

# Coalition for Jerusalem

## الإئتلاف من أجل القدس

### Press Release

#### The Impact of Master Plan (Jerusalem 2000) on the Political Future of East Jerusalem

The Coalition for Jerusalem will hold a workshop at the YWCA in East Jerusalem on Monday July 10, 2006 at 3:00-6:00 p.m. to brief Palestinian prominent figures in the City about the political implications on Israeli Occupied East Jerusalem of the issuance and eventual implementation by the Israeli Municipality in Jerusalem of Master Plan (Jerusalem 2000). The workshop will include a briefing by Town Planner Suad Nasr Makhoul of her cursory mapping of the Israeli Master Plan, and her initial recommendations for a course of action that should be taken up by the Palestinians of East Jerusalem to deal with the harmful encroachments of the plan on both their political and human rights. Her briefing will be followed by a legal briefing. The briefing includes initial findings of her mapping:

- The Master Plan recommends upfront the necessity to veer development in the City towards increasing the number of Jews in the City and to reducing the number of Palestinians. This fact renders the plan unprofessional and unethical.
- The Israeli Municipality Planners approach the indigenous Palestinian population of the City antagonistically: as a problem that should be flouted rather than resolved
- The mapping revealed that the plan does not satisfy the need of the Palestinian population until the year 2020. It does not offer solutions to the need for housing, services and economic development associated with natural growth.
- The provisioning for housing units for Palestinians in the Master plan is not accompanied by stipulation for infrastructure, services and economic growth. This will render the Palestinian neighborhoods into densely populated urban slums with substandard living conditions.
- The plan seemingly offers the Palestinian population housing units which are proportionate to their growth. However, on close examination a big number of housing units allocated for the Palestinians in the plan exist already.
- The Plan totally ignores the development needs of the Palestinians until 2020.
- Therefore there is an urgent need for an action plan to thwart the Master plan and prevent its approval, authorization and endorsement by the Israeli respective authorities.

#### The Status of the Master Plan

Jerusalem 2000 is presently deposited with the Regional Planning Council for study. The Local Council for Planning and Construction approved the Plan two months ago and referred it to the Regional Council for deliberation. The next step will involve approval by the Regional Council and setting it for objections by the concerned public.

The Regional Council may also reject it and send it back to the Local Council. There is an urgency to undertake a deeper study of the Plan before it reaches the objection phase in order to procure for politicians and individuals the necessary information during the objection period which is 60 days following its publication in the gazette. Given the present political climate, the deliberations in the Regional Council may not exceed few months.

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#### Members of the Coalition:

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Nidal Center  
Assaraya Center  
YMCA  
YWCA  
Al-Mirsat  
Sabeel  
ECRC  
Women Center for Legal Aid  
and Counseling  
Palestinian Women Union  
Arab Hotel Association  
Arab Thought Forum  
Yabous  
Edward Said Music  
Conservatory  
Land Research Center  
Dar El Tifel  
Rawdet Al Zuhur  
UPMRC  
UHCW  
UAWC  
Old City Youth Association  
Jerusalem Center for Social  
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Arab Working Women Society  
Al\_Maqased Society  
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Jerusalem Hospitals  
Committee  
Individuals from East  
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