



## Residency Rights / ID Card Confiscation

Israeli demographic strategies vis-à-vis Palestinian Jerusalemites - such as restrictive residency and housing policies - aim at both separating them from the Palestinians in the West Bank and driving them out of the city in order to secure a long-term Jewish majority. Until this day, any Palestinian who is not classified by the Israeli government as a permanent resident of East Jerusalem - incl. spouses, children and other relatives of East Jerusalem permanent residents - must apply for family reunification to reside legally there. The decision to grant or deny these applications is, according to Israeli Law, ultimately at the discretion of the Interior Minister, who is not required to justify refusal.

Israel applies a number of discriminatory methods to control the number of Palestinians who legally reside in the city. The confiscation of ID cards under bureaucratic pretexts is one of these. Instrumental in this are the 1952 Law of Entry to Israel and the 1974 Entry to Israel Regulations, both of which regulate residence in Israel. The following restrictive provisions do not apply to Jewish permanent residents or Israeli citizens but only to Palestinian Jerusalemites. Those who:

- wish to **travel abroad** must obtain an Israeli re-entry visa; otherwise, they lose their right of return;
- hold or apply for residency/citizenship elsewhere lose their residency right in Jerusalem; this policy relates to a 'regulation' the Israeli government introduced in 1994, according to which Palestinian Jerusalemites must prove that their '**center of life**' is within the municipal boundaries;
- **live abroad** for more than seven years lose their residency rights; in 1996, the Israeli government decided that any Jerusalemite who lives in the 'territory' (West Bank) more than seven years, would also cease to be an Israeli resident (of those 411 ID cards confiscated in 1999, for example, 290 were revoked because the holder had moved abroad and 121 because he had moved to the WBGs);

- marry **non-resident spouses** (from the WBGs or abroad) must apply for family reunification in order to live legally with their spouses in Jerusalem. Most of these applications are turned down, with no need for justification.
- want to register their **children** as Jerusalem residents can do so only if the father holds a valid Jerusalem ID card; as a consequence, there are countless cases of 'unregistered' children of couples living 'illegally' in Jerusalem - who are denied access to the city's educational and health services - and of Jerusalemite women who are forced to leave the city.

Due to the fear of having their ID cards revoked, Palestinian Jerusalemites avoid approaching the Ministry of Interior, except in real emergency situations, although the number of East Jerusalem Palestinians that have their residency rights revoked is decreasing. The Israeli policy of 'quiet deportation' in East Jerusalem - through court judgments, legal and administrative tactics - has resulted in the **revocation of 6,444 ID cards** from Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem since 1967 (as of April 2001); this number does not include the dependent children of those who lost their ID cards (see graph below).

In 2000, the Israeli Interior Min. **restored** residency rights to 818 Palestinians compared to 183 in 1999.



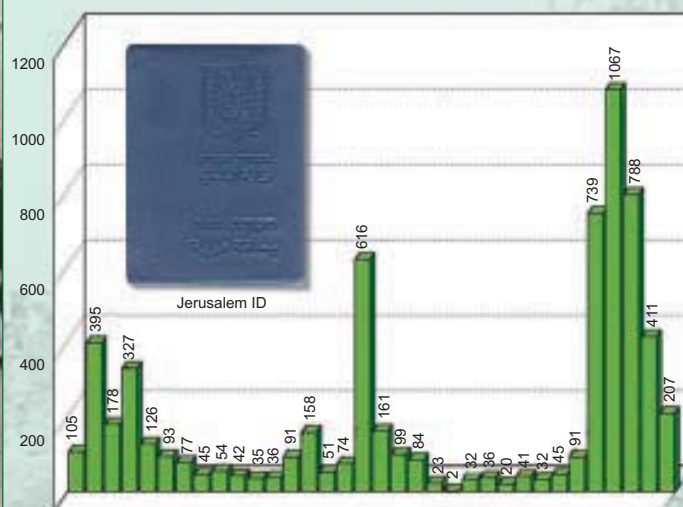
**Anwar Al-Khatib**

Mayor of Jerusalem, 1948-1950

Appointed mayor of the eastern part of Jerusalem by Jordanian Military Governor Abdullah Tal. Remained in office until his resignation in 1950.



**ID Cards Confiscated from Palestinian Jerusalemites, 1967-2000**



(Sources: BADIL Resource Center, Bethlehem; B'Tselem, Jerusalem, based on figures released by the Israeli Min. of Interior; for 2000: *Ha'aretz*, 1 April 2001).



Jaffa Gate