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## Week 4: Jerusalem

WEEK **04** JAN. 22  
TO  
JAN. 28 **JERUSALEM**

Over 200,000 Israelis live in illegal settlements on Palestinian land in East Jerusalem.

90% of Jerusalem's budget goes to Jewish Israeli neighborhoods.

There's a shortage of over 2,200 classrooms in East Jerusalem.

87% of East Jerusalem is zoned to not allow Palestinian construction.



Sources: *Visualizing Palestine*, United Nations

<http://kuminow.com/Jerusalem>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

In Kumi Now this week we turn our attention to Jerusalem, where just this week, around 3am Wednesday morning, Israeli forces stormed the Salhiya family home in Sheikh Jarrah and expelled the 15 family members living there [before demolishing the family's home](#).

Before we get to our Kumi entry, we'd like to remind you that we're getting close to the launch of our 2022 webinars. Last week we announced our forthcoming **Palestinian Innovators series** and **Palestinian Solutions series**. If you missed it, here's the details of each series:

The [Palestinian Innovators](#) series, happening the **first Tuesday of each month**, will focus on individual Palestinians that are coming up with creative or innovative ways to support their communities, do business, advocate for Palestine, and otherwise contribute to the world. We are sure they will be an inspiration to us all!

The [Palestinian Solutions](#) series, occurring the **third Tuesday of each month**, will take a different approach to Palestine than we, and almost every other organization, have taken in the past. Instead of focusing on what Israel should stop doing or what the UN and other nations should do, we will look at the problems facing Palestine from a Palestinian perspective. Better understanding the internal workings and struggles of Palestine will help us all become better allies and smarter activists as we learn to work together for Palestine.

We begin this coming **Tuesday, January 25**, with an informal meeting with Omar Haramy to discuss what we're doing this year, and to hear your thoughts for 2022. The first Innovators Series webinar will then follow on **February 1**. Here's all the information:



## January 25: Introducing the Palestinian Innovators and Palestinian Solutions Series

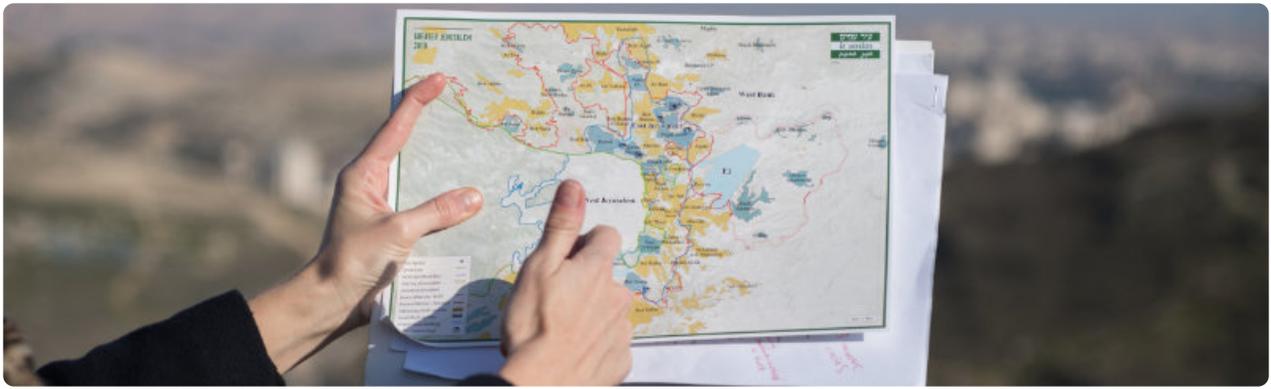
**Time:** Tuesday, January 25, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+2) That's...

- 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> (The meetings require a simple registration now, but it only takes a second)

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 this page](#).

And now on to this week's Kumi Now entry and what you can do to oppose the partition and annexation of Jerusalem...



The Israeli military occupied Jerusalem in 1967. Yet Israel started its efforts to claim Jerusalem as its alone years prior, regardless of the wishes of the United Nations and the claims of Palestinians, when, on January 23, 1950, the Knesset declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

## This Week's Entry

**Please note:** To match the dates in the book, we will now be posting a new entry each Saturday, and this newsletter should go out the same day.

**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 #4: Jerusalem**

Week 4 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Once regarded as the center of the world, an epicenter of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, a symbol of the clashes of civilizations, demolished and rebuilt on at least eighteen occasions, conquered and reconquered more than thirty-seven times: truly, Jerusalem is a city of the world. The Israeli military occupied Jerusalem in 1967. Yet Israel started its efforts to claim Jerusalem as its alone years prior, regardless of the wishes of the United Nations and the claims of Palestinians, when, on January 23, 1950, the Knesset declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel. 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 Georgette Rizek. You can watch **Rami Saleh** of **Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center** and **Dr. Lily Habash-Hilal** discuss the troubles of Jerusalem as part of our previous Kumi Now Online Gathering. [This link](#) will take you directly to the 22 minute mark, where they start their presentations. And here are a few more facts for you:

WEEK JAN. 22  
**04** TO  
JAN. 28

## JERUSALEM

### Just the facts...

*87% of East Jerusalem is zoned to not allow Palestinian construction.*

*90% of Jerusalem's budget goes to Jewish Israeli neighborhoods.*

*93% of building permits are awarded for Jewish Israeli construction across Jerusalem.*

*Only 10% goes to Palestinian neighborhoods, home to 37% of the population.*

*Palestinians receive 7% of the building permits, despite a shortage of 43,000 homes for Palestinian families.*

*10,000 Palestinians born in Jerusalem have NO legal status because Israel will not register them.*

*Over 4.5 million Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory are prohibited from entering Jerusalem without Israeli-issued permits.*

*Over 200,000 Israelis live in illegal settlements on Palestinian land in East Jerusalem.*

*Since 2000, Israel has demolished some 1,500 houses and structures in East Jerusalem.*

*76% of Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem and 83% of the children live below the Israel-defined poverty line.*

*14,500 Palestinians have had their Jerusalem residency revoked.*

*There is a shortage of more than 2,200 classrooms in East Jerusalem.*

*Sources: Visualizing Palestine, United Nations*

**<http://kuminow.com/Jerusalem>**

### Understanding Jerusalem: Just the Facts...

- 90% of Jerusalem's city budget is directed towards Jewish Israeli neighborhoods.
- Only 10% is directed towards Palestinian neighborhoods, home to 37% of the population.
- 10,000 Palestinians born in Jerusalem have NO legal status because their parents hold different ID cards and Israel will not register them.
- Over 200,000 Israelis live in illegal settlements on Palestinian land in East Jerusalem.
- 14,500 Palestinians have had their Jerusalem residency revoked.
- 87% of East Jerusalem is zoned to not allow Palestinian construction.
- 93% of building permits are awarded for Jewish Israeli construction across Jerusalem.
- Palestinians receive 7% of the building permits.
- This despite a shortage of 43,000 homes for Palestinian families.
- Approximately 4.5 million Palestinians from the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) are prohibited from entering East Jerusalem without Israeli-issued permits.
- Those who obtain permits can only use 3 of the 13 checkpoints along the wall.
- Since 2000, the Israeli authorities have demolished some 1,500 houses and other structures in East Jerusalem.
- 76% of Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem and 83% of the children live below the Israel-defined poverty line.

- There is a chronic shortage of classrooms in East Jerusalem: More than 2,200 additional classrooms are required to accommodate Palestinian children and many existing facilities are substandard or unsuitable.

This week's Just the Facts comes from:

- A number of infographics from **Visualizing Palestine**: [one](#), [two](#), [three](#), [four](#)
- OCHA oPt's "[West Bank | East Jerusalem: Key Humanitarian Concerns](#)".

## Learning More



You can start with the two-part documentary from Al Jazeera, Jerusalem: A Rock and a Hard Place. It features both Sabeel's Omar Haramy, and a previous guest, Dr. Meir Margalit. You can watch [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) on YouTube.

And then see our extensive [list of additional resources](#). And on YouTube you can find [our playlist on Jerusalem here](#).

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week. We're now releasing a video each week focusing on the Kumi Action! Check out the one below [on YouTube](#).

## Kumi Action



We would like you to reach out to those in power about Israel's flaunting of international law and norms. This is particularly important right now with inequable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and we suggest you lead with this urgent issue and put it in the context of Israel's ongoing action.

We urge you to reach out to local, national, and international elected officials, agency leaders, and influential people. Get creative in thinking about who might be interested and bring new interest to the cause. Here are some suggestions you can draw on in crafting your letters, emails, tweets, posts, and Instagrams:

Draft sample letter. You might start with something like:

"Israel continues to ignore its responsibilities as an occupying power under international law as it refuses to assist Palestine in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, proving once again that Israel views the Palestinian lives under its control as less important than the lives of illegal Jewish settlers it allows to live in the West Bank, but who have access to COVID-19 vaccinations.

For decades Israel has violated well-documented U.N. resolution after resolution, contravened numerous international (humanitarian) law obligations and treaties, and ignored an International Court of Justice advisory opinion. When a state persists in seriously breaching norms of international law, it is not only the state itself that fails to meet its obligations. The entire international community, including XXXX (respective country), then forsakes its duty to hold that state accountable for its actions. That is exactly what is going on in the case of Israel's occupation of Palestine."

**Here is a list of international laws Israel is violating. Include one or two in your communications:**

**a) Treaties Israel has ratified or acceded to and are therefore binding:**

- *The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.*
- *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.* The committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination emphasized its concern about "policies and practices which amount to de facto segregation."
- *The U.N. World Heritage Convention.* The UNESCO world heritage committee regularly criticizes Israel for its constant aggressions against the Old City of Jerusalem and its holy sites.
- *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.* The U.N. human rights committee criticized a number of breaches including punitive house demolitions and discriminatory planning regimes.
- *The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.* The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights raised concerns about severe restrictions on the freedom of movement in the occupied Palestinian territory, lack of social security and services in East Jerusalem, and insufficient access to safe water in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- *The Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.* The Committee against torture showed concerns on issues ranging from degrading treatment on checkpoints, acts of violence by settlers, postponement of return of bodies, access to lawyers, and the treatment of juvenile detainees.
- *The Convention on the Rights of the Child.* The committee monitoring the implementation of the treaty has disregarded the obligations in Gaza and cases of settlers' violence against children. The committee also deemed the separation barrier and the Gaza blockade as forms of collective punishment, heavily impeding the development of children.

**b) Customary Law and General Principles:**

- The Hague Convention IV
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The Fourth Geneva Convention

**Language you can use to hold Israel accountable:**

- "Are you familiar with all the international law violations relating to Israel?"
- "Why do we [respective country] allow this international law violation?"
- "Sanctions and other measures are enforced on countries that violate international law, but why are those measures not imposed on Israel?"

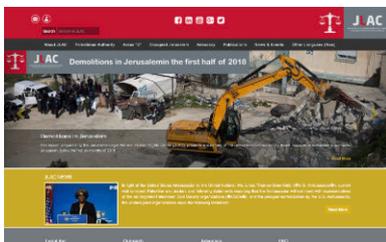
**Possible talking points:**

- “We want you to stand up to take responsibility and act immediately to pressure Israel to abide by international law.”
- “We do not tolerate illegal measures contributing to the injustice and suffering of the Palestinian people.”
- “If we remain silent we share the responsibility for the ongoing occupation.”
- “Please explain on what grounds we do not live up to our third party responsibility when it comes to issues related to Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine?”

You can send these letters via regular mail or email, or get creative, delivering letters in person, or communicating via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. Share your letters publicly and include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi4.

## You Should Know

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



### Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC)

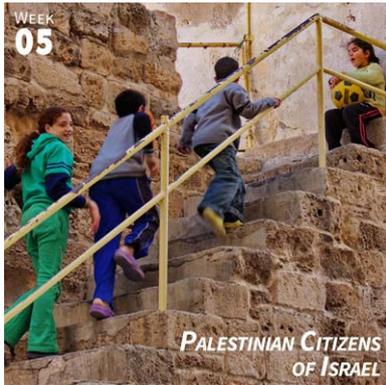
The **Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC)** is one of the leading human rights organizations in Palestine. Founded in 1974 by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), JLAC was officially registered as an independent organization in 1997. Through its different branches in Ramallah, Jerusalem, Nablus and Salfit, JLAC seeks to defend Palestinians against human rights violations regardless of the perpetrator. The Bulk of JLAC’s work, however, focuses on protecting the rights of Palestinians against Israel’s policies of annexation and systematic abuse. In occupied Jerusalem, JLAC provides pro bono legal aid and services to marginalized Palestinians in the fields of residency rights, family unification, social and economic rights and house demolition orders. Legal aid in combatting demolition and confiscation orders is extended to area C of the West Bank. Since 2008, JLAC has led a legal and popular campaign for the recovery of Palestinian and Arab war victims’ bodies and the disclosure of the fate of the missing.

In addition to confronting Israeli human rights violations, JLAC is active in insuring the respect for the rule of law and the separation of powers in PA-controlled areas. It has also recently led campaigns to advance respect for disability rights in the public spaces by centering the demand for accessibility and equality.

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

## Upcoming Weeks

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



## January 29 to February 4: Week 5 - Palestinian Citizens of Israel

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Palestinian citizens of Israel face regular discrimination in policing, employment, housing, and every other facet of life. As the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens in Israel has called for January 30 to be an International Day for Supporting the Rights of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel, the Kumi Now community is this week turning our attention to these citizens.

Our Kumi Action will be to send Valentine messages to raise awareness of how Israeli laws and policies affect Palestinian families and keep them apart.

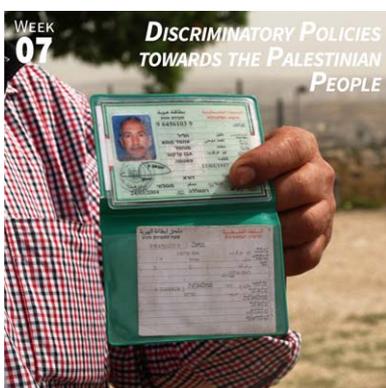


## February 5 to 11: Week 6 - Medical Rights

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The blockade of Gaza is a noose around its neck. One of the worst impacts of that noose is the denial of patients' rights to travel within Palestinian territory for treatment, which is not available in Gaza. As a result, 54 patients died awaiting permission to travel for medical treatment in 2017. Begun in 1994 by the Catholic Church, the World Day of the Sick, observed every February 11, is a day for turning our attention and aid to those suffering from sickness.

Our Kumi Action will use Google Map reviews to bring awareness to the violations of medical rights of Palestinians.



## February 12 to 18: Week 7 - Discriminatory Policies towards the Palestinian People

[Read the full entry online.](#)

It is clear that there are many practices of the Israeli government that deny Palestinians their human rights and fundamental freedom and, by extension, their social development and justice.

One of these practices is that of citizenship denial and discrimination, and the restrictions on movement and opportunities that come with it. Asking a Palestinian

about her passport quickly becomes an object lesson in the machinations of occupation.

Our Kumi Action will involve sharing pictures of our flags and messages regarding universal rights and social justice.



## February 19 to 25: Week 8 - Settlements and Violence

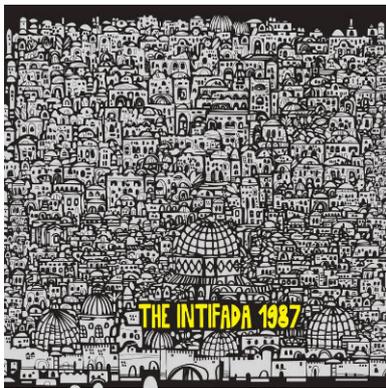
[Read the full entry online.](#)

This week, as Palestinians mark the date of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre on February 25, the Kumi Now community is focusing on Israeli settlements. Palestinians in the occupied territory face loss of lands and resources, violence, discrimination, and other injustices due to the encroachment of these settlements that are illegal under international law.

You get a choice of Kumi Actions: posting signs, hosting a vigil, or hosting a screening of the film *Soldier on the Roof*.

## You Should Watch or Read

*Recent and not-so-recent films, books, music, and other arts related to Palestine, as well as news about festivals and other events.*



### *The Intifada 1987* by Riad Awwad, Hanan Awwad, and Mahmoud Darwish

***The Intifada 1987* by Riad Awwad, Hanan Awwad, and Mahmoud Darwish** was an album recorded after the first week of the First Intifada. You can read a review of the album over on [Pitchfork](#), and find the album to purchase digitally or on vinyl (no CDs????) on [Bandcamp](#). More about the album:

"Just one week after the outbreak of the First Intifada in 1987, Riad brought his sisters Hanan, Alia and Nariman together in their living room and began recording The Intifada album on equipment he had made himself. One of these was co-written with their friend, the acclaimed Palestinian writer Mahmoud Darwish.

Riad printed 3000 copies of the cassettes which he began distributing in the Old City of Jerusalem and across the West Bank. The Israeli Army immediately confiscated all the copies they could find, the vast majority of which remain in the military archives to this day. Riad was arrested, interrogated and detained for

several months.

Straight after his release, he formed a band, Palestinian Union, and put out a new album. He then founded a school, offering kids in the West Bank an alternative musical education, teaching them how to create their own electronic equipment."

You can read more about the album and how it was rediscovered and re-released on the [Bandcamp page](#).

P.S. Thanks to the excellent [Palestine Deep Dive](#) newsletter for bringing this to our attention. If there's one other newsletter about Palestine you should subscribe to, this is definitely it.

### What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on January 25th! Until then, you'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next issue, [Palestinian Citizens of Israel](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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