

Israel Bans Publication of Report into Zionist Arson Attack on “Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes”

By [Middle East Monitor](#)

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Israeli police yesterday obtained a court order banning the publication of details of the investigation into the [burning of Tabgha's Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish](#) last week.

The church stands on the site where it is believed that Jesus of Nazareth performed the miracle, by God's leave, of multiplying a small number of loaves of bread and fishes to feed a large crowd.

A Jerusalem magistrate's court banned the publication of any details which could lead to the identification of any of the suspects.

The decision is valid until the 21 July.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed the General Security Service to investigate the attack on the church.

Since 2011, 17 hate crimes have been committed inside the Green Line in Jerusalem. The perpetrators of the 17 crimes, which targeted mosques and churches, have not been prosecuted.

According to a report published last week by Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, the early months of 2014 saw a 200 per cent increase in such crimes which were attributed to far right groups. The overwhelming majority of the criminals responsible for those attacks were not brought to trial.

Thousands of [Arab Israelis protested on Sunday against the arson attack](#). The demonstrators called for the protection of Christian and Muslim holy sites from Jewish settlers. The former Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, and Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo led a special Mass inside the church “in protest against the deliberate attack”.

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