

COMMUNIQUE ON THE CLOSURE OF THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE
on behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

We, organizers of the International Conference on Jerusalem, strongly condemn Israel's closure of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the banning of Friday prayers. These measures and all other restrictions imposed by Israel, the occupying power, in violation of the historic status quo and international law, constitute both a blatant aggression against those who wish to attend these holy sites in Jerusalem, and an attack on the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to worship at these sites.

These provocations, violations and attacks against Palestinian worshipers, aggravate religious sensitivities and tension, and should be immediately brought to an end to avoid a dangerous escalation of the situation on the ground.

We call on the international community to urgently reaffirm respect for the historic status quo, and to compel Israel, the occupying power, to rescind all measures that violate this historic status quo, including the installation of metal detectors, and to comply with its obligations under international law. We call on all parties concerned to work to calm the situation and avoid any steps that may increase the tension.

We reaffirm the longstanding international condemnation, enshrined in UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions, of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, and stress that only an end of the Israeli occupation will pave the way for a just and lasting peace.