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Precautions, drastic measures in Middle East over coronavirus outbreak



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said his government will place anyone arriving from overseas into quarantine – in a move to contain a growing coronavirus outbreak.
Netanyahu announced the 14-day quarantine after consultations with Cabinet ministers and senior health officials.

The decision comes weeks before the busy Easter season, when tens of thousands of pilgrims travel to the Holy Land. Dozens of travelers to Israel and the West Bank have tested positive for the coronavirus, including 14 Greek pilgrims.

In a related development, the St. Catherine Sacred Monastery of the God-Trodden Mt. Sinai this week issued a statement, noting that "… following the infection of Greek pilgrims with Covid-19, many concerns have been expressed about the health of the Fathers of the Brotherhood of the Sinai Monastery and of the region,

in general.

“…As we know, a group of Greek pilgrims from southwestern Greece, who were recently diagnosed with coronavirus, visited Sinai in Egypt and continued their pilgrimage to the Holy Land — that is to Israel and the Palestinian territories. Based on this information, the Holy Monastery is not responsible for the contamination. The same holds true for the Sinai desert and Egypt as well…

“…However, for precautionary reasons, following an order by the Governor of South Sinai, Khaled Fouda, and with the permission of the Monastery, a group of specialists tested the Fathers, the workers, and the pilgrims, and the results were not worrying. Despite the results, preventive health measures have already been



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