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Week 35: Art as Resistance

WEEK 35 AUG. 27 TO SEP. 2 **ART AS RESISTANCE**

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<http://kuminow.com/ArtasResistance>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On Tuesday **Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer**, of **Peacemakers Trust** and **Sabeel-Kairos UK**, spoke about the continuing influence of Christian Zionism on Israel and Palestine, and the connection with apartheid. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes his bio, the advocacy instructions, and 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 about the continuing Christian Zionism support of Israel and its part in the apartheid in Palestine. Our guest was Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer of Peacemakers Trust and Sabeel-Kairos UK. Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1aDnb8vEJE>



August 29 marks the assassination of **Naji Al-Ali** in 1987. Naji Al-Ali was a political cartoonist and writer born in the 1936 in the Palestinian village of Ash Shajara. At the age of 10 he was a victim of the Nakba and grew up in a refugee camp in Lebanon.

In the 1970s he created the character Handala. According to Naji, "The child Handala is my signature, everyone asks me about him wherever I go. I gave birth to this child in the Gulf and I presented him to the people. His name is Handala and he has promised the people that he will remain true to himself. I drew him as a child who is not beautiful; his hair is like the hair of a hedgehog who uses his thorns as a weapon...His hands are clasped behind his back as a sign of rejection at a time when solutions are presented to us the American way..."

Handala was born ten years old, and he will always be ten years old. At that age, I left my homeland, and when he returns, Handala will still be ten, and then he will start growing up."

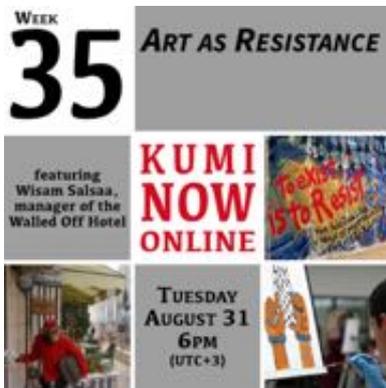
You can learn more about Naji Al-Ali and Handala on [Handala.org](#).

Next Online Gathering

August 31: Week 35 - Art as Resistance

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

Art as a creative tool of resistance is a cornerstone of a successful nonviolent resistance. While some resist the occupation with stones or guns or worse, and others turn to politics or religion, still others turn to art. One such artist was Naji Al-Ali, the political cartoonist who created Handala. Naji Al-Ali was assassinated for his



art, and died on August 29, 1987. In honor of Naji Al-Ali, and all the brave Palestinian artists who have risked their lives in the service of truth and art, this week we look at art as resistance in Palestine.

Our guest will be **Wisam Salsaa of the Walled Off Hotel**.

Time: Tuesday, August 31, 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 #35: Art as Resistance

Week 35 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Palestinians once believed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was a sprint. Participants behaved accordingly and were soon out of breath. However, people now realize that this conflict, one of the longest in modern history, is a marathon. In a marathon, people need to breathe differently, to train in another way and to run in a well-trained speed. One must have a long breath.

Too often the Palestinian tragedy is portrayed as a humanitarian crisis rather than one that has to do with identity and self-determination. They believe art is a luxury that Palestinians cannot afford. That, instead, what they need is bread to eat, to fill their stomach, so they can think and live another day. But people “shall not live by bread alone” (Matthew 4:4). Art and culture instead feed the soul and allow it to thrive. It gives people the strength to refuse being on the receiving end, perceived as victims. It allows people to become actors instead of spectators. It gives them the long breath necessary to resist.

For wherever there is occupation, there will be resistance. The question therefore is not whether to resist, but how to resist. A people hungry both in body and in soul will lash out in violence. Violence that is unacceptable and will lead to another loss. Art resists this.

- Dalton Trumbo
- Mahmoud Darwish
- Henry David Thoreau
- Bertha von Suttner
- Fyodor Dostoevsky
- Naji al-Ali
- Charlie Chaplin
- Joan Baez
- Adolfo Perez Esquivel
- Daniel Barenboim
- John Berger
- DAM
- Ibrahim Tuqan
- Keorapetse Kgositsile
- Howard Zinn
- Naomi Shihab Nye
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Learning More

To learn more you could read "[Palestinian cultural resistance: Art in the face of violence](#)" by **Hadani Ditmars** for the **Middle East Institute**. And consider watching "[How Artists Resist: Palestinian Political Cartoons w/ Sara Qaed, Carlos Latuff, Mohammad Sabaaneh](#)", hosted by **Miko Peled**.

To go deeper, we will be 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 a coincidence that many of the artists and works of art listed above that have reached an audience outside of the occupied Palestinian territory are created by non-Palestinians. Palestinian art, for the most part, remains trapped in Palestine along with its people. We ask that you help Palestinian art cross those borders by doing one of the following. Of course, in today's world you might need to find creative ways to share Palestinian art online:

- Ask your church, place of worship, school, or a community hall to host a screening of a film telling the story of the Palestinian people. Engaging with your community is part of advocacy! If you are unable to find a public space, host a film screening in your own home. Give preference to films produced by a Palestinian. See the list of [Additional Resources](#) for lists of documentaries and films. Or watch *Habibi*, currently streaming on the [Palestine Film Institute's website](#).
- If you are involved with a church, gallery, concert venue, theatre, or school host or produce a show of Palestinian art or featuring Palestinian artists.

Share a picture of your screening or art show on social media. Tag Dar al-Kalima and include a link to [this page of the Kumi Now website](#) along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi35.

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.



The Walled Off Hotel

The Walled Off Hotel is a boutique hotel designed by anonymous London-based artist **Banksy** and others. It is located in Bethlehem, adjacent to the Israeli Apartheid Wall separating the city from the holy site of Rachel's Tomb, with "the worst view of any hotel in the world." It was opened in March 2017, and initially designed to be a temporary exhibition. It has stayed open since then, becoming a permanent fixture in Bethlehem.

Sadly, the hotel is not taking visitors during the pandemic, but you can learn more and (eventually) book your trip on the [Walled Off Hotel website](#). And you can follow the hotel on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Dar al-Kalima University

Dar al-Kalima University currently has around 500 students enrolled. The mission of this institution of higher education is to train the next generation of creative leaders for Palestine; a creative class of visual artists, composers, musicians, dancers, film-makers, and designers who will be able to keep shaping a dynamic Palestinian identity.

And big news for Dal al-Kalima: It was just recently [accredited as a university](#). In 2006, the Dar al-Kalima Community College was accredited to grant two years associate degrees in visual and performing arts. In 2013, Dar al-Kalima was elevated to become the Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture, with the academic authority to grant BA degrees. Now, Dar al-Kalima has been re-accredited to become the **Dar al-Kalima University**, a full-fledged university that has five colleges and is authorized to grant all academic degrees available, from associate diplomas to a PhDs.

Dar al-Kalima is a Kumi Partner and helped write this week's Kumi Now entry.

You can find Dar al-Kalima on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Upcoming Weeks

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

KUMI NOW ONLINE: SEPTEMBER, 2021

Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39
			
September 7 <i>Education Funding and Policy</i>	September 14 <i>Bethlehem</i>	September 21 <i>Blockade of Gaza</i>	September 28 <i>Bedouin Rights</i>

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM

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](#).



September 7: Week 36 - Education Funding and Policy

[Read the full entry online.](#)

It's that time of year! Students across Palestine and Israel, and around the northern hemisphere, have headed, or are about to head, back to school. Sadly, Palestinian citizens of Israel face discrimination when it comes to education funding from the State of Israel. Jewish, Christian, Muslim or Druze: all deserve a quality education and equal support from the state. Here's what you need to know about education funding and policy in Israel and Palestine, and what you can do so that, together, we can pressure Israel to end its unequal treatment of its citizens' education.

For our Kumi Action we will raise awareness of funding inequalities for schools for Palestinian students as well as send books on justice to those that need them.

September 14: Week 37 - Bethlehem

[Read the full entry online.](#)



Rachel's Tomb, at the north end of Bethlehem, is of religious significance for Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike. But Israel has illegally annexed the tomb area, enclosing it with a wall and denying Palestinians access. Israel approved plans to enclose Rachel's Tomb on September 11, 2002. As we mark this travesty of what should be a Palestinian cultural and religious site, open to all, here's what you need to know about the effects of occupation and Jewish settlement on Bethlehem and what you can do.

For our Kumi Action we will spread the work of the Wall Museum around the world so that everyone knows about the realities of Bethlehem.



September 21: Week 38 - Blockade of Gaza

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The Kumi Now community celebrates International Day of Peace on September 21 by standing together for the part of Palestine most in need of peace: Gaza. Implemented in 2006, the Israeli blockade of Gaza was intended to punish Hamas for their victory in the 2006 elections. However, the reality is that children, families, and ordinary citizens are most punished by the blockade.

For our Kumi Action we will spread the message #FreeGaza on every piece of paper or other location we can in order to raise awareness for Gaza.



September 28: Week 39 - Bedouin Rights

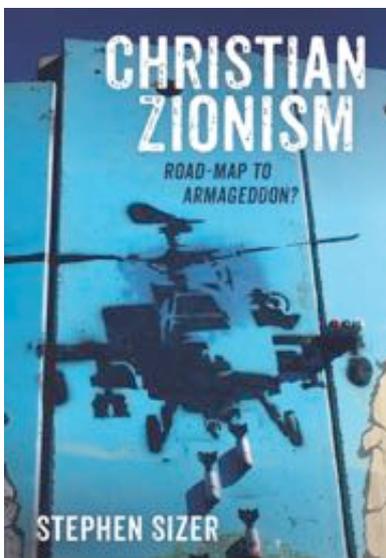
[Read the full entry online.](#)

Refugee Bedouin communities in Palestine and Israel have experienced decades of home demolitions and forcible transfers along with virtually non-existent services. In September 2011, Israel adopted the Praver Plan. One of its goals was to relocate 40,000 to 70,000 Negev Bedouin from their chosen homes to government-mandated lands.

For our Kumi Action we will send some sheep to Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

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.



Christian Zionism: Road-Map to Armageddon?

Last week we featured Stephen Sizer's other book on Christian Zionism, *Zion's Christian Soldiers*. The book is really one of a pair, and is worth reading with this, *Christian Zionism: Road-Map to Armageddon?*. From the website:

“This is a very fine and important book. All Christians who believe that Jesus favoured peacemakers, should read it and realise what terrible harm is being done in the name of Christianity. And all who are concerned about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict should read it to understand how Christian Zionism disables the US as fair minded mediator. European foreign policy thinkers should read it, because this distortion of US political space, puts a greater responsibility on European governments to stand up for justice and international law” Right Hon. Clare Short, former British Secretary of State for International Development.

You can find more information on the book, excerpts from it, and helpful study guides and other materials on Stephen Sizer's [website](#).



Habibi

This week, the **Palestine Film Institute** has selected *Habibi* (Drama, 2011, 78 minutes) as their film of the week. You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). More about the film:

“Habibi, a story of forbidden love, is a fiction feature set in Gaza. Two students in the West Bank are forced to return home to Gaza, where their love defies tradition. To reach his lover, Qays grafittis poetry across town. Habibi is a modern re-telling of the famous ancient Sufi parable Majnun Layla. The full Arabic title is 'Habibi Rasak Kharban,' which translates as 'Darling, something's wrong with your head.'”

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, [Education Funding and Policy](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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