

suspended after Palestinians deny selling the land to Jews.

**March 20-21:** A few days ahead of the papal visit, the Israeli police ban Palestinian flags and posters in East Jerusalem to welcome the Pope and arrest 11 Palestinians for putting them up. In the Old City's Christian Quarter shopkeepers are ordered to close their shops during the Pope's visit, and East Jerusalem's schools to stay closed for five days. Waqf Dir. Adnan Hussein says Israel has also demanded the right to search the Haram Ash-Sharif, and Faisal Hussein comments that "the exaggerated Israeli security measures are yet more evidence that Jerusalem is an occupied city."

**March 23:** Pope John Paul II holds an interfaith "healing and reconciliation" meeting in Jerusalem's Notre Dame Center attended by Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sheikh Taysir Tamimi (after Mufti of Jerusalem Ekrima Sabri refuses to attend as he is unwilling to sit on the same podium as Lau). Lau, Tamimi both stress their peoples' rights over Jerusalem. ▶



**March 25:** The WJM approves a plan to confiscate over 650 dunums of Palestinian land in Issawiyya, At-Tur, Izzariyya, Abu Dis and Ras Al-Amud for the construction of the Eastern Ring Road to connect West Jerusalem with the settlements in East Jerusalem.

- Pope John Paul II meets foreign diplomats at the Apostolic Delegation, later visits the Basilica of the Garden of Gethsemane and gives a speech at the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.

**March 26:** Pope John Paul II ends his visit to the Holy Land with a visit to the holy places of all three monotheistic religions in the Old City of Jerusalem (Al-Aqsa Mosque, Western Wall and Holy Sepulcher, where he holds a Sunday mass at the Basilica). He states that the condition of Jerusalem is 'tragic' and that a peace granting justice to everyone is 'inevitable'. Later he meets with patriarchs and bishops in the Latin Patriarchate, before departing to the airport. ▼



**March 29:** Near Damascus Gate, clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces leave one Palestinian injured with a bullet in the neck.

**March 30:** The Israeli Interior Min. reports that 411 ID cards were confiscated from Palestinian Jerusalemites between July 1999-March 2000; 121 because their holders had moved to the WBGS and 290 because their holders were found living abroad.

**March 31:** During the night, Israeli police shoot and kill Murad Azaru, 24, from Shu'fat RC, when the car he and his friend are driving approaches a makeshift roadblock between Anata and Shu'fat.

**April 3:** Settlers set fire to the home of Issam Abu Ta'a in Sheikh Jarrah causing extensive damage to furniture and property. The Abu Ta'a home has been repeatedly assaulted by settlers occupying a nearby house.

**April 5:** The WJM signs an expropriation order of 658 dunums of land from Issawiyya, At-Tur, Izzariyya, Abu Dis, and Ras Al-Amud, of which 543 dunums are earmarked for the Eastern Ring Road, 115 dunums for lateral roads that will connect to the ring road. ▼



**April 9:** Israeli PM Barak informs his cabinet of the decision to make the settlement blocs of Ma'ale Adumim, Pisgat Ze'ev, Gilo and Ramot part of 'united Jerusalem' in the future and says he has "no interest" in annexing the Palestinian areas around the city, hinting that Arab villages such as Abu Dis and Anata will ultimately be transferred to the PA.

**April 10:** 60 mayors from around the world convene for the annual Conference of Mayors in West Jerusalem. Stores in the Old City close their doors in protest against the conference's recognition of Israeli sovereignty over occupied East Jerusalem.

**April 11:** The PA makes an official complaint to Israel regarding the WJM plan to confiscate 658 dunums of Palestinian-owned land from Issawiyya, At-Tur, Abu Dis, Ras Al-Amud and Sur Baher.

**April 12:** Expansion work on Har Homa (Jabal Abu Ghneim) settlement resumes. ▶

- Israeli bulldozers begin to destroy land of Walaja village owned by the As-Saifi family planning to construct 200



housing units for Har Gilo settlement there.

- On the eve of his visit to the US, PM Barak again hints that the Ma'ale Adumim, Pisgat Ze'ev, Ramot, and Gilo settlements will be annexed by Israel, and that Abu Dis and other nearby villages will be transferred to the PA.