

**His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem
– A Correction**

In the edition of *Asharq Al-Awsat* dated 31 March 2007 and online, we published an article entitled "*Legal Attempt to stop the Orthodox Patriarch selling Church property in Jerusalem*".

The article reported that a legal action had been filed alleging that the current Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilos III, was acting illegally in relation to land transactions in Jerusalem. It also reported, by way of background, claims that Patriarch Theophilos III was improperly using the Jordanian and Palestinian recognition of him as Patriarch to rush through sales of land in Jerusalem, that he was squandering the controversial Jaffa Gate properties in Old Jerusalem and that he was using the monies raised in suspicious and illegal ways.

We accept the Patriarch's assurances that those reported allegations were untrue and that he was not acting illegally in relation to the Jaffa Gate properties or the other transactions referred to in the article and that he rejected pressure to recognise the Jaffa Gate deals. It was in fact the Patriarch's publicly stated position that the Jaffa Gate deals are null and void and that he had a strategy for protecting those properties. We also accept the Patriarch's assurance that he was not involved in suspicious or illegal dealings with funds arising from the transactions referred to.

We apologise for any distress or embarrassment caused to Patriarch Theophilos III by the reporting of these allegations and are happy to set the record straight.