



# EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE BUDAPEST - HUNGARY

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## In this Bulletin

- 3,557 New Settlements in Jerusalem	p1
- Israeli Occupation Impact in 2021	p1
- This is How Israel Welcomes the New Year	p1
- Palestine and COVID-19	p2
- Meet Dr. Edward Said	p2
- A Book to Read	p2
- Palestine and Hungary	p2
- Picture of the Month	p3
- 2021 Awards	p4
- Cultural Heritage	p4
- Technology	p4
- Sports	p4

### **3,557 NEW ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED JERUSALEM**

Israel approved plans for building 3,557 new illegal settlement units in occupied Jerusalem.

"One plan is between Har Homa and Givat Hamatos, and the other plans are on the edge of French Hill towards Mount Scopus.

The plan that is located south of Kibbutz Ramat Rachel near Givat Hamatos and Har Homa includes building a new illegal settlement with 1,465 settlement units. According to Peace Now, the new settlement "is intended to connect the settlement of Har Homa with Givat Hamatos and complete the Israeli southern ring that will block the potential Palestinian continuum between the Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and Bethlehem."

### **ISRAELI OCCUPATION IMPACT IN 2021**

According to B'Tselem the Israeli rights group report, the Israeli occupation forces killed 313 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, including 71 minors. The report stated that 236 in the Gaza Strip, mostly during the Israel offensive on Gaza between 11 and 21 May, and 77 in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Israeli occupation demolished 295 Palestinian residential structures in occupied territories in 2021, leaving 895 Palestinians, 463 of them minors, homeless. The Israeli occupation forces have arrested 75 Palestinians in total last year at the Erez Crossing.

In general, the impact aggressive attacks reached the different levels of the Palestinian society through the occupation forces and the Israeli settlers; thus, affecting the wellbeing of the people, violating all human rights and even affecting the environment.

### **THIS IS HOW ISRAEL WELCOMES THE NEW YEAR**

Israeli occupation forces demolished a Palestinian health centre serving 20,000 Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem without prior notice.

Municipality bulldozers raided the Jabal Al-Mukaber neighbourhood after police cordoned the area off and demolished the health centre.

An appeal has previously been submitted to the Israeli courts to stop the demolition order. However, the municipality did not wait for the court's decision and sent its crews without notice.

## PALESTINE & COVID-19

### CURRENT STATUS

There have been so far over 442,357 confirmed cases of COVID, 433,997 recovery cases and 4,724 deaths

### MEET DR. EDWARD SAID



Edward W. Said was born in Jerusalem the capital of Palestine on 1 November 1936 and died on 25 September 2003 in New York City.

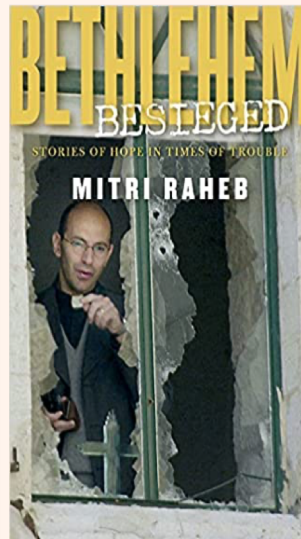
In 1948, the Said family was expropriated of all their assets, and the young Edward became a refugee deciding to fight for the rights of the Palestinian people.

He became a professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University in New York. Trained at Princeton and Harvard, Said taught over one hundred and fifty universities and schools in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Since his thesis on Joseph Conrad, he dealt with colonialism, and he was among the first to introduce radical criticism to the western humanism of Michel Foucault in the USA. He received an international academic fame after a typically post-structuralist book entitled "Beginnings: Intention and Method" (on the topic of the beginning and the impossibility of origin), along with the fundamentals of Orientalism.

## A BOOK TO

### BETHLEHEM BESIEGED:

### STORIES OF HOPE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE



### MITRI RAHEB

The pastor of Christmas Church, a Palestinian Lutheran congregation, Mitri Raheb here presents a powerful collection of compelling personal stories of desperation and hope in the midst of lethal conflict, bringing the Palestinian/Israeli conflict up close and personal. Raheb's lifelong commitment to his people has kept him in the legendary birthplace of Christianity, even as Bethlehem has become a flashpoint in the world's most volatile and hate-filled conflict. His passionate personal testimony lifts up the stray gesture toward friendship, the brave attempts to rebuild life and livelihood in a destroyed land, and the unquenchable desire for justice and peace.

## PALESTINE AND HUNGARY



### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- Acting Head of Mission Dr. Fadi Elhusseini participates in President János Áder New Year's reception in Budapest
- Acting Head of Mission met with Dr. Kemény Gábor Deputy Head of Unit CEPOL
- Acting Head of Mission met with Dr. Balinat Kadar Head of Contemporary Architecture Centre (KEK)
- The Embassy of the State of Palestine issued a circular note concerning new online workshops and training courses for Palestinian students studying in Hungary

### LETTER FROM ACTING HEAD OF MISSION FOR THE NEW YEAR



"This is always a hopeful time as we celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another. While 2021 was difficult for the entire world, it was especially tough for Palestine, facing both the pandemic and the occupation. However, we are dedicated to see in this year a motive and a hope to make brighter days and years. Challenges are always there, but the determination to rise up and meet those challenges have and will always be our spirit that keeps us alive. We will always stand tall and remain committed to bringing a dignified peace that provides freedom, prosperity and security to our people and to everyone. We will continue our work on building more bridges and exploring new paths that would bring Palestine and Hungary closer. This will remain our vision for 2022."



## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



### THE OLD CITY OF BETHLEHEM

The traditional architecture of the old city of Bethlehem dates to the Ottoman period in Palestine (1515-1917) and is constructed over the remains of buildings from the previous eras. A stroll through the historic center of Bethlehem offers beautiful views of curvy stone streets, sometimes topped by rocky arches, and of domed houses with beautifully ornamented doors, windows, and smaller openings.

Some of the old residential buildings are still inhabited by the local Bethlehemite community, who are largely the descendants of the seven family clans that used to make up the original social fabric of the town. The old core of Bethlehem consists of seven historical quarters.



**2021 AWARDS**

Muna and Mohammed El-Kurd named to TIME magazine's annual list of the 100 most-influential people in the world.

Sami and Sameeha Huraini: 2021 Laureates of the Front-Line defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk

Nesreen Qutainah included in the top 50 shortlist for the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize in partnership with UNESCO.

Palestinian-British filmmaker Farah Nabulsi's short film "The Present" has won the award for Best Short Film at the 2021 British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) ceremony

Palestinian star Salim Daou wins the Best Actor award at the Malmo Arab Film Festival

Bayan Abu Salameh, invented a new method for building miniature satellites

Loay Elbasyouni led the engineering team that helped design NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter that ended up at the Red Planet

Four young Palestinian architects won an international competition to design reconstruction plans for the destroyed Port of Beirut.

Seven Palestinian Academic and researchers recognized among the top two percent of the world's most cited scientists in their fields: Dr. Talal Shahwan, Dr. Afif Akel, Dr. Majdi Mafarja, Dr. Rita Giacaman, Dr. Niveen Abu Rmeileh, Dr. Rana Khatib, and Dr. Abdel Latif Hussein.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE****RIWAQ WINS THE GOLDEN PRIZE AT THE HOLCIM AWARDS COMPETITION**

Riwaq Center for Architectural Conservation won the Golden Prize for Middle East Africa region at the 6<sup>th</sup> regional and global Holcim Awards Competition. The ceremony was held in Venice. Riwaq's winning project "Growing Social Fabric in Palestine" focuses on creating an environmental, social, and cultural hub for the local community in the historic centre of Kafr'Aqab.

**TECHNOLOGY****EXPOTECH PALESTINE**

The 14<sup>th</sup> information technology "ExpoTech" started on December 16. The event was organized by the Palestinian Information Technology Association (PITA) in Ramallah and Gaza with the vision of "Digital transformation, a bipolar impact for the private and public sectors"

**SPORTS****PALESTINE WON AGAINST LEBANON IN THE WAFF**

On January 8, Palestine (U14 Girls) national team won against Lebanon in the first West Asian U14 Girls Championship WAFF.

**PALESTINE WON THE BRONZE MEDAL AT WEST ASIA BEACH VOLLEYBALL**

On January 4, the Palestinian National team won the bronze medal in the West Asia Volleyball Zonal Tour in Doha Qatar.

**PALESTINE WON THE BRONZE MEDAL AT ASIA KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Palestine bagged another bronze medal at Asia Karate Championship in Almaty, capital of Kazakhstan. Hala al-Qadi won the bronze medal in women's Under-21 61 kgs of kumite in the Asian Karate Championships in Almaty, bringing the total of bronze medals clinched by Palestine to three.

**STAY CONNECTED**

1025 Budapest, Felső Zöldmáli út 120 Hungary  
+36-1-326-0340/11 +36-1-325-7579/11

[embassy@palestineemb.hu](mailto:embassy@palestineemb.hu) [admin@palestine.hu](mailto:admin@palestine.hu)



@Palestine\_Hungary



@EmbassyHungary



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