

Gaza kids disregarded as Disney donates \$2m to Israel



Social Desk

The Walt Disney Company announced that it would donate \$2 million to “humanitarian efforts” in Israel. Magen David Adom, an Israeli emergency service, will receive \$1 million, while the rest will be donated to Israeli non-profit organizations.

Bob Iger, CEO of Disney, expressed the need to “support the innocent people,” especially children, who are “experiencing pain, violence, and uncertainty” due to the recent “terrorist attacks targeting Jews in Israel.”

His support of the “innocent people” comes whilst the unrelenting bombardment of Gaza by the Israeli military has resulted in the deaths of over 2,700 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, and the displacement of almost half a million civilians from the besieged enclave. Yet, there is no mention of innocent Palestinian children who are expe-

riencing the horrors of a devastating war waged against their motherland. Disney’s decision has faced criticism from pro-Palestinian activists online, with some users expressing their intention to cancel their Disney+ subscriptions.

Needless to say, by donating to Israel, Disney is indirectly supporting Israeli “war crimes,” including the killing of hundreds of innocent Palestinian children. Such a measure is nothing but a blatant act of hypocrisy from Disney, a company that provides entertainment mainly for kids.

Donating money to Israel at this turn is equivalent to being complicit in countless violations of human rights, and supportive of Israel’s disproportionate use of force against the people of Gaza, described by many as the world’s largest “open-air prison.”

Surely, such aid to Israel undermines the rights and well-being of Palestinian children who have also been affected by the bloody conflict.

IRCS in talks to set up field hospital near Gaza border



Social Desk

The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has announced the organization’s commitment to providing humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

“We are currently in consultation to establish a field hospital near the Gaza border in order to provide medical treatment to the injured Palestinians,” said Pir-Hossein Kolivand, according to IRNA.

The head of IRCS expressed his views during the national conference of the Ethics of Aid on Monday.

He pointed out the simultaneity of the conference with the brutal attacks carried out by the Zionist regime in Palestine, and said, “The ongoing events in Gaza are unprecedented, and it is disheartening that the world remains silent. There is no way to provide relief or even send the basic necessities to the people of Palestine and Gaza.”

Kolivand went on to explain that efforts are being made to establish a field hospital for the treatment of individuals in close proximity to the Gaza border, with consultations taking place through Egypt.

Highlighting the importance of ethical practices within the IRCS and

among aid workers, Kolivand emphasized that adhering to ethical standards enhances the social capital of the organization.

“Furthermore, all voluntary and humanitarian actions carried out by the IRCS, both domestically and internationally, are aligned with the ethics of aid workers,” he said.

Kolivand continued by stating that the Ethics of Aid conference focuses on various aspects of ethics, including individual, managerial, organizational, job-related, professional, and extra-organizational ethics.

He then strongly condemned the attack on Palestinian medical staff and aid workers by the Zionists, labeling it a violation of international law. He also announced ongoing negotiations with regional countries to facilitate the delivery of essential supplies and aid to Gaza.

The Ethics of Aid scientific conference aimed to promote the moral motivations of rescuers and volunteers, establish a system to honor voluntary services, improve the ethical standards of rescuers, address ethical dilemmas in rescue operations, and provide spiritual support to the injured and those in need of assistance.

Muslim boy killed in Illinois hate crime



An Illinois landlord accused of fatally stabbing a 6-year-old Muslim boy and seriously wounding his mother was charged with a hate crime after police and relatives said he singled out the victims because of their faith and as a response to the war between Israel and Hamas.

In recent days, police in US cities and federal authorities have been on high alert for violence driven by antisemitic or Islamophobic sentiments. FBI officials, along with Jewish and Muslim groups, have reported an increase of hateful and threatening rhetoric, according to Associated Press.

Officers found the 32-year-old woman and boy late Saturday morning at a home in an unincorporated area of Plainfield Township, about 65 kilometers southwest of Chicago.

The boy was pronounced dead at a hospital. The woman had multiple stab wounds and was expected to survive. An autopsy on the child showed he had been stabbed dozens of times.

“Detectives were able to determine that both victims in this brutal attack were targeted by the suspect due to them being Muslim and the on-going Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis,” the local sheriff’s statement said.

The man suspected in the attack was found Saturday outside the home and “sitting upright outside on the ground near the driveway of the residence” with a cut on his forehead, authorities said.

The boy’s paternal uncle, Yousef Hannon, spoke at a news conference Sunday hosted by the Chicago chapter Council on American-Islamic Relations where the boy’s father was in attendance. There the boy was identified as Wadea Al-Fayoume, a Palestinian American boy who recently had turned 6.

“We are not animals, we are humans. We want people to see us as humans, to feel us as humans, to deal with us as humans, because this is what we are,” said Hannon, a Palestinian American who immigrated to the US in 1999 to work.

The Muslim civil liberties organization called the crime “our worst nightmare” and part of a disturbing spike in hate calls and emails since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

From reviving a date farm to building a mud house: Travels of an eco-tourist

By Mahdieh Qazvinian & Yeganeh Kiani
Staff writers

With its diverse natural attractions, namely its mountains, forests, lakes, and caves, Iran can offer any nature-lover something to appreciate. Any enthusiastic eco-tourist, no matter what their field of interest – zoology, geography, ornithology, history, botany, or photography – can find a place to quench their thirst for sights to see.

Ali Taleqani, a nature enthusiast, was born in Tehran in 1992. At the age of 13, he went to Malaysia with his family. When he was 18, he came back to Iran with a group of eco-tourists. At the age of 19,

he discovered that he was really keen on nature tourism and guiding tours.

A tireless, spirited traveler, Ali likes to experience new things. At 21, he decided to start his travel adventures without much money, using cheaper means of transportation. First, he reached the border of Nurduz (between Iran and Armenia), and crossed it into Armenia. He then went on to visit Georgia and, finally, Turkey. Ali considers the adventure he undertook as self-growth.

“As I entered Armenia, the only thing I had with myself was a backpack and little bit of money. So, I decided to work and earn some money. I stayed with locals, which helped me discover new ways to travel. In addition, my hosts guided me in

some of the best journeys of my life. On top of that, I got to enjoy authentic local cuisine, markets, and much more.”

After his travels to the South Caucasus, Ali embarked on another journey to Iran, visiting different cities and learning as much as he could on soil structure and permaculture (the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient). This knowledge helped him restore a date farm that had been dried up for 40 years.

The date farm was located on the southern island of Hengam. The palm trees of the farm were not cared for, and almost never watered. Seasonal rainfall watered the trees, but the canals that carried the water to the

trees were blocked and, therefore, the palms were left thirsty for a long time. However, with his knowledge of permaculture, Ali revived those water canals and thus the dried up date farm was restored. He also taught some of the local teenagers how to take care of the farm on their own.

Recently, Ali has taken a few trips to Iran’s nomadic regions in order to record the traditional lifestyle of nomads. Nomadic lifestyle in Iran could be defined as the harmonious interaction of people, nature, animals, and change of seasons. The nomadic tribes’ subsistence mainly depends on their livestock.

Some of the well-known nomadic tribes in Iran are



the Bakhtiari and the Qashqai, with a population of over 300,000 between them. The rest of the tribes, like the Shabsavan, Mamivand, and others, have less than 50,000 people each.

The nomadic lifestyle has all but one key aspect: migration. They travel twice a year with their logistics. In search of more temperate weather, they climb the hills and mountains, enduring the hardships of crossing valleys and rivers in order to find better pastures and water.

One of Ali’s more memorable

travels came when he decided to go to India. He learned and explored so many new things during his trip to the vast country.

There, he decided to spend a few months in the forest. Therefore, he made himself a house with mud walls and lived in it. Moreover, he learned how to make herbal medicines, and made his living through selling them to the locals.

“I find traveling and ecotourism relaxing and exciting. I don’t think I’ll ever quit,” he said.

