



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

Preserving the cultural and religious character of Jerusalem

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PANEL I

Mr. Ahmad Majdalani is the Minister of Social Affairs of the State of the Palestine, in the government of Mohammad Shtayyeh, formed in April 2019. He was previously Minister of Labor between 2009 and 2014. Mr. Majdalani is the secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) and a member of the PLO's Executive Committee. He currently heads the PLO's Palestine Planning Centre. He has served as the envoy of Palestine to Syria, among other posts. He is a professor of philosophy and cultural studies at Birzeit University. He authored three research studies: *The Serious Threats Facing the Palestinian National Project* (2007); *The Arab Peace Initiative: An Option or Strategy for Peacemaking?* (2007), and *A Unilateral Declaration of Independence* (2008). He holds a PhD in political economics from the Social Sciences Academy, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Ms. Yael Berda is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Regional Studies at Harvard University. Ms. Berda is an Israeli lawyer, who holds a PhD from the Department of Sociology at Princeton University. Before Princeton, she was a practicing lawyer, who argued cases in the Israeli Supreme court, administrative courts and the military criminal courts. Born in New York City and raised in West Jerusalem, she has been highly engaged in social activism and politics in Israel. Her publications include *The Bureaucracy of Occupation in the West Bank* (2012) and *Living Emergency: Israel's Permit Regime in the Occupied West Bank* (2017). She graduated from the faculty of law at Hebrew University and received her MA from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Tel Aviv University.

Mr. Mohannad Gbara is a Palestinian lawyer and owner of "Mohannad Gbara Lawyers and Notary" law firm in Jerusalem. Mr. Gbara graduated from the faculty of law at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (1995), where at a later stage, he received his LL.M, and focused on the expropriation of lands in East Jerusalem since 1967. He is a member of the Israeli Bar Association (1996) and accredited to serve as a notary by the Israeli Ministry of Justice (2008). Mr. Gbara is considered an expert in the field of zone planning and lands registration in East

Jerusalem. He also serves as a guest lecturer at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, where he lectures on real estate issues in East Jerusalem. He obtained a legal precedent in the Israeli legal system after it was determined that property located in East Jerusalem and owned by residents of the West Bank should not be regarded as absentee's property. He also succeeded in achieving the judicial decision that was issued by the Jerusalem District Court, to approve a building plan for the Palestinians to build more than 1,200 housing units in Beit Safafa village.

PANEL II

Mr. Nazmi Al-Jubeh is Associate Professor of history and archaeology at Birzeit University in Palestine and was the co-director of RIWAQ – Centre for Architectural Conservation in Ramallah (1992-2010). He also was the director of the Islamic Museum – Al-Haram al-Sharif-Jerusalem (1980-84). Mr. Al-Jubeh’s research melds archeology, history, politics and architecture. He is known for his expertise on Jerusalem and Hebron and the holy sites, in particular. He currently serves in the board of trustees of several cultural institutions and museums in East Jerusalem and in the West Bank. He published several books and articles on history, archaeology, politics and architecture. He completed his initial studies in Middle Eastern studies and archaeology at Birzeit University and received both an MA and PhD in oriental studies and archeology from the University of Tübingen, Germany.

Ms. Judith Oppenheimer is Ir Amim’s Executive Director and a longtime human rights activist, feminist, scholar and educator. Ir Amim is an Israeli NGO which mission 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. Before assuming leadership of Ir Amim in 2008, she was a fellow at the Mandel School for Educational Leadership in Jerusalem. From 2000 to 2006, she served as Executive Director of Kol Ha-Isha- The Jerusalem Feminist Centre. During extended stays in South Africa and New Zealand, Ms. Oppenheimer engaged in various communal and gender-related projects and among positions early in her career, served at the Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI). She holds an MA in Development and Gender Studies from the University of South Africa and a PhD from Bar Ilan University.

Mr. Wasfi Kailani is the director of the Hashemite Fund for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. He is a key Jordanian official dealing with Jerusalem affairs. He holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2007). His research interests focus on the relationship between identity, religion and borders in Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli societies. Mr. Kailani also studied the concept of tolerance and the boundaries between religion and politics in Jerusalem.

Ms. Shadia Touqan is the director of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, under the auspices of UNESCO, and which mission is to reinforce the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States region. Ms. Touqan is an architect, conservationist and former director of Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization plan. She is an expert on cultural heritage preservation and revitalization of historic cities with a number of international organizations such as the World Bank and UNESCO; and on urban development of Palestinian towns. She holds a BA in Architecture from Cairo University (1969); an MA in Urban Design from Manchester University (1981) and a PhD in Urban Development and Planning from the University of London (1995).

PANEL III

Mr. Bernard Sabella is a retired Associate Professor of Sociology from Bethlehem University in the Holy Land, where he taught for over 25 years. His academic interest focuses on Palestinian Christians and questions of identity and other challenges, including emigration. In 2006, he was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council's Christian quota seat representing the city of Jerusalem. He currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches. Publications include a series of articles, *An Introduction to Sociology; Christian Emigration-Comparison between Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem areas; A Date with Democracy – Palestinians on Politics, Economy and Society*; as well as articles on the issue of emigration of Christian Arabs from the Middle East.

Mr. Mustafa Abu Sway is the first holder of the Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Al-Ghazali's Work at Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and at Al-Quds University (2013). He is Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem since 1996. He also taught at the International Islamic University in Malaysia (1993-96). He is a member of the Hashemite Fund for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, and a member of the Islamic Waqf Council in Jerusalem. Mr. Abu Sway earned his BA from Bethlehem University (1984), and MA (1985) and PhD on the Development of Al-Ghazali's Genetic Epistemology (1993) from Boston College. He is active in interfaith dialogue for many years and published many papers and articles on Islam and the various aspects of the Palestinian issue.

Ms. Leah Shakdiel is an Israeli peace activist and feminist scholar. Through teaching and continued activist work with Israeli human rights NGOs like Machsom Watch, Mirkam Azori, Darom4Peace, and Rabbis for Human Rights, Ms. Shakdiel works to bring the values of peace, equality, human rights, and social justice to the next generation of Israelis. In 1988 Shakdiel became Israel's first female member of a local religious Council, following a successful struggle that ended with a landmark Supreme Court decision. Since 1978, Ms. Shakdiel has lived with her family in Yeruham, a small development town in the Negev desert committed to *halacha* (Jewish law), social responsibility, peace and ecology. She holds a BA from Bar Ilan University in English and French literature.

Ms. Susan Henry-Crowe is the General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. She has been the dean of the Chapel and Religious Life at Emory University, Atlanta, for the past 22 years, where she has conducted a ministry to and with a diverse constituency of 12,000 students and 2,400 faculty members. For 16 years, Ms. Henry-Crowe served as a member of the United Methodist Judicial Council. She was the first woman elected president of the Judicial Council, serving in that role from 2008-12. She has been repeatedly recognized for her work and commitment to social justice. She is recipient of a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory and Doctor of Divinity degrees from Wofford College and LaGrange College.

PANEL IV

Mr. Ammar Hijazi is the Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine. Mr. Hijazi is a Palestinian career diplomat who served under several capacities. He worked in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation between 1996 and 2004; and then as a First Secretary with the Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations until 2010. He was First Counsellor with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then Assistant Minister (Ambassador) since 2016.

Mr. Khaldun Bshara is an architect, restorer, and anthropologist, and director of RIWAQ Centre in Ramallah where he has worked since 1994. He received a BSc in Architectural Engineering from Birzeit University and an MA in Conservation of Historic Towns and Buildings from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium; and an MA and PhD in Anthropology from the University of California, Irvine. He is the author and co-author of number of books and articles, including *Tashgheel-Job Creation through Restoration 2001-2011* (2011), *RIWAQ's Guidelines for Maintenance and Restoration of Historic Buildings in Palestine* (2005), and *Ramallah, Architecture and History* (2002).

Mr. Yonathan Mizrahi is one of the founders of Emek Shaveh (2009), which deals with the place of archaeology in the political conflict and with aspects of heritage rights as part of human rights. Since the founding of Emek Shaveh, he has been its managing director. Since 1998, he has been an active archaeologist in excavations of the Hebrew University, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and other organizations. He has participated in community excavations (Ir Ganim neighbourhood in Jerusalem). He has been writing on the connection between archaeology and the political conflict, with an emphasis on Jerusalem and the West Bank. He holds an MA in archaeology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Mr. Geoffrey Aronson is a Middle East Institute scholar. His issues of expertise include U.S. foreign policy and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. He consults with a variety of public and private institutions dealing with regional political, security and development issues. He has advised the World Bank on Israel's disengagement and has worked for the European Union Coordinating Office for the Palestinian Police Support mission to the West Bank and Gaza. He holds a BA in Political Science from Tufts University and MA in Modern Middle Eastern History from Oxford University.