



Omar Wa'ari

Mayor of Jerusalem, 1952-1955

Appointed mayor by the Jordanians in March 1952 until 1955 when the municipal law was amended, appointing two additional members to the council and reappointing Aref Al-Aref as mayor for a few months.

■ Municipal Committee 1955-1957



Damascus Gate

## The Old City

Founded around 4000 BC, the Old City is divided into four quarters: Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Armenian. The present walls surrounding the Old City were built by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman Al-Qanouni in 1542. The walls stretch over 19.3 km and an average height of 12 m. Of its 11 gates, the following seven are presently open: Damascus Gate, Herod's Gate, Jaffa Gate, Zion Gate, Al-Magharbeh Gate, Lions' Gate/St. Stephen's Gate, and New Gate. The Old City houses 25 mosques, 65 churches and 19 synagogues.

Quarter	Population	Area in dunums	Persons per dunum	No. of dwellings	Persons per dwelling
Muslim	23,232	461 <sup>1</sup>	50,3	3,375	6.9
Christian	5,086	192	26.5	1,186	4.3
Armenian	2,346	126	18.6	596	3.9
Jewish	2,288 <sup>2</sup>	122	18.8	542	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,952</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>5,699</b>	<b>5.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Incl. the 135 dunums of Al-Haram Ash-Sharif compound. If this area is not counted, the population density in the Muslim Quarter rises to over 70.

<sup>2</sup> Excl.. over 1,700 settlers occupying houses in the Muslim Quarter.

(Source: (Israeli) Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem, 2000.)



### ■ Settlers in and around the Old City

The Old City, the adjacent village of Silwan, and, more recently the neighborhoods of Ras Al-Amud and Sheikh Jarrah are exposed to extremist Jewish settler groups, such as Ateret Cohanim, Elad, Amana, and Hay VeKayam, which enjoy wide public support in their effort to take over as much Palestinian property as possible (marked as stars on map). The most recent case occurred in Sheikh Jarrah on 23 April 2002, when Palestinian families were forcibly evicted from two building complexes, in an area where settlers envision a new Jewish neighborhood.

The presence of the settlers, who often threaten and attack the Palestinian inhabitants and damage their properties, as well as the settlers' ongoing attempts to enter Al-Aqsa Mosque, are sources of constant tension and frequently lead to clashes in the Old City. The public cost of providing security for the settlers in East Jerusalem (Silwan, Ras Al-Amud and the Muslim Quarter) is high: Israel's 2001 budget earmarked \$5.1 million from the Construction & Housing Min. for settler security. (Peace Now, 7 Nov. 2000)

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