

3. STATEMENTS FROM ARAB/ISLAMIC STATES & ORGANIZATIONS

A1 LETTER FROM MOHAMMED SHARIF TO THE GOVERNOR OF JERUSALEM ABOUT A DECREE ISSUED BY IBRAHIM PASHA CONCERNING THE WAILING WALL, 1840

Folio 368; No. 39

*To the Pride of honourable men, the highly respected
Ahmad Agha Duzdar, Governor of the City of Jerusalem.*

We are in receipt of an order from the Supreme Military Command, enclosing a copy of an August Khedivial Irada issued to His Excellency [i.e., the Commander-in-Chief, Ibrahim Pasha], to the effect that whereas it has come to light from a copy of minutes of the Majles Shura [Representative Council] of Jerusalem that the area which the Jews have applied to pave is contiguous with the wall of the Haram Al-Sharif and the tethering place of al-Buraq [the legendary steed which is believed to have borne the Prophet on his miraculous ascension, and which was, according to Moslem legend, tethered by the Angel Gabriel at a spot adjoining the Wailing Wall] and is contained in the Waqf of Abu Midian (of holy memory); and whereas there is no precedent for the Jews carrying out any such repairs in that area in the past; and whereas it has been established that it would be inadmissible under the Shar'i Law (for them to do so); therefore the Jews must not be enabled to carry out the paving, and they must be cautioned against raising their voices and displaying their books (or utterances) and (informed) that all that may be permitted them is to pay visits to it as of old.

A Supreme Military Order has been issued to us to take action in accordance with the above Irada, and in accordance therewith we communicate its august substance to you, so that on receipt of it you shall take steps to enforce it. So take note.

*24th Ramadan 1256 (i.e. 1840 A.D.)
(SEAL) Muhammad Sharif.*



A2 DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LIWA CONCERNING THE WAILING WALL, 19 NOVEMBER 1911

The Mutawalli [Trustee or guardian] of the Awkaf of Abu Median Al-Ghoth Shua'ib, may God sanctify his memory, has filed a petition stating that the members of the Jewish Community whose practice was to visit, while standing up on their feet, the place called "Buraq" which place is situated outside the Western side of the Haram Al-Sharif [Holy Sanctuary] of Jerusalem, having contrary to usage, started lately to bring chairs to sit on during their visit, and the said "Buraq" being a property belonging to the above mentioned Awkaf and constituting a private blind alley (cul-de-sac), and requested that in order to avoid a future claim of ownership, the present state of affairs be stopped as from now.

Upon transmission of the petition, His Eminence the Mufti, the Awkaf Department and the Shar'ia Court stated in their annotations thereon that the said Waqf being situated within Musaqqafat [Buildings] adjoining the wall of the illuminated Aqsa Mosque on its west side and constituting a blind alley [cul-de-sac], is one of the lanes belonging to the said Waqf, that it is inadmissible by law in all respects that there should be placed chairs, screen and similar articles, or any innovation be made which may indicate ownership; that nobody owns the rights to place such articles, or any innovations as to occupy the site of the Wall of the Noble Aqsa Mosque; and that steps should be taken for their prevention.

After deliberation by the Council it has been decided that in the circumstances, whether in the said Waqf, or at the Wall of the Haram Al-Sharif [Holy Sanctuary] it is not permissible that there should be articles considered as indications of ownership; that nobody should be given a chance to place such articles; and that it is found necessary to preserve the old practice. The above mentioned petition together with its enclosures is remitted to H.E. The Governor, for necessary action.

*[Passed by the Majles Idarah (Administrative Council) of the Liwa, under no. 1680, on 12th Nov. 1327 (1911 AD)]
(True copy of the original registered in the Awkaf Book). SEAL: Directorate of the Awkaf of Jerusalem, Aref Hikmat.*

