

AL-AQSA...

Aggressive Raids with Malicious Laws

A report issued by
the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds



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Introduction

The blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque faces unprecedented dangers that threaten its identity under the attacks of the Israeli occupation, which violates international laws and the status quo. It has become necessary for the world to intervene to put an immediate stop to these measures and attacks. At the forefront of those calling for intervention are the representatives of the nations who support the Palestinian right and advocate for international justice.

We, in the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds, present, in this report, horrifying aspects of the most significant of these violations, the Judaization plans targeting the occupied city of Jerusalem and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and methods to confront these, so we can work together with the members of the League to address and attempt to stop them.

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Preamble

The Judaization efforts of the occupation do not leave any part of the occupied city of Jerusalem, without plans targeting its identity and seeking to Judaize it. They do not leave an inch of the city without targeting, sometimes through settlement projects and appropriating the homes of Jerusalemites, and sometimes by situating intrusive Jewish landmarks, such as synagogues and Judaization projects, close to the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, leading to a direct assault on Islamic and Christian sacred sites in the city, and attempts to control the Al-Aqsa Mosque and impose a Jewish presence within it.

In the context of reviewing the developments of Judaization in the occupied city, we can speak about four main contexts, viz.

- The occupation's attempt to impose complete Jewish prayers inside the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, especially during Jewish holidays, which has become known as the "semantic establishment of the temple," in addition to mobilizing the largest numbers of mosque intruders on these occasions.
- The occupation's plans to displace the residents of a number of Jerusalem neighbourhoods, primarily the residents of the Sheikh Jarrah and Al-Bustan neighbourhoods.
- The occupation's escalation of the demolition of Palestinian homes and facilities.
- The comprehensive Palestinian confrontation and the "Sword of Al-Quds" battle, which managed to perplex the occupation and force it to stop the raids of Al-Aqsa for a period of time.

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These contexts are reflected in the reality of the occupied city. As a result of the decline in the numbers of intruders of Al-Aqsa as a result of the outbreak of the Corona epidemic, the raids began to escalate again in 2021, as approximately 33181 settlers stormed Al-Aqsa in the period between 1/1/2021 and 31/10/2021.

In the context of Jewish holidays, the occupation organs increased their infringements, especially in relation to the performance of public Jewish prayers inside Al-Aqsa, under the protection of the occupation forces. In this paper, we present an overview of the situation of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the past few months, with a comprehensive reading of the predicted outcomes of events in the blessed mosque in 2022, in addition to the most prominent recommendations to try to support the cause of Al-Quds and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

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First:

Course of Infringement on Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Imposition of Jewish Prayers and Holidays

The Israeli occupation has increased the intensity of the almost daily raids into the mosque and the Al-Aqsa courtyards witnessed the storming of hundreds of settlers, after the raids had declined due to measures implemented to tackle the Corona pandemic, especially on Jewish holidays and occasions, in conjunction with the imposition of Jewish prayers within it, in an attempt to turn these prayers into a fait accompli. This is what prompted one of the occupation's legal courts to recognize the right of Jews to perform "silent prayers" inside Al-Aqsa.

The number of those who stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque during the period of monitoring was about 33181 settlers, Jewish students and the occupation's security personnel. In the table below, we list the monthly raids of Al-Aqsa, the Jewish occasions that coincide with them, and the most prominent observations about the participants therein:

Month	Number of Invaders	Jewish Festivals and Occasions and Main Participants
January 2021	748	Including 300 Jewish students, and 100 members of the occupation's security forces
February 2021	2122	The raid included the so-called "guests" of the occupation police
March 2021	3880	Coinciding with the Hebrew Passover
April 2021	3609	Including soldiers, officers, and students of Torah religious seminaries
May 2021	1230	Including students of Jewish religious institutes and security personnel
June 2021	2900	Including members of the occupation's intelligence agencies, students of Torah religious institutes, and employees of the occupation's Antiquities Authority
July 2021	4000	Including 1540 settlers, coinciding with the anniversary of the "Destruction of the Temple"
August 2021	5184	Including Jewish students
September 2021	6801	Coinciding with the festivals of the "Hebrew New Year, Yom Kippur and the Feast of Tabernacles"
October 2021	2707	Including soldiers, officers, and students of Torah religious seminaries
Total		33181 settlers

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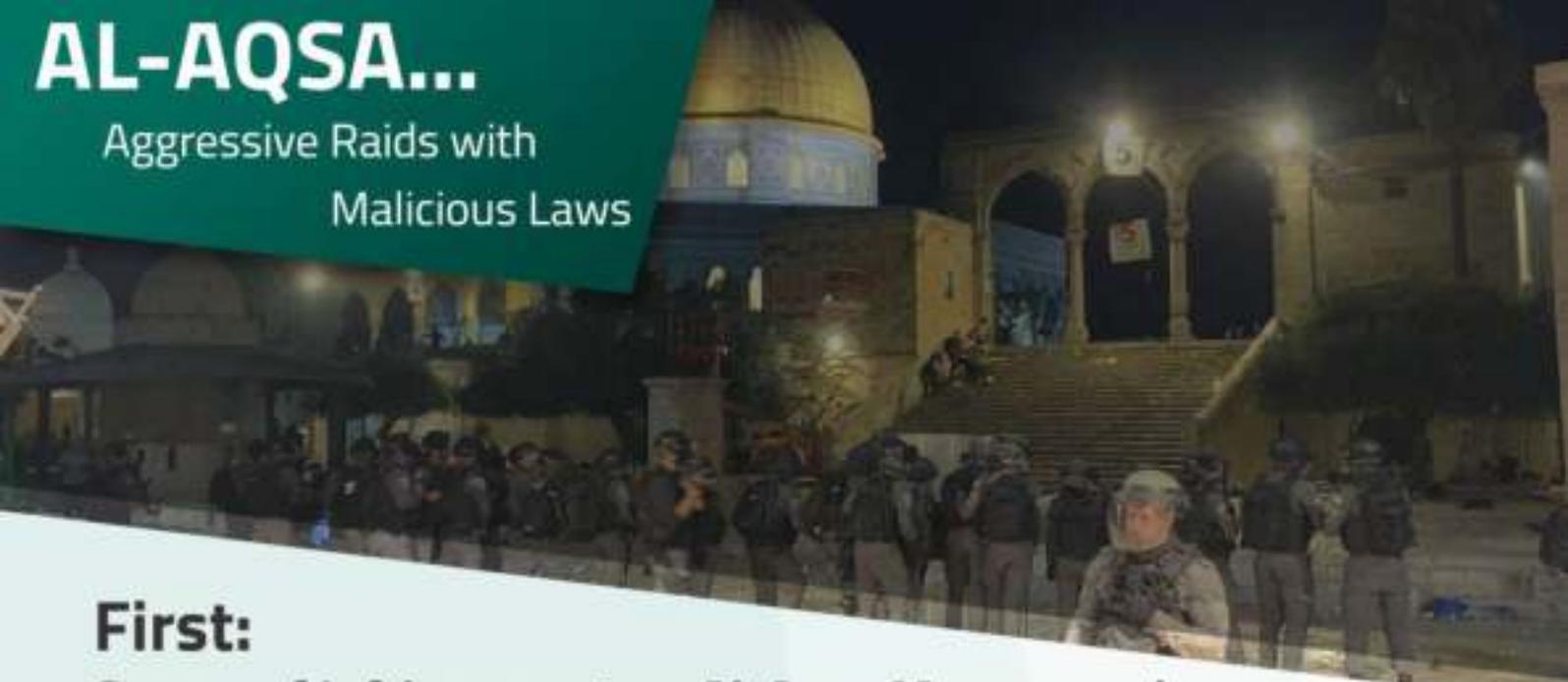
During the period monitored, the occupation forces continued their raids into Al-Aqsa Mosque on an almost daily basis, and in the context of monitoring the most prominent raid milestones in the months of monitoring, we can focus on the following milestones:

The storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque, on 10/5/2021, on the occasion of the anniversary of the occupation of the entire city of Jerusalem, called "Quds Day" in Hebrew, coinciding with the 28th of Ramadan, which was preceded by the occupation's efforts to mobilize the largest possible number of intruders, via campaigns on social media and a conference that brought together various extremist settler organizations. However, the rise and resistance of the Palestinians prevented the occupation from bringing any settler into Al-Aqsa Mosque. The raid on the mosque formed the first spark of the "Sword of Al-Quds" battle, and the comprehensive Palestinian confrontation, which erupted in Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, in addition to the territories occupied in 1948.

- The storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque on 18/7/2021, on the occasion of the anniversary of the alleged "Destruction of the Temple," coinciding with the eighth of Dhul Hijjah. In the early hours of the morning, the occupation forces stormed Al-Aqsa, forcefully evacuated worshippers and those stationed there, and brought in settlers in large successive groups. According to the Islamic Endowments Department, the number of settlers that stormed in on that day was about 1540 settlers, including former and current members of the Israeli Knesset. The storming witnessed the settlers loudly singing the "Hatikvah" anthem, and large numbers of them performing public Talmudic rituals.

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- The raids on Al-Aqsa mosque during the season of Jewish holidays, especially the Throne Festival, when the mosque witnessed a wave of violent raids. On 23/9/2021, 1013 settlers stormed Al-Aqsa, under the strict protection of the occupation forces. On 26/9/2021, 1014 settlers stormed Al-Aqsa, coinciding with the tightening of security measures by the occupation forces inside and around Al-Aqsa Mosque. On 27/9/2021, 778 settlers stormed Al-Aqsa, and one of the intruders raised the occupation flag inside the blessed mosque. On 28/9/2021, sources close to the "temple organizations" revealed that 5597 settlers stormed Al-Aqsa on the "Feast of the Throne / Tabernacles" between 20 and 27 September 2021. The raids witnessed the participation of senior rabbis, the official of the "Gush Etzion" settlements, Shlomo Ne'eman, in addition to a number of Knesset members, including Michael Ben-Ari, Ariel Kallner and Itamar Ben Jvir. The spokesman for the so-called "Temple Mount Administration" thanked the occupation police for facilitating the raids during the Jewish holidays.

The performance of open Jewish rituals inside Al-Aqsa is the occupation's strategy during the current year 2021, and the performance of open prayers is no longer an individual act of the settlers, but has become the main tool of the "temple organizations" for the supposed "semantic establishment of the temple."

In other words, the occupation authorities seek to turn the mosque into an area that not only accommodates the Jewish presence during most parts of the day, but, also one that fully accommodates Jewish rituals linked to the supposed "temple." This is reflected in the form of these rituals, which used to be performed individually and away from the eyes of the Al-Aqsa guards, and have now turned into open rituals that are practised collectively, including the complete prostration, the "Torah service" and other rituals that take place only in the supposed "temple."

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The storming of Al-Aqsa on 4 April 2021 was a milestone in the context of the "semantic building of the temple." Members of the "temple organizations" have published video clips, showing them performing public congregational prayers in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa with the participation of rabbis, and one of the "temple" activists commented: "No one is objecting anymore, neither the police nor the endowments," referring to the occupation police protecting the settlers when they perform prayers, and the inability of the endowments to confront these infringements.

Hebrew media revealed that a number of rabbis officially requested the Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, to allow the shofar horn to be blown inside Al-Aqsa, coinciding with the raids of the Hebrew New Year. On 8/9/2021, the horn was blown inside the courtyards of Al-Aqsa in order to announce the beginning of the new year. Then, the horn was blown a second time on 16/9/2021, while settlers deliberately performed collective prayers loudly.

In conjunction with the "Yom Kippur" holiday, the occupation escalated the performance of the Jewish rituals of the alleged "temple." On 16/9/2021, the storming of Al-Aqsa witnessed the performance of the biblical "sarcophagus" ritual inside Al-Aqsa, by the extremist Rabbi Eliyahu Weber, head of the Temple Mount School. This is the most important Jewish ritual, and is only performed on Yom Kippur. Video clips revealed that the settlers performed the ritual wearing the "white clothes of repentance." The only thing missing was the offering of the live sacrifice, and these rituals took place while they stormed the area north of the courtyard of the Dome of the Rock.

The storming of Al-Aqsa, in conjunction with the "Feast of Yom Kippur and Feast of the Throne", witnessed an escalation in the performance of the Jewish rituals of the alleged "temple." With the approach of the Jewish holiday season, extremist organizations sought to blow the horn inside the mosque.

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Days after the decision, the Hebrew media reported that the court's decision had been rescinded. But Jerusalemite sources indicated that the occupation courts had not rescinded the decision. Rather, the occupation police appealed against it, and the occupation's Central Court considered it, and recognized the right of Jews to the silent prayer. What was published by the Hebrew media was an attempt to mislead Jerusalemites, and minimize any reaction to the decision.

On 6/10/2021, the occupation's Magistrate's Court, in occupied Jerusalem, permitted Jews to perform silent prayers within Al-Aqsa, following the waiving of an expulsion warrant issued by the occupation police against the extremist rabbi, "Aryeh Lebo," to prevent him from storming the mosque because he held Jewish prayers within it.

The occupation's decision did not stop at its courts only, as there were concerted efforts by its various organs to increase the frequency of the raids on the mosque. On 16/11/2021, the Education Committee of the Israeli Knesset decided to oblige schools affiliated with the Ministry of Education in its government to include Al-Aqsa Mosque in their educational tours for Jewish students. The Knesset's decision came after a session held by the committee headed by Haskell, an activist in the Temple Organizations. The decision stated that "the Temple Mount must be included in the mandatory Ministry of Education tour sites." In the context of implementing the decision, the committee asked the Ministry of Internal Security in the occupation's government to provide it with a statistic of the number of requests submitted by schools in the past years, to organize their incursions into Al-Aqsa in light of the new decision.

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Second:

Looking Forward to 2022

In view of the escalation of the Israeli occupation's attempts to continue performing Jewish prayers openly at Al-Aqsa, and the occupation's endeavour to establish the mosque raids to be a fixed and unchanging behaviour of settlers, in addition to mobilizing the efforts of the various official Israeli political, security and legal levels to that end, we find that the occupation authorities will seek to reinforce their infringements aimed at demonstrating Israeli "sovereignty" over the Al-Aqsa mosque, and it will move towards further imposing full Israeli control over it. Some of the more prominent expected courses of action are:

- Escalation by "temple organizations" of their demands to impose more control over Al-Aqsa Mosque and its gates, and attempts to impose these demands, through the avenue of preventive measures against Corona, or permission to bring in offerings on Jewish holidays.
- The occupation will push towards further interference in the role of Islamic endowments, which means that it will continue its attempts to end the Jordanian guardianship over the mosque, or push it towards further retreat, parallel with the establishment of the raids. The supposed "temple organizations" will increase the performance of public Jewish prayers, implement more holiday rituals, and raise the intensity of their attack against worshipers, especially in conjunction with Jewish and Islamic holidays.
- Establishment of the performance of public Jewish prayers inside Al-Aqsa during the almost daily raids into the mosque, escalation of their implementation on Jewish holidays, and implementation of more rituals related to the supposed "temple."
- Raising the intensity of the storming of Al-Aqsa on Jewish holidays that coincide with Islamic holidays, in the context of imposing priority of Jewish occasions, and transforming Al-Aqsa into a space that accommodates Jewish prayers and rituals.
- The occupation will continue to hinder projects for the restoration and maintenance of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and will continue to usurp the right of exclusive maintenance of the mosque from Islamic endowments.
- The occupation's attempt to bring about direct changes in the vicinity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, by targeting the Al-Rahma, Yusufiya and Al-Shuhada cemeteries.

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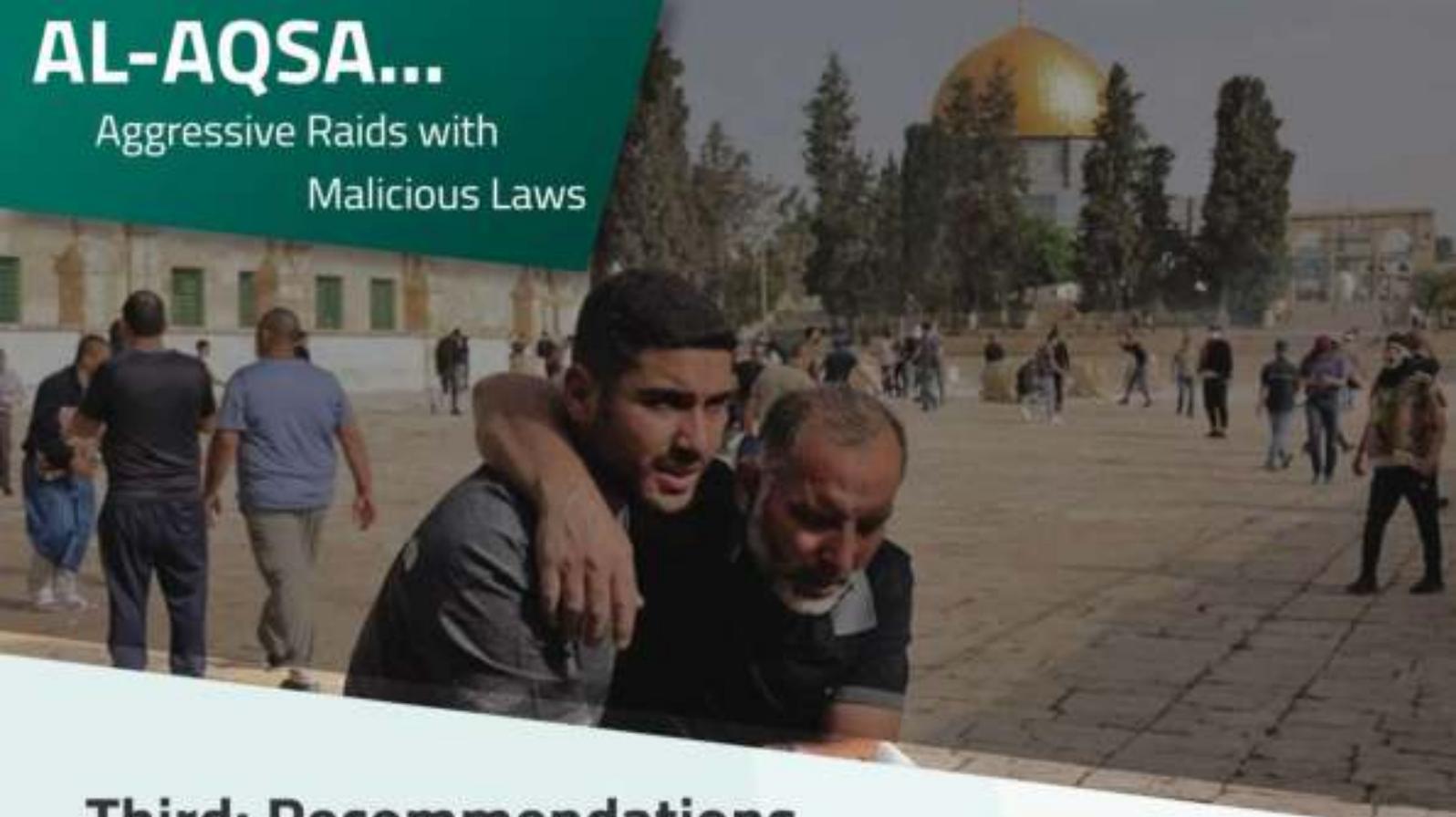


Third: Recommendations

- The Palestinian Authority must strengthen its presence in the occupied city of Jerusalem, and raise the level of its work in protecting the city and Al-Aqsa, especially with regard to filling it with worshippers and stationed troops, and paying attention to popular initiatives in support of the mosque.
- Crystallization of the plans and projects to grant protection to stationed troops and worshippers at the legal and financial levels.
- Jordan must adhere to taking care of the affairs of the holy sites in occupied Jerusalem, intensify its confrontation of plans targeting its role in Al-Aqsa and anything relating to the support of the Endowment Department supervising the mosque, and not remain silent about the occupation's attacks against its employees and officials.
- Shedding light on the occupation's attempts to impose a new reality in Al-Aqsa, starting with the performance of the public Talmudic prayers and increasing the times of raids, all the way to fixing its raids on Islamic occasions, which are steps that will whet the occupation's appetite for imposing a new reality, in which the mosque is violated without any deterrent.
- Fortifying the role of Islamic endowments in Jerusalem through their fusion with the Jerusalem public, and the necessity of not relegating endowments to an administrative function only.

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Third: Recommendations

- Providing the necessary support and care for deportees and detainees, providing them with legal care, whether they are employees of the endowments or those who are stationed there and worshippers, and supporting them in confronting the occupation's security apparatus.
- Arab and Islamic countries must avoid falling into the trap of normalization, under any economic or political considerations or pretexts. They must criminalize it, pass laws prohibiting the establishment of any relationship with the Israeli occupation, or participation with it in any international forums of a political, sports, or artistic nature, and prosecute persons who are guilty of this.
- Approve draft bills to reject any attempts at normalization with the occupation, or to communicate with it by various means.
- The adoption of laws by the education committees in the Arab and Islamic parliaments to impose content related to Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa in school curricula.
- Activate the parliamentary role with the course of events in Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa, and convey the voice of Al-Aqsa Mosque and those stationed inside it through the various means available to parliamentarians.
- Ban any normalization visits to occupied Jerusalem, and necessarily enact laws to prevent Arab countries from allowing into their territories any citizen who has the stamp of the Israeli occupation state on his passport.
- Need to provide direct and generous support for projects to upkeep the Al-Aqsa mosque, and provide those stationed there with the necessary legal and financial care, especially groups that are frequently subjected to arrest and deportation.