



EMBASSY OF PALESTINE

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ISRAEL DESTROYS NATURE RESERVE

On January 28, the Israeli army destroyed a natural reserve and uprooted at least 10,000 trees in a military campaign in the northern West Bank.

The occupation army pushed military vehicles and dozens of soldiers into the Ainun area in Tubas city in the morning and destroyed a nature reserve built on an area of about 400 dunums (98 acres).

Trees were planted in the nature reserve eight years ago as part of the Greening Palestine project supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and funded by the Venezuelan consulate in Palestine.

A security apparatus has been formed to oversee construction and agriculture in Area C and it has undertaken to wipe out the Palestinian presence.

ISRAEL DEMOLISHES MOSQUE

Israeli forces have demolished a mosque under construction in Umm Qusah to the south of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. The mosque was torn down along with several other structures earlier on January 27.

The Israelis also bulldozed a livestock structure in Khamis Al-Jahalin along with two similar facilities in Bir Al-Maskoub in occupied East Jerusalem.

Israel's ongoing demolition of Palestinian homes and illegal settlement construction have become a major source of concern aiming at ethnical cleansing.

ISRAEL APPROVES MORE SETTLEMENT HOMES

As new US President Joe Biden took office, the Israeli government approved the building of 2,572 new settlement units in occupied Jerusalem and the West Bank.

2,112 of the new housing units are planned for illegal settlements across the occupied West Bank, with 460 to be built in settlements in occupied East Jerusalem. This comes just days after similar approval for 780 settlement units in the West Bank.

During 2020 alone, Israel approved or advanced construction of over 12,000 settlement homes, the most in a single year since 2012.

PALESTINE & COVID-19

CURRENT STATUS

There have been so far over 162,000 confirmed cases of COVID, 152,000 recovery cases 1,870 deaths.

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO VACCINATE PALESTINIANS

The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner OHCHR has released a statement saying it is Israel's responsibility to provide equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

OHCHR says differential access is "morally and legally" unacceptable under international law on the regulation of occupied territories.

However, the Israeli health minister said loud and clear that they will not support in this regard.

The West Bank and Gaza would get an initial 240,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, and 37,440 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, with some of this expected to arrive in late February. However, getting vaccines to Gaza is faced with the logistical challenges of the restrictions imposed on the area, which has been under blockade by Israel since 2007.

Following the global pressure, Israel's defense ministry announced that it has transferred 2,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine to the PA.

WHO IS THE PAINTER OF THE REFUGEE CAMP?



Ismail Matar is known in southern Gaza as the 'Painter of the Refugee Camp'. Matar, 22, paints mostly on the walls of the Khan Younis Refugee Camp, in the Southern Gaza Strip where he lives along with his family.

The young Palestinian artist studies computer engineering at Al-Azhar University in Gaza City. But his real passion is art, one that conveys the pain, resistance, and daily suffering of his people.

The numerous murals that he painted on the decaying walls of the camp have done more than adding a bit of color to the otherwise grey, cement existence of the crowded neighborhoods. Matar's paintings serve as a reminder that the poor people of the camp are creative, rebellious, and despite their layered hardship, are still able to express their identity as an exiled nation.



Palestine and Hungary



EVENTS & MEETINGS

Acting Head of Mission virtually met with the Dr. Maróth Miklós - Prime Minister Advisor

Participated in the meeting of the Council of Arab Ambassadors

Met with the Dr. Kveck Péter- Head of Middle East Department- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Met with Dr. Szűcs Ádám- Head of Department Diplomatic Academy

Met with Dr. Perosa István- Head of Department of Stipendium Hungaricum

Met with Ambassador Ali Bayati of Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq

Met with Mr. Huszár István- Head of Department for International Relations Hungary Football Association

FEARING THE PALESTINIAN NARRATIVE

On January 11, the Israeli Lod District Court ruled against a Palestinian film-maker, Mohammad Bakri, ordering him to pay hefty compensation to an Israeli soldier who was accused, along with the Israeli military, of carrying out war crimes in April 2002, in the Palestinian Jenin refugee camp located in the northern occupied West Bank.

"Jenin Jenin", is now officially banned in Israel. To ban a film, regardless of how unacceptable it may seem from the viewpoint of the official authorities, is wholly inconsistent with any true definition of freedom of speech.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



POPPY ANEMONES

Poppy anemones are common in sunlit areas throughout most of Palestine, and often create dazzling red carpets seen from afar. Flowering occurs from January to March, peaking in February. Anemones thrive in grazed environments. The red flower variety is the most drought-resistant and hence the most common, whereas other color variants can be found mostly in northern and mountainous populations. The Arabic name of the plant, Shaqa'iq An-Naa'man, meaning the wounds of Naa'man, which may be derived from the Canaanite god of spring bearing this name.



ECONOMY

EIGHT NATIONAL COMPANIES OBTAIN ISO CERTIFICATES, GLOBAL GAP, AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Eight national companies obtained ISO certificates, Global Gap, and organic agricultural production on 28 January. This came within the framework of a project to create an enabling environment for green economy work in Palestine, funded by the European Union.

The project provided the companies with technical support and building their capabilities in the field of green production by developing green production systems, and applying them to obtain environmental ISO certificates, global Gap, and organic agriculture in the olive, dates, stone and marble sectors, in addition to spreading and popularizing the concept of green economy within the Palestinian community.



AGRICULTURE

DATES IN PALESTINE

A report by the Institute for Palestine Studies reveals a serious crisis that threatens the Palestinian palm farms sector due to the loss of opportunities to market the product and its remaining in refrigerators due to the Corona epidemic and the restrictions to exports imposed on it by the occupation. The Foundation says that despite the record increase in the dates sector in the West Bank for this year in production quantities, which reached 13 thousand tons, this sector, unfortunately, witnessed a significant decrease in the volume of dates exported abroad due to the Corona pandemic crisis in the world.

Palestinian dates, especially Medjool, are among the finest dates in the world, as they are grown at the lowest point on earth, which gives them an exceptional flavor, and Palestinian dates usually enjoy a greater demand than the available quantities of production.

CULTURE

SPECIAL EVENTS

"Made in Palestine" is a workshop that was conducted on February 4, of the artworks produced by the participants through archival research that uncovered the branding once printed on the products of bygone Palestinian companies prior to and immediately following the occupation, presented by Ahed Izhiman. The workshop is organized by The Palestinian Museum in partnership with Palestinian Art Court – Al-Hoash as part of the Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun program. This was broadcasted via The Palestinian Museum social media platforms.

PALESTINE PARTICIPATES IN ALECSO ACTIVITIES IN THE ARAB THEATER

Palestine participated in the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science "ALECSO", activities of reviving the Arab Theater Day.

During this event, Palestine performed the play "Lewin Raheen" (Where are we going) that was produced through the University Theater Project.

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