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Week 12: Natural Resources

WEEK 12 MAR. 19 TO MAR. 25 **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Israeli companies extract 17 million tons of West Bank stone annually, almost all for the Israeli market, despite prohibitions in international law against exploiting an occupied territory.

Palestinians have been denied access to the Jordan River, their main surface water resource, since 1967.

Israeli transfers industrial waste to treatment plants in the West Bank without Palestinian consent and causing pollution.

Sources: EMASH, OCHA oPt, OHCHR, Al-Haq

<http://kuminow.com/NaturalResources>

[Next Online Gathering](#)

[This Week's Entry](#)

[Kumi Action](#)

[You Should Know](#)

[Upcoming Weeks](#)

[You Should Watch or Read](#)

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On Tuesday we had the pleasure of hearing **Dr. Anton Khalilieh**, executive director of **Nature Palestine Society** speak about the birds and environment of Palestine. The replay of the session is now available [on YouTube](#) and [on our website](#). The website includes his bio and all of the links shared during the gathering.

We would love it if you could share the session with your community. You could use wording such as:

Learn about the birds and environment of Palestine with Dr. Anton Khalilieh, executive director of Nature Palestine Society. He's the latest guest in our Palestinian Innovators series from Kumi Now. You will truly be inspired by his love of Palestine, birds, and the environment. <https://youtu.be/B1xg1iM9Dzs>

And here's your reminder to mark April 5th as the date of our next Kumi Now webinar. By that time we will all be done adjusting our clocks for Daylight Saving Time. Here's what's coming...



April 5: Palestinian Innovators #5

Please note that by the time of our next webinar Palestine and other countries will have also have jumped forward an hour. Please see the times below...

Our guest will be confirmed soon, but we're excited to expand the eclectic group of thinkers we've met so far. Join us on...

Time: Tuesday, April, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+3). That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11pm
- 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> (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



Happy [World Water Day](#) (on Tuesday)! As you consider what water means to you and the role it plays in your life, let's move on to our topic of the week...

Kumi Now

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 #12: Natural Resources

Week 12 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Palestine 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. As the United Nations and the world observe World Water Day on March 22, the Kumi Now community is focusing on this environmental exploitation. 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 the farmer Fa'iq Ahmad Sbeih. Last year we were joined by **Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh**, founder (along with his wife) of the **Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS)** and **Palestine Museum of Natural History at Bethlehem University**. You can see his talk and Q and A starting at the [20:30 mark of the webinar](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

Just the facts...

Palestinians have been denied access to the Jordan River, their main surface water resource, since 1967.

40% of surface water pollution comes from Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem.

Restrictions to grazing land have undermined herding livelihoods and increased the dependency on humanitarian aid.

There are 122 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas off the Mediterranean coast. Palestine can access none of it.

As a result, the oPt is dependent on Israel for its energy and imports 100% of its petroleum.

Combined Israeli restrictions on agriculture cost the Palestinian economy US \$2.2 billion each year.

Israel earns US \$3 billion each year from Dead Sea products.

Israeli transfers industrial waste to treatment plants in the West Bank without Palestinian consent and causing pollution.

Israeli companies extract 17 million tons of West Bank stone annually, almost all for the Israeli market, despite prohibitions in international law against exploiting an occupied territory.

In Gaza, 95 percent of water is now unfit for human consumption due to pollution.

Sources: EWASH, OCHA oPt, OHCHR, Al-Haq

<http://kuminow.com/NaturalResources>

Understanding Natural Resources: Just the Facts...

- Palestinians have been denied access to the Jordan River, their main surface water resource, since 1967.
- 40% of surface water pollution comes from Israeli settlements in the West Bank Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem, including settlements there.
- 16 Palestinian communities are dependent on springs as their only source of drinking water.
- Access restrictions to grazing land have undermined herding and agricultural livelihoods and increased the dependency on humanitarian assistance.
- 30% of drinking water in Gaza is lost through network leaks.
- Israeli quarry companies extract 17 million tons of West Bank stone annually, almost all for the Israeli market, despite prohibitions in international law against exploiting an occupied territory.
- The transfer of Israeli industrial waste to treatment plants in the West Bank, without Palestinian consent, contributes to the environmental scarring of the occupied territory.
- In Gaza, the collapse of the coastal aquifer is contributing to a significant health crisis among two million Palestinians.
- There are 122 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas off the Mediterranean coast of Gaza, Israel and Lebanon. Palestine can access none of it.
- As a result, the oPt is almost completely dependent on Israel for its energy and imports 100% of its petroleum.

- Israel earns \$3 billion each year from Dead Sea products, and its 15 hotels on the shore generate around \$291 million.
- Israel's national water company, Mekorot, routinely cuts the water supply to Palestinians — sometimes by as much as 50 percent — during the summer months in order to meet demand in the settlements.
- In Gaza, 95 percent of water is now unfit for human consumption due to pollution.
- Combined Israeli restrictions on agriculture cost the Palestinian economy \$2.2 billion each year.
- The World Bank estimates that Palestine would boost its economy by \$3.4 billion if it was able to exploit its own resources.

These facts are drawn from the following reports and sources:

- **EWASH Advocacy Task Force's** "[Water resources in the West Bank](#)"
- "[Occupied Palestinian Territory: Humanitarian Facts and Figures](#)" from **OCHA oPt**
- "[Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967](#)" from **OHCHR**
- "[Facts on the Ground: How Natural Resources Fuel the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict](#)" from **AI-Haq**

Learning More

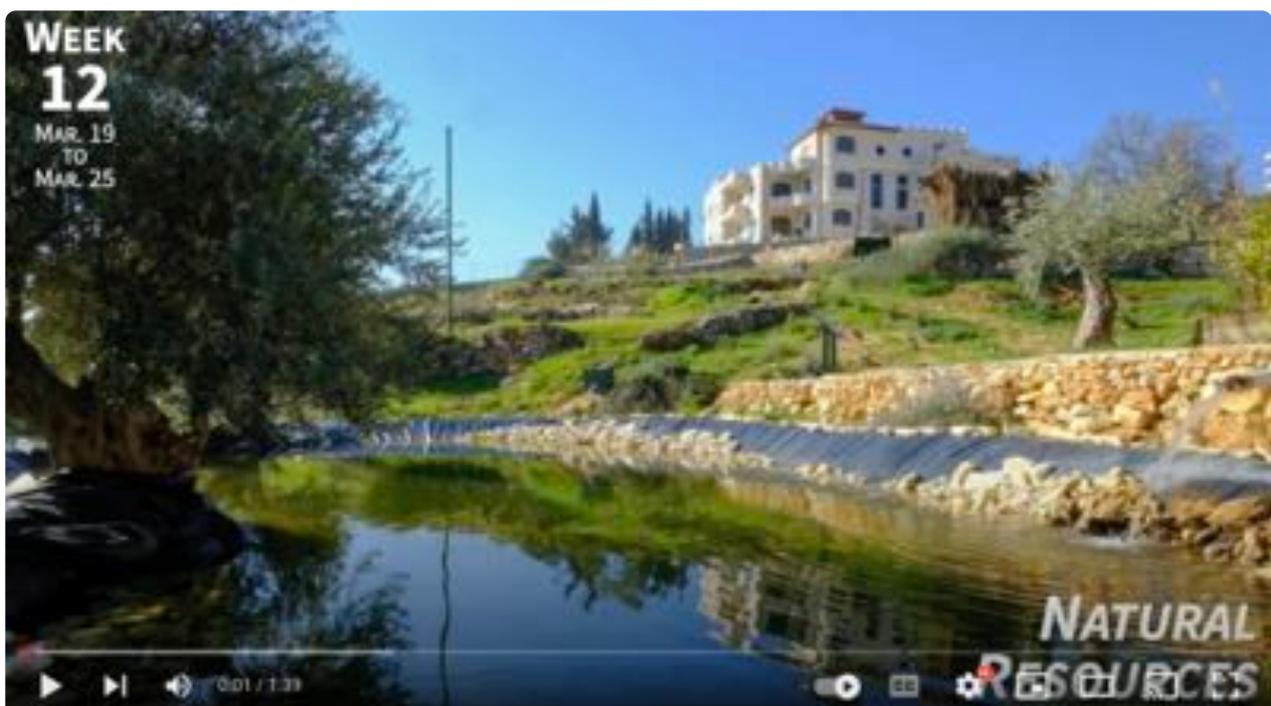
To learn more, you should watch:

- **AI-Haq's** short video "[How Israeli Settlements exploit Palestinian natural resources](#)"
- The panel discussion "[Environmental Justice: Exploitation of Palestinian Natural Resources](#)"

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



Consumer due diligence: look out for Dead Sea products in your local shops and request more information from the shop regarding the products' origin to ensure that products are not originating from or linked to Israeli settlements.

Raise awareness about AHAVA products and their illegality in your local community, for example by sharing "[Virtual Field Visit: Natural Resource Exploitation in the Dead Sea Area – The Case of AHAVA](#)" from Al-Haq.

You can also email Fosun International Ltd. (the current owners of AHAVA) requesting they halt operations in the occupied Palestinian territory via investment@fosun.com, PR@fosun.com, HR@fosun.com, and IR@fosun.com.

Share the video and any emails you send on social media. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #DeadSea, #KumiNow, and #Kumi12.

You Should Know

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



Palestinian Return Centre

The [Palestinian Return Centre \(PRC\)](#) is an independent, non-partisan organization committed to advocating for Palestinian refugees. In July 2015, PRC was granted consultative status at the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO). PRC "remains committed to working for the right of return for Palestinian refugees displaced after the two mass exoduses of 1948 and 1967, and the ongoing waves of refugees created by Israel and conflicts in the region."

PRC is another one of those organizations regularly producing high quality news and media about Palestine and Palestinian advocacy. For example, they just held a webinar titled "[73 Years of Palestinian Refugeedom: From Refugee Camps to Shipwrecks](#)".

And if you haven't yet watched them, you should see:

- The short film [100 Balfour Road](#)
- The documentary [Seven Days in Beirut](#), for Al Jazeera

But they also hold webinars, host the annual [Return Week](#) in December, produce [reports](#), [advise the United Nations](#), maintain a [news center about Palestinian refugee communities](#), and many other things. We suggest following them in one or more forms so you can better understand what they do.

You can subscribe follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#). They also have a [PDF brochure](#) to learn more about them and you can subscribe to their newsletter from their [homepage](#).

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 26 to April 1: Week 13 - Conditions in Gaza

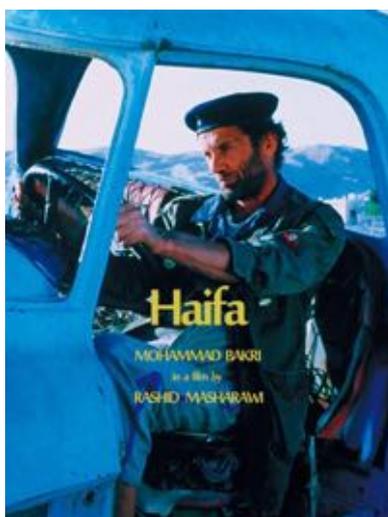
[Read the full entry online.](#)

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



Haifa

The **Palestine Film Institute's** film of the week is **Haifa** (1996, drama, 75 minutes). I believe you have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). About the film:

“Haifa, nicknamed after the city he longs for, comes and goes in a Palestinian refugee camp. Although he is seen as the town fool, there are many things that only he knows. He is closely related to the family of Abu Said, a former policeman who is has high hopes for the political developments promised by the peace process. Oum Said, his wife, hangs her hope instead on the imminent release of their eldest son, Said, from jail. Their youngest son, Siad, is cynical and rebellious. Sabah, their twelve year old daughter sees the future through the eyes of a romantic, searching for what it might hold in store for her.”

What's Next

You'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next issue, [Conditions in Gaza](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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