



EMBASSY OF PALESTINE

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ETHNIC CLEANSING IN JERUSALEM

Israeli authorities deported 29 Palestinians from Al-Aqsa Mosque and the occupied city of Jerusalem in February.

The Israeli decisions included preventing 27 Palestinians from entering Al-Aqsa and another from entering Jerusalem for allegedly residing illegally in the city, despite the fact that he was born and raised in the city.

Israeli forces had demolished 20 facilities in Jerusalem, eight of which were self-demolished [by Palestinians] following a decision by the occupation's municipality," the buildings were located in "Silwan, Tire Baher, Sheikh Jarrah, Jabal Al Mukaber and Anata" neighborhoods. Additionally, a total of 135 arrests in Jerusalem in February were registered, including 39 minors and 11 females. The arrests took place in the towns of Issawiya and At-Tur, as well as the Al-Aqsa surrounding roads.

ACCELERATING DEMOLITIONS OF PALESTINIAN STRUCTURES

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Palestinian Territories (OCHA) has reported that the Israeli occupation authorities demolished 89 Palestinian-owned structures in the past two weeks.

At least 146 people have been displaced by the demolitions, including 83 children. Around 330 others are affected by the destruction of the buildings.

The comprehensive OCHA report said that on 3 and 8 February the Israeli authorities demolished 37 buildings, most of which were in the occupied Jordan Valley community of Humsa Al-Baqai'a, displacing 60 people, including 35 children.

ISRAEL RUINS PALESTINIAN CULTIVATED AREAS

Israeli occupation forces opened floodgates near the eastern borders of the Gaza Strip for two consecutive days, flooding hundreds of dunums of Palestinian agricultural land. The water devastated vast tracts of land in the eastern Gaza City while dozens of other cultivated lands were flooded near Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip.

The farmers incurred heavy losses as a result of the floods.

Israel regularly opens the floodgates on the Gaza fence in winter flooding Palestinian property.

PALESTINE & COVID-19

CURRENT STATUS

There have been so far over 212,000 confirmed cases of COVID, 188,000 recovery cases 2,293 deaths.

VACCINATION UPDATE

Around 6,100 people in Palestine have been vaccinated, the bulk going to health workers in critical care or COVID-19 treatment centers.

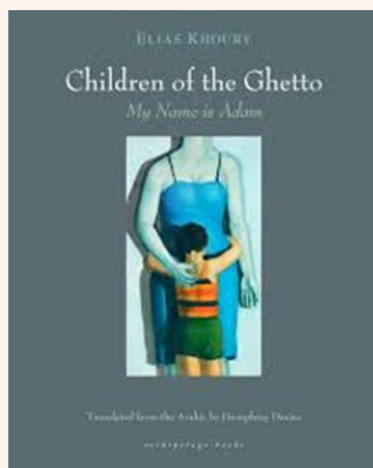
Israel has managed to vaccinate nearly 4.2 million people with a first dose – that's around 50 per cent of the population – and 2.8 million people with the full two doses – that's more than 30 per cent of the population.

Meanwhile, only several thousand doses are available in the Palestinian West Bank, and a delivery of 20,000 reported to have arrived last weekend in Gaza scarcely scratches at the surface of the needs. At a generous maximum, assuming that the 35,000 reported Sputnik and Moderna vaccines are all available, that would be around 0.8 percent of the Palestinian population.

To make that clearer, you are over 60 times more likely to have a vaccination in Israel than in Palestine.

A BOOK TO READ

CHILDREN OF THE GHETTO – MY NAME IS ADAM



Children of the Ghetto – My Name is Adam tells the story of Palestinian Adam Danun and his attempt to write a novel after immigrating to New York. A retelling of his own personal story, the novel recounts his childhood in Lud, Palestine, where in 1948 the city fell to occupying forces who drove out the majority of its inhabitants. Adam's mother remained in the city with her baby and his story is that of the barbed wire encircled Palestinian ghetto created by the occupying army. It is a tale of remaining and an attempt to interpret the victims' silence.

Palestine and Hungary



EVENTS & MEETINGS

- Acting Head of Mission virtually met Németh Gábor Head of Cabinet for International Affairs at Eötvös Loránd Research Network Secretariat
- Meeting with representatives of the contemporary art gallery / market in Budapest

PALESTINIAN CULTURAL DAY

MARCH, 13

March 13, marks the Palestinian cultural Day. Palestinian culture is influenced by the many diverse cultures and religions which have existed in historical Palestine, from the early Canaanite period onward. Cultural contributions to the fields of art, literature, music, costume and cuisine collectively express the Palestinian identity despite the diaspora.

WOMEN BETWEEN COVID AND ISRAELI BRUTALITY – STATISTICS



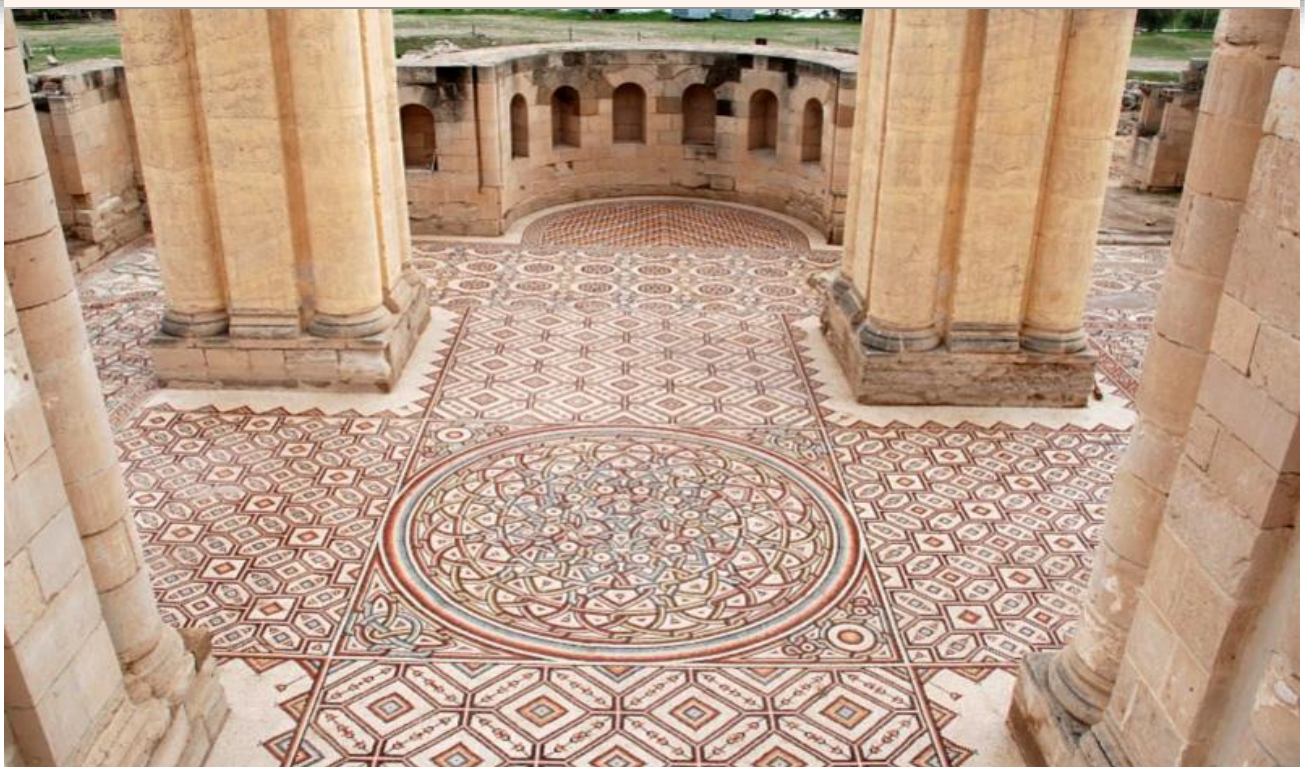
The rate of Covid-19 among females in Palestine is now 50.2 per cent of the total number of infections. Of the 1,525 people who have died as a result of the virus, 41.4 per cent were females. According to the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics three Palestinian women were killed and 128 were wounded by the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem during 2020. At the end of the year, there were 40 Palestinian women held by Israel in prison.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



JERICO – HISHAM'S PALACE MOSAICS

Khirbet al-Mafjar, commonly known as Hisham's Palace, is the most important Islamic-period monument in the Jericho area. It was built as a hunting lodge and winter resort in the eighth century during the Umayyad dynasty. The place is named after Caliph Hisham bin Abdul Malek (724–743 AD). The complex consisted of an imposing two-story royal building, a prominent mosque, an ornate bath complex, and an agricultural estate. An elaborate irrigation system provided the buildings with water from nearby springs.



ENVIRONMENT

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DAY

On March 5 of each year, we celebrate the Palestinian National Environment Day. On this occasion the "Go Green Project" was implemented with the support of the World Vision. The Go Green project equipped 37 environmental club members (740 students) with the knowledge equipment and supplies to go green at their own school and to become stewards and advocates for the environment. With this project, schools started to minimize their own environmental waste and to use environment friendly processes such as "go paperless", recycling composting and starting school gardens.

EVENTS

BRITISH NGO LAUNCHES AL-AQSA SOLIDARITY WEEK

The British lobby group Friends of Al-Aqsa has launched its annual week of solidarity with Al-Aqsa Mosque, coinciding with the last week of the Islamic month of Rajab, which this year falls on 6-12 March.

The events aimed at raising awareness about Al-Aqsa Mosque and spreading support within the international community. The hashtag #LoveAqsa has been launched on social media.

AGRICULTURE

FROM A PROFIT GENERATING BUSINESS TO A DOWNTURN PROCESS

Gaza's strawberries are currently being picked and prepared for export and sale, but unfortunately the Israeli closure is preventing exports.

This is a period of unease as during the peak of the season this is only distributed to the local market with some able to penetrate the West Bank market, reducing the value of the crop to more than 60%.

It costs \$5,000 to harvest one dunam (0.01 square kilometers) of strawberries and produce three tonnes of the fruit, and the process takes five months.

If foreign markets are not opened for the export of strawberries, farmers would face a problem in marketing their products in light of the unprecedented recession and stagnation in the local market. It is expected that this season will produce a higher quantity of strawberries than the last due to the increase in the area being cultivated.

AGRICULTURE

GAZA: SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF FISH FARMING PROJECTS

Fish farming in the Gaza Strip has achieved great development during the past few years, as the average annual production increased, and it reached record numbers after the establishment of more farms.

In conjunction with the expansion of farms and the creation of new projects, the vision is to start open breeding in the sea, through special cages that contribute to improving and developing production and reducing costs, which will positively affect prices.

Fish farms produce 600 tons annually, of which 320 tons are exported to the West Bank markets every year, while 280 tons are marketed in the Gaza Strip markets.

HERITAGE

THE PALESTINIAN MUSEUM PREPARES TO BRING 80 THOBES FROM DIASPORA

The Palestinian museum is preparing to bring home 80 legacy Palestinian thobes from the United States, following the success of its first crowdfunding campaign, "Let's Bring Our Thobes Back Home", launched in late November 2020.

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