



September 2, 2012

Iranian-sponsored Jerusalem Day events were poorly attended this year and received little media coverage. Speeches were exploited for vicious anti-Israeli, anti-Jewish and anti-American incitement and to deter Israel from attacking Iranian nuclear installations.



The traditional burning of Israeli and American flags on World Jerusalem Day in Tehran (Pictures from the Mehr News Agency, Iran).

Overview

1. The annual Iranian-sponsored World Jerusalem Day events were held, as expected, in Iran, the Arab-Muslim world and other countries. As usual, **Iran** was the focus of the events and they were attended by the leadership of the regime. Notable events were also held in **Lebanon** under Hezbollah aegis. In the West, there were demonstrations in London, Berlin and several cities in the United States, and in other countries.

2. The events can generally be described as follows:

1) **A relatively small number of participants in Iran** – The organizers in Iran invested in a great deal of propaganda and advertising to encourage the general populace to participate in the events, and claimed that "millions" of people were in attendance. However, foreign correspondents reported that there were fewer participants this year than last and far fewer than in the first years after the Islamic Revolution.

2) **Poor attendance in other countries** – Attendance was markedly poor in the Gaza Strip, where Hamas did not lead the events. In Judea and Samaria as well the events did not make an impression, while in the West, including focal points like London and Berlin, few people attended (even though in London large sums of money were invested in hanging banners on buses). There was also little media coverage, and events around the world were mostly reported by the Iranian media.

3) **The Iranian-Shiite character of the events was marked** – The original intention of holding Jerusalem Day was to show Muslim unity, Shi'ite and Sunni, for the Palestinian cause. In reality, most of the participating organizations and activists were either Shi'ite or affiliated with Iran (in Western countries they were joined by anti-Israeli activists participating in the campaign to delegitimize Israel). Some of the themes of the events were **Shi'ite in nature** and those on **Iran's political agenda, such as support for the Alawite regime in Syria, for the Shi'ites in Bahrain and the Shi'ite Houthis in Yemen.**

3. The Iranian leadership and Hezbollah repeatedly stressed **two issues**:

1) **The call to destroy the State of Israel**, variously described as "an artificial entity," "a malignant tumor," and "a threat to humanity." The campaign was accompanied by **anti-Semitic hate propaganda** describing the "Zionists," that is the Jews, as controlling the United States and in fact the entire world (in the spirit of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* mythology).

2) **Warning Israel not to attack Iran**: The Iranian leaders stressed the necessity of continuing the so-called "resistance" (i.e., terrorism) to destroy Israel while warning it not to attack Iran's nuclear installations ("If Israel miscalculates and attacks Iranian nuclear installations Iran's strong response will destroy the Zionist entity."). **Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah** added that Hezbollah can also attack the Israeli home front with **precision missiles** which "will turn the lives of hundreds of Zionists into a living hell."

Jerusalem Day in Iran

Overview

4. In Iran World Jerusalem Day was marked by dozens of marches, demonstrations and rallies held throughout the country. The main event was a march held in Tehran, attended by senior members of the regime, including the Iranian president,

Ahmadinejad. Jerusalem Day was exploited, as it has been every year, as a stage for the heads of the regime to spew hate propaganda against Israel ("the Zionist regime") and the United States, demand the "dissolution of the Zionist regime," and to refer to Israel as "a malignant tumor." However, foreign correspondents following the events, especially in Tehran, reported that there were fewer participants this year than last and far fewer than during the first years after the Islamic Revolution, despite the Iranian regime's efforts to encourage the populace to participate.

5. This year the **announcement** issued by the Iranian regime after the Jerusalem Day events included a declaration of commitment to the Palestinian people and the campaign to "liberate Jerusalem," and mentioned the developments in Syria and the Arab world. It said that the only solution to the problem of Palestine was the dissolution of the "Zionist regime," expelling the Zionists from the occupied lands, the return of the Palestinian refugees to their country and a free referendum to determine Palestine's future. The organizers of Jerusalem Day described the events in Syria as a joint plot of imperialism and the reactionary Arab countries to hurt the anti-Zionist front and the Islamic resistance, and **warned against foreign intervention in Syria's internal affairs**. They also expressed support for the popular revolutions taking place in the Arab world and denounced the **suppression of the Shi'ite opposition in Bahrain** (FARS News Agency, Iran, August 17, 2012).

Statements Made by Senior Iranian Figures

6. On the eve of Jerusalem Day Iran's Supreme Leader **Ali Khamenei** said that "the problem of Jerusalem" was the Muslim world's main issue and that the occupation of the Islamic lands of Palestine and the Zionist settlement on those lands had been the source of the ills of the region for the last decades. Speaking at a meeting with Iranians taken prisoner during the Iran-Iraq war, Khamenei said that **Israel was "an artificial entity" and that without a doubt it would be wiped off the map**. He also said that "the occupation of the Islamic land of Palestine and the Zionist settlements there were **the defective element engineered in the Middle East**" and "**the root of the problems of the past decades**" (IRNA, August 15, 2012).

7. **Ahmadinejad** gave a speech in **Tehran** for Jerusalem Day **filled with anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic, anti-American hate propaganda**. He spoke about many topics, among them the following (Mehr News Agency, Iran, August 17, 2012):

- 1) **Israel** – He said that the "Zionist regime" served the West to control the Middle East and the rest of the world, and that its existence was **an insult to all people**. The campaign against the "Zionist regime" was waged to defend the honor of

mankind and to open the path to save all humanity from imperialism and poverty.

The "Zionist regime," he said, was a malignant tumor and the presence of Zionists on even one centimeter of the land of Palestine was dangerous.

2) **Zionism [i.e., the Jewish people]** – He called Zionists a minority group, organized and "anti-human," which placed itself in opposition to "divine values." The Zionists, he claimed, were the main cause of the fall of entire nations and peoples. The two World Wars, according to Ahmadinejad, were planned by the Zionists to make it possible for the United States to control the world. Since the Zionists took control of the American government **they have taken control of the entire world. That includes controlling governments, the communications media and the large banks, with the objective of destroying civilization and ruling the world.**

3) **The solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict** – Ahmadinejad said he objected to the two state solution which he claimed was a historic opportunity for the Zionists to bury the efforts invested in "a hundred years of resistance."

4) **An appeal to the Arab countries** – Ahmadinejad appealed to the Arab countries to act according to their own interests, to abandon the Zionists, to recognize the rights of people and to stop insulting the Iranian people. He declared that a new Middle East would indeed be established, but with the aid of Allah **it would have no trace of American or Zionist presence.**



Iranian president Ahmadinejad gives a Jerusalem Day speech (Picture from Press TV, Iran, August 17, 2012).

8. The Friday sermon for Jerusalem Day was given by senior Iranian cleric **Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami**. He said that a distinction had to be made between the Jewish minority living in Iran and the **Zionists [i.e., the Jews] whose crimes against Muslims had begun at the dawn of Islam**. He said that the only thing that had succeeded in dealing with the Zionists during the 60 years of the occupation of Palestine was intifada and not the negotiating table, because **"the Zionists only understand the language of force."** He appealed to the media to expose the "crimes of the Zionists" in Palestine, the Gaza Strip and Lebanon (Mehr News Agency, Iran, August 17 2012).

Jerusalem Day in Iran



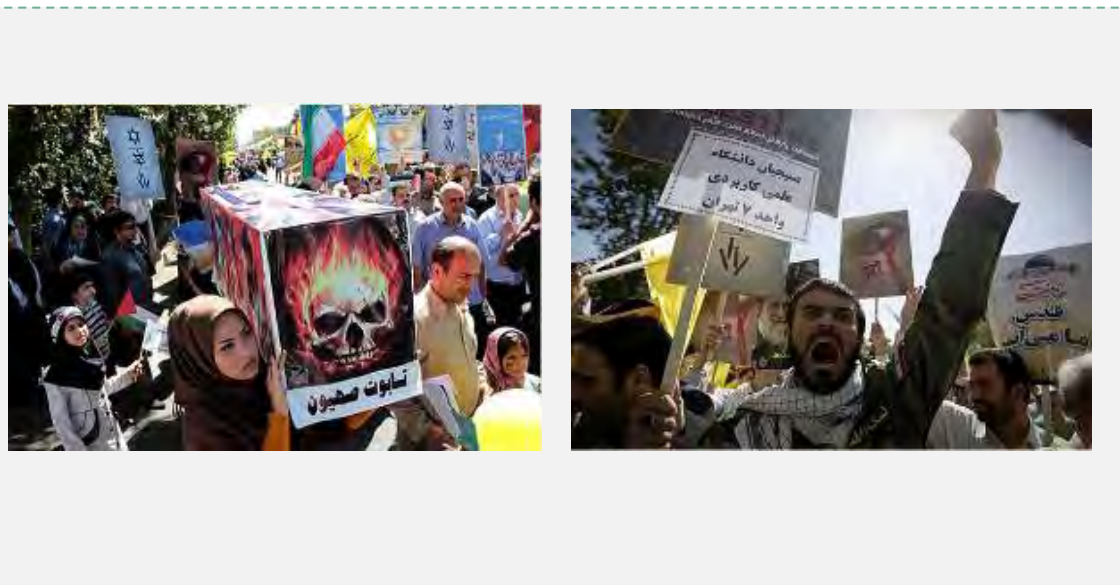
Mass marches (Pictures from Press TV and the alintiqad website)



Burning the Israeli flag (Pictures from Mehr News Agency, Iran)



Anti-Israeli signs and slogans (Pictures from the Mehr News Agency, the alintiqad website and the Hamas forum)



Demonstrators (Pictures from the Hamas forum, August 17, 2012).

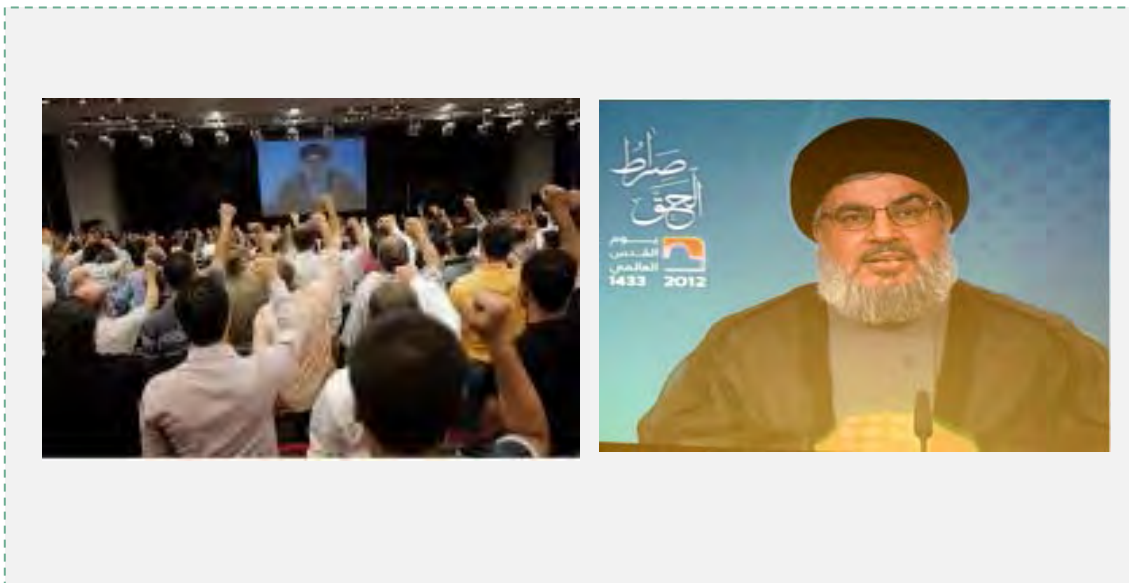
Jerusalem Day in Lebanon

9. Jerusalem Day events were held in Lebanon in a number of locations. **The main rally was held in Beirut**, where a speech was given by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Two topics were prominent in the speech (Radio Nur, August 17, 2012):

- 1) **Praise for Iran and a threat to Israel lest it attack Iran:** Nasrallah claimed that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak wanted to strike Iran accusing it of developing a nuclear program "which the whole world knows is a civilian program." The real reason, he said, for the dispute between Israel and Iran was that Iran "provides the resistance movement

[i.e., the terrorist organizations] in the region with money and arms," and that made it Israel's "number one enemy." He warned that a strike on Iran would cost Israel tens of thousands of dead, and not 300 or 500. **Iran's response, he warned, would be "great, stunning and powerful"** if attacked by Israel. Should Israel attack Iran it would "provide it [Iran] with a golden, historic opportunity which Iran has been dreaming of for 32 years." Nasrallah quoted Ali Khamenei, who said that **"Israel is a cancerous disease...and it will disappear from the region and not remain."**

2) **Hezbollah's capability to strike deep into the heart of Israel:** Nasrallah said that Israel would pay a steep price for a war with Hezbollah [which he referred to as "Lebanon"], **far higher than the price it paid in 2006.** "There are a number of targets in occupied Palestine," he said," which can be attacked with a small number of missiles... I say this to the Israelis: you have a number of targets, and it is not large...**that can be hit with a number of precise missiles... and we possess those missiles...an attack on those targets...will turn the lives of hundreds of thousands of Zionists into a living hell...we have those targets, we know what coordinates are, our missiles are in place and very secretly pointed at those targets...**" When aggression is leveled at Lebanon, said Nasrallah, **"we will not wait for permission from anyone..."**



Left: Hassan Nasrallah gives a videotaped speech. Right: His audience (Picture from the alintiqad website, August 18, 2012).

10. A number of local events were held in south Lebanon, including one in **Kafar Qila** near the Israeli-Lebanese border. Hezbollah's scouting movement held a march towards the Fatma gate (the former "Good Fence crossing" between Israel and

Lebanon), accompanied by political, cultural and media figures. A speech was given by **Ali Fayad**, a Hezbollah member of the Lebanese parliament. He called for adherence to the "path of resistance [i.e., terrorism]" against Israel (alintiqad website, August 17, 2012).

Jerusalem Day in Lebanon



Hezbollah scouts march in Beirut (Pictures from the alintiqad website, August 18, 2012).



Hezbollah scouts march in Beirut (Pictures from the alintiqad website, August 18, 2012).



Events in Kafar Qila, near the Israeli border (Pictures from the alintiqad website, August 18, 2012).

Hezbollah's Three-Day Military Exercise – Media Report

11. According to Lebanese sources quoting a long article in the Lebanese newspaper Al-Joumhouria, **Hezbollah held a large military exercise, the first of its kind, lasting three days and engaging more than ten thousand of its operatives.**

According to the report, the exercise was held mainly in the region of the Beqa'a Valley and simulated a confrontation with Israel. Hezbollah secretary general Hassan Nasrallah personally oversaw the exercise, **accompanied by officers of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.**

12. In addition, according to the article, **Saeed Jalili**, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, in Lebanon on August 6, gave Hezbollah a green light to plan a scenario for the outbreak of a war between Israel and Iran in which Lebanon would be one of the main fighting arenas. Nasrallah and Jalili met outside the southern suburb of Beirut and discussed the issue of Hezbollah's military and logistic preparedness (Al-Joumhouria, August 23, 2012).



Saeed Jalili, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, pays a visit to the grave of terrorist Imad Mughniyeh during his latest visit to Lebanon (Picture from the alintiqad website, Lebanon, August 6, 2012).

Jerusalem Day in Turkey

13. The main Jerusalem Day event in Turkey was held in **Istanbul**; events were also held in other cities. After the Friday prayers hundreds of people marched from the Fatih mosque to Sarachane Square, holding signs denouncing Israel. Representatives from various Turkish Islamic organizations participated. Also Taysir Suleiman, one of the Palestinian terrorist operatives released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal and expelled from Israel, also participated in the event.

Jerusalem Day in Istanbul



Marchers in the streets of Istanbul wave Hezbollah flags and pictures of Hassan Nasrallah (Pictures from the islamigundem.com website, August 17, 2012).



Left: Taysir Suleiman, a Palestinian terrorist operative released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal. Right: Marchers in Istanbul carry a banner reading "The independence of Jerusalem is the independence of the [Islamic] nation" (Pictures from the dogruhaber.com.tr website).



Signs carried in Istanbul. Left: The left-hand sign reads, "Jerusalem and Palestine are occupied...Where is the Muslim world." The right-hand sign reads, "With spirit, with blood, we will redeem you Al-Aqsa [mosque]." Right: "Palestine will be the grave of the Zionist occupier," "Terrorist Israel, get out of Palestine," "Regards to Hamas, continue the resistance," "Jerusalem is the heart of the [Islamic] nation" (Pictures from the dogruhaber.com.tr website).

14. At an event in **Ankara** a speech was given by **Nuraddin Şirin**, an anti-Israeli, anti-Western, Islamist Turkish correspondent with close ties to Iran. He said that **only a few years were left until "the Zionist regime is wiped out"** (tevhidhaber.com website).



Nurredin Şirin at a Jerusalem Day ceremony in Ankara (Picture from the tevhidhaber.com website).

Jerusalem Day in the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza Strip

15. There were a number of low-profile events in **Judea and Samaria** to mark World Jerusalem Day. The Palestinian Authority apparently did not encourage holding them.



Events marking Jerusalem Day somewhere in Judea and Samaria (Pictures from the rohama.org website).

16. In the **Gaza Strip** as well relatively low-profile events were held without the presence of senior figures of the de-facto Hamas administration. After the Friday prayers Palestinian terrorist organizations (except for Fatah) held a march to the center of Gaza City, attended by a few hundred Gazans. The main speaker at the post-march

rally was Rabah Mihnna, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's political bureau, who said, "We do not recognize Israel, we will not recognize Israel, and we will continue our resistance [i.e., terrorist attacks] and firm stance" (Ma'an News Agency, August 17, 2012).

Jerusalem Day in the Gaza Strip



Jerusalem Day events in the Gaza Strip. Left: Senior members of various terrorist organizations at the Jerusalem Day march in the Gaza Strip (Picture from the PIJ's Paltoday website, August 17, 2012). Right: Marching through the streets of Gaza City (Picture from Hamas' palestine-info website, August 17, 2012).

Jerusalem Day in Other Muslim Countries

Pakistan

17. A large demonstration was held in Karachi, Pakistan. Demonstrators burned Israeli and American flags and shouted slogans about the "liberation of Palestine." During the march an armed man opened fire on the demonstrators and afterwards an IED exploded. At least one man was killed and 13 injured (Press TV, Iran, August 17, 2012). The events in Pakistan were also exploited to demonstrate against the government.

Jerusalem Day in Pakistan



Burning the Israeli and American flags (Pictures from the Hamas forum, August 17, 2012).



Mass march with Pakistani, Hezbollah, Palestinian and Iranian flags (Pictures from the Hamas forum, August 17, 2012).

Afghanistan

18. Events were held in a number of cities in Afghanistan attended, according to reports, by a few hundred people. The main events were marches and rallies in the capital city, Kabul. Demonstrators waved Palestinian flags and shouted slogans for the "liberation" of Palestine, and burned Israeli flags. The events were attended by religious leaders and politicians. The Pakistani police closely supervised the events (Press TV, Iran, August 17, 2012).

Jerusalem Day in Pakistan



Bahrain and Saudi Arabia

19. This year Jerusalem Day was exploited by the Iranians to show support for the Shi'ites in Bahrain in their campaign against the Sunni regime. Shi'ites from Bahrain and from the eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia held Jerusalem Day events despite the fact that they had been forbidden by the Saudi Arabian authorities and Bahraini government. The Iranian media reported that Bahraini forces, with Saudi Arabian support, even attacked the demonstrators (Press TV, Iran, August 17, 2012). A 16 year-old boy was killed in the confrontations (Al-Jazeera TV, August 17, 2012).



Demonstration in Bahrain (Press TV, Iran, and wrnewz.com).

Iraq

20. Jerusalem Day events were held in **Baghdad**. According to the organizers the events were attended by senior members of the Iraqi administration, tribal chiefs and the public at large. Themes stressed were the necessity to support the Palestinian cause, defend Jerusalem and condemn Israel for its occupation of "the holy land." The tribal chiefs also mentioned the helplessness of the international community in the face of "Israel's crimes" (Press TV, Iran, August 17, 2012).



A demonstration in Iraq (Press TV, Iran, August 17, 2012)

Yemen

21. A conference was held in **Sanaa**, the capital of Yemen, for Jerusalem Day, during which speakers called on Muslims to cut off relations with the United States. They claimed that support for the United States meant support for "the Zionist occupation of Palestine." They also claimed that the "Zionist media" and its supporters were trying to minimize the importance of the Palestinian cause by sowing discord between the Muslim countries. **A video of Abd al-Maliki al Houthi, the religious leader of the Houthis against the central government, was played.** In it he spoke of the significance of Jerusalem Day. During the conference there was a presentation showing how Israel promotes its agenda at the expense of the Islamic cause (Press TV, Iran, August 17, 2012).

Jerusalem Day in Yemen



A demonstration in Yemen (Press TV, Iran, August 17, 2012)

Events in Western Europe

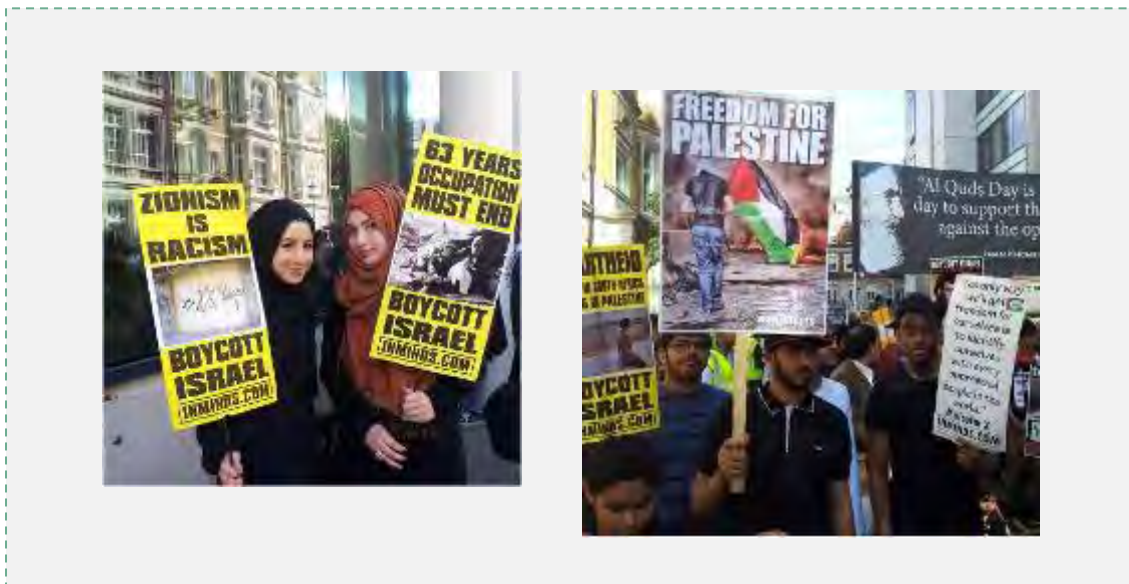
Britain

22. This year, as in years past, **Britain was a focal point for Jerusalem Day activity**, and the main European event was held in **the center of London**. While basically it was supposed to support the Palestinian cause, **it was mostly a show of support for Iran and Hezbollah.**

23. Despite the money invested in public relations (including hanging banners on London buses at an estimated cost of £50,000), **attendance was relatively poor** (according to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, an estimated 500 people participated, despite reports from the event's organizers of 5,000). This year as well there were anti-Israeli signs ("Israel is a disease") and signs in support of Hezbollah ("We are all Hizbullah"). The local mainstream media did not report the events.

Jerusalem Day in London (Pictures from the Hurryupharry.Org Website and Facebook)

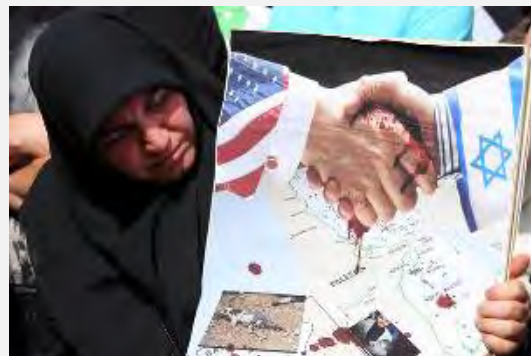




Germany

24. **Berlin** was also a focal point for Jerusalem Day activity in Europe, where the main event was a march attended by an estimated 600 demonstrators. It was held on Saturday, August 18, and according to reports marchers came from all over Europe. There was also a pro-Israel counter demonstration of an estimated 250 people who waved Israeli flags and tried to disrupt the march. The German police separated the two groups.

Jerusalem Day in Berlin (Pictures from the Zimbio.Com Website)



Austria

25. Thousands of Muslims marched in Vienna carrying anti-Israeli and anti-Zionist signs such as "Yes to Judaism, no to Zionism" and "Zionism equals Fascism" (IRNA, August 17, 2012).



Jerusalem in Vienna (picture from IRNA, August 17, 2012)

Jerusalem Day in North America The United States

26. Events were held in several large cities (New York, Washington). In New York, conspicuous was the participation of Neturai Karta Orthodox Jews, who often participate in events sponsored by Iran.



Jerusalem Day in New York (Pictures from the rohama.org website)

Canada

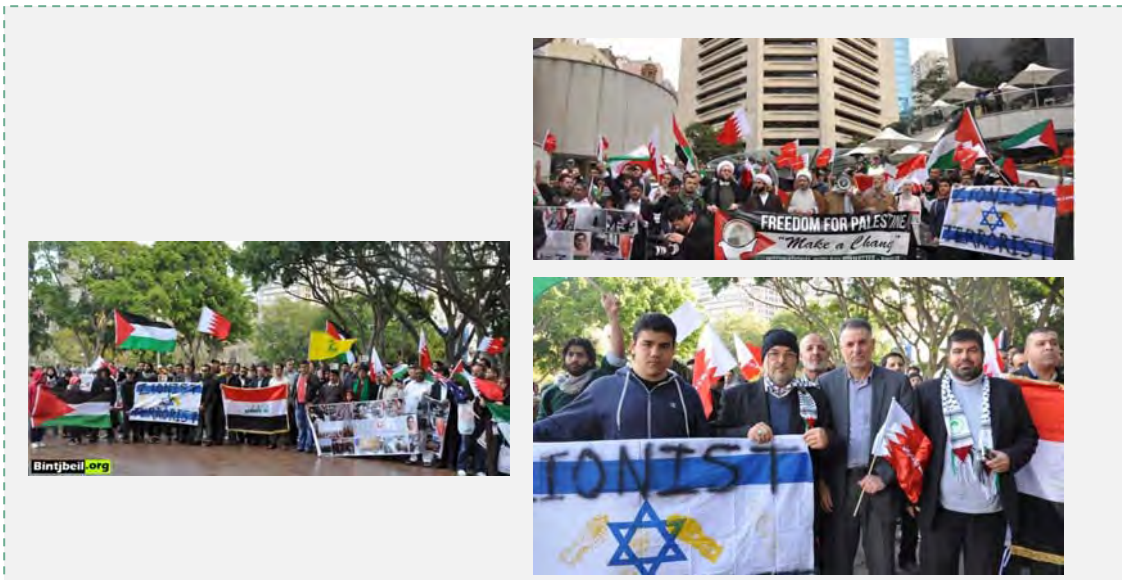
27. Local events were held in Canada with poor participation.



Pictures from the radicalcitizenmedia.com website

Jerusalem Day in Australia

28. Jerusalem Day was marked in Sydney, Australia for the first time.



Jerusalem Day in Sydney. The yellow flag in the left-hand picture is the Hezbollah flag (Pictures from the Bint Jbeil website, August 17, 2012)

Jerusalem Day in Other Countries

Malaysia



Jerusalem in Malaysia (Pictures from the rohama.org website)

Thailand

29. Demonstrators in Thailand carried Hezbollah flags and anti-Israeli, pro-intifada signs.



The yellow flags are Hezbollah flags (Pictures from the Mehr News Agency, Iran, August 17, 2012).

Azerbaijan

30. A demonstration was held in **Baku**, the capital of Azerbaijan, in front of the Israeli embassy. The crowd shouted anti-Israeli, pro-Palestinian slogans. The Thai police

responded forcefully and local security forces detained a number of demonstrators (islamicinvitationturkey.com website).



The demonstration in front of the Israeli embassy in Baku (Picture from the islamicinvitationturkey.com website).

Ecuador



Jerusalem Day rally held in Ecuador (Picture from the rohama.org website)

Tanzania



Jerusalem Day in Dar-es-Salam, Tanzania (Picture from the ibn-tv.com website)

Zambia



Jerusalem Day rally in Zambia (Picture from the Mehr News Agency, Iran, August 17, 2012)