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SMH, 24JUL2017, <http://www.smh.com.au/world/israel-says-jerusalem-shrine-metal-detectors-to-stay-despite-protests-20170723-gxh4ny.html>

Israel says Jerusalem shrine metal detectors to stay despite protests

Dan Williams, Published: July 24 2017 - 4:15PM

Jerusalem: The Arab League has warned Israel is "playing with fire" over the "red line" of Jerusalem and its foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting on Wednesday over Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Israel said on Sunday it would not remove metal detectors whose installation outside a major Jerusalem shrine has triggered the bloodiest clashes with the Palestinians in years, but could eventually reduce their use.

Israel sent extra troops into the occupied West Bank on Saturday after violence erupted over the detectors at the Noble Sanctuary-Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem's occupied Old City.

An Israeli embassy security guard shot dead a Jordanian who attacked him with a screwdriver at Israel's embassy compound in Amman and a second Jordanian also died, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Israel-Jordan relations, already tense over Israeli moves in the Old City, where Jordan has responsibility for Islamic sites, will be under renewed strain as Jordan wants to question the Israeli guard, who was lightly injured, but Israel said he had diplomatic immunity under the Vienna Convention governing consular staff.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry's statement said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is also the foreign minister, had spoken to the security guard and to ambassador Einat Schlein and stressed that the guard had immunity from questioning and prosecution.

The incident took place as furniture was being replaced at the staff residence. The statement said the second Jordanian who died was the property owner.

Israeli military commanders have warned violence may escalate.

"We are managing this in a level-headed, determined and responsible way," Netanyahu said in televised remarks before his weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday.

However, his right-wing government is wary of being seen to yield to Palestinian pressure over the site, which Jews revere as the vestige of their two ancient temples and which was among areas of East Jerusalem that Israel captured in a 1967 war and annexed as its capital in a move not recognised internationally.

"They [metal detectors] will remain. The murderers will never tell us how to search the murderers," Tzachi Hanegbi, Israeli minister for regional development, told Army Radio.

"If they [Palestinians] do not want to enter the mosque, then let them not enter the mosque."

In a statement, Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit said: "Jerusalem is a red line that Muslims and Arabs cannot allow to be crossed ... and what is happening today is an attempt to impose a new reality on the Holy city".

"The Israeli government is playing with fire and risking a major crisis with the Arab and Islamic world."

Incensed at what they perceive as a violation of delicate decades-old access arrangements at Islam's third-holiest site, many Palestinians have refused to go through the metal detectors, holding street prayers and often violent protests.

Israeli security forces shot three demonstrators dead on Friday, Palestinian medics said. Police said they were investigating the charge. A fourth Jerusalem-area Palestinian was killed on Saturday when an explosive device he was building went off prematurely, the Israeli military said. Palestinian medics said he died of shrapnel wounds to the chest and abdomen.

Abbas ultimatum

In a sign unrest was spreading, a Palestinian stabbed three Israelis in the occupied West Bank.

On Sunday, a rocket was launched into Israel from the Gaza Strip but hit an open area, causing no damage, Israel's military said.

Gilad Erdan, Israel's public security minister, warned of potential "large-scale volatility" – a prospect made more likely in the West Bank by the absence of Abbas' help.

"If Israel wants security coordination to be resumed they have to withdraw those measures," Abbas said in a speech on Sunday, referring to the metal detectors.

"They should know that they will eventually lose, because we have been making it our solemn duty to keep up security on our side here and on theirs."

Erdan said Israel may eventually do away with metal-detector checks for Muslims entering the al-Aqsa compound under alternative arrangements under review. Such arrangements could include reinforcing Israeli police at the entrances and introducing CCTV cameras with facial-recognition technologies.

"There are, after all, many worshippers whom the police know, regulars, and very elderly people and so on, and it recommended that we avoid putting all of these through metal detectors," Erdan told Army Radio, suggesting that only potential trouble-makers might be subjected to extra screening.

Any such substitute arrangement was not ready, he added.

However, the Muslim authorities that oversee al-Aqsa said they would continue to oppose any new Israeli-imposed measures.

"We stress our absolute rejection of ... all measures by the Occupation [Israel] that would change the historical and religious status in Jerusalem and its sacred sites," the Palestinian grand mufti, acting Palestinian chief justice and Jordanian-run Waqf religious trust said in a joint statement.

Speakers at the packed funeral for three Israelis killed on Friday - Yosef Salomon, 70, his daughter Chaya Salomon, 46, and son Elad Salomon, 35 - urged the Israeli government to reject Palestinian claims to the West Bank.

"It's time to cut down the hope of the Arabs for a state in the land of Israel and to impose sovereignty in all of Judea and Samaria," said Rafi Mendel, an in-law who referred to the occupied territory using biblical names.

Others called on the government to step up settlement building as "revenge" for the killings, saying the young assailant, Omar Abed, should have been killed rather than taken to a hospital after he was shot by an off-duty soldier who heard the family's screams.

Hours before the attack, Abed posted a farewell note on Facebook accusing Israel of "desecrating" Islamic holy sites and vowing to "answer the call of al-Aqsa" with a knife.

"The Arabs are guests here. If they don't act properly, they need to leave," said Yifat Rosenheim, who said Chaya Salomon taught her children when they were in elementary school.

Other family friends, however, said the aggressive rhetoric was not in keeping with the family's gentle reputation. A former neighbour, Yossi Shinover, remembered Yosef Salomon, a volunteer guard at the settlement, as someone who welcomed Palestinian labourers to Halamish with water, empathy and a smile.

Asked about the crisis over the Jerusalem holy sites, Shinover shrugged: "Both sides are dreaming. And then there's the need to be practical. That's the problem."

Reuters, Los Angeles Times

SMH, 23JUL2017, <http://www.smh.com.au/world/protests-over-jerusalem-shrine-leave-six-dead-and-escalate-into-diplomatic-row-20170722-gxgjiw.html>

Protests over Jerusalem shrine leave six dead and escalate into diplomatic row

Published: July 23 2017 - 2:33PM

New York: The United Nations Security Council will meet on Monday to discuss the bloodiest spate of Israeli-Palestinian violence for years, diplomats said on Saturday.

Sweden, Egypt and France requested the meeting to "urgently discuss how calls for de-escalation in Jerusalem can be supported", Sweden's deputy UN ambassador, Carl Skau, posted on Twitter.

Israel sent extra troops into the occupied West Bank on Saturday and raided the home of a Palestinian who stabbed three Israelis to death in a settlement on the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Friday, Israel's military said.

The diplomatic fallout also intensified as the Palestinian Authority served notice that it was cutting off all contacts with Israel at a time when the US administration is trying to restart peace talks.

Six deaths on Friday escalated tensions that have been rising in Jerusalem – and spilling over into the West Bank and Gaza Strip – following new Israeli security measures at entrances to al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, an area known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

Israel installed metal detectors and security cameras at the site after two Israeli policemen were killed there last week by a gunman who was a Palestinian citizen of Israel. Israel insists the measures are a security precaution, but Palestinians view them as a tightening of Israeli control. Muslims across the world have demanded the devices be removed.

Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official, described the metal detectors and cameras as "a flagrant violation of the rights and freedoms of Palestinian Muslim worshippers".

"Such intrusive and dehumanising practices," she said, "aim to provide Israel with carte blanche to exercise security control over the holy sites of Jerusalem."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had considered removing the devices after taking advice from the army and internal security service, but the government left the decision to police.

Protests resulted in a spate of deaths across the city on Friday.

In what has been described by Israel as a terrorist attack, a Palestinian allegedly entered a home in the Halamish settlement, fatally stabbing three civilians – two men and a woman – and wounding another woman, before being shot at the scene.

Three Palestinian protesters were earlier fatally shot in separate clashes in and around Jerusalem. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified them as Muhammad Mahmoud Sharaf, 17, from the neighbourhood of Ras al-Amud in East Jerusalem; Muhammad Abu Ghanam, from the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of al-Tur, on the Mount of Olives; and Muhammad Lafi, 18, from Abu Dis, a Palestinian town on the outskirts of the city.

Israeli police said rioters also threw rocks and firebombs and set off fireworks in the direction of the security forces, endangering them.

President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, who had cut short a trip to China to handle the spiralling crisis over the metal detectors, announced late on Friday that he was freezing contacts with Israel until it cancelled the new measures at the holy site.

Bloomberg, New York Times, Reuters

SMH, 16/07/2017, <http://www.smh.com.au/world/as-palestinian-leaders-fight-over-gaza-israel-worries-amas-will-go-to-war-20170712-gxa60j.html>

As Palestinian leaders fight over Gaza, Israel worries Hamas will go to war

William Booth and Hazem Balousha,

Published: July 16 2017 - 4:45PM

Gaza City: Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is pursuing a high-risk campaign in the Gaza Strip to squeeze his own people so hard that they might force the Islamist movement Hamas to surrender control of the isolated coastal enclave.

The 82-year-old leader's Palestinian Authority, which administers the Palestinian population in the West Bank but has only limited sway in Gaza, has slashed salaries for its employees in the seaside territory, withheld permissions for medical patients to leave and, most dramatically, cut payments for the electricity provided by Israel.

Israel fears Hamas might lash out with rocket fire, and the World Bank worries the strip could collapse. The United Nations on Tuesday declared that a decade of Hamas rule, Palestinian infighting and crippling blockades by Israel and Egypt have made life for people in Gaza "more and more wretched" each day.

But Abbas has said he is prepared to go even further, threatening to impose sanctions against Hamas and freeze funds for its leaders "if they continue to rule Gaza and use the money of the Palestinian people to strengthen their hold on power", according to an interview he gave to the *Asharq al-Awsat* newspaper.

Hamas has never been so isolated. Egypt has outlawed the Muslim Brotherhood, the progenitor of Hamas. Turkey, which once lavished attention on Gaza, has re-established relations with Israel. And worst of all for Hamas, oil-rich Qatar is suffering from a blockade, accused by its neighbours Saudi Arabia and Egypt of supporting terrorism. Qatar has supported Gaza for years.

The tough tactics by Abbas are unprecedented in the decade-long split between the rulers of Gaza and the West Bank. The growing divide comes as US President Donald Trump is pushing Israel and the Palestinians to return to peace negotiations.

Trump's Middle East envoy, Jason Greenblatt, returned to Jerusalem on Monday evening, and on Thursday announced a water-sharing agreement that will provide additional supply to the parched Palestinian populations in the West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip.

The deal is part of a larger, previously announced plan to draw salty water from the Red Sea to a massive desalination plant, which will then move fresh water via pipeline to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians. The undrinkable brine will be used to help replenish and restore the Dead Sea, which is slowly disappearing.

Greenblatt, who has been taking meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abbas, called the water deal "an important step forward".

Trump's envoy declined to answer questions at Thursday's news conference in Jerusalem about how his effort to renew peace negotiations are going.

Abbas favours talks with Israel if they lead to an independent Palestinian state. Hamas has never recognised Israel and rejects talks. Because of the split, Israeli leaders have questioned whether Abbas represents all Palestinians.

Ghazi Hamad, who serves Hamas as a de facto foreign minister, said that Abbas will not succeed in forcing Hamas to back down.

"After 10 years he uses the stick and not the carrot? He cuts electricity. He cuts salaries. For what? This is what the people are asking," Hamad said.

He said Hamas has survived targeted killings by Israel, three wars and 10 years of blockade. "We have not surrendered yet and we will not surrender," Hamad said. "Abbas wants Hamas to cry and beg for help?"

He waved his hand, dismissing the idea.

But in the streets of Gaza, people feel secure enough - or frustrated enough - to curse both Hamas and Abbas, saying neither side cares about their suffering.

Rolling blackouts have reduced electricity to a trickle, deepening the misery for Gaza's 2 million residents and forcing factories to shut down in a failing economy.

Mazin Ghunaim, head of the Palestinian Water Authority, said the increased supply of water under this week's US-brokered deal "will reduce the suffering of the Palestinian people, which has been worsened by the beginning of summer and the crises that they are living through".

About one-third of the additional supply will go to Gaza, "where more than 97 per cent of the water is not drinkable", he said.

But the lack of power has idled Gaza's dysfunctional sewage treatment systems, denying residents of one of the few sources of relief from the heat - a day at the beach. The Health Ministry ordered black flags to be flown along the coast, warning bathers that the waters are dangerously polluted with untreated human waste.

A few blocks inland, business is brisk at the dealerships selling batteries to run fans and charge mobile phones.

"During the last war we had more electricity than today," said Abu Mohammed, an engineer, who was buying a battery-powered fan for his mother.

Asked who he blamed, the sweaty shopper said: "All of them!"

Taher al-Nounou, an adviser to the new political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, said: "Abbas is tossing small grenades into Gaza. He wants to create a hostile environment in Gaza against Hamas. But you can say that he has failed. Abbas misread the situation. Maybe you can say that Hamas has not won, but Abbas has definitely lost."

In the Gaza Strip, Haniyeh has the support of 55 per cent of those surveyed recently, versus 39 per cent who support Abbas, the largest gap ever between the two, according to the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah.

Israel is watching Gaza closely, worried that pressure on Hamas could push the group's militia to start lobbing rockets again, an escalation that would be answered by retaliatory strikes.

Israel has fought three wars in nine years with Hamas, considered a terrorist organisation by the United States, the European Union and Israel, which alongside Egypt enforces a partial travel and trade blockade of the impoverished strip because of Hamas.

Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman said that Abbas was goading Hamas toward war. "In my opinion, the strategy is to hurt Hamas and also to drag Hamas into a conflict with Israel," he said at a security conference in June.

The crisis has stoked a growing sense of instability - and previously unthinkable alliances.

Instead of pushing an isolated Hamas toward collapse or capitulation, the pressure is sending the militants in Gaza into the arms of Abbas' greatest rival, a Fatah leader named Mohammed Dahlan.

Egypt's intelligence officials have been coaxing Hamas to seek new "understandings" with Dahlan.

When Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007 following an attempted coup by Fatah against the Hamas government elected the year before, Dahlan was running the security apparatus in Gaza for Abbas' Fatah movement, and his forces fought in the streets against Hamas gunmen. For years, Dahlan has been persona non grata in Gaza, hated by Hamas leaders.

Dahlan is also one of a handful of names on a shortlist of possible successors to Abbas. A protege of Yasser Arafat, Dahlan was forced into exile in 2011, kicked out of Fatah the same year and accused of corruption and defamation, charges he denies.

From his villa in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, Dahlan plots his comeback. He is well positioned - with powerful friends in Saudi Arabia's new crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, Abu Dhabi's crown prince Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

To ease the electricity crisis, Egypt in the past two weeks began sending tanker trucks filled with diesel to run Gaza's sole electricity generating plant. In Gaza, Dahlan gets the credit.

"Now we are in a potential new era. Dahlan could be back in the Gaza Strip, either physically present or operating by remote control from Egypt. He could be an influential figure, very suitable for Hamas and Israel at the same time," said Kobi Michael, a former head of the Palestinian desk at Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs.

"The biggest potential loser is not Hamas," Michael said. "It is Abbas."

Nathan Thrall, a senior analyst with International Crisis Group, said it remains unclear where Gaza is going, but a lot is in play.

"Dahlan supporters and many in Fatah would be happy to see him return and would be happy to see an alleviation of the electricity and other crisis in Gaza as a result. To see a kind of joint Hamas and Dahlan authority? That is something many people, not just Dahlan supporters, might welcome."

Washington Post

SMH, 14JUL2017, <http://www.smh.com.au/world/several-casualties-in-jerusalem-holy-site-shooting-police-say-20170714-gxbga6.html>

Several casualties in Jerusalem holy site shooting, police say

Published: July 14 2017 - 9:20PM

Jerusalem: Three gunmen opened fire at police near Jerusalem's holiest site on Friday, killing two Israeli policemen before security forces killed the attackers, Israeli police said.

The gunmen arrived at the sacred site, known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Israeli-occupied Old City.

They walked towards one of the Old City gates nearby, police spokeswoman Luba Samri said.

"When they saw policemen, they shot towards them and then escaped towards one of the mosques in the Temple Mount compound," she said.

"A chase ensued and the three terrorists were killed by police."

She said three firearms were found on their bodies.

Mobile phone video footage aired by Israeli media showed several policemen chasing a man and shooting him at the site, which is a popular place for foreign tourists to visit.

Israeli authorities are still working to identify the attackers, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

There was no immediate comment from Palestinian officials, which exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank. No group claimed responsibility, though the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, praised the attack.

"Hamas lauds the heroic operation in Jerusalem," Hamas spokesman Abdel-Latif al-Qanoua said in a statement.

Tensions are often high around the marble-and-stone compound that houses the al-Aqsa Mosque and the golden Dome of the Rock. It is managed by Jordanian authorities and is adjacent to the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews are permitted to pray.

Police said Friday prayers for Muslims would not be held at the site following the attack.

A wave of Palestinian street attacks that began in 2015 has slowed but not stopped. At least 255 Palestinians and one Jordanian citizen have been killed since the violence began.

Israel says at least 173 of those killed were carrying out attacks while others died in clashes and protests.

Thirty-eight Israelis, two US tourists and a British student have been killed in stabbings, shootings and car-rammings.

Israel annexed East Jerusalem, where the Old City and the holy compound are located, after the 1967 Middle East War and regards all of Jerusalem as its capital, a move that is not recognised internationally.

Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of the state they want to establish in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel blames the wave of violence on incitement by the Palestinian leadership. The Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank, says desperation over the occupation is the main driver.

The last, US-led, attempt to broker peace between the Israelis and Palestinians broke down in 2014.

Reuters



NEW.COM.AU, 23JUL2017, <http://www.news.com.au/world/breaking-news/deaths-raise-israelipalestinian-tensions/news-story/afc4e860439f7b48507baeafaed35aaed>

Israel says mosque metal detectors to stay

July 23, 2017, 10:18pm, Dan Williams, Reuters

Israel will not remove metal detectors whose installation outside a major Jerusalem mosque has triggered the bloodiest confrontations with the Palestinians in years, but could eventually reduce their use.

With Israeli generals warning the violence may spiral, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering alternatives to the walk-through gates placed at entrances to al Aqsa mosque compound after two policemen were shot dead there on July 14.

But the rightist Netanyahu government is wary of being seen to capitulate to Palestinian pressure at the site, which Jews revere as the vestige of their two ancient temples and which was among East Jerusalem areas Israel captured in a 1967 war and annexed as its capital in a move not recognised internationally.

"They (metal detectors) will remain. The murderers will never tell us how to search the murderers," Tzachi Hanegbi, Israeli minister for regional development and a senior member of the ruling Likud party, told Israel's Army Radio on Sunday.

"If they (Palestinians) do not want to enter the mosque, then let them not enter the mosque."

Incensed at what they perceive as a violation of delicate decades-old access arrangements at Islam's third-holiest site, many Palestinians have refused to go through the metal detectors, holding street prayers and often violent protests.

Israeli security forces shot three demonstrators dead on Friday, Palestinian medics said. Police said they were investigating the charge.

A fourth Jerusalem-area Palestinian was killed on Saturday when an explosive device he was building went off prematurely, the Israeli military said. Palestinian medics said he died of shrapnel wounds to the chest and abdomen.

In a sign unrest was spreading, a Palestinian stabbed three Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank on Friday after vowing on Facebook to take up his knife and heed "al Aqsa's call".

On Sunday, a rocket was launched into Israel from the Gaza Strip but hit an open area, causing no damage, Israel's military said.

The incidents "attest to the combustibility of the current period," military chief Lieutenant-General Gadi Eizenkot said in a speech to new recruits. Gilad Erdan, Israel's public security minister, also warned of potential "large-scale volatility".

Interviewed on Army Radio, Erdan said Israel may do away with metal-detector checks for all Muslims entering the al Aqsa compounds under alternative arrangements under review.

These could include reinforcing Israeli police at the entrances and introducing CCTV cameras with facial-recognition technologies.

"There are, after all, many worshippers whom the police knows, regulars, and very elderly people and so on, and it recommended that we avoid putting all of these through metal detectors," Erdan told Army Radio, suggesting that only potential trouble-makers would be subjected to extra screening.

Any such substitute arrangement was not ready, he added.

The Muslim authorities that oversee al Aqsa said they would continue to oppose any new Israeli-imposed measures, however.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday ordered the suspension of all official contact with Israel.

NEW.COM.AU, 24JUL2017, <http://www.news.com.au/world/breaking-news/israel-installs-new-cameras-at-holy-site/news-story/c217225f4c0265f723b40495a8c0c310>

Israel installs new cameras at holy site

July 24, 2017, 1:52am, Eliyahu Kamisher, Deutsche Presse Agentur

Israel has installed new security cameras at the entrance to a flashpoint holy site in Jerusalem following violent clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened a cabinet meeting on Sunday morning and is expected to hold another meeting of the security cabinet later to discuss security measures at the site known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and Jews as the Temple Mount.

The cameras come in addition to metal detectors installed at the entrance to the site after three men - described by police as "Israeli Arabs" - shot and killed two Israeli police officers near the compound more than a week ago.

The stringent measures and restrictions on worship at the al-Aqsa mosque in the compound triggered protests from Palestinians and clashes over the weekend.

At least three Palestinian protesters have been killed in street clashes with police and 400 wounded in and around Jerusalem and the West Bank since Friday.

At the start of the weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu condemned the killing on Friday of three Israelis in the West Bank settlement of Neve Tsuf, north-west of Ramallah, by a Palestinian man.

The 19-year-old attacker, whom Netanyahu called "a beast incited by Jew-hatred," posted on Facebook shortly before the attack that he was seeking to defend the al-Aqsa mosque.

The prime minister said that Israel will destroy the home of the attacker and "decide accordingly" on further security measures.

Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan said that the metal detectors should stay unless an alternative security plan is devised. "We cannot give in to threats," he said in a statement on his Facebook page.

Meanwhile the head of the Arab League, Ahmed Abul Gheit, warned Israel on Sunday that Israel is "playing with fire and risking igniting a major crisis with the Arab and Islamic worlds".

According to a spokesman for the Cairo-based Arab League, Abul Gheit accused Israel of involving religion in its decades-old dispute with Palestinians.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he was cutting all ties to Israel after the deadly violence, a decision that was met with apparent indifference from Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman.

"We will manage," Liberman said in an interview with the Israeli news outlet Ynet on Sunday.

HERALD SUN, 24JUL2017, http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/world/israel-seeks-alternatives-after-metal-detectors-at-haram-alsharif-mosque-compound-spark-violence/news-story/14fec71ab9f496a10903cb0298a14aef?from=htc_rss&nk=47cfc3bb1011b922b96cb01a40999030-1500897857

Israel seeks 'alternatives' after metal detectors at Haram al-Sharif Mosque compound spark violence

Staff writers and agencies, News Corp Australia Network, July 24, 2017 1:03am

ISRAEL has installed new security cameras at the entrance to a sensitive Jerusalem holy site, as officials began indicating it was considering "alternatives" to the metal detectors at the contested shrine that set off a weekend of violence.

[Israel set up the new security measures](#) last week after Arab gunmen opened fire from the shrine, killing two Israeli policemen. It said they were a necessary measure to prevent more attacks and were deployed routinely at holy sites around the world.

But Muslims alleged Israel was trying to expand its control at the Muslim-administered site and have launched mass prayer protests. Three Palestinians were killed in street clashes on Friday in some of the worst street violence in years, and later a Palestinian stabbed to death three members of an Israeli family.

Major General Yoav Mordechai, who heads the Israeli defence body for Palestinian civilian affairs, said Israel was open to alternatives to lower the tensions.

"The only thing we want is to ensure no one can enter with weapons again and carry out another attack," he said. "We're willing to examine alternatives to the metal detectors as long as the solution of alternative ensures the prevention of the next attack."

However, the top Muslim cleric of Jerusalem, Mohammed Hussein, told the Voice of Palestine he demands a complete return to procedures that were in place before the initial attack at the shrine, known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

On Sunday Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, condemned the Israeli security precautions saying the Islamic world would not remain silent.

Mr Erdogan addressed reporters in Istanbul before departing on a visit to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar.

He said: "No one can expect the Islamic world to remain unresponsive after the humiliation Muslims suffered with the restrictions at the Noble Sanctuary."

Mr Erdogan called on Israel to remove the detectors in a phone conversation with his counterpart Reuven Rivlin on Thursday.

In a statement on Sunday, the Islamic institutions in Jerusalem, of which he is a part, said they “affirm the categorical rejection of the electronic gates and all the measures of occupation.” Disputes over the shrine, revered by Muslims and Jews, have set off major rounds of Israeli-Palestinian confrontations in the past.

On Friday, several thousand Palestinians clashed with Israeli security forces in the West Bank and in Jerusalem after noon prayers — the centrepiece of the Muslim religious week. Three Palestinians were killed and several dozen wounded after protesters burned tires and threw stones and firecrackers. Israeli troops responded with live rounds, rubber bullets and tear gas.

Late Friday night, a 20-year-old Palestinian identified as Omar al-Abed jumped over the fence of the Halamish settlement near Ramallah and entered a home, surprising a family that was celebrating a new grandchild during their traditional Sabbath dinner. He stabbed to death Yosef Salomon, 70, and his adult children, 46-year-old Chaya and 35-year-old Elad, while his daughter-in-law escaped to a separate room to shelter her young children.

A neighbour, an off-duty soldier, heard the screams, rushed to the home and opened fire, wounding the attacker. TV footage showed the floor tiles drenched in blood, and officials called it a “massacre.”

Originally published as [Israel puts in CCTV after mosque violence](#)

NEWS.COM.AU, 22JUL2017, <http://www.news.com.au/world/breaking-news/clashes-erupt-at-jerusalem-shrine-3-dead/news-story/11b9f594802715a435f2779453915711>

Violence over Jerusalem holy site kills 6

July 22, 2017, 10:55am, Reuters

Six people have been killed in the bloodiest spate of Israeli-Palestinian violence for years, prompted by new security measures at Jerusalem's holiest site.

Three Israelis were stabbed to death in a Israeli settlement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Friday, hours after three Palestinians were killed in violence prompted by Israel's installation of metal detectors at entry points to the Noble Sanctuary-Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem's walled Old City.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced he was freezing ties with Israel over the installation of metal detectors, dealing a blow to fledgling Trump administration efforts to try to renew long-dormant peace talks.

The metal detectors are perceived by the Palestinians as an encroachment on Muslim rights and portrayed by Israel as a needed security measure following an attack that killed two Israeli policemen.

A Palestinian sneaked into a home in the West Bank Israeli settlement of Halamish after nightfall on Friday and stabbed to death three Israelis.

The military said the attacker apparently jumped over the fence and infiltrated the family's home as they ate the traditional Sabbath evening meal.

It said the Palestinian killed a man and two of his children, while a woman was wounded and taken to hospital.

Israeli media said the assailant was in his late teens and had posted on Facebook that he was upset by the events at the Jerusalem shrine.

Earlier on Friday, thousands of Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank clashed with Israeli troops, burning tyres and throwing stones and firecrackers.

Troops fired live rounds, rubber bullets and tear gas, killing three Palestinians.

Israel decided to install the metal detectors at the entry to the shrine on Sunday.

It includes the al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam, and the Dome of the Rock.

It was also the site of an ancient Jewish temple, the holiest place in Judaism.

Despite international pressure, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet decided early on Friday to keep the metal detectors in place, saying they were needed to prevent arms being smuggled into the shrine.

Jerusalem's top Muslim cleric, Mohammed Hussein, said protests, including mass street prayers outside the shrine, would continue until the devices were removed.

He told worshippers on Friday they should prepare for a "long test of wills" with Israel.
