



**Aref Al-Aref**

Mayor of Jerusalem, 1950-1951

Appointed mayor by the Jordanians in 1950. On 31 July 1951, the first Jordanian municipal elections were held in Arab Jerusalem, resulting in a 12-member council, which appointed Aref Al-Aref as its head. He was replaced after six weeks by Hanna Atallah who stayed in office for three months before Omar Wa'ari was appointed mayor.

## Housing & House Demolition

In June 1967, Israel unilaterally expanded the boundaries of Jerusalem by annexing some 70 km<sup>2</sup> to within the municipal boundaries of West Jerusalem. Some 24 km<sup>2</sup> of the area were expropriated primarily to build new Jewish neighborhoods for which master plans were developed (covering 17.5 km<sup>2</sup>), while for the remaining 45 km<sup>2</sup> no such plans exist. Only 5 km<sup>2</sup> of the area for which master plans exist are allocated for Palestinian housing needs (about 8% of the total area of East Jerusalem; of these, only approx. 7.3% is available for residential and only some 0.6% for commercial and industrial construction. (IrShalem. *East Jerusalem - The Current Planning Situation. A Survey of Municipal Plans and Planning Policy*, 1998.)



### Facts & Figures

■ Despite Israeli restrictive policies, the number of Palestinian dwellings in the city has increased considerably in recent years (with some estimates speaking of over 7,000 new dwellings in the past five years), though almost all of this construction was 'unlicensed' as Palestinians are routinely denied the required **building permits**. On average, the WJM issues one building permit for every additional 6.3 West Jerusalemites and only one for every 42.6 additional Palestinian East Jerusalem residents. (Peace Now, May 1997). Housing densities are accordingly unequal, as the following table shows:

	Jews	Palestinians	Total
<b>Average persons per household</b>	3.4	5.5	3.8
Households with 6+ persons	16%	44.8%	23.1%
<b>Average persons per room</b>	1.0	1.8	
Households with 3+ persons/room	1.6%	17.9%	

(Source: Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem, 2000)

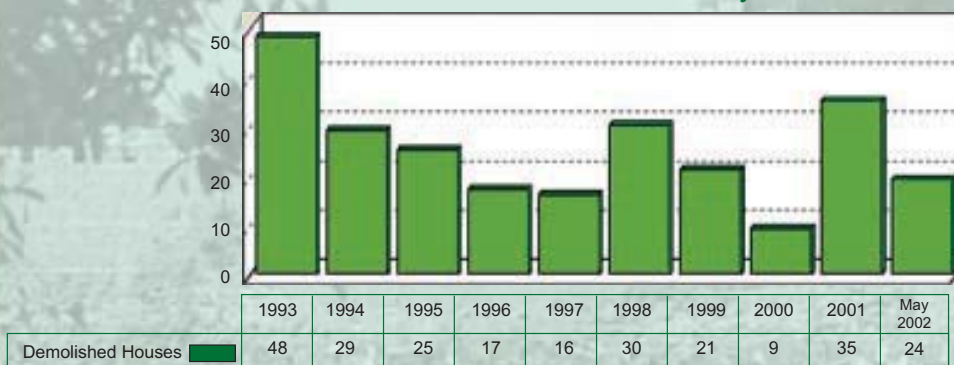
■ Unlicensed - and thus 'illegal' - construction provides the WJM with a pretext to **demolish** Palestinian homes (over 2000 since 1967). (B'Tselem.) As a result of these discriminatory policies, thousands of Palestinian Jerusalemites live under severely overcrowded conditions or even in caves, tents or under similarly inadequate conditions. (Illegally built houses in West Jerusalem are never destroyed, although up to 70% of the building violations in the city occur there).

■ Currently 2000 demolition orders are in effect - a number four times higher than that of building permits granted since 1967 (Meir Margalit, "A Chronicle of Municipal Discrimination in Jerusalem," *Palestine-Israel Journal*, Vol. VIII, No. 1, 2001).

■ Another Israeli strategy to restrict Palestinian construction in East Jerusalem is the WJM's **Town Planning Scheme (TPS)**: without an approved TPS that complies to the infrastructural, zoning, and housing requirements of the municipality's planning goals, no building permits will be issued. TPSs are comprehensive, costly and require extensive coordination with the municipal authorities; their stipulations make it nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain the green light for development and housing plans. TPS approval for Palestinians is furthermore excessively delayed: for example, a plan for Shu'fat was approved only after 13 years.



### Palestinian Homes Demolished by Israel



(Sources: B'Tselem, LAW)



Herod's Gate