



Tightening the Ring of Israeli Settlement around the Old City of Jerusalem

Map Notes

December 2018*

Numbers below are pegged to numbers on accompanying map.

Sheikh Jarrah

- 1 & 2 Plans for the Ohr Somayach Yeshiva (also, “Glassman Yeshiva”) and a privately promoted office building** – Two Israeli plans for buildings to be constructed on a lot of roughly 5 dunams on the southwest edge of the neighborhood, next to the Green Line, on the Palestinian side. The plan for the Ohr Somayach Yeshiva (Plan No. 68858) calls for construction of an eleven-story building with eight levels above ground and three below, including a dormitory for hundreds of students and housing for faculty. The plan was submitted by the Ohr Somayach Institutions, to which the Israel Land Authority has already allotted land without a transparent tender process, and approved for deposit by the District Planning and Building Committee in July 2017.

In the master plan for the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, the lot is designated for public buildings to serve neighborhood residents.

The plan for the six-story office building (Plan No. 499699), submitted by private Israeli entrepreneurs, was deposited in April 2018, and in August 2018, the Local Planning and Building Committee recommended it for approval by the District Committee. The plan was approved in December 2018.

- 3 & 5 Plans for new construction in Um Haroun (Sheikh Jarrah) necessitating the eviction of Palestinian families** – Two plans for new residential buildings that will necessitate the demolition of existing Palestinian homes: Plan No. 14151 for construction of a three-story building with three residential units and Plan No. 14029 for construction of a five-story building with 10 residential units. Five Palestinian families currently reside in the existing buildings. The District Planning and Building Committee was set to discuss objections to the plans on December 23 but the plans were struck from the agenda 48 hours before the session was scheduled to take place.

4 **The National Insurance Institute Building** is located at the western edge of Um Haroun (point 6), adjacent to Highway 1, the road dividing East and West Jerusalem. The building, construction of which was recently completed, occupies a plot of 1,450 square meters. While intended to serve the residents of East Jerusalem, it is important to note its significance as an Israeli government building located alongside settlement projects within a threatened Palestinian neighborhood.

6 **Eviction actions against dozens of families in Um Haroun** – The Um Haroun section of Sheikh Jarrah is located to the west of Nablus Road, the major thoroughfare running through Sheikh Jarrah. More than 30 Palestinian families are threatened with eviction in the wake of eviction claims being advanced by the Israel General Custodian and settler groups premised on a discriminatory Israeli law that exclusively enables Jews to reclaim property lost in the war of 1948.

In September 2017, a few months after advancement of the plans discussed in points 1-4, the Shamasneh family was evicted and its home immediately occupied by settlers. The Shamasneh eviction was the first to be executed in Sheikh Jarrah since 2009. In spite of court authorization to carry out the eviction in 2013, authorities had refrained from taking action for four years.

In May 2018, two more families received eviction notices from the Execution Office. As of the date of publication, they have yet to be evicted. In the course of 2018, legal deliberations concerning evictions against additional families in the neighborhood have proceeded.

7 **Kerem Alja'oni/Shimon Hatzadik** – This section of Sheikh Jarrah is located opposite the eastern edge of Um Haroun (point 6), separated by Nablus Road, the main thoroughfare in Sheikh Jarrah. Nine Palestinian families in Kerem Alja'oni/Shimon Hatzadik have had their homes seized by settlers (the last evictions in 2009, when three families were evicted). Dozens of additional families are at risk of eviction and more than ten families are contending with eviction actions filed by the Nahalat Shimon Company, a primary settlement investor in the neighborhood. A number of additional families have recently received eviction notices in advance of settler-initiated legal proceedings to force their evictions.

8 **Shimon Hatzadik** – Abutting the north side of Kerem Alja'oni (point 7), this section of Sheikh Jarrah surrounds what is known as the tomb of Shimon Hatzadik, a worship site holy to Jews. The site is included in the Regulations for the Protection of Holy Places for Jews, published in 1981.

- 9 **Border Police base**, located at the western entrance to Sheikh Jarrah.
- 10 **Shepherd Hotel** – Opposite Kerem Ha'Mufti (Mufti's Grove, point 11) and at the northern entrance to Sheikh Jarrah is a residential complex that includes 22 units built by a settler organization on the site of the old Shepherd Hotel. The hotel was seized by the Custodian of Absentee Property, which sold it without a tender to the now deceased Irving Moskowitz, a principal settler patron. Claiming ownership of part of the area, the Husseini family has petitioned the court (CA 46598-12-17); the case is currently pending and there is a temporary order in place preventing the sale of apartments in the complex.
- 11 **Kerem Ha'Mufti (Mufti's Grove)** – Located across the road from the Shepherd Hotel (point 10) and northeast of Kerem Alja'oni/Shimon Hatzadik (point 7), this area spans 10 acres, part of which is planted with olive trees. The Custodian of Absentee Property released the area to the Ateret Cohanim settler organization, which intends to build roughly 250 residential units on the land. Currently, there is no evidence of a concrete plan being advanced.
- 12 **The Interior Ministry** – At the northern entrance to the neighborhood there is an office of the Interior Ministry that serves the residents of East Jerusalem.

Mount Scopus

- 13 To the north of Kerem Ha'Mufti (Mufti's Grove, point 11) and Shepherd Hotel (point 10) stretches the area of Mount Scopus, under Israeli sovereignty since the cease-fire agreements of 1949. The Yitzchak Hanadiv Road, which leads to the eastern exit from Jerusalem in the direction of Ma'aleh Adumim, passes between Mount Scopus and Sheikh Jarrah. The neighborhoods of Al-Suwana and A-Tur begin at the eastern edge of Mount Scopus.

A-Tur and Al-Suwana

- 14 **The Emek Tzurim National Park** – Located opposite the eastern part of Mount Scopus on an area of more than 40 acres, the Emek Tzurim National Park was designated as a national park in 2000. It stretches to the southwest, where it joins up with the Jerusalem Walls National Park surrounding the Old City.
- 15 **Beit Orot** – The Beit Orot settler compound is located at the southeast of the Emek Tzurim National Park (point 14) and covers an area of roughly three acres. The complex includes a yeshiva (operational since 1991), where roughly 60

students and staff live and study, and four additional buildings comprising 32 residential units. The residential buildings were illegally constructed by the Elad settler organization in 2014, in violation of the building permit for construction. At present, Elad is advancing a plan for the retroactive approval of the buildings (Plan No. 54734).

- 16 **The Uziya Promenade** – The promenade is a project of the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Development Authority currently being fast tracked in the planning process in two parts: Plan no. 247338 and Plan no. 430231, both of which were deposited for objections by the District Planning and Building Committee in December 2018. According to the plans, the promenade will span an area of roughly 600 meters from north to south, crossing the western slopes of A-Tur and overlooking the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif. It will connect the settlement of Beit Orot and the Palestinian area of Al-Suwana (point 15) to the area of the Beit Hahoshen settlement compound in southern A-Tur (point 17), with the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives its expected terminus (point 18). The plan for the promenade entails expropriation of land over which Palestinians in the neighborhood claim ownership.
- 17 **Beit Hahoshen** – A building under the control of the Elad settler organization since 2006, in the southern part of A-Tur, near the cemetery on the Mount of Olives (point 18). About seven settler families live in the building, which serves as a strategic lookout point and center of activities for Elad.

Ras al-Amud

- 18 **The Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives** – The ancient Jewish cemetery stretches south from A-Tur to the neighborhood of Ras al-Amud and west to the Kidron Wadi at the edge of Silwan. A bit to its north is Beit Hahoshen (point 17) and to the south, the settlements of Ma’aleh Zeitim and Ma’aleh David (points 23 and 24). In recent years, the government has allocated funding for concerts and other large public events in the area of the cemetery. The visitors’ center (point 21) is operated by Elad. In addition, the Jerusalem Municipality and Jerusalem Development Authority are promoting the establishment of a second visitors’ center (point 20) opposite the Ma’aleh Zeitim settlement.
- 19 **The settlement inside the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives** – Two structures within the cemetery, not far from the Ma’aleh Zeitim settlement (point 23), are utilized by settler families.
- 20 **The planned visitors’ center in the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives** – The Jerusalem Development Authority, together with the Jerusalem Municipality, is

promoting plan number 470484 for a second visitors' center. In February 2018, the Local Planning and Building Committee recommended the plan for discussion by the District Committee.

- 21 **The visitors' center in the lower tier of the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives** – The visitors' center is operated by Elad. It was established without a permit and received approval after its unpermitted construction.
- 22 **Building plan for a commercial and residential complex under Israeli ownership** – A plan (Plan No. 12259) being promoted by a private Israeli company, Jerusalem 1 Holdings, for construction of two buildings with 23 residential units on Jericho Road, the main road in Ras al-Amud.
- 23-24 **Ma'aleh Zeitim and Ma'aleh David** – The complexes of Ma'aleh Zeitim and Ma'aleh David are located opposite the southern end of the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives (point 18) and above Batan al-Hawa on the eastern slope of Silwan (see point 25 for the settlements in the Batan al-Hawa neighborhood). Construction of Ma'aleh Zeitim began in 1997. Today, it holds 110 residential units and according to the approved master plan (Plan No. 4689), it has the capacity for an additional 20 residential units. A Palestinian family who lived on the land where the complex now stands was evicted pursuant to the law that permits the return of Jewish property that came under Jordanian control in 1948.

There are 17 residential units in the Ma'aleh David complex across the road from Ma'aleh Zeitim and in 2018 building began on another 17 residential units. Prior to establishment of the settlement, the building housed the police station for Judea and Samaria. The station was moved to the E-1 area with financing from Elad and the structure in which it had been housed was transferred to the Keren Shalem Company, controlled by Elad.

Silwan

- 25 **The settlement of Ateret Cohanim in Batan-al-Hawa, Silwan** – The Ateret Cohanim settler organization holds property in the heart of Batan al-Hawa, located on the slope descending from Ma'aleh Zeitim in Ras al-Amud (point 24). Relying on section 5 of the Law and Administrative Matters Law, 5730-1970 (integrated version), which permits the return of Jewish assets lost in 1948, the Israel General Custodian transferred 5,200 square meters of land to the Benvenisti Trust, now controlled by Ateret Cohanim. In 2004, settlers took control of the first two buildings in the neighborhood. Since 2014, Ateret Cohanim has tripled the number of properties under its control in Batan al-Hawa; today it controls six buildings containing roughly 27 residential units. In 2015, the court ordered the

eviction of five of the families living on this land and at present, eviction proceedings are under way against more than 60 additional families.

In addition, Ateret Cohanim owns four lots in the neighborhood, sold to the trust by the Israel General Custodian without a tender.

In July 2018, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs announced the transfer of 4.5 million shekels for the establishment of a Yemenite Jewish heritage center in a building that purportedly served as a synagogue at the beginning of the previous century, and in the area from which the above mentioned five Palestinian families were evicted.

Over the course of 2018, a number of hearings were held regarding eviction actions initiated by the trust against Palestinian families whose homes are located on the land in question. A petition disputing the legality of the General Custodian's transfer of land to the trust (HCJ 7446/17) was rejected by the Supreme Court in November 2018. The petition challenged a series of irregularities in the General Custodian's conveyance of the 5.2 dunams to the trust, the most egregious being that according to the Ottoman land laws in place at the time the trust was established, the land in question was categorically prohibited from ownership by a trust. Therefore, the petition argued, even according to Israeli law the trust cannot have claims on the area. Although the judges acknowledged the veracity of some of the petition's claims (and did not reject any of them), they declined to make a decision on the core issue and rejected it on formalistic grounds.

26 The Gan Ha'Melech plan in the al-Bustan neighborhood – Al-Bustan is located in lower Silwan, between the Ateret Cohanim settlement in Batan al-Hawa (point 25) and Wadi Hilweh, Silwan, where the Elad settler organization has taken over scores of Palestinian homes and also enjoys authority for daily operations of the City of David (Ir David) archeological site in the Jerusalem Walls National Park (point 28). In 2010, the Jerusalem Municipality advanced a plan to designate an area of 13.5 acres for a tourist park and residential and commercial construction (Plan 18000: the King's Garden), with the western part, adjacent to Ir David, reserved for the tourist park and additional land allocated for hotel space in the southern part. The plan identifies 39 of the residential buildings in the neighborhood for demolition.

In 2010, the Local Planning and Building Committee recommended that the plan be deposited for objections; to date, it has not been promoted, most likely due to international opposition. The Municipality has issued demolition orders against the homes in al-Bustan; while demolitions have yet to be executed, all attempts

by the residents to reach an agreement with the Municipality that would legalize their homes and eliminate the threat of demolition have failed.

- 27 The Pilgrims' Way Tunnel under Wadi Hilweh** – Ongoing works have been conducted in recent years to build a massive tunnel from the Shiloach Pool (Pool of Siloam) at the bottom of Wadi Hilweh (point 28), in the vicinity of al-Bustan (point 26), to the upper portion of Wadi Hilweh, where Elad is expected to build the Kedem Compound (point 32), its new headquarters and visitors' center. Called "The Pilgrims' Way," it stretches along a road from the Herodian period.

The dig, run by Elad, is being executed by the Antiquities Authority despite strong criticism from high-ranking officials in the Antiquities Authority regarding safety standards and scientific procedure. In May 2018, the Israeli government announced an allocation of 22 million shekels for the project. Politicians such as former Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat and Minister of Culture, Miri Regev, frame the tunnel as part of the political struggle for Jerusalem and proof of the Jewish people's claim to sovereignty over the city.

The tunnel passes, at a depth of three to four meters, under the homes of Palestinian residents of Wadi Hilweh. Many of the buildings along its route have been damaged and several of them evacuated due to structural damage caused by construction of the tunnel. Despite these concerns, the Israeli authorities have refused to halt the dig.

- 28 The Elad settlements and the Ir David archeological park in Wadi Hilweh** – The Elad settler organization has seized roughly 70 Palestinian homes in Wadi Hilweh, Silwan within and around Ir David. Many of these properties were transferred to Elad by the state and the Jewish National Fund (JNF); Elad asserts that it has purchased the others. Ir David National Park covers a substantial area of the Wadi Hilweh neighborhood in Silwan. It stretches north from al-Bustan (point 26) and reaches the walls of the Old City in close proximity to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif. Since the 1990s, under a contract with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Elad has been responsible for daily management of the site. It finances archaeological digs and establishes tourist programs/sites which, together with the extensive array of tours it operates at the site, are intended to transform Wadi Hilweh from a Palestinian neighborhood that is home to thousands of people to a tourist site exclusively representing the Jewish narrative of Jerusalem.

In May 2018, the government announced a budget of 47 million shekels for the development of "antiquity sites in ancient Jerusalem." Most of the planned projects are located in the Ir David National Park and a substantial portion of the budget will fund activities operated by Elad. On November 19, 2018, the Knesset

approved legislation amending The National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Commemorative Sites Bill (Amendment No. 17: Plan for Residences in an Existing Residential Neighborhood in a National Park, 5778-2018). The legislation, initiated by Elad, removes the prohibition against construction of residential and public buildings within a national park. The criteria established for being able to build inside a national park were drafted in such a way as to apply only to Ir David and on the nearby Mount Zion, with the intention of enabling Elad to promote construction plans that will significantly expand the settlements in Wadi Hilweh. Even before passage of the amendment, the Jerusalem Development Authority hired personnel to prepare a new urban building plan for the Wadi Hilweh area.

- 29 The Sambuski Cemetery** – This Jewish cemetery has not been in use since the first half of the 20th century. Its location at the western edge of Silwan, abutting the Green Line, will allow it to serve as a link between the Elad settlement in Wadi Hilweh (point 28) and West Jerusalem. In recent years, Israeli authorities have invested funds to turn the cemetery into one of the Jewish heritage sites around the Old City. During this time the Jerusalem Municipality and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority carried out demolitions of Palestinian buildings in the area, claiming unpermitted construction. In early August 2018, the Jerusalem Municipality announced its intention to seize 16¼ acres west of the cemetery “for gardening purposes” – not an expropriation but rather a 5-year seizure in accordance with municipal by-laws that enable the Municipality to make temporary use of empty lots. The pedestrian bridge over Gei Ben Hinnom is planned to terminate, on its eastern side, near this area (point 30).
- 30 The bridge over Gei Ben Hinnom (Wadi Rababe)** – In early 2018, work began for construction of a pedestrian bridge from the southern side of Gei Ben Hinnom to the slope of Mount Zion near the Sambuski Cemetery (point 29). The Local Planning and Building Committee approved the building permit for the bridge without a detailed plan and without publication in May 2017. Although an appeal against the permit filed by Peace Now was rejected, construction has been suspended.
- 31 The Cable Car Project** – National Infrastructure Plan No. 86 calls for a cable car between the refurbished Ottoman-era Old Train Station Complex ("The First Station") in West Jerusalem to the planned Kedem Compound in Silwan (point 32). This major transportation infrastructure project will funnel visitors to the southern part of the Old City where the Western Wall is located. It is being advanced in the National Infrastructures Committee (NIC) in an expedited process that obviates the need for the regular planning committees and minimizes the possibility of effective opposition from civil society organizations and the general

public. In May 2018, the government approved 200 million shekels for its construction. Represented by authorities as a public transportation project to facilitate access to the Western Wall and the Old City, the cable car will channel thousands of people a day to the center of Elad's touristic settlement operations. The plan was approved for objections by the NIC in October 2018

- 32 The Kedem Compound** – This is an Elad plan, strongly supported by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, that entails the establishment of a massive visitors' center at the entrance to Silwan, just twenty meters from the Old City walls and in close proximity to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif (Plan No. 13542). The plan was officially approved in July 2017 after petitions against its approval were rejected. A building license has not yet been granted for construction.

Several tunnels will originate and terminate at this strategically located compound: The Pilgrims' Way, extending south to the Shiloach Spring, between Wadi Hilweh and al-Bustan (point 27); an already functioning tunnel that extends beneath the Old City walls north to the Davidson Center archaeological park (adjacent to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif), under the Al-Aqsa mosque; a planned tunnel to extend northeast toward the Ophel excavations next to the Old City walls south of the Al Aqsa mosque. A station of the cable car is slated to be built on the upper level of the Kedem compound (point 31).

- 33 Promenade parallel to the eastern wall of the Old City** - The promenade itself is not new; however, over the course of 2018, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) began erecting a fence down the length of the promenade so as to limit the adjacent Muslim cemetery. In certain places, the fence was built adjacent to and, according to Palestinian activists, even on top of graves in the Muslim cemetery in Bab a-Rahma, adjacent to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif to the east. At the same time the fence was being erected, the INPA began forbidding burial in parts of the Muslim cemetery based on the rationale that it is located inside a national park. Recently, Temple Movement activists (messianic Jewish groups committed to overturning the status quo on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif) have begun to pray inside the cemetery.

- 34 The post office on Salah al-Din Street** – In 2014, the Bezeq telecommunications company sold its offices in the post office building on Salah al-Din Street, opposite Herod's Gate, to the Ateret Cohanim settler association. Bezeq maintained offices in the building as a government entity and sold them after its privatization. The settlers host groups of students in pre-army preparatory programs of the national-religious camp in the building, which it has renamed B'nei Tzion. The location of the building is extremely strategic: It sits across from the Old City's Herod's Gate (inside of which, Ateret Cohanim has taken over a large residential

building and has plans for construction of a 22-unit compound) and at the juncture of the main commercial thoroughfare, Salah al-Din, and Sultan Suleiman Street, which encircles the Old City.

- 35 The settlements in the east Musrara neighborhood** – In the Palestinian section of the Musrara neighborhood, in the area of Damascus Gate, settlers hold five residential buildings obtained under a discriminatory law that permits Jews to reclaim lost assets owned prior to 1948.
- 36 The Muslim and Christian Quarters of the Old City** – In the Palestinian areas of the Old City, there are roughly 30 settler complexes housing roughly 1,000 Jews. As is the case around the Old City, these complexes are enhanced by touristic and heritage sites, the most prominent of which are the Western Wall Tunnels, the Cave of Tzidkiyahu, and the Little Western Wall. Every month, national-religious processions pass through the Old City, the largest and most inflammatory of which is the Jerusalem Day parade. Most of this activity is directly or indirectly connected to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif. In recent years, we have observed the empowerment of the Temple Movements – messianic Jews mission-driven to overturn the status quo on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif – who are now receiving active support from the coalition and the government. The pressure these movements apply has in recent years led to an exacerbation of the conflict on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif and repeated outbursts of violence.

* The information in this document is guaranteed through December 2018. Please refer to breaking alerts from Ir Amim for 2019 developments.