

Gwendolyn C Skaggs
Long Live Palestine
Color inkjet print on archival paper
Limited Edition
18 x 24 inches

All of these national symbols of Palestine are endangered, under siege, and attacked as threats of erasure are intentionally realized through genocide, culturecide and ecocide by Israel since 1948.



The National Flower of Palestine: Faqqua Iris

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By Imad Atrash and Maha Abu Gharbieh

Since 1967, Israeli occupation authorities have aimed to separate Palestinian society from its natural surroundings while presenting themselves as the protectors of the environment. However, many Palestinians were determined to preserve nature long before the Palestinian Authority was established following the Oslo Agreement. In 1999, 13 Important Bird Areas were identified in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and recognized nationally. Most recently, 15 Key Biodiversity Areas in the West Bank have been proposed and are waiting to be approved at the national level. Despite the Israeli occupation and the associated destruction of natural areas, grassroots organizations and NGOs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as the EQA have succeeded in identifying and protecting natural sites and their creatures. Thus, Palestine's national bird, the Palestinian sunbird (*Cinnyris osea*), (عصافير الشمس الفلسطيني) (سوسن فقوعة) are now considered to be intrinsic symbols of the State of Palestine.



The Palestine sunbird (Cinnyris osea) is a small passerine bird of the sunbird family, Nectariniidae. Found in parts of the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa, it is also known as the northern orange-tufted sunbird. However, the name "orange-tufted sunbird" refers to another species, found further south in Africa. In 2015, the Palestinian Authority adopted the species as a national bird. The specific name *osea* is derived from Ancient Greek ὁσία, ("hosia, "holy").

The National Bird of Palestine: Male Palestine Sunbird (*Cinnyris osea*)

The Palestinian keffiyeh (Arabic: كوفية, romanized: kūfiyya) is a distinctly patterned black and-white keffiyeh. White keffiyehs had been traditionally worn by Palestinian peasants and bedouins to protect from the sun, when Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire. Its use as a symbol of Palestinian nationalism and resistance dates back to the 1936–1939 Arab revolt in Palestine, which saw its wider use by more sections of Palestinian society. Outside of the Middle East and North Africa, the keffiyeh first gained popularity among pro-Palestinian activists; it is widely considered to be an icon of solidarity with the Palestinians during the ongoing genocide and attempted erasure of Palestine.

Gaza's farmers compare the giant and vibrant strawberries to gold and say that they are proud of their harvests - despite the challenges they face due to the Israeli occupation

Rakan Abed El Rahman

In Gaza, many refer to strawberries as 'red gold'. Farming in the besieged Gaza Strip is not easy, particularly as workers are up against plenty of obstacles and challenges imposed by Israel. Gaza, which has been under an Israeli land, sea, and air blockade for over 15 years, faces numerous restrictions, which impact the daily lives of residents and labourers. Along with water resources, other main restrictions that have been imposed by Israel is limits on some types of fertiliser that farmers use, as they are considered "dual usage items", along with water sources

For Palestinians in the West Bank, This Olive Harvest Is Literally Life-Threatening As Israeli settlers ramp up their attacks across the West Bank, Palestinians are being forced to choose between their lives and their livelihoods. By Hana Elias November 15, 2023

The settler violence that is currently taking place has coincided dangerously with the olive harvest season, which occurs between October and November each year. Settlers have long targeted Palestinians during this period, aiming to disrupt their agricultural livelihoods. Since 1967, settlers have uprooted more than 800,000 Palestinian-owned olive trees. The burning of olive trees and mass swaths of agricultural land in the village of Burin, near Nablus, in July stands out as a tragic reminder of the ongoing theft. But the past five weeks have brought altogether new levels of state-backed settler violence.

