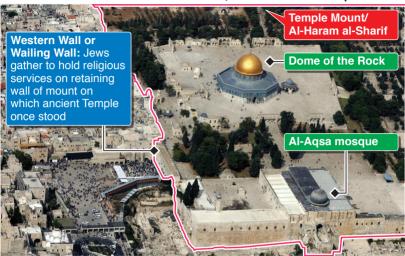
Tensions rise at disputed Jerusalem holy site

Tensions in Jerusalem are escalating, with Palestinians accusing Israel of trying to change the status quo of the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, known to Muslims as Al-Haram al-Sharif, and Jews as the Temple Mount



Temple Mount (Har ha-Bayit)

- Holiest site in Judaism, housed two biblical Jewish temples destroyed in ancient times
- According to Jewish tradition, King Solomon built first Jewish temple on mount in 957 BCE, including Holy of Holies – room that housed Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments
- Jews believe that this was site of foundation stone from which world was created, and where *Abraham* nearly sacrificed his son *Isaac*
- In recent years there have been calls to disregard rabbinical restrictions and to reclaim Temple Mount for Jewish worship

Al-Haram al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary

- Compound houses Al-Aqsa mosque – third holiest site in Islam after Al-Masjid al-Haram mosque in Mecca and Al-Masjid An-Nabawi in Medina, both in Saudi Arabia
- Muslims believe Prophet Muhammad travelled to AI-Aqsa from Mecca during his night journey and led prayer with all prophets
- **Dome of the Rock** shelters stone from where Muslims believe Muhammad ascended to heaven
- Jordan warns that any unilateral Israeli move on sanctuary could imperil 1994 peace treaty, which recognises *King Abdullah II* as custodian of Haram al-Sharif