



EMBASSY OF PALESTINE

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DEMOLISHING PALESTINIAN HOUSES: AN ISRAELI POLICY OF ETHNIC CLEANSING

Israeli forces demolished 313 homes in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem during the first half of this year.

Sixty-four per cent of the demolitions took place in East Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron.

During this period Israeli authorities have issued 129 eviction notices requiring 737 Palestinians to temporarily vacate their homes and lands under the pretext of declaring them closed military zones, nature reserves or for the use of military training purposes.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION?! A QUESTION UNDER THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION

In a provocative step and amid the world's struggle with the coronavirus pandemic, the Israeli occupation authorities announced recently a new settlement plan to capture the lands surrounding the Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied city of Hebron in the southern West Bank.

Attorney-General Avichai Mandelblit approved the confiscation of the Palestinian land belonging to the Islamic Waqf, a trust in charge of religious endowments in the area of the Ibrahimi Mosque.

A RACIST LAW

On July 29, the Israeli Knesset rejected an amend to the racist Nation-State Law to include a clause guaranteeing the equality of all citizens.

The Nation-State Law declared Israel to be the "historical homeland of the Jewish people" and dropped Arabic as an official language of Israel.

The bill was defeated by 53 votes to 21.

The law stipulates that: "The state views the development of Jewish settlement as a national value and will act to encourage and promote its establishment."

PALESTINE & COVID 19

CURRENT STATUS

There have been so far over 19,040 confirmed cases of COVID 19 infection, 10,753 recovery cases and 110 deaths.

Curfews are still imposed during weekends, holidays and daily from 8:00 pm to 6:00 am in all governorates.

IMPACT ON TOURISM IN PALESTINE

With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of tourism activities suddenly dropped to zero. Now, five months later, all 32,000 Palestinians employed in this industry have become unemployed. The current difficulties and complications are exacerbated by the debts that the sector accumulated from large investments into the tourism sector during the past few years, especially in 2019.

But according to international tourism indicators, experiential tourism and outdoor activities will be the products most in demand by post-pandemic travelers. They will find a great offering in Palestine.

Palestine offers a variety of walking options that satisfy the diverse demands of modern travelers, whether they seek spirituality, adventure, or nature-related experiences.

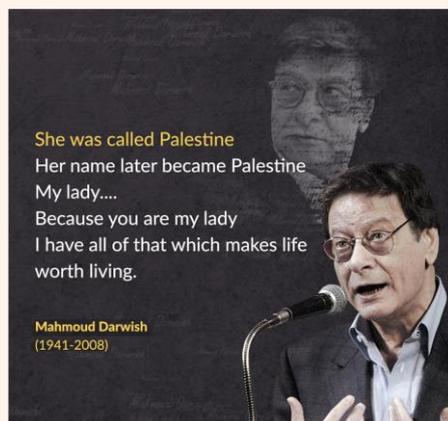
POET OF LOVE... POET OF RESISTANCE... POET OF PALESTINE

August 9, marks the death anniversary of Palestine's national poet Mahmoud Darwish.

Darwish was born in 1941 in the Palestinian village of Birwa which was located on the outskirts of Acre, Palestine. During the 1948 Nakba, when the state of Israel was declared in Palestine and 750,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes, his family found themselves in Lebanon. They stayed there for a year and then went back to their village, only to find out that it had been razed to the ground by the Israel occupation forces; a new Jewish settlement was built on its ruins. The family relocated to another Arab village, where Darwish grew up.

The works of Mahmoud Darwish have been translated into at least 39 languages, and many are still being published today, either on their own or as collections.

Collections of his poems in English translation include: *The Adam of Two Edens* (2000), *Unfortunately, It was Paradise* (2003), and *the Butterfly's Burden* (2007).



Hungary and Palestine



ACTING HEAD OF MISSION MEETS HEAD OF THE MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT

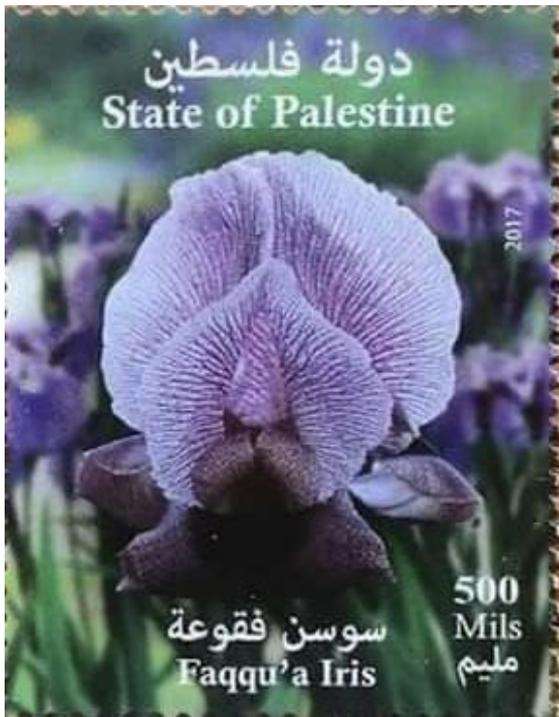
On August 4, the acting head of mission of the Embassy of Palestine to Hungary H.E. Dr. Fadi ElHusseini met the Head of the Middle East Department in the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Andras Kovacs at the headquarters of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting tackled several issues including the opening of Hungarian commercial office in Jerusalem and prospects of bilateral relations.



PALESTINE FLAG IN BUDAPEST FLOWN AT HALF-MAST FOR LEBANON

Upon the instructions of the Palestinian leadership, Palestine flag in Budapest half-masted as a mark of mourning and respect for the victims of the horrific explosion erupted Beirut last week. The Embassy of Palestine sent a letter of condolences and support to the Embassy of Lebanon in Hungary.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



IRIS HAYNEI NATIONAL FLOWER OF PALESTINE

Iris haynei is the national flower of Palestine. On April 2016, the Ministry of Environment Affairs (Palestine) adopted 'Sawsan Gilboa' (Iris Haynei) as the national plant of Palestine to go with the Olive tree (as the national tree), Palestine sunbird (national bird) and the 5th of March to be the national day for the Palestinian environment.

Hayne's Iris is a geophyte endemic species to Palestine. It belongs to the Iridaceae family. It has smooth linear or lanceolate, greyish green leaves, entire rosette, and alternate. It has long slender stem or peduncle that can grow up to 60 cm tall.



ARTS

EXHIBITION: "PRINTED IN JERUSALEM"

On July 27, the Palestinian Museum launched its latest exhibition, "printed in Jerusalem": Mustamloun, virtually on YouTube and its other social media platforms. The launch took place after the installation of the exhibition was completed in the exhibition hall of the Museum.

The exhibition seeks to analyze the emergence and disappearance duality that was inherent to the city's publications, which were subject to censorship by the occupation. It explores the city's political, touristic, and cultural role and attests to Jerusalem's leadership in printing, and in the development and publication of educational resources. This exhibition also sheds light on aspects of Jerusalem's cultural and social practices and examines economic and commercial activities.



AGRICULTURE

IT'S THE SEASON: GRAPES

The grapes season in Gaza starts mid-May and lasts until late September. In the West Bank it starts August to November. This time gap accelerates crop production and exchange. Around 20 varieties of grapes are grown in the West Bank and account for a key part of Palestinian agriculture, second to olives. Vineyards cover about 5% of cultivated land in the West Bank and annually produce more than 50,000 tons of grapes, according to the Palestinian Agriculture Ministry.

This year has been particularly difficult because of the pandemic and the economic hardships caused by the continuing Israeli blockade.



SPORTS

SPORT OF INSPIRATION: AMPUTEE FOOTBALL

Khan Younis Sports Club in Gaza Strip started a new sports program. They formed a new division for people with amputations, who have lost their limbs. The Club started the registration process and will commence preparation and training of the team.

ECONOMICS

PALESTINE JOINS THE WORLD FREE ZONES ORGANIZATION

On July 23, the Minister of National Economy and Chairman of the General Authority of Industrial Estates and Free Industrial Zones, announced the accession of the State of Palestine to the World Free Zones Organization. This came during the annual conference of the organization, which was attended by representatives of 37 countries via video conferencing, with the participation of the Palestinian Industrial Zones Authority representing the State of Palestine.

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