

More violence in Mideast ahead of Holy Easter



Israeli officials on Friday said two women were killed in a suspected terror attack near a West Bank Israeli settlement.

On its part, the Israeli military launched rare strikes in southern Lebanon and continued bombing targets in the Gaza Strip, marking a further escalation in the region following violence this week at Jerusalem's sensitive religious site.

Friday's strikes in southern Lebanon came a day after militants fired nearly three dozen rockets from there at Israel, wounding two people and causing some property damage. The Israeli military said it targeted installations of Hamas, the Palestinian militant group.

The exchange of rocket and missile fire and the latest apparent attack on Israeli civilians came at a time of heightened religious fervor, as Jews celebrate Passover, Muslims are in the middle of Ramadan Orthodox Christians commemorate Palm Sunday, whereas Catholic Christians begin Easter weekend.

Holy Easter Sunday for Orthodoxy follows on April 16.