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## Week 30: Family Unification

**WEEK 30** JULY 23 TO JULY 29 **FAMILY UNIFICATION**

Israel's family reunification ban was passed in 2003 as a "temporary" security measure in the wake of the Second Intifada. It has been renewed annually ever since.

While the Knesset failed to extend the ban in July 2021, the Israeli Ministry of the Interior is still refusing to process family reunification applications.

Sources: Al-Haq, Middle East Eye, Palestine Chronicle

<http://kuminow.com/FamilyUnification>

[Next Online Gathering](#)

[This Week's Entry](#)

[You Should Know](#)

[Upcoming Weeks](#)

[You Should Watch or Read](#)

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

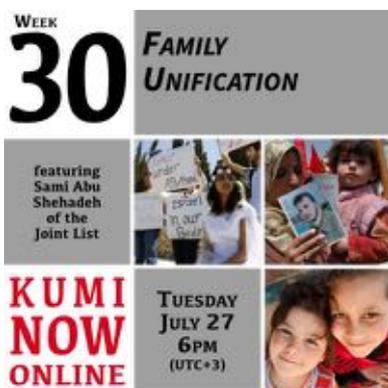
On Tuesday **Chris Rose**, the director of **Amos Trust**, and **Elias D'eis**, executive director of **Holy Land Trust** spoke about the devastating effects of the Israeli Apartheid Wall and Israel's connected policies. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes their bio, the advocacy instructions, and links shared during the gathering. If you haven't yet been able to sign the petition for **Tent of Nations**, it is [available here](#).

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 devastating effects of the Israeli Apartheid Wall and Israel's connected policies. Our guests Chris Rose, the director of Amos Trust, and Elias D'eis, executive director of Holy Land Trust. Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. <https://youtu.be/Ec5yYWnjLo>*

And now, let's move on to Tuesday's online gathering:

## Next Online Gathering



### July 27: Week 30 - Family Unification

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

On July 31, 2003 Israel passed the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law, making the lives of thousands of Palestinian individuals and families even more precarious and complex.

Our guest will be **Sami Abu Shehadeh** of the **Joint List**.

**Time:** Tuesday, July 27, 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
- Sydney: 1am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (+1 Day)

**Zoom Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (There might be a quick registration form, and please set an alarm for yourself for Tuesday.)

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](#).

## This Week's Kumi Now Entry

**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 #30: Family Unification**

Week 30 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Family unification is the process whereby a nation permits the immigration of a citizen's close relatives and provides those immigrants with a legal status, potentially leading to citizenship, within the state. The goal is to allow citizens the right to marry and to maintain a full family life: a right recognized under international law. Most countries understand this right and allow such immigration.

However, Israel has never recognized the right of Palestinians to family unification. And while the annexation of East Jerusalem has created a political border between Palestinians, it has not severed the familial and social ties between Palestinians. Israel has chosen to ignore this reality and instead has imposed a rigid family unification policy that (a) conflicts with normal Palestinian society and (b) creates a separate system for Palestinians than for that of Jewish citizens, who face a much easier system that actively encourages their family unification process.

Please read the essay on this issue and the testimony of S. K., 36, married with two children and a resident of Ras el-'Amud. And here are a few more facts for you:

**Just the facts...** Israel controls immigration into both Israel and the oPt. Israel controls the Palestinian population registry, meaning it decides to whom status is granted in Palestine. The last batch of IDs granted was in 2009.

Under the Law of Return, "every Jew has the right to come to" Israel. However, the rights of Palestinian citizens and their families in Israel are limited.

140,000 Palestinian families were divided by the 1967 war.

And from 1967 to 1994, Israel cancelled the residency status of 130,000 Palestinians of the West Bank.

Palestinians in East Jerusalem have to continually prove that their "center of life" is the city, or they risk revocation of their IDs by Israel.

From 1994 to 2014, 11,448 such IDs were revoked.

Israel's family reunification ban was passed in 2003 as a "temporary" security measure in the wake of the Second Intifada. It has been renewed annually ever since.

While the Knesset failed to extend the ban in July 2021, the Israeli Ministry of the Interior is still refusing to process family reunification applications.

Sources: Al-Haq, Middle East Eye, Palestine Chronicle

<http://kuminow.com/FamilyUnification>

### Understanding Family Unification: Just the Facts...

- Israel controls immigration into both Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.
- Israel's control over the Palestinian population registry effectively means that it can decide to whom status gets granted in Palestine.
- The last batch of IDs Israel granted was in 2009.
- Under the Law of Return, "every Jew has the right to come to" Israel.
- However, the rights of Palestinian citizens in Israel, and of their spouses and their children are limited.
- 140,000 families were divided as a result of the 1967 war.
- Between 1967 and 1994, Israel also cancelled the residency status of 130,000 Palestinian residents of the West Bank.
- From 1994 to 2014, 11,448 Palestinians from East Jerusalem had their IDs revoked by Israel.
- Between 2000 and 2005 alone, 120,000 requests for family unification were not considered by Israel.
- As "permanent residents," Palestinians in East Jerusalem have to continually prove that their "center of life" is in the city, or they could have their ID revoked by Israel.
- Israel's family reunification ban was passed in 2003 as a "temporary" security measure in the wake of the Second Intifada.
- The reunification ban has been renewed annually every year since.
- While the Knesset failed to extend the Citizenship and Entry to Israel Law in July 2021, the Israeli Ministry of the Interior is still refusing to process family reunification applications.

This week's facts come from:

- "[Engineering Community: Family Unification, Entry Restrictions and other Israeli Policies of Fragmenting Palestinians](#)" from **Al-Haq**
- "[Israel: Thousands of unregistered Palestinians fear deportation, separation from families](#)" from **Middle East Eye**
- "[Israel: Interior Ministry Blocks Palestinian Family Reunification Requests](#)" from **Palestine Chronicle**

## Learning More

- To learn more you can start by reading "[Israel has denied certain married couples the right to live together. Some hide. Others break up.](#)" from the **Washington Post**.
- You can listen to the "[Love Under Israeli Apartheid](#)" episode of the **This Is Palestine** podcast from the **IMEU**.
- You can watch "[Palestinians Daring to Love](#)" from the **IMEU**.
- And also watch "[Love Stories for Social Justice](#)" from **Visualizing Palestine**.
- Finally, you can look at the [Timeline of Family Unification in the Occupied Palestinian Territories](#) from **Hamoked**.

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



Israel does not hesitate to move people against their will. Help keep the Israeli Minister of the Interior, Prime Minister, and the rest of the cabinet occupied without running afoul of international law by sending them silhouettes cut from paper (also known as paper dolls). Connect your paper dolls into families and send them to the current Minister of the Interior and include a message along the lines of, "At your next cabinet meeting you and your friend Benjamin Netanyahu can have fun cutting apart these families instead of Palestinian families. Stop playing with the Palestinian people."

Send your paper dolls and messages to:

Interior Ministry  
Attn: Minister of the Interior  
Box 6158  
2 Kaplan St.  
Jerusalem  
Israel

Share a photo of your paper doll families on social media, along with your messages. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #SaveMySchool, #KumiNow, and #Kumi30.

# You Should Know

*One or two people, companies, or organizations generally related to the issue of the week you should know, and how you can follow them online.*



## Ir Amim

Ir Amim (“City of Nations” or “City of Peoples”) focuses on Jerusalem within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The related issues of family unification and residency revocation are central to their work.

The mission of Ir Amim is to render Jerusalem a more equitable and sustainable city for the Israelis and Palestinians who share it and to help secure a negotiated resolution on the city through sustained monitoring, reporting, public and legal advocacy, public education and outreach to re-orient the public discourse on Jerusalem.

You can find Ir Amim on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

## Upcoming Weeks

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

# KUMI NOW ONLINE: AUGUST, 2021

Week 31	Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35
				
August 3 Collective Punishment	August 10 Indigenous Rights	August 17 U.S. Role in Palestine	August 24 Christian Zionism	August 31 Art as Resistance
<b>EVERY TUESDAY   6PM PALESTINE TIME   KUMINOW.COM</b>				

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](#).



## August 3: Week 31 - Collective Punishment

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On July 31, 2003 Israel passed the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law, making the lives of thousands of Palestinian individuals and families even more precarious and complex.

For our Kumi Action we will send the Prime Minister and his cabinet paper dolls to move around and play with.



## August 10: Week 32 - Indigenous Rights

[Read the full entry online.](#)

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For our Kumi Action we will send the Prime Minister and his cabinet paper dolls to move around and play with.

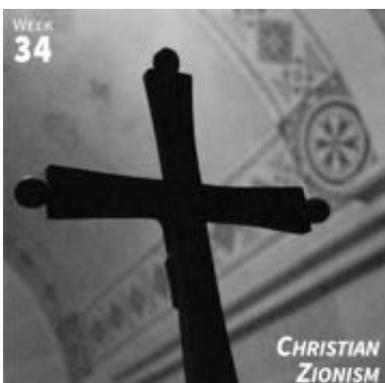


## August 17: Week 33 - U.S. Role in Palestine

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On July 31, 2003 Israel passed the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law, making the lives of thousands of Palestinian individuals and families even more precarious and complex.

For our Kumi Action we will send the Prime Minister and his cabinet paper dolls to move around and play with.



## August 24: Week 34 - Christian Zionism

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On July 31, 2003 Israel passed the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law, making the lives of thousands of Palestinian individuals and families even more precarious and complex.

For our Kumi Action we will send the Prime Minister and his cabinet paper dolls to move around and play with.

## August 31: Week 35 - Art as Resistance

[Read the full entry online.](#)



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For our Kumi Action we will send the Prime Minister and his cabinet paper dolls to move around and play with.

## You Should Watch or Read...

*One (or maybe two) recent or not-so-recent film, book, video, article, or other piece of art that you should consider reading or watching this week. Have a recommendation? Let us know.*



### **Sara**

This week, the **Palestine Film Institute** has selected *Sara* (2014, drama, 85 minutes) for the film of the week. You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). More about the film:

“A screenwriter and a director are working on a film about Sara, a Palestinian girl in one of Gaza's refugee camps, who is a victim of an "honour killing". The screenwriter is unable to write an ending that is both compelling and fictitious - the happy ending that he had hoped for. Meanwhile, the director, who is insistent on upholding the truth, is as keen to end his film, as he is to help his friend, who is deeply affected by Sara's story. The film presents the different sides of Gaza, whose people are hurt by everyday issues as much as by death.”

### **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 topic, [Collective Punishment](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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