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Week 38: Blockade of Gaza

WEEK 38 SEP 17 TO SEP 23 **BLOCKADE OF GAZA**



The UN and International Red Cross have declared the blockade an illegal form of collective punishment.

Following the hostilities in May, the World Bank estimates US\$485 million are needed for Gaza's recovery in the first 24 months.

Sources:
Gaza Unlocked
OCHA oPt
United Nations
World Bank

<http://kuminow.com/BlockadeofGaza>

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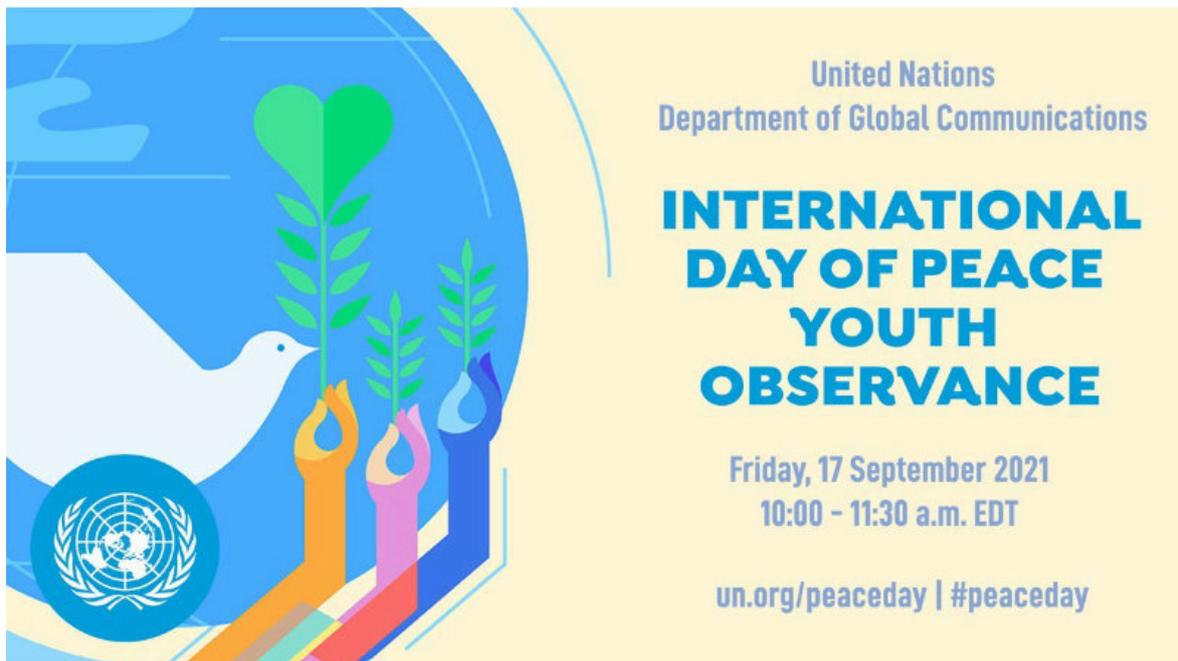
[You Should Watch or Read](#)

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On Tuesday **Zoughbi Alzoughbi**, founder and director of **Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center** spoke about how the Israeli Occupation chokes Bethlehem and its people. 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 how the Israeli Occupation chokes Bethlehem and its people. Our guest was Zoughbi Alzoughbi, founder and director of Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center. Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. https://youtu.be/Yi_g0gdyVKY



Tuesday, September 21st, is the **International Day of Peace**. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. It is one of two days in the year (the other being the first day of spring) when the Peace Bell, donated to the UN by Japan in 1954, is rung. You can [watch last year's ring of the bell](#).

You can find more information about the day [on the website](#). In particular, you might want to check out the [videos](#). And you can watch [this year's youth observance](#), which was held on the 17th.

Next Online Gathering

September 21: Week 38 - Blockade of Gaza

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

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

WEEK
38 **BLOCKADE OF GAZA**

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 21
6PM
(UTC+3)

featuring
George Antone
of the Pontifical
Mission for
Palestine

**KUMI
NOW
ONLINE**

FREE GAZA

elections. However, the reality is that children, families, and ordinary citizens are most punished by the blockade.

We will be joined by **George Antone** of the **Pontifical Mission for Palestine**.

Time: Tuesday, September 21, 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 #38: Blockade of Gaza

Week 38 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). In Week 13 we outlined the unsustainable living conditions caused by Israel's blockade of Gaza and the internal political struggle. This week, given the extreme nature of the oppression facing Gazans, we'd like to go into a little more detail on specific issues in Gaza, specifically Gaza's Infrastructure, farmland in Gaza, and women in Gaza.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of the farmer Mosaad Khalaf Habib. And here are some facts for you:

Just the facts...

The blockade was first imposed on Gaza by Israel in 2006 after Hamas won the Palestinian elections.

The United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross have declared the blockade an illegal form of collective punishment against the Gaza population.

Gaza's unemployment rate is around 50% – one of the highest in the world.

Youth unemployment is over 60%.

Over 80% of the population depends on international assistance.

70% of households in Gaza have running water for only six to eight hours once every two to four days.

Restrictions on the import of construction materials have deteriorated basic services and impede the reconstruction of homes.

In March, there were 4,403 crossings in and out of Gaza, less than 10% of the average (~50,000) prior to the imposition of restrictions due to the pandemic.

In March, there were 1,293 exit permit applications for patients referred to specialized treatment in the West Bank or Israel. Only 66% were approved.

Following the hostilities in May, the World Bank estimates US\$485 million are needed for Gaza's recovery in the first 24 months.

Sources: Gaza Unlocked, United Nations, OCHA oPt, World Bank

<http://kuminow.com/BlockadeofGaza>

Understanding the Blockade of Gaza: Just the Facts...

- The blockade was first imposed on Gaza by Israel in 2006 after Hamas won the Palestinian elections.
- Gaza's unemployment rate is around 50%—one of the highest in the world.
- Youth unemployment is over 60%.
- Over 80% of the population depends on international assistance.
- The United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross have declared the blockade an illegal form of collective punishment against the Gaza population.
- 70% of households in Gaza have running water for only six to eight hours once every two to four days.
- Restrictions on the import of basic construction materials have deteriorated basic services and impede the reconstruction of homes.
- In March 2021, there were 4,403 crossings in and out of Gaza, less than 10% of the monthly average (about 50,000) prior to the imposition of movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In March 2021, 1,293 exit permit applications were submitted for patients referred to specialized treatment in the West Bank or Israel. Only 66% were approved.
- Following the hostilities in May 2021, the World Bank estimates up to US\$485 million are needed for the recovery of Gaza during the first 24 months.

Sources

- [“About the Gaza Blockade”](#) from **Gaza Unlocked**
- [“The Gaza Strip: The Humanitarian Impact of the Blockade”](#) from the **United Nations**

- [“Gaza Strip: Snapshot | March 2021”](#) from **OCHA oPt**
- [“The Rebuilding of Gaza Amid Dire Conditions: Damage, Losses, and Needs”](#) from the **World Bank**

Learning More

To learn more about the blockade of Gaza we suggest you read [“Gaza Strip: A beginner’s guide to an enclave under blockade”](#) from **Al Jazeera**. And you can watch the short video [“How life changed since Israel blockaded the Gaza Strip?”](#) from WION.

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



This week, commit to writing in bold and big letters the hashtag #OpenGaza on every piece of paper currency you come across. The more bills in circulation with this message, the more people will see it. Respect currency laws if able. Alternately, you could write #OpenGaza on every assignment you turn in, prescription you write, business card you hand out, email you send, etc. Take pictures of whatever you write on and post them to social media. Include a link to this Kumi campaign page and the hashtags #OpenGaza and #KumiNow.

This is the sort of action you can take all year! Have #OpenGaza printed on your next order of business cards, etc. Share your creative ways of making this an ongoing action by posting your ideas on social media using the hashtags above. Include a link to [this page of the Kumi Now website](#) along with the hashtags #OpenGaza, #KumiNow, and #Kumi38.

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.



Pontifical Mission for Palestine

The **Pontifical Mission for Palestine (PMP)** is a special agency of the Holy See, founded by Pope Pius XII in June 1949 to assist Palestinian refugees. While it was intended to be a temporary agency, it eventually became the Holy See’s relief and development agency for Israel, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Iraq,

Lebanon and Syria. The Mission is administered by the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA).

You can find the PMP on CNEWA's [website](#) and follow the PMP on [Facebook](#). You can read more about its founding and history [here](#).



Aid Watch Palestine

Aid Watch Palestine (AWP) wrote our entry on "[Gaza Farmland](#)".

AWP is an independent, Palestinian-driven initiative that stimulates and supports efforts to make international aid more accountable to Palestinians—starting with reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. They invite the Palestinian community and aid actors-local and international, public and private-to join them in critical and constructive scrutiny of aid. Together, we can utilize aid to advance the Palestinian cause and focus on long-term solutions.

You can follow Aid Watch Palestine on [Facebook](#).

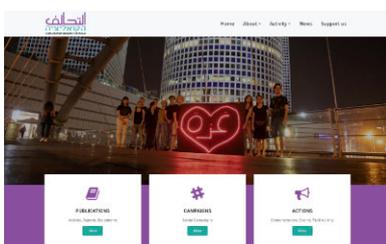


Churches for Middle East Peace

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) wrote our entry on "[Living in Gaza Under Blockade](#)".

CMEP is a coalition of 27 national church denominations and organizations in Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions. Through its more than 47,000 individual constituents and denominational partnerships, CMEP influences millions of American Christians. CMEP works to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote a just, lasting, and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights, and religious freedom for all the people of the region.

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



Coalition of Women for Peace

The Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP) wrote our entry on "[Women of Gaza](#)".

CWP is a feminist organization active in the struggle to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine, for the liberation of the Palestinian people from oppression, for the creation of a society based on principles of justice and equality, and for securing life and dignity for all the inhabitants of Israel/Palestine.

You can find CWP on their [website](#) and follow them on

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



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 28: Week 39 - Bedouin Rights

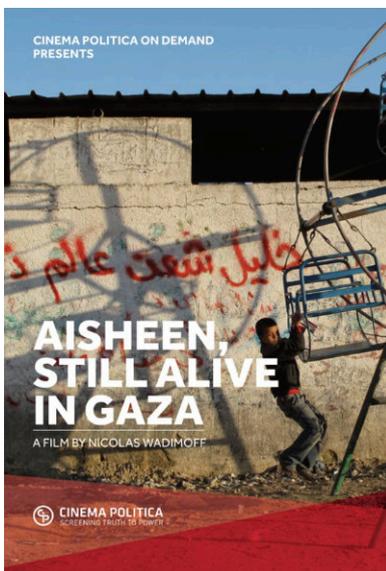
[Read the full entry online.](#)

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.



Aisheen, Still Alive in Gaza

Aisheen, Still Alive in Gaza (2010, documentary, 84 minutes) is not available to stream, and goes well with our topic this week. About the film:

“Shot a few weeks after the end of Israel’s January 2009 offensive, this sensitively crafted doc captures the human suffering and devastation wrought on Gaza’s Palestinian residents as they struggle daily to survive. “Where is the ghost town?” asks the little boy to the theme park attendant. “It’s there, right there. But it has been bombed. Do you want to see it?” With these words, Aisheen begins. The film is a compelling, impressionistic journey through a devastated Gaza after the war.

And the ghost town? Gaza is the ghost town. Clowns trying to make children forget the bombing with balloons and make-up; a beached whale “as big as a building” picked clean in a matter of hours by hungry residents; a scrawny stuffed lion hanging limply in a zoo cage—these surreal scenes convey the absurdity of a nation living on the brink, seemingly forever.”

You can rent the film for just a few dollars/euros/shekels/etc. or buy it to stream for a few more on [Vimeo](#).

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, [Bedouin Rights](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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