



August 16, 2012

The Iranian regime is preparing for its annual Jerusalem Day events, which will be held in Arab-Muslim countries around the globe and in the West. In addition to supporting the Palestinians' extreme demands, the events will probably be exploited for anti-Israeli/anti-Western propaganda and incitement, and for strengthening the "resistance camp."



Left: From the Facebook page of the IHRC, an Islamic organization affiliated with the Iranian regime operating with Britain, which organizes World Jerusalem Day events in London. The posters show Khomeini and Khamenei and call for the boycott of Israel. Right: The World Jerusalem Day logo.

Overview

1. On August 17 events will be held throughout the Arab-Muslim world and in other countries around the globe to mark World Jerusalem Day. They have been held since 1979 on the last Friday of the Muslim religious month of Ramadan, in accordance with a decision made by the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Iranian government. Their stated objective is to express the support of Iran and the Muslim

world for the Palestinian cause and for the "liberation" of Jerusalem, but **they are used as a stage for strong anti-Israeli and anti-American propaganda and incitement.** In recent years they collaborated with Western networks to promote the campaign to delegitimize Israel.

2. This year events are planned for a **number of locations** around the globe, a partial list of which is the following¹:

1) **Iran** – Iran is traditionally the focal point for Jerusalem Day events and many preparations are being made. District governors, mayors and many local functionaries have been asked to help organize the events. Iranians have been asked to attend the events in their cities en masse. This year the organizers are planning the events "**to bolster the axis of resistance.**"

2) **Turkey** – There will be a series of events to mark Jerusalem Day in Turkey's largest cities (Istanbul, Ankara and Bursa), which are being organized by Turkish anti-Israeli Islamist groups; Turks are being asked to participate in them. In Ankara an event in front of the Israeli embassy is being planned by a Turkish Islamist group.

3) **Britain and other countries in Western Europe** – The main event will be a march and protest in central London on August 17 to "show solidarity with Palestine and the oppressed throughout the world" (lhrc.org.uk website). This year, like last year, the event in London is being organized by a local organization affiliated with Iran. Anti-Israeli propaganda and incitement can be expected this year as well.

¹ As of August 16, 2012.



A sign held in Trafalgar Square in last year's Jerusalem Day rally (Picture from Richard Millet's Blog).

4) **Australia** – A march is planned for **Sydney** on August 17, and will leave from Hyde Park to show support for the Palestinians (YouTube).

5) **United States** – There are a number of events planned throughout America for August 17, among them a march in **Washington, DC**. Marches are also planned for **Times Square, NYC**, and **Detroit, Michigan** (Alqudsday.org website).

6) **Canada** – On August 18 a march is planned for Vancouver, BC (Facebook)

3. Throughout **Lebanon**, including its south, events will be held, led by Hezbollah. One of them is expected to be held near the Fatma gate, near the Lebanese-Israeli border, on August 16. The main event will be held in Beirut on August 17, where a speech will be given by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

4. **The Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria** – So far, not many preparations are being made for Jerusalem Day. A march is planned for the Gaza Strip. In our assessment, after the Friday prayer, local rallies and demonstrations will also be held in Judea and Samaria.

5. Details of the events:

Events Planned for Iran

6. In Iran many preparations are being made for Jerusalem Day and to that end high-ranking functionaries are being enlisted to prepare the events and recruit the Iranian people to attend them. For example, the governors of the various districts were asked to use their resources to hold mass demonstrations. They have called on their citizens to participate in the district and city demonstrations and publicized the routes of the demonstrations which would be held in the main cities. Mayors, clerics, commanders of the Revolutionary Guards and members of the Iranian parliament were enlisted to issue announcements calling on Iranians and Muslims around the globe to participate in the events **"to strengthen the axis of resistance"** (FARS News Agency, Iran, August 14, 2012).

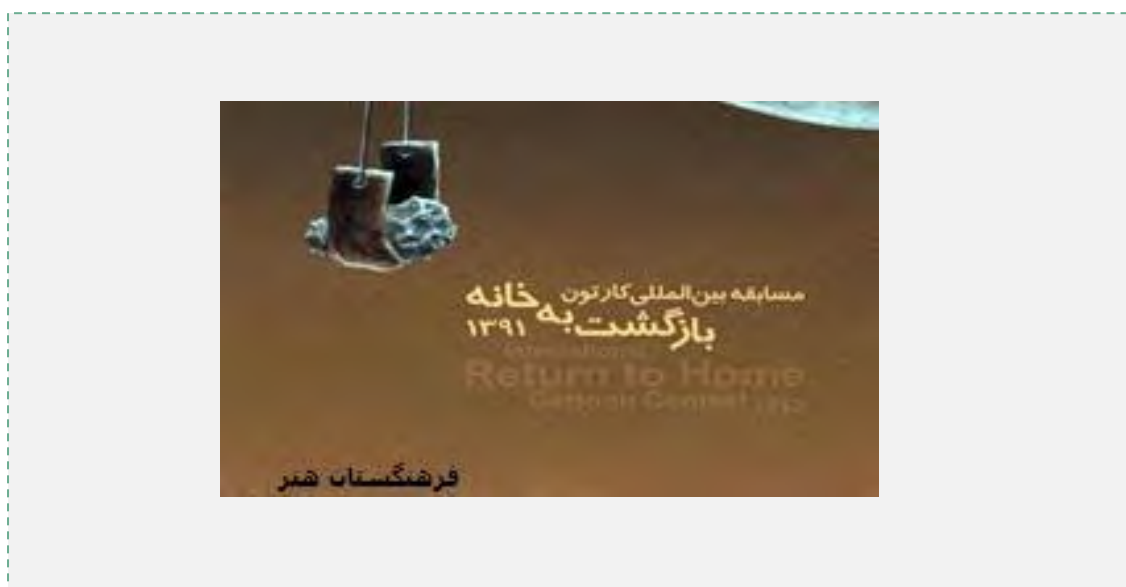
7. **This year as well, the Ayatollah Ahmad Hatami, a conservative cleric, was appointed to lead the Friday prayer in Tehran on Jerusalem. The prayer will be accompanied by many demonstrations and marches in Tehran** (Coordinating headquarters of the sermonizers of Iran, August 7, 2012). Even those affiliated with the reformist camp, led by the Ayatollah Rafsanjani, issued announcements calling for Iranians to participate en masse in the Jerusalem Day events (FARS News Agency, Mehr New Agency and ISNA, Iran, August 14, 2012).



Publicizing Jerusalem Day events. The banners read "Jerusalem belongs to the Muslims" and "Death to America and Israel" (Pictures from the FARS website, date, 2012).

8. In addition to the marches and demonstrations, a number of cities in Iran announced there would be competitions for Jerusalem Day. One of them is a photography contest,

held this year for the third time running, for photographers "to send the message of Jerusalem Day in the best way possible" (FARS News Agency, Iran, August 12, 2012). There will also be a cartoon contest and an exhibition organized by Iran's national academy of art, whose theme will be "the Palestinian people returns to its homeland" (Website of Iran's national academy of art, August 12, 2012).



Poster for the cartoon contest stressing the so-called "right of return" of the Palestinian refugees, announced by the Iranian national academy of art. The stone in the slingshot symbolizes the intifada (Picture from the website of Iran's national academy of art).

9. Jerusalem Day events are exploited by the Iranian regime to brainwash the younger generation. The Iranian association for the education and culture of children and youth, in collaboration with the coordinating council for Islamic propaganda, will hold a creative competition for making an effigy of "global arrogance" [i.e., the United States]. The association is encouraging contestants to use garbage in constructing their effigies (Mehr News Agency, Iran, August 9, 2012).



Iranian girls hold posters reading, "Jerusalem is ours" Picture from the FARS website, August 11, 2012).

Activities of the Terrorist Organizations' Representatives in Tehran

10. The representatives of the terrorist organizations in Tehran (Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad) were interviewed by the media to encourage Iranians to participate in the marches and other events of Jerusalem Day. **Khaled Qadoumi**, Hamas representative in Iran, was invited to give a speech at the Jerusalem Day demonstration in the city of Ahvaz in southwestern Iran (FARS News Agency, Iran, August 11, 2012).

11. An exhibition was held by the information department of the **Hezbollah office in Tehran** with the theme "The defeat of the aggressor" [i.e., Israel]. A speech was given there by **Muhammad Hassan Akhtari**, secretary general of the **Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly**.² He said that importance of Jerusalem Day this year was that with regard to its timing, combining a reminder of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran with the rebirth of contemporary rebirth of Islam around the world (Arabic.irib.ir website, August 13, 2012).

² The **Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly** is an Iranian organization which spreads Shi'ite Islam and Khomeini's ideology in dozens of countries around the world. Its activities are directed by the Supreme Leader's office as part of its policy to export Iran's Islamic Revolution. The Assembly is headed by **Hojat al-Islam Mohamed Hassan Akhtari**, who was formerly Iran's ambassador to Syria. The Assembly has branches all over the world, including Britain, which deal with disseminating Shi'ite Islam and Khomeini's ideology.

Anti-Israeli and Anti-Semitic Propaganda and Incitement

12. Preparations for Jerusalem Day give senior Iranians the opportunity **to issue anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic propaganda and incitement**. For example, meeting with ambassadors from Muslim countries on the eve of Ramadan, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Jerusalem Day was the key to the solution of all the problems of the world, and therefore it was the duty of all freedom- and justice-loving people to do whatever they could to ensure that **"the Zionist regime ceases to exist."** He also said that **"for 400 years the Zionist has been a frightening movement which uses the media and important banks all over the world to incite fear...the Zionist regime is the symbol of Zionism's control of the world...Zionism is the affliction of today's world"** (The official site of the president of Iran, August 4, 2012).

13. The clerics delivering sermons in various cities exploit the preparations made for Jerusalem Day for anti-Israeli incitement. For example, a cleric in the city of Halhal said that Jerusalem Day **"heralds the slow death of the Zionist regime"** (FARS News Agency, Iran, August 10, 2012). The mayor of Ardal said that **"the Zionist regime is on the brink of dying and isolation...in the distant future Jerusalem will be liberated"** (FARS News Agency, Iran, August 12, 2012).



Picture accompanying the news item about the mayor of Ardal (Picture from the FARS website, August 12, 2012).

Events Planned for Turkey



Poster for Jerusalem Day issued in Turkey. It reads, "World Jerusalem Day We are marching toward the independence of Jerusalem. August 17, 2012, after the Friday prayer in the Fatih mosque [in Istanbul]" (Picture from the velfcr.com website).

14. Jerusalem Day events will take place in Turkey in **Istanbul, Ankara and Bursa:**

1) **Istanbul** – A march will take place on Friday, August 17, after the Friday prayer. On the evening of August 16 there will be a meal to end the fast, organized by a group called the Quds Organization, and a march. The marchers will carry torches and begin the march from the Fatih mosque. A press conference will also be held, attended by some of the representatives of associations and civilian organizations who will denounce the so-called "occupation of Palestine" (Dogruhaber.com website).

2) **Ankara** – On Thursday evening, August 16, an event will be held to mark Jerusalem Day and will include a meal to break the Ramadan fast, all organized by the Quds Organization. **There will also be an event held in front of the Israeli embassy, organized by Mazlumder.**³

³ **Mazlumder** is an Islamist Turkish organization whose activists also participated in the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla.

3) **Bursa** – On August 17 a meeting will be held by the Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly.⁴



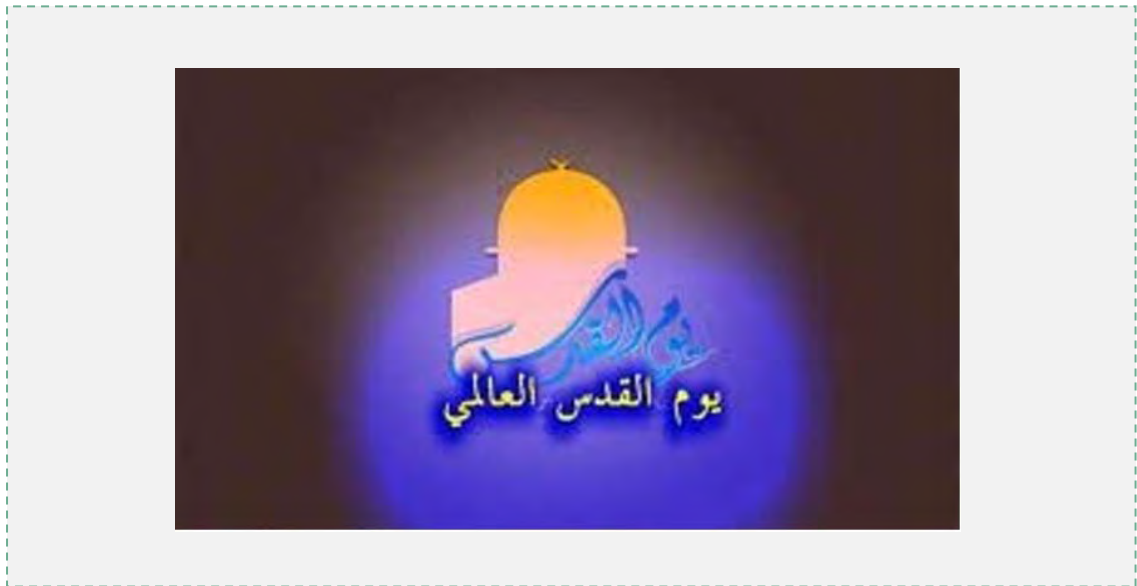
Invitation to the Jerusalem Day events planned for Istanbul (Picture from the velfcr.com website).

Events Planned for the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza Strip

15. To date no extensive preparations are being made in the **Palestinian Authority** for Judea and Samaria. It can be assumed that after the Friday prayer local rallies and demonstrations will be held throughout Judea and Samaria.

16. On August 13 a meeting was held in the **Gaza Strip**, attended by representatives of the Palestinian terrorist organizations. After the meeting it was announced that the annual World Jerusalem Day march would be held on the afternoon of August 17, after the Friday prayer in the mosques. It will leave from the Filastin mosque in Gaza City and proceed to the center of the city. To prevent disagreements between the organizations, it was decided that only the Palestinian flag would be waved (Al-Quds, August 14, 2012).

⁴ Apparently the Turkish branch of the Iranian Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly.



The World Jerusalem Day logo (Picture from the PIJ's Paltoday website, date, 2012).

Events Planned for Other Muslim Countries

Lebanon

17. On August 15 the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts (Hezbollah's scouting organization) published a list and schedule for Jerusalem Day events. In south Lebanon an event will be held in **Kafar Qila/Fatma gate** (i.e., near the Israeli-Lebanese border) on Thursday, August 16, at 17:00. Another event will be held the same day in the village of Nabatea. In addition, events will be held on Friday, August 17, throughout Lebanon in Beirut, Baalbek and other locations in north Lebanon and Mt. Lebanon. The main rally is supposed to be held on August 17 at 17:00 in south Beirut, where Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah will give a speech.

18. The social networks issued two announcements from the committee to support the "resistance" in Palestine asking surfers to participate in the mass marches for Jerusalem Day and the anniversary of the burning of the Al-Aqsa mosque. The marches will be held on August 17 after the Friday prayer in the mosques. The announcements mention two locations for the events: the **al-Badawi refugee camp in northern Lebanon** and the **al-Jalil refugee camp in the Beqa'a Valley**.

19. A rally will be held in Sidon's local stadium and will include scouts parading with the theme "Jerusalem is on the right path." The events are being organized by the Lebanese-Palestinian forum and the committee to support the "resistance" in Palestine (Facebook).

Kuwait

20. So far, two events have been planned for **Kuwait's** capital, Kuwait City. One will be held on Thursday, August 16, at 10:30 at night in the Shaaban mosque. Another will be held on Friday, August 17, at the mosque of the Imam Hussein (YouTube), and both events will apparently be attended by Kuwaiti Shi'ites.

Tunisia

21. A symposium is supposed to be held in Tunisia to mark Jerusalem Day with the theme "Zionism in Tunisian and Iranian thought." It was initiated jointly by the International University in Tunis and the cultural department of the Iranian embassy (Alwelayah.net website). Tunisian media personnel and political activists said that Jerusalem Day "reminds Muslims of their responsibility to Palestine" (Attounissia.com website).

Iraq

22. The central committee organizing the march to mark World Jerusalem Day announced the march would be held on Friday, August 17. It also announced that many important public figures had confirmed their participation (Burathanews.com website).

23. Sadr al-Din al-Qabani, a senior figure in Iraq's high Islamic council, gave the Friday, August 10 sermon in Najf, calling on Muslims to participate in the World Jerusalem Day demonstration. He said that "the throats of all Muslims should make their voices loudly heard...calling for the liberation of Al-Aqsa mosque on Jerusalem Day, this coming Friday [August 17, 2012]" (Alalam.ir website).

24. Iran's opponents in Iraq strongly criticized Jerusalem Day. In an editorial written by Ahmed Hussein al-Baghdadi and posted on the Dunia al-Watan website, he said that World Jerusalem Day was "**an Iranian media hoax**" intended to put Iran in the center of the media's agenda. He said that the day was an Iranian invention and as far as he was concerned, it was meaningless (Dunia al-Watan website, August 12, 2012).

Surfers responded in talkbacks, saying that Iran was the source of evil in the world, that Jerusalem was none of its business and that it was all a publicity stunt.

Bahrain

25. On August 13 the Bahraini Islamic political party Al-Wafaa said in a statement that a march would be held for Jerusalem Day.



A Bahraini poster for Jerusalem Day. The picture is of the Ayatollah Khomeini (Picture from the alam.ir website)

Other Countries

26. In all probability, similar to previous years, this year as well events will be held for Jerusalem Day in other Muslim countries with Shi'ite populations, such as **Pakistan and Afghanistan**.

Events Planned for Western Europe

Britain



Picture from a video posted by the IHRC for Jerusalem Day (YouTube)

27. In previous years **Britain** was a focal point for Jerusalem Day activity. This year as well the main European event is planned for the **center of London**. A march and demonstration are planned for 15:00 on August 17 with the theme of "solidarity with Palestine and the oppressed throughout the world" (lhrc.org.uk website).

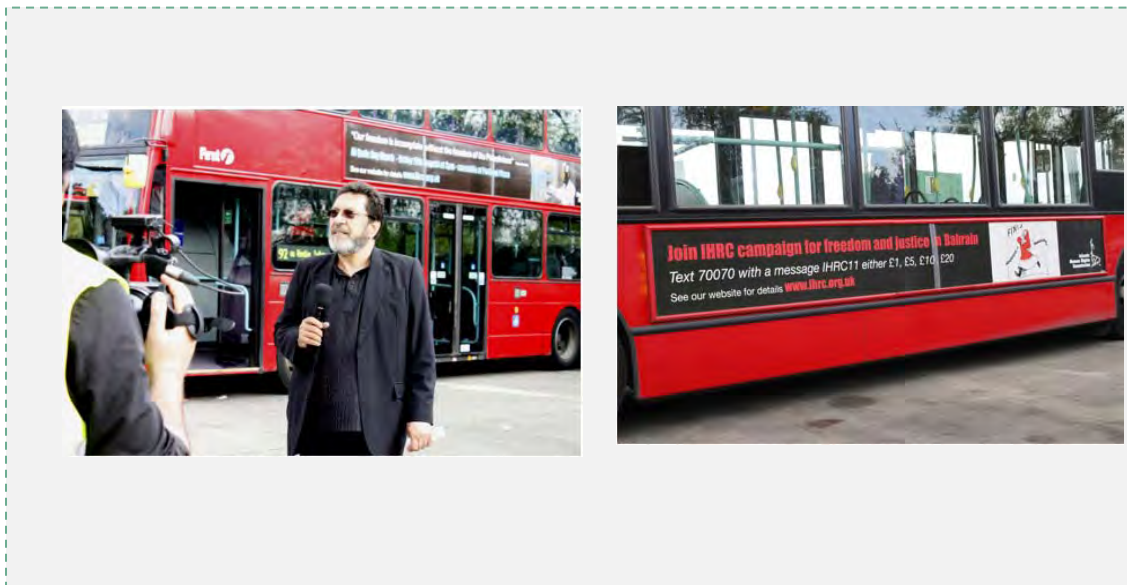
28. This year as well the events in London **are being organized by the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC)**, an Islamic organization **affiliated with Iran** and headed by **Massoud Shadjarah**.⁵ To advertise the upcoming events, as early as June 20, 2012, he issued a call for volunteers, especially women. The organization also opened a designated Facebook page and Twitter account and posted videos on YouTube calling on the public to participate in the event.

29. Several organizations and networks joined the IHRC. The organizations are listed on the organization's website, and **most of them are Islamic** and Palestinian, and

⁵ **Massoud Shadjarah**, the head of the IHRC, is an experienced human rights activist of **Iranian origin affiliated with Iran**. In 1971 he moved his activities from the university at Berkeley, California, to London.

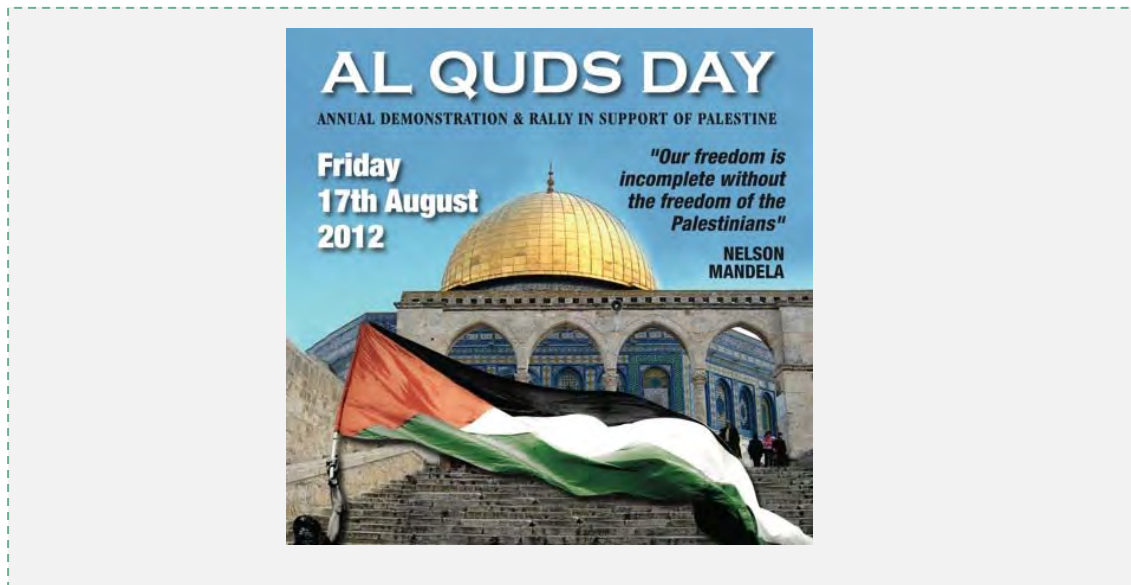
some of them are known to be **affiliated with Iran**.⁶ The list also contains left-wing British new involved in the campaign to delegitimize Israel (lhrc.org.uk website).

30. As part of its preparations, the organization **distributed posters throughout the city and a campaign was launched to advertise on buses**. Banners were hung on 450 buses throughout London with a quote from Nelson Mandela using terminology acceptable to Western ears ("freedom, justice") (IHRC website). Reporting in the bus campaign, the Iranian FARS news agency said that it had been launched "despite the objections of British Jews" (FARS News Agency, Iran, August 19, 2012).



Left: Massoud Shadjarah interviewed about the bus campaign. Right: A bus bearing one of the banners.

⁶ For further information about pro-Iranian organizations operating in Britain, see the June 19, 2012 bulletin "In Britain There Are a Number of Organizations Affiliated with Iran Which Deal with Exporting the Islamic Revolution."



A poster asking for participation in support of Palestine produced by the IHRC. It uses politically correct words like "freedom" and "support of Palestine," familiar and acceptable to Western ears (Picture from the IHRC website)]

Germany

31. A group calling itself the National Palestinian Executive Committee in Germany issued an announcement (in German and Arabic) about a protest demonstration which would take place in Berlin on August 17. Its objective, according to the announcement, was to denounce "the actions Judaizing Jerusalem carried out by the Zionist occupation." The flag of "Palestine" and the PLO logo appear on the announcement.

32. A Turkish newspaper issued an announcement about a Jerusalem Day march to be held in **Berlin**. It said that this year the march would deal with denouncing the United States, Israel and Britain as well as **Saudi Arabia and Qatar**. It would take place on Saturday, August 18, and it was noted that "the Zionists are planning to demonstrate" (Dogruhaber.com website).

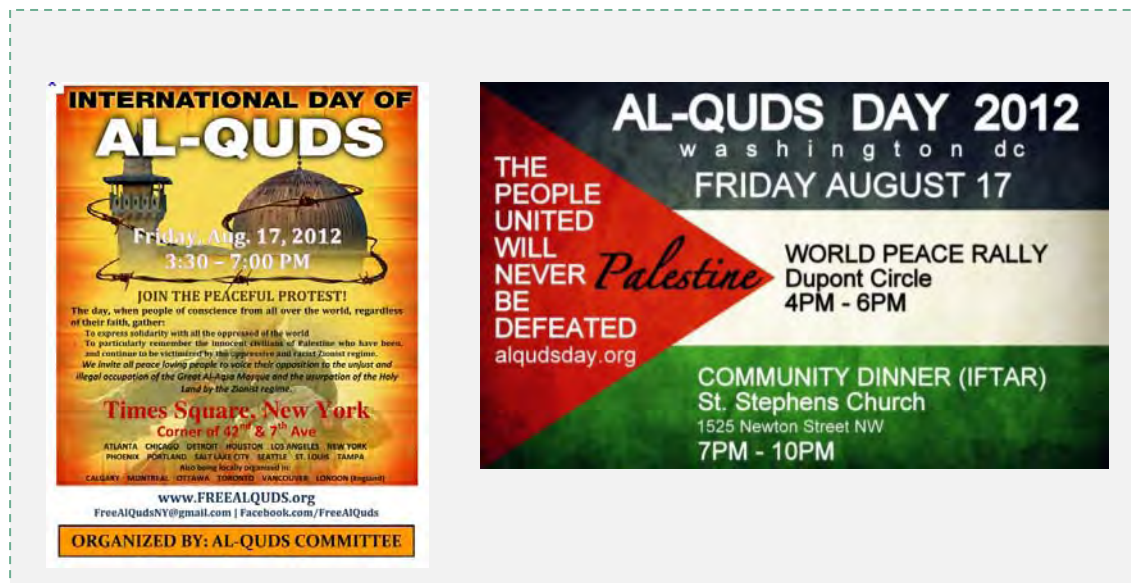
Sweden

33. In **Sweden** an announcement was issued by the Imam Ali Islamic Center in Stockholm stating that World Jerusalem Day would be marked on August 17 with the participation of the Muslim community in Sweden (Imamalicenter.se website)

Events Planned for North America

The United States

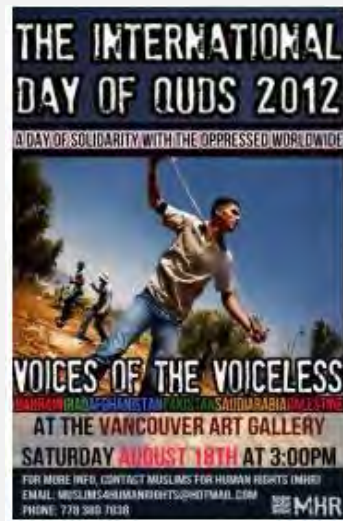
34. Events will be held in the **United States** in several locations, all of them planned for August 17. A march is planned for **Washington, DC**, and a demonstration is planned for Times Square in **New York**. Events are also planned for **Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles**, etc.



Advertisement for the marches in New York and Washington, DC, (Pictures from the alqudsay.org website). They use politically correct terms like "peaceful," "peace," and "people united," familiar and acceptable to Western ears.

Canada

35. A march will be held in Vancouver, BC, at 15:00 on August 18. A Facebook page was opened to organize the event. An examination of the page indicates that there has not been much interest.



A call for participation in the event in Vancouver (Facebook)

Events Planned for Australia

36. A march in support of the Palestinians is planned for **Sydney**, to leave from Hyde Park on August 17. A central committee was appointed to organize the event and a website was launched for Jerusalem Day (al-qods.org/events/al-qods-day-2012 website).



Left: The homepage of the website organizing the events. Right: Poster calling for participation in the Sydney march (YouTube).

37. The website of Bint Jbeil, a village in south Lebanon, issued an announcement from "the committee to revive World Jerusalem Day in Australia" about the first event to mark Jerusalem Day in Sydney, Australia. An anti-Israeli video was also posted (Bintjbeil.org website). The announcement was apparently meant for the Lebanese Shi'ites living in Australia.

