

# Where are the Gulf Arab tourists? Israel's hopes fall short

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Tue, 2023-01-03 06:11

JERUSALEM: When Israel struck an agreement with the United Arab Emirates to open diplomatic ties in 2020, it brought an electrifying sense of achievement to a country long ostracized in the Middle East.

Officials insisted that Israel's new ties with the UAE, and soon after with Bahrain, would go beyond governments and become society-wide pacts, stoking mass tourism and friendly exchanges between people long at odds.



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## Saudi Arabia leads chorus of condemnation following Israeli

# minister's 'provocative' visit to Al-Aqsa

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Tue, 2023-01-03 06:34

RAMALLAH: Saudi Arabia has led a chorus of condemnation following a visit on Tuesday by Israel's far-right national security minister to Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

The move, by firebrand Itamar Ben-Gvir, has enraged Palestinians, while the US warned of steps that may harm the status quo.

The Kingdom's Foreign Ministry issued a statement in which it denounced the "provocative action" by the Israeli official.





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## [Mother jailed in Iran for 13 years describes 'hell' of prison life](#)

Tue, 2023-01-03 00:03

LONDON: A woman imprisoned in Iran since 2009 has shared a letter from inside her "hell-like" prison, it was reported on Monday.

Maryam Akbari Monfared, 47, who is a mother to three daughters, was detained more than 13 years ago on charges of supporting the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran.

She has been separated from her children since her arrest, and her three brothers and sister were killed by the regime, the Independent reported.



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## [Yemen coalition investigation team looks into allegations of rights violations at sites](#)

Tue, 2023-01-03 00:08

RIYADH: The Joint Incidents Assessment Team conducted a field visit to Yemen during the past week, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Monday. The inspection tour included a number of visits within the cities of Aden, Mansoura, and Abyan, where a number of sites were inspected, including the central security building in Zinjibar – a coastal town in south-central Yemen, the capital of Zinjibar District and the Abyan Governorate, and May 22 stadium in Sheikh Othman, the report said.



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## [Look Ahead 2023: Why the Iranian regime's future hangs in the balance](#)

Mon, 2023-01-02 23:16

WASHINGTON D.C.: “Margh bar diktator” – or “death to the dictator” – has become the rallying cry of a massive wave of protests that have consumed nearly the entire Islamic Republic of Iran.

Though the news media remains under the tight control of the state's internal security apparatus, grainy cell phone video of protests from schools, strikes at energy facilities, and rallies along main roads from Tehran to Ahvaz are shaking the rule of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as never before.



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