



Week 21: Preserving History and Culture

WEEK
21

MAY 21
TO
MAY 27

***PRESERVING HISTORY
AND CULTURE***

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villages, and other geographical features.*

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Dozens have been turned
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Sources: Haaretz, Middle East Monitor, Mondoweiss

<http://kuminow.com/PreservingHistory>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

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

On Tuesday **Reem Hamad**, a resident of **Sheikh Jarrah**, and **Dr. Bernard Sabella** of the **Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)** spoke to us about current events in Sheikh Jarrah and the war in Gaza as well as other aspects of the Ongoing Nakba. The replay of the session is now available [on YouTube](#) and [on our website](#). The website includes their bios, all of the advocacy options and instructions, and links shared during the gathering. And here again is [the statement from Kairos Palestine](#) that we asked you to send to the WCC, the Vatican, and other church leaders.

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

Last week we learned about the disposessions in Sheikh Jarrah, the violence in Israel, the war in Gaza, and how they are all a part of the Ongoing Nakba. Our guests were Reem Hamad, a resident of Sheikh Jarrah, and Dr. Bernard Sabella of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChETiJ4Foms>

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](#) at kumi@kuminow.com.

| | |
|---|--|
| WEEK 21 | PRESERVING HISTORY AND CULTURE |
| TUESDAY MAY 25 6PM (UTC+3) | KUMI NOW ONLINE |
| Faisal Saleh, Chairman & Founder, Palestine Museum US |  |

May 25: Week 21 - Preserving History and Culture

[Full information on the gathering is here.](#)

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.

Our guest will be **Faisal Saleh**, chairman & founder of **Palestine Museum US**.

Time: Tuesday, May 25, 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> (You might need to do a quick registration. This link is the same, either way.)

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: JUNE, 2021

| Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| June 1 <i>Child Fatalities</i> | June 8 <i>Environmental Effects of Occupation</i> | June 15 <i>Tourism and Pilgrimage</i> | June 22 <i>Palestinian Refugees</i> | June 29 <i>Nuclear Israel</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 link are 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](#).



June 1: Week 22 - Child Fatalities

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The United Nations observes June 1 as the Global Day of Parents, acknowledging the critical role that parents have in the lives of their children. But it is common for Palestinian parents to spend time worrying about their children and the reality that, in the end, the occupation has more control over their children than they do as parents. And many Palestinian parents spend this day thinking about, or trying to visit, their children held in Israel's military court systems. Worst of all are the parents who have seen the lives of their children taken from them by the weapons of Israeli occupation forces.

For our Kumi Action we will share the stories of children whose lives have been cut short by occupation.

June 8: Week 23 - Environmental Effects of Occupation

[Read the full entry online.](#)

June 5 is World Environment Day. While Palestinians as



a people are under constant threat and assault from the occupation, the environment around them, and on which they rely, bears similar attack. A community can't hope to heal in an environment that is sick, and conversely, a society that is suffering is unable to aid the environment in its own recovery.

For our Kumi Action we will help out the Palestine Museum of Natural History.



June 15: Week 24 - Tourism and Pilgrimage

[Read the full entry online.](#)

For the northern hemisphere, students and families around the world are beginning their summer vacations. While in the southern hemisphere students may be looking forward to a winter break. Many people take these times to travel: to visit family, as tourists, or as pilgrims. Whether or not you are spending your own travel money to go on holiday or pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, you can, as part of the Kumi Community, help have an impact.

For our Kumi Action we will share information about Palestinian historical and tourist sites.



June 22: Week 25 - Palestinian Refugees

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Palestinians who were either forced from or fled their homes in 1948 and 1967 hoped for a quick return to their houses and land. Few would have foreseen that, decades later, they and their descendants would be living as refugees or internally displaced Palestinians. As the United Nations celebrates June 20 as World Refugee Day,¹ we want to work to restore hope to those original Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

For our Kumi Action we will send copies of U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 to those that really need to read it.

June 29: Week 26 - Nuclear Israel

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was signed on July 1, 1968. According to the U.N., "More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the treaty's significance."¹ Only five



countries are not party to the treaty: North Korea, South Sudan, India, Pakistan, and Israel.

For our Kumi Action we will design nuclear hazard signs and give them to Israel.

Kumi Now

WEEK 21 MAY 21 TO MAY 27 **PRESERVING HISTORY AND CULTURE**

Just the facts...

Israel has destroyed some 530 Palestinian villages.

In 1957 an Israeli foreign ministry official urged the Israeli Department of Antiquities to speed the destruction of Palestinian homes: "They should be cleared away."

Many of these villages have been planted over with forests that hide their remains and replace native species with imported ones.

Immediately after the creation of the state of Israel a campaign to "remap" Palestine was launched, replacing Arabic names with Hebrew names so it could lay claim to towns, villages, and other geographical features.

A 1948 letter read: "The conventional names should be replaced by new ones ... we must begin the Hebraicization of our country's map."

Israel has demolished hundreds of Palestinian mosques, cemeteries and other religious sites since the state's creation in 1948. Dozens have been turned into bars and night clubs.

The Israel's Defense Ministry's security department, Malmab, has for decades run a program to conceal the events of 1948 so as to avoid unrest among the country's Palestinians.

Decades of Western and Israeli history and archeology have framed Palestinian history in terms of Biblical and Jewish history, destroying and hiding the stories/artifacts that don't fit.

Sources: Haaretz, Middle East Monitor, Mondoweiss

<http://kuminow.com/PreservingHistory>

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 #21: Preserving History and Culture

Week 21 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). 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. 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 Nora Kort. And here are a few more facts for you:



Understanding Preserving History and Culture: Just the Facts...

- The Israel's Defense Ministry's secretive security department, Malmab, has for decades run a program to conceal the events of 1948 so as to avoid unrest among the country's Palestinian population.
- During the British mandate colonial authorities used around 3,700 Arabic names of localities, towns and villages.
- By contrast, there were just 200 Hebrew toponyms, most of them being names of Jewish settlements.
- Immediately after the creation of the state of Israel a campaign to "remap" Palestine was launched, replacing Arabic names with Hebrew names so the new state could lay its claim to towns, villages, and various other geographical features.
- A 1948 letter read: "The conventional names should be replaced by new ones ... since, in an anticipation of renewing our days as of old ... we must begin in the fundamental Hebraicization of our country's map."
- Israel has destroyed some 530 Palestinian villages.
- In 1957 an Israeli foreign ministry official urged the Israeli Department of Antiquities to speed up the destruction of Palestinian homes conquered during the Nakba: "They should be cleared away."
- Many of these destroyed villages have been planted over with artificial forests that hide their remains and replace native species with imported ones.
- Israel has demolished hundreds of Palestinian mosques, cemeteries and other religious sites since the state's creation in 1948. Dozens have been turned into bars and night clubs.
- Decades of Western and Israeli history and archeology have framed Palestinian history in terms of Biblical and Jewish history, destroying and ignoring the stories and artifacts that don't fit these narratives.

These facts are drawn from:

- ["Burying the Nakba: How Israel Systematically Hides Evidence of 1948 Expulsion of Arabs"](#) by Hagar Shezaf for **Haaretz**
- ["Man-made Israel \(and the obsessive erasure of Palestinian history\)"](#) by Sam Bahour for **Mondoweiss**.
- ["Remapping of Palestine: Why Israel's erasure of Palestinian culture will not succeed"](#) from **Middle East Monitor**
- ["Israelis to turn historic mosque into museum"](#) from **Middle East Monitor**

- [“Israel is 'weaponising culture', erasing Palestinian history with Eurovision”](#) from **Middle East Monitor**

Learning More

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



We will write short profiles of different aspects of Palestine culture and history and share them, along with photos, with you via the newsletter and on the website. Take these profiles and post them, one per day, on social media, or print them out and post them someplace others can see them.

Include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #Palestinian, #KumiNow, and #Kumi21.

These profiles will be available on [this page of the website](#) by Tuesday, at the latest, in time for the online gathering.

News

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

News

- **Tuesday:** Palestinians held a general strike. ([Anadolu](#)) ([NY Times](#)) ([FMEP webinar](#))
- **Friday:** A ceasefire was announced and implemented. ([PCHR](#)) ([Al Jazeera video](#))
- **Friday evening:** Israeli forces cracked down on ceasefire celebrations and attacked Palestinians in the Al-Aqsa compound once again. ([IMEMC](#)) ([Palestine Chronicle](#))
- **Saturday:** President Biden said that the U.S. will help rebuild Gaza. ([Palestine Chronicle](#))
- The AP fired journalist Emily Wilder over her tweets about Palestine and Israel, prompting a backlash and accusations of another attempt to silence pro-Palestinian voices. ([Times of Israel](#))
- And digital rights groups, including Sada Social, have accused Facebook of anti-Palestine bias by suspending the accounts of Palestinians and Palestinian news organizations without merit. ([Palestine Chronicle](#))

Opinion and Analysis

- **James North** writes that "[Israel's air strikes targeted entire families in Gaza — but U.S. media won't pursue the story](#)" for **Mondoweiss**. He is referring to **Amira Hass's** story for **Haaretz** that [the Israeli military was targeting entire families in Gaza](#).
- **Middle East Monitor and Anadoula Agency** report that "[Palestinian women lead resistance against Israeli occupation](#)".
- **Omar Karmi** writes "[Tear It All Up](#)" for the **Electronic Intifada**.
- **Omar Zahzah** write "[Digital apartheid: Palestinians being silenced on social media](#)" for **Al Jazeera**.
- **AMEJA** has [issued guidelines](#) for how to report on Palestine and Israel.
- "[A New Word Is Defining the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in Washington](#)" by **Yasmeen Serhan** for the **Atlantic**.
- "[Israelis tell him to go to Gaza, Palestinians call him a collaborator: The life of a stateless Jerusalem reporter](#)" from **Haaretz**.

Publications

- **This Week in Palestine** has released their [May 2021 issue](#), focused on "Palestinian Realpolitik".
- **Washington Report on Middle East Affairs** has released their [May 2021 issue](#).
- **The Institute for Palestine Studies** has released the [Winter 2021 \(#198\) issue](#) of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*.
- **The Institute for Palestine Studies** has released the [Spring 2021 \(#85\) issue](#) of *Jerusalem Quarterly*.

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, May 23: Combatants for Peace** will host a webinar called "Voices from Gaza" at 3:00pm Eastern, 10pm Palestine time. Register [here](#).
- **Tuesday, May 25:** Join us for the latest **Kumi Now** online gathering. Information is near the beginning of the newsletter.

Ongoing Campaigns

- **NEW: US Campaign for Palestinian Rights** launched the campaign "[Tell Congress: End US Complicity in Israel's Abuses of Palestinians](#)".
- **Medical Aid for Palestinians** would like UK citizens to [email your MP](#) about the recent violence.
- **Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)** has a [great form](#) to help U.S. residents email President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to oppose violence and evictions in Israel/Palestine.
- **Middle East Children's Alliance** is holding a fundraiser for emergency aid for Gaza. You can contribute [here](#).
- Those in the United States should sign [this petition for Sheikh Jarrah, aimed at U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin](#), as well as [this one](#).
- Canadians, meanwhile, should sign [this petition regarding Sheikh Jarrah](#).
- Those in the UK can [make sure their MPs get a copy of the Human Rights Watch report](#).
- **Palestine Portal** has a [full list of actions you can help take for Sheikh Jarrah](#).

Organizations in Action

Kumi Partners

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

- PCHR published their [Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory \(11 – 19 May 2021\)](#).
- PCHR also published daily updates on each day of fighting. You can find them on their [Press Releases page](#).
- Sabeel published the [Wave of Prayer for the week of May 17](#).

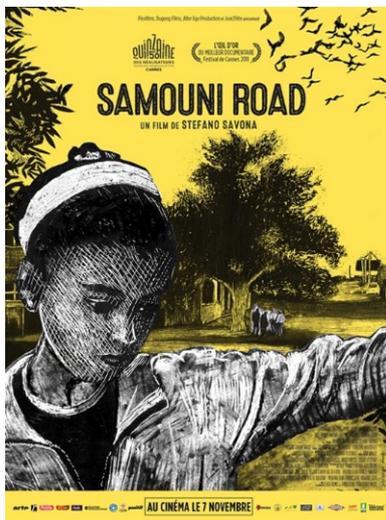
Other Organizations

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

- **Al-Shabaka** hosted [“Ongoing Nakba: Sheikh Jarrah, Gaza, and Historic Palestine”](#).
- **Foundations for Middle East Peace** hosted [“More than History: 1917, 1936, & 2021, ft. Sherene Seikaly & Sarah Anne Minkin”](#).
- **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** issued the position paper [“How the UN Can Help End Israeli Apartheid and Persecution”](#).
- The **Jerusalem Fund & Palestine Center** held the webinar [“The Palestinian Nakba: From Ethnic Cleansing in 1948 to Apartheid in 2021”](#).
- **Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)** published the toolkit [“Solidarity with Palestine, May 2021”](#).
- **Middle East Institute** hosted a discussion on [“Hezbollah's Regional Challenge”](#).
- Suha Salman Mousa, executive director of **Mossawa**, was [interviewed about recent events](#).
- **Nonviolence International** hosted [“A Jew asks Questions of Two Palestinians in a Time of War with Mubarak Awad and Jonathan Kuttab”](#).
- **OCHA oPt** published [“Gaza Strip: Escalation of hostilities 10-21 May 2021”](#).
- **OCHA oPt** continued to publish several other flash updates over the last week, available on their [Publications page](#).
- **Redfish** interviewed Ali Abunimah on [“War On Gaza: Europe's Responsibility”](#).
- **United Nations** published [NGO Action News – 20 May 2021](#).
- **United Nations** held a [press conference with Sofiane Mimouni, Abdou Abarry, & Riyadh Mansour \(18 May 2021\)](#).

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.



Samouni Road

This week, the **Palestine Film Institute** has chosen **Samouni Road** (2018, documentary, 128 minutes) for the film of the week. You have until Wednesday to watch them for free [on their website](#). More about the film:

"In the rural outskirts of Gaza City a small community of farmers, the Samouni extended family, is about to celebrate a wedding. It's going to be the first celebration since the latest war. Amal, Fuad, their brothers and cousins have lost their parents, their houses and their olive trees. The neighborhood where they live is being rebuilt. As they replant trees and plow fields, they face

their most difficult task: piecing together their own memory. Through these young survivors' recollections, Samouni Road conveys a deep, multifaceted portrait of a family before, during and after the tragic event that changed its life forever."

You Should Know

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



**PALESTINE
MUSEUM**

Palestine Museum US

Palestine Museum US has a five-fold mission:

- Research and preserve Palestinian history
- Showcase the Palestinian experience, pre- and post-Nakbah, in Palestine and in the diaspora
- Celebrate Palestinian cultural and artistic achievements
- Tell the Palestinian story to US and global audience through works of art, film, literature, and mixed media
- Serve as a cultural common ground for all Palestinians

While located in Woodbridge, Connecticut in the United States, there are a number of ways that people around the world can interact with the museum. You can start with their [online e-tour](#). And they have a variety of videos and interviews under the 'Viewing Room' tab on the menu and on their [YouTube channel](#). They also run a [Palestine Art Week](#) each year. Sadly, it just ended for this year. But you can get an idea of what it will look like for next year. And no museum would be complete without a [gift shop](#).

You can find the museum on its [website](#) and follow it on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), 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, [on Child Fatalities](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

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kumi@kuminow.com



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