

Mosque; Beating heart of Islam

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World Mosque Day is commemorated on the anniversary of the arson attack against al-Aqsa Mosque to raise awareness over protection for religious sites.

Fifty-one years ago, on August 21, 1969, an extremist set fire to al-Aqsa mosque, which is of very high significance for Muslims as once being their first qibla or direction of prayer.

The fire swept through an area of nearly 1500 square meters of the mosque, burning an ancient pulpit, altar, arches, pillars, and walls, and ultimately causing a collapse.

The burning of Al-Aqsa Mosque angered Muslims, and various Islamic countries condemned this action. By issuing Resolution 271 in 1969, the UN Security Council condemned the Israeli regime for setting fire to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

World Mosque Day has now turned into an annual occasion when Muslims around the world highlight the importance of the al-Aqsa mosque which is the third holiest site in Islam.

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On the night of the Islamic festival of the Night of the Power, thousands of pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem to pray and perform rituals. The Dome of the Rock, the holiest site in Islam, was the focal point of the celebrations. The city was filled with a sense of devotion and spiritual fervor as pilgrims from around the world gathered to honor the Prophet Muhammad and his family.

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