TIMELINE OF RECENT EVENTS (BBC News)

13 Apr – Palestinian discontent over President Mahmoud Abbas calling off planned elections – blamed on Israel; Hamas react angrily to postponement; start of Ramadan – clashes between Palestinians and police over placement of barriers near Damascus Gate

15-16 Apr – Rockets fired from Gaza at Israel, Israel responded with airstrikes

19 Apr – Clashes spread to mixed Arab-Jewish port city of Jaffa, near Tel Aviv

20 Apr – Jerusalem - Jewish youths - angry over spate of filmed assaults by Palestinians on Orthodox Jews posted on TikTok video-sharing app - attack Arabs and chant anti-Arab slogans

23 Apr – Hundreds of ultra-nationalist Jews shouting “Death to Arabs” marched towards Damascus Gate protesting Arab assaults on Jews. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and police trying to separate two groups, injuring dozens of people. Violence between Arabs and Jews spread to other parts of the city

24 Apr – Militants fired dozens of rockets at Israel from Gaza, drawing retaliatory airstrikes

2 May – Fatah and Hamas condemn threatened eviction of Palestinian families from Sheikh Jarrah/Shimon Hatzadik district of East Jerusalem by Jewish settlers ahead of planned court ruling. Hamas calls on Arabs to form “human shields of resistance”

4 May – Militants in Gaza begin sending incendiary balloons into Israel over successive days, causing dozens of fires

7 May – Two Palestinian gunmen shot dead and third wounded after opening fire on Israeli security forces in northern West Bank. Israeli authorities say group planned a “major attack”

After Friday prayers – last of Ramadan – major clashes erupt at al-Aqsa mosque compound, injuring over 200 people. Israel’s police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades after officers attacked with stones and bottles

8 May – Second night of violence in East Jerusalem after tens of thousands of worshippers prayed at the al-Aqsa mosque for Laylat al-Qadr, holiest night of Ramadan

Police and protesters clash at Damascus Gate, more than 120 Palestinians and about 17 police injured

9 May – Israel’s Supreme Court postponed hearing on Sheikh Jarrah case following calls to delay it because of growing unrest. Tensions remain high and more clashes follow

10 May – Early morning clashes between police and Palestinians at the al-Aqsa mosque compound, crowds throw stones and officers fire stun grenades

Palestinian anger inflamed by annual Jerusalem Day march to celebrate Israel’s capture of East Jerusalem in 1967

March due to pass through predominantly Arab parts of Old City seen by Palestinians as a deliberate provocation. Rerouted at 11th hour, but atmosphere remained volatile - over 300 Palestinians and about 21 police injured in ensuing violence

Hamas issued ultimatum to Israel to “withdraw its soldiers... from the blessed al-Aqsa mosque and Sheikh Jarrah” by 18:00. Deadline passed without an Israeli response, and rockets fired towards Jerusalem for the first time in years.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas “crossed a red line” and Israel retaliated with airstrikes, killing three Hamas fighters. Continued exchange of rocket fire and airstrikes quickly escalated into fiercest hostilities since war in 2014