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Opinion

The inevitable next conflagration

The government's failure to address the root causes of recent violence in Jerusalem guarantees more of the same — or worse

By Ami Ayalon, Gilead Sher and Orni Petruschka / August 2, 2017

Conventional wisdom posits that the "Temple Mount Crisis" is history and that we Israelis have moved on. But that notion is an illusion and a delusion, and we cannot afford to simply move on. There are vital lessons to be learned from this crisis, and if we don't learn them, we will be condemned to repeat it (to paraphrase the philosopher George Santayana) — or worse.

Tragically, that appears to be exactly what is happening. Many Israeli leaders, most notably, our prime minister, continue to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the absolutely wrong way. They are managing it – jumping from one crisis to the next, reacting to each, waiting for the next, but doing nothing to address the underlying conditions that precipitate the crises, and so the downward spiral goes on.

This short-sighted approach is making Israel less secure and leading to an eventual reality of one state — a recipe for civil war between its Jewish and Arab inhabitants. As Jewish Israelis committed to the future of Israel as the democratic home of the Jewish people, we fear that our government's inaction is placing that future in jeopardy.

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