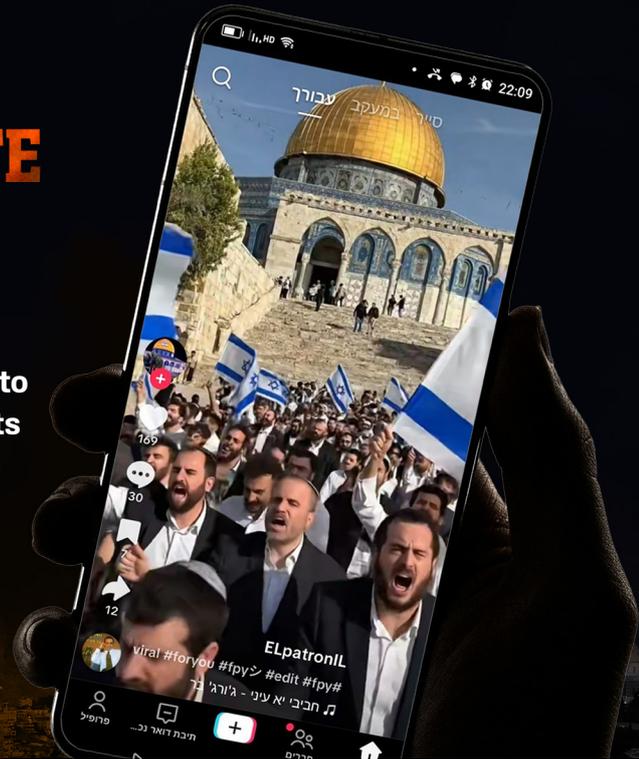


FAKE REPORTS OF TEMPLE MOUNT TAKEOVER CIRCULATE ONLINE AHEAD OF RAMADAN

1 With the month of Ramadan less than a week away, social media in eastern Jerusalem and environs are once again inciting against supposed Jewish intents to take over the Temple Mount. Similar Islamist attempts to cause unrest and clashes on the Mount in previous years failed. A sample fake video of recent days looks like this:

The scene purports to show a Jewish mob, mostly of hareidim, storming the Temple Mount while carrying Israeli flags and angrily yelling. However, such a scene is patently impossible, as most haredi Jews never ascend to the Temple Mount at all (for Halakhic reasons), and certainly do not come so close to the Dome of the Rock (which houses the forbidden Holy of Holies). In addition, they generally don't wave Israeli flags, and the police do not allow marches of this type at the site.



2 Kuwait is apparently taking part in the Arab-Muslim free-for-all in using its money to undermine Israeli rule in Jerusalem. At least one store in the Old City has received Kuwaiti funding, which it proudly advertises in a prominent plaque. The photo below reads: "This shop was rehabilitated and restored with funding from The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry – The Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society." Other countries that support Jerusalem Arabs include Turkey, Qatar, Morocco, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and others. Their common goal is to undermine Israel's rule in the city, as well as the place of Israel's municipal authorities in its capital.



The sign in the Arab store in the Old City attesting to Kuwait's involvement in refurbishing it.

3 Over the past several weeks, several schools under the auspices of the Waqf (Islamic trust) and Jerusalem churches have been closed – for technical and security reasons. However, many in the Arab public in

Jerusalem claim that the schools were closed because of Israeli pressures to accept the Israeli curriculum, as opposed to the often-hostile course of study developed by the PA.

Recent years have seen a significant growth in the number of Arab students in the capital studying the Israeli curriculum, and now stands at 30%. This increase did not stop even during the years of the Iron Swords War in Gaza. In fact, this growth is not a result of Israeli pressures, but is rather based on the parents' understanding that their children's future lies with Israel, not the PA. In addition, the government has offered incentives to schools that adopt the curriculum proposed by the Ministry of Education and the municipality.

4 News of the Jerusalem Walls National Park project for the forming of a "green belt" around the Old City:

It's been a century in planning, beginning with the British Mandate, and this month, a possibly major milestone has been achieved along the way to its final actualization. Over 80% of the residents of the Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan (Shilo'ach), below the Old City, signed their willingness to reach an agreement with the municipality. Al-Bustan is located on the area known as the King's Garden, which is included in the Walls park project, and some 90 homes were built illegally there over the years. The residents say they consent to cede 80% of the lands in question, in exchange for the legalization of the remaining 20% and the buildings there. This appears to be an unprecedented readiness on the part of Jerusalem Arabs to cede land in exchange for houses. Construction was forbidden there ever since the Ottoman Turks ruled there, except for a short period under Jordanian occupation. Some buildings there were razed in the days before the agreement-in-principle was reached.

5 In the northern Jerusalem neighborhood of Dahiyat al-Barid, Israel continues its efforts to thwart the infiltration of illegal entrants (shabahim), by setting up obstacles along the security fence/wall. Concrete blocks have been placed on some of the access roads to nearby Biet Hanina. Residents of Biet Hanina have been accused of providing passive assistance to the illegal entrants, and they now claim that the concrete obstacles are an act of retaliation by the authorities. They say the blocks do not stop the infiltrations but do harm the residents' quality of life. Many thousands of PA residents cross illegally into Jerusalem per year – the rate has been increasing in recent years – including among them the two terrorists who murdered six Israelis at the Ramot Junction in Jerusalem last September.

***** Correction to an item that appeared in last week's report: The Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv is not "abandoned," but has rather decreased in size. This is a result of its move from the entire building that it long occupied on HaYarkon Blvd. to what appears to be only part of a building on nearby Mapu St.



At right: the building to which the Turkish Embassy has moved. Left: the entrance to the building, through which residents have been seen entering and leaving. The seal of the Turkish Republic appears in both photos.

