Christian pilgrims come to the Holy Land to visit specific physical places that give their faith a tangible form. On organized tours, pilgrimage is structured through an itinerary which consists of a series of encounters, purposefully shaped to bring to life the story of Jesus. These encounters involve performative practices of tour-group leaders at specific symbolic sites with particular narratives. The biblical reality is invoked through a process of meta-framing which allows for a cognitive shift from the mundane walking from site to site into a biblical reality. Meta-framing interlaces the Christian religious memory, performed by the spiritual leader, with the Israeli historical memory, performed by the Israeli tour guide, into a single, linear meta-narrative.
2. THE GROUP TRAVEL OPTION: It is possible for a group of friends or church members to organise themselves in order to perform Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem from Nigeria. All they need do is to prepare a group application on an official letter headed paper, and apply for a visa at the Israeli Embassy in Nigeria with their international passports and the required documents. The same process apply if Rome is included in their itinerary, Italian Embassy in Nigeria must be informed. "Palestinian Christians have been celebrating their traditions in Jerusalem for hundreds of years," he said last week. "Over the past five years or so, however, there has been systematic abuse [of our freedom of worship]." "I came here for pilgrimage," the woman said with a mixture of sadness and anger, "and I haven't been able to see the Holy Sepulchre." On Sunday morning it emerged that for 30 minutes Israeli police had prevented the UN's peace envoy to the Middle East, Robert Serry, other diplomats and a crowd of Palestinians from attending the Holy Fire ceremony on Saturday. Serry said in a statement Israeli security officers had stopped a group of Palestinian worshippers and diplomats in a procession near the church, "claiming they had orders to that effect."