

‘The Mandelblit Plan’ for Jerusalem: A singular achievement for ZOA’s Israel Office working with ICPHH*

ISRAEL (Update) November 2, 2014. As we come closer to accomplishing certain goals in Jerusalem, we find ourselves negotiating a combination of keeping the Jerusalem sovereignty issue on the foreground of the public's consciousness, while staging unpublicized meetings to plan the specifics.

‘The Mandelblit Plan’ success story is one example. (Our on-site [Mount of Olives](#) briefing for Jerusalem Consul Michael Ratney, which he preferred to keep off the mainstream media radar, is another).

When news broke early summer of this new “carrot and stick” approach to regaining control over eastern Jerusalem — by means of a 300 million shekel government budget addition including a third for eastern Jerusalem security — we immediately grasped the connection to our front and back channel campaigns.

This was confirmed to us on July 2, in private meetings with Avichai Mandelblit and Harel Locker at the Prime Minister's Office in Tel Aviv. Avi as Bibi's cabinet secretary, and Harel as director general (Bibi's #2 in command), together direct the decision making and implementation aspects of Israel government policy.

[Avi commended us on our persistence, which he said had been the primary mover behind this major new direction toward a safer, united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty — all of which is gravely under threat at this time.](#)

* ICPHH (International Committee for the Preservation of Har Hazeitim), partnering with ZOA ISRAEL on Mount of Olives concerns, is a U.S. based organization with Jeff Daube its co-chair in Israel.



The momentum rewarding us with these outstanding results had been built over the course of dozens of meetings and on-site briefings that we initiated and coordinated; with President of 8th generation Yerushalmi President of Israel Reuven Rivlin (pictured middle), Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef and David Lau, police and security commanders, numerous ministers and Knesset leaders, and more.

We also had testified at, and brought the testimonies of others to, several Knesset hearings. ZOA friend and great philanthropist Simon Falic was one of many victims of Palestinian Arab terror. As were several Americans, whose tales we continue to share with U.S. officials as well — U.S. law mandates support of various specified kinds.



ZOA Israel/ICPHH preparing testimony for one of many Knesset hearings

We were pleased to find ‘The Mandelblit Plan’ addressing one of our [signature issues](#): improving enforcement with stronger penalties, including mandatory minimum sentencing, for rock-throwing and cemeteries desecration. With the violence in Jerusalem having escalated since we first convened at the Prime Minister’s Office, that number has since been upped to [ten to twenty years](#). There is also talk — albeit controversial — of revoking citizenship, or at least permanent residency status, in extreme cases.

STEP BY STEP FOR JERUSALEM SECURITY UNDER ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY



with Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat



with Minister of Tourism Uzi Landau



with Religious Affairs Dep. Minister Eli Ben-Dahan



with MK Danny Danon and Councilman Arieh King



with MKs Menachem Moses and David Azoulay



with Deputy Minister of Education Avi Wortzman

Cabinet approves plan to tighten Israeli control over East Jerusalem

Plan calls for investment of 295 million shekels over next 5 years to prevent future division of Jerusalem as part of a peace agreement, includes increasing Hebrew in Palestinian schools and beefing up police presence in the area.

By Barak Ravid and Nir Hasson | 6.29.2014



Protester waving a Palestinian flag shouts at Orthodox Jewish man in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem May 17, 2013
(Photo by Reuters)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet approved Sunday a plan aimed at tightening Israeli control of East Jerusalem and strengthening the connection between the 300,000 Palestinians living there and the State of Israel.

The plan, which appears similar in nature to Economy Minister Naftali Bennett's proposal to annex Area C of the West Bank, calls for an investment of 295 million shekels (\$86m) in the eastern section of the city over the next five years, through a number of actions with the declared purpose of thwarting any possibility that the city would be divided as part of a future accord.

The plan is an outgrowth of a political-security cabinet discussion last December. That session dealt with the deteriorating security situation in East Jerusalem and the increase in nationalistically motivated rock-throwing and other violent incidents, and concluded with the decision to form an inter-ministerial committee to formulate a plan of action.

The team was headed by cabinet secretary Avichai Mendelblit. The other members included Housing Minister Uri Ariel, PMO director-general Harel Locker, Director General of the Ministry for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs Dvir Kahana, Jerusalem District Police Commander Major General Yossi Pariente, Shin Bet representatives, representatives of the National Security Headquarters, representatives of the Jerusalem district attorney's office and the attorney general, as well as officials from the Treasury and the Jerusalem Municipality.

After three meetings held between December 2013 and May 2014, the team compiled a report with recommendations. Documents that were submitted to the ministers ahead of the cabinet meeting and published on the Internet on the PMO website reveal that the worsening security situation in East Jerusalem led to "a real impact on Israel's ability to effectively govern the area under its sovereignty, was leading Israeli visitors to stay away from historic sites such as the cemetery on the Mount of Olives, and to untenable living conditions for the local residents."

The committee determined that the situation arose due to a lack of sufficient enforcement from the police and security agencies, a lack of relevant legislation and a poor socio-economic situation in the eastern section of the city.

The committee members did not draw any link between the security situation and the national conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and its byproducts, such as construction in the settlements, the dead end in the peace talks, or the Palestinian aspiration for an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"Integrated action by the various state authorities is needed in order to improve living conditions for the residents and lessen the motivation for disturbances of order, with uncompromising enforcement and punishment against those who seek to undermine Israeli control in these areas," said the report.

One of the committee's conclusions was that "There is a close link between the scope and level of the violence of East Jerusalem residents and the quality of life in the eastern neighborhoods, and the possibilities for integrating the residents in the civic life of the state."

To implement this finding, the committee recommended that the government undertake a five-year plan for the social and economic development of East Jerusalem. The task was assigned to Minister for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs Naftali Bennett and his ministry's director-general Dvir Kahana, who until a year and a half ago was the director-general of the Elad, a right-wing organization that strives to bolster the Jewish presence in the Palestinian neighborhoods of East Jerusalem.

The plan includes many elements that are reminiscent of Minister Bennett's plan that would apply Israeli law to the Palestinians living in Area C of the West Bank.

The report submitted by Mendelblit to the government shows that implementation of the plan is designed to prevent a future division of Jerusalem as part of a peace agreement. "The security situation in East Jerusalem is a top national interest," says the document. "Implementing the recommendations will have a far-reaching effect... On the national level, this is an important component in the unity of Jerusalem, Israel's capital, and in removing the fear that may visitors have of violent events happening at important historic national sites... On the municipal level, it will help strengthen the feeling of belonging for East Jerusalem residents, strengthen municipal governance in the city's eastern neighborhoods and improve the security situation."

Mendelblit's team recommended that the government launch a PR campaign, to be coordinated by the national hasbara headquarters in the PMO, in conjunction with the plan both within Israel and in relation to the international community. The committee also recommended that the political-security cabinet coordinate monitoring of the plan's implementation and receive a report on the matter every six months.

The plan that was submitted for the cabinet's approval on Sunday calls for an investment of 200 million shekels in 2014-2018 for "empowering the East Jerusalem population." A comprehensive survey of the infrastructure in East Jerusalem is to be carried out, covering public transportation, road safety, the sewage, lighting, open areas and public buildings. Once the survey is completed, 67.5 million shekels is to be invested in upgrading and developing the infrastructure as needed.

In the realm of education, the plan includes steps to strengthen the connection that Palestinian schoolchildren and university students in East Jerusalem have with the state. For example, the plan calls for increased Hebrew studies in the Palestinian schools in East Jerusalem and for the Education Ministry (rather than the Palestinian tawjiyah) to define the number of students studying for the Israeli matriculation exams "taking into account the characteristics of the area and the sensitivity of the subject," says the decision, which also calls for promoting university preparatory programs for Palestinians in Israeli institutions of higher education.

The plan further calls for the introduction of more computerization into East Jerusalem schools, activities to deter kids from dropping out of school, and the formulation of a special plan by the Council on Higher Education for students from East Jerusalem. 47 million shekels is to be allocated for this part of the plan.

Another 48 million shekels is to be dedicated to increasing employment opportunities for East Jerusalem residents by establishing employment counseling centers and helping small and medium-size businesses. An additional 39 million shekels will be invested in improving welfare services, in plans to help at-risk youth and to fight alcohol and drug abuse.

As part of the plan's implementation, the government is expected to instruct the Justice Ministry to submit to the Ministerial Committee on Legislation amendments to the penal code that would mandate stiffer penalties for the offense of throwing rocks at police officers, civilians or vehicles. The Justice Ministry will also be instructed to issue stricter guidelines concerning arrests, indictments and the state's position on punishment in cases of rock-throwing.

The Mendelblit Committee's report also advises the government to beef up the police presence, to deploy cameras along the seam line between East and West Jerusalem and to upgrade the protection at compounds of Jewish settlers in Palestinian neighborhoods. The plan allocates a budget of 95 million shekels over the next four years to improve the security situation in East Jerusalem.

Five million shekels of the security budget will come from the Housing Ministry, which is responsible for the security of the Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem, with a current budget of 65 million shekels.

Five Year Master Plan for Jerusalem Security and Development 2014-2019

One hundred million shekels includes the Mount of Olives and adjacent eastern Jerusalem neighborhoods

The new 300 million shekel plan for Jerusalem incorporates a 100 million allocation to secure eastern Jerusalem, which means better protection for the Mount of Olives and its surroundings, and transforming its holy cemetery into a major site for Jewish visitors the world over. The following notes, taken at the meeting with Avichai Mandelblit and Harel Locker, offer some details (responsible parties in parentheses).



Jeff Daube with Cabinet Secretary Avichai Mandelblit (third from left) and ICPHH team on new direction for Jerusalem

Security

- Construction of new major police station for eastern Jerusalem - to be known as Merchav Kedem (Israeli government)
- Assignment of 40 Yasseem officers to Kedem (Israeli government)
- Upgrading of police substation on Har Hazeitim (Israeli government)
- Installation of 160 additional technologically advanced cameras in eastern Jerusalem, including all of the access roads to the Mount of Olives (Israeli government)
- Upgrading of surveillance monitoring in new Kedem police station - take over monitoring of Har Hazeitim from private security on Har Hazeitim (Israeli government)
- Regular police and border police patrol in 'hot spots' (Israeli government)

Maintenance

- Private contractor to pick up garbage and keep Har Hazeitim clean (Jerusalem Development Authority)

Development

- Construction of major Visitor's Center (Israeli Government)
- Construction of permanent police sub-station on Har Hazeitim (Israeli government)
- Construction of museum, computer data base, information center, café, comfort station within Visitor's Center (International Committee for the Preservation of Har Hazeitim)
- Construction of Ohr Hachaim Shul inside Visitor's Center (International Committee for the Preservation of Har Hazeitim)
- Restoration of 30,000 of 60,000 graves destroyed by Jordanians (1948-1967). (International Committee for the Preservation of Har Hazeitim/Israeli Government)
- Construction of new section of cemetery, Netzach Hazeitim, with 6,000 graves (Rovaim Lightstone Developers)

This does not include such government initiatives as fencing, repairs of roads, other infrastructure projects, signage etc.)

Transportation (Israeli government, Municipality of Jerusalem)

- Construction of new cable car to Har Hazeitim
- Addition of new line in Jerusalem's light rail system

Legislative Initiatives (supported by Israeli government)

- Reduce age of minors from 16 to 14
- Mandatory jail terms for anyone over the age of 14 (5-7 years proposed originally; up to 20 years voted by cabinet amid the violence in October, and will be decided by Knesset...see headline below)
- Dismissal from any jobs immediate until trial. Judges will not have leeway in giving short revolving door sentences
- Parents of children throwing rocks under the age of 14 will be fined between 2,000-3,000 shekel per incident
- Every 6 months police must report to security cabinet on its progress

Other Initiatives (funded by Israeli government)

- Local Arab schools will be provided with extracurricular programs and children will have the opportunity to spend more time in school
- Children will be provided with after hours sport activities



מזכירות הממשלה

החלטה מספר 1776 של הממשלה מיום 29.06.2014.

חיזוק האכיפה בעבירות של יידוי אבנים

.1776

מ ח ל י ט י ס, בהמשך להמלצות הצוות הבין-משרדי בנושא המצב הביטחוני במזרח ירושלים, המפורטות בסיפא של החלטה זו, ומתוך הכרה בצורך להתמודד באופן נחוש ומחמיר ובכלים משפטיים אפקטיביים עם עבריינות לאומנית הכוללת יידוי אבנים אשר הפכה לתופעה שכחה בשנים האחרונות:

1. להנחות את משרד המשפטים להביא בהקדם לאישור ועדת השרים לענייני חקיקה את תיקון טיוטת חוק העונשין, התשל"ז-1977 הקובע עבירה חדשה ביחס ליידוי אבנים, ואשר נותן מענה לנסיבות שונות של עבירה זו, לאחר ליבון הערות הציבור לתזכיר החוק שהופץ בנושא.
2. היועץ המשפטי לממשלה הודיע לממשלה כי נערכת עבודת מטה לשם עדכון בהקדם של הנחיית פרקליט המדינה מס' 2.19 (מדיניות האכיפה בעבירות של יידוי אבנים) באופן שההנחיה המתוקנת תעסוק בשלושה נושאים:

א. מדיניות הגשת כתבי אישום בעבירות אלו: גיבוש מבחנים ומדדים ברורים לייחוס עבירות מתאימות למי שמיידיים אבנים לעבר אזרחים, שוטרים וכלי רכב.

ב. מדיניות מעצרים: גיבוש קריטריונים ברורים להגשת בקשות מעצר עד תום ההליכים נגד מיידוי אבנים, תוך מתן דגש לנסיבותיו של המעשה.

ג. מדיניות ענישה: גיבוש קווים מנחים לקביעת עמדת המדינה בעניין עונשיהם של מיידוי אבנים, במטרה להביא להחמרת הענישה הנוהגת, ובמגמה להביא להטלת מאסרים משמעותיים לריצוי בפועל, מאסרים על תנאי וכן שקילת הטלת קנסות במקרים המתאימים, לרבות הטלת קנס או תשלום פיצויים על הוריו של קטין, עת ניתן הדבר בהתאם