

# NAJAH BAKHIRAT, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE JORDANIAN WAQF IN JERUSALEM WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM THE CITY IN JUNE OF 2023, IS BACK.

**1** During the month of Ramadan, Bakhirat, who has ties with Hamas, was photographed sitting outside a Jerusalem mosque during prayers.

One of the wealthier residents of the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Sur Baher, he and his family own several buildings and properties there. He has been photographed several times with Hamas leaders and top figures. However, there are reports that Hamas distanced him from its ranks following the IDF's Operation Guardian of the Walls and rocket attacks on Israel (May 2021). This, because he was suspected of monetary improprieties connected with donations earmarked for the residents of the Samaria city of Jenin. The latest photo shows that Bakhirat abstained from worshiping on the Temple Mount during Ramadan, and sufficed with attending a different mosque in the city.

**2** Naaf Al-Sudairi, the Saudi Ambassador in Jordan who also doubled as non-resident "ambassador" to the Palestinian Authority as well as non-resident Saudi consul in Jerusalem, has left the first two positions, but apparently continues to serve in the third. Al-Sudairi is the first Saudi "ambassador" to the PA after many years of cold relations that began with Arafat's support for Saddam Hussein against Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War of 1990-91.

The fact that Al-Sudairi still holds a position in Jerusalem indicates, interestingly, that Saudi Arabia is clearly distinguishing and separating between Jerusalem and the PA/Jordan: The position vis-à-vis the latter has been abolished for now, while a separate position regarding Jerusalem is being maintained. Saudi diplomacy differentiates between Jerusalem and Ramallah, sending a message to Jordan by including it in the same bundle as the PA.

We also note that the Saudis are taking a strong stand regarding Jerusalem in general; this is significant for Turkey, for example, which is also working actively towards taking a leading role in the Muslim world in Jerusalem.

It is also likely that the Saudis are retreating somewhat from their conciliatory gestures towards the PA: After they originally showed willingness to come to a "separate peace" with Israel while neglecting the Palestinians, they responded to Arab criticism and appointed an "ambassador" to the PA – for the first time – just to appease Abu Mazen and show good will. Now, however, after a year and a half of war that has gotten the Palestinians nowhere, and with a new U.S. Administration in office, the Saudis apparently once again feel less obliged to the Palestinian matter, and are basically relegating it to a back burner on its diplomatic stove.

**3** Employees of the Palestinian Authority have not yet received their latest salary, which was due towards the end of the month of Ramadan. Even those who work in Jerusalem, especially in the PA-funded schools, have not received their pay. This is apparently an indication of yet another economic crunch in the PA.

**4** The Turkish General Consul in Jerusalem, considered by Turkey and the PA to be the Turkish Ambassador to Palestine, met with Gen. Alem Saka, commander of the PA police force. According to the report on the consulate's website, the two discussed "security matters." This is another step by the Turks towards a foot in the door of the PA security apparatus, after having operated training courses in the past.



The General Consul with the PA police chief. From the consulate's website.

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#صورة

מי שרוחק מ #אל-אקצא מקשיב לדרשה של יום שישי האחרון של הרמדאן בדרך אל-מוג'אהדין ליד שערי אל-אקצא

דרג תרגום



**5** The above can be linked to a report from the Turkish "Yunus Amra" Center in Jerusalem, a few weeks ago, according to which PA policemen had completed another Turkish-language course. The course, sponsored by Yunus Amra, was held in Ramallah. It will be recalled that the Center is located in Jerusalem, on Bab al-Zahra St., and has another office in Ramallah. All indications are that both offices are headed by the same person, Cengiz Eroglu, such that they are two branches of the "Palestine" headquarters of the Turkish "Yunus Amra" Center.



The post by Cengiz Eroglu, the head of Yunus Amra, on the completion of the Turkish police course in Ramallah