



ONGOING ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO ISRAEL VIA JERUSALEM'S PERIMETER FENCES.

Illegal aliens from the PA, known as shabahim, continue to infiltrate Israel through and over the security barrier fence, quite systematically. Phone owners on the Israeli side charge some 1,000 NIS for every shabah whom they help cross over, and who then remain here for an average duration of two weeks.

The service includes an accomplice on the PA side coordinating with the lookout man on Israeli side. When the latter signals that the Israeli security forces have just passed by and that it is safe to cross, at that moment, the shabahim jump and quickly pass over the high, barbed-wire-topped wall, with the help of ladders. The lookout then directs them where and how to blend in with the Jerusalem crowds, as many of the shabahim don't know the city at all. This human-smuggling operation is thus a full scale industry, of the "services" sector, that turns over thousands of shekels per infiltration.

1 The much talked-about police offensive in the Negev Bedouin town of Terabin has led to a measure of unrest in Jerusalem mosques. Attempts by some mosque-preachers to rabble-rouse the public have not succeeded, and in fact no demonstrations have been held or even seem to be planned. Keep in mind that it's only been a few weeks since attempts have been made to connect Jerusalem Arabs with the Bedouin in the Negev, via visits to the south by anti-Israeli Sheikh Akrameh Sabri.

2 An increasing phenomenon has been noted in Jerusalem, whereby Fatah operatives circulate throughout the Arab neighborhoods to handle and negotiate various disputes or other proceedings among residents and families. The trend is not limited to the northern neighborhoods close to Ramallah, where Fatah has a well-known dominance, but also includes neighborhoods such as Beit Hanina and Sur Baher, as well as others. It is still too early to determine whether this constitutes a genuine "thing." In any event, it is happening either on the backdrop of Abu Mazen's attempts to reinforce his hold over the Palestinian Authority, and by extension over Jerusalem as well, or in light of some Hamas weakening following the war – or both.

3 Increasing anger and frustration in the Arab public in Jerusalem towards the municipality – against what are claimed to be "high municipal taxes" that residents say they cannot afford to pay. Demonstrations against the city government are being planned at various locations.

4 There are reports that Qatar has begun stepping into Turkey's role in the Old City, giving aid – or planning to give aid – to storeowners in their municipal tax payments (arnona). It is not yet clear how the money will reach Israel. It could be via local non-profits, or by cash payments to local residents (as Hajazi used to transfer money from TIKa in Turkey). Other options include PA banks, likely to Saint Joseph Hospital in Jerusalem, or with Jerusalem Arabs visiting Jordan. Regarding the latter, Israel has no way of tracking the movements of tourists who leave Israel.

5 The city of Bethlehem has been suffering for some time from routine water stoppages – two to three times a week, initiated by the authorities to save water.

This is one of those very significant differences between the Arabs of Jerusalem, who live under the Israeli government and do not have such problems, and those of their friends and relatives who live under PA control just a very short distance from them. The Jerusalem Arabs are quite aware of these differences, which cause them to be very circumspect when dealing with Israel. Though occasionally their public declarations are bellicose, their interactions with the municipality and national government are much more "moderate." They know which side their bread is buttered on.

THE MONEY ROUTE FROM QATAR TO JERUSALEM INCLUDES:

