



EMBASSY OF PALESTINE

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DEMOLITION OF PALESTINIAN STRUCTURES

On September 08 the European Union missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah expressed concern regarding Israel's ongoing demolition of Palestinian structures in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, despite the COVID-19 outbreak.

They said in a statement that these demolitions, including EU and EU Member States-funded structures, have resulted in the displacement of Palestinians and negatively affected Palestinian communities. As of 31 August, a total number of 107 residential units and 46 other units (shops, storerooms, etc.) were demolished in East Jerusalem alone. Since the start of 2020 Israeli occupation authorities have issued 650 demolition orders against Palestinian facilities in occupied Jerusalem.

RETENTION OF DEAD PALESTINIANS... VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

On September 2, the Israeli security cabinet decided that the bodies of dead Palestinians alleged to be "terrorists" will not be returned to their families by Israel. The policy is part of a new strategy by Defence Minister Benny Gantz, intended to use the corpses as a bargaining chip in prisoner exchange negotiations. The Israeli authorities have routinely withheld the bodies of Palestinian assailants or alleged assailants, a practice widely condemned by local and international human rights groups. Indeed, it holds the remains of hundreds of Palestinians from as far back as 1967. They are kept in morgues or otherwise buried in unkempt graves in what is known as the cemetery of numbers. Gantz said that this is all part of a broader campaign of "deterrence"

UN: ISRAEL MUST IMMEDIATELY LIFT ITS SANCTIONS ON GAZA

On September 1, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Jamie McGoldrick, said in a statement: Israel "must immediately" lift sanctions imposed on the Gaza Strip and allow the entry of essential items... The deterioration witnessed in recent weeks in the Gaza Strip is of grave concern," referring to the restrictions imposed by Israel during the recent escalation.

He noted: "Israel has limited the transfer of certain goods into the blockaded coastal enclave, reduced the permissible fishing area and prevented fuel deliveries, including the UN-facilitated fuel for Gaza's sole Power Plant."

PALESTINE & COVID 19

CURRENT STATUS

There have been so far over 34,801 confirmed cases of COVID 19 infection. There is a total of 23,419 recovery cases and 206 deaths, while 11,087 remain active across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

IMPACT ON EDUCATION IN PALESTINE



The new school year in Palestine officially started September 6 with more than 1.3 million students back to their classes. The school year starts first with grades 1-4, to be followed two weeks later by grades 5-11.

ATLAS OF SDGs 2020

The Atlas of Sustainable Development 2020 has been published in August 2020.

This Atlas is intended to identify the Palestinian progress towards the development goals. It also shows Palestine's development within the global context and in comparison, with other countries. It sets a clear baseline for understanding sustainable development.

NAJI AL-ALI

LIVES THROUGH HANDALA

August 29, marks the assassination anniversary of the Palestinian Cartoonist Naji Al-Ali.

Since 1975 through 1987 Naji Al-Ali created cartoons that depict the complexities of the plight of Palestinian refugees. These cartoons are still relevant today and Handala, the refugee child who is present in every cartoon, remains a potent symbol of the struggle of the Palestinian people for justice and self-determination.

Naji Al-Ali wrote: "The child Handala is my signature, everyone asks me about him wherever I go. I gave birth to this child in the Gulf and I presented him to the people. His name is Handala and he has promised the people that he will remain true to himself. I drew him as a child who is not beautiful; his hair is like the hair of a hedgehog who uses his thorns as a weapon. Handala is not a fat, happy, relaxed, or pampered child. He is barefooted like the refugee camp children, and he is an icon that protects me from making mistakes. Even though he is rough, he smells of amber. His hands are clasped behind his back as a sign of rejection at a time when solutions are presented to us the American way."



HUNGARY & PALESTINE



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Acting Head of Mission participated in the National Day of Hungary and the mass celebrated by Cardinal Péter Erdő in the Basilica.
- Meeting with Dr Istvan Balog, Deputy State Secretary for Security Policy and Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.
- Participating in the meeting of the Council of Arab Ambassadors
- Acting Head of mission meets HE Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Budapest.
- Meeting with HE Ambassador of Iraq.
- Meeting with the Regional Representative of the UNHCR
- Meeting with the Corvinus University Vice Rector.
- Meeting with the President of the Hungarian Islamic Community.
- Meeting with the President of the Organization of Muslims in Hungary

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



CACTUS FRUIT

The prickly cactus fruit is widespread all over Palestine. August is the season of this seedy yet sweet fruit. It is called in Arabic Sabbar (meaning Patience), therefore it became a core symbol of Palestinian national identity. If you look at most Palestinian villages demolished in Israel, what's left is cactus fruit and olive trees. The prickly texture is the prickle reality of occupation, while the sweet taste is the taste of belonging and the name resembles the patience and longstanding against occupation.



EVENTS AND CONFERENCES IN PALESTINE

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

On September 7, the Children and Youth Public Library organized an online virtual storytelling for children between the ages of three and eleven in Palestine.

SYMPOSIA

On September 3, the Palestinian Circus School, in cooperation with Medical Aid for Palestinians organized the “Conference on Social Circus: Enhancing Equal Rights and Social Inclusion” The conference aimed at shedding light on the achievements of the Palestinian Circus School by using the social circus methodology with various groups, including children with intellectual disabilities.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

The UN Palestinian Rights Committee and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) co-organized the International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem on “Annexation in Practice – Palestinian Youth in Jerusalem” as the second event of a series. The event was held on 27 August 2020 via WebEx. The event was also livestreamed on UN Web TV.

TECHNOLOGY

PALESTINIAN WINS MICROSOFT AWARD FOR THE SIXTH YEAR IN A ROW

A Palestinian technology expert and consultant has won Microsoft’s prestigious annual ‘Most Valuable Professional’ (MPV) award this month, making it his sixth consecutive year winning the technology company’s international competition.

Waseem Awwad, the Paris-based expert hailing from Palestine, is a senior strategic business and development manager and technology consultant for Microsoft, and has scored an impressive record of first place in 27 international competitions in the past. He has also previously been chosen as one of the top 10 Middle Eastern computing experts.

Aside from his victories in Microsoft, Awwad has also reportedly been contributing his skills to a European team developing an advanced system that can identify those infected with the respiratory Covid-19 virus through the use of artificial intelligence, and which is also able to measure the extent to which people abide by the preventative standards against the virus set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

SPORTS

THE FIRST ONLINE CHESS TOURNAMENT FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Palestinian Chess Federation organized the first online chess tournament for school students. This initiative was launched at the beginning of the COVID 19 crisis with the participation of more than 5 thousand players from different governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to two players from Arab countries. 60 players, who excelled in the beginners and intermediate levels, competed in the tournament. The players competed in four divisions for the beginner and intermediate levels. The tournament was held online via the Lichess.org website.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

QUALIFYING THE FIRST FEMALE CADRE OF ENERGY AUDITORS

Generating Revenue Opportunities for Women and Female Youth in the West Bank (GROW) is a project that aims at creating opportunities for female job placements and co-ops in the renewable energy sector.



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