



# EAST JERUSALEM: KEY HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS

DECEMBER 2011

## FAST FACTS

- ▮ Around 284,000 Palestinians currently reside in East Jerusalem, in addition to 200,000 Israeli settlers who reside in the settlements which have been constructed since 1967, contrary to the international law.
- ▮ 3.7 million Palestinians from the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) are prohibited from entering East Jerusalem without Israeli-issued permits, which are difficult to obtain.
- ▮ Access to East Jerusalem is controlled by a combination of physical and administrative obstacles. Palestinians who are able to obtain permits can only use four of the 16 checkpoints along the Barrier.
- ▮ This system of restrictions obstructs Palestinian access, including patients by ambulance, to the East Jerusalem health facilities which provide specialized and emergency services, unavailable elsewhere in the oPt.
- ▮ Approximately 55,000 Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem are physically separated from the urban centre by the Barrier.
- ▮ While 35% of East Jerusalem's land has been confiscated for the development of Israeli settlements, only 13% of East Jerusalem is zoned for Palestinian construction.
- ▮ At least 33% of all Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem lack building permits, which are difficult to obtain, potentially placing at least 93,100 residents at risk of displacement. Since 1967, the Israeli authorities have demolished some 2,000 houses in East Jerusalem.
- ▮ Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem lack a secure legal residency status. Around 14,000 Palestinians have had their Jerusalem residency revoked by the Israeli authorities since 1967.
- ▮ Because of settlement activity and eviction, several hundred Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem are at risk of forced displacement. Particularly affected are the Old City and Silwan, and 500 people in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.
- ▮ 1,000 additional classrooms are required to accommodate Palestinian children in schools in East Jerusalem and many existing facilities are substandard or unsuitable.

### **1. Israel's unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem and the surrounding West Bank hinterland contravenes international law.**

It is not recognized by the international community which considers East Jerusalem an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), (see, among others, Security Council resolutions 252, 267, 471, 476 and 478).

### **2. Since 1967, Israeli measures have altered the status of East Jerusalem and affected the residency status of Palestinians, their access to basic services, and their ability to plan and develop their communities.**

Combined, these measures place pressure on Palestinians and act as 'push factors', which significantly increase their humanitarian vulnerability. In the long term, failure to address these factors risks undermining the Palestinian presence in East Jerusalem.

### **3. Israeli-imposed movement and access restrictions impede Palestinians' access to East Jerusalem health facilities,** which provide routine, specialised and emergency

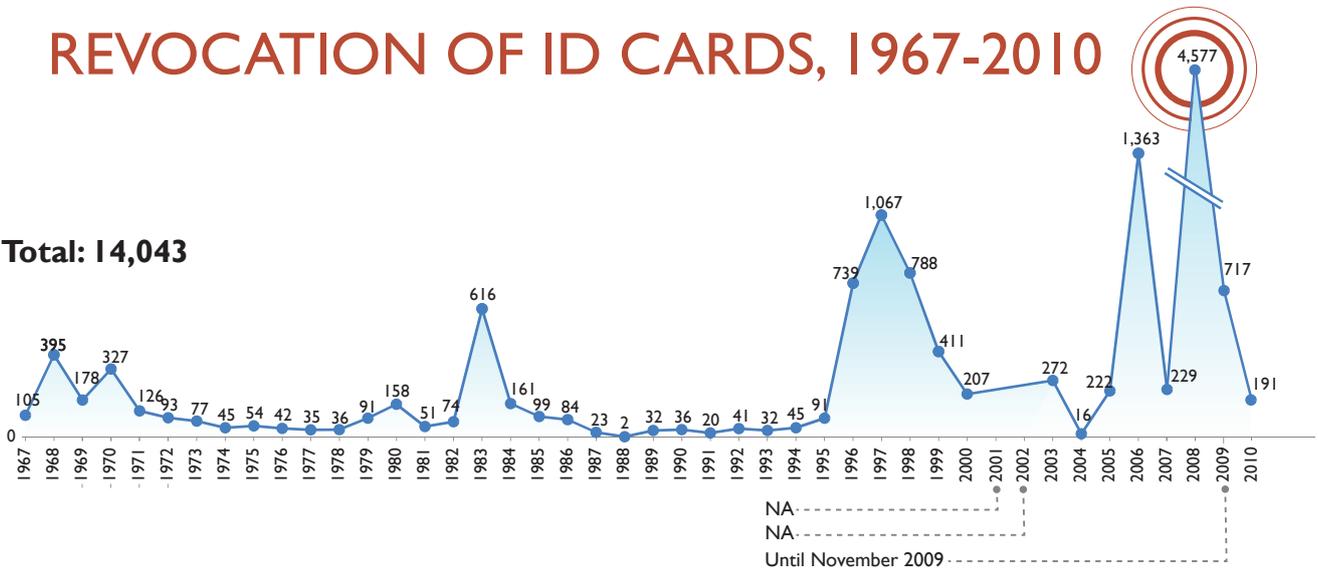
health services unavailable elsewhere in the oPt. Physical and bureaucratic obstacles also hamper the ability of Palestinian medical staff and students to access their workplaces in East Jerusalem, to the detriment of patients and hospitals.

### **4. Israeli measures are increasingly cutting off East Jerusalem – the focus of Palestinian political, commercial, religious and cultural life, and a hub for medical and educational services – from the rest of the oPt.** The Barrier is compounding the separation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, dividing Palestinian neighbourhoods and suburbs from each other and from the urban centre, and separating rural communities from their land in the Jerusalem hinterland.

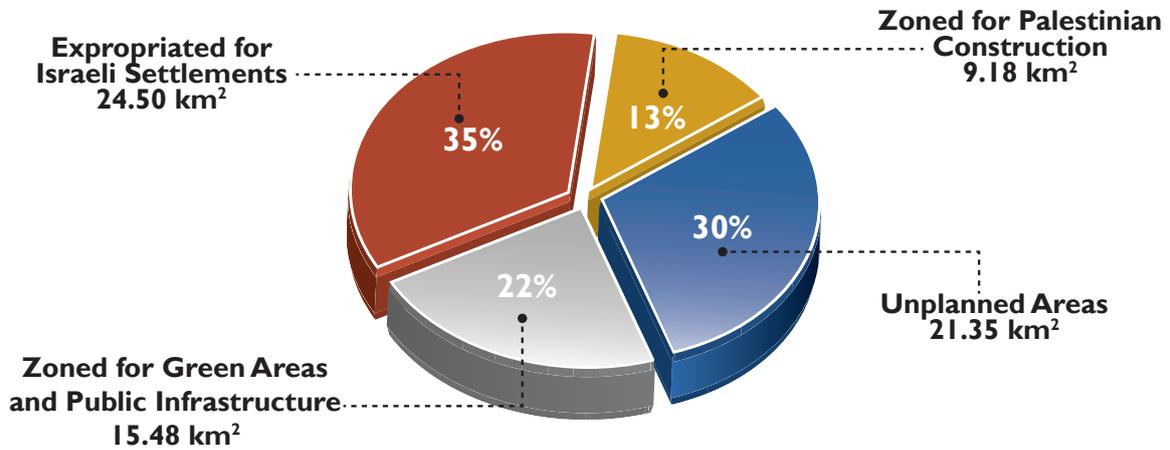
### **5. Israeli settlement activity in East Jerusalem is illegal and occurs at the expense of land and resources for Palestinian construction and development.** Settlement expansion inside and around Palestinian neighborhoods leaves residents at risk of forced eviction, displacement and dispossession.

# REVOCAATION OF ID CARDS, 1967-2010

Total: 14,043



# ZONING IN EAST JERUSALEM



# DEMOLITIONS IN EAST JERUSALEM, 2000 – 2011

