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Week 17: The Nation-State Law

WEEK 17 APR. 23 TO APR. 29 **NATION-STATE LAW**

"The State views the development of Jewish settlement as a national value, and shall act to encourage and promote its establishment and strengthening."

"The exercise of the right to national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish People."



<http://kuminow.com/NationStateLaw>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On Tuesday we met with our own **Omar Haramy**, as he discussed current events in Israel and Palestine and the challenges facing Christians in Jerusalem and across the Holy Land. The replay of the session is now available [on YouTube](#) and [on our website](#). Given both the sensitive nature of some of the material shared and the open discussion format of this meeting, this is *not* one we would like to share widely. So it isn't listed publicly on YouTube and we're not asking you to share it on social media. You are, however, encouraged to watch it yourself and share it with your local Kumi community.

And if you were with us on Tuesday, you learned that Israeli police have demanded that only 1,000 people enter the Church of the Resurrection for the Holy Fire ritual, although it is customary for many thousands of worshippers to attend every year. The issue was taken to the Israeli Supreme Court, which increased the number of worshippers to be allowed into the Old City to a total of 4,000, but far fewer than in years past, and against the wishes of the church. While it is too late to change this year's Holy Fire ritual, you can still help by [signing and sharing the petition](#). Here is a photo from today of worshippers being denied access:



Next, we know that many of you appreciate the weekly On the Ground that Omar has often done with our Kumi Now webinars. We have been discussing ways to bring you a weekly update on the ground that is more regular and easy to consume. Here, for your viewing and listening pleasure, is our first rather experimental attempt at a video and podcast version of a weekly update. Give it a watch or listen and let us know at kumi@kuminow.com what you like and don't like about it, whether you see yourself listening/watching on a regular basis, and ideas you have for making it better. You can find it on [YouTube](#) or click on the images below. We'll add a podcast version soon and instructions for how to subscribe will be in a future newsletter:

ON THE GROUND FOR PALESTINE AND ISRAEL



Finally, we announced this week that we'll be returning to a once-a-week webinar schedule tied to the Kumi calendar. To line up guests for this new series, we will be taking a break and starting the new format on May 17th. Here are details on that next Kumi Now online gathering:

Next Online Gathering

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| WEEK 20 | THE ONGOING NAKBA |
| TUESDAY MAY 17 6PM (UTC+3) |  featuring Guest TBA |
| KUMI NOW ONLINE |   |

May 17: Week 20 - The Ongoing Nakba

[Read the full entry online.](#)

For Palestinians, May 15 is Nakba Day. That is the day following the Israeli Independence Day on the Gregorian calendar. The term Nakba refers to the 1948 catastrophe when over 1,000,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes or fled in fear for their lives. But this use of the term in the past tense suggests that the Nakba was over and done 70 years ago. This is not the case, as the events of 1948 were just part of a consistent and ongoing process that dates back to the Balfour Declaration and continues today.

Our guests will be announced soon.

Time: Tuesday, May 17, 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> (You no longer need to register! This link should take you right to the meeting.)

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 #17: The Nation-State Law

Week 17 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). On May 1, 2018, the Knesset passed the Nation-State law (officially Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People) in its first reading. As we approach the anniversary of this passage, we as a Kumi Community want to analyze this law and what it means for Palestinians and other minorities in Israel. This week, the Kumi Now community is uniting to oppose this discriminatory law and all the others like it. 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 Sayed Kashua. Last year we were joined by journalist and author **Jonathan Cook**. You can see his talk and Q and A starting at the [4:30 mark of the webinar](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

WEEK
17

APR. 23
TO
APR. 29

NATION-STATE LAW

Just the facts...

*Discriminatory passages from the
Nation-State Law...*

*"The State of Israel is the nation state of the Jewish
People, in which it realizes its natural, cultural,
religious and historical right to self-determination."*

*"The exercise of the right to
national self-determination in the
State of Israel is unique to the
Jewish People."*

*"Jerusalem, complete and united,
is the capital of Israel."*

*"Hebrew is the State language...
The Arabic language has a special
status in the State ..."*

*"The State views the development of Jewish settlement
as a national value, and shall act to encourage and
promote its establishment and strengthening."*

<http://kuminow.com/NationStateLaw>

Understanding the Nation State Law: Just the Facts...

These are the most discriminatory passages from Israel's Nation-State Law:

- "The State of Israel is the nation state of the Jewish People, in which it realizes its natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination."
- "The exercise of the right to national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish People."
- "Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel."
- "Hebrew is the State language... The Arabic language has a special status in the State ..."
- "The State views the development of Jewish settlement as a national value, and shall act to encourage and promote its establishment and strengthening."

These facts are drawn from the [English translation of the Nation-State Law](#).

Learning More

To learn more, you should:

- Read [this position paper](#) on the Nation-State Law from **ACRI**.
- Read the [position paper](#) from **Adalah**.
- Watch "[Israel's Nation-State Law Explained](#)" from **NowThis World**.

To go deeper, we are 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. We're now releasing a video each week focusing on the Kumi Action! Check out the one below on [YouTube](#).

Kumi Action



It is not too late to enshrine the equality of all Israeli citizens within its basic laws. And yet, members of the Knesset have been barred from even considering the possibility. The proposed "Basic Law: State of all its Citizens" bill would do just this, but the Knesset rule makers have decided such a bill would challenge the belief that Israel is a state for the Jewish people. You can read more about the proposed bill [here](#).

Then, post this question on social media: Why does Israel continue to reject passing the law called *Basic Law: State of all its Citizens* which calls for Israel to treat all its citizens equally? You could also quote the "outrageous" ideas contained in the bill, such as

- "The State is a state for all its citizens, and its government is a democratic government."
- "The State respects the individual and collective identity of its citizens on an egalitarian basis, without discrimination on grounds of nationality, race, religion, gender, language, color, political outlook, ethnic origin or social status."
- "Citizenship in the state is based on the principle of equality and the prohibition of discrimination."
- "The Arabic language and the Hebrew language are the official languages of the State."

Include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi17.

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations you should know, and how you can

follow them online.



Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network

We had the pleasure to work with **Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network** for the 2021 Kumi Now gathering on Administrative Detention. They are nearing the end of their [Call to Action: 10 Days of Struggle for Palestinian Prisoners' Liberation](#).

From their website:

"Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network is an international network of organizers and activists working to build solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in their struggle for freedom. Samidoun developed out of the September-October 2011 hunger strike of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, seeing a need for a dedicated network to support Palestinian prisoners. We work to raise awareness and provide resources about Palestinian political prisoners, their conditions, their demands, and their work for freedom for themselves, their fellow prisoners, and their homeland. We also work to organize campaigns to make political change and advocate for Palestinian prisoners' rights and freedoms.

Samidoun seeks to achieve justice for Palestinian prisoners through events, activities, resources, delegations, research and information-sharing, as well as building bridges with the prisoners' movement in Palestine. We seek to amplify the voices of Palestinian prisoners, former prisoners, prisoners' families, and Palestinian advocates for justice and human rights by translating, sharing and distributing news, interviews and materials from Palestine."

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

Upcoming Weeks

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

May 4: Week 18 - Freedom of Speech

[Read the full entry online.](#)

As we celebrate World Press Freedom Day on May 3, we want the world to know that Palestinian journalists face regular threats of censorship and violence. Frustratingly, this censorship has been aided and abetted by tech giants such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Zoom.



For our Kumi Action we will help publicize the best news sources and pieces of writing on Palestine.



May 11: Week 19 - Nation-State Law

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Palestinians in the occupied territory have long suffered as a result of U.S. support of Israel. The Trump administration's decisions to move the embassy to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018, cut aid to Palestine, and recognize Israel's claims to the Syrian Golan are only a few of the markers of America's neglect of Palestine.

For our Kumi Action we will research and publicize our local governments' support for Israel.



May 18: Week 20 - The Ongoing Nakba

[Read the full entry online.](#)

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For our Kumi Action we will work to rename a street or roadway in our community.



May 25: Week 21 - Preserving History and Culture

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The United Nations celebrates May 21 as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The day was declared following UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, a document that clearly sees cultural diversity and tolerance as key to developing the dialogue necessary to achieve peace and sustainable development around the world.

However, Israel continues to build and plant over Palestinian history and culture while simultaneously erasing it from street signs, historical markers, and history books.

For our Kumi Action we will write profiles of different aspects of Palestine culture and history and share them with the world.

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.



PFP Shorts

This week, the **Palestine Film Institute** presents a series of short films You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). The series begins with the 17 minute documentary "The Seven Villages":

“Young filmmaker’s Farah Abou Kharroub’s insight into a dramatic family history which is not entirely over. Over the course of one video call, family members share their experiences as Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Their statements are accompanied by dynamic animation.”

There are six short films in total, half documentary and half fiction. Enjoy!

What's Next

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

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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