

Trapped by Planning

The State of Israel has been controlling East Jerusalem for almost 50 years. During this time, the Israeli authorities have done a great deal of planning, so to speak, for the Palestinian neighborhoods. However, despite all the planning activity, the situation is constantly deteriorating: the physical infrastructure is poor, public facilities are few and far between, and there is a severe housing shortage which leads people to resort to building unpermitted, for lack of a better choice. How can it be that despite all the planning, the Palestinian neighborhoods are in such a state of chaos? How can it be that so many people live with the threat of home demolitions looming over their head? We will try to answer some of these questions and others during our discussion.