
Update: Civil Administration announces intention to submit building plan for lift at Tomb of the Patriarchs

1 message

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Update: Civil Administration announces intention to submit building request for lift and access route at the Tomb of the Patriarchs

Yesterday, the Civil Administration in the West Bank publicized its intention to submit a [request for a building permit](#) for a lift and access route at the Tomb of the Patriarchs to serve people with disabilities.

The plan was approved by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and outgoing Defense Minister Naftali Bennett earlier this month. Last week COGAT issued an expropriation order for that section of the tomb intended for construction. The Tomb is the property of the Islamic Waqf. As mentioned in an [article](#) by Yonathan Mizrachi (originally published in Hebrew in "Local Call"), the plan is a culmination of pressure mounted by the settlers for over two decades to make the site accessible to people with disabilities.

The project is presented as a response to a humanitarian need but the settlers and the government are in fact creating a precedent of expropriation from the Waqf and construction at a shared holy site. Moreover, according to the Oslo Accords, the tomb comes under the auspices of the Hebron Municipality who have not consented to the plan.

The Tomb of the Patriarchs/Ibrahimi Mosque is at the center of the Hebron Old Town UNESCO World Heritage Site, declared for Palestine in 2017. Emek Shaveh may submit an objection to the plan on the grounds that it is detrimental to the ancient site which is also a World Heritage Site.

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