



EMBASSY OF PALESTINE

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ANNEXING OUR LAND!!!

What is annexation?

The illegal use of force by one State to incorporate the territory of another state into its own territory.

What does Israel Annexation Imply?

Israel started its annexation of Jerusalem in 1967, and its current plans to further annex lands belonging to the State of Palestine. This is a denial of Palestinian national and human rights. It is a threat to peace and stability in the region.

UN position?

UN Secretary-General says that the annexation would constitute a most serious violation of international law and would grievously harm the prospect of a two-State solution. He called on the Israeli Government to abandon its annexation plans.

EU position?

Almost every EU member state opposes Israel's annexation plans. 11 European Foreign Ministers urged to list options to 'deter' Israel's plan and more than 1,000 European MPs called for Israel annexation to be halted and warn of 'consequences'.

SETTLEMENTS

Israel's Settlement Council in the occupied West Bank has announced the development of 164 new housing units in Neve Daniel settlement to the west of the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. This settlement expansion is part of the construction of a new settlers' compound inside the illegal settlement*. It is part of Israel's expansion of the city of Jerusalem, which it now calls "Greater Jerusalem".

Also, a new road for Israeli settlers is being built illegally by the Israeli occupation forces on Palestinian land in the village of Nahalin, west of Bethlehem.

*Based on the result of numerous UN resolutions that cite Article 49 of the Geneva Convention, the consensus view of the international community is that Israeli settlements are illegal and constitute a violation of international law.

IN JERUSALEM CHRISTIAN PRESENCE UNDER THREAT

As many as 13 church leaders in the occupied city of Jerusalem yesterday warned that the Israeli court's decision concerning the Greek Orthodox Church's property at Jaffa Gate threatens the Christian presence in the holy city.

In a joint statement, they said: "We, the Heads of the Churches and Christian Communities in Jerusalem, stand united in our commitment to safeguard the historical Status Quo of the Holy Sites and rights of the Churches which are universally recognized. The case of Jaffa Gate threatens this Status Quo."

PALESTINE & COVID 19

CURRENT STATUS

On July 12, the Palestinian government imposed a night-time and weekend curfew on the occupied West Bank for the following 14 days to try and rein in rising coronavirus numbers. Travel will be prohibited daily from 8:00 pm to 6:00 am in all governorates," as well as from Thursday evening to Sunday morning

There have so far been over 6,150 confirmed cases of COVID 19 infection, with 37 dead.

IMPACT ON PALESTINIAN ECONOMY

An abrupt decline in economic activities and pressure on the Palestinian finances have placed Palestinian livelihoods at high risks, as the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to hit the economy hard. After growth of a mere 1% in 2019, the economy is projected to contract by at least 7.6% in 2020.

The primary results of the IIP (external assets foreign liabilities) for Palestine at the end of the first quarter 2020 revealed that the net IIP amounted to USD 1,763 million, decreased by 16% compared with previous quarter.

SOLIDARITY with Palestinian Prisoners

On the occasion of the International Day in support of victims of Torture, the embassy of Palestine in Hungary circulated a press statement* issued by the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.

"Palestinian detainees have been subjected to terror, insecurity, and injustice under the ongoing prolonged Israel colonial occupation..." The statement adds "currently, Israeli occupation forces detain over 4600 Palestinians; including 180 children, 39 women and 373 under arbitrary administrative detention. They languish in Israeli detention centres in breach of international law. They are subjected to torture methods, solitary confinement, and other inhumane practices under illegal Israeli military system. Furthermore, Israel the occupying power, still withholds the bodies of 268 Palestinian martyrs in violation of article 130 of Fourth Geneva Convention and article 34 of the first Additional Protocol."

*For the full text, please contact the embassy



TOURISM

Beit Sahour Global Handicraft City

The International Crafts Council has officially announced Beit Sahour town as a "Global Handicraft City" with a specialism in the olive wood profession. An international jury delegated by the International Crafts Council who conducted a field evaluation round of arbitration for the city of Beit Sahour in February 2020 to see the traditional handicraft that had been nurtured in the region for many generations, to explore other attributes that could help qualify for the prestigious title.



PALESTINE CENTRE IN BETHLEHEM



VIRTUAL TOUR

A virtual journey around the Holy Land presented by iFocus 360 photography. Please visit <https://360.ps/en/>

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



PALESTINIAN SUNBIRD

Palestinian Sunbird is one of the popular species appearing in Palestine. It is a small Nectariniidae bird, which means that it mainly feeds on flower nectar. You don't really need to go far away from a city to meet a Sunbird – house gardens full of flowers are like perfect restaurants, where they gather to sing and eat. The Palestinian Sunbird probably got its name from the area it appears in.

The bird has been suggested as a national bird of Palestine. It actually already is a national and folk symbol for the Palestinian people. The bird is commonly associated with the area of Palestinian land and even its picture has been used on post stamps.



ARTS

PALESTINIAN POET WIN THE PRIZE FOR THE BEST POET IN ITALY

The Palestinian poet Dr. Odeh Amarneh won the first place in the eight international competition held by the Cecilian Culture and Arts Institute in Messina Italy. Around 800 participants took part in this competition from around the globe.



GAZA ARTISTS' DECORATE MASKS

In the densely populated besieged Gaza Strip, a widespread outbreak of coronavirus would be devastating. But not everyone is taking the risk seriously. Some young artists have started drawing on protective face masks to encourage people to wear them.



AGRICULTURE

JIFNA DAYS APRICOT FAIR

The apricot tree stands apart from even the most cherished fruit trees. The rhythm in the repeated "mish" syllable of the Arabic word mishmish puts your voice somewhere between speaking and whispering.

Setting up a festival centered on this tree is a tradition in Palestine, which shows the strong relationship between the villagers and farmers and the land.

This fair was opened this year on July 13.



SPORTS

ASIA RUGBY WELCOMES PALESTINE AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER

On July 10, Asia Rugby has announced that Palestine has been granted associate membership of the continental governing body, bringing the total number of member unions to 34.

ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY IN PALESTINE

There are about 51 thousand living species (flora and fauna) in historical Palestine, constituting around 3% of global biodiversity.

In the State of Palestine, there are an estimated 30,848 animal species, consisting of an estimated 30 thousand invertebrates, 373 birds, 297 fish, 92 mammals, 81 reptiles and 5 amphibians.



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