



Dome of the Rock

Al Aqsa



Al-Aqsa Mosque

Quarterly

Newsletter 2

November 1999

To Begin...

"Glorified is He Who took his servant by night journey from the Masjid al Haram (in Makkah) to the Masjid al Aqsa (in Jerusalem), the precincts of which we have Blessed..."

Holy Qur'an Al Isra 17: 1

...It is only through ilm [knowledge and understanding] will it be possible for us to learn that the political crisis in al Quds is not merely an issue for the local Palestinians but is in fact an issue for the entire Ummah. Ilm [knowledge and understanding] has been termed by Allah [swt] as Noor [light]. Through ilm one is able to fulfil his/her Islamic duties to the Creator Almighty with sincere devotion.

With reference to Masjid al Aqsa Allah Almighty makes its mention in the first verse of Sura al Isra and informs us of two very important and unique privileges afforded to this Haram Sharif:

1. The miraculous night journey [al Isra] refers to the noble Prophet's [saas] journey by night from the Masjid ul Haram in Makkah to Masjid al Aqsa in Jerusalem. The second stage of this journey [al Mehraj] from Masjid al Aqsa to the seven heavens is elaborated in sura Najm and authentic ahadiths. Thus Masjid al Aqsa forms the link between heavens and the earth. If the Almighty Allah had wished then it was (and is) in His power to have raised the noble Prophet [saas] straight from Makkah to the heavens or via any other place on earth. However, it is the virtue of only Masjid al Aqsa that Allah [swt] bestowed it with this honour. Thus instilling the love of Muslims for Makkah, heavens as well as Masjid al Aqsa.

To Continue.....

Jewish Zealots Call For The Destruction of Masjid Al Aqsa

A fax sent by the Jewish fundamentalists group on Friday the 25th Sept 99 to the Awqaf Islamic Endowment Committee – responsible for the safety and running of Masjid al Aqsa Haram Sharif stated, "The time has come to abandon the wailing, the time has come for actions, the time has come for us to remove the strangers from the Temple, in order to allow the Jews to pray in the holy site...We have no time left...Rise to the Mount and bring 'wood' to occupy the Temple..."

It further stated that on Monday the 27th Sept they would attempt to lay the foundation of their Temple on the present site of al Aqsa Masjid. Under the tense circumstances the Awqaf called upon all the Muslims in Jerusalem to guard the Haram Sharif on the day and requested the rest who could not physically assist in helping safeguard Masjid al Aqsa to make duaas for it's safety.

With Allah's Blessings the call was respected and the Palestinians came in hundreds to guard and protect the Masjid al Aqsa from any challenge and dangers poised by the Jewish fundamentalists.

Shaykh Ali, one of the Imams of Masjid al Aqsa said, "people started coming from before Fajr Salah and stayed well past E'sha".

The Jewish groups led by the leader of the Temple Mount Faithfuls, Gershon, attempted to enter the blessed Haram Sharif but the large numbers of Palestinians blocked their entry into the Masjid sanctuary. Friends of Al Aqsa, in Britain sent out communiqués to over 200 Mosques to make duaas for the safety of our Haram Sharif from destructive fundamentalists groups.

After minor skirmishes along the external walls of Masjid al Aqsa the Jewish fundamentalists were repulsed.

Their leader in a threatening speech warned the Muslims that they will buy the nearest available space to the Masjid al Aqsa and begin their project, "even if the land is only one metre squared, we will begin our temple and start praying" proclaimed Gershon.

In what is now becoming a grave situation in Jerusalem the long term safety of al Aqsa is in doubt.

Muslims throughout the world are urged to take on a pro-active role towards ensuring the safety of our first qibla and one of the holiest Mosques is not placed under any greater danger than it already is.

Friends of al Aqsa call upon all the Imaams to make duaas in their Friday Khutba for Masjid al Aqsa Haram Sharif and concerned individuals to inform others, lobby those in authority, write to the mass media, visit Jerusalem and also personally make duaas for the Almighty Allah's assistance –Ameen.

The Murderer of a Palestinian Child Walks Free

An Israeli court acquitted last month a Jewish Settler, Nahum Korman, for the murder of an innocent 10 year old Palestinian boy. Korman who claimed he chased the boys for throwing stones at his car, initially claimed, "self-defence".

Observers of the incident testified that they saw Korman step on the boy's throat with his army boots, beat him on the back of his head with the butt of his gun until the child lost consciousness. The 10 year old, Shousheh Helmi later died in the hospital with a massive brain haemorrhage.

The courts failed to convict Korman, citing "insufficient evidence" and "extenuating circumstances."

Unfortunately this like many other cold blooded murders fills the catalogue of atrocities perpetrated on Palestinians children, women and men.

In This Month...

02 November 1917: Britain issued the Balfour Promise to establish the Jewish State in Palestine.

19 November 1935: Sheikh Ezzul Deen Al Qassam was shot down as a martyr at Ya'bad woods.

11 November 1936: A Royal British committee, "Bill committee", arrived in Palestine to investigate the reasons behind the great rebellion.

28 November 1937: Sheikh Farhan Al Sa'ady was executed by the British when he was 80 years old and while he was fasting. He is the comrade of Sheikh Ezzul Deen Al Qassam.

13 November 1945: An Anglo-American committee was formed to investigate the conditions of the Jews who were persecuted by the Nazis in Europe, and to find out about their socio-economic and political conditions in Palestine.

13 November 1947: The British representative at the UN declared that Britain would have to withdraw from Palestine by May.

29 November 1947: The UN voted on the division resolution of Palestine: 33 members supported it, 13 opposed, and 10 were neutral. An international committee was formed to take over the British authorities in Palestine.

13 November 1966: The Israeli forces attacked Al Samou', a village near Hebron, and killed 18 people, injured 54 people and destroyed 125 houses.

04 November 1966: The joint defence treaty was signed between Egypt and Syria against Israel.

22 November 1967: The Security Council issued resolution No. 242 in which Israel was called upon to withdraw from the territories occupied in the June war of 1967.

29 November 1967: The UN delegate Yaring began his 15-round peace initiative to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

05 November 1973: The American Secretary of State Richard Nixon began his peace initiative to disengage the Syrian, Egyptian and Israeli forces after the Ramadhan war.

27 November 1973: The PLO was recognised as the sole legal representative of the Palestinians at the Arab Summit Conference in Algeria.

10 November 1975: The General Assembly of the UN adopted resolution No. 3379, which considers Zionism a racial movement.

19 November 1977: The Egyptian president Anwar Sadat was the first Arab leader to enter Israel since it was founded.

01 November 1981: The application of civil management in the West Bank and Gaza Strip presided by Menachem Milson.

15 November 1988: the National Palestinian Council held in Algeria declared The Palestinian State. This State consists of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem as its capital. The declaration is an implicit recognition of the Israeli State comprising the rest of Palestine.

24 November 1993: Mr. Emad Aqel, a prominent member of HAMAS, was shot down as a martyr in a confrontation with the Israeli forces.

18 November 1994: The Palestinian police killed 12 Palestinians and wounded 200 in a protest after Friday prayers in Gaza.

04 November 1995: the extremist Yegal Amir assassinated Mr. Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister. This was the first politically driven assassination in Israel.

History of Masjid

Al Aqsa [2]

After Prophet Ibrahim [AS] the Mosque area in specific became desolate until Prophet Daud [AS] who after uniting the factional tribes of Israel conquered the land from the Cananites. He began to re-build the al Aqsa (Referred to as The Temple). However, it was Sulayman [AS] who was blessed with completing the structure that was started by Daud [AS].

After Prophet Sulayman's [AS] death the tribes of Israel began to struggle for power, eventually splitting into two groups. Israel to the north and Judah, including the al Aqsa to the south.

Within 200 years Israel was conquered. Judah the sole custodian of the 'Temple' began monopolising the situation and brought in cult status, expelling the true followers and practitioners of Mussa [AS] teachings.

In 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar entered Jerusalem and destroyed the al Aqsa. All the Jews were either taken prisoners, carried in chain to Babylon or killed.

Judah thus stopped to exist only after 400 years of rule.

It is of importance to note that the present day Jews claim the right over Palestine because they nearly 3,000 years ago (900 BC) ruled over the area for a mere 400 years.

Whereas the Muslim have ruled Jerusalem for over a thousand years ending only 32 years ago in 1967.

Remembering Jerusalem Neighbourhood – Al Malha

“When we left al Malha, I was 16 years old and there were 13 people in our family,” said Saleh Muhammed Sa’adeh now 67 and staying in Bethlehem. The Jews in 1948 continually made terrorist attacks on al Malha and made life impossible. The Jewish terrorist group, the Haganah first attacked al Malha, on 6th March 1948. The population fled in two stages. The first after the massacre at Deir Yassin on the 9th April 1948 and the second in May after a renewed attack by Haganah. After many days of fighting the village finally fell in the hands of the Jews and on 13th July 1948 the extremist Jewish terrorist group, the Irgun, entered al Malha and completely destroyed it.

Most of the village inhabitants are now refugees in the West Bank or Jordan. “Our house is now used as a school for Israeli children. I still have the key to the front door and the documents, which prove it is mine. We may go back to it one day,” said Saleh Muhammed.

The village was situated to the south west of Jerusalem with a total land holding of 6,828 dunams. The village is now re-named as Minhat and is exclusive for Jews.

HEADLINERS

Jerusalem is ‘eternal capital’ says Hillary: In an extraordinary volteface that puts her at odds with official American policy, Hillary Clinton last night said that she considers Jerusalem to be “the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel”. She also said that if she were elected to the US Senate she would press for the US Embassy to be relocated there. The Times 9 July 99.

Thou Shalt find the real Mount Sinai: Israel, Saudi Arabia compete with Egypt to claim they have the true mountain where God spoke to Moses. A British archaeologist says he has been “warned off” continuing his studies in Saudi Arabia by Mosad, the Israeli Secret Service. The traditional site is considered to be in Egypt but now Mount Safron in Israel and White Mountain “Hallat al Bedr” in Saudi are also in the running. The Sunday Times 1 August 99.

Hamas Leaders Arrested in Jordan: Khalid Mushad, a leader of Islamic Hamas who survived an Israeli assassination attempt was arrested in Jordan yesterday and charged with engaging in political activities. Guardian 23 Sept 99.

Disney Unveils Israeli Exhibit: Disneyland in Florida yesterday unveiled an Israeli theme park which provoked anger and threats of a boycott from Arab and Muslims, who said it portrayed Jerusalem as Israeli capital. The Exhibit refers to Jerusalem as “the heart of the Israeli people.” Guardian 2 Oct 99.

Mr Barak sent a hard-line message to the Palestinian by appearing at the opening of new archaeological excavations near the Al Aqsa Haram Sharif. Mr Barak’s presence indicated that he was not prepared to countenance the repartition of Jerusalem. Guardian 4 Oct 99.

Israel-Palestine talks yesterday came to a stand still: The Palestinian said they would boycott future negotiations if Israel did not stop expanding Jewish Settlements and Israel refused to release veteran Palestinian prisoners. Unless the deadlock is quickly broken, the fragile friendship between Ehud Barak, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasar Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President could collapse undermining the chances of implementing last months Sharm el Sheikh peace accord by January 2000. FT 9 Oct 99.

Turkish President Chased out of Al Aqsa: On his visit to Israel the Turkish president, Sulayman Demirel, had to be ushered out of the al Aqsa Mosque after angry Palestinians called him an infidel, a traitor and an agent of Israel. Palestinian teenagers shouted that they did not want to see him at the Haram Sharif as a visitor but as a liberator. As Demirel left, several teenagers chased after him. On the visit he also talked to Israel about buying military helicopters. Palestine News August 99.

Israel rated sixth nuclear power in secret US documents: According to a secret report by the US, Department of Energy Israel has enough plutonium to produce 250 nuclear weapons. The details of the report were published in the monthly Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. 11 Oct 99

Israeli Company Launched Wine To Provoke Muslims

In what was seen as a deliberate provocation, an Israeli company, Paron Wine, launched a wine called Jerusalem 2000 with a picture of the Dome of the Rock for its label.

As expected an immediate campaign against the company was mounted internationally. Friends of al Aqsa in Britain involved the Department of Trade and Industry, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Israeli Embassy.

Requests were further sent out to other organisations to lobby the government on the issue. After a few days the company issued a press release to Associated Press, announcing they would withdraw the offending label and use an alternative symbol to promote the wine.

Friends of Al Aqsa are grateful to all those who assisted in the campaign and consider this a victory for common sense and respect for other people’s beliefs.

ISRAELI OCCUPATION SEALS OFF LARGE AREAS OF WEST BANK LAND

The Israeli authorities recently issued 14 military orders to seal off large areas of fertile agriculture land in the West Bank. These orders had been approved by the Israeli Military Commander, Moshe Ya’lon on 15th May this year, but were not announced until 19th Sept when the orders were distributed to Israeli military.

According to Law’s documentation, these orders included closing off land belonging to no fewer than 79 Palestinian villages. As well as consisting of thousand of dunums of Palestinian owned farmland, it also contains the homes of hundreds of Palestinians: many people have been required to evacuate the land. It is stated in the preamble to the military orders that no one is permitted to remain in the area without special Israeli permission.

Israel has once again imposed control over Palestinian land under the pretext of ‘security’. Settlement activity in the area could indicate that the government has earmarked this land for the expansion of existing settlements.

Disney Promotes Israeli Occupation

Disney the love and entertainment king of millions throughout the world has stepped into political arena to promote Jewish claims over Jerusalem.

Early in September the American Muslims for Jerusalem [AMJ], headed by Khaleed Turaani highlighted Disney's plans to present Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel in an exhibition.

The Millennium exhibition, of Walt Disney opened at Epcot Centre in Florida on 1 October. Of the eight million dollars building cost, Israel gave 1.8 million. The exhibition is proposed to be the greatest show expected to attract millions of viewers from throughout the world.

Jerusalem is illegally occupied city according to international law. In particular: UN Resolution 242, which calls upon Israel to withdraw from the occupied territory. Resolution 237 rejects the annexation of Jerusalem and Resolution 405 further reaffirms that Jerusalem is occupied Palestinian territory.

Historically the Jews were driven out of Jerusalem in 70 CE, when Titus, the Roman General destroyed the Temple and ever since than there has been an insignificant population of Jews in Jerusalem.

In 1099, when the Crusaders captured Jerusalem they killed or exiled all Jews and it was only through the Magnanimity of Salah'udeen Ayubi that he allowed the Jews to return. In a census of 1170 we see a record of 1,440 Jews in all of Palestine.

Whereas the Arabs have always inhabited Jerusalem from time immemorial. When Muslims liberated Jerusalem and the majority of Arabs reverted to Islam the city remained free and open to all.

Israel's aim to physically Judaize Jerusalem and mentally condition the world into accepting its claims over Jerusalem seem to have reached new psychological spheres.

After the initiative set in motion to counter this blatant claim, the UAE Minister of Information and Culture Shaykh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahayan called a meeting of Arab League ministers to boycott Disney and its products.

It is estimated that nearly 200,000 Arabs visit Disney each year and the total Disney trade with the Middle East amounts to over \$100 million per year.

However, at the last minute a motion to boycott was not carried as the Saudi Prince, Walid ibn Talal, who is the major shareholder of Euro Disney said, "If we boycott Disney, Israel will win because it will impact our image negatively in United States."

One Arab official is reported in *Palestine Times* as saying, "we know that some Arab officials encouraged the company to ignore our protest."

Al-Nahayan, the UAE Minister on Abu Dhabi TV said, "he did not receive expected response from some Arab ministers during his intensive contacts with them."

Disney claims they have altered the exhibition as not to promote the Israeli claim. However, according to AMJ the exhibition still leave visitors with the false impression that Israel is not in violation of multiple international laws and UN Resolutions.

The *Jewish Chronicle*, a London Based Newspaper, reported on the 24 Sept, "If you go and see the show there won't be any doubt in your mind that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel."

Friends of Al Aqsa Call For Disney Boycott

It is without doubt if the Arab League had the spine to uphold the just cause of Jerusalem in where is Masjid al Aqsa than the fairy sporting Disney would not have succeeded in promoting the illegal Zionist plans to inculcate into the minds of the world that Jerusalem is their capital.

Under the circumstances we call upon all morally conscious individuals to not only boycott Disney products and goods but more importantly to write and inform Disney of your boycott.

It is the grass-root support that is needed to be mobilised and the powers to be, either in Islamic countries or elsewhere to be informed of our sentiments.

It is the duty of every law-abiding citizen to ensure those oppressors and usurpers of others rights and territories do not get away with their criminality.

Please inform the addressee below of your intentions to boycott because of their illegal promotion of Israeli claims.

The need to inform Disney of their political misjudgement cannot be over emphasised:

Publicity Department
Walt Disney
The Queen Caroline Street
Hammersmith
London
W6 9PE
Tel: 0181 222 1000

Email: monique.amaudaoy@disney.com

The NEWSLETTER is published by Friends of Al Aqsa. For further copies or more information about its projects or contributions, contact:

Ismail Adam Patel, The Editor, Friends of Al Aqsa, P.O. Box 5127, Leicester. LE2 0WU. UK.
Tel: 077 11 823 524. Fax: 0116 253 7575. Email: friendsofalaqsa@yahoo.com