



## Week 17: The Nation-State Law

WEEK  
**17**  
APR. 23  
TO  
APR. 29

### **NATION-STATE LAW**

*"The State views the development of Jewish settlement as a national value, and shall act to encourage and promote its establishment and strengthening."*

*"The exercise of the right to national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish People."*



<http://kuminow.com/NationStateLaw>

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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 **Charlotte Kates**, the international coordinator for **Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network**, share her expertise regarding administrative detention. The replay of the session is now available [on YouTube](#) and [on our website](#). The website includes her 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 Israeli forces continue to use administrative detention as a form of individual and collective punishment and as a form of intimidation, regularly denying thousands of Palestinians their rights under international law and exposing them to the horrors of the Israeli prison system. Our guest was Charlotte Kates of Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network. Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. <https://youtu.be/5kkLszfEMaU>*

Good news! You will no longer be required to register with Zoom to access the webinars. Simply use the link below and it should take you directly to the Zoom meeting.

And as usual, 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](mailto:kumi@kuminow.com) at [kumi@kuminow.com](mailto:kumi@kuminow.com).

Here are details on this week's Kumi Now online gathering:

WEEK <b>17</b>	<b>ISRAEL'S NATION-STATE LAW</b>
	<b>KUMI NOW ONLINE</b>
<b>TUESDAY APRIL 27 6PM (UTC+3)</b>	featuring journalist and author <b>Jonathan Cook</b>
	

## April 27: Week 17 - Israel's 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.

Our guest is writer and journalist **Jonathan Cook**.

**Time:** Tuesday, April 27, at 6:00 PM 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> (You no longer need to register! This link should take you right to the meeting.)

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

# KUMI NOW ONLINE: MAY, 2021



**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](#).



### May 4: Week 18 - Freedom of Speech

[Read the full entry online.](#)

As we celebrate World Press Freedom Day on May 3, we want the world to know that Palestinian journalists face regular threats of censorship and violence. Frustratingly, this censorship has been aided and abetted by tech giants such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Zoom.

For our Kumi Action we will help publicize the best news sources and pieces of writing on Palestine.



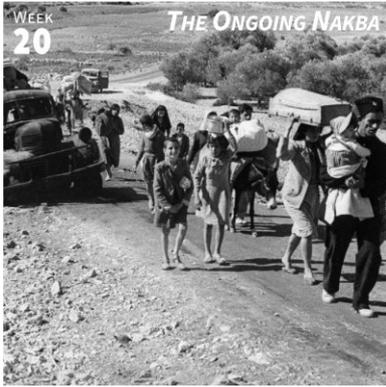
### May 11: Week 19 - Nation-State Law

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Palestinians in the occupied territory have long suffered as a result of U.S. support of Israel. The Trump administration's decisions to move the embassy to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018, cut aid to Palestine, and recognize Israel's claims to the Syrian Golan are only a few of the markers of America's neglect of Palestine.

For our Kumi Action we will research and publicize our

local governments' support for Israel.



## May 18: Week 20 - The Ongoing Nakba

[Read the full entry online.](#)

For Palestinians, May 15 is Nakba Day. That is the day following the Israeli Independence Day on the Gregorian calendar. The term Nakba refers to the 1948 catastrophe when over 1,000,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes or fled in fear for their lives. But this use of the term in the past tense suggests that the Nakba was over and done 70 years ago. This is not the case, as the events of 1948 were just part of a consistent and ongoing process that dates back to the Balfour Declaration and continues today.

For our Kumi Action we will work to rename a street or roadway in our community.



## May 25: Week 21 - Preserving History and Culture

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The United Nations celebrates May 21 as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The day was declared following UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, a document that clearly sees cultural diversity and tolerance as key to developing the dialogue necessary to achieve peace and sustainable development around the world. However, Israel continues to build and plant over Palestinian history and culture while simultaneously erasing it from street signs, historical markers, and history books.

For our Kumi Action we will write profiles of different aspects of Palestine culture and history and share them with the world.

## Kumi Now

WEEK  
17

APR. 23  
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## NATION-STATE LAW

### Just the facts...

*Discriminatory passages from the  
Nation-State Law...*

*"The State of Israel is the nation state of the Jewish  
People, in which it realizes its natural, cultural,  
religious and historical right to self-determination."*

*"The exercise of the right to  
national self-determination in the  
State of Israel is unique to the  
Jewish People."*

*"Jerusalem, complete and united,  
is the capital of Israel."*

*"Hebrew is the State language...  
The Arabic language has a special  
status in the State ..."*

*"The State views the development of Jewish settlement  
as a national value, and shall act to encourage and  
promote its establishment and strengthening."*

<http://kuminow.com/NationStateLaw>

**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 #17: The Nation-State Law**

Week 17 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](http://kuminow.com/NationStateLaw). 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. This week, the Kumi Now community is uniting to oppose this discriminatory law and all the others like it. 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 from Sayed Kashua. And here are a few more facts for you:



## Understanding the Nation State Law: Just the Facts...

These are the most discriminatory passages from Israel's Nation-State Law:

- “The State of Israel is the nation state of the Jewish People, in which it realizes its natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination.”
- “The exercise of the right to national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish People.”
- “Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel.”
- “Hebrew is the State language... The Arabic language has a special status in the State ...”
- “The State views the development of Jewish settlement as a national value, and shall act to encourage and promote its establishment and strengthening.”

These facts are drawn from the [English translation of the Nation-State Law](#).

### Learning More

To learn more, you should:

- Read [this position paper](#) on the Nation-State Law from **ACRI**.
- Read the [position paper](#) from **Adalah**.
- Watch "[Israel's Nation-State Law Explained](#)" from **NowThis World**.

To go deeper, we are developing an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week's entry as well as 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



It is not too late to enshrine the equality of all Israeli citizens within its basic laws. And yet, members of the Knesset have been barred from even considering the possibility. The proposed “Basic Law: State of all its Citizens” would do just this, but the Knesset rule makers have decided just a bill would challenge the belief that Israel is a state for the Jewish people. You can read more about the proposed bill [here](#).

Then, post this question on social media: Why does Israel continue to reject passing the law called Basic Law: State of all its Citizens which calls for Israel to treat all its citizens equally? You could also quote the “outrageous” ideas contained in the bill, such as

- “The State is a state for all its citizens, and its government is a democratic government.”
- “The State respects the individual and collective identity of Its citizens on an egalitarian basis, without discrimination on grounds of nationality, race, religion,

- gender, language, color, political outlook, ethnic origin or social status.”
- “Citizenship in the state is based on the principle of equality and the prohibition of discrimination”
- “The Arabic language and the Hebrew language are the official languages of the State.”

Include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi17.

## News

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

### News

- Thursday evening, hundreds of Israeli protestors organized by the far-right, anti-Palestinian group Lehava marched to the Damascus Gate area — the entrance to the Muslim Quarter of the Old City. As they marched, they chanted various anti-Palestinian slogans, including “Death to Arabs” and “may your village burn.” Clashes broke out in other areas, including at the Qalandia checkpoint, north of Jerusalem, and at the DCO checkpoint, north of Ramallah, and Jewish settlers attacked Palestinian homes and property in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. Dozens of Palestinians were injured and Palestinian cars and houses were targets of widespread damage. ([Palestine Chronicle](#)) ([Mondoweiss](#)) ([Middle East Eye - video](#))
- Israeli occupation authorities have approved the seizure of 147 dunums (35 acres) of Palestinian-owned land west of the city of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. ([Middle East Monitor](#))
- The Israeli army on Saturday fired several shells, some hitting targets believed to be run by armed resistance groups in the besieged Gaza Strip, after the military claimed shells were fired from the coastal region. ([IMEMC](#))
- Palestinian Loay Elbasyouni, who was raised in Gaza, was part of the team behind NASA’s “historic” Ingenuity Mars Helicopter. ([Mondoweiss](#)) ([Channel 4 - video](#))

### Opinion and Analysis

- Following the violence in Jerusalem, Ali Abunimah writes about [“Israel lobby’s “Death to the Arabs” damage control”](#) for the **Electronic Intifada**.
- **Yara Hawari** writes about [“The Revival of People-to-People Projects: Relinquishing Israeli Accountability”](#) for **Al-Shabaka**.

### 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 25: Center for Jewish Nonviolence** is hosting a "[Hineinu Update and Storytelling](#)" community gathering at 12:30pm central time.
- **Tuesday, April 27:** Join us for the latest **Kumi Now** online gathering. Information is near the beginning of the newsletter.
- **Tuesday, April 27: Al-Haq** will host "[Towards Goal 16 of Sustainable Development in Palestine: The Realisation of the Palestinian Right to Self-Determination, and Ensuring Accountability](#)" at 6pm Palestine time.

### **Future**

- **May 1 to 5: UK ONLY! Medical Aid for Palestinians** will host a "Double Online Screening of *Gaza Surf Club* and *What Walaa Wants*". [Buy your tickets here](#).
- **May 2, 6, 8, 11: Eyewitness Palestine** is hosting virtual field trips with **Mesarvot**, a network of Israeli activists that supports conscientious objectors in their refusal to become soldiers and take part in the occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people. Register [here](#).

### **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 **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.*

- **Addameer Association** hosted "[#FreeThemAll: In Sumoud and Solidarity from the U.S. to Palestine](#)".
- **Al-Haq** hosted the webinar "[The Ongoing Nakba in Shaikh Jarrah](#)".
- Defence for Children Palestine hosted "[#nowaytotreatachild Webinar | 20 April 2021 | Congressional Advocacy Updates](#)".
- **Palestinian Centre for Human Rights** released their "[Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory \(15 – 21 April 2021\)](#)".
- **Sabeel** published the [Wave of Prayer for the week of April 22](#).

### **Other Organizations**

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

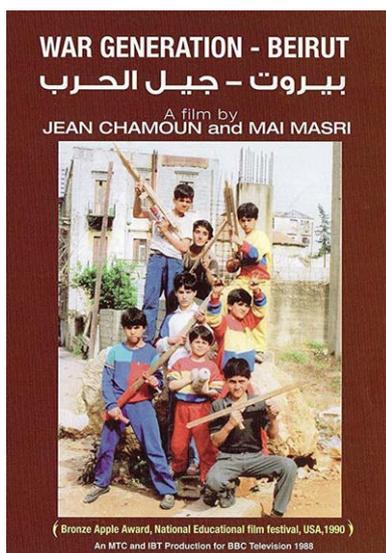
- **Africa4Palestine** interviewed Professor Vijay Prashad on "[Locating Palestinian](#)".

- [struggle in the larger battle against Imperialism](#)".
- **Electronic Intifada** hosted "[How Syria divided Palestine solidarity with Rania Khalek](#)".
- **Foundation for Middle East Peace** held "[Breaking the Israel-Palestine Status Quo](#)" with Zaha Hassan and Daniel Levy for their Occupied Thoughts podcast/web series.
- **Palestine Deep Dive** held "[Art as Resistance with Palestinian Cartoonist Mohammad Sabaaneh](#)".
- **Palestine Deep Dive** hosted Ahmed Abu Artema for "["A Scream for Life" Gaza, the Great March of Return and its Legacy](#)".
- **PSC** held a [Q and A after their screening of "Imprisoning a Generation"](#) about children in military courts.
- **Washington Report on Middle East Affairs** held their [first "End US Support for Israeli Apartheid?"](#) session. Individual segments are available as well:
  - "[Israeli Apartheid Introduction](#)" with Susan Abulhawa
  - "[Holding South Africa, But Not Israel, Accountable](#)" with John Dugard
  - "[How the U.S. Shields Israel From U.N. Accountability](#)" with Ian Williams
  - "[A Lawmaker Who Stood Up for Justice](#)" with Brian Baird
  - "[The Israel Lobby: What Everyone Needs to Know](#)" with Walter L. Hixson
  - "[Elaborating on the B'Tselem Apartheid Report](#)" with Richard Falk

## 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 Jerusalem Fund & Palestine Center** held "[Discussion With Helen Zughaib About Her Greatest Hits](#)".
- **Stories from Palestine Podcast** released their newest episode, "[Ramadan in Palestine](#)".
- On Saturday, the 10th of April, the municipality of Bethlehem and the Palestinian Ministry of Culture streamed the **Bethlehem Capital of Culture** performances, postponed since last year due to the coronavirus . Highlights of artistic performances and discussions are available [on the website](#).



### **War Generation - Beirut**

The **Palestine Film Institute's** film of the week is **Massaker** (Documentary, 50 minutes). You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). About the film:

"In Beirut, children grow up on the barricades and soon trade their toy pistols for real machine guns. War Generation - Beirut explores the lives, dreams and fears of three generations of young people living in the heart of the civil war in Lebanon. This seminal work from Jean Chamoun and Mai Masri remains one of the most powerful anti-war documents of the period."

## You Should Know

*One or two people, companies, or organizations you should know, and how you can*

follow them online.



## Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network

We had the pleasure to work with **Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network** for our latest Kumi Now gathering. They just helped organize the [Palestinian Prisoners' Week of Action](#) and [marked Prisoners' Day](#) with events in Palestine.

Please check out their [Free Palestinian Students campaign](#).

From their website:

"Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network is an international network of organizers and activists working to build solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in their struggle for freedom. Samidoun developed out of the September-October 2011 hunger strike of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, seeing a need for a dedicated network to support Palestinian prisoners. We work to raise awareness and provide resources about Palestinian political prisoners, their conditions, their demands, and their work for freedom for themselves, their fellow prisoners, and their homeland. We also work to organize campaigns to make political change and advocate for Palestinian prisoners' rights and freedoms.

Samidoun seeks to achieve justice for Palestinian prisoners through events, activities, resources, delegations, research and information-sharing, as well as building bridges with the prisoners' movement in Palestine. We seek to amplify the voices of Palestinian prisoners, former prisoners, prisoners' families, and Palestinian advocates for justice and human rights by translating, sharing and distributing news, interviews and materials from Palestine."

You can find Samidoun on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

### 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, [Freedom of Speech](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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