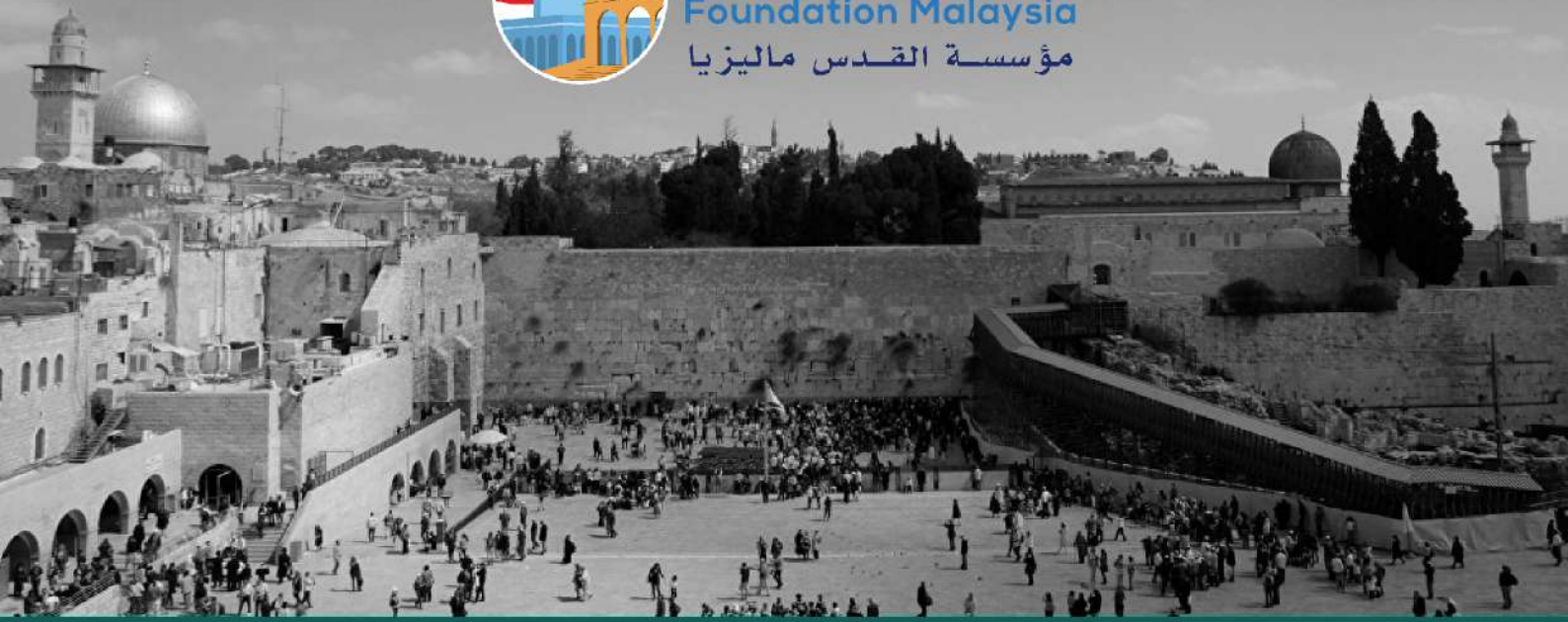




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The Incident of the Falling Stone from the Al-Buraq Wall of al-Aqsa Mosque: Information and Evaluation



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First: The incident:

- At 5:25 am on Monday, July 23, 2018, The CCTV belonging to the occupation authorities observed a stone falling down from the middle rows of the Al-Buraq wall¹ (The western wall of Al-Aqsa) from its southern side.
- The stone fell over the temporary newly built wooden praying platform to be a mixed Jewish prayer place for the reformists which is known as the Sharansky's Plan. This plan seeks to expand Al-Buraq Square by building a permanent building up to the southwestern corner, trying to legislate it as a solution to the dispute between the traditional religious Jews and the reformists who call for mixed prayer.



¹ Al-Buraq Wall represents the southwestern section of Al-Aqsa Mosque's wall; it is 50 meters in length and approximately 20 meters in height. It is part of Al-Aqsa Mosque and considered an Islamic property. The Jews now call it "The Wailing Wall" claiming it is the remaining part of their destroyed Temple. At least until the 15th Century Jews used to pray at the Mount of Olives which is separated from the Old City by the Kidron Valley. According to Muslim tradition this is the wall where Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) tied his winged creature, Al-Buraq, before ascending to heaven on his journey from Mecca to Jerusalem (AlIsra' wa Al-Mi'raj), where he received his revelations of Islam and lead the other prophets in prayer.

Second: A preliminary assessment of the reasons for the fall of the stone:

- The southern part of the al-Buraq wall of Al-Aqsa was exposed to continuous historical erosion. In 1969, the occupation authorities demolished the honorary al-Khanqa al-Fakhrya building, which was located north of the Moroccan hill then they moved the construction rubbles to the south of the destroyed al-Khanqa building at a depth of 6-9 m which revealed the giant foundation stones of the wall and reducing its reinforcement. Finally, the occupation authorities have been working since 2007 to remove the ascending Moroccans passageway known as "Moroccans Hill". Most of the rubble has been removed, only the arches and the stone structures remained. This shortened the distribution of load on the surrounding buildings and rubbles, and increased the loads on the structure of the wall.
- This section of the wall has not been appropriately maintained and repaired during the last two decades, and the growing weeds and shrubs enhance the decay of the stone shell and increase the gaps between the stones, which reduces the unity of the wall. The Zionist occupation bears the full responsibility of preventing the Muslim Awqaf from carrying out the necessary repairs and maintenance.
- On 17/7/2018, six days before the collapse of this stone, the Islamic Awqaf Department in al-Quds issued a statement warning from the seriousness of the excavations under the Islamic Museum, and confirming that they used water leakage to check the presence of the excavations and to ensure if there is lack of structure in that part. The rapid water leakage confirms the presence of excavations. These excavations are carried out by the extremist 'Elad' settlement association by contracting with the 'Israel Antiquities Authority'. They aim to connect the largest southern

excavations known as "Herodian road", extending from the pool of Silwan in the south to the southern corner of the Western Wall of al-Aqsa. In addition to the largest excavations of the West Side, known as the "Western Wall Tunnels Network", which extends over three layers on the entire western corridor and it was opened in 1996.

- In conclusion, the continuous erosion of the wall has increased the load on the wall, while the prevention of the renovation has reduced its ability to carry these weights. Furthermore, the excavations which are carried out by 'Elad' and the 'Israel Antiquities Authority' are the direct cause of the collapse of the stone.

Third: Evaluating the political situation:

- The mayor of the occupied Jerusalem Nir Barkat and the city's engineer Shlomo Eshkol rushed to inspect the site where the stone fell down from the ancient wall as a step to prepare for the claim that the stone fell within the jurisdiction of the municipality. This paves the way for an attempt to impose the maintenance and repair of this area by the municipality or under its supervision, which is clearly in the contrary to the situation since 1967 where it contradicted with the Security Council Resolution 271 of 1969, which stated that the maintenance and repair of al-Aqsa mosque are exclusively under the



responsibility of the Islamic Awaqf in al-Quds.

- The Western Wall rabbi and officials of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation hastened to blame the Islamic Awqaf in Al-Quds to facilitate the way of aggression on its authority and turn the issue from stone falling into a reason to place the maintenance of the wall under the control of the occupation authority that has been preventing it for decades.
- Jordan has taken the battle of Bab al-Maghriba hill against the occupation to UNESCO as an appropriate outlet for the



constant contradiction between decision-makers in two directions:

The first is to avoid confrontation or to spoil the relationship with the Zionist entity, which all indicators indicate a strong Jordanian political desire to deepen it, whether through the Bahraini carrier or the gas agreement or the free zone or making the port of Haifa as an alternative to the port of Al Lathiqeyah during the Syrian crisis. In the second direction, Jordan seeks to protect al-Aqsa mosque from the increasing Zionist aggression. The outlet used by Jordan to take the confrontation to the least international spaces in terms of political price and impact which is UNESCO to embarrass the occupation authorities without any clash at the political level.

- On the other hand, Zionists did not accept the continuing embarrassment at UNESCO and using it as a means to slow down their project in al-Aqsa and its surrounding area. They announced their withdrawal from UNESCO, as proclaimed by United States as well. On the basis of the principle of the sovereignty of States governing the work of the United Nations, non-members of the specialized bodies of the United Nations do not consider their actions and decisions not binding on the Israeli occupation which makes the embarrassment of the Zionists in UNESCO henceforth a symbolic move that will not disrupt or slow down their project in al-Aqsa.

Fourth: Position and Recommendations:

1. Stressing that the renovation of al-Aqsa Mosque and its buildings, walls and gates is exclusively under the responsibility of the Islamic Awaqf in al-Quds and which is reported directly to the administration of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and this matter has the legitimacy of the status quo recognized by the Zionist state itself through the detailed correspondence to the Security Council after the arson of al-Aqsa Mosque which confirms its recognition of this fact historically. This status quo does not accept and will not accept the negotiation, sharing or subjection of any form of supervision or intervention by the occupying authorities.
2. Taking advantage from the experience of reconstruction the southern part of the eastern wall, which was exposed to the cracks and the status was even more dangerous than the status of the al-Buraq Wall - and also resulted from the unbalanced load on the structure and the prevention of the renovation. At that time, The Islamic Awaqf and the Jordanian government has insisted that they are the exclusive authority authorized

to reconstruct these walls and by the end they managed to rebuild it again. Today, the situation is similar, despite a tense political situation.

3. Emphasize that the role of the Jordanian Awqaf should not be limited to "demanding" the Zionist authorities to enable them to inspect the place and work in it. Instead, they confront the Zionist aggression with a firm policy.
4. To raise the issue to the General Assembly and the Security Council and discuss it there, and call to impose an international isolation against Israel because of its policy of Judaizing al-Quds and al-Aqsa Mosque.
5. Strengthening the Jordanian position with high coordination with the Arab and Islamic countries, especially Morocco and Turkey.
6. To fortify the Jordanian official position with a Jordanian, Arab and Islamic public support that affirms the constants of al-Aqsa. And to confirm that the administration of al-Aqsa and what is related to its reconstruction and maintenance are trusted in the hands of the Jordanian kingdom through the Islamic Awqaf in al-Quds, and we all stand with this Jordanian role of defending al-Quds from all the Israeli aggressions and violation, as long as it is sincere to represent the ambitions of the Arab and Islamic nations to protect the mosque until liberation.



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