



Week 15: Home Demolitions

WEEK
15

APR. 9
TO
APR. 15

HOME DEMOLITIONS

Over 7,100 structures have been demolished in the occupied Palestinian territory by Israeli forces since 2009.

On November 3, 2020, 73 Palestinians, including 41 children, were displaced when Israel committed a mass demolition in the village of Humsa Al Bqai'a.



In the midst of the COVID pandemic demolitions spiked, averaging 65 per month, the highest rate in four years.

Sources: MCC, OCHA OPT, ICAHD

<http://kuminow.com/HomeDemolitions>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

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

On Tuesday we had the pleasure of hearing **Gerard Horton**, co-director of the **Military Court Watch**, speak about Israel's use of the military court system to target Palestinian minors and their families. 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.

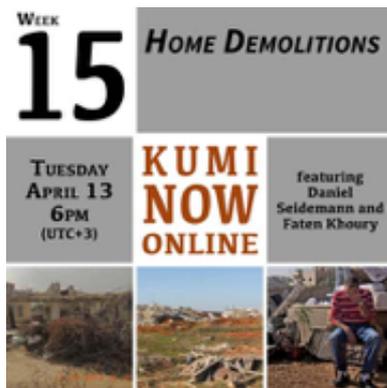
We would love it if you could share the session with your community. You could use language such as:

Last week we learned how Palestinian children are a target of the occupation and, in the words of Al-Haq, part of the psychological warfare “utilized by Israel to constantly remind the Palestinian population that it is subjugated and occupied.” Our guest was Gerard Horton, co-director of Military Court Watch. Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-jgmqjJ6_A

You can follow up on our webinar by joining **Salwa Duaibis** and **Gerard Horton**, co-founders of **Military Court Watch** for the **Canadian Voices for Palestinian Rights** webinar on “The Mechanics of Occupation - Children in Military Detention”. It is Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 11am Eastern, 6pm Palestine time. April 17 is Palestinian Prisoners' Day. You can [register here](#).

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, or to promote your own events for Palestine, please [email us](#) at kumi@kuminow.com.

Now here's information on the next Kumi Now online gathering:



April 13: Week 15 - Home Demolitions

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The use of violence, demolitions, and psychological warfare to force and scare Palestinians into leaving their homes and villages go back to the roots of the conflict. In 1948, operations such as the Deir Yassin massacre, which occurred April 9, destroyed whole villages and forced others to flee. While Israel's current home demolitions avoid much of the physical violence of those early operations, they still maintain the psychological elements, attempting to physically force them from their homelands and disincentivizing them from staying in their villages.

Our guests are **Daniel Seidemann** and **Faten Khoury**.

Time: Tuesday, April 13, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+3) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11am
- Atlantic: 12pm
- Newfoundland: 12:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm
- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 5pm
- Manila: 11pm

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 April so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

KUMI NOW ONLINE: APRIL, 2021

Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17
			
April 6 <i>Child Fatalities</i>	April 13 <i>Home Demolitions</i>	April 20 <i>Administrative Detention</i>	April 27 <i>Nation-State Law</i>

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM

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](#).



April 20: Week 16 - Administrative Detention

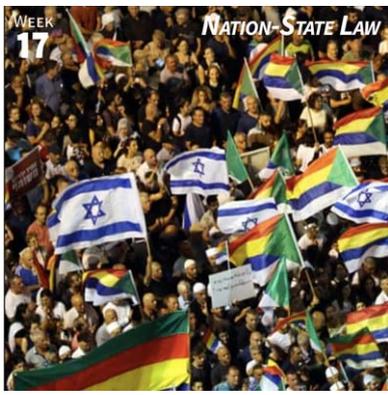
[Read the full entry online.](#)

This Palestinian Prisoners Day, April 17, let us remember the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners. At the end of 2019, 464 of these prisoners were being held through administrative detention. Through administrative detention, Palestinian detainees can be held indefinitely, with few legal rights.

For our Kumi Action we perform a thought experience on administrative detention, write about it, and share our experiences with others.

April 27: Week 17 - Nation-State Law

[Read the full entry online.](#)



On May 1, 2018, the Knesset passed the Nation-State law (officially Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People) in its first reading. As we approach the anniversary of this passage, we as a Kumi Community want to analyze this law and what it means for Palestinians and other minorities in Israel.

For our Kumi Action we will make it clear that it is not too late for Israeli politicians to change their direction and pass legislation that would provide equality for all of its citizens.

Kumi Now

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HOME DEMOLITIONS

Just the facts...

Since 1967, over 50,000 homes and structures have been demolished in the oPt.

Over 7,100 structures have been demolished since 2009.

Almost 2,000 of those were occupied homes.

Over 11,000 people have lost their homes.

In 2020, Israel demolished 865 structures and 1,014 people lost their homes in the West Bank.

On November 3, 2020, 73 Palestinians, including 41 children, were forcibly displaced when Israeli authorities committed a mass demolition in the village of Humsa Al Bqai'a.

Three-quarters of the village population lost their homes, making this the largest forced displacement in over four years.

With 76 structures demolished, it was the single largest demolition in the past decade.

During the COVID pandemic, demolitions have spiked, averaging 65 per month, the highest rate in four years.

2020 was the second-highest year for demolitions since 2009.

As an occupying power, Israel is obligated under international law to: protect civilians, refrain from forcible transfer of population, and respect private property.

Sources: MCC, OCHA OPT, ICAHD

<http://kuminow.com/HomeDemolitions>

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 #15: Home Demolitions

Week 15 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). The use of violence, demolitions, and psychological warfare to force and scare Palestinians into leaving their homes and villages go back to the roots of the conflict. In 1948, operations such as the Deir Yassin massacre, which occurred April 9, destroyed whole villages and forced others to flee. While Israel's current home demolitions avoid much of the physical violence of those early operations, they still maintain the psychological elements, attempting to physically force them from their homelands and disincentivizing them from staying in their villages. This week, the Kumi Now community is uniting to join the fight to end home demolitions. 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 As'ad Mu'yn. And here are a few more facts for you:



Understanding Home Demolitions: Just the Facts...

- As an occupying power, Israel is obligated under international law to: protect civilians, refrain from forcible transfer of population, and respect private property.
- Since 1967, over 50,000 homes and structures have been demolished in the oPt.
- Over 7,100 structures have been demolished since 2009.
- Almost 2,000 of those were occupied homes.
- Over 11,000 people have lost their homes.
- In 2020, Israel demolished 865 structures and 1,014 people lost their homes in the West Bank.
- During the COVID pandemic, demolitions have spiked, averaging 65 per month, the highest rate in four years.
- 2020 was the second-highest year for demolitions since 2009.
- On November 3, 2021, 73 Palestinians, including 41 children, were forcibly displaced when Israeli authorities committed a mass demolition in the village of Humsa Al Bqai'a.
- Three-quarters of the village population lost their homes, making this the largest forced displacement in over four years.
- With 76 structures demolished, it was the single largest demolition in the past decade.

These facts are drawn from:

- ["Fact sheet: Home Demolitions"](#) from **Mennonite Central Committee**.
- ["Unlawful demolitions in the West Bank spike during COVID-19"](#) from **OCHA oPt**.
- ["Data on demolition and displacement in the West Bank"](#) from **OCHA oPt**.
- And from [ICAHD](#).

Learning More

To learn more, you should watch:

- **Al Jazeera's "Jerusalem: Hitting Home"**
- Our [previous Kumi Now online gathering with Jeff Halper and ICAHD](#).

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



Is your local community supporting the occupation with your tax money? The Israeli government makes use of equipment from Caterpillar, Volvo, Hyundai, and JCB to carry out home demolitions in the occupied Palestinian territory. You can find evidence of this using a Google image search.

Send a letter to your mayor and city council. Use language similar to the following: "Caterpillar, Volvo, Hyundai, and JCB all supply the Israeli government with equipment that is used for the demolition of Palestinian homes. These are demolitions that have been ruled illegal under international law. Does your department purchase equipment from any of these companies that profit from the Israeli occupation? Please cancel any contracts with these companies and refuse to do business with them until they stop supplying the Israeli government. We should not support companies that knowingly profit off of illegal activity."

While it is good to send these messages directly to your government offices and officials, we can amplify the scrutiny of these agencies by also making these messages public, tweeting your questions to them and posting your questions to their Facebook pages. Remember to tag your local official or agencies and include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi15.

News

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

News

- U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken [announced the restoration of aid to Palestine](#). This aid includes \$75 million in economic and development assistance in the West Bank and Gaza, \$10 million for peacebuilding programs through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and \$150 million in humanitarian assistance for the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). They also announced the resumption of security assistance programs. This announcement reverses the Trump administration's 2018 decision to abruptly cut funding. Some of the money will go toward the Palestinian COVID-19 effort, specifically towards its struggling hospital network. ([Mondoweiss](#))
- Israel has refused to offer any cooperation with an ICC investigation into war crimes. ([Palestine Chronicle](#)) ([Palestine Chronicle - podcast](#))
- COVID-19 cases doubled for a second week in a row in Gaza. ([Mondoweiss](#))

Opinion and Analysis

- **Archbishop Atallah Hanna** wrote "[An Easter reflection from the Holy City of Jerusalem](#)" for **Mondoweiss**.

Publications

- **This Week in Palestine** has released their [April 2021 issue](#), focused on "Our Environment".
- **Washington Report on Middle East Affairs** has released their [March/April 2021 issue](#).
- **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

- **Sunday, April 11: Voices from the Holy Land Online Film Salon** will discuss the documentary *On the Side of the Road*. [Register to receive a link to watch the film](#) on your own time, then join the Zoom call to discuss the film.
- **Tuesday, April 13: The annual Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day Ceremony** is online this year. It will be hosted by **Combatants for Peace** and **Parents Circle - Families Forum**. It takes place at 10:30am Pacific, 1:30pm Eastern, 8:30pm Palestine/Israel time. [Register here](#). Combatants for Peace has released a [short video](#).
- **Tuesday, April 13: Join us for the latest Kumi Now online gathering.** Information is near the beginning of the newsletter.
- **Wednesday, April 14: Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network** will host "[The Palestinian Economy: Dependency Under Occupation](#)" at 6pm Palestine time.
- **Next Saturday, April 17: You can follow up on our webinar by joining Canadian Voices for Palestinian Rights** as they host Salwa Duaibis and Gerard Horton, co-founders of Military Court Watch, for a webinar on "The Mechanics of Occupation - Children in Military Detention". It is at 11am Eastern, 6pm Palestine time. April 17 is Palestinian Prisoners' Day. You can [register here](#).
- **Next Saturday, April 17 to April 23: Join Samidoun for Palestinian Prisoners' Week.** Find more information [on their website](#).
- **Next Saturday, April 17 and 24: American Educational Trust**, publisher of the **Washington Report on Middle East Affairs**, and the **Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy** host the virtual [End US Support for Israeli Apartheid? conference](#).

Future

- **Sunday, April 18: New Israel Fund** will hold "[Building a Truly Shared Society in Israel: A Conversation with Israeli activists Fida Nara and Alon-Lee Green](#)".
- **Sunday and Sunday, April 18 and 19: J Street** will host its annual virtual conference. [Registration is now open](#).
- **Tuesday, April 20: DCIP** will host a webinar, in which they will share the findings of the *No Way To Treat a Child* report, launching on April 17, Palestinian Prisoners' Day. It is at 8pm Eastern. [Register here](#).
- **Wednesday, April 21: ICAHD UK** will host the webinar "[The Undemocratic Elections in Israel & Palestine](#)" with **Jeff Halper** and **Salem Barahmeh**.
- **Thursday, April 22 (or maybe May 6 - they provide two dates in different places): New Israel Fund** will host "[Activism, Art, and Hope: The Power of Art in Social Change](#)".

Ongoing Campaigns

- **Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)** would like you to [sign the petition](#) "No Dispossession in Silwan". And you can watch the replay of FOSNA's [session on Silwan](#).
- **PSC** ask for residents of the UK to help stop the Defence and Security Equipment International, the world's largest arms fair, which returns to London in September 2021. At DSEI, weapons and military technology will be marketed to representatives of repressive states fuelling racism and injustice. Israel is a seasoned attendee of the fair, buying weapons to maintain its domination of the Palestinian people. Along with Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), PSC is asking you to take action. Do so [here](#).
- The **Palestinian Feminist Collective (PFC)** has released a statement affirming Palestine as a feminist issue. You can [sign the petition here](#).
- Join **Stop the Wall** and **AI-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.

- **AI-Haq** released its [March newsletter](#).
- **Combatants for Peace** has released a [short video](#) about this coming Tuesday's Memorial Day ceremony.
- **ICAHD** released its [April Action Bulletin](#).
- **Zaytoun** published its [April newsletter](#).
- **Palestinian Centre for Human Rights** published its [Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory \(1-7 April 2021\)](#).
- **Sabeel** published the [Wave of Prayer for the week of April 8](#).

Other Organizations

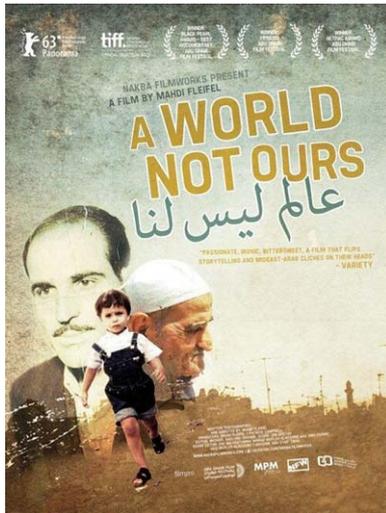
Updates, reports, and actions from the United Nations, governments, and other international organizations that relate to Palestine.

- **Africa4Palestine** held a ["Conversation with Shafinaaz Hassim: Being an author and activist"](#).
- **American Muslims for Palestine** hosted ["#BoycottIsraeliDates: Break Your Fast with Justice"](#).
- **ARIJ Institute** معهد أريج published the video series *Palestine Trilogy*: ["Event in the Desert"](#), ["Deir Yassin Remembered"](#), and ["A host Sandfilled wind"](#).
- **ARIJ Institute** also published the short film ["Bethlehem -- Hidden From View"](#).
- **Middle East Institute** held the podcast discussion "Israel, Palestine & the Role of Congress". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8qgmr4eC2s>
- **Foundation for Middle East Peace** held the webinar ["Medical Apartheid: COVID Vaccinations Under Occupation"](#).
- **Foundation for Middle East Peace** held the webinar ["Israeli and Palestinian Elections: Opportunities for Change or More of Same?"](#)
- **Hexham Labour Friends of Palestine** published video of their ["Right to Water" event](#).
- **Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center** hosed the webinar ["Women and the Arab Uprisings: The Revolution Within"](#).
- **Mondoweiss** released episode 13 of their podcast, ["Progressive except for Palestine: A conversation with Marc Lamont Hill and Mitchell Plitnick"](#).
- **Palestine Chronicle** interviewed Dr. Triestino Mariniello, International Law expert about the ICC case in ["Will Israeli War Criminals See Their Day in Court?"](#)
- **Palestine Deep Dive** held ["Israel and the Great Moving Right Show - Gideon Levy on the Israeli Elections and their Aftermath"](#).

- PSC held the webinar [“Save Sheikh Jarrah”](#).
- **Stories from Palestine Podcast** posted their latest episode, [“Easter in Jerusalem”](#).
- **United Nations** published the [NGO Action News – 8 April 2021](#).

Arts and Culture

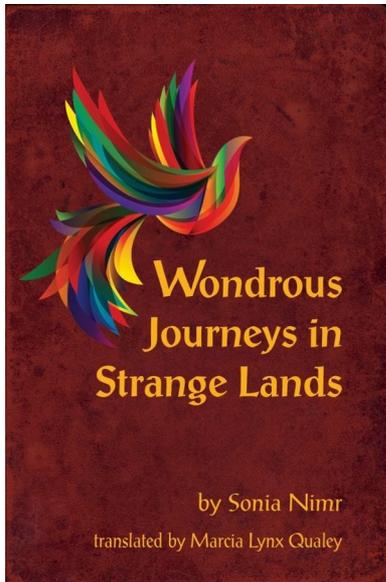
Recent and not-so-recent films, books, music, and other arts related to Palestine, as well as news about festivals and other events



A World Not Ours

The **Palestine Film Institute's** film of the week is ***A World Not Ours*** (Documentary, 93 minutes). You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). About the film:

“A World Not Ours is an intimate, humorous, portrait of three generations of exile in the refugee camp of Ain el-Helweh, in southern Lebanon. Based on a wealth of personal recordings, family archives, and historical footage, the film is a sensitive, and illuminating study of belonging, friendship, and family.”



Wondrous Journeys in Strange Lands **by Sonia Nimr**

Mondoweiss has chosen **Sonia Nimr's *Wondrous Journeys in Strange Lands*** as their [fourth book in the Mondoweiss Book Club](#).

More information on the book:

“This rich tale is set in the mountains of Palestine, hundreds of years ago, inspired by the famous travel narratives of the 14th-century Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta. The captivating adventures of our heroine, Qamr, Arabic for “moon” and her sister Shams, Arabic for “sun,” are whimsical and folkloric dreamscapes that are set familiar terrain.

Qamr tells readers about her father’s village, which suffers from isolation—and a curse. In vain, her family tries to undo it. Yet misfortune trails as they embark on daring adventures, running into pirates, kings, and kidnappers. This is a truly unique book and the kind of story you’ll want to binge.”

You can use the promo code ‘BookClub’ and receive a 10% discount from [Interlink](#).

This follows the previous selection, **Elias Khoury's [Children of the Ghetto: My Name is Adam](#)**.

You Should Know

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



B'Tselem

B'Tselem is an Israeli human rights organization founded in 1989. At the time, B'Tselem devoted itself primarily to documenting Israeli violations of Palestinians' human rights in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip. Its goal was to minimize such violations, and operated based on the assumption that the occupation was a temporary state of affairs.

However, as time passed, its position changed:

“Yet after more than half a century of occupation, during which time Israel implemented policies which cemented significant changes that indicate long-term intentions, this reality can clearly no longer be considered a temporary one. Therefore, while continuing to document and publicize human rights violations, B'Tselem – in its capacity as a human rights organization – now unequivocally demands an end to the occupation. To promote that goal, B'Tselem works to expose the injustice, violence and dispossession inherent to the regime of occupation, to deconstruct the apparatuses that enable it, and challenge its legitimacy in Israel and internationally.”

Recently, it published the groundbreaking report “A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid”. This was the first time that a major Israeli organization has called the occupation a form of apartheid. You can [read the report](#) and the [visual explainer](#).

It has recently published [databases on home demolitions and fatalities](#). And recently published the report “[This Is Ours – And This, Too: Israel’s Settlement Policy in the West Bank](#)”.

You can find B'Tselem on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

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, [Administrative Detention](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

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kumi@kuminow.com



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