



Between Yom Yerushalaim and the 50th Anniversary of the Six Day War: *Looking Back and Looking Forward* **(Produced in conjunction with Ir Amim)**

Introduction

Jerusalem, 2017. The words fill us with awe at Israel's victory in the Six Day War, 50 years ago this week, and the access that Jews regained to the Old City and the Kotel. But for Ameinu, our celebration is tempered by the reality that 2017 is also the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Occupation of Palestinian territories and annexation of East Jerusalem, an affront to values of justice and human rights and an existential danger for Israel's survival as a Jewish and democratic state. At the heart of the challenges that Israelis and Palestinians face in the struggle for peace, security, justice and reconciliation is the question of Jerusalem.

With this complex set of emotions, Ameinu is dedicating this report to the work of one of our close partners in Israel, Ir Amim. Ir Amim works to make Jerusalem a city that ensures the dignity and welfare of all its residents and the shared capital of two sovereign states. Read on to learn more about the history, politics and geography of Jerusalem and about Ir Amim's critical work to preserve it as the home of two peoples. Meet an Israeli and a Palestinian who call Jerusalem home. Explore the daily challenges facing those who dearly love Jerusalem. Learn how you can join in the campaign for Jerusalem.

We are sure that these articles will answer many questions. But they will likely also raise many more because that is the nature of Jerusalem. To dig deeper into these questions, we invite you to read about our dialogue with Ir Amim on Jerusalem **(see announcement below)**.

The Psalms declare, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem..." During this anniversary year we remember and hope you will find this newsletter and the Dialogue as calls to memory, understanding, and action to help ensure that Jerusalem will always be the City of Peace.

B'Shalom,

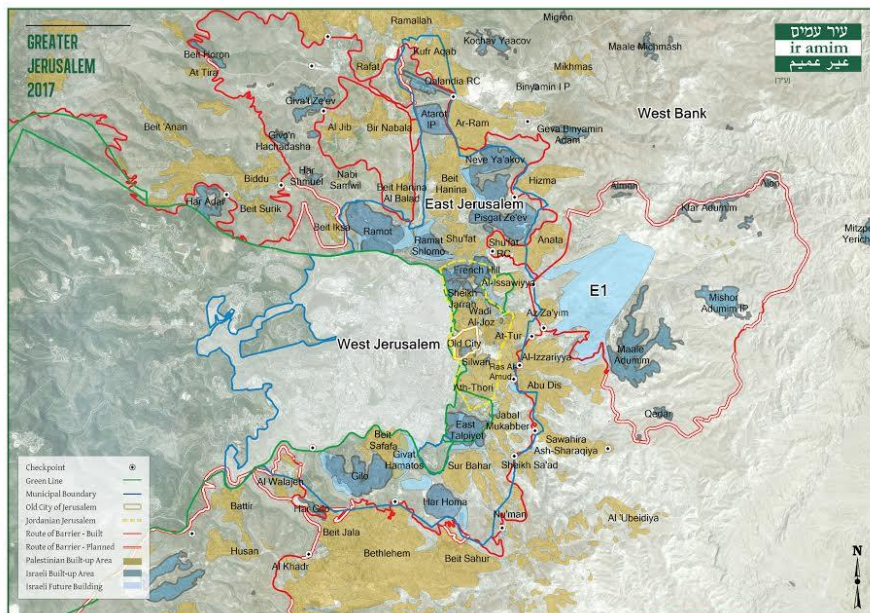
Kenneth Bob
President

Gideon Aronoff
CEO

What is Ir Amim?

Ir Amim (“City of Nations”/“City of Peoples”) is Israel’s longest standing NGO focusing on Jerusalem’s role in the Conflict. The mission of Ir Amim is to render Jerusalem a more equitable and sustainable city for the Israelis and Palestinians who share it and to help secure a negotiated resolution on the city through sustained monitoring, reporting, public and legal advocacy, public education and outreach to re-orient the public discourse on Jerusalem.

Map of Jerusalem



There is no better tool for understanding Jerusalem’s role in the Conflict than Ir Amim’s map of Jerusalem. It enables us to unlock the political complexities by actually being able to visualize how “new facts on the ground” like settlement building and the Separation Barrier physically sabotage the opportunity to negotiate a political agreement on the city.

[Explore Ir Amim’s interactive map](#) explaining the geopolitical issues of Jerusalem and the major changes that took place from 2000-2015. Examine Israeli construction in East Jerusalem, the current

reality in the Historic Basin around the Old City and the effect of the Separation Barrier on Palestinian life in and around Jerusalem. Zoom in further to learn about the Green Line and the 1967 municipal boundary and see what the Israeli and Palestinian neighborhoods of Jerusalem look like today.

Reviewing Jerusalem’s History and Present-Day Political Considerations

Since Israel was established in 1948, Jerusalem’s diplomatic and international status has been controversial and unresolved. Neither violence nor proposed solutions — of which there were many throughout Jerusalem’s long history — have brought peace to the divided city.

[Click here](#) for a primer on **Jerusalem’s role in the Conflict**, how it’s been treated in numerous rounds of negotiations over the years, and why it remains the **most intractable of the final status issue** from Oslo yet to be resolved.

And [click here](#) for a fascinating discussion of **urban planning, national parks** and other core political issues related to Jerusalem.

We live in conflict, but this is also our home...



Personal Lens:

Eran Tzidkiyahu

“I was born and raised in East Talpiyot, known to Jerusalemites as ‘Armon Hanatziv.’ ... I perceived and even acquainted myself with some of my Arab neighbors; they were to me both visible and invisible ... With typical child-like adaptation skills, my friends

and I absorbed and adopted the silent antagonism and alienation between the Arabs and us.”

Read Eran’s complete story [here](#).



Personal Lens:

Laila Abed Rabho

“I wrote my doctoral dissertation on the subject of laws relating to custody, divorce, alimony and other aspects of women’s rights. It was really hard work completing the doctorate. As a resident of East Jerusalem who doesn’t have an Israeli identity card, I did not have access to many of the scholarships, or the scholarships included conditions that don’t apply to us, such as military service. I also see how hard it is for Arabs to get into the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Even though they are very talented, they

don’t have much chance of getting into Israeli universities.”

Read Laila’s complete story [here](#).



On the Ground in Jerusalem and Ir Amim’s Work



For the past few years, Ir Amim has petitioned the High Court to reroute the Jerusalem Day Flag Parade away from the Muslim Quarter of the Old City. While underscoring the importance of free speech and expression, Ir Amim continues to forcefully advocate that the march to celebrate the “reunification” of Jerusalem — traditionally a lightning rod for nationalist violence — be held outside

of the Muslim Quarter, where Palestinian residents are subjected to virtual lockdown in their homes, shop closures, vandalism and ultranationalist and racist taunting to enable the hours long march to pass.

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Demolition of building in Jabal Mukaber displaces 14 people, including 10 children (March 2017). Ir Amim's Policy Advocacy department provides recommendations for reforming the municipal planning system and enabling Palestinian Jerusalemites, like Israelis, to build legally, develop their communities and live without the fear of home demolitions and displacement. Last year there were more than 200 demolitions across East Jerusalem, more than half residential. In addition to the obvious humanitarian toll, an increasingly harsh demolition policy further undermines the path to peace.

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This policy change was made following action research performed at the Hebrew University's Minerva Center by two students, a Palestinian and an Israeli, with the support of Adv. Oshrat Maimon, Ir Amim's Director of Policy Advocacy. The research found that a major barrier limiting the access of young Palestinians in Jerusalem to higher education was the non-recognition of the tawjihi certificate by Hebrew University (March 2017).



Ir Amim Policy Paper – February 2016

Jerusalem: Present Home and Future Capital of Two Peoples

By: Yudith Oppenheimer (Executive Director) and Attny Oshrat Maimon

Against the backdrop of growing tensions in Jerusalem, the objective of this paper is to present an outline for how to de-escalate the violence and implement a policy for managing the city that is informed by hope rather than anxiety...

The lack of diplomatic progress and upsurge in violence has led to the recent promotion of various proposals outlining unilateral Israeli steps involving separation of Palestinian neighborhoods from Jerusalem as a substitute for an agreement or as an interim strategy... The proposals themselves are detached from any understanding of the fabric of daily life in Jerusalem and seek to impose radical changes on its residents without any consideration of the current reality on the ground. Such proposals would only serve to exacerbate tensions, escalate violence, and further complicate the feasibility of an agreed upon solution in the future...

The management of Jerusalem in the absence of and toward a political agreement must be based on the understanding that the city is the home of two peoples... This situation constitutes the foundation for delicate balances that have enabled and continue to support the city's ability to function up to this point. It is vital to reinforce these balances in order to improve conditions of daily life and to elevate hope for all the residents of the city and the residents of East Jerusalem in particular. Improvements must allow Palestinians to develop their community within their urban space in order to foster daily life in the city and promote the sustainability of any future agreement... [CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL POLICY PAPER.](#)

Ir Amim's Vision for the Future of Jerusalem: Video of Jerusalem 2037

Check out Ir Amim's recently translated animated video envisioning the life and administration of Jerusalem-Al-Quds, the capital of both Israel and Palestine, ten years after a peace agreement. It outlines a hopeful future for Jerusalem as a peaceful and shared city, where there is room for all nations and religions. The video is also available in Hebrew and Arabic.



Jerusalem, Between Yom Yerushalaim and the 50th Anniversary of the Six Day War: Looking Backwards, Looking Forwards

Ameinu is pleased to have convened a dialogue with the Jerusalem-based Ir Amim to explore the complex reality that is Jerusalem. Led by Betty Herschman, Ir Amim Director of International Relations and Advocacy, this conference call gave participants the chance to delve deeply into the issues of Jerusalem 2017. To learn, to ask questions and to deepen all of our understandings of this city, which is both a source of spiritual inspiration and a flashpoint in the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. At present, no issue stands as more of a challenge in the struggle for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Furthermore, no other issue has as intricate a combination of historical, religious, emotional, geographic and political considerations as Jerusalem.

Contact Ir Amim for More Information on Programs, Analysis and Visits to East Jerusalem

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