



July 20, 2017

Statement by the Palestinian Performing Arts Network

We, active civil society organizations of the Palestinian cultural sector, condemn all Israeli occupation measures and violations in East Jerusalem and more specifically, the recent closing of al-Aqsa Mosque compound and the prevention of Muslim worshippers from holding their prayers at the holy site. The closure of al-Aqsa Mosque compound and the prevention of the call for prayers are all unjust and constitute a violation to the United Nations resolutions and international agreements.

The recent measures, including the installation of electronic gates in and around Al-Aqsa Mosque compound are attempts to change the historical reality of Jerusalem and is considered a dangerous unprecedented move that will lead to serious escalations in the region. The Palestinian Performing Arts Network rejects any and all changes to the status quo in occupied Jerusalem and al-Aqsa mosque compound.

The Israeli occupying government needs to stop and cancel all recent measures and provocations and restore status quo, including the removal of electronic gates and respect of the freedom of worship and the right of the Palestinian people to exercise their religious rituals.

On behalf of the active civil society organizations of the Palestinian cultural sector, we call upon the international community to shoulder their responsibilities towards this unprecedented Israeli aggression, promptly intervene and enforce its resolutions on the protection of Islamic and Christian holy sites.

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