

# Anti-Trump protest

## Jerusalem

A Palestinian stabbed an Israeli security guard at Jerusalem's main bus station on Sunday, police said, and violence flared near the U.S. Embassy in Beirut over U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Four days of street protests in the Palestinian territories over Trump's announcement on Wednesday have largely died down, but his overturning of long-standing U.S. policy on Jerusalem -- a city holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians -- drew more Arab warnings of potential damage to prospects for Middle East peace.

"Our hope is that everything is calming down and that we are returning to a path of normal life without riots and without violence," Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Army Radio.

But in Jerusalem, a security guard was in critical condition after a 24-year-old Palestinian man from the occupied West Bank stabbed him after approaching a metal detector at an entrance to the city's central bus station, police said. The alleged assailant was taken into custody after a passer-by tackled him.

In public remarks on Sunday, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, a frequent critic of Israel, called it an "invader state" and a "terror state".

Most countries consider East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed after capturing it in a 1967 war, to be occupied territory and say the status of the city should be decided at future Israeli-Palestinian talks. Israel says that all of Jerusalem is its capital, while Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of a future independent state.

The Trump administration has said it is still committed to reviving Palestinian-Israeli talks that collapsed in 2014, but jettisoning old policies is necessary to break the deadlock.

Washington says it has not taken a position on Jerusalem's final status or borders, but it is sensible to recognize that any future peace deal will have Israel's capital in the city.

The United States was "as committed to the peace process as we've ever been", U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said yesterday. Trump "didn't talk about boundaries, he didn't talk about borders... Because the final status of Jerusalem is between the Palestinians and the Israelis. It's not for the Americans to decide."

## Demonstrations

In Beirut, Lebanese security forces fired tear gas and water cannons at protesters, some of them waving Palestinian flags, near the U.S. Embassy.

Demonstrators set fires in the street, torched U.S. and Israeli flags and threw projectiles towards security forces that had barricaded the main road to the complex.

In the Moroccan capital, Rabat, tens of thousands of protesters marched down the city's main thoroughfare chanting slogans including, "The people want to liberate Palestine" and "Death to Israel, enemy of the people and provoker of wars."

Waving Palestinian flags and holding up pictures of Jerusalem, they expressed anger at they "betrayal" by Arab governments perceived to have backed Trump's move.

In the Indonesian capital Jakarta, thousands protested outside the U.S. embassy, many waving banners saying "Palestine is in our hearts".

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki has said the Palestinians will be looking for a new peace talks broker instead of the United States and would seek a United Nations Security Council resolution over Trump's decision.

Arab foreign ministers who met in Cairo on Saturday urged the United States to abandon its decision on Jerusalem and said the move would spur violence throughout the region. (Reuters)



# F L A M E S

## WH responds as Abbas snubs Pence meet

### Washington

The White House said yesterday it was "unfortunate" that Palestinians were declining to meet with Vice President Mike Pence during an upcoming trip to the region in the aftermath of President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"It's unfortunate that the Palestinian Authority is walking away again from an opportunity to discuss the future of the region, but the administration remains undeterred in its efforts to help achieve peace between Israelis and Palestinians and our peace team remains hard at work putting together a plan," said Jarrod Agen, a deputy chief of staff and spokesman for Pence.

(Reuters)



Protesters are seen near the U.S. embassy in Awkar, in Beirut, Lebanon