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### ABSTRACT

#### **Locked Out: A Critical Look into the Grand Residential Projects of East-Jerusalem**

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**Background:** Palestinians living in East-Jerusalem are constantly on edge, the fear of losing their homes lingers continuously. Palestinians face the threat of losing their homes at the hands of the Israeli occupation which sends out home demolition orders for families and justifies it with the absence of a permit. This is a systematic and institutionalized form of violence of an occupying power; however, one would expect Palestinian landowners and the owners of rented apartment buildings in East-Jerusalem to facilitate the residency of Palestinians knowing how hard it is to own a home or find one in this city. This is why I was surprised when I found out that the building that my grandmother has lived in for years, and the one that is sustaining 4-5 businesses on the first floor is to be demolished soon by the owner, to build a grand residential project. What has inspired the emergence of all of these grand projects throughout recent years? How is the establishment of these projects facilitated and granted a building permit by Israel, when Palestinian families are not given a permit to build a home the size of a bedroom? I introduce this topic through the story of my grandmother, who is facing possible displacement because the apartment she has been living in for years is going to be turned into a huge residential complex, she now has to face the sudden changes of moving into a different home, leaving the one that she has lived in all of her life.

**Objectives:** The main objective of this research is to look into the framework of these residential projects in the context of East Jerusalem and its housing crisis. I aim to look into the purposes of these projects, who are the funding parties, how come they are granted building permits, could the facilitation of the establishment of these projects be part of a bigger political strategy?



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**Methods:** Both primary and secondary sources will be used, these sources will include documents, reports, articles, and the news regarding gentrification, urbanization, descriptive information about these projects that have been manifesting their way into East-Jerusalem. I will also be using interviews; the interviews will be conducted with residents of the building to get a one-on-one understanding of the humane aspect of losing a home and having to search for another one with the extremely expensive housing market that is in Jerusalem, far from political and social debates that are associated with this topic.

**Results:** This is merely a research proposal; no results have been reached so far.

**Conclusion:** The purpose of this proposal was to gather introductory information through local and scholarly knowledge about the reality of these projects. It is an examination of the coordination between national elites and the Israeli occupation, what are the interests and the benefits, even going back to the history of the urbanization of Jerusalem's streets since the Ottoman empire. All of these elements show the great urban developments and changes Jerusalem has gone through, despite this, the recent developments should not be normalized as part of Jerusalem's everchanging urban development and should be critically looked into to understand the strategy behind it.

**Keywords:** Gentrification, colonization, home demolitions, urbanization.

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