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Israeli authority scraps plan affecting Church-owned lands, including Mount of Olives, amid outcry



Israel’s Nature and Parks Authority this week shelved a controversial plan to expand a national park onto church-owned lands, including the Mount of Olives, in east Jerusalem, amid sharp opposition by the heads of Churches in Jerusalem, who denounced the plan as a “…premeditated attack on the Christians in the Holy Land.”
According to a spokeswoman for the authority, there is no intention of advancing the plan in a relevant planning committee, nor is discussion pending without the coordination and communication with all relevant officials, including the Churches.

On Friday, the Primates of Christian Churches in Jerusalem, including the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Most Godly Beatitude Theophilos III, conveyed a letter to Israel’s Environmental Protection Minister, Tamar Zandberg, urging her to withdraw the plan.