

UNESCO Condones Muslim Claims to Temple Mount and Western Wall in Jerusalem



Temple Mount and Western Wall in Jerusalem

During a panel discussion at Pensacola's Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue on June 27th following a showing of the APT documentary [The J Street Challenge](#) an audience member raised a question about the ancient Jewish claims to Jerusalem in the context of a recent Vatican declaration recognizing a Palestinian State. The panel spoke about the long term Vatican quest for internationalization of Israel's eternal undivided capital of the Jewish nation that had protected the precincts of the world major faiths. Something that had not occurred during the 19 year occupation of Jordan until the liberation of the holy city by the IDF on June 7, 1967. Panelist Mike Bates *1330amWEBY* Talk Show Host and station general manager discussed the fictional Islamic doctrinal claims, based on the legend of Mohammed's fabled night ride, to the Temple Mount including the Western Wall –a revered Jewish site over two millennia. In our *Iconoclast* post on the Pensacola event, we [wrote](#):

That led to an exposition by Mike Bates about the realities concerning Muslims claims of control over Jerusalem. He noted the legend of the Prophet Mohammed's dream of a night ride on the human headed horse to "the farthest Mosque" where he meets Jesus and rises to heaven to meet Abraham and other Jewish prophets all deemed Muslim. Bates pointed out that nowhere in the Qur'an is Jerusalem mentioned. Moreover, Muslims did not occupy Jerusalem until The Rash dun Caliphate conquest and

submission to Caliph Umar bin al-Khattab in 637 C.E. Caliph bin Khattab initiated the construction of what ultimately became the Al Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount and established a Dhimma or pact for governance of subjugated peoples of the book, Christians, Jews and others. Muslims claim any conquered land as a possession in perpetuity under a trust from their god Allah. Jews have lived in Jerusalem for more than 3,000 years.

We raise this because this week, a committee of UNESCO approved a resolution condoning these Muslim claims to the Western Wall based on Mohammed's night ride legend, virtually excluding from consideration the ancient Jewish historical claims and even Christian ones preceding the Islamic conquest of Jerusalem. Patrick Goodenough revealed the absurdity of the UN panel proposal in a *CNS* report, ["UNESCO Backs Muslim Narrative on Jerusalem's Temple Mount"](#):

A key committee of the United Nations cultural agency adopted a resolution this week whose language implicitly endorses the legend underpinning Islam's claim to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount – the assertion that Mohammed tied his winged steed there while en route from Mecca to heaven.

Famed as a place of Jewish pilgrimage and prayer, the Western or "Wailing" Wall is the remnant of a retaining wall on the western flank of the platform that once housed the biblical Temples. As such it is the closest point observant Jews are usually able to get to the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism.

But for Muslim leaders wanting to deny Jewish historical and religious claims to the site, it is dubbed the al-Buraq wall, and the area in front of it the al-Buraq plaza. This is based on the belief that the founder of Islam stopped there during his "night journey" from Mecca to heaven, and tethered his legendary steed, al-Buraq,

there while he led prayers with a congregation of “Islamic prophets” including Adam, Noah and Joseph.

Now the World Heritage Committee of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has adopted a resolution which refers to the area below and to the west of the Temple Mount as the “Buraq plaza.”

The resolution, proposed by three Arab countries, Qatar, Algeria and Lebanon, refers to the Temple Mount itself as a “Muslim holy site,” with no reference to its importance to Jews.

It slams Israel for various actions in Jerusalem’s Old City, including construction and excavation work. A light railway system whose route passes near – but does not enter – the Old City is said to be damaging the “visual integrity and the authentic character of the site.”

The resolution’s introduction at the World Heritage Committee’s session in Bonn, Germany, brought criticism from Israeli Foreign Ministry director-general Dore Gold, who said it was “full of distortions and is totally disconnected from reality on the ground.”

Gold said in a statement the measure “deliberately ignores the historical connection between the Jewish people and their ancient capital,” and also does not acknowledge Christianity’s links to Jerusalem.

He accused the UNESCO committee of hypocrisy, at a time when jihadists were destroying ancient heritage sites across the region.

“As the historical heritage sites of this area are being systematically destroyed by jihadist forces, such as the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, UNESCO’s adoption of utterly false allegations about Israeli archeological practices is misplaced and hypocritical, at best,” Gold

said.

UNESCO in 2011 became the first U.N. agency to admit "Palestine," a decision that triggered a U.S. funding cutoff mandated by a 1990 law barring financial support for "the United Nations or any specialized agency thereof which accords the Palestine Liberation Organization the same standing as member states."

Goodenough noted the motivation for the UNESCO resolution:

The Palestinians want parts of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount, as capital of a future independent state, and Palestinian and Islamic figures have long challenged Jewish historical and religious claims to the mount.

For instance, [fatwas](#) attributed to former grand mufti of Jerusalem Ikrama Sabri and former mufti of Egypt Nasr Farid Wasil, dispute Jewish claims to the Western Wall.

"Al-Buraq Wall is part of al-Aqsa Mosque and it is an Islamic endowment," Wasil said. "Hence, it is not permissible in *shari'a* for any non-Islamic quarter to claim or possess it. The wall would remain part and parcel of Islamic heritage and endowment forever."

"Al-Buraq Wall is part of al-Aqsa's western wall and the whole walls of al-Aqsa are Islamic endowments," said Sabri. "Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, had honored and blessed the place by tying al-Buraq to the wall, during his Night Journey and Ascension to the Heaven."

"Hence al-Buraq Wall belongs to Muslims alone in the four corners of the earth and will remain so till Judgment Day. We neither admit nor acknowledge that Jews possess it (al-Buraq Wall) and, also we stress that there is no stone there dating back to Hebrew history."

This UNESCO al-Buraq (Western Wall) resolution based on the fiction of Mohammed's night ride to "the farthest Mosque" preceded Al Quds or Jerusalem Day, July 10, 2015 observed during the last Friday during Ramadan. The Founder of the Islamic Republic in Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini declared it a religious duty for all Muslims to further the "liberation" of Jerusalem. Al Quds Day promotes the Palestinian assertion that Jerusalem should be its state capital reflecting the Muslim claims based on the Mohammed night ride legend. Qur'anic doctrine and Shariah law considers all conquered territory, whether Jerusalem or Andalusia in Southern Spain, as a Waqf, or trust conveyed by Allah in perpetuity. *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) Jerusalem Day was celebrated in Tehran with millions marching shouting "Death to America and Israel," burning US and Israeli flags and effigies of Netanyahu and the Saudi King. We note that the events in Tehran occurred in the midst of the P5+1 negotiation for a nuclear deal with Iran.

In our July 2015 NER [interview](#) with Manfred Gerstenfeld, we asked him about UN engaging in such delegitimization of Israel. He replied:

The UN is a major demonizer and hater of Israel. That includes UN-associated bodies such as the United Nations Human Rights Commission, UNESCO, UNWRA and many others agencies. The UN is supposed to be a moral body. When it comes to Israel its views reflect the extreme moral degradation of this largest supranational body. Hate expressions and double standards against Israel symbolize that.