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Week 11: Olive Trees

WEEK 11 MAR. 12 TO MAR. 18 **OLIVE TREES**



Around 100,000 Palestinian households rely on olives for their primary income.

Palestinians lose US\$12.3 million each year due to uprooted olive trees.

More than 8,400 olive trees were uprooted or burned in 2020.

Sources: Visualizing Palestine, B'tselem, Anadolu Agency

<http://kuminow.com/OliveTrees>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

Please note that clocks spring forward in Canada and the United States this

weekend. As such, this Tuesday's webinar will be an hour later in those countries. Exact times for several time zones are listed below. We hope you can still make it!

In fact, let's get right to that webinar:

Next Online Gathering



March 15: Palestinian Innovators #4

[Read the full entry online.](#)

It's that time of year again! Daylight Saving Time: the source of headaches for anyone trying to plan cross-border meetings. This weekend, the United States and Canada jump forward an hour, meaning the webinar will be an hour LATER in those countries. We think all the times below are correct. We hope you can make it!

Remember! We're doing webinars on the first and third Tuesday of each month. That means we see you this Tuesday, March 15!

We have a very interesting guest lined up this week. We're (still) waiting for some confirmation for the date to work, so we won't drop a name quite yet, but trust us on this one. One way or another, we will have a fascinating guest for you...

Time: Tuesday, March 15, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+2) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 9am
- Central (Chicago): 11am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 12pm
- Atlantic: 1pm
- Newfoundland: 1:30pm
- 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 the page.](#)

This Week's Entry

Please note: To match the dates in the [calendar](#) we post a new entry and publish the newsletter each 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 #11: Olive Trees

Week 11 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Palestinians in the occupied territory face rampant destruction of their olive trees and livelihoods. As more trees are uprooted and burned by settlers and Israeli occupation forces, brave farmers work to replant and undo the damage. However, their resources are stretched thin and livelihoods and traditions are at stake. 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 of Souad Ali. Last year we were joined by **Father Raed Abu Sahlieh**, founder of the **Olive Branch Foundation** and **Old Olive Trees of Palestine**. You can see his talk and Q and A starting at the [25:30 mark of the webinar](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

WEEK MAR. 12
11 TO
MAR. 18 **OLIVE TREES**

Just the facts... *Around 100,000 Palestinian households rely on olives for their primary income.*

Olive production accounted for 57% of cultivated land in the Palestinian territories with 7.8 million fruit-bearing olive trees.

In 2014, an estimated 108,000 tonnes of olives were pressed producing 24,700 tonnes of olive oil.

Since 1967 between 800,000 and 2 million Palestinian olive trees have been uprooted by Israeli authorities.

Palestinians lose US\$12.3 million each year due to uprooted olive trees.

The total number of trees uprooted, burned, or chemically poisoned by the settlers since 2010 have reached 101,988, accounting for losses of \$47 million.

During the 2020 harvest there were 39 incidents in which settlers attacked Palestinian harvesters, blocked access to their groves, stole crops, and damaged trees and equipment.

Settlers mutilated more than 500 olive trees.

They stole a total of roughly 20,000 kilos of olives.

More than 8,400 olive trees were uprooted or burned in 2020.

Sources: Visualizing Palestine, B'Tselem, Anadolu Agency

<http://kuminow.com/OliveTrees>

Understanding Olive Trees: Just the Facts...

- Since 1967 between 800,000 and 2 million Palestinian olive trees have been uprooted by Israeli authorities.

- Palestinians lose US \$12.3 million each year due to uprooted olive trees.
- Around 100,000 households rely on olives for their primary income.
- Olive production accounted for 57% of cultivated land in the Palestinian territories with 7.8 million fruit-bearing olive trees.
- In 2014, an estimated 108,000 tonnes of olives were pressed producing 24,700 tonnes of olive oil.
- During the 2020 harvest there were 39 incidents in which settlers attacked Palestinian harvesters, blocked their access to their own olive groves, stole crops, and damaged trees and farming equipment.
- Settlers mutilated more than 500 olive trees altogether.
- They stole a total of about 20,000 kilos of olives.
- The total number of trees uprooted, burned, or chemically poisoned by the settlers since 2010 have reached 101,988, accounting for losses of \$47 million.
- More than 8,400 olive trees were uprooted or burned in 2020.

These facts are drawn from the following reports and sources:

- [“Uprooted”](#) infographic from **Visualizing Palestine**.
- [“2020 olive harvest – another year of severe, state-backed settler violence”](#) from **B’Tselem**.
- [“Punishing Palestinian farmers by uprooting olive trees”](#) from **Anadolu Agency**.

Learning More

To learn more, you should watch:

- [“Palestine’s Olive Harvest: Farmers Under Attack”](#) from **Mondoweiss**
- [“Palestine’s Olive Harvest: A Timeless Tradition”](#) from **Mondoweiss**

To go deeper, we have an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week’s entry and we’re developing 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. We're now releasing a video each week focusing on the Kumi Action! Check out the one below on [YouTube](#).

Kumi Action



Plant or name a tree in your garden and/or in front of your house, place of worship, or institution in an act of solidarity for Palestine. Call it a “Tree of Hope for Peace with Justice around the World, an Idea from Palestinian Farmers” and place a sign in front of the tree for everyone to see.

We also encourage everyone to sponsor an olive tree in Palestine. The US\$20 sponsorship covers the cost of the young plant, distribution, planting, and information for the farmers on the best techniques for olive tree care and production improvement. The cost also covers an official certificate, a sponsor label to be inscribed with the sponsor’s name and put up in the field where the tree is planted, and miscellaneous implementation costs of the project.

Every sponsor receives a certificate of appreciation from the JAI or partner organization in the sponsor’s respective country, in addition to having their names put up on a plaque in the field where their trees are planted. Sponsorship records are available online, hence people can type their name and find where their tree(s) is/are planted, or write us at: olivetree@jai-pal.org

To sponsor an olive tree, simply go to [this website](#) and follow the instructions.

Whether you plant your own tree or sponsor one, take photos and share what you’ve done, encouraging others to do likewise. Post your photos on social media, along with the message “I planted (or sponsored) this tree for Palestinian farmers.” Include a link to [this page of the Kumi Now website](#) along with the hashtags #TreeofHope, #KumiNow, and #Kumi11.

You Should Know

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



Joint Action Initiative

The **YMCA-YWCA Joint Advocacy Initiative (JAI)** works to introduce international partners and activists to the reality of life under occupation in Palestine through media, visits to Palestine, exchange programs and advocacy tours, events and campaigns, and asking them to lobby and influence decision-makers.

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



Land of Canaan Foundation

The **Land of Canaan Foundation** was founded in 2013 to support farm communities and village-based cooperatives in Palestine. We work in partnership with the Palestine Fair Trade Association (PFTA) and the Canaan Center for Organic Research & Education (CORE) to support small-scale farmers and the agricultural traditions of farming communities in Palestine so they may have access to tools, skills, and a global market to ensure food and economic security to their families for generations to come.

You can find the the Land of Canaan Foundation on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Upcoming Weeks

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



March 19 to 25: Week 12 - Natural Resources

[Read the full entry online.](#)

This week, as the United Nations and the world observe World Water Day on March 22, we will focus on environmental exploitation. The West Bank is rich in natural resources. However, due to Israel's occupation and control over the occupied Palestinian territory, access to and use of Palestinians' natural resources is obstructed. Rampant throughout the occupied territory, this practice is at its worst around the Dead Sea, where Israel exploits the land for its water and minerals.

For the Kumi Action we will spread information about AHAVA's illegal exploitation of Dead Sea resources.



March 26 to April 1: Week 13 - Conditions in Gaza

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On March 30 Palestinians celebrate Land Day, a commemoration of the first Palestinian general strike, in 1976, against land confiscation in Israel. On the same date in 2018, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip launched the Great March of Return to protest the blockade of Gaza and demand the right to return to their lands. This week, the Kumi Now community stands in solidarity with the citizens of Gaza as we focus on the blockade.

For our Kumi Action we will "check in" to Gaza on social media and share videos and other resources on Gaza with others.

You Should Watch or Read

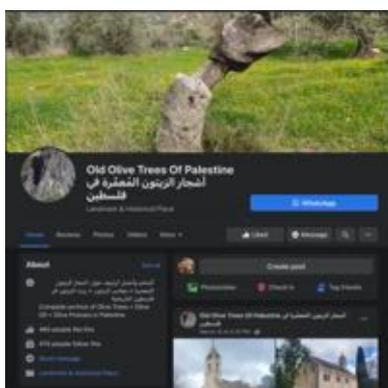
Recent and not-so-recent films, books, music, and other arts related to Palestine, as well as news about festivals and other events



Ibrahim: A Fate to Define

The **Palestine Film Institute's** film of the week is back and this week it is the documentary ***Ibrahim: A Fate to Define*** (75 minutes). I believe you have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). About the film:

“In this provocative and personal documentary, director Lina Al Abed searches for traces of her disappeared father: a seemingly ordinary Palestinian family man who was actually a secret member of a militant splinter faction and vanished when she was just a child. Her journey to discover what happened to her father becomes a quest to define her identity, and her relationship to Ibrahim’s fate.”



Old Olive Trees of Palestine

This is a project of our guest last year, Father Raed Abu Sahlieh. It's wonderful to find his photos and articles about the old olive trees of Palestine in your Facebook feed. Follow the project on [Facebook](#) and look at some of his past photos and articles.

What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next issue, [Natural Resources](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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