

مركز دراسات الشرق الأوسط - الأردن  
Middle East Studies Center - Jordan



A Document

**An Arab-Islamic Vision  
to Confront the American Decision on Jerusalem**

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## **An Arab-Islamic Vision to Confront the American Decision on Jerusalem**

The American decision to recognize the occupied Jerusalem as Israel's capital is one of the most prominent developments regarding the holy city and its political situation after 1967 war. In the light of this decision, the **Middle East Studies Center** in Jordan initiated a workshop of politicians, specialists and experts to discuss the implications of this decision and what is required to thwart it. The workshop discussions resulted in collective visions and recommendations based on expert analysis broadly divided into two perspectives: implications of the decision and drawing up a program to confront it and its consequences.

### **First: Implications of the Decision**

- The American decision is a clear violation of the current status of Jerusalem since it was occupied and an encroachment of international law whilst threatening region's peace and security and contributing to its instability.
- The decision implies political threat, encouraging Israel to proceed and impose on-the-ground de facto policy in the holy city that includes:
  - Eliminating Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem and its surrounding areas as Israel is already planning to evacuate 220,00 outside the borders of eastern part of Jerusalem in Kafr Aqab, Shu'fat Camp, Dahiyat al-Salam, Qabsa, Abu Mughiri and Be'er Aouna. Israel will in turn fill these neighborhoods with around 150,000 Israeli settlers in the existing settler-colonies of Kfar Etzion, Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev.
  - Embarking on step of revoking the identity cards of Palestinians in Jerusalem, and therefore consider them as illegal residents in the city (i. e. might be deployed).
  - The threat by Israeli settlers to the Al Aqsa Mosque, and the possible action of dividing the Mosque in preparation for its Judaization like the action took earlier by Israel with the Al Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.
- With the realization of a "Greater Jerusalem", Israel would divide the northern part of the West Bank from its southern part. As a result, the connection between those two parts is only possible through a road Israel has already agreed to and ratified in 2007 under what it is called the "fabric-of-life-road" that can be closed at the will of Israeli occupation forces any time. By that means, the Palestinian situation according to Israeli grand vision has become encircled populated centers (cantons) that are easily controlled from security and economic perspectives.
- The Decision is unprecedented in the Arab-Israeli struggle regarding the occupied territories of 1967, for a great power has the audacity, and for the first time, to consider occupied Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Once this Decision is implemented and if it is not confronted, it will encourage other states to do the same and, therefore, mean a change in the stance of the international community to the occupied territories of 1967 that projected in UN Resolutions of 242, 338 and 487 with Jerusalem being part of these territories.

- The Decision is a retraction of American promises to respect the *status quo* of the occupied territories until the final status negotiations and is an embarrassment to the United States allies in the region.
- The Decision disregards any considerations of Palestinian rights in Jerusalem and the special role of Jordan in the holy city according to many documents and which puts the Palestinians and Jordanians in a difficult political challenge with no option but to jointly reject and confront.

## **Second: Recommended Program to Confront the American Decision**

In light of the implications and real political dangers of the American decision on Jerusalem, its people and the Palestinian question, as well as Palestinian, Arab and Muslim rights, and in light of the effects it created and how to confront it and stop its implementations, the following recommendations are made:

- **On the Palestinian level**

1. Accelerate to end division and realize national reconciliation whilst drawing up a “concordant national Palestinian project” to confront the occupation. Furthermore, establish a united Palestinian leadership responsible for taking strategic decisions to change the balance of power which currently favors Israel through a steadfast national institutional front to confront the American decision in coordination with multiple Palestinian institutions, in Palestine and diaspora.
2. Restore the other options for the Palestinian people in its quest to recover its legitimate rights, including its popular resistance, boycott movement and other forms of available resistance.
3. Force international resolutions to condemn the American and Israeli stance and form an international public opinion supporting Palestinian rights and rejecting the American decision and its consequences; and issuance of an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice showing the legal situation of the American decision as breaching international law and supporting aggression and occupation.
4. Establish a Palestinian national fund to protect Jerusalem and its people through Arab and Islamic participation.
5. Commitment of the Palestinian, Arab and Muslim sides not to sign any agreement or Memorandum of Understanding with Israel regarding Jerusalem that doesn't end its occupation and settlements in total.

- **On the Jordanian level**

1. Continue international mobilization and assuring its coherence in the 14 countries which supported the Arab resolution in the Security Council and the 128 countries in the UN General Assembly and supporting Jordan's stance that rejects the American Decision.

2. Encourage the continuation of the popular protests in the Kingdom against the American decision to support the official position and protect it from outside pressure.
3. Coordination with Arab and regional parties whose stands converge with the Jordan stand against the American decision.
4. Be prepared to face, legally and operationally, the effects and risks of the decision infringing on Jordan's role protecting the holy Shrine and other places and stand against any attempt to transfer the Jerusalemites to Jordan in a new transfer action.

- **On the Arab and Islamic levels**

1. Lay down a plan of action with clear parameters and timetable to confront the American decision, including Jordan, head of the Arab Summit (currently), and Turkey, head of the Islamic Conference (currently). This will offer an opportunity to create work actions in the offices of the presidency and general secretariat. Besides, explore mechanisms of pressure on the American side and the use of all tools and available communications for diplomatic moves in coordination with the international community and its institutions to frustrate the American decision and its effects.
2. Restore Arab and Islamic solidarity to support the Palestinian cause, especially towards Jerusalem and the halting of normalization and security coordination with Israel.
3. The American Decision provides an opportunity for Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to "thin down" the peace treaties with Israel, re-evaluate them or at least "freeze" them, holding the United States responsible for that.
4. Support Arab-Palestinian presence in Jerusalem financially, politically and legally to face the Israeli campaigns of Judaization and uprooting.
5. Encourage world countries to acknowledge a sovereign Palestinian state on the total occupied lands of 1967 with Jerusalem as its capital as stated by the Extraordinary Islamic Summit on Jerusalem held in Istanbul on 13 December, 2017.
6. Form an expansive Arab-Islamic cover to support the governments and peoples of Jordan and Palestine in their stances to protect Jerusalem as an Arab-Islamic city.
7. Reinstate the teaching of the Palestinian cause and Jerusalem as a subject in educational curricula at school and university levels in Arab and Muslim countries.
8. Hold an Arab conference of all active forces and political parties to have a united stand to protect Jerusalem and the Palestinian issue in one of the Arab capitals.
9. Not to acknowledge any decision from any side (Israel, United States or others) opposed to the Arabic-Islamic stand towards Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian lands and which diminishes its Arabism, sanctities, heritage, its people and land.