

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. on the edge (of) (phrase) – on the brink of, on the verge of a situation; at a crucial or critical point.
2. dignity (noun) – self-esteem, self-respect, morale.
3. ongoing (adjective) – continuous, constant, unceasing, relentless.
4. Jerusalem (proper noun) – a city in Western Asia; Jerusalem is home to major religious sites sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. It is the religious and historical epicenter of the world. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, either claim is not widely recognized internationally. The United States has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
5. culmination (noun) – climax, conclusion.
6. tension (noun) – strained relations, pressure, strain.
7. build up (phrasal verb) – intensify, increase, escalate.
8. set up (phrasal verb) – erect, put up, construct, build, create.
9. barricade (noun) – barrier, blockade, fence.
10. lead to (verb) – result in, cause, bring on, give rise to.
11. scheduled (adjective) – planned, expected, required, awaited, anticipated.
12. hearing (noun) – trial, court case, inquiry.
13. eviction (noun) – expulsion, banishment, ousting/removal.
14. neighbourhood (noun) – (surrounding) area, region, country.
15. sanctuary (noun) – a holy place.
16. disperse (verb) – break up, disband, separate.
17. Ottoman Empire (noun) – The Ottoman Empire (1301-1922) was one of the largest and longest, lasting Empires in history. It was an empire inspired and sustained by Islam, and Islamic institutions. It was an Islamic kingdom centered in Turkey.
18. volatile (adjective) – unpredictable, turbulent, uncertain, inconstant.
19. march (noun) – procession.
20. take (out) (verb) – perform, carry out (an action).
21. Zionist (adjective) – a supporter of Zionism.
22. Zionism (noun) – the national movement for the return of the Jewish people to their homeland and the resumption of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel. Zionist is a supporter of Zionism.
23. mark (verb) – commemorate, remember; represent, signify.

24. **break out** (phrasal verb) – flare up, begin/start suddenly, erupt, burst out.
25. **at the heart of** (phrase) – at the most important part of.
26. **Six-Day War** (noun) – a war fought in June 1967 between Israel and the Arab states of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The Six-Day war was the third in the long line of Arab-Israeli wars that started in 1948, around the time of the creation of the Israeli state. Beginning on June 5, 1967, the war spanned only six days during which Israel almost decimated (destroyed) Egypt's air force and captured new territory. The war ended on June 10, 1967.
27. **sovereignty** (noun) – authority, supreme power, control, domination.
28. **whereas** (conjunction) – in contrast/comparison with the fact that.
29. **settlement** (noun) – agreement, deal, resolution.
30. **hold on to** (phrasal verb) – keep or retain something.
31. **status quo** (noun) – the present situation, the current state, the existing state of affairs.
32. **non-existent** (adjective) – missing, absent; imaginary, unreal.
33. **carte blanche** (noun) – complete freedom to do whatever one wishes to do; a free hand, full discretionary power, leeway, latitude, elbow room; French phrase, literally means 'blank paper' except for a signature on which one is authorized to write whatever she/he wishes.
34. **settlement** (noun) – an uninhabited place where people established a community/colony.
35. **repression** (noun) – suppression, oppression, quelling, restraining/stifling.
36. **trigger** (verb) – cause, prompt, bring about.
37. **condemnation** (noun) – censure, criticism, castigation, stricture.
38. **unlikely** (adjective) – improbable, not likely, doubtful, dubious.
39. **mend one's ways** (phrase) – change for the better, change completely, improve.
40. **overlook** (verb) – neglect, ignore, disregard, turn a blind eye.
41. **Tel Aviv** (proper noun) – a city on Israel's Mediterranean coast. (Israel designates Jerusalem as its capital. Whereas Jerusalem's status as Israel's capital is not universally recognized, the United Nations and the European Union, have not designated Tel Aviv as Israel's capital).
42. **ease** (verb) – moderate, decrease, lessen, diminish, reduce, lower.
43. **yoke** (noun) – tyranny, oppression, domination, hegemony; control lever/bar.
44. **occupation** (noun) – invasion, seizure, takeover, annexation.

45. be at the centre of (phrase) – be the main subject of something.
46. reality check (noun) – something which helps us to see a situation with the real facts than ideas, concepts, hopes &, etc.

On the edge: On international pressure on Israel
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**There must be international pressure on Israel to treat
Palestinians with dignity**

The ongoing violence in Jerusalem is a culmination of the tensions building up since the start of Ramzan in mid-April. When Israeli police set up barricades at the Damascus Gate, a main entrance to the occupied Old City, preventing Palestinians from gathering there, it led to clashes. Last week, close to a scheduled Israeli Supreme Court hearing on the eviction of Palestinian families in an Arab neighbourhood of Jerusalem, tensions escalated. Israeli police entered the Haram al-Sharif compound (Noble Sanctuary), which houses the Al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site, to disperse the protesters, injuring hundreds of Palestinians. A Jewish settlement agency has issued eviction notices to Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming that their houses sit on land purchased by Jewish agencies in the late 19th century (when historic Palestine was a part of the Ottoman Empire). Arab families have been living in Sheikh Jarrah for generations. The Israeli Supreme Court postponed the hearing on Monday on the advice of the government. Despite the volatile situation, the Israeli authorities gave permission to the annual Jerusalem Day Flag March, traditionally taken out by Zionist youth through the Muslim Quarter of East Jerusalem to mark the city's capture by the Israelis. More violence broke out ahead of the march on Monday morning.

Jerusalem has been at the heart of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Israel, which captured the western part of the city in the 1948 first Arab-Israel war and the eastern half in the 1967 Six-Day War, claims sovereignty over the whole city whereas the Palestinians say East Jerusalem should be the capital of their future state. Most countries have not recognised Israel's claim over the city and are of the view that its status should be resolved as part of a final Israel-Palestine settlement. Israel's tactic till now has been to hold on to the *status quo* through force. A peace process is non-existent and the Palestinians are divided and weak. With *carte blanche* from the Trump administration, Israel expanded its settlements and extended repression of

the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The move to evict Palestinians from East Jerusalem is seen as an attempt to forcibly expand Jewish settlements in the Arab neighbourhoods of the Old City. Israel's actions have triggered condemnations from across the world, but it is unlikely to mend its ways. The international community, which largely overlooked Israel's violent repression of Palestinians, should pressure Tel Aviv to at least treat the Palestinians with dignity, if not to ease the yoke of the occupation. U.S. President Joe Biden has said that America's commitment to human rights would be at the centre of his foreign policy. In West Asia, he faces a reality check.

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