

Jerusalem is a unified and open city and the capital of the State of Israel. Prior to 1967, Jerusalem was divided—no Israeli of any faith nor any Jew of any nationality was permitted access to the eastern part of the city, including the Western Wall—Judaism’s holiest site and the heart of the Jewish people’s more than 3,000-year connection to the Land of Israel. Today, people of all faiths—Jews, Muslims and Christians—are free to move and reside anywhere in the city. The current disputed project in Jerusalem, which was subject to extensive legal review, including that of Israel’s Supreme Court, and approved earlier this year, will not affect Jerusalem’s demographic balance and will not prejudice the outcome of final-status talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel in which Jewish, Muslim and Christian residents have the freedom of movement and to choose where to live.

- From Israel’s establishment in 1948 until the Six Day War in 1967, Jerusalem was a divided city. Jordan did not permit Israelis of any faith nor Jews from any country access to the eastern part of the city, including the Western Wall—Judaism’s holiest site and the heart of the Jewish people’s more than 3,000-year connection to the Land of Israel.
- After 1967, Israel formally and legally removed all barriers and divisions within Jerusalem, reunited the city, and allowed free movement for Jews, Muslims and Christians. All Israeli governments have applied Israeli law throughout Jerusalem without distinction between areas east or west of the 1967 lines.
- Today, Jewish, Muslim and Christian residents of Jerusalem are allowed to live anywhere in the city.
- Claims by top Palestinian leaders, including PA President Mahmoud Abbas, that Israel is sinisterly “Judaizing” Jerusalem are not borne out by the demographic facts. From 1967 to 2007 the Arab population of Jerusalem grew by 380% while the Jewish population grew by approximately 250%, according to the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies. In 1967, Arabs made up 25.8% of the Jerusalem population. Today, that number is closer to 35%.
- Every Israeli government since 1967 has viewed construction within Jerusalem to be a municipal matter. Israeli governments have never considered neighborhoods of Jerusalem to be settlements. Any commitments Israel undertook with respect to settlement activities were not applied within Jerusalem’s city boundaries.
- While Israel agreed in the Oslo accords that the status of Jerusalem could be discussed in final-status negotiations, it has never accepted any outside limitation on activities within its capital.

While American presidents have never formally recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital or located the U.S. embassy there, Congress has recognized an undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

- The 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act declared that it was American policy that Jerusalem should remain undivided as Israel's capital and the U.S. should move our embassy to Jerusalem. However, successive presidents have used the statute's national security waiver in order not to move the embassy.
- Congress also has passed numerous resolutions stating that Jerusalem "is and should remain the capital of the State of Israel."
- Israel and successive U.S. administrations have disagreed on the status of Jerusalem, which is slated, according to past agreements, to be negotiated in final-status negotiations.

The building of 20 apartments in the heart of Jerusalem will not affect the city's demographic balance or prejudice the outcome of final-status talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

- Following 20 years of planning (including Supreme Court review), private Israeli interests have received approval to renovate the Shepherd's Hotel into apartments.
- The building in question was legally purchased and was not confiscated from any Palestinian. The building was previously owned by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and then the Government of Israel following the Six Day War. The building was sold to a private investor in the 1980s, and until recently, was used by the Israeli Border Police.
- The building does not involve the confiscation of any land or the expansion of lands under Israeli authority. No one is being displaced by the renovation of the building. The building is quite close to the Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus and several Israeli government institutions.
- Despite State Department concerns, this single housing project open to Jews and Arabs would not prejudice the outcome of final-status talks between Israel and the Palestinians.
- Jerusalem is a vibrant and growing city, and housing is expanding to accommodate this growth. According to the Jerusalem Center for Israel Studies, Jerusalem's Jewish population grew by 1% in 2008, while its Arab population grew by 3%.
- Life in Jerusalem cannot and will not remain stagnant pending eventual realization of a peace agreement between Israelis and Arabs.