

UNESCO: Israel should halt archaeological and restoration activities in the Old Jerusalem City (12.7.2016)*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

The United Nations (UN)'s cultural body has called on Israel to halt all its archaeological and restoration activities in the occupied Old City of al-Quds (Jerusalem). UNESCO submitted a resolution to its World Heritage Committee to vote on next week, describing the Temple Mount as a “Muslim holy site of worship.” Temple Mount, called also al-Haram al-Sharif for centuries, refers to the al-Aqsa Mosque Compound. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has strongly condemned the resolution. The Al-Aqsa Mosque is the third most sacred site in Islam after Masjid al-Haram in Mecca and Masjid al-Nabawi in Medina. The occupied territories have been the scene of heightened tensions since August 2015, when Israel imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshipers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds (Jerusalem). The Palestinians say that Tel Aviv seeks to change the status quo of the compound.

Palestinian Authority to stop cooperating with Mideast Quartet (6.7.2016)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

The Palestinian Authority (PA) will stop cooperating with the Quartet on the Middle East — seeking to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — after accusing it of bias in favor of Israel. The senior PA official Mohammad Shtayyeh said that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had taken the decision following a Friday report issued by the Quartet, consisting of the United Nations (UN), the US, Russia, and the European Union (EU). This report referred to “Palestinian violence and incitement” as a more important catalyst to the perpetuation of the conflict than Israel’s settlement activities.

UNRWA: Over half of Gazans rely on food assistance (6.7.2016)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

A United Nations (UN) agency says more than half of the population in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip is in dire need of food assistance. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) made the announcement in a statement on Tuesday. “While in the year 2000, UNRWA provided

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approximately 80,000 refugees in Gaza with food assistance, this number has increased to more than 930,000 today — almost 70 per cent of the refugee population and over 50 per cent of the total population,” the UN agency said. The agency distributed 9,809 hot meals among 26,557 Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

EU condemns Israeli settlement activities in occupied Palestinian lands
(5.7.16)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

The EU urges Israel to stop this policy and to reverse its recent decision. Israel's decision on Sunday to advance several hundred new settlement units in East Jerusalem and the West Bank threatens the viability of the two-state solution. Furthermore, it calls into question Israel's commitment to a negotiated agreement with the Palestinians. Despite repeated calls by the international community Israel is continuing its expansionist settlement policy, which is illegal under international law.

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