

The Jewish Neighborhood

The Jewish community of Halabja did not originate from Halabja. Upon their arrival, the Jaff princes allocated an area that later became the Jewish neighborhood in Halabja. In 1909, during his visit to Halabja, Major San estimated the Jewish community's population to be around 200 people. The Jews were the second-largest community in Halabja after the Kurds, communicating among themselves in the "Sami" language but conversing in Kurdish with the Kurds.

The Jewish community had its own distinct culture, customs, and traditions, including dedicated temples and religious practices. After the Jewish community's migration to Palestine, their synagogue was converted into the Ahmadi Mosque. Engaging in various trades such as jewelry and self-defense equipment, they owned shops in the Hamid Beg bazaar. They maintained strong ties with the Muslim population of Halabja, with intermarriage and courtship between the two communities.

From 1948 to 1951, the Jewish community returned to Palestine, leaving Halabja with a sense of sadness and sorrow. The Muslim community also mourned their departure. The neighborhood inhabited by the Jews, located in the "Sara" neighborhood, was enclosed and narrow with high walls. From the era of the chemical attack until now, it is known as the Jewish neighborhood. Some houses and the structure of the neighborhood have remained unchanged.