

## **Abstract**

Since the occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967 the Israeli governments started implementing policies and strategies to ensure demographic Jewish superiority in the city. Israel escalated such policies after 1993 in the wake of Oslo agreement signed between the PLO and Israel. Since 1993 the Israeli government closed Jerusalem and denied access to Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the city. Israel ignored all international and UN calls that condemned the violations. In particular, the violation of UN resolutions 181 and 194 that considered Jerusalem as *corpus separatum*.

According to the Oslo agreement Jerusalem, among other crucial issues, was postponed as a final status issue. Jerusalem became under full and exclusive Israeli sovereignty. Palestinians in Jerusalem were treated as permanent residents without full civil rights. As part of the expansion plan Israel issues laws and regulations for the benefit of the Judaization of the city including land confiscation, settlement construction and revoking residency rights of Palestinian Jerusalemites.

As a result, Palestinian families in East Jerusalem are under constant threat to lose their Jerusalem residency. The aim of this research is to examine the impact of Israeli discriminatory policies on Palestinian citizenship and on Palestinian families who seek reunification for the non-Jerusalem spouses. In particular, this research will analyze the social and the psychological sufferings of Jerusalemite women under a patriarchal society coupled with Israeli measures. It will also evaluate the role of Palestinian non-governmental human rights organizations in providing support for Palestinians so as to face Israel's policies and regulations with regard to their residency rights.