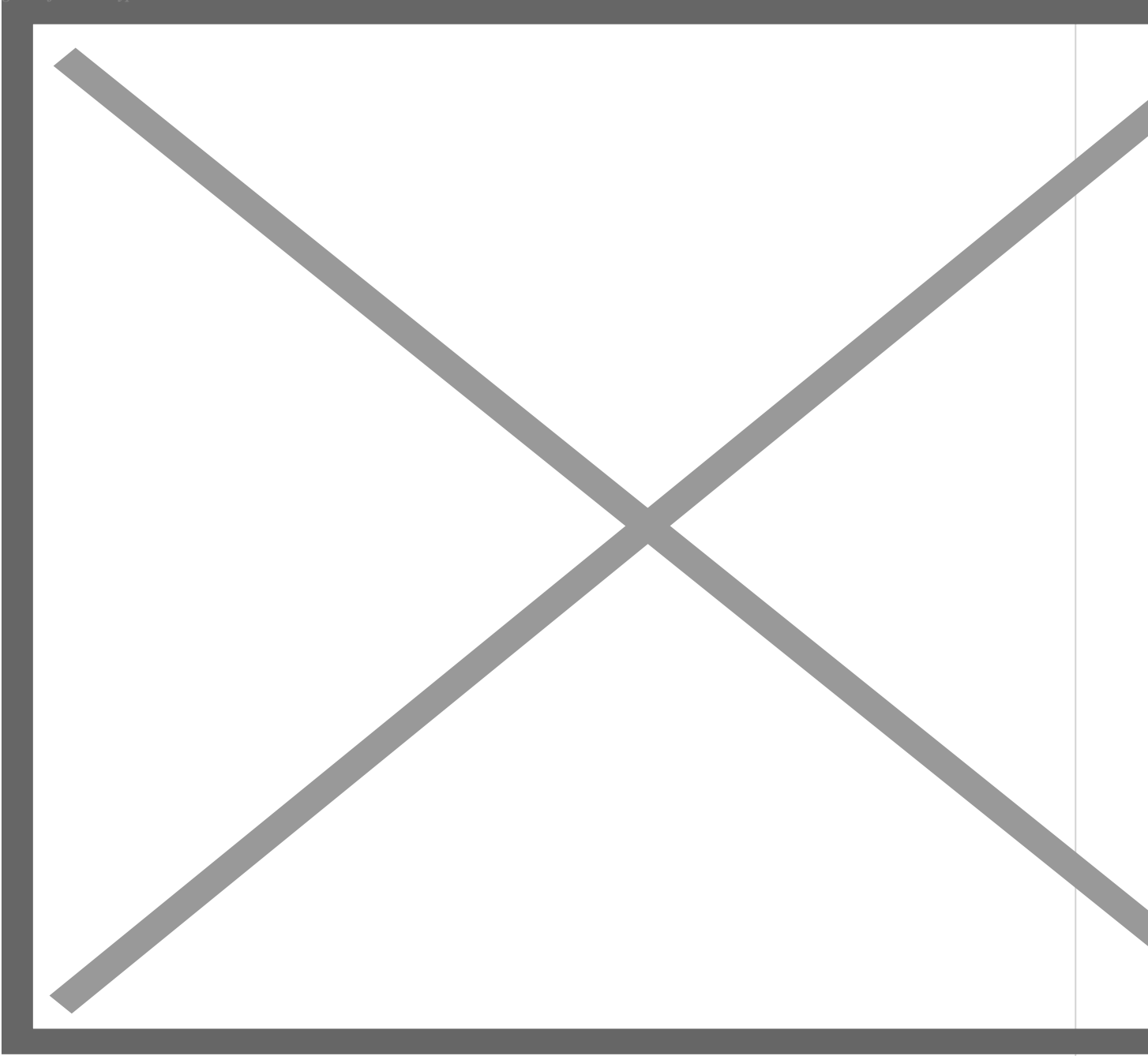


Pope Francis calls for end to violence in Jerusalem

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Pope Francis calls for end to violence in Jerusalem

Vatican City, May 10 (RHC)-- Pope Francis has called for an end to the violence in Jerusalem, Anadolu Agency reports. Stating that he is monitoring the developments in Jerusalem anxiously, he urged the stakeholders to seek solutions while respecting the Holy City.

"Holy City's multi-religious and multi-cultural identity should be respected. Violence breeds violence, stop clashes," he told pilgrims gathered at Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican. Palestinians in recent days have protested in solidarity with residents of East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood with Israeli police firing tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters.

The protests came as the Israeli Central Court in East Jerusalem approved a decision to evict seven Palestinian families from their homes in favour of Israeli settlers at the beginning of this year.

Israeli police attempted to disperse worshippers inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound over the weekend, using stun grenades and gas bombs. Women were also targeted by Israeli forces, according to witnesses. At least 290 Palestinians have been injured by Israeli forces since Friday, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent.

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