



East Jerusalem 2015: Facts and Figures

Updated: 12 May 2015

- **Number of residents:** There are 300,200 Palestinian residents in Jerusalem, who constitute 36.8% of the city's population.
- **Separation Barrier:** More than ¼ of residents reside in Jerusalem neighborhoods that are disconnected from the rest of the city due to the construction of a separation barrier. These residents suffer from a severe lack of basic services and infrastructure.
- **Residency status:** Palestinians in Jerusalem are not citizens, but rather permanent residents; in 2014, the residency status of 107 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem was revoked.
- **Living below the poverty line:** 75.4% of all Palestinian residents, 83.9% of Palestinian children.
- **Welfare services:** 37% of those receiving welfare services in Jerusalem are Palestinians, but only 22% of the social workers serve them.
- **Schools:** Only 41% of Palestinian children are enrolled in municipal schools. There is a shortage of 1,000 classrooms in the official municipal education system; 194 classrooms were added in these schools between the years 2009-2014, and an additional 211 are in planning.
- **Inadequate classrooms:** 43% of the classrooms in the official municipal system are defined as inadequate classrooms.
- **School dropout rate:** 26% in 11th grade, 33% in 12th grade; the national average stands at a few percent.
- **Planning and building:** Approximately 20,000 houses lack a building permit; a large outline plan was recently approved for the neighborhood of Arab al-Sawahra.
- **House demolitions:** In 2014, 98 structures were demolished and 208 residents have been uprooted from their homes; Israel has also renewed its policy of punitive demolitions for the houses of terrorists.

- **Water:** Only 64% of households are officially connected to the water infrastructure of Hagihon Corporation – Jerusalem’s water and wastewater company.
- **Sewage:** There is a shortage of approximately 30 kilometers of sewage pipes; throughout 2015, Hagihon plans to lay an additional 8.2 kilometers.
- **Street names:** Since 2011, names were given to hundreds of streets that had stood nameless for decades, but the streets of entire neighborhoods still remain unnamed.
- **Postal services:** Only 7% of the postal workers operating in Jerusalem provide services to the Palestinian neighborhoods; there are 8 post offices in Palestinian neighborhoods, compared with 40 in Israeli neighborhoods; during peak hours at the central post office on Salah a-Din St., the waiting time often stands at more than two hours.
- **Infant healthcare stations:** In the Palestinian neighborhoods, there are only 6 “Tipat Halav” (infant healthcare) stations operated by the Ministry of Health, and a seventh station in Kafr Aqab that is operated by a private contractor. In the Israeli neighborhoods, the Ministry of Health operates 26 Tipat Halav stations, 3 of which are designated also for the Palestinian population.

[Infographic – East Jerusalem: Facts and Figures 2015](#) (Also at the end of this report)

Conditional Residency

- There are 300,200 Palestinian residents in Jerusalem, who constitute 36.8% of the city's population.
- Nearly all of the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem are not Israeli citizens, but rather possess permanent residency status.
- In 2014, the Israeli Ministry of Interior has revoked the permanent residency status of 107 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, including 56 women and 12 minors.
- Since 1967, the residency status of 14,416 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem have been revoked. In practice, this prevents them from returning to live in their place of birth.

In June 1967, the government of Israel decided to annex territories in and around Jerusalem, which were occupied in the Six Day War, by applying Israeli law to this territory and its residents.

This annexation was executed in contravention of international law, which prohibits countries from unilaterally annexing territories. The international community does not acknowledge the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem, and sees the area as an occupied territory.

Following the annexation, the Palestinians in East Jerusalem received the status of permanent residents of Israel. Due to this status, they cannot vote or seek election to the Knesset. They can vote or seek election to the Jerusalem municipality, but they repeatedly boycott the municipal elections, as they refuse to bestow legitimacy upon the annexation of East Jerusalem.

For 48 years, the Israeli policy concerning East Jerusalem, on both the municipal and national levels, has been determined without the involvement or political influence of the Palestinian population on the major decisions that shape its daily lives. The result is policies that are harmful to the residents, as well as a prolonged and severe violation of their fundamental rights.

Unlike citizenship, the status of permanent residency is not fixed. The Palestinians are required to prove time and time again to the Ministry of Interior clerks that they did not leave Jerusalem for an extended period of time and that the center of their lives is in Israel. This, in order to prevent the revocation of their status and the abrogation of different rights that stem from this status.

Without this status, the residents are barred from returning to live in their place of birth. In 2014, the permanent residency status of 107 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem were revoked; in 2013, the status of 106 Palestinians were revoked.

In addition to the permanent residents, Palestinian residents of the Occupied Territories, who are married to residents of East Jerusalem, also live in Jerusalem, as well as children with one parent who is a resident of the territories. For more than a decade, these families have encountered hardships and complex difficulties resulting from the lack of regulation of their status, due to amendments introduced to the Law of Citizenship and Entry into Israel since 2003. These amendments, that were designed to freeze family unification processes in Israel and to prevent residents of the Occupied Territories from obtaining residency, lead to a severe violation of numerous basic rights.

Poverty and Welfare

- In 2013, 75.4% of all East Jerusalem residents and 83.9% of children were living below the poverty line.
- By contrast, in the same year 21.8% of all residents of Israel and 30.8% of the children were living below the poverty line.
- 8,501 children in East Jerusalem are defined as children at risk.
- 37% of those receiving welfare services in Jerusalem are Palestinians, but only 22% of the positions of social workers are designated for the Palestinian population.
- In the framework of the five-year government plan for East Jerusalem, an addition of 30 positions was promised, but the resources for that have not been allocated yet.
- The workforce participation rate among Palestinian residents of Jerusalem stands at 67% for men and 14% for women aged 15 or more.

The poverty rate in East Jerusalem has reached alarming dimensions. This is a result of the severe neglect by authorities and is framed against the backdrop of the continuous political conflict.

For almost five decades, the Israeli authorities – including the Jerusalem municipality – refrained from investing adequate budgets in the Palestinian neighborhoods and even imposed restrictions on the development of East Jerusalem as an urban unit serving the Palestinian public. The outcome is a labor market that does not match the size of the population, very limited areas for industry and a weakened education system. The language and culture gaps between the eastern and western areas of the city and the political tensions between Arabs and Jews further restrict the occupational horizon of the Palestinian residents.

In recent years, the poverty levels in East Jerusalem have become further exacerbated. In 2006, 64% of Palestinians in Jerusalem lived below the poverty line, whereas by 2013 the rate rose to 75.4%.

A key reason for this exacerbation is the construction of the Separation Barrier, which severed Jerusalem from the West Bank, separated neighborhoods and suburbs that had previously

been connected and interdependent and even cut off several Jerusalem neighborhoods from other parts of the city. The severing of economic, commercial, religious, familial and touristic ties has worsened the socioeconomic situation and also hindered access to education, health services, religious institutions and more.

In 2012, the workforce participation rate among Palestinian residents of Jerusalem stood at 67% for men and 14% for women aged 15 or more. By contrast, the average rate in Israel was 69% for men and 58% for women.

Despite the acute poverty rates in East Jerusalem, and despite the additional deterioration that was registered over the last decade, the welfare services available to this population continues to suffer from a severe and continuous shortage of positions and budgets.

Since 2009, there was a welcome increase of 27% in the number of positions of municipal social workers in East Jerusalem. Although this addition is significant, it is far from adequate in meeting the actual needs of the residents of the city.

Out of 388 positions for social workers in Jerusalem, only 88 positions – which constitute 22% of available positions – are designated for the Palestinian population. This, despite the fact that 37% of the city's residents receiving welfare services are Palestinians – 33,968 clients out of a total of 92,114.

In light of the immense poverty rates, it is surprising that only 11.3% of the residents of East Jerusalem are treated by the welfare services. A similar rate of Jewish residents are treated by the municipal welfare services, even though the poverty rate among the Jewish population is significantly lower than that of the Arab population.

While in West Jerusalem there are 627 families waiting to begin receiving care, in East Jerusalem there are 834 families on the waiting list; this, despite the fact that the Palestinian population constitutes one-third of the city's residents. It is likely that many Palestinian families in need of assistance are not being treated by the welfare service or are even on the waiting list.

While there are 22 welfare offices in Jewish Israeli neighborhoods, there are only 5 operating in the Palestinian neighborhoods. The Jerusalem municipality plans to establish a new neighborhood office in Ras al-Amud and another office in Beit Hanina.

In light of the severe shortage of welfare services in East Jerusalem, the burden imposed on the social workers is tremendous: a social worker in East Jerusalem is responsible for 121 families on average, whereas a social worker in the city's west is responsible for 82 families on average.

The social workers in the city's East chafe under the overwhelming burden and fail to provide a sufficient level of care to the large number of residents in need of assistance, among them 8,501 children who are defined as children at risk.

In the framework of the government's five-year plan for East Jerusalem, an addition of 30 positions was promised, but the additional resources are yet to be allocated.

Education

- Out of 105,405 Palestinian students in Jerusalem:
 - Only 41% are enrolled in official municipal schools;
 - 41% are enrolled in schools with a recognized but unofficial status;
 - and 17% are enrolled in private schools.
- 43% of the classrooms in municipal schools are in an inadequate condition.
- Between the years 2009-2014, 194 classrooms were built in municipal schools, and an additional 211 are in various stages of planning.
- The school dropout rate is 26% in 11th grade and 33% in 12th grade.

The severe shortage of classrooms continues to loom over the education system in East Jerusalem this year as well.

Palestinian students constitute 40% of all students in Jerusalem. Due to the tremendous shortage of classrooms in the official municipal education system in East Jerusalem, only 41% of Palestinian students are enrolled in the official system. The numbers are even lower in the secondary education system: While 22,550 Palestinian children attend official elementary schools, only 15,824 continue to official high schools, due to the sharp decline in the number of classrooms – from 832 classrooms in elementary school to 723 in high school.

A significant portion of existing classrooms in the official education system in East Jerusalem are inadequate: In the current school year, 711 inadequate school classrooms and 109 inadequate kindergarten classrooms are in use in East Jerusalem. These classrooms constitute 43% of the total number of classrooms in the official education system in East Jerusalem.

In 2008, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) filed a petition to the High Court of Justice concerning the education system in East Jerusalem. In their ruling, dated February 2011, the Justices determined that the Ministry of Education and Municipality of Jerusalem must act within five years (by 2016) to address the shortage of classrooms in the official education system in East Jerusalem, a shortage that was estimated at a minimum of 1,000 classrooms.

Despite the severe shortage, and even despite the High Court ruling, 194 new classrooms were built in the official schools and kindergartens between 2009-2014. In addition, during this period 157 classrooms were rented; approximately half of those, 78 classrooms, were rented

in 2014. In the coming years, the construction of 211 additional school and kindergarten classrooms are planned.

Constructing new classrooms in these numbers will not address the need to increase the number of classrooms in the official education system and to shut down inadequate classrooms.

The school dropout rate among Palestinian students in Jerusalem is much higher than the average rate in Israel, and it is also high compared to the rate in the West Bank. In 9th grade, the dropout rate is 9%; in 10th grade it is 16%; in 11th grade 26%; and in 12th grade 33%.

By contrast, in the Arab education system in Israel the dropout rate stands at 4.6% in 11th grade, and 1.6% in 12th grade. In the Hebrew education system in Israel (state, state-religious and ultra-Orthodox), the dropout rate stands 5.4% in 11th grade, and 1.4% in 12th grade.

The municipal budget for the prevention of school dropout in East Jerusalem is NIS 3 million in 2015. This is a significant addition, but according to the estimates of the Jerusalem Education Administration (MANHI), NIS 15 million is required in order to comprehensively address the issue of school dropout among Palestinian students.

Planning, Building and Demolitions

- Approximately 20,000 houses, constituting 39% of all houses in East Jerusalem, lack a building permit.
- In 2014, 98 structures in East Jerusalem were demolished and 208 residents were uprooted from their homes.
- Between the years 2011-2014, 302 structures in East Jerusalem were demolished.
- The outline plan for the neighborhood of Araa a-Sawahra was recently approved, and it is expected to enable the construction of 2,500 new units.

The issue of planning and building is one of the most complicated and harmful problems faced by the residents of East Jerusalem.

The failure of the authorities to conduct adequate planning and development in East Jerusalem has led to a planning crisis, which is manifested in a housing shortage, threats of house demolitions, fines for construction without a permit, lack of adequate urban development and an extraordinary lack of infrastructure and public buildings such as schools, roads and transportation, water and sewage networks, parks and playgrounds.

In general, the outline plans that have been devised over the years for the Palestinian neighborhoods do not conform to the planning level that is considered acceptable in West Jerusalem. Construction percentages are low, the area designated for construction in the

plans is limited and vast areas are reserved as open landscapes, thereby preventing any construction within them.

In addition, since 1967 Israel has expropriated approximately 26,300 dunams in East Jerusalem for the purpose of building neighborhoods for the Jewish population and for government offices. In this manner, the land reserves that enable the natural growth of the Palestinian neighborhoods have been significantly reduced.

A review conducted by the organization Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights indicates that between the years 2005-2009, only some 55% of requests for building permits in the Palestinian neighborhoods were approved, compared with some 85% in the Israeli neighborhoods. In areas for which there is no outline plan, Palestinian residents do not even bother to submit a request for a building permit.

The planning failure has led to wide-scale building without permits, which is estimated at approximately 20,000 structures, constituting about 39% of all houses in the Palestinian neighborhoods.

With the constantly increasing population, the distress is further exacerbated, yet Israeli authorities have done very little to address it. A press release on behalf of the Municipality of Jerusalem, published in September 2014, paints a grim picture with severe ramifications:

“The Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem grew and developed over recent decades without any master plans or valid outline plans, by virtue of which the overall array of life in the neighborhood could be regulated (legal construction of housing, allocations for public needs, commerce and employment and an organized road system).”

In recent years, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat began acting, as he put it, “to generate fundamental change” with regard to this issue and to instruct the municipality’s professional staff to begin planning the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. Master plans for the neighborhoods of Beit Safafa, Sharafat, Sur Baher, Beit Hanina and Shuafat are currently being advanced by the municipality. As of May 2015, these plans have not yet been approved.

On the other hand, the plan for Arab a-Sawahra in the south-eastern part of the city managed, during 2014-2015, to receive the desired approval of both the local planning and building committee and the regional committee. This is the largest plan approved in East Jerusalem, which covers an area of 1,500 dunams and includes an option for building 2,200 housing units.

The approval of this plan is a first step in a long process. Residents will have to submit detailed plans later on, so many years are expected to pass before the first house is built in Arab a-Sawahra. Similarly, in the other neighborhoods where the municipality is promoting a planning arrangement, the residents will continue to suffer for many years from an inability to obtain building permits.

Building without a permit exposes the residents to the danger of demolition orders and even the loss of a roof over their heads, as well as to legal proceedings, heavy fines and more. In 2014, 98 structures in East Jerusalem were demolished and 208 residents have been uprooted from their homes. Between the years 2011-2014, 302 structures in East Jerusalem were demolished.

Due to the exorbitant costs imposed on families when the authorities arrive to demolish their houses, recent years have seen a rising phenomenon of residents who receive demolition orders and decide to demolish their houses themselves.

The circle of those afflicted by the policy of house demolitions has grown over the past year, due to the Israeli authorities' decision to renew the policy of demolishing and sealing the houses of terrorists in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. A principled legal petition against this policy, filed by human rights organizations, was rejected, as were the individual petitions filed on behalf of the families.

Other Palestinian families in Jerusalem face a danger of losing their homes due to the activity of Israeli organizations, which seek to "Judaize" East Jerusalem by establishing settlement areas in the heart of Palestinian neighborhoods, mostly in the Old City, Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah.

The Sub Laban family, for example, has been living since the 1950s in a house in the Muslim Quarter, which it received from the Jordanian administration. The family's house was previously owned by a Jewish organization, and therefore a settlers' organization is attempting, through legal proceedings, to bring about the forced eviction of the family.

The danger of eviction is also looming over the Shamasneh family from Sheikh Jarrah, another family of refugees who received their house from the Jordanian administration in the 1950s. In this manner, under the cover of the law and through the Israeli legal system, properties that were owned by Jews before 1948 are transferred to the hands of Israeli organizations, while Palestinians cannot get back the houses and properties they had owned before 1948.

Harmful Planning and Forced Evictions

In addition to the failure to promote adequate planning for Palestinian neighborhoods and appropriate development for East Jerusalem, the authorities are advancing several new projects in the Palestinian neighborhoods that are not at all intended for the benefit of the Palestinian population. Even worse, these projects sometimes in fact severely harm the population.

For example, in 2012 the Ministry of Transportation announced a five-year plan to develop the transportation and road infrastructures in East Jerusalem, at a cost of more than NIS 500 million.

The Minister of National Infrastructure emphasized that the plan will lead to a significant improvement in the quality of life for the residents of East Jerusalem. Yet, in Beit Safafa, road development did not benefit the residents and in practice led to a deterioration in their quality of life.

In early 2015, a section of Road 4 was opened to vehicles. It is a common practice to avoid constructing highways through residential areas, and only to construct it at the geographic margins of the neighborhood if no other options exist. In this case however, it was decided to lay a highway with at least six lanes through the heart of Beit Safafa.

The highway dissects Beit Safafa and its enclaves, passes close to residential homes, destroys and blocks off internal roads, and creates air and noise pollution. The residents do not have direct access to the new road that passes through their homes, and in order to use it they must first exit Beit Safafa. The residents' attempts to submit objections and petitions against the route of this road, and to present alternatives that would reduce its harm, have failed.

Another example from the past year is the plan to establish a regional landfill site (Plan No. 13900) adjacent to the neighborhoods of Ras Khamis, Ras Shehadeh and Dahiyat A-Salam in the northeast of the city, beyond the Separation Wall.

These are neighborhoods that have not been granted any outline plan, of any kind, since 1967. As a result, it is nearly impossible to issue building permits in them, there is an acute shortage of public buildings of any type, the road system is in poor condition, there is no official connection to water and sewage infrastructure and so on. The authorities' neglect of the residents of this area has been exacerbated over the last decade, following the construction of the Separation Wall.

Instead of promoting the planning of these neighborhoods for the benefit of their residents, the authorities are now promoting a massive-scale plan to establish a regional landfill site adjacent to them, covering an area of approximately 520 dunams.

According to the provisions of this plan, waste disposal will be carried out in this location every day from 6 AM to 10 PM for a period of some twenty years. About 168 trucks per day are expected to pass through the access road to the landfill, in some cases at a distance of only 0-5 meters from residential and commercial buildings. The environmental damage is expected to harm the residents of the nearby neighborhood of Issawiya as well.

In December 2014, a subcommittee of the Jerusalem Planning and Building Commission discussed the objections to this plan. As of May 2015, a decision has not yet been granted.

It is hard to believe that this project, or the plan to extend Road 4 through the heart of Beit Safafa, would have been implemented in Israeli neighborhoods.

Water and Sewage

- Only 64% of the households in East Jerusalem are officially connected to the water infrastructure.
- In the areas beyond the Separation Wall, the water supply per capita stands at 55% of the minimal level established by the World Health Organization.
- There is a shortage of approximately 30 kilometers of sewage pipes; according to plans, throughout 2015 an additional 8.2 kilometers of sewage pipes will be laid.

One of the difficult outcomes of the planning failure in East Jerusalem is that tens of thousands of residents, who are living in houses that were built without a permit and/or in neighborhoods that were inadequately planned, are forced to endure a haphazard and unofficial connection to water and sewage infrastructure. This is due to the fact that according to the law, a house that was built without a permit may not be connected to the water and sewage network.

Given the long-standing policy that makes it difficult for Palestinians to receive building permits, tens of thousands of residents are forced to install pirate connections, purchase water tanks and operate pumps. In entire neighborhoods, where the houses are not connected to the sewage network, the residents have to use cesspits in their yard. The problems with the water and wastewater infrastructure create an unhealthy environment and expose the residents, including sick people, infants and the elderly, to infections and disease.

Hagihon Corporation, Jerusalem's water and wastewater company, has made significant efforts over recent years to connect the neighborhoods to the sewage network. While in 2009 there was a shortage of approximately 70 kilometers of main sewage pipelines, in 2014 this shortage stood at approximately 30 kilometers. During 2015, an additional 8.23 kilometers are expected to be installed.

In addition, since 2011 Hagihon has extended the water network and installed some 15,000 water meters throughout East Jerusalem. The meters that were installed, called "monitoring meters," differ from the standard meters and were installed in houses that lack a building permit.

The most severe water problem is in the Jerusalem neighborhoods that are located beyond the Separation Wall. In the area of the Shuafat refugee camp and the Jerusalem neighborhoods surrounding it – Ras Khamis, Ras Shehadeh and Dahiyat A-Salam – there are approximately 80,000 residents, but only about 300 housing units are legally connected to the water network, which extends over approximately 3 kilometers only.

The water consumption in this area stands at a mere 20 cubic meters/ per capita/ per year, compared with the Israeli average of 70-100 cubic meters/ per capita/ per year. The World Health Organization has determined that the minimal consumption of water required to ensure an adequate level of health and hygiene is 36.5 cubic meters/ per capita/ per year.

In March 2014, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) filed a petition to the High Court of Justice on behalf of the area's residents, demanding that the water network in the area be extended to neighborhood residents.

In their response, the Water Authority and the Ministry of National Infrastructure stated that they refuse to install additional water pipes in the area and refuse to connect the houses to water meters. Hagihon Corporation demanded additional government funding in order to cover its expenses in the neighborhoods that are located beyond the Separation Wall. As of May 2015, the petition is still pending.

Arrests and Violence

- 1,184 Palestinians, including 406 minors, were arrested in East Jerusalem in the second half of 2014 for involvement in demonstrations and public disorder.
- So far, indictments have been submitted against 338 of those arrested.
- Five children from East Jerusalem, the youngest among them aged 6, were hit in the face by sponge bullets and lost vision in one eye. A 16-year-old boy died from a sponge bullet hit to his head.
- The Israel Police has provided the names of hundreds of suspects and their family members to the Jerusalem municipality and other authorities, in order to increase enforcement measures against them.

In the summer of 2014, the situation in East Jerusalem reached a boiling point following several years in which the tension and violence gradually escalated. Since that summer, violent clashes of various intensities have been taking place between the police and Palestinian youth.

The severe escalation, which began in July 2014 following the kidnapping and murder of 16-year-old Mohammed Abu Khdeir and against the backdrop of the fighting in Gaza, was dubbed "the Jerusalem Intifada." In addition to the bitter clashes between youth and police inside the Palestinian neighborhoods, this period also saw several deadly terrorist attacks against Israelis, and an increase in acts of racism and assaults against Arabs in West Jerusalem.

Arrests:

In the period of turmoil between July and December 2014, 1,184 Palestinians were arrested in East Jerusalem, about one-third of them under the age of 18 (a total of 406 minors), for offenses related to riots and disruption of public order (stone throwing, assaulting an officer, participating in riots and so on).

So far, indictments have been served against 338 of those arrested (28.5% of all arrestees), including 122 minors (30% of all minors arrested).

Almost all of the arrestees against whom indictments were served had been detained until the end of proceedings (314 of 338), including the minors (120 of 122). This figure represents the toughening of police and state prosecution policy concerning minors suspected in stone-throwing offenses.

Police personnel have had to deal with dangerous and complicated situations in East Jerusalem. Unfortunately, their response has too often been characterized by excessive use of force and violence.

Over the summer, ACRI received testimonies of severe physical violence by the police, aimed against those participating in riots as well as against uninvolved Palestinian residents. The violence used was at times so severe that residents required medical treatment and even prolonged hospitalization. In July 2014, the media published a video showing Border Police officers severely and brutally beating the teenager Tariq Abu Khdeir while he was lying handcuffed on the ground.

Palestinian teenagers who were arrested reported physical violence used against them by police officers on the way to interrogation and during the interrogation, as well as threats and intimidation; unnecessary handcuffing and blindfolding for long hours; interrogations without parental presence, in contravention of the law; and various forms of abuse, such as denying food and water and prohibiting toilet breaks.

In addition, several incidents were reported in which the police detained minors under the age of 12, which is the age of criminal responsibility.

For years, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) has been warning against the systematic violation of the Youth Law by police during the arrest and interrogation of Palestinian minors in Jerusalem. The main purpose of the Youth Law is to enable the successful rehabilitation of minors who get into trouble with the law. When the protections provided by the Youth Law are violated, the chances of rehabilitation dwindle - all the more so when the minors suffer physical and verbal violence.

It is the role of the police to handle violent and dangerous situations, and it is their duty to address these situations while ensuring legal conduct and a rational and proportionate use of the great power afforded to police officers. In East Jerusalem, the police repeatedly fails to do so.

Sponge Bullets:

Sponge bullets are used by the police to disperse demonstrations and riots. The blue sponge bullets are made from sponge material, whereas the black ones are made from synthetic rubber and are much harder and heavier.

Up until the events of the summer the police had only used the blue bullets, but ever since then, the use of the black bullets has expanded.

Although the sponge bullets are intended, according to the directive, “for the purpose of a blunt blow and temporary neutralization” of rioters, since the black bullets were introduced, extremely severe injuries were caused to residents of East Jerusalem and in September even led to the death of 16-year-old Muhammad Sanuqrut, who was shot in the head in the neighborhood of Wadi Joz.

At least five children from East Jerusalem, the youngest among them aged 6, were hit in the face by a sponge bullet and lost vision in one of their eyes. A 30-year-old man, who was blind in one eye since childhood, lost his healthy eye after being hit by a sponge-tipped bullet and became completely blind. In other incidents, the firing of sponge bullets caused arm fractures, jaw fractures and a spleen tear. At least three journalists covering the events, who were wearing vests identifying them as media workers, were hit by sponge bullets in the head, face and shoulder.

Testimonies indicate that in a various instances, police officers fired sponge bullets in absolute contravention of the directives prohibiting aiming at the upper body or aiming at children.

ACRI appealed to the Police Commissioner and the Attorney General, demanding an immediate end to the use of the black sponge bullets until further review of the reasonableness of their use as a riot-control weapon, in light of the severe injuries caused to residents of East Jerusalem.

Furthermore, following ACRI’s request to obtain a copy of the directive regulating the use of black sponge bullets, the police sent a new directive, which was only drafted in January 2015 – approximately six months after the use of these bullets had begun.

Police Harm to the Entire Population

“Skunk” Spraying:

Another innovation that was introduced during the summer of 2014 was the frequent use of Skunk-spraying vehicles by police. The Skunk is an extremely foul-smelling chemical liquid, intended to disperse riots.

Police use of the Skunk in East Jerusalem included many incidents of excessive and unreasonable use in the heart of crowded neighborhoods. Even when the Skunk is aimed at riot participants, it sticks to houses, cars and asphalt and leaves a fetid scent from which all of the neighborhood's residents continue to suffer for many days.

In various incidents, the police sprayed the foul-smelling liquid into houses, restaurants and businesses, and its putrid scent caused nausea and headaches, as well as damage to property. Some residents chose to leave their houses for a few days, until the foul smell was evaporated.

Testimonies indicate that in some cases, the use of the Skunk was executed without apparent justification, in an arbitrary manner and without any riots taking place at the time.

Blocking Neighborhoods:

Another measure that has caused severe obstructions to the daily lives of Palestinian residents is the policy of blocking main roads in response to riots. During October and November 2014, the main entrances to three neighborhoods in which there had been clashes with police were blocked, and some 50,000 residents were forced to use side roads, which became extremely congested. In April 2015, following clashes with police forces in the neighborhood of A-Tur, the police used cement blocks to close a street that is used to access schools, houses and a medical clinic.

The blocking of traffic routes has caused severe hardships and suffering to many residents and undermined their daily routine, including traveling to work or school (both for students and teachers), the arrival of emergency vehicles to the neighborhood and more. Considering the harsh and sweeping violation of the rights of the residents, the purpose of blockages as a measure for preventing riots is unclear, as these blockages disrupt the freedom of movement of those traveling in vehicles – but allows free movement to pedestrians.

“Blacklists” and Increased Enforcement:

Since the events of the summer commenced, the municipality and other authorities have conducted increased enforcement operations in East Jerusalem, raising a suspicion that their goal is to restore order by harassing the entire population. During a council meeting at the Jerusalem municipality, which took place on 25 November 2014, the Jerusalem District Police Commander, Major-General Moshe Edri, presented the increased enforcement as part of a set of “pressure levers” designed to handle the riots.

In the framework of this operation, enforcement measures were intensively employed by various municipal divisions, as well as by the Hagihon water company, and national authorities such as the Tax Authority and the National Insurance Institute. During the

increased enforcement operation, municipal inspectors issued fines for a variety of municipal offenses, including negligible offenses such as littering the street with sunflower seeds.

In March 2015, the Haaretz newspaper revealed that the police and General Security Service (Shabak) transferred to the Jerusalem municipality and other authorities a list containing hundreds of names of Palestinians from East Jerusalem, who were suspected of involvement in riots, as well as the names of their family members. This was done in order to employ various enforcement measures against them, such as house demolition orders and business closures. The responses provided by the police and municipality in the article indicated that they did not deny the claims and did not even see anything wrong in their conduct.

The use of municipal enforcement measures in the manner described in the article constitutes clear and intentional selective enforcement and is an abuse of the municipality's enforcement powers.

This further constitutes collective punishment against entire families, who suffer from discriminatory enforcement used against them for the sole reason that a family member is suspected of committing a criminal offense.

In an urgent appeal by the Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) to the Attorney General, ACRI warned that the very fact of providing the list of names by the police constitutes an unlawful violation of the right to privacy. Cooperation between authorities can be positive, yet in this case the police had no authority to transfer a list of suspects to other authorities in order to employ irrelevant enforcement measures against these suspects.

What's Next?

For nearly five decades, the residents of East Jerusalem have been living in a reality constituting a continuous anomaly. Each and every aspect of their lives is influenced by the fact that they are residents who are not citizens, who live in a territory that was occupied and then annexed to the country with which they are engaged in a long-standing conflict. This unique reality, which is difficult for outsiders to comprehend, renders the Palestinians in Jerusalem powerless and exposed to severe and continuous violations of their rights.

This anomaly can be fully resolved only through a consensual political arrangement. Until that day, and as long as Israel continues to uphold the position that East Jerusalem is part of its sovereign territory, all Israeli authorities must take full responsibility and implement a policy that safeguards the human rights of the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem.

In order to compensate for decades of neglect and provide the residents with adequate infrastructure and services, the Municipality of Jerusalem must invest large budgets in East Jerusalem, promote planning that considers the needs of the residents as individuals and as a community and include the Palestinian public in these processes.

In recent years, the municipality, headed by Nir Barkat, has been announcing that it is seeking to close the gaps created in East Jerusalem over many decades. And indeed, in the

last few years new budgets were allocated for the benefit of the Palestinian population in different areas, including education, community services, roads and transportation.

However, the state of the Palestinian neighborhoods, and particularly the state of the neighborhoods beyond the separation barrier, indicates that the necessary budget investment and efforts have not yet been properly directed. According to a budget analysis conducted by the organization Ir Amim, the relative percentage invested by the municipality in East Jerusalem, in all its divisions, stood at 10-13% of the overall budget for 2013.

In 2015, NIS 770 million was added to the municipal budget, and Mayor Nir Barkat announced that there is no Jerusalem resident who will not feel a significant improvement in the quality of life. In light of the tremendous gaps in quality of life between the Palestinian and Israeli neighborhoods, and considering the flagrant extent of poverty among the Palestinian population, the municipality, as well as the government, is required to designate much more significant budgets to East Jerusalem.

In June 2014, the government approved, for the first time in its history, a five-year plan for East Jerusalem with an overall budget of approximately NIS 300 million. The explanatory notes to the plan stated that it is intended to address the security situation in Jerusalem and to promote socioeconomic development in the Palestinian neighborhoods, under the understanding that there is “a strong connection between the extent and level of violence among residents from East Jerusalem and the quality of life in the neighborhoods of the city’s east.”

Hence, it was decided that one-third of the total budget, NIS 94.5 million, will be invested in security, and two-thirds of the budget, NIS 200 million, will be directed at infrastructure improvement, education, welfare and employment.

An investment in the sum of NIS 200 million is far from filling the tremendous gap, but it is certainly the largest sum that the Israeli government has ever committed to invest in East Jerusalem over a period of several years.

The promised addition could lead to significant improvements if it is properly invested in real and urgent needs. However, already at the time of the plan’s approval, it was clear that some of its sections were formulated not on the basis of actual needs, but rather in order to address the Israeli interest to bolster Israel’s sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

In the area of education, for example, out of an investment of NIS 47 million, 38% will be allocated to increasing the number of those studying the Israeli matriculation system (Bagrut), when in reality only a few percent of Palestinian high school students in Jerusalem even take the Israeli matriculation exams.

Furthermore, according to the five-year plan, NIS 3 million will be invested in enhancing Hebrew studies in the schools. For the purpose of comparison, NIS 5.4 million will be invested in programs to prevent school dropout, despite the fact that according to the calculations of

the municipality's education administration, at least NIS 15 million are required in order to address the unusual extent of school dropout in East Jerusalem.

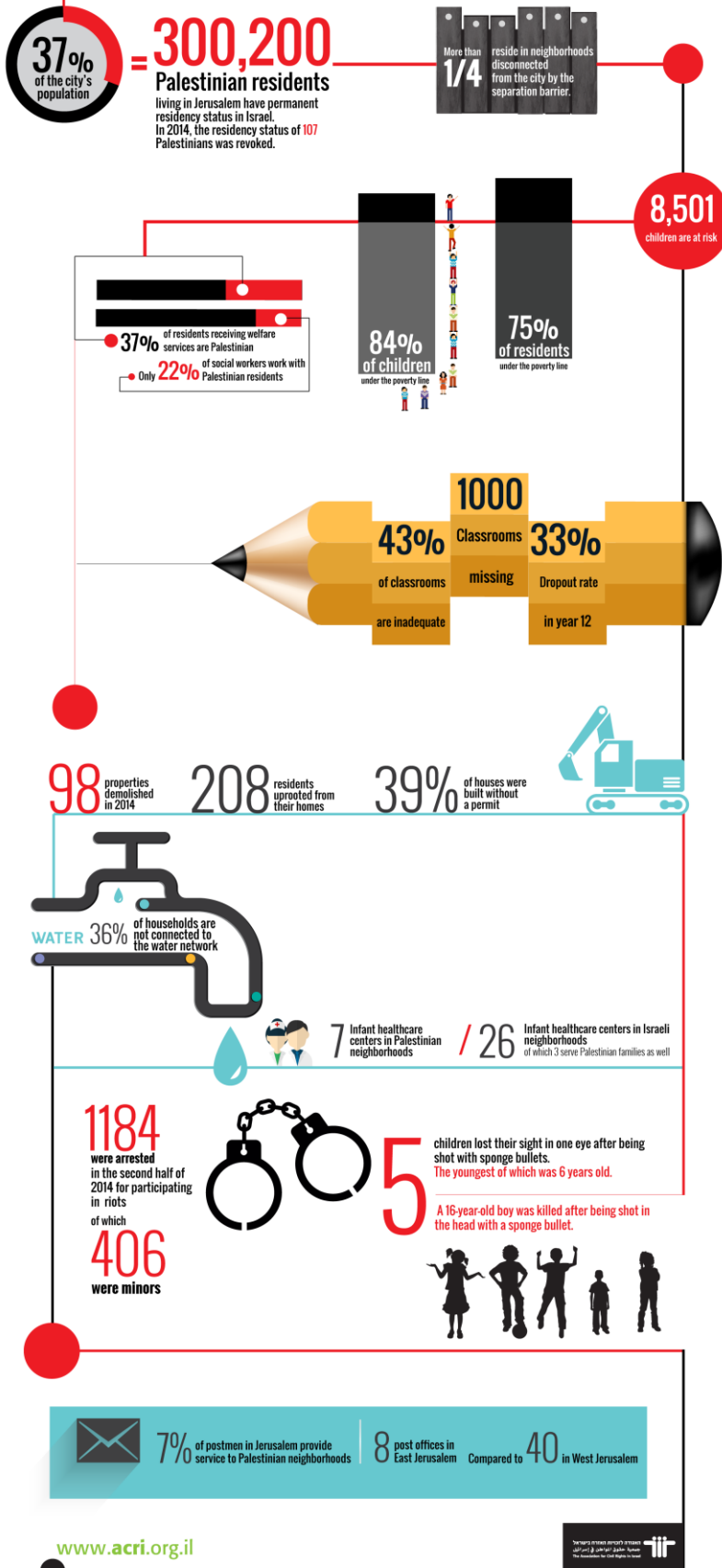
Parallel to the improvement that is required in the areas of infrastructure and services, a fundamental change must take place with regard to the conduct of police and security forces in East Jerusalem. The need for this change is urgent, as police violence endangers the lives of the residents. The ramifications for minors and other vulnerable populations are even more severe.

By virtue of the role of the police to maintain order and security, it was entrusted with the means to use force against those disrupting law and order. It is the duty of every police officer to ensure that the means taken by him or her will not exceed the extent necessary for achieving the end of maintaining public order, nor deviate from the safety guidelines that are required in order to prevent unnecessary risk. The Jerusalem Police must find a way to reduce the circle of those afflicted instead of expanding it and to enable the continuation of daily life.

In order for real and meaningful changes to transpire, a fundamental change of attitude must take place among Israeli authorities. They need to see the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem as human beings whose dignity must be maintained, whose lives must be protected and whose human rights must be promoted, even as the conflict continues to bleed on the streets of Jerusalem.

East Jerusalem 2015

Facts and Figures



Annex 1 – Bibliography and Referencing

This document has been translated to English from the original Hebrew text. The original Hebrew version contains more than 100 footnotes that provide detailed explanations pertaining to the calculation of the facts and figures in this document and provides readers with links to the relevant authorities.

This translated version does not contain the full list of footnotes. Instead, you can find below a list of the main sources that were relied upon, divided into subject matters.

To read the original Hebrew version with a comprehensive list of footnotes, [click here](#).

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