

Violence continues

Israel 'wants third intifada'

Jerusalem

Palestinian foreign minister Riad Al Malki yesterday accused Israel of seeking to spark "a third intifada", as violence again flared in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"(Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu wants to instigate a third intifada. He wants to avoid problems that he is facing in the political and diplomatic arena, where he has failed miserably," Malki said in Vienna.

Malki said Netanyahu had committed a "grave mistake" by "violating the status quo" of East Jerusalem's Al Aqsa compound, one of Islam's holiest sites and the holiest site in Judaism.

The site has been a flashpoint in the conflict and the scene

of frequent clashes between police and Palestinian youths. "Netanyahu is widening the scope of the conflict from a political one with the Palestinians - which always has a possibility of finding a political solution - to an unlimited war with Muslims around the world," Malki warned.

Calling on Israel to act "according to international law", he said there was nevertheless still "a possibility to contain" the crisis.

The renewed violence, involving 18 stabbings of Israelis by Palestinians, an Israeli air strike on Gaza and deadly clashes, has prompted international diplomatic efforts to defuse the tensions. The crisis began on October 1, when an

alleged Hamas cell shot dead a Jewish settler couple in the West Bank in front of their children. It followed repeated clashes at the Al Aqsa compound in September between Israeli security forces and Palestinian youths.

Malki made the comments ahead of a ceremony for the raising of the Palestinian flag at

the United Nations office in the Austrian capital after the flag was raised at UN headquarters in New York on October 1.

The General Assembly voted September 10 to allow the flags of Palestine and the Vatican -- both have observer status -- to be raised at the world body alongside those of member states. Meanwhile, three new

stabbings in Jerusalem and a car attack spread fear among Israelis yesterday. In yesterday's first stabbing, an 18-year-old Palestinian identified as Mustafa

dead by other officers. Later in the day, a female attacker stabbed an Israeli policeman near the force's headquarters in Jerusalem and was shot and

YouTube takes down inciting videos: Israel

Jerusalem

Israel said yesterday that YouTube had taken down Palestinian videos that the Jewish state considered to be "inciting murder" at a time of increasingly deadly unrest.

Videos of Palestinians stabbing Israelis or calling for such attacks as well as footage of rioters throwing stones at Israeli soldiers

have been shared on the Internet. Others showing Israeli officers shoot dead alleged attackers have also helped galvanise Palestinian youths, with violence since the start of the month leading to warnings of the risk of a full-scale uprising, or third intifada. It was unclear which videos Israel requested be removed or how many.



Palestinian protestors stand behind burning tires as they clash with Israeli security forces at the Hawara checkpoint, south of the West Bank city of Nablus

Al Khatib attacked a policeman with a knife at an entrance to Jerusalem's Old City and was shot dead by security forces.

The police officer's protective vest stopped the knife and he was unharmed. The attacker, from east Jerusalem, was shot

wounded by the victim, police said. In the third attack, two "terrorists" stabbed two Israelis in the east Jerusalem settlement of Pisgat Zeev, with one attacker -- reported to be 16 years old -- killed and the other shot and seriously wounded.

Malki said Netanyahu had committed a "grave mistake" by "violating the status quo" of East Jerusalem's Al Aqsa compound



A woman looks at pictures of victims displayed with flowers at the Bali bombing memorial on the 13th anniversary of the 2002 blasts that hit the Kuta district near Denpasar on Indonesia's resort island of Bali yesterday. The 2002 blasts tore apart a busy night club strip on the resort island of Bali killing 202 people

Egyptian court orders release of Hosni Mubarak's two sons



Alaa (R) and Gamal Mubarak, sons of ousted Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, standing inside a cage in a courtroom during their verdict hearing in Cairo (File photo)

Cairo

An Egyptian court yesterday ordered the release of ousted president Hosni Mubarak's two sons who were sentenced to three years in jail for corruption, a judicial official and their lawyer said.

The court ordered Alaa and Gamal Mubarak to be released after having taken into account time served since their arrest in 2011, the judicial official and defence lawyer Farid Al Deeb said.

"Yes, the court has ordered their release," Deeb said.

He insisted that Alaa and Gamal - seen as symbols of corruption under their father's three-decade rule - have served their time in prison and should be allowed to go free.

A security official said the brothers could be freed as early as "today (Monday) or tomorrow", depending on how quickly their release is processed.

Mubarak and his two sons were all arrested in 2011, months after the former strongman was toppled in a popular 18-day uprising.

Picture-perfect

Taliban releases rare new picture of Mullah Omar

Islamabad

The Afghan Taliban have released a striking new picture of late founder Mullah Omar from his days as a religious student, the only known image of the reclusive leader before he lost his right eye in battle.

The picture, taken in 1978, was first posted on the Taliban's official site (<http://shahamat-english.com/omar-iii-from-the-slum-to-emirate>).

A clearer scanned copy

obtained by AFP yesterday shows a youthful, thickly-bearded Omar wearing a green turban and a waistcoat over his traditional Afghan tunic, as he stares directly into the camera.

A senior Taliban official who sent the picture said it was originally a black-and-white image that was later colourised.

The life and death of Omar remain shrouded in mystery and the new image may be one of only two verified

"The picture was taken while Mullah Omar was a student at a madrassa in Kandahar"

photographs. "The picture was taken while Mullah Omar was a student at a madrassa in Kandahar," the official

said. According to an official biography he was born around 1960 to a humble family in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar.

He fought with the Afghan mujahideen against the occupying Soviet army in the 1980s and lost his right eye in battle, possibly to exploding shrapnel.

Taliban legend has it that he cut out the wounded eye himself, while more prosaic accounts say he was treated at



Late Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Omar

a hospital in Pakistan. After the Soviets pulled out in 1989 he returned to his native area as a prayer leader and teacher, attracting a band of students, which later became the Taliban.

Under Omar's leadership they took power in Kabul in 1996 but were toppled by a US-led invasion in 2001.

His death in 2013, reportedly due to illness, was covered up by the insurgents until July this year.