



## A BIT OF LIGHT ON THIS DARK SITUATION

At a time of the attempt to form the first Israeli government in which an Arab party agreed to enter the coalition, as Israel marking Jerusalem Day and at the same time the Ramadan for the Muslim that always brings political tension. When the Palestinian Authority is in the midst of an election campaign, against of all this, riots and attacks began on both sides of the fence.

In the past week, a number of things have happened that along with the events mentioned above, ignited the flames and caused violent riots and military attacks in Israel and around it.

The Jerusalem District Court ruled that by the 6th of May 2021 the residents of Sheikh Jarrah (a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem) need to pay rent to the owners of the area in which they live or vacate their homes. We will note that they lived in houses that before the establishment of the State of Israel belonged to Jewish families and that the claim is legal, but we will note that also in the territories of the State of Israel today there are Jews living in the areas that before the establishment of Israel belonged to Arabs who lived there before the War of Independence.

If you want to dive into the legal aspect of it then here is a link on the subject:

<https://www.ngo-monitor.org/sheikh-jarrah-property-claims/?fbclid=IwAR34D3q7C2lc63ulWpoZnqjE2sFsOfCuFQeQiSNkGGOVkUumKiHpOKF-OVE>

or a little more history:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh\\_Jarrah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Jarrah)

Now when the court threatens to break the delicate balance in East Jerusalem, during Ramadan and when hundreds of Israelis celebrate Jerusalem Day. While Hamas wants the public's sympathy and is trying to gain more power and control, encouraging young Arabs (Israelis and Palestinians) to come and support (save) the city of Jerusalem. Especially that the elections to the Palestinian Authority was supposed to take place in October 2011 and since then they have been postponed for a different reason.



All of these began to turn from legitimate celebrations or protests into riots and ignite the anger of the masses on both sides, one thing lead to another, Israeli Arabs who for years feel like second place residents began to demonstrate and on the other hand Israeli Jews who felt the need to defend themselves began to protest and this led to violent events.

As an act of identification, Hamas and jihad in Gaza attacked Israel and Israel, for its part, attacked strategic structures of Hamas in Gaza.

This is a terrible situation we are having now. And the worst part is that the main victims are the innocent people from both sides.

I would like to quote a mother I heard yesterday on the news. She lives close to the perimeter fence between Israel and Gaza and has been affected by the unending war for years. She was asked what do you think is better; a short attack that will lead to at least a temporary peace or a long and violent battle that will lead to the end of the conflict and will bring a long-term agreement?

Her answer was:

**“I tell you what I always say to my children, violence is never the solution.”**

And if you ask if she was from Gaza or Israel...? I ask: does it even matter?

I wish all the residents of the area, Israelis and Palestinians, that peace will return quickly and remain forever, that the leaders of both sides will know how to compromise and understand the other side. Because this is the only way to live together in coexistence.

Ale veHagshem

Ofri Ben-Zvi, Shaliach