



## Week 12: Natural Resources

WEEK  
**12** MAR. 19  
TO  
MAR. 25

### NATURAL RESOURCES

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Palestinians have been denied access to the Jordan River, their main surface water resource, since 1967

Israeli transfers industrial waste to treatment plants in the West Bank without Palestinian consent and causing pollution.

Sources: EWASH, OCHA oPt, OHCHR, Al-Haq

<http://kuminow.com/NaturalResources>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

**Please note that clocks don't spring forward Palestine and Israel until NEXT weekend. As such, this Tuesday's webinar (like last week) will be an hour later**

*than usual in the United States and Canada. Please see the expanded time listings below. We hope you can still make it!*

You can [download this week's newsletter in PDF right here](#).

Share your olive tree photos! We know that some of you have planted olive trees, either as part of Kumi Now or in years past. We'd love to see them! [Send us](#) a photo to [kumi@kuminow.com](mailto:kumi@kuminow.com) and we'll feature it in an upcoming newsletter and online.

On Tuesday we had the pleasure of hearing **Father Raed Abu Sahlieh**, founder of the **Olive Branch Foundation** speak about the importance of olive trees to Palestinian culture and the economy. He is quite the speaker, and quite the lover of olive trees, as his Facebook page, [Old Olive Trees of Palestine](#), demonstrates. The replay of the session is now available [on YouTube](#) and [on our website](#). The website includes his bio and all of the links shared during the gathering.

We would love it if you could share the session with your community. You could use language such as:

*Olive trees are a critical piece of Palestinian culture and the economy. This makes them a regular target for Israeli settlers as they continue to wage war by destroying these ancient trees. Learn more about olive trees in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-mZQhcl-ts>*

Finally, If you would like to speak for up to 5 minutes in a future meeting about how you are using Kumi Now or otherwise advocating for Palestine, please [email us](#) at [kumi@kuminow.com](mailto:kumi@kuminow.com).



Happy [World Water Day](#) (on Monday)! As you consider what water means to you and the role it plays in your life, let's move on to information on our next Kumi Now online gathering:

**March 23: Week 12 - Natural Resources**

[Read the full entry online.](#)

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| WEEK<br><b>12</b><br>KUMI<br>NOW<br>ONLINE  | <b>NATURAL<br/>         RESOURCES</b>  |   |
|   | featuring<br>Dr. Mazin<br>Qumsiyeh of<br>the Palestine<br>Museum of<br>Natural History | <b>TUESDAY<br/>         MARCH 23<br/>         6PM<br/>         (UTC+2)</b>        |
|  |       |  |

*Please note that clocks don't spring forward Palestine and Israel until NEXT weekend. As such, this Tuesday's webinar (like last week) will be an hour later than usual in the United States and Canada. Please see the expanded time listings below. We hope you can still make it!*

This week, as the United Nations and the world observe World Water Day on March 22, we will focus on environmental exploitation. The West Bank is rich in natural resources. However, due to Israel's occupation and control over the occupied Palestinian territory, access to and use of Palestinians' natural resources is obstructed. Rampant throughout the occupied territory, this practice is at its worst around the Dead Sea, where Israel exploits the land for its water and minerals.

Our guest is our friend **Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh**, founder (along with his wife) of the **Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS)** and **Palestine Museum of Natural History (PMNH)** at Bethlehem University.

**Time:** Tuesday, March 23, at 6:00 PM East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+2) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 9am
- Central (Chicago): 11am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 12pm
- Atlantic: 1pm
- Newfoundland: 1:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm
- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 5pm
- Manila: 12pm

**Zoom Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (The meetings require a simple registration now, but it only takes a second.)

Remember, if you'd like to receive a reminder about the gathering an hour before it begins, please use the [registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

And here's what we have coming up in March so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

# KUMI NOW ONLINE: MARCH, 2021



## Coming up in Kumi Now

Each week below will have an online gathering with a guest or guests speaking on the topic. The time and Zoom registration link will be the same each week.

The weekly newsletter will always contain reminders of the upcoming online gatherings and the Zoom link. But if you're like me and need a reminder right before the sessions begin, you can [register to receive a reminder email one hour prior to each online gathering](#). And no more digging through your inbox looking for the Zoom link! Just [use the registration form at the bottom of the page](#).



## March 30: Week 13 - Conditions in Gaza

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On March 30 Palestinians celebrate Land Day, a commemoration of the first Palestinian general strike, in 1976, against land confiscation in Israel. On the same date in 2018, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip launched the Great March of Return to protest the blockade of Gaza and demand the right to return to their lands. This week, the Kumi Now community stands in solidarity with the citizens of Gaza as we focus on the blockade.

For our Kumi Action we will "check in" to Gaza on social media and share videos and other resources on Gaza with others.

## Kumi Now

WEEK MAR. 19  
**12** TO  
MAR. 25

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Just the facts...

*Palestinians have been denied access to the Jordan River, their main surface water resource, since 1967.*

*40% of surface water pollution comes from Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem.*

*Restrictions to grazing land have undermined herding livelihoods and increased the dependency on humanitarian aid.*

*There are 122 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas off the Mediterranean coast. Palestine can access none of it.*

*As a result, the oPt is dependent on Israel for its energy and imports 100% of its petroleum.*

*Combined Israeli restrictions on agriculture cost the Palestinian economy US \$2.2 billion each year.*

*Israel earns US \$3 billion each year from Dead Sea products.*

*Israeli transfers industrial waste to treatment plants in the West Bank without Palestinian consent and causing pollution.*

*Israeli companies extract 17 million tons of West Bank stone annually, almost all for the Israeli market, despite prohibitions in international law against exploiting an occupied territory.*

*In Gaza, 95 percent of water is now unfit for human consumption due to pollution.*

*Sources: EWASH, OCHA oPt, OHCHR, Al-Haq*

**<http://kuminow.com/NaturalResources>**

**Please note:** To match the dates in the book, we will now be posting a new entry each Friday, and this newsletter should go out each Friday or Saturday.

**Sharing and publicizing:** The graphics in this newsletter are designed to be the perfect size and shape to share to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. So each week you can help the cause simply by sharing these images online. It's one more option you have to help.

#### **Kumi Week #12: Natural Resources**

Week 12 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](http://kuminow.com/NaturalResources). Palestine is rich in natural resources. However, due to Israel's occupation and control over the occupied Palestinian territory, access to and use of Palestinians' natural resources is obstructed. Rampant throughout the occupied territory, this practice is at its worst around the Dead Sea, where Israel exploits the land for its water and minerals. As the United Nations and the world observe World Water Day on March 22, the Kumi Now community is focusing on this environmental exploitation. Here's what you need to know and what you can do so that together we can *rise up*.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of the farmer Fa'iq Ahmad Sbeih. And here are a few more facts for you:



## Understanding Natural Resources: Just the Facts...

- Palestinians have been denied access to the Jordan River, their main surface water resource, since 1967.
- 40% of surface water pollution comes from Israeli settlements in the West Bank Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem, including settlements there.
- 16 Palestinian communities are dependent on springs as their only source of drinking water.
- Access restrictions to grazing land have undermined herding and agricultural livelihoods and increased the dependency on humanitarian assistance.
- 30% of drinking water in Gaza is lost through network leaks.
- Israeli quarry companies extract 17 million tons of West Bank stone annually, almost all for the Israeli market, despite prohibitions in international law against exploiting an occupied territory.
- The transfer of Israeli industrial waste to treatment plants in the West Bank, without Palestinian consent, contributes to the environmental scarring of the occupied territory.
- In Gaza, the collapse of the coastal aquifer is contributing to a significant health crisis among two million Palestinians.
- There are 122 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas off the Mediterranean coast of Gaza, Israel and Lebanon. Palestine can access none of it.
- As a result, the oPt is almost completely dependent on Israel for its energy and imports 100% of its petroleum.
- Israel earns \$3 billion each year from Dead Sea products, and its 15 hotels on the shore generate around \$291 million.
- Israel's national water company, Mekorot, routinely cuts the water supply to Palestinians — sometimes by as much as 50 percent — during the summer months in order to meet demand in the settlements.
- In Gaza, 95 percent of water is now unfit for human consumption due to pollution.
- Combined Israeli restrictions on agriculture cost the Palestinian economy \$2.2 billion each year.
- The World Bank estimates that Palestine would boost its economy by \$3.4 billion if it was able to exploit its own resources.

These facts are drawn from the following reports and sources:

- **EWASH Advocacy Task Force's** ["Water resources in the West Bank"](#)
- ["Occupied Palestinian Territory: Humanitarian Facts and Figures"](#) from **OCHA oPt**
- ["Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967"](#) from **OHCHR**
- ["Facts on the Ground: How Natural Resources Fuel the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"](#) from **AI-Haq**

### Learning More

To learn more, you should watch:

- **AI-Haq's** short video ["How Israeli Settlements exploit Palestinian natural resources"](#)
- The panel discussion ["Environmental Justice: Exploitation of Palestinian Natural Resources"](#)

To go deeper, we have an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week's entry and we're developing a [YouTube playlist](#) on the subject.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week:

## Kumi Action



Consumer due diligence: look out for Dead Sea products in your local shops and request more information from the shop regarding the products' origin to ensure that products are not originating from or linked to Israeli settlements.

Raise awareness about AHAVA products and their illegality in your local community, for example by sharing "[Virtual Field Visit: Natural Resource Exploitation in the Dead Sea Area – The Case of AHAVA](#)" from Al-Haq.

You can also email Fosun International Ltd. (the current owners of AHAVA) requesting they halt operations in the occupied Palestinian territory via [investment@fosun.com](mailto:investment@fosun.com), [PR@fosun.com](mailto:PR@fosun.com), [HR@fosun.com](mailto:HR@fosun.com), and [IR@fosun.com](mailto:IR@fosun.com).

Share the video and any emails you send on social media. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #DeadSea, #KumiNow, and #Kumi12.

## News

*Important news going on in Palestine, Israel, and the diaspora, from trusted sources of news.*

### News

- Israel heads to the polls on Tuesday for their fourth elections in two years. ([Al Jazeera video](#))
- Right after we published the newsletter last week, the West Bank went into lockdown again, as COVID-19 continues to surge and deaths have reached their highest point yet. ([Mondoweiss](#))
- Palestine marked the 18th anniversary of the murder of activist Rachel Corrie this last week, on March 16. ([Palestine Chronicle](#)) ([MEMO](#))
- Israel is trying to recruit support in Europe to end the ICC war crimes investigation. ([Electronic Intifada](#))
- B'Tselem has documented a surge in Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians. ([Al-Jazeera](#))

### Opinion and Analysis

- **Omar H. Rahman** looks forwards to the Palestinian elections in May, arguing "[Why elections are key to re-energizing Palestinian politics](#)".
- **Basil al-Adraa** documents recent settler violence in the South Hebron Hills, in "[The settler bashed my head with a pipe, and everything went dark](#)" for **+972 Magazine**.
- **Edo Konrad** argues that "[LGBTQ rights have become a litmus test in Palestinian society](#)" for **+972 Magazine**.

### Publications

- **Washington Report on Middle East Affairs** has released their [March/April 2021](#)

[issue](#).

- **This Week in Palestine** has released their [March 2021 issue](#), focused on "Women's Empowerment".
- **The Institute for Palestine Studies** has released the [newest issue](#) of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*.
- **The Institute for Palestine Studies** has released the [Winter 2020 edition](#) of *Jerusalem Quarterly*. You can [download the PDF edition](#) for free. It is part 2 of a "Home and House" theme. You can find the [first issue here](#).

## Get Involved

*Updates on how Kumi Now partner organizations and other organizations are engaging in the struggle for Palestinian human rights and equality, and ways that you can help.*

### This Week

- **March 16 to 21:** It is [Israeli Apartheid Week](#). PSC has a long list of [events you can join](#).
- **Tuesday, March 23:** Join us for the latest **Kumi Now** online gathering. Information is near the beginning of the newsletter.
- **Thursday, March 25: Rebuilding Alliance** will hold "Rebuilding Hope: a Benefit for Palestinian Equal Rights & Direct Aid" and will be honoring Dr. Hanan Ashrawi. It is at 5pm Pacific time. [Register here](#).
- **Thursday, March 25: Americans for Peace Now** will host Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin for "[Analyzing Israel's Election Results](#)".
- **Thursday, March 25: FOSNA** will help host "Witness Silwan: Christian Zionism and Dispossession in East Jerusalem" at 12pm Eastern, 6pm Palestine time. [Register here](#).

### Future

- **March 29 to April 1: Tamleh – The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media** is hosting [Palestine Digital Activism Forum 2021](#).
- **Wednesday, March 31:** The **Jerusalem Fund** will host "A Jewish Case for Equality in Israel-Palestine" with Peter Beinart. The event will [stream on YouTube](#) and you can also [register here](#).
- **April 3:** FOSNA will host "[Easter in Jerusalem](#)".
- **April 18 and 19: J Street** will host its annual virtual conference. [Registration is now open](#).

### Ongoing Campaigns

- **NEW!** The **Palestinian Feminist Collective (PFC)** has released a statement affirming Palestine as a feminist issue. You can [sign the petition here](#).
- **NEW!** Join **Stop the Wall** and **Al-Haq** and over 550 organizations calling on the UN Human Rights Council to stop Israel's impunity in repeatedly destroying the village of Humsa. [Sign the petition](#).

## Organizations in Action

### Kumi Partners

*Updates on how Kumi Now partner organizations are engaging in the struggle for Palestinian human rights and equality.*

- **Al-Haq** has published a [guide to what the ICC's recent ruling actually means](#).
- **Arab Educational Institute (AEI)** released the short video "[Sumud youth advocacy in the occupied West Bank](#)".

- **Defence for Children Palestine** released the video [“Palestinian children in Gaza dream of a better future”](#).
- **Palestinian Centre for Human Rights** published their [Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory \(11-17 March 2021\)](#).
- **Sabeel** published the [Wave of Prayer for the week of March 18](#).

### Other Organizations

*Updates, reports, and actions from the United Nations, governments, and other international organizations that relate to Palestine.*

- **Applied Research Institute–Jerusalem** released [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) of “Bethlehem Caught in Crossfire”.
- **Applied Research Institute–Jerusalem** also released a 5-part documentary series called “The water issue in the Palestinian Territories”: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 4](#), and [Part 5](#).
- **Foundation for Middle East Peace** hosted [“Israel & Palestine: U.S. Aid to Israel & the Palestinians”](#).
- **Institute for Palestine Studies** held the discussion [“Implications of the ICC's Jurisdiction over the West Bank and Gaza”](#).
- **Kairos West Michigan** held an interesting panel on [“Is Confederation Worth A Try In Israel-Palestine?”](#) including participants such as Sam Bahour.
- **OCHA oPt** published [Protection of Civilians Report | 2 - 15 March 2021](#).
- **OCHA oPt** published [West Bank demolitions and displacement | February 2021](#).
- **Palestine Deep Dive** released [“From Gaza to Mars: Loay Elbasyouni”](#), an interview with Loay Elbasyouni, originally from Beit Hanoun in Gaza, who was electronic lead for the Mars Ingenuity Helicopter which recently landed on the Red Planet.
- **Palestine Solidarity Campaign** held [“Understanding Israeli Apartheid”](#) as part of Israeli Apartheid Week.
- **Palestine Solidarity Campaign** also participated in [“United Against Racism, Resisting Israeli Apartheid”](#) as part of the week.
- **United Nations** published [NGO Action News – 18 March 2021](#).

## Arts and Culture

*Recent and not-so-recent films, books, music, and other arts related to Palestine, as well as news about festivals and other events*



### ***The Present***

We were excited to learn that [Farah Nabulsi's](#) Oscar-nominated short film (24 minutes) ***The Present*** is now [streaming on Netflix](#). Sadly, it looks like it [might not be available in the UK and Japan](#).

About the film:

“On his wedding anniversary, Yusef and his young daughter set out in the West Bank to buy his wife a gift. Between soldiers, segregated roads and checkpoints, how easy would it be to go shopping?”



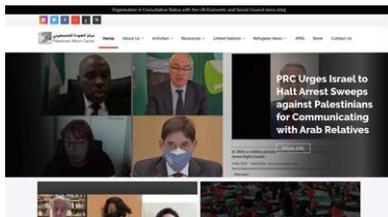
## Mars at Sunrise

The **Palestine Film Institute's** film of the week is **Mars at Sunrise** (Drama, 75 minutes). I believe you have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). About the film:

“A Palestinian artist tells a Jewish-American poet how he was tortured by a failed Israeli artist who wanted to turn him into an informant. Mars at Sunrise depicts a war waged on the imagination. A painter’s resistance, courage and spirit can never be imprisoned in this highly stylized story of the conflict of two frustrated artists on either side of Israel’s militarized borders.”

## You Should Know

*One or two people, companies, or organizations you should know, and how you can follow them online.*



## Palestinian Return Centre

The [Palestinian Return Centre \(PRC\)](#) is an independent, non-partisan organization committed to advocating for Palestinian refugees. In July 2015, PRC was granted consultative status at the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO). PRC “remains committed to working for the right of return for Palestinian refugees displaced after the two mass exoduses of 1948 and 1967, and the ongoing waves of refugees created by Israel and conflicts in the region.”

PRC is another one of those organizations regularly producing high quality news and media about Palestine and Palestinian advocacy. A couple highlights include two films they have recently produced:

- The short film [100 Balfour Road](#)
- The documentary [Seven Days in Beirut](#), for Al Jazeera

But they also hold webinars, host the annual [Return Week](#) in December, produce [reports](#), [advise the United Nations](#), maintain a [news center about Palestinian refugee communities](#), and many other things. We suggest following them in one or more forms so you can better understand what they do.

You can subscribe follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#). They also have a [PDF brochure](#) to learn more about them and you can subscribe to their newsletter from their [homepage](#).

## What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Friday/Saturday, focused on our next issue, [Conditions in Gaza](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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