

Jerusalem Residency Rights Appeal

CASE: Palestinian Christian Crisis

Yusef Daher

Jerusalem Inter-Church Centre

East Jerusalem residency status

- **East Jerusalem occupied since 1967**
Jerusalem Palestinians “are treated as if they were immigrants to Israel, despite the fact that it is Israel that came to them in 1967.” (*Attorney Yotam Ben-Hillel, Hamoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual*)
- **Law on “Access to Israel” (1952)**. The law’s “term 11A” allows the interior minister to confiscate identity cards from anyone they deem as a danger and threat to Israeli security.
- Those born to Jerusalemite parents outside of Israel, in the West Bank, or abroad, for example, will not be granted permission to reside or to work in Jerusalem.

Demography

Jerusalem Demographical Statistics
Sept. 2007

Jerusalem Inter-Church Centre

Population						
Source	Year	Total	Jews	Moslems	Christians	
					Pal. Christian	Foreign
British Census	1910	69900	45000	12000	12900	
British Census	1931	90200	51000	19900	19300	
Wasserstein, Yale	1946	164400	99300	33700	31400	
Wasserstein, Yale	1967	267800	196800	58100	12900	
Wasserstein, Yale	1983	428500	306300	108500	13700	
Israel Central Bureau of Statistics	2000	650700	439600	196900	14200	
Israel Central Bureau of Statistics	2006	732000	469000	239000	10000	4700

Israeli policies of stripping residency rights

- If a Jerusalemite moves away for more than five years he is at risk of having his residency status revoked.
- If he/she is found holding another citizenship or residency permit,
- When a resident also resides in the West Bank, for reasons of finding a better job or housing or for family unification, since Israel does not allow the spouse from the West Bank to reside in the city.

In numbers

- During the first 40 years of Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem (1967 - 2007) the ministry deprived a total of 8,558 Arabs of their residency rights,
- In 2008 alone, another 4672 lost their permits.
- In 2009, over 1000 more.
- In May 2002, the government froze the handling of applications for family unification filed by residents of the Occupied Territories.
- In 2009, only 258 out of 1099 reunification applications were approved “but not on Residency status”

What comes next?

Jerusalem Palestinian Christians Scenario

Current Jerusalem Christian Population:	10,000
Directly affected by Israeli Policies: Family reunification cases pending are estimated at 300 families.	-900
National insurance cases against Christians in Jerusalem are 1200; fifty percent of them may lose residency rights for their families.	-1,800
In 7 years time: the isolation policy behind the Wall, and losing residency rights for being abroad or outside municipal boundaries will affect 100,000 Palestinians; 1.4% of them are Christians.	-1,400
Indirect causes Expected normal Emigration rates of Palestinian Christians in Israel and Palestine was estimated at 4.5%	-450
Balance of Jerusalem Christians in 7 years:	5,450

Jerusalem Residency status revoked

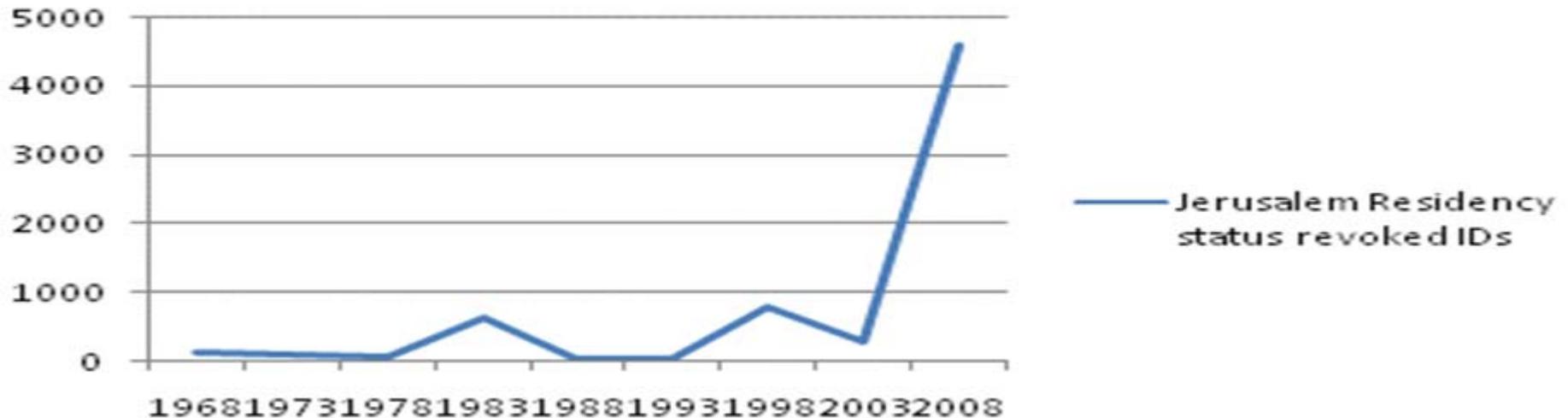
year	IDs
1968	105
1973	77
1978	39
1983	616
1988	23
1993	32
1998	788
2003	272
2008	4577

As per Israeli
Ministry of Interior

1967-2009

14000

Jerusalem Residency status revoked IDs



The situation today

- 9000 Palestinian Christians registered in Jerusalem
- Are they all living in Jerusalem?
- Do they all have the right to live with their family in Jerusalem?
- Do they have the right to come back?
- Who is taking their place?



Thank You

