



## **TALKING POINTS FOR CURRENT SITUATION IN JERUSALEM**

1. We commend the Palestinians' two-week, peaceful protest that resulted in the removal of the checkpoints, metal detectors and surveillance cameras. However, this doesn't mean that the sanctity of the Noble Sanctuary is guaranteed, nor that Israel will not try other methods in the future to alter the status quo in the Aqsa mosque.
2. While we are happy the current obstacles appear to have been removed, the Israeli occupation is still in full effect.
3. On Thursday, one hour after Al Aqsa reopened, Israeli forces raided the sanctuary, firing rubber-tipped bullets and wounding nearly 100 Palestinian worshipers. These heinous acts by Israel confirm yet again that the Noble Sanctuary is not safe as long as the occupation continues to exist.
4. Palestinians still do not have freedom of movement, the right of return or the right to self-determination.
5. Israel still controls every aspect of Palestinians' lives.
6. Palestinians in Jerusalem, despite living there for generations, can get their residency revoked at any time.
7. The Knesset currently is debating a bill that would redraw Jerusalem's boundaries, removing Palestinian neighborhoods from the city.
8. That keeps in line with the Jerusalem Master Plan to keep the ratio of Jewish residents to Palestinian residents at 70:30.
9. Also in the bill is a measure that would make it nearly impossible for any prime minister to concede East Jerusalem to Palestinians in any future negotiated peace deal.
10. The Likud Party, the party of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, voted Tuesday to oppose any notion of a Palestinian state.
11. We call for an end to the occupation, an end to settlement construction, an end to the siege on Gaza and the right of return for all Palestinians to their homeland.