

Concerned About The Safety Of The Church Of The Nativity?

- From 1948 to 1967, while under Jordanian control, no Christians living in Israel were allowed to visit their holy places in the Old City of Jerusalem.
- From 1948 to 1967, while under Jordanian control all but one of the Old City's 58 synagogues were destroyed.
- From 1948 to 1967, while under Jordanian control headstones from the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives were used as paving and building stones — *to line a pathway to a Jordanian army latrine.*
- In 1965 an ancient Byzantine synagogue mosaic in Gaza displayed David wearing a crown and playing a lyre. A Hebrew inscription identified the biblical king. Shortly thereafter, David's face was gouged out by locals.

Since 1967, when Israel gained control,
all holy places in Israel have been protected and open to all.

- At the beginning of the current uprising, Palestinian protestors entered the Joseph's Tomb compound and began to systematically destroy everything in sight, including all remnants of a yeshiva, the furniture, and books that were left behind. The Palestinian police failed to prevent any of these violent activities, despite their pledge to guard the Tomb.
- Within days of the destruction of Joseph's tomb, another group of Palestinians destroyed an ancient synagogue in Jericho. The destruction of this building *violates an express provision* of the Oslo accords, which gave Jericho to the Palestinian Authority on the condition that it protect this synagogue and assure Jewish access to it.
- The Great Mosque of Gaza was originally built as a Crusader church. Upper columns (engraved with Jewish symbols) were taken from an ancient synagogue. A Hebrew and Greek inscription memorializing a donor to the synagogue also appeared on the columns. When visited in 1973, this was all still on the column. On return to Gaza in 1996, all had been erased and the stone smoothed over.
- Since early in 2001, Palestinian gunmen have shelled Jerusalem's southern communities from primarily Christian Bethlehem and Beit Jalla; attempting to draw Israeli fire and cause a Christian backlash.
- *April 1, 2002, dozens of armed Palestinians invaded the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, held the priests inside captive, and began shooting out at Israeli soldiers.*

Protect the Church Of The Nativity.
Demand that Arafat order his men surrender!

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