

Khutbah Briefing for Imams: Hands Off Al-Aqsa

Friday 14 August 2026

Friends of Al-Aqsa requests masajid taking part in the 1,000 Khutbas for Al-Aqsa to register here: <https://forms.gle/fxSTUoSXt3uycTsx8>

Part 1 – The Significance of Masjid Al-Aqsa

Begin by reminding the congregation of the immense status of Masjid Al-Aqsa in Islam. Points you may wish to touch upon:

- Masjid Al-Aqsa is one of the three sacred masajid for which travel is legislated.
- It was the **first Qiblah** of the Muslims.
- It is the place of **Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj**, where Allah honoured His Messenger ﷺ with the Night Journey and Ascension.
- Salah performed in Masjid Al-Aqsa carries 500 times more reward.
- It is a land blessed by Allah and was home to many of the Prophets عليهم السلام, including Ibrahim, Dawud, Sulayman, Zakariyya, Yahya and 'Isa عليهم السلام.
- Allah Himself describes the surrounding land as **"the land which We have blessed"** (Surah Al-Isra', 17:1).

For further reading on the virtues of Masjid Al-Aqsa, please refer to:

<https://www.foa.org.uk/resources/categories/aqsa-resources>

Part 2 – The Current Situation at and threats to Masjid Al-Aqsa

Explain that the current crisis did not begin overnight but has developed over decades.

Historical Background

- Following the 1967 occupation of East Jerusalem, Israel took military control of the Old City, including Masjid Al-Aqsa.
- Although administration of the masjid remained under the Jordanian Islamic Waqf, Israel assumed control over security and access.
- Since then, there has been a gradual policy of increasing control over the masjid and its surroundings.

Threats to Masjid Al-Aqsa

The Temple Mount Movement

A coalition of Zionist Jewish organisations who campaign for the destruction of current prayer spaces in Masjid Al-Aqsa and the construction of a Temple on the site. These groups openly advocate replacing Islamic administration at Al-Aqsa with full Israeli control.

Once a fringe movement, the Temple Mount now has support within the Israeli government and has become mainstream.

Incursions

Incursions are hostile entries by Israelis into Masjid Al-Aqsa. There have been over **65,000 settler incursions** into Masjid Al-Aqsa in 2025.

[On 23 July 2026](#), over **4,200 Israeli settlers, including prominent Israeli politicians entered the masjid in a single day**, one of the largest incursions on record.

These regular Israeli incursions are normalising Temple Mount claims to take over Masjid Al-Aqsa and demolish buildings upon it.

Tunnels

Israel engages in the [excavation of tunnels](#) beneath Masjid Al-Aqsa on the false pretext of archaeology. These weaken the foundations of the buildings standing on Masjid Al-Aqsa. There is now a real danger that some buildings may collapse paving the way for Israeli take over.

Entry Restrictions and closures

The Israeli government places random restrictions on Muslims of certain ages/nationalities/gender from entering Masjid Al-Aqsa.

By imposing these restrictions, the Israeli government makes it difficult, and at times humiliating, for Muslims to visit Masjid Al-Aqsa. This is a way of isolating Masjid Al-Aqsa from Muslims. **This tactic must not be acquiesced to. We call upon Muslims around**

the world to make every effort to visit Masjid Al-Aqsa regularly and help preserve its Islamic identity.

Earlier this year, Masjid Al-Aqsa was completely closed to Muslim worshippers for around **40 consecutive days**, including much of Ramadan, Eid and multiple Fridays. This marked the longest period of forced closure since the liberation of Salah ad-Din al-Ayyubi.

Custodianship takeover

Although Masjid Al-Aqsa is under Israeli military occupation, its day-to-day administration remains the responsibility of the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf, which operates under the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. [Credible reports](#) suggest that discussions are now taking place to replace Jordan's role with an alternative framework which would see administrative control stripped from Jordanian Awqaf and handed to Israel. On [5 August 2026 Jordan](#) convened a meeting with several Muslim countries to discuss the issue with no meaningful outcome.

Part 3 – What Can We Do? (Call to Action)

Conclude the khutbah by reminding the congregation that every Muslim has a role to play in protecting and supporting Masjid Al-Aqsa.

1. Educate Ourselves and Others

- Speak about Masjid Al-Aqsa in our homes, masājid and communities.
- Ensure that future generations understand its place in Islam and why its protection matters.
- Share accurate information and updates to raise awareness.
- Use the campaign hashtag **#HandsOffAlAqsa** to help amplify awareness across social media.

2. Contact the UK Government

Encourage the congregation to use the **Friends of Al-Aqsa** campaign template to email the Foreign Secretary, urging the UK Government to:

- Protect the historic and legal status quo at Masjid Al-Aqsa.
- Defend the Jordanian Islamic Waqf's custodianship of the mosque.

- Call for an immediate end to all incursions into Masjid Al-Aqsa.

<https://www.foa.org.uk/campaign/handsoffalaqsa>

3. Make Du‘ā’

Continue to make sincere du‘ā’—both privately and publicly—for:

- The protection of Masjid Al-Aqsa.
- The worshippers of Masjid Al-Aqsa.
- The Palestinian people and all those defending the sanctity of the blessed mosque.

4. Support the Palestinian Cause

Remember that it is our Palestinian brothers and sisters who remain on the front line in defending Masjid Al-Aqsa. Continue, and where possible, increase your support for the Palestinian cause through lawful means, including:

- Participating in demonstrations and public events.
- Engaging with the media
- Contacting elected representatives and engaging politically.
- Supporting ethical boycott campaigns.

5. Visit Masjid Al-Aqsa

Despite the restrictions and obstacles placed in the way of worshippers, Muslims should continue to maintain a living connection with Masjid Al-Aqsa by visiting whenever they are able.

- Encourage those who are able to visit Masjid Al-Aqsa to do so
- Do not allow restrictions or attempts to isolate Masjid Al-Aqsa from the wider Ummah to weaken our attachment to it.
- Encourage family members, friends and community members to include Masjid Al-Aqsa in their future travel plans where possible.
- Remember that a consistent Muslim presence at Masjid Al-Aqsa is one of the strongest ways of preserving its Islamic identity and supporting the Palestinian people.