

LIFE AND RESISTANCE FOR PALESTINIANS IN EAST JERUSALEM: CASE STUDIES OF MERCHANTS AND NGOs

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This paper examines the Israeli occupation of the Old City of Jerusalem and how related problems affect the daily life of Palestinians who live there. Research on East Jerusalem has generally examined Israeli occupation policies, particularly the policy of “Judaization”; the construction of Jewish settlements and expansion of municipal territory have been discussed within this framework. Dumper [1997] argued that Israel has two important policies: Judaization and the establishment of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem, and that the Israeli government sometimes faced dilemmas in pursuing both policies. These policies have had obvious negative effects on Palestinians in East Jerusalem, including confiscation of land and insecure citizenship. This paper uses results from previous research to describe the life and resistance of Palestinians within a context of the “peculiarity of East Jerusalem” and the “insecurity of citizenship” there. While many other studies have examined Israeli occupation and Palestinian resistance from the perspective of “direct violence”, this paper makes use of fieldwork conducted in East Jerusalem to focus on a mode of occupation and forms of resistance that differ from “direct violence”.

Keywords: East Jerusalem, Indirect violence, Palestinian merchants, NGOs, Rights of residence.