

Arab nations condemn Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit to al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem

This is the most appalling headline from [ABC Australia](#) a direct lift from Reuters both of which seem to be channelling Al Jazeera.

The headline is extraordinary; and so is the article; the reporter seems reluctant to even mention the fact – demonstrable historic fact – that the Temple Mount was the Temple Mount for over 2000 years prior to the invention of Islam and that it was only Islamised by violent conquest and imperial occupation.

Israel's far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has briefly visited the compound that houses the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, a move condemned by Palestinians as provocative and despite warnings it could lead to violence.

"The Temple Mount is open to all," Mr Ben-Gvir said on Twitter, using the Jewish name for the site. It is more than a name. It is the mount on which the Temple stood, and the remains of the Temple still stand.

An Israeli official said the quarter-hour visit took place in accordance with a so-called status quo arrangement, dating back decades, that allows non-Muslims to visit on condition they do not pray.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh cast the visit to the holy site as a bid to turn a major mosque there "into a Jewish temple".

Addressing his cabinet, Mr Shtayyeh called on Palestinians to "confront the raids into al-Aqsa mosque" after Mr Ben-Gvir

toured the periphery of the mosque compound.

Saudi Arabia also condemned the visit as a “provocative action” and, without referring to him by name, said Mr Ben-Gvir had “stormed” the al-Aqsa mosque compound. *Whereas he seems to have walked in quietly, soberly and respectfully.*



A picture on Itamar Ben-Gvir’s [Twitter account](#) showed him strolling at the periphery of the compound . . . There was no indication that Mr Ben-Gvir approached the mosque, however.

A spokesman for Hamas said al-Aqsa “will remain Palestinian, Arab and Islamic ... and no fascist can change this fact”.

Right at the end ABC do acknowledge some Jewish history on the site,

The al-Aqsa compound, known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, is Islam’s third-holiest site. It is also Judaism’s most sacred site, a vestige of two ancient temples of the faith.

The only Jewish state in the world allows its most sacred Jewish site to be run by Islamic authorities and limits the manner in which Jews can have access and somehow THEY are considered the aggressors and 3000 years of their history is irrelevant. It’s a funny world.