

Media Update

28 November 2018

United Nations

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

29 November 2018

This year's International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People takes place at a time of turmoil, trouble and torment.

The decades-long Palestinian struggle for self-determination, independence and a life of dignity faces numerous obstacles, including: continued military occupation of Palestinian territory; ongoing violence and incitement; continued settlement construction and expansion; deep uncertainties about the peace process; and deteriorating humanitarian and economic conditions, particularly in Gaza.

The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is providing indispensable services and needs our full support.

I urge Israel, Palestine and all others with influence to restore the promise and viability of the two-state solution premised on two states living side by side in peace, harmony and within secure and recognised borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rights of the Palestinian people and to building a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

Background:

Unrealized right, unfulfilled promises



70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the Palestinian Nakba

In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (resolution 32/40 B). On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine (resolution 181 (II))

In resolution 60/37 of 1 December 2005, the Assembly requested the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the UN.

The resolution on the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People also encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity.

UNESCO

PRESS RELEASE

Pakistan's first exclusive nomination--Kalasha practice of Suri Jagek—inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Culture in need for Urgent Safeguarding List

Islamabad: - The thirteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage took place in Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius, from Monday 26 November to Saturday 1 December 2018. Chaired by the Honourable Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun, Minister of Arts and Culture of the Republic of Mauritius, the meeting inscribed , among many practices, the practice of Suri Jagek from Pakistan's indigenous Kalasha people on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

A first exclusive inscription for 2003 Convention for Pakistan—the other two being Nauroz and Falconry shared with neighbour countries in the region—Suri Jagek (literally, observing the sun) is a Kalasha meteorological and astronomical practice carried out in December on the winter solstice and is based on the observation of the sun, moon and stars in reference to the local topography. Ms Sajida Vandal, a UNESCO ICH expert, and Mr Naushad Khaliq, a section officer at the National History and Literary Heritage division, attended the meeting and spoke on the importance of the practice for Kalasha community, a slowly-diminishing group of around 4000 people settled in three valleys in the Chitral district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Members of Kalasha community spearheaded the process leading up to the nomination and were facilitated by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the National History and Literary Heritage Division, UNESCO Islamabad, and the Canadian and the Swiss embassies with the research for the process carried out by Trust for History, Art and Architecture in Punjab (THAAP) and Institute for Art and Culture (IAC), Lahore-based organizations run by Ms Vandal.

The successful inscription of Suri Jagek on the ICH List is a testament to the country's rich cultural diversity and, more importantly, to Kalasha's positive contributions towards Pakistan through goodwill and revenue generated by the increasing number of tourists, domestic and foreign, who visit the valleys every year.

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