



Press Release

By the Arab Ministerial Committee tasked with international action to confront illegal Israeli policies and measures in the Occupied City of Jerusalem

General Secretariat: September 10, 2024

The Arab Ministerial Committee tasked with leading international efforts to confront the illegal Israeli policies and measures in the occupied city of Jerusalem, chaired by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and comprising the Kingdom of Bahrain (in its capacity as the current presidency of the Arab Summit), the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (as the Arab member of the Security Council), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, convened on September 10, 2024, at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on the sidelines of the 162nd Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Ministerial Level.

His Excellency Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, delivered a comprehensive presentation on Israel's continued violations and transgressions in Jerusalem, particularly targeting its Islamic and Christian sanctities. He detailed the Committee's efforts since its seventh meeting and highlighted the various diplomatic contacts made in response to the alarming Israeli escalation at the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif. The Committee also examined ways to

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counter and halt these condemned assaults and unacceptable violations, which coincide with the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the dangerous escalation in the West Bank.

The Committee also received a detailed briefing from Her Excellency Dr. Fareseen Shaheen, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, who outlined the gravity of the ongoing Israeli actions in Jerusalem, particularly targeting its Islamic and Christian holy sites, as well as the Palestinian residents. Her Excellency highlighted the Israeli occupation authorities' accelerated efforts to Judaize the city and its neighborhoods, manifesting in the intensification of settlement activity, demolition of Palestinian homes, forced expulsions, withdrawal of Palestinian IDs, and the alarming trend of allowing settlers and extremist groups to perform Jewish Talmudic prayers in the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque, while Palestinian worshipers are systematically prevented from accessing the mosque to perform their religious duties.

Dr. Shaheen further stressed the rapid expansion of settlement activities inside and around Jerusalem, particularly through the construction of settlement neighborhoods aimed at isolating the Old City from its Palestinian surroundings, thereby encircling the city with settlement belts. She noted that Israeli authorities have confiscated tens of thousands of dunams and approved the construction of tens of thousands of settlement units in and around the city, with a particular focus on the strategic E1 area—an attempt to thwart any future establishment of a Palestinian state.

Her Excellency stressed that these actions constitute clear violations of international laws and resolutions of international legitimacy. The members of the Committee unanimously condemned the Israeli violations of the holy sites, characterizing them as flagrant breaches of

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international law and dangerous escalations. The Committee firmly rejected and condemned all Israeli policies aimed at altering the Arab, Islamic, and Christian identity of Jerusalem and its holy sites, in blatant disregard of the historical and legal status quo.

The Committee strongly condemned the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif by extremist Israeli ministers and officials, as well as the provocative statements advocating for the establishment of a Jewish synagogue at the site. The Committee further denounced the escalatory actions taken by the extremist Israeli government, including the allocation of financial resources to support settler incursions aimed at altering the historical and legal status of Jerusalem and its holy sites. These actions are seen as part of a broader agenda to impose new realities, leading to the temporal and spatial division of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

Committee members also condemned Israel's continued authorization of settlers and extremist Jewish groups to storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque, under the protection of Israeli occupation forces, entering through the Al-Maghariba Gate. These incursions are accompanied by restrictive measures on the entry of Palestinian worshipers, who face obstacles in performing prayers at the mosque.

The ministers reaffirmed that Israel holds no sovereignty over Jerusalem and its holy sites and emphasized that East Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state, which must be realized as a free, independent, and sovereign state along the June 4, 1967 borders. They stressed that the two-state solution remains the sole path to achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

The ministers also called for the full implementation of United Nations resolutions, as well as those issued by UNESCO's Executive Board and World Heritage Committee, which reaffirm that the entire area

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of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, spanning 144,000 square meters, is an exclusive place of worship for Muslims and constitutes an integral part of world cultural heritage that is endangered by Israeli actions.

The Committee reiterated its unwavering support for the historic Hashemite guardianship over the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, commending its vital role in protecting the sanctity of these sites, as well as their Arab, Islamic, and Christian identity. The ministers emphasized the importance of preserving the historical and legal status quo and acknowledged the legitimacy of the Jordanian Jerusalem Endowments and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs Administration, as the sole authority responsible for managing all affairs related to the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, including its maintenance and the regulation of entry to the site.

Furthermore, the ministers highlighted the critical role of the Jerusalem Committee and the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Agency, its executive arm, while pledging continued support for all efforts undertaken by the Committee to defend the rights and identity of Jerusalem.

The Committee agreed to:

1. Strengthen engagement with regional and international organizations to continue documenting Israeli violations in Jerusalem, including those affecting the holy sites, and to highlight Israel's violations of international law, international humanitarian law, and the United Nations Charter.
2. Mobilize an effective international stance to oppose Israel's attempts to alter the historical and legal status quo at the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

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3. Support all efforts by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to protect the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif from illegal Israeli actions that seek to change the historical and legal status quo and to counter attacks on Islamic and Christian holy sites in occupied Jerusalem.
4. Bolster Arab efforts and diplomatic contacts with influential international actors to push for the imposition of restrictive and deterrent measures to halt attacks on holy sites. This includes advocating for international sanctions against extremist Israeli officials, settler terrorism, and extremist Jewish groups, as well as ensuring that Israeli occupation authorities are held accountable for their violations and crimes in the occupied city of Jerusalem.
5. Instruct the League's missions and the ambassadors of member states of the Committee to build on the recent international positions issued against extremist Israeli practices and statements. The Committee will work to foster a strong international response to these practices, warning of their dangerous consequences for peace and security in the region and the world. Furthermore, it calls on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities by implementing relevant resolutions regarding East Jerusalem, including Resolutions 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 476 and 478 (1980), and 2334 (2016).
6. Task the Secretary-General with coordinating efforts among the Committee's member states to follow up on the mechanisms of the Committee's actions, in alignment with this statement and based on the decision to establish the Committee.
