselem, "This is Jerusalem: Violence and Dispossession in al-'Esawiyah," May 2020, particularly p. 19-20. https://www.btselem.org/sites/default/files/publications/202005_this_is_jerusalem_violence_and_dispossession_in_al_esawiyah_eng.pdf.

Shrinking Space in Palestinian Neighborhoods

- Israeli Efforts to Consolidate Control in East Jerusalem



8. JABAL AL-MUKABBER

Location: Approx. 3.5 km south of the Old City, bordering Ath-Thori (northwest), As-Sawahrah to the east to the east and southeast.

Population 0-14 years (2019): 39.1%

Area (2019): 4,820 dunums

Density (2019): 5.3 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 6,182

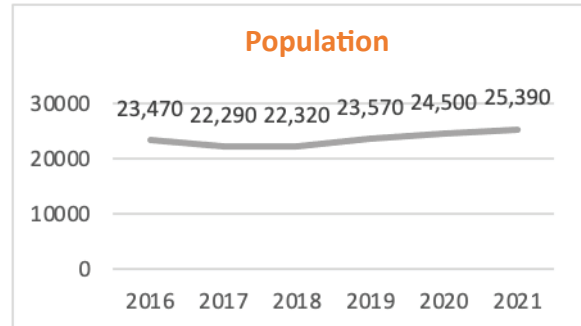
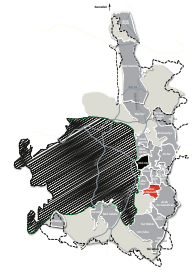
Migration Balance (2019): 100

Settlements built on land: East Talpiot (also known as Armon HaNetziv, est. 1973)

Settler enclaves: **Nof Zion** (religious, 250 residents, est. 2004). In late 2019, work began on its expansion (TPS 4558) by adding 182 new housing units to the existing 91 (as approved by the Local Planning Committee in April 2019)

Other issues:

- Near the entrance to Jabal Al- Mukabber, renovation of the so-called **Beit Shatz**, purchased by Elad, began in April 2020 to be turned into a tourism complex which will serve as the starting point for the planned zipline in the Peace Forest³⁷ and offer a multisensory observation hall, an augmented reality (AR) roof observation deck, and electric bicycles and segways.³⁸
- **Home demolitions**: Currently, there are 5,000 demolition orders pending for Jabal Al-Mukabber.³⁹ In 2020, construction began on the central and southern sections of the **“American Road”**, a major ring-road that will connect Jewish settlements northeast (e.g., Ma’ale Adumim) and south (Har Homa, Gush Etzion) of Jerusalem at the expense of Palestinian-owned land in **Sur Baher, Um Tuba, and Jabal Al-Mukabber**. The second phase of construction directly threatens Palestinians, involving the demolition of 62 buildings in Jabal Mukabber⁴⁰ (with other sources talking about as many as 800⁴¹). The **central part of the road** is 3.3 km long and crosses, for the time being, through Jabal Al-Mukabber (on a widened, old road), although an alternative plan for a by- highway passing the neighborhood, including bridges, tunnels and interchanges, is currently being prepared by the Moriah company.
- In July 2022, Israel secretly registered State ownership of 16 dunums of Jabal Al-Mukabber land, placing it under the **control of the Israeli Custodian of Absentee Property** on a temporary basis, while searching for the alleged Jewish owners. Palestinians fear that the land will be used to construct a new settlement enclave⁴².



Nof Zion Settlement in Jabal Al-Mukabber



Part of the American Road.

³⁷ <https://emekshaveh.org/en/when-green-zones-meet-the-green-line-2/>.

³⁸ <https://tafnit-eng.com/en/project/beit-schatz-2/>.

³⁹ Noy, Orly, “To widen a road, J’lem municipality will destroy Palestinian homes,” *+972 Magazine*, 8 March 2022, <https://www.972mag.com/demolitions-road-jabel-mukaber/>.

⁴⁰ FMEP, *Settlement & Annexation Report*, March 11, 2022, <https://fmep.org/blog/resourcetag/eastern-ring-road/#4>.

⁴¹ <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220307-israel-wants-to-demolish-800-palestinian-homes-in-occupied-jerusalem/>.

⁴² “East Jerusalem land purchased by Jews in early 20th century reverts to state”, *Israel Hayom*, 10 August 2022.

9. KUFR AQAB⁴³

In the wake of the 1967 occupation, Kufr Aqab's lands were divided with some 27% falling under the expanded Jerusalem municipality while the remaining 73% are part of today's Area C of the West Bank. It is only accessible via checkpoints subjecting residents to security scrutiny and long waiting periods.

Location: Approx. 12 km north of Jerusalem, beyond the separation barrier, passed Qalandia checkpoint and camp, on the main road to Ramallah.

Population 0-14 years (2019): 40.5%

Area (2019): 5,722 dunums

Density (2019): 6.3 persons/dunum

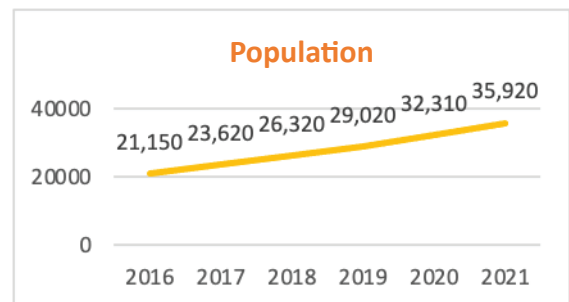
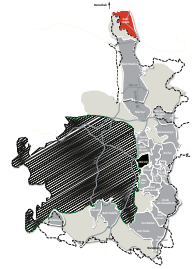
Number of Dwellings (2020): 4,997

Migration Balance (2019): 2,520

Settlements built on land: Kokhav Ya'acov (est. 1984) (West Bank)

Other issues:

- **Uncertain future** regarding its **status** as part of the Jerusalem municipality due to demographic considerations and concerns about the bad image. The Greater Jerusalem Bill proposed in 2017 would *inter alia* downgrade Palestinian neighborhoods located beyond the separation barrier, which do not receive proper municipal services - Kufr Aqab, Shu'fat and Anata – to "sub-municipalities". The vote on the plan was halted due to US pressure, but it still has supporters.
- Kufr Aqab is severely **neglected by the municipal authorities** with very little public facilities and practically no services, no police station and no law enforcement, which has resulted in **unsupervised construction** and **severe overcrowding**.
- **Separation barrier** cutting Kufr Aqab off Jerusalem and making a formerly short travel a long journey.
- **Atarot settlement plan** includes plans to connect it with Kokhav Ya'acov settlement through an underground tunnel and at the expense of Kufr Aqab village territory.
- **Military bases** north (est. 1967) and south (est. 1982) of Kufr Aqab.



Kufr Aqab

10. OLD CITY

Founded around 4000 BC, the Old City - an area of 1 km² is today divided into four quarters: Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and Armenian.⁴⁴ Until the mid-19th Century, almost all Palestinian life was confined to this area. The Old City is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage (1981) and World Heritage in Danger Lists (1982).

Location: Central Jerusalem

Inside the Old City⁴⁵

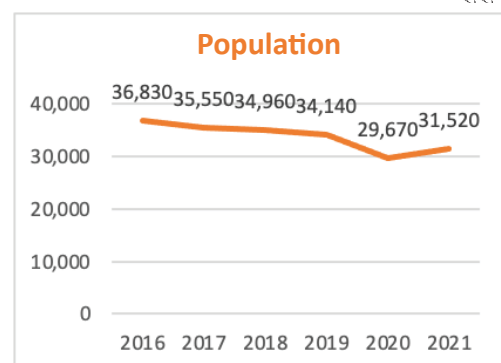
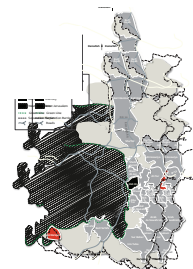
Population 0-14 years (2019): Muslim Quarter: 29.3%, Christian Quarter: 22.1%, Armenian Quarter: 28.7%

Area (2019): 950 dunums (of which 136 = Jewish Quarter, and 144 = Al-Aqsa Mosque compound)

Density (2019): 33.2 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 6,438 (including 642 in Jewish Quarter) (Muslim: 3,890, Christian: 1,289, Armenian: 677)

Migration Balance (2019): Muslim: -1,420, Christian: -150, Armenian: -40



⁴³ Available statistics for Kufr Aqab include the Atarot Industrial Zone. *JIPR, Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2021*. Other sources put the number of Palestinians in Kufr Aqab at 61,500, see ACRI, East Jerusalem: Facts & Figures 2019, May 2019.

⁴⁴ These divisions only emerged under the British Mandate, prior to which the Old City as a whole was "mixed", which is manifested in the fact that the Muslim Quarter is home to numerous churches and the Christian Quarter is to six mosques.

Shrinking Space in Palestinian Neighborhoods

- Israeli Efforts to Consolidate Control in East Jerusalem

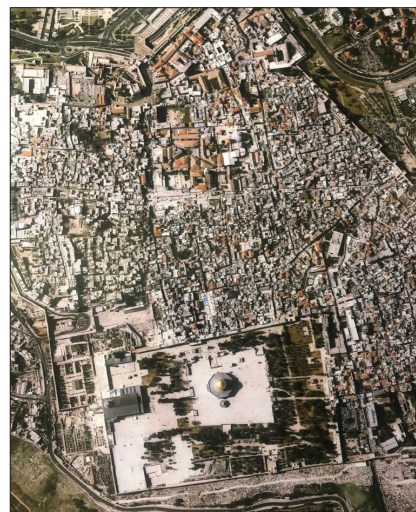


Settlements built on land: **Western Wall Plaza** and **Jewish Quarter** for which the entire Al-Sharaf neighborhood and parts of the Mughrabi (Moroccan) Quarter were erased in 1967.

Settler enclaves: There are an estimated 1,000 settlers occupying houses in the **Muslim** and **Christian Quarters** (often by using the Absentee Property Law), about half of them yeshiva students linked to Ateret Cohanim, which has settled over 20 settler families in the Muslim Quarter alone.⁴⁶ Among the houses seized are the **Petra** and **Imperial Hotels** at Jaffa Gate and Beit Azmiya in Bab Hutta belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church (since 2017⁴⁷), the historical Judeh building in the Aqbat Darwish area (2018), homes of the Abu Asab, Al-Halabi and Al-Alami family (2019). Palestinian residents are often exposed to **settler violence** and attacks.

Other issues:

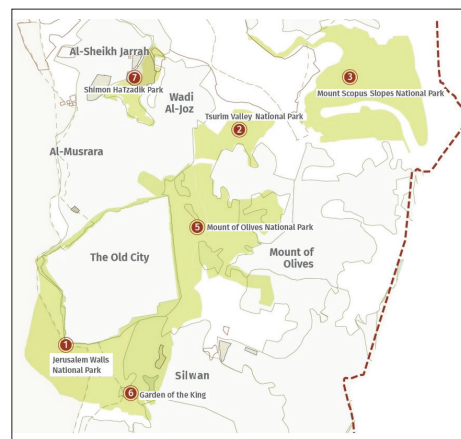
- The **Western Wall tunnels** under Al-Buraq Wall, managed by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation: one extending from Hamam Al-Ein (100 m), and one from Silwan (720 m) towards Al-Aqsa Mosque compound with various chambers housing underground synagogues, museums and other tourist attractions.⁴⁸ **Excavation work** has led frequently to cracks in the walls and the partial collapsing of buildings and endangers the foundations of Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.
- **Surveillance cameras** have been set up at almost every corner in and around the Old City to monitor all activity, thus infringing on the privacy of Palestinians.
- **Eviction threats:** there are currently at least 24 Palestinian families at risk of eviction from the Old City.⁴⁹



Aerial View of the Old City

Around/Outside the Old City

- The separate plans for national parks, settler enclaves, and touristic settlement sites in the vicinity of the Old City – most of them in tandem with settler groups – must be seen within the context of Israel's bid to extend the "**Jerusalem Walls National Park**" around its walls⁵⁰ to widen the ring of Israeli control around the Old City Basin (also known as Holy or Historical Basin). On 20 February 2022, Israel advanced an plan (No. 101-674788), promoted by the INPA, to expand that park by 68 acres to include a large section of church-owned lands on the Mount of Olives along with parts of the Kidron and Ben Hinnom valleys. After sparking fierce opposition from local Christian leaders, the plan was "frozen" a week later, but it is still on the planning committee's agenda for December 2022.⁵¹
- Plans to build a **cable car** with four stops (the First Station complex in West Jerusalem; the Kedem Visitor's Center, outside Dung Gate; the 7 Arches Hotel on the Mt. of Olives; and the church of Gethsemane) are underway, with a fifth stop planned at the Siloam Pool in the heart of Silwan, which Israel claims to be part of its "City of David National Park"⁵². The plan was first approved in 2019 but appealed by opponents,⁵³ who lost their case when the High Court rules in favor of the project in May 2022.



"National Parks" around the Old City, courtesy of Grassroots Jerusalem

46 Which it refers to as "The Northern Jewish Quarter" stretching from Herod's Gate towards the Jewish Quarter along the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, see Ateret Cohanim website: <https://www.ateretcohanim.org/project/northern-jewish-quarter/>.

47 The court case went through several rounds of appeals and re-hearings for almost two decades until the Jerusalem District Court finally denied in June 2020 the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate's request to block the sale of church property to Ateret Cohanim, which in turn took over part of the Petra Hotel in April 2022. On 29 June 2022, the Israeli Magistrate Court ordered Ateret Cohanim to vacate it pending further court procedures.

48 Emek Shaveh, *Historic Jerusalem – Challenges and Proposals for Interim Steps*, 2018, https://emekshaveh.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/policy_paper_Historic-basin-eng..pdf.

49 Ir Amim, *2021 in Review: Israel's Policy in East Jerusalem*, January 2022.

50 Officially to "beautify" the Old City Historic Basin, for which NIS 1.168 billion were earmarked – mainly infrastructure and tourist routes – during the years 2006-2024. See Kimhi, Israel, *The Old City - Abstract*, Jerusalem: JIPR Publication No. 552, 2021.

51 Emek Shaveh, "Biannual Summary of Developments," 25 August 2022, <https://emekshaveh.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Newsletter-August-2022-Final-2.pdf>.

52 Nir Hasson, "Jerusalem Mayor: Cable Car Stop in Palestinian Neighborhood Will Clarify 'Who Really Owns This City'", *Haaretz*, 25 August 2016.

53 Among other things, a study found that the government's claims about the traffic advantages of a cable car were based on inadequate data and unsupported conclusions, and that a shuttle service would be much cheaper to improve transport to the Western Wall. *Times of Israel*, 16 July 2020.

- **Excavation work** is taking place at the **Bab Ar-Rahmeh** Cemetery where Israel plans to extend its national park. The INPA has already erected a fence down the length of the promenade running parallel to the eastern wall of the Old City to limit the adjacent Muslim cemetery and forbade burial in parts of the cemetery on the grounds that it is located inside a national park.
- As part of Israel’s Jewish “biblical garden” project around the **Old City**, excavation work by the Jerusalem Development Authority and the INPA is ongoing at the **Yusufiya cemetery** next to the Bab Al-Rahmeh area of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound just outside the Lion’s Gate, razing parts of it (known as the Shuhada/Martyrs’ Cemetery), including bulldozing and exhuming Muslim graves.
- In October 2018, the Jerusalem District Court gave the **Elad** settler group authority over the ruins of the Islamic **Umayyad Palaces** adjacent to the southern wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque. In June 2022, Israel began the process of registering ownership of almost 20 dunums of land at the site, using a government fund earmarked for improving the quality of life of Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, which, however, has been largely utilized to register land as state lands and use them for illegal settlements.⁵⁴
- On 13 February 2020, the Israeli government approved a plan to extend the high-speed Tel Aviv-Jerusalem **train line** to the **Western Wall**, under pressure from far-right Transportation Minister Bezalel Smotrich. The plan includes a tunnel beneath Jerusalem parallel to the southern wall of the Old City.⁵⁵
- On 29 May 2022, the Israeli government adopted Decision No. 1513 for Phase II of the **Shalem Plan**⁵⁶, including the planned excavation of a tunnel between the “City of David” and the Umayyad Palaces/“Ophel Archeological Park”. Excavation continues under the Robinson’s Arch within the Elad-run Davidson Center archaeological park.



The Umayyad Palaces (in the front)

II. RAS AL-AMUD (AND WADI QADDUM)

Ras Al-Amud is often considered part of Silwan from where it began to develop in the first half of the 20th Century. The sub-neighborhood of Wadi Qaddum evolved mainly since the 1970s.

Location: Southeast of the Old City, east of Silwan (effectively forming an extension of Silwan), and bordered by the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives (north), Jabal Mukabber and Arab As-Sawahrah (south), the sub-neighborhood of Wadi Qaddum (east), and Silwan (west). Wadi Qaddum sits on the eastern edge of Jerusalem, descending on the eastward-facing slopes of the Mount of Olives into Qidron Valley. It is bordered by Shayyah (north), Ras Al-Amud (east), Arab Sawahreh (south) and the separation barrier (east).

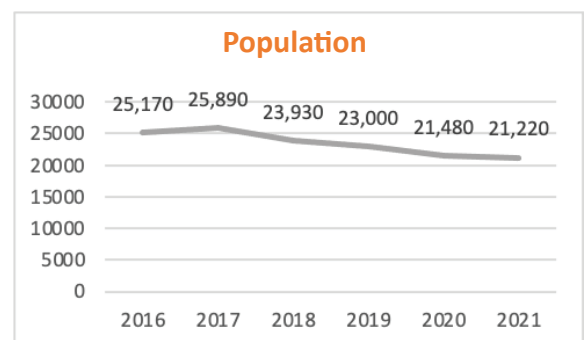
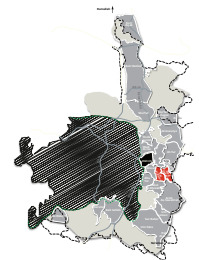
Population 0-14 years (2019): 35.9%

Area (2019): 1,282 dunums

Density (2019): 16.6 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 4,605

Migration Balance (2019): 1,250



54 Ir Amim, “Israel Initiates Settlement of Land Title Procedure on Land Adjacent to Al Aqsa and Across Abu Thor,” 27 June 2022, <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2869>.

55 <https://emekshaveh.org/en/train-to-western-wall/>.

56 The “National Plan for the Exposure of Ancient Jerusalem” was approved in May 2018; it consists of various Elad-run archaeology and tourism projects aimed to alter the demographic and historic Palestinian-Arab character of the Old City and its environs by superimposing an exclusive Jewish narrative; see Emek Shaveh, *Shalem Plan Overview – The Plan to Reveal Ancient Jerusalem*, April 2020, https://emekshaveh.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/shalem_eng.pdf.

Settler enclaves: **Ma'ale Zeitim** settlement, established 1998 in the heart of Ras Al-Amud, currently the largest Israeli settlement located in the middle of a Palestinian neighborhood (home to some 500 settlers⁵⁷, including right-wing city councilman and settlement activist, Arieh King).

Other issues:

- In **Wadi Qaddum**, a 4-story, 12-unit residential building, constructed in 2014 and home to some 100 people, received an eviction notice on 30 May 2022, and is slated for demolition under the pretext of lacking a building permit.



Ma'ale Zeitim settlement enclave (in the front)

12. AS-SAWAHRAH AL-GHARBIYA⁵⁸

Areas of the Arab As-Sawahrah tribe include As-Sawahrah Ash-Sharqiyah, As-Sawahrah Al-Gharbiya (parts of Jabal Al-Mukabber) and Sheikh Saad. After 1967, most of As-Sawahrah Al-Gharbiya was included in the Israeli West Jerusalem municipal boundaries, while As-Sawahrah Ash-Sharqiyah and Sheikh Saad remained in the West Bank.

Location: As-Sawahrah Al-Gharbiya lies on the west bank of Wadi Nar and within the Israeli municipality boundaries approx. 4.3 km southeast of the Old City, bordering Um Leisun to the south, Jabal Mukabber, Ras Al-Amud and Wadi Qaddum to the north and the separation barrier to the east.

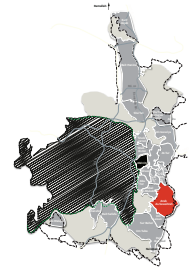
Settlements built on land: Parts of East Talpiot (1973) and Nof Zion (est. 2004); Kalia and Kedar (both in the West Bank)

Other issues:

- An Israeli military order of 12 August 2003 confiscated 173.4 dunums of Sur Baher, Um Tuba, Shayyah and **As-Sawahrah Al-Gharbiya** for the construction of the **separation barrier**, which cuts As-Sawahrah in an eastern and a western part and separates the former from the rest of East Jerusalem.



As-Sawahreh Al-Gharbiya



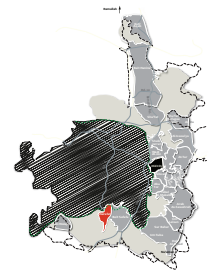
13. SHARAFAT⁵⁹

Location: Some 6 km southwest of Jerusalem, adjacent to Beit Safafa, on the slopes beyond Gilo settlement, not connected to other Palestinian neighborhoods

Settlements built on land: parts of Gilo (est. 1971), Har Gilo (1972)

Other issues:

- **Highway 50/Road 4** (the southern section of the Begin Highway) was inaugurated in September 2017 and cuts through Beit Safafat and Sharafat lands, restricting movement between them, in favor of easing transportation for settlements south of Jerusalem.
- **Dov Bin Yosef Road**, constructed in the early 1990s to connect Gilo with the center of Jerusalem, has physically cut Sharafat off from Beit Safafa.
- Two new **Light Rail** tracks - the 19 km Gilo-Mount Scopus "Green Line" as well as the 23 km long Ramot-Gilo "Blue Line" – affect Sharafat lands.

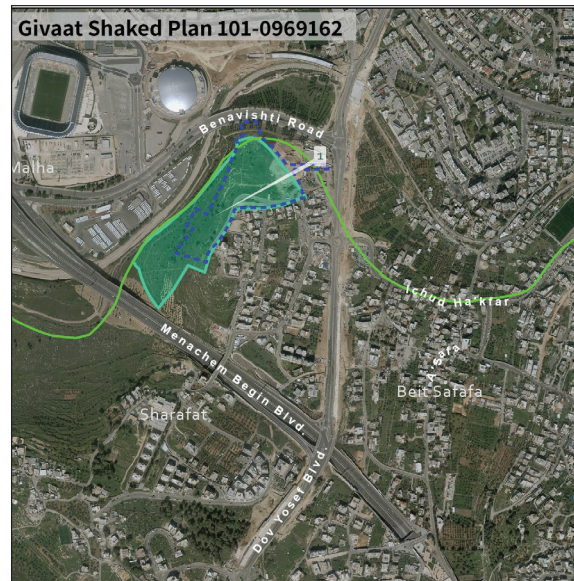


57 Peace Now Settlement List, <https://peacenow.org.il/en/settlements-watch/israeli-settlements-at-the-west-bank-the-list>.

58 Available figures for area and population include As-Sawahrah in the statistics for Jabal Mukabber. JIPR, *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2021*. According to the Israeli Jerusalem municipality's administrative divisions, As-Sawahrah encompasses Jabal Al-Mukabber and Um Leisun.

59 Available figures for area and population include Sharafat in the statistics for Beit Safafa. JIPR, *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2021*.

- A new settlement - **Givat HaShaked** – is planned on 38 dunums of land located in Sharafat (TPS 969162), including some 700 housing units, schools and synagogues, making it the largest settlement that Israel has established in an existing Palestinian neighborhood and the first one directly undertaken by the government⁶⁰ A large portion of the concerned land is managed by the Israeli General Custodian under the auspices of the Justice Ministry, alleging that properties in this area were owned by Jews pre-1948, and applying the 1970 Legal and Administrative Matters Law, which affords Jews (only!) reclamation rights of pre-1948 assets in East Jerusalem. The plan is designated for those plots of land undergoing formal settlement of land title procedures,⁶¹ which are often used to seize land for settlement expansion. Such suspicions were confirmed after requests to designate the plan for the development needs of Sharafat and Beit Safafa were rejected.⁶² On 5 September 2022, the Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee advanced the plan.



Site of the planned Givat HaShaked settlement, courtesy of BIMKOM

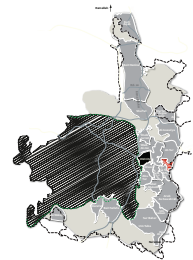
- **Nahal Refaim National Park** (approved in 2013) involved some 20 dunums of Sharafat lands.⁶³

14. SHAYYAH

Location: on the steep slopes descending from At-Tur of which it is a sub-neighborhood, bordering also Ras Al-Amud, Abu Dis, and the separation barrier to the east, Wadi Qaddum to the south.

Other issues:

- An Israeli military order issued on 12 August 2003 confiscated 173.4 dunums of Sur Baher, Um Tuba, **Shayyah** and As-Sawahrah Al-Gharbiya for the construction of the **separation barrier**. Some 80 dunums of Shayyah are located on the Palestinian side of the barrier even though they are officially within the Jerusalem municipal boundary. Residents living there are disconnected from their own neighborhood and from the rest of Jerusalem.⁶⁴
- Shayyah's entire land reserve (as well as additional areas) is slated for the expansion of the **Jewish cemetery** on the Mount of Olives.⁶⁵



Jewish cemetery bordering Shayyah, Photo: Bimkom.

⁶⁰ Terrestrial Jerusalem, "An Update: Settlement Plans, the Presidential Visit and Tisha B'Av," Insiders' Jerusalem, August 4, 2022.

⁶¹ Initiated as part of the 2018 Government Decision No. 3790, a five-year plan, which aims to ostensibly reduce socio-economic disparities and promote economic development in East Jerusalem; <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2746>.

⁶² <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2776>.

⁶³ "The Nahal Refaim National Park", B'Tselem.

⁶⁴ http://bimkom.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2.3_ash-shayyah-w.pdf.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

15. SHEIKH JARRAH

Sheikh Jarrah emerged as a neighborhood in the mid-19th Century when Jerusalem began developing outside the walled city. In 1956 Jordan allocated land in the area for the relocation of 28 Palestinian refugee families, for whom UNRWA built homes there. After the 1967 occupation, Jewish associations began to claim land ownership with the Israeli Land Registry presenting questionable pre-1948 documents⁶⁶ and attempting to colonize the area and create a Jewish contiguity around the Old City.

Location: North of the Old City, bordering Bab As-Sahirah (south), Wadi Al-Joz (east), Road No. 1 (west), and French Hill/Mount Scopus (north).

Population 0-14 years (2019): 30.3% (incl. Wadi Al-Joz)

Area (2019): 1,071 dunums

Density (2019): 13 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 2,297

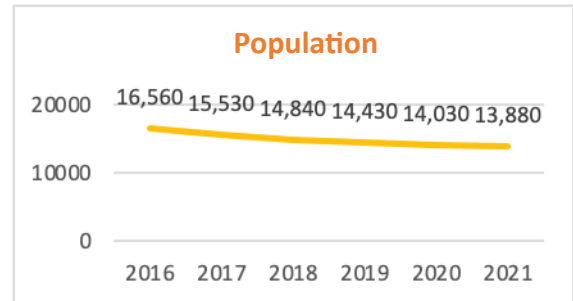
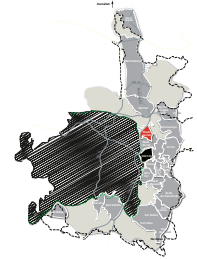
Migration Balance (2019): 860

Settler enclaves: As of October 2022, at least 55 settlers live in 9

properties controlled by settler groups and 34 Palestinian families are at risk of eviction according to Peace Now.

- **Shepherd Hotel**⁶⁷ on the road leading east to the Hebrew University complex (TPS 11536) and the **Karm Al-Mufti** ('Mufti's grove') area below it stretching towards the edges of the Wadi Al-Joz industrial zone, which was formally expropriated in March 2007 under the rubric of "acquisition for public needs." Together they form the link between the Israeli government complex to the north and the Shimon HaTzadik Tomb area to the south. In January 2021, Ateret Cohanim revealed plans to convert the former Shepherds Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah into a synagogue, and double the number of housing units in the enclave from 28 to 56. As part of Government Decision 3790, part of the Shepherd Hotel compound is also targeted by the so-called settlement of land title procedures, which Palestinians believe Israel exploits not to aid them, as claimed, but to take over more of their land.⁶⁸

- **Shimon HaTzadik** in the **Karm Al-Jaouni** (west of Nablus Road), built on land partially bought by Jewish committees in the 19th Century but settled by UNRWA and Jordan with Palestinian refugee families post-1948 and then acquired by the right-wing Nahalat Shimon group in the 1990s (using the Absentee Property Law that grants Jews the right to reclaim property abandoned in 1948 while denying Palestinians the same right), which plans a 2000-unit settlement at the site. On 1 March 2022, Israel's Supreme Court ruled that the residents of several properties slated for eviction can continue to live there – as protected tenants – until the completion of land regulation procedures, a process that could take years. The move was widely seen as an attempt to ease tensions in the area ahead of Ramadan. Currently, evacuation lawsuits are pending against two of the 29 Palestinian families living there.⁶⁹



Palestinian homes taken by settlers or under threat of eviction in Sheikh Jarrah

66 Applying the 1970 Legal and Administrative Matters Law which allows Israeli Jews to reclaim rights of pre-1948 assets in East Jerusalem.

67 Former mansion of the Mufti of Jerusalem Haji Amin Al-Husseini (although he never resided there), which was confiscated and then sold to US millionaire Irving Moskowitz; in 2018, construction of a settlement enclave on the property was completed, but more construction is underway and as of October 2022, the complex is still not inhabited.

68 Ir Amim, "Israel Initiates Settlement of Land Title Procedure on Land Adjacent to Al Aqsa and Across Abu Thor," *op.cit.*

69 Ir Amim, 2021 *in Review: Israel's Policy in East Jerusalem*, January 2022.

- **Um Haroun** (east of Nablus Road) has eviction lawsuits still pending against at least 30 Palestinian families as of June 2022.⁷⁰ A plan that has been devised and is being promoted by Israel's General Custodian entails razing their homes and replacing it with a new Israeli settlement.⁷¹

Other issues:

- Sheikh Jarrah is home to a number of Israeli government institutions. On its northern boundary Israel established its so-called **Government quarter**, on its western border close to Road No. 1 the **Headquarters of the Israeli border police** are located and in its southwestern area the **National Insurance Institute**.
- In the neighborhood's northernmost corner, right next to St. Joseph Hospital, the **Amana settler organization** build its headquarters on land expropriated from the Abu Ta'a family (completed in 2017).⁷²
- On a plot of land opposite the Olive Tree Hotel and in front of the Al-Hayat Medical Center, The Canadian Jews Max and Gianna Glassman are funding the development of a conference center ("**Glassman Campus**").
- Another empty plot right next to the Glassman Campus was handed by the Israeli municipality, argued in late 2020 that there was no need for public buildings for the residents of Sheikh Jarrah and next to the gas station to the ultra-Orthodox "**Ohr Somayach**", which plans to build a yeshiva there. Obviously, this move is meant to further link the Israeli settlement projects in the neighborhood and advance its Judaization.⁷³



Israeli "Government Quarter" in Sheikh Jarrah

16. SHU'FAT

Many refugees from Lifta, which was entirely depopulated during the 1948 War built homes in the Shu'fat area.

Location: Approx. 5 km north of the Old City, bordered by the French Hill Junction (south), Shu'fat refugee camp and Highway 60 (east), Beit Hanina (north), Ramat Shlomo settlement (west).

Population 0-14 years (2019): 32.2%

Area (2019): 2,845 dunums

Density (2019): 8.3 persons/dunum

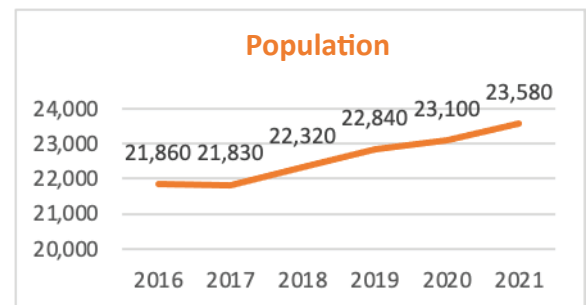
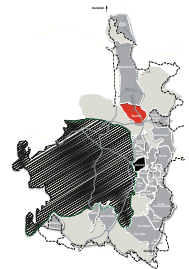
Number of Dwellings (2020): 4,078

Migration Balance (2019): -230

Settlements built on land: Mount Scopus (est. 1968), Givat Shapira (French Hill) (est. 1968), Ramat Eshkol (est. 1968), Ramot (est. 1973), Pisgat Ze'ev (est. 1985), Ramat Shlomo (est. 1994; formerly Rekhesh Shu'fat, est. 1990)

Other issues:

- **Landfill plan** north of the neighborhood on lands owned by residents of Shu'fat, Anata, and Al-Issawiya (see details under Issawiya on p.)
- **Road No. 21** (dubbed by locals as "New Road") runs on 100 dunums of land expropriated from the northern edge of Shu'fat, cutting through its western side before running parallel and to the west of Ramallah Road, opened mainly to ease traffic from the settlement of Pisgat Ze'ev to Ramat Shlomo and Ramot settlements and further on to the Jerusalem-Modi'in Road and Highway No. 1.⁷⁴
- **French Hill Junction Underpass** in the making: including construction of four tunnels extending 4.5 km under the French Hill, Kevarim and Coca Cola junctions to enable uninterrupted travel for settlers from the Ma'ale Adumim bloc as well as Pisgat Ze'ev area to Begin Road and the Tel Aviv Highway. The project also includes a 1,000-space "Park and Ride" lot above the tunnel right at the Light Rail station at the French Hill junction.⁷⁵



⁷⁰ According to lawyer Sami Irshed as per telephone conversation on 7 June 2022.

⁷¹ <https://t-j.org.il/2022/02/20/insiders-jerusalem-expansion-of-the-national-park-in-the-visual-basin-of-the-holy-city/>.

⁷² "Israel Seized Palestinian Family's East Jerusalem Land Behind Its Back, Gave It to Settler NGO," *Haaretz*, 9 May 2016.

⁷³ <https://www.kolhair.co.il/jerusalem-news/180032/>.

⁷⁴ Abed-Rabbuh, Mohammad. "Colonial Route 21 Tears Through Shuafat in North Jerusalem," *The New Arab*, 30 April 2014.

⁷⁵ <https://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/inside/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Highway-to-Annexation-Final.pdf>

- **Light Rail:** The “Red Line” opened in August 2011; it connects Pisgat Ze’ev settlement with Mount Herzl, cutting through Shu’fat, and is currently expanded to reach Neve Ya’akov settlement in the north and Hadassah Ein Kerem in the south. Two additional lines are still under-construction: the “Green Line” will link the Hebrew University’s Mount Scopus campus with the one in Givat Ram and continue to Gilo settlement, while the “Blue Line” will run from Ramot settlement in the northwest, through the city center up to Talpiot and Gilo settlement, with branches to Malha and Mount Scopus.
- As part of Government Decision 3790, areas in the French Hill settlement are also targeted by the so-called **settlement of land title procedures**, which Palestinians believe Israel exploits to take over more of their land.⁷⁶



The Red Line Light Rail in Shu’fat

17. SHU’FAT REFUGEE CAMP

Shu’fat Refugee camp was established by UNRWA in 1965 on Shu’fat lands in order to provide improved housing for the roughly 500 refugee families living in Mu’askar camp in the Old City of Jerusalem. It was annexed by Israel after the 1967 War, by which time the population had reached 3,368.⁷⁷

Location: Some 4 km northeast of the Old City, bordered by Anata (east), Shu’fat (west), Issawiya and French Hill settlement (south) and Pisgat Ze’ev settlement (north).

Population 0-14 years (2019): 40.3%

(According to UNRWA, the actual refugee population is 15,920 but the total number is much higher as many non-refugees with Jerusalem IDs have moved there due to unaffordable rents elsewhere in the city.)

Area (2019): 370 dunums

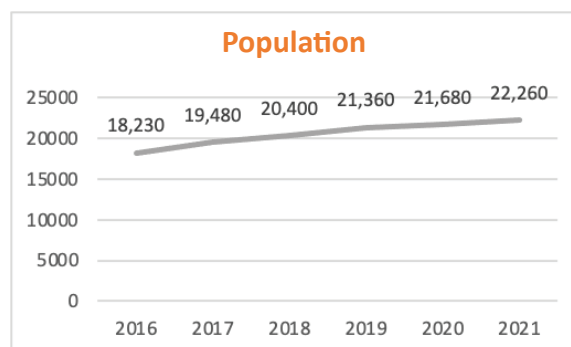
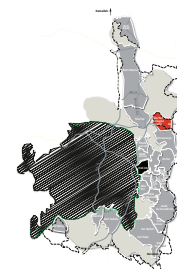
Density (2019): 60.2 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 152

Migration Balance (2019): 30

Other issues:

- The **separation barrier** surrounds the camp, leaving it on the “West Bank side” (though within the municipal boundary) and forcing residents to pass through an Israeli checkpoint. An estimated **80,000** residents living in Shu’fat refugee camp and the sub-neighborhoods of Ras Khamis, Ras Shehadeh, and As-Salam are currently left outside the barrier and thus with almost no municipal services.⁷⁸
- Israeli **bypass roads** also surround the camp from its southern and western sides.
- In 2017, Israel erected a police compound at the entrance to the camp along with a checkpoint in a bid to control movement in and out of the camp.



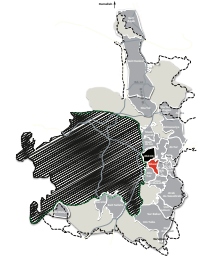
Shu’fat Refugee Camp

⁷⁶ Ir Amim, “Israel Initiates Settlement of Land Title Procedure on Land Adjacent to Al Aqsa and Across Abu Thor,” *op. cit.*

⁷⁷ https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/shufat_refugee_camp.pdf

⁷⁸ ACRI, *East Jerusalem: Facts & Figures 2019*, May 2019.

18. SILWAN



Before being confiscated by Israel after 1967, Silwan’s lands extended far into the eastern West Bank until the Khan Al-Ahmar area. It has become the main neighborhood facing intense settler activity, much of which is based on alleged narratives of King David having established his kingdom there and the desire to strengthen Jewish presence in this allegedly historical Jewish site. Settler organizations (Ateret Cohanim, El-Ad) take over Palestinian properties, using either the 1970 “Legal and Administrative Matters Law” (like in Sheikh Jarrah), which affords Jews reclamation rights of pre-1948 assets in East Jerusalem, or Palestinian intermediaries who purchase houses on their behalf. Another method is propagating their narrative with “tourist sites” such as the so-called City of David in Silwan’s Wadi Hilweh area, by controlling archaeological sites and works, and by changing street names, for example Wadi Hilweh Street to Maalot David.

Location: Outside the Old City’s southern walls, bordering Ath-Thori (southwest), Ras Al-Amud (southeast), and the Old City (north)

Population 0-14 years (2019): 35.4%

Area (2019): 1,026 dunums

Density (2019): 19 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 3,066

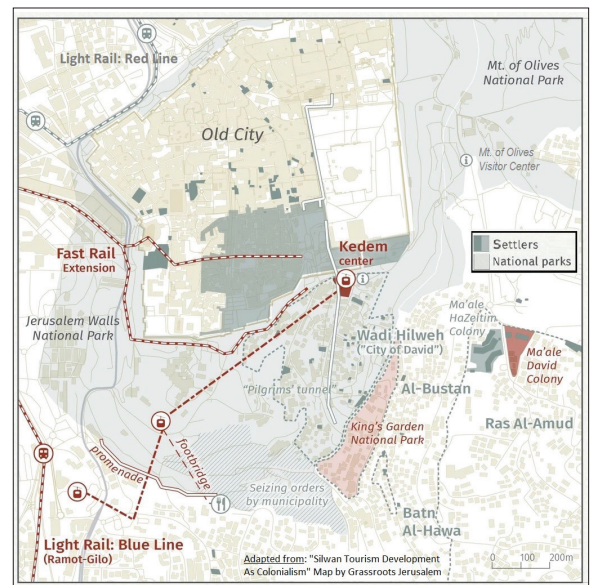
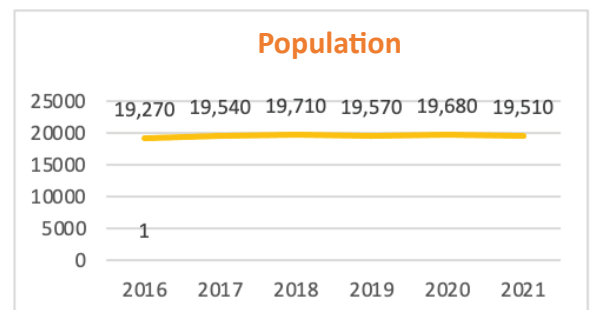
Migration Balance (2019): -560

Settlements built on land: Ma’ale Adumim (West Bank)

Settler enclaves: Ateret Cohanim currently controls 9 settler enclaves in the heart of Silwan, including “Beit Yonatan”, which also houses an Israeli police station, and a piece of land in the Batn Al-Hawa area. Currently, some 700 settlers live in Silwan and 5 Palestinian properties are under imminent risk of eviction.

Other issues:

- **Home demolitions and evictions.** Silwan residents have tried for years to redesignate their neighborhood but so far in vain. In November 2021, the Jerusalem District Court rejected an appeal by 58 families against the demolition of their homes. Currently, 97 families in Batn Al-Hawa face eviction.⁷⁹
- Although the **Al-Bustan** area has no archaeological significance, there are plans to convert it into a “national park” (“Kings Garden” – in line with the Zionist-fabricated narrative that the area is the site of his kingdom) and link it with the “City of David”. Some 88 Palestinian homes are under threat; the municipality recently rejected a plan submitted by residents and crafted by architect Yousef Jabarin, according to which the homes would be demolished and new ones would be built on 60% of the land, with the rest going to a park. While negotiations continue, 72 outstanding demolition orders are currently pending in the Bustan area.⁸⁰
- Israeli settlers opened a “Jewish heritage center” in the **Batn Al-Hawa** area, where at least 66 evacuation lawsuits are pending against Palestinian families⁸¹ who build on land they bought, which originally belonged to Jewish Yemenite families. In 2001, the Ateret Cohanim settler group managed to become the trustee for the original Jewish Benvenisti Trust and since then works for the eviction of the Palestinians from what they refer to as “Yemenite Village”. The Palestinian residents’ petition was rejected in 2021 by the Israeli High Court and they were subsequently ordered to evict their homes in favor of Ateret Cohanim, which already placed 22 settler families in the area.⁸²



Israeli plans and projects in Silwan and environs, courtesy of Grassroots Jerusalem

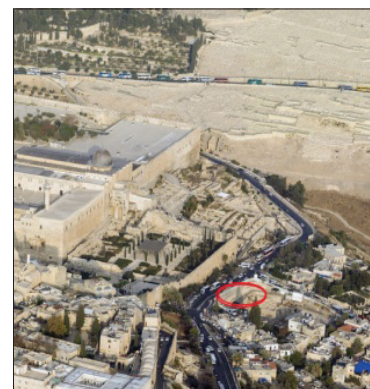
⁷⁹ Ir Amim, 2021 in Review: Israel’s Policy in East Jerusalem, January 2022.

⁸⁰ “Insiders’ Jerusalem: Expansion of the National Park in the Visual Basin of the Holy City,” Terrestrial Jerusalem, op.cit.

⁸¹ Ir Amim, East Jerusalem, Key Data, January 2019.

⁸² See Ateret Cohanim website: <https://www.ateretcohanim.org/project/yemenite-village-shiloach/>.

- **City of David:** Some of the real-estate and land that Elad seized under the Absentee Property Law was transferred to the so-called “City of David National Park” in the midst of the Wadi Hilweh neighborhood. The INPA has transferred management and control of the site to Elad, which undertakes largescale tunneling and archaeological excavations along and beneath Palestinian homes. Eighty Palestinian families have received court orders demanding they relinquish the land on which their homes are built, and seven of those families have received eviction orders. As of 2022, Elad controls approximately 35% of Wadi Hilweh’s real-estate, including 40 Palestinian properties (homes and land).
- **Ein Silwan** tunnel and its pool used to be freely accessible to Palestinians and also served as a waqf to the poor, but now entrance to the area requires purchase of a ticket from the Elad settler organization.
- In addition, **tunnel excavations** have led to cracks in walls and collapse of some structures.⁸³
- **Kedem compound**, a settler-run visitor center, is to be built at the site of the **Givati Parking Lot** at the entrance to Silwan, opposite to the “City of David.” The plan includes a Bible center, a museum, a parking lot, shops, and a stop for the planned controversial cable car on its rooftop.
- The so-called **Davidson Park** south of al-Aqsa Mosque (the Umayyad palaces area), which is also run by the Elad organization.
- Elad is working on a tourist project at the **Gihon Spring** (“Gihon Spring Citadel”) which includes excavations and will be integrated into the tourist route around the Old City.⁸⁴ Excavations also take place at what Elad named the “Pilgrims’ Road”, a Roman-era stepped street along the route from the Siloam Pool near Al-Bustan to the planned Kedem Compound, and the drainage channel beneath it, affecting Palestinian homes in Wadi Hilweh, several of which have already been damaged.⁸⁵
- Israel’s planned **train to the Western Wall** includes a strip that runs underneath dozens of Palestinian homes in the Wadi Hilweh, which are already affected by the planned cable car, and will lead to damage of the ancient Silwan spring and possibly other archaeological layers.⁸⁶



Site of the Kedem compound (red circle)

19. SUR BAHER

Location: About 4 km southeast of the Old City, bordered by Um Leisun (northeast), the settlements of Arnona, Talpiot (north) and Har Homa (southwest), Kibbutz Ramat Rachel (west), and Um Tuba (south); its sub-neighborhood Deir Al-Amud is located to its southeast.

Population 0-14 years (2019): 38.9%

Area (2019): 3,974 dunums

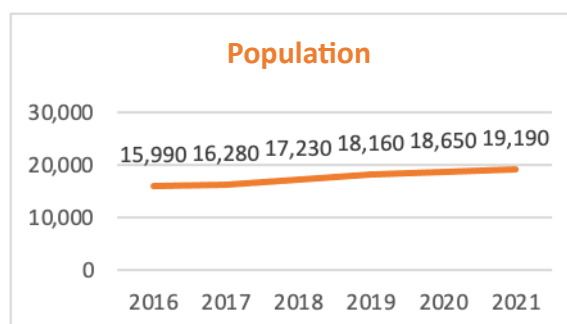
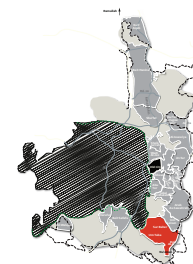
Density (2019): 4.8 persons/dunum

Number of Dwellings (2020): 4,124

Migration Balance (2019): 10

Settlements built on land: East Talpiot (est. 1973), Har Homa (est. 1991)

In 2022, the Israel Land Authority published a tender (18/2022) for the construction of 300 housing units along East Talpiyot (Armon Hanatziv), the outline plans of which (TPS 7977, 7977A) were approved back in 2005. The construction would bring the settlement’s built-up area closer towards Sur Baher.



⁸³ See the detailed report by Emek Shaveh, *Fissures and Cracks – Damage to Homes in the Wadi Hilweh neighborhood of Silwan*, March 2020, <https://emekshaveh.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Sdakim-English-06.pdf>.

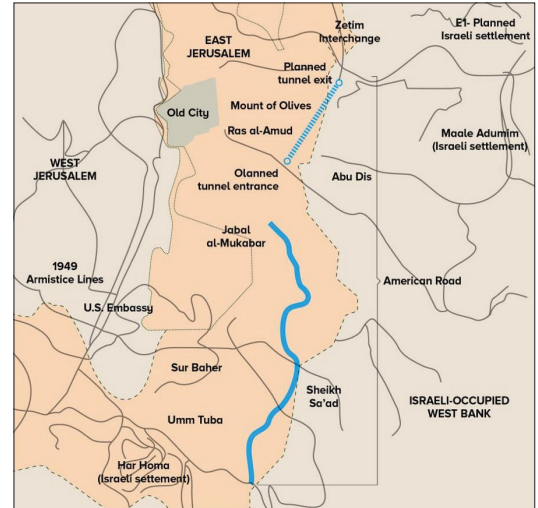
⁸⁴ Emek Shaveh, *Shalem Plan Overview – The Plan to Reveal Ancient Jerusalem*, April 2020, *op. cit.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

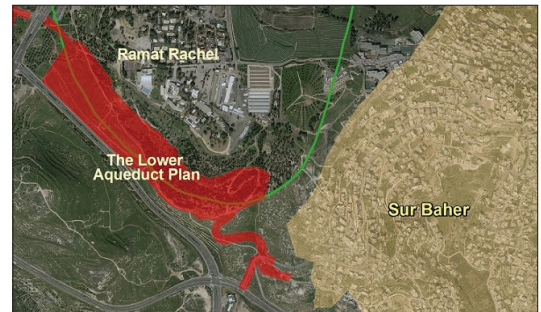
⁸⁶ <https://emekshaveh.org/en/train-to-western-wall/>.

Other issues:

- Construction on the **American Road**, which forms part of the Eastern Ring Road, between the Zeitim interchange and Nahal Darga junction began in 2020 on Palestinian-owned land of Sur Baher, Um Tuba, and Jabal Mukabber.
- Land for **Route 398**, connecting settlements in the southern West Bank to Jerusalem, was partially confiscated from Sur Baher.
- An Israeli military order issued on 12 August 2003 confiscated 173.4 dunums of **Sur Baher**, Um Tuba, Shayyah and As-Sawahrah Al-Gharbiya for the construction of the **separation barrier**.⁸⁷
- As part of Government Decision 3790, land next to Sur Baher is also targeted by the so-called **settlement of land title procedures**, which Palestinians believe Israel exploits to take over more of their land.⁸⁸
- **Lower Aqueduct Plan** (No. 0101-0808840) northwest of Sur Baher is a new 1,465-unit settlement on 186 dunums (half within the Green Line, half in East Jerusalem⁸⁹), that will link Givat Hamatos and Har Homa while breaking up contiguity between Beit Safafa and Sur Baher as well as Bethlehem and East Jerusalem. The plan was advanced by the Jerusalem District Planning Committee on 25 July 2022, leaving 60 days to submit objections.



Route of the American Road

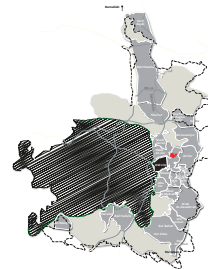


Site of the Lower Aqueduct Plan, courtesy of Peace Now

20. SUWANEH⁹⁰

The neighborhood developed in the late 19th century on agricultural land belonging to At-Tur.

Location: Descending on the westward-facing slopes of the Mount of Olives into the Qidron Valley, bordering Wadi Al-Joz to the west, Mount Scopus to the north, At-Tur to the east and the Jewish cemetery to the south.



Other issues:

- A master plan (TPS 701037) for At-Tur, Shayyah and **Suwaneh** proposes further urban and housing development in these areas, but is effectively blocked by the planned **Mount Scopus Slopes National Park** (see details under At-Tur, p. 4-5).
- **Tzurim Valley National Park** (see details under At-Tur, p. 4-5).



Suwaneh with the Tzurim Valley Park "Temple Mount" Sifting Site in the foreground

⁸⁷ <http://vprofile.arij.org/jerusalem/pdfs/vprofile/jabalalmukabber.pdf>.

⁸⁸ Ir Amim, "Israel Initiates Settlement of Land Title Procedure on Land Adjacent to Al Aqsa and Across Abu Thor," *op. cit.*.

⁸⁹ Of the 186 dunums, over 100 belong to Palestinians, 10 were seized by the Absentee Property Custodian, 52 are managed by the Custodian General, 20 are owned by the Jewish National Fund and Jews, and 7 are "state land"; see <https://t-j.org.il/2022/01/22/insiders-jerusalem-the-surge-in-settlement-activities-in-east-jerusalem/>

⁹⁰ Available figures for area and population include Suwaneh in the statistics for At-Tur. JIPR, *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2021*.

21. UM LEISUN

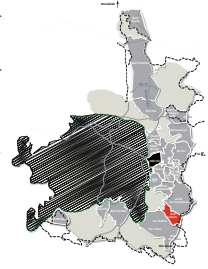
According to the structural plans of the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality, Um Leisun is treated as part of As-Sawahrah although its original land area belongs to Sur Baher. It includes the sub-neighborhood of Al-Ubeidiya, developed by members of the Ubeidiya Bedouin tribe.

Location: Southeast of the Old City, bordered by Sur Baher and Arab As-Sawahrah.

Settlements built on land: Har Homa (est. 1991)

Other issues:

- **Separation barrier** has cut off the residents from their West Bank hinterland (mainly the Ubeidiya Bedouin tribe).
- A connection road to the **Eastern Ring Road** (American Road) runs through Um Leisun land.



Um Leisun

22. UM TUBA

Location: About 5 km southeast of the Old City, bordered by Sur Baher (north), Har Homa settlement (south).

Population 0-14 years (2019): 35.5%

Area (2019): 2,496 dunums

Density (2019): 1.9 persons/dunum

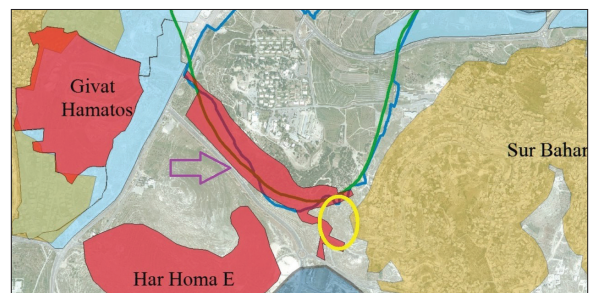
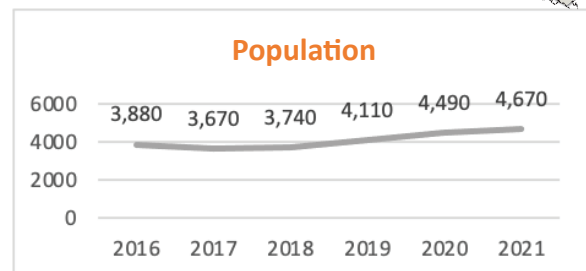
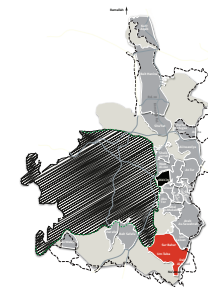
Number of Dwellings (2020): 744

Migration Balance (2019): 60

Settlements built on land: East Talpiot (est. 1973), Har Homa (est. 1991)

Other issues:

- An Israeli military order issued on 12 August 2003 confiscated 173.4 dunums of Sur Baher, **Um Tuba**, Shayyah and As-Sawahrah Al-Gharbiya for the construction of the **separation barrier**.
- In 2020, construction began on the central and southern sections of the **“American Road”** that will connect Jewish settlements northeast and south (Har Homa, Gush Etzion) of Jerusalem at the expense of Palestinian-owned land in Sur Baher, **Um Tuba**, and Jabal Mukabber. The road’s part from Um Tuba towards Sur Baher and Jabal Mukabber - about 2.4 km long and connecting to the so-called **“Lieberman Road”**, a bypass road for the settlers in southeast of Bethlehem – was opened in 2021.
- A significant economic plan to establish an **employment area in Um Tuba** initiated and promoted by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Ministry was halted due to strong opposition from residents of the nearby Har Homa settlement.⁹¹ Instead, the **“Lower Aqueduct plan”** is now promoted there, including construction of 1,465 housing units on some 186 dunums of land along with an access road to be built on private Palestinian land belonging to residents of Um Tuba.⁹²



Um Tuba, area undergoing settlement of land title process, courtesy of Peace Now

⁹¹ Shtern, Marik, *A Civic Policy on East Jerusalem: Towards a New Theory of Change*, Jerusalem: The Van Leer Institute, 2022 (Hebrew). Instead, the Lower Aqueduct settlement is now promoted there. <https://t-j.org.il/2022/01/22/insiders-jerusalem-the-surge-in-settlement-activities-in-east-jerusalem/>.

⁹² Ir Amim, “District Planning Committee Approves Lower Aqueduct Plan for Deposit for Objections,” 29 July 2022; <https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=6a7a435a1c6d7fa55daae8d58&id=20c180f81a>.

- Land for **Route 398**, connecting settlements in the southern West Bank to Jerusalem, was partially confiscated from Um Tuba.

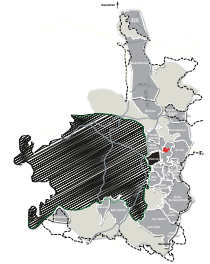
23. WADI AL-JOZ⁹³

The neighborhood of Wadi Al-Joz was established in the late 19th Century, when building began to spread outside the Old City. Most of its land belonged to the village of Lifta (which was depopulated during the 1948 Nakba).

Location: North of the Old City, bordering Sheikh Jarrah (northeast), Bab As-Sahira (south), Suwaneh (east)

Other issues:

- **“Silicon Wadi”** project: Israel is planning to demolish the industrial area of Wadi Al-Joz and open a large 78-dunum business park for high-tech, commerce, and hospitality in its place, as well as completely changing the infrastructure and traffic in the area and linking it to the equally problematic **“East Jerusalem Central Business District”** plan (see p. 5 above for details). The **Local Planning Committee advanced the plan** (TPS 977964) in October 2021, and on 7 February 2022, the Israeli Jerusalem municipality handed demolition orders to owners of dozens of Palestinian commercial facilities - car repair or parts shops, building materials warehouses, restaurants, and groceries - to make way for the project. It is estimated that some 200 Palestinian-owned businesses will fall victim to the plan.⁹⁴ In addition to the demolitions and to neglecting the acute housing needs in the neighborhood, Palestinians believe that Israeli authorities will use the planning procedures to locate alleged Palestinian absentee properties and transfer lands into the hands of the state.⁹⁵ On 14 March 2022, the Jerusalem District Planning Committee conditionally approved the “Wadi Joz - Business Park” plan for deposit for objections/public review (which did not happen formally as of August 2022). In April 2022, the government adopted Decision No. 1367 for the establishment of an “Innovation Quarter” for high-tech companies in East Jerusalem.⁹⁶
- **Emek Tzurim** park was declared on 170 dunums, including a mostly vacant area of 39 dunums in Wadi al-Joz of privately-owned and Waqf lands (see under At-Tur, p. 4-5, for details).
- Israeli government Institutions: The **Ministry of the Interior’s** East Jerusalem branch opened at the northern entrance to Wadi Al-Joz in an area originally earmarked for the building of a school.



Wadi Al-Joz



Screenshot from a Jerusalem Municipality promotional video about “Silicon Wadi”

⁹³ Available figures for area and population include Wadi Al-Joz in the statistics for Sheikh Jarrah. JIPR, *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2021*.

⁹⁴ <https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=6a7a435a1c6d7fa55daae8d58&id=9cc3387993>.

⁹⁵ <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2725>; according to municipal plans, these businesses will be moved to Issawiya and Um Tuba.

⁹⁶ Ir Amim, “Implications of the “Silicon Wadi” Plan – the Planned High-Tech Hub for Wadi Joz,” Analysis Paper, August 2022.

24. AL-WALAJEH⁹⁷

According to the 1949 Jordanian-Israeli Armistice Agreement, Al-Walajeh was handed to Israel (part of it is now the site of the Biblical Zoo). After the War of 1967, when Israel unilaterally expanded the boundaries of East Jerusalem (and subsequently illegally annexed it), almost the entire area of Al-Walajeh came under Jerusalem's municipal limits, but not its residents, who thus were not counted in the 1967 census and therefore not granted Jerusalem residency status, though legally entitled to it as living in Jerusalem. Since 1967, Israel has seized roughly 50% of Al-Walaja lands beyond the Green Line for construction of settlements, the separation barrier, and a national park.⁹⁸

Location: Southwest corner of Jerusalem, about 8 km from the Old City, neighboring Ein Kerem, Beit Jala, Battir and the destroyed villages of Al-Qabu and Al-Malhah; the most rural area with many springs.

Population: 1,000⁹⁹

Area (2019): 800 dunums¹⁰⁰

Density (2019): 0.1 persons/dunum

Settlements built on land: Gilo (est. 1971), Har Gilo (est. 1972)

Other issues:

- The **separation barrier** fences off the village on three sides, impeding any expansion or development. The only way out is at the eastern side on the road leading to Beit Jala; the **checkpoint**, built partially on confiscated land, cuts the villagers off much of their land.
- Al-Walajeh's agricultural land and well-kept terraces as well as the Ein Hanya spring were turned into "**Nahal Refa'im National Park**", inaugurated 2018.
- As Israeli authorities never prepared an outline plan for Walajeh's Jerusalem section with its 140 houses¹⁰¹ (and one prepared by the residents was rejected in 2021), no building permits could be applied for and many residents built without, risking **demolition** and displacement. Since 2016, the homes of 45 families have been demolished with another 38 currently under threat of displacement,¹⁰² although the state agreed in April 2022 to freeze demolitions for six months to allow consideration for a new zoning plan.
- In June 2020, a plan (TPS YOSH-938) for the expansion of the Al-Walajeh **bypass road (Road 385)**, connecting the Har Gilo settlement to Jerusalem and easing traffic between the city and the Gush Etzion settlements, was advanced. Objections to it were discussed in June 2021, but a final decision is still pending.
- In early June 2022, the Israel Civil Administration revealed its intention to deposit for public review an outline plan for »**Har Gilo West**» (TPS 401-4-1), a new 560 housing unit settlement on 205 dunums of Al-Walaja lands (Area C), which is part of a much larger plan of 1,004 housing units on 940 dunums¹⁰³ and which will, if constructed, complete the isolation of al-Walajeh.
- Directly next to Al-Walajeh, a 5,000-unit housing project for Jews called "**Reches Lavan**" ("White Ridge") is in the making.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁷ This only refers to the part of the village that was annexed to the Jerusalem municipality, the other half lies in the West Bank.

⁹⁸ <https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=6a7a435a1c6d7fa55daae8d58&id=d85c872f1f>.

⁹⁹ Only the section located within the municipal borders of Jerusalem, Horodniceanu, M. and N. Hasson, "Mapping Out the Rapid Judaization of East Jerusalem," *Haaretz*, 6 April 2022.

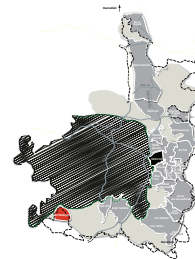
¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ Ir Amim, 2021 *in Review: Israel's Policy in East Jerusalem*, January 2022.

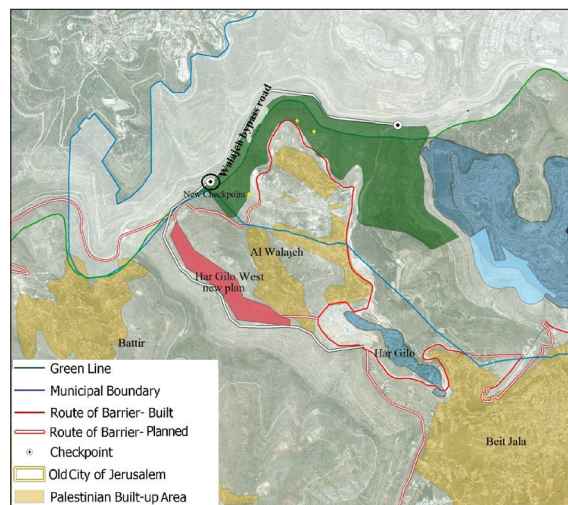
¹⁰² Bob, Kenneth, "Al-Walaja deserves a zoning plan, not home demolitions," *The Times of Israel – The Blogs*, 24 March 2022, <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/al-walaja-deserves-a-zoning-plan-not-home-demolitions/>.

¹⁰³ <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/node/2551>.

¹⁰⁴ Bob, Kenneth, "Al-Walaja deserves a zoning plan, not home demolitions," *op. cit.*



Al-Walajeh

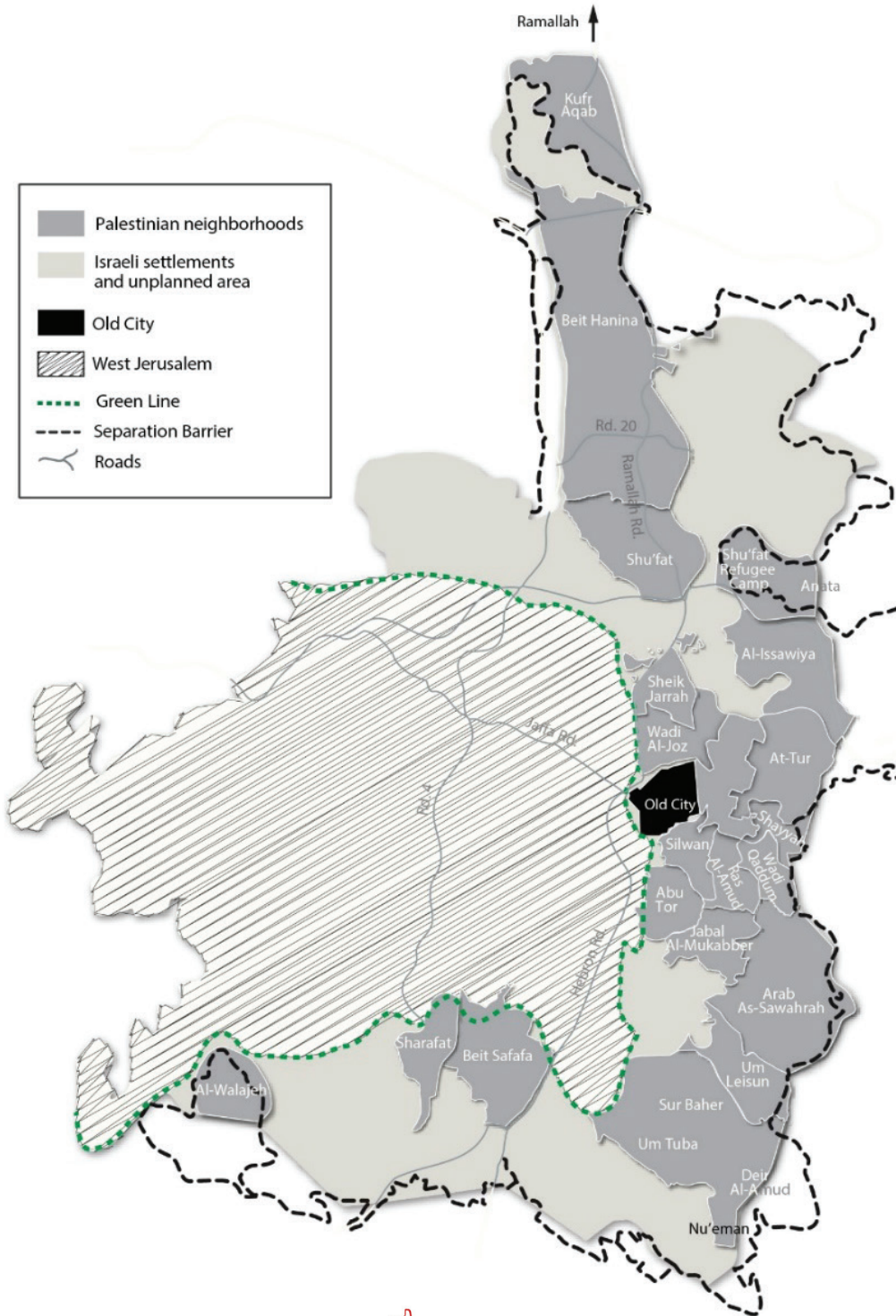


Al-Walajeh location and Har Gilo West (in red), courtesy of Ir Amim

Shrinking Space in Palestinian Neighborhoods

- Israeli Efforts to Consolidate Control in East Jerusalem

Adapted from the Location Map of Palestinian Neighborhoods in East Jerusalem by Bimikom - Planners for Planning Rights, 2013 (<http://bimikom.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/TrappedbyPlanning.pdf> p.25).



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