

FUNDING CRISIS: PA-AFFILIATED SCHOOLS TO SWITCH TO THREE SCHOOL DAYS A WEEK.

1 As the new school year starts, Jerusalem schools identified with the Palestinian Authority have announced that they will operate only three days a week; the pupils will learn at home on the other days. The reason, they say, is money: the schools claim they can't even pay full salaries, on time, to their teachers. This protest move is a carbon copy of similar moves in PA-controlled areas in Judea and Samaria.

Once again we note two predominant phenomena concerning schools in eastern Jerusalem: One is that they are totally dependent on and identified with the Palestinian Authority, and the other is that the ties between Jerusalem employees and the workers' unions in the PA are tightly connected, to the point that they enact uniform policies.



2 More on the school year that begins next week: Pupils in now-closed UNRWA schools in Jerusalem – it took several months since UNRWA was outlawed by Israel before the schools finally ceased operations – will be able to study in Israeli schools if at least one parent has an Israeli ID card with the children listed there. Students with PA identity papers, whose presence in Jerusalem is therefore illegal, will naturally not be able to register in Israeli schools. It is not clear how many students are affected. We have learned that a senior figure in the PA education administration – likely its head – told some Israeli-ID families that turned to him that PA schools cannot service them, and that they should turn to Israeli schools.

3 The family of the two Arab brothers from Abu Tor in Jerusalem who lost their lives in a boating accident off the Jaffa port claim that Israel Police purposely caused their deaths. Relatives and representatives of Arab-Israeli organizations came to the police office for the investigation of policemen, demanding that the accident be investigated as a "murder."



Old Jaffa Port, illustrative photo

4 Stealing money and framing Israel: Men wearing Israel's Border Guard uniforms burst into money-changers' shops in Ramallah and El-Bireh – adjacent to Jerusalem's northern (Arab) neighborhoods, and "confiscated" large sums of money. At least one local Arab social media user blamed Israel for sending its agents to rob Palestinians' money. A screenshot of the accusation circulated on TikTok:



5 Residents in the Umm Tuba neighborhood (southern Jerusalem) are protesting what they see as Israeli preparations to confiscate land (64 dunams, about 16 acres) for the Jewish National Fund. The JNF says it owns the land. If the reports are true, this is apparently part of a years-long process of regulating -lands

in eastern Jerusalem. The goal is to untangle the web of ownership-claims and frozen bureaucracy that impedes the issuance of construction permits to both private and public buildings. Even the mukhtars of the neighborhoods are unable to determine which lands belong to whom.

6 The son of the deposed provocateur Sheikh Akrame Tsabri has been appointed to take his place as the official preacher in the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount. Aruah Tsabri, who hold a Ph.D. in comparative law and Sharia, served in various position in Islamic legal and banking networks, as well as in academia. Following his grandfather and father, he is now a third-generation Temple Mount religious cleric.

7 Social media has circulated reports by Israeli journalists about a phenomenon of glass shards scattered at certain points on the Temple Mount, where Israeli worshippers customarily enter barefoot and pray. Such incidents have occurred in the past, with the aim of preventing Jews from praying there.

In anticipation of the High Holidays, beginning with Rosh HaShanah less than a month from now, additional attempts to escalate the atmosphere on the Mount and prevent Jews from coming should be expected, as occurs every holiday season. This is especially true in light of the upcoming second anniversary of the outbreak of the war in Gaza, and Hamas's efforts to recruit broad support from the Arab public – efforts based primarily, as usual, on the "situation" of the mosques on the Temple Mount.

