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## Week 51: Syrian Golan

**WEEK 51**    DEC. 17  
                  TO  
                  DEC. 23    **SYRIAN GOLAN**

In June 1967, Israel seized and occupied 1,250 km<sup>2</sup> (over 2/3) of the Syrian Golan) displaced over 130,000 native Syrian inhabitants from their homes.

More than 26,000 Israeli settlers live in over 34 illegal settlements in the Syrian Golan.

More than 9000 acres (over 6000 football pitches) are believed to be minefields.



Source: Al-Marsad | Arab Human Rights Centre in Golan Heights

<http://kuminow.com/SyrianGolan>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On Tuesday, **Umar al-Ghubari** of **Zochrot** spoke about the Palestinian Right of Return. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on our [website](#). The website includes the advocacy instructions and links shared during the gathering.

We would appreciate it if you could share the session with your community or on social media. You could use text such as:

*The United Nations has repeatedly called on Israel to grant Palestinians the right to return to their homes and property. Israel has for decades blocked any sort of Palestinian return or compensation for their losses, despite international law demanding otherwise.*

*Last week Umar al-Ghubari of Zochrot spoke about this injustice and what can be done about it as part of our latest Kumi Now online gathering. Watch here: <https://youtu.be/BJUQIVHIEKI>*



Israel occupied the Syrian Golan in 1967, then passed the [Golan Heights Law](#) (yet another annexation law which aims to create a legal defense for the application of Israeli law in the Golan Heights) in December of 1981, a move condemned by the United Nations at the time but backed by the United States in 2019.

## Next Online Gathering

|   |   |
|---|---|
| WEEK<br><b>51</b>   | <b>SYRIAN GOLAN</b>   |
| featuring<br>Al-Marsad  | <b>KUMI<br/>NOW<br/>ONLINE</b>  |
|  |  |
| <b>TUESDAY<br/>DECEMBER 21<br/>6PM<br/>(UTC+2)</b>                                  |   |

### December 21: Week 51 - Syrian Golan

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

This week, we mark the occupation and annexation of the Syrian Golan. Israel occupied the Syrian Golan in 1967, then passed the Golan Heights Law in December of 1981, a move condemned by the United Nations at the time but backed by the United States in 2019.

Our guest will be announced soon.

**Time:** Tuesday, December 21, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+2) 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: 6pm
- Manila: 12am
- Sydney: 3am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 5am (+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 #51: Syrian Golan

Week 51 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). The Syrian Golan (or Golan Heights) is a mountainous region in southwest Syria. During the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Israel occupied over two-thirds of the Syrian Golan—a land mass slightly smaller than Greater London. Today, this area is known as the occupied Syrian Golan/Golan Heights.

Following the Israeli occupation, approximately 95% (130,000) of the native Syrian population was forcibly transferred or displaced from their homes and forbidden from returning. Subsequently, the Israeli military began a widespread campaign to demolish homes, destroying one city and 340 villages and farms. These were replaced by Israeli agricultural settlements, often built with stones from the destroyed villages and farms. In 1981, Israel enacted the Golan Heights Law which purported to annex the territory into the State of Israel, an illegal action widely condemned by the international community.

Please read the essay on the Syrian Golan along with the story of Saleh Abu-Arrar. And here are some facts for you:

## Just the facts...

More than 26,000 Israeli settlers live in over 34 illegal settlements in the Syrian Golan.

In June 1967, Israel seized and occupied 1,250 km<sup>2</sup> (over 2/3) of the Syrian Golan).

Israel forcibly transferred or displaced over 130,000 native Syrian inhabitants from their homes.

The international community has repeatedly stated that the settlements are illegal under international law.

More than 9000 acres (over 6000 football pitches) are believed to be minefields.

The remaining Syrian population of 25,000 lives in 5 severely overcrowded villages located in the extreme north.

Israeli settlers, military, and authorities control 95% of the land.

Over 100 native Syrian inhabitants have had their residency status revoked after study or work abroad and are unable to return to their homes and families.

The native Syrians are recognised as having an 'undefined' citizenship, thus denied their basic right to a nationality.

As a result of restrictions by the Israeli planning committees, it is close to impossible for Syrians to obtain building permits.

Israeli authorities seek to appropriate 20,000 acres of land used by the native Syrian residents since Ottoman rule under the guise of the 'Hermon National Park' plan.

Sources: Al-Marsad | Arab Human Rights Centre in Golan Heights

<http://kuminow.com/SyrianGolan>

## Understanding the Syrian Golan. Just the facts...

- In June 1967, Israel seized and occupied 1,250 km<sup>2</sup> of the Syrian Golan (over 2/3 of the total land mass).
- Israel forcibly transferred or displaced over 130,000 native Syrian inhabitants from their homes.
- More than 26,000 Israeli settlers live in over 34 illegal settlements in the Syrian Golan.
- Together with the Israeli military and authorities, they control 95% of the land.
- The international community has repeatedly stated that the settlements are illegal under international law.
- The native Syrian population of the Occupied Syrian Golan are recognised as having an 'undefined' citizenship, thus denied their basic right to a nationality.
- Around 100 native Syrian inhabitants of the Occupied Syrian Golan have had their permanent residency status revoked since 1982 following travel and residency abroad for study or work. These people are unable to return back to their homes and join their families in the Occupied Syrian Golan.
- More than 9000 acres – the equivalent of over 6000 football pitches – are suspected to be mined in the Occupied Syrian Golan.
- At least 69 Syrians have been victims of landmines in the Occupied Syrian Golan. Among these, 18 died, half of whom were children.
- 60% of Israeli Jewish employers refuse to apply laws that prohibit discrimination against Israeli Palestinians in the labour market.
- Violations of Syrian workers' labour rights started with the banning of Syrian-based labour unions in the 70s and continued with the prohibition of grassroot organizations to take their place.

- The remaining Syrian population of 25,000 live in 5 severely overcrowded villages located in the extreme north.
- As a result of severe restrictions imposed by Israeli planning committees, it is close to impossible for the Syrian population to obtain building permits.
- Israeli authorities seek to appropriate 20,000 acres of land that has been used by the native Syrian residents since Ottoman rule under the guise of the 'Hermon National Park' plan from around two of the Syrian villages.
- President Trump's recent recognition, in violation of international law, of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan endangers regional and international peace and security.

## Source

These facts all come from the **AI-Marsad** 'Issues' pages, which you can access from the menu on their [homepage](#).

## Learning More

To learn more about the Syrian Golan you can read the AI-Marsad 'Issues' articles on their [website](#) and check out their [map](#) and accompanying [booklet in PDF](#). They also have a [series of reports](#) on various aspects of the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan.

And we have a [playlist of related videos](#) on YouTube.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week:

## Kumi Action



*Photo by Tracy Hunter used under a Creative Commons [license](#).*

Write to international travel companies such as Airbnb, Booking.com, eDreams, Expedia, and Lonely Planet that misrepresent the occupied Syrian Golan as part of Israel and promote accommodation and tourist activities in illegal Israeli settlements. Tell them that this misrepresentation is false advertising and violates consumers' rights. Request that these companies comply with international human rights and humanitarian law standards and stop promoting accommodation and tourism in illegal Israeli settlements.

- Booking.com's customer service email is [customer.service@booking.com](mailto:customer.service@booking.com) and Booking.com's press office email is [lon-booking@ketchum.com](mailto:lon-booking@ketchum.com).
- Contact Lonely Planet by visiting this [link](#). It provides options to give feedback on guidebooks and email addresses to contact Lonely Planet.
- You can find email addresses for Airbnb's press offices around the world by visiting this [link](#).

Share your messages to the travel companies on social media along with the phrase "Don't exploit the occupied Syrian Golan!" Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #OccupiedGolan, #KumiNow, and #Kumi51. If on Twitter, also tag [@GenieEnergy](#).

# 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.*



## Al-Marsad, the Arab Human Rights Centre in the Golan Heights

**Al-Marsad, the Arab Human Rights Centre in the Golan Heights**, is an independent legal human rights organisation. The organisation was founded in 2003 by members of the remaining Syrian population and is the only human rights organisation operating in the occupied Syrian Golan. Its mission is “to protect and promote human rights and respect for the rule of law in the occupied Syrian Golan, with a commitment to the overall application of international law, in particular: international humanitarian law and international human rights law.”

You can find Al-Marsad on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## Upcoming Weeks

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

| <b>KUMI NOW ONLINE: DECEMBER, 2021</b>  |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Week 49</b>  | <b>Week 50</b>  | <b>Week 51</b>   | <b>Week 52</b>  |
|  |  |  |  |
| <b>December 7</b><br><b>Human Rights</b>  | <b>December 14</b><br><b>Right of Return</b>  | <b>December 21</b><br><b>Syrian Golan</b>  | <b>December 28</b><br><b>Christians in the Holy Land</b>                              |

**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](#).



## December 28: Week 52 - Christians in the Holy Land

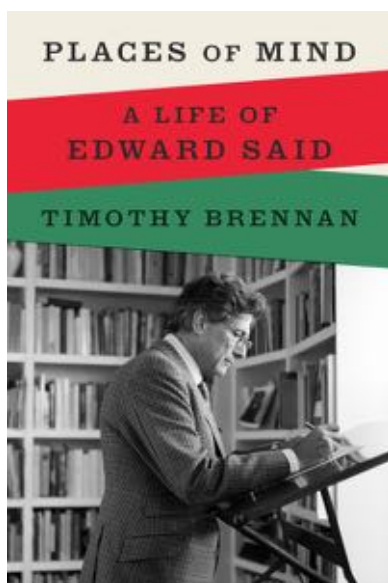
[Read the full entry online.](#)

Palestinians in the occupied territory face increasingly difficult circumstances due to the Israeli occupation. This has led many Palestinian Christians to emigrate, leading to a diminished Christian presence in the Holy Land. This week, as the World Council of Churches publishes the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for Palestine and Israel, the Kumi Community is focusing on this problem.

For our Kumi Action we will be encouraging our local churches to preach on Palestine.

## 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.*



### ***Places of Mind: A life of Edward Said* by Timothy Brennan**

A couple weeks ago, the **Palestine Book Awards** announced their [2021 winners](#). You can watch the ceremony [here](#). We've highlighted a couple of the winners this year, but we have not mentioned, and are excited to read, ***Places of Mind: A life of Edward Said*** by **Timothy Brennan**, the winner of this year's Biography Award. About the book:

“Drawing on extensive archival sources and hundreds of interviews, Timothy Brennan’s *Places of Mind* is the first comprehensive biography of Said, one of the most controversial and celebrated intellectuals of the 20th century. In Brennan’s masterful work, Said, the pioneer of post-colonial studies, a tireless champion for his native Palestine, and an erudite literary critic emerges as a self-doubting, tender, and eloquent advocate of literature’s dramatic effects on politics and civic life.

*Places of the Mind* charts the intertwined routes of Said’s intellectual development, revealing him as a study in opposites: a cajoler and strategist, a New York intellectual with a foot in Beirut, an orchestra impresario in Weimar and Ramallah, a raconteur on national television, a Palestinian negotiator at the State Department, and an actor in films in which he played himself. Brennan traces the Arab influences of Said’s thinking along with his tutelage under Lebanese statesmen, off-beat modernist auteurs, and New York literati, as Said grew into a scholar whose influential

writings changed the face of university life forever...”

You can read a full review of the book [here](#).

### 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, [Christians in the Holy Land](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

Go to Kumi Now Page

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