

# **The Social Reaction to the Illicit Drugs ((abuse, trade and production) in Jerusalem suburbs since the Founding of the Palestinian Authority**

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## **Abstract**

The study aimed to examine the content of the social reaction towards the illicit drugs use (using, trading and manufacture), in the suburbs of Jerusalem, by examining the existence of the two components of the social reaction: the subjective and the objective components. The study used the quantitative and qualitative methods of research.

The results of the quantitative study showed that most of those arrested in drug cases are unmarried young youth, with low educational level, and most of them are workers that live in difficult economic and social conditions. This study showed the number of drug arrests has been increasing since 2013, from 86 to 369 in 2018, in addition to the spread of many types of drugs in the recent years.

The study provided explanations for these quantity data, including: This is due to the political circumstances in these areas and the role of the Israeli occupation in the spread of drugs in the suburbs of Jerusalem. In addition, Jerusalem's suburbs, especially overcrowded areas, are characterized by a lack of control and poor security. This increase also reflects the Palestinian police attempt to control drug trafficking, all of which helped to increase the number of people arrested.

The qualitative study focused on two aspects. The first: examining the social psychological and economic conditions of the addicts, and their reaction to the actions taken by the institutions towards them. The Second aspect: focusing on describing the social reaction toward the four sectors: governmental and non-governmental, media in addition to the People's Committees.

The qualitative study showed how the addict persons described their attitudes toward the addiction and their non-satisfaction with how the police deal with them. The results of the qualitative study with the four sectors (the subject dimension), showed awareness toward the abuse of drugs, as defined from the point of view of parties. The results showed that the police tried to implement the strategies of supply and demand reduction by increasing the number of people arrested by the police. The results also showed the various parties act in

these area due to political considerations as they recognize the importance of Jerusalem suburbs politically.

These reactions address the levels of social action (both objective and subjective). What distinguish these reactions are their limitations in light of the complications associated with the presence of the occupation, the limited resources of the active institutions on the one hand, and the structure of the society that lives in the surrounding areas of Jerusalem, on the other hand.

The study concluded with a number of recommendations, such as: Increasing the number of police in the surrounding areas of Jerusalem; applying the Palestinian law to holders of the “blue” identity; facilitate the police work through the application of the supply and demand strategy; the need to establish mechanisms of action and cooperation between the four sectors, through periodical meetings, and finally the need to activate the role of the local committees.

Consequently, the study reached the general conclusion of providing multiple institutional reactions to illicit drugs use. These reactions addressed the two levels: objective and subjective. The idea that distinguishes these reactions are their limitations in light of the obstacles associated with the presence of the occupation, the limited resources of the active institutions, and the conditions of the society that lives in Jerusalem suburbs.