

Jerusalem



Jerusalem Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem is a trivial matter for debate because everyone knows that this Holy has been the capital of Jews and the place of Jewish worship since the early history of Judaism. Although ethnic, cultural, and religious claims from Christians and Muslims have also been persisting over this land for several decades, one would admit that the factual ownership goes to the Jews. However, we propose that Palestinians must be allowed to move freely through the Holy City, provided that they go through a checkpoint to make sure that no weapons are being brought into the City.

Obviously entry to Jerusalem is the privilege of Palestinians and Christians alike because their religious beliefs are also highly associated with this Holy Land. Christianity emerged from Judaism around 4 B. C. since the birth of Jesus Christ who was born and brought up as a true Jew. In the same way, Muslims believe that Mohammad ascended into heaven at al-Haran-al-Sharif which also is one of the areas of current dispute.

Irrespective of the discrepancy, Israel permits all religious beliefs to be cherished in Jerusalem. The Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (2009) expressed the Israel policy on this issue in his address on the occasion of Jerusalem Day State Ceremony. " United Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Jerusalem has always been-and always will be-ours. It will never again be divided or cut in half. Jerusalem will remain only under Israel's sovereignty. In the united Jerusalem, the freedom of worship and freedom of access for all three religions to the holy sites will be guaranteed, and it is the only way to guarantee that members of all faiths, minorities, and denominations can continue living here safely." (Prime Minister's Office).

To illustrate, in 1947 when the United Nations established two states in

Palestine, one Jewish and other Arab Jerusalem was considered as Independent international city. However, in 1948 the Arabs attacked Jewish sector of Jerusalem but Israel force gained upper hand in the battle. In 1948, when the modern state Israel was established, Jews were persecuted and expelled from the Old City. (Ullian K, 2008 p. 110). It was later in the Six Day War of 1967 Jerusalem was reunited by the Israel.

Jerusalem is safe under the sovereignty of Israel because everyday hundreds of pilgrims and tourists from all over the world visit Jerusalem. Moreover, this secularism will only be maintained as long as the City remains under the control of Israel. For instance, although the Temple Mount's Western Wall is the most Sacred place of Jewish worship, Muslims have free access to the area; whereas since 1948 to 1967 Jewish People were denied access to this Sacred Wall. As Mr. Netanyahu says " for nineteen years, Jerusalem was a wounded city; a city at the heart of which were barbed wires and mine fields, firing posts and " no man's lands". It was only after the battle of 1967 the situation changed when Jerusalem was reunited and reopened for the entire world.

Since the region has been the center of Middle East politics and incessant conflict, there should be strict provision/checkpoint to ensure that no weapon is being brought into the City. From both historical and religious perspectives, Jerusalem is the undivided eternal capital of Israel and " a house of Worship for all peoples". (Isaiah 56: 7). Therefore, settlements that divide the City again would not be justifiable.

Works Cited

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