

Hundreds of Israeli settlers storm Aqsa Mosque ahead of far-right Israeli flag parade

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Jerusalem, May 29 (RHC)-- About 1,800 Israeli settlers, escorted by military forces, have stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds. The Israeli settlers entered the compound through the Moroccan Gate on Sunday morning, according to the Arabic-language Arab48 news website.

In the meantime, Israeli troops were stationed at the main praying building of al-Aqsa Mosque, which sits on the southern side of the complex, besieging Palestinian worshipers inside the scared site. The settlers

then performed Talmudic rituals at the site, which is venerated by Jews, Christians and Muslims.

The development comes as thousands of extremist Jewish Israeli settlers are due to hold a far-right march through Muslim areas of the holy city amid Palestinian warnings it could trigger serious confrontations.

Earlier, Israeli military forces had raided the predominantly Palestinian neighborhood of Jabel Mukaber in southern East al-Quds, according to Palestinian media outlets.

The raid prompted a group of young Palestinians to throw lit Molotov cocktails at the Israeli troops, who, in return, fired stun grenades and live bullets to disperse the crowd.

The Palestinian al-Quds TV satellite channel also said an improvised explosive device struck a checkpoint in the village of al-Jalma, which lies north of the northern occupied West Bank city of Jenin.

According to Shehab news agency, extremist Jewish settlers once again attacked the homes of local Palestinians in al-Huwara neighborhood of northern al-Quds.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society stated that 30 Palestinians were injured during clashes with Israeli settlers in Huwara neighborhood as well as Kafr Qaddum town, located 13 kilometers (8 miles) west of Nablus.

Local sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said clashes also broke out between young Palestinian men and Israeli forces at the entrance to Jamain area south of Nablus.

Israeli forces have already detained nearly 100 Palestinians ahead of the planned far-right Israeli Flag March. Around 20 Palestinians were arrested in al-Quds between Wednesday and Thursday, and another 80 inside the Israeli-occupied territories.

“The arrests have mostly targeted Palestinians who have been arrested in previous waves of protests in al-Quds, and Palestinians who have been banned from entering the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, all of which we see as preparation for reactions to the settlers’ flag march on Sunday,” the al-Quds detainees’ families committee spokesperson, Amjad Abu Asab, said.

“Israeli authorities usually arrest Palestinians whom they consider to be active during expected [counter] protests,” Abu Asab added.

The so-called Flag March, which attracts hundreds of Jewish settlers and far-right extremists, celebrates the Israeli regime's capture of East al-Quds in the 1967 war.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials are expected to allow extremist lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir to visit the al-Aqsa Mosque on Sunday amid soaring tensions around the contentious Flag March.

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