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Week 19: U.S. Support of Israel

WEEK 19 MAY 7 TO MAY 13 **U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL**

The Obama-Netanyahu Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) increased U.S. military aid to Israel by 27% per year, up to \$3.8 billion.

The U.S. provides over \$8.5 million of military assistance to Israel PER DAY.

The U.S. has used its UN Security Council veto power to block 44 resolutions on Israel.

Before 1971, Israel received a total of \$277 million in military aid, all in the form of loans.

Sources: Obama White House, Jewish Virtual Library

<http://kuminow.com/USSupportofIsrael>

[Next Online Gathering](#)

[This Week's Entry](#)

[Kumi Action](#)

[You Should Know](#)

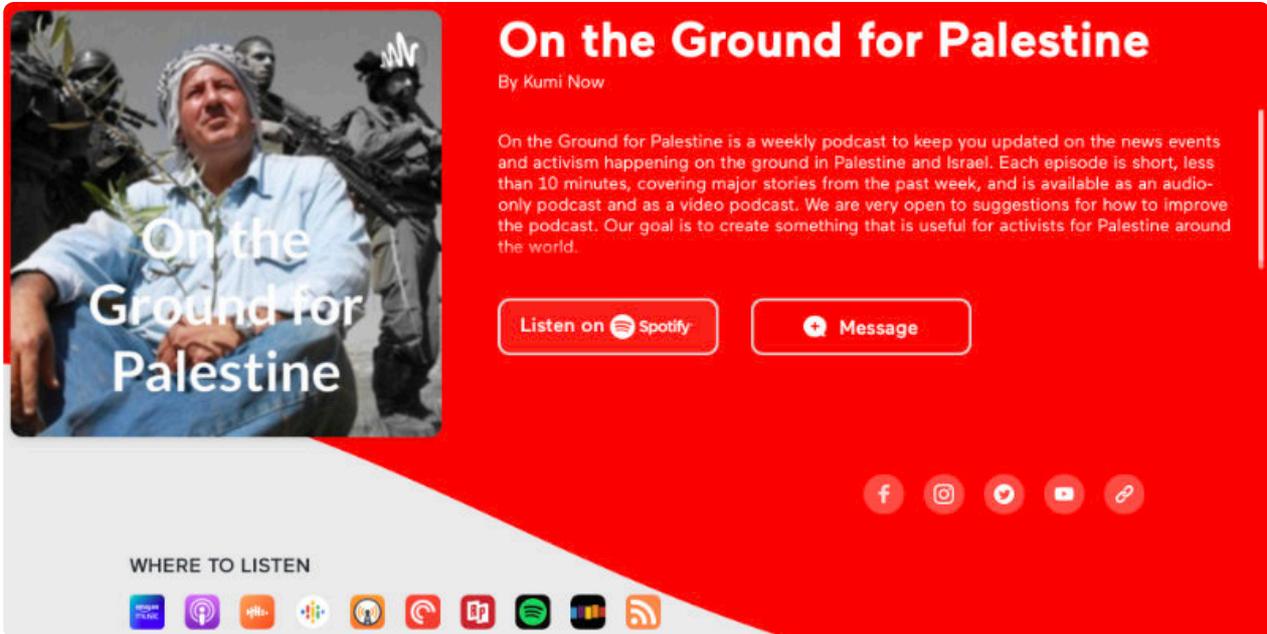
[Upcoming Weeks](#)

[You Should Watch or Read](#)

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

We are going strong with the podcast! This week we work on our recording levels so it should be easier on your ears. We hope you enjoy it. And the podcast is now available and searchable on every major podcast directory, including Google, [Spotify](#), and Apple Podcasts. Search for 'On the Ground for Palestine' in you favorite podcast app. Let us know if that doesn't work for you and which app you're using and we'll try to figure out what's going on. We want as many people as possible to be able to find the podcast.

And you can listen or subscribe to the podcast from our [Anchor.fm page](#):



On the Ground for Palestine
By Kumi Now

On the Ground for Palestine is a weekly podcast to keep you updated on the news events and activism happening on the ground in Palestine and Israel. Each episode is short, less than 10 minutes, covering major stories from the past week, and is available as an audio-only podcast and as a video podcast. We are very open to suggestions for how to improve the podcast. Our goal is to create something that is useful for activists for Palestine around the world.

Listen on  Spotify

 Message

WHERE TO LISTEN



And of course it is available as a [video on YouTube](#):



ON THE GROUND FOR PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

UP TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE RISE KUMI

Play (k)

0:00 / 6:22

May 7, 2022

Now let's move on to our upcoming Kumi Now online gathering, which will focus on the Ongoing Nakba:

Next Online Gathering

WEEK
20 *THE ONGOING
NAKBA*

TUESDAY
MAY 17
6PM
(UTC+3)

**KUMI
NOW
ONLINE**



featuring
Guest TBA

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 guest 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 might need to do a quick registration. This link is the same, either way.)

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 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 #19: U.S. Support of Israel

Week 19 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). 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. This week, the Kumi Now community is working to understand and influence how and to what extent the U.S. government and other nations support 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 Mohammad Al-'Ajouri. Last year we were joined by **Rochelle Watson** and **Jonathan Brenneman** of **FOSNA**. You can revisit their talk and Q and A starting at the [15:25 mark of the webinar](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

WEEK
19
MAY 7
TO
MAY 13

U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

Just the facts...

The Obama-Netanyahu Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) increased U.S. military aid to Israel by 27% per year.

It increased U.S. military aid to Israel to \$3.8 billion per year, up from \$3 billion per year.

Congress has gone beyond, allocating more than \$100 million per year to Israel's missile defense and anti-tunneling programs, bringing total U.S. aid to over \$3.9 billion per year.

The U.S. has used its UN Security Council veto power to block 44 resolutions on Israel.

The most recent blocked a resolution condemning Israeli violence during the Great March of Return and a resolution on U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The U.S. provides over \$8.5 million of military assistance to Israel PER DAY.

Before 1971, Israel received a total of \$277 million in military aid, all in the form of loans.

In contrast, President Biden just restored \$235 million in U.S. aid to Palestinians, in 2021.

The U.S. stopped financial support of UNESCO, which it co-founded after WWII, in 2011 after Palestine was granted full membership.

The MOU agrees to withhold part or all of U.S. funding to any UN specialized agency that acts against the national security interest of the U.S. or one of its allies, including Israel.

The U.S. and Israel quit UNESCO completely in 2019.

Sources: Obama White House, Jewish Virtual Library

<http://kuminow.com/USSupportofIsrael>

Understanding U.S. Support of Israel: Just the Facts...

- The Obama-Netanyahu Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) increased U.S. military aid by 27% per year.
- It increased U.S. military aid to Israel to \$3.8 billion per year, up from \$3 billion per year.
- Congress has gone beyond this, allocating more than \$100 million per year to Israel's missile defense and anti-tunneling programs, bringing total U.S. aid to over \$3.9 billion per year.
- Prior to 1971, Israel received a total of only \$277 million in military aid, all in the form of loans.
- In contrast, President Biden just restored \$235 million in U.S. aid to Palestinians, in 2021.
- The U.S. provides over \$8.5 million of military assistance to Israel PER DAY.

- The U.S. has used its veto power 44 times to block UN Security Council resolutions seeking to hold Israel accountable to international law.
- The most recent vetoes were to block a resolution condemning Israeli violence against protestors during the Great March of Return and a resolution concerning U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
- The MOU agrees to withhold part or all of U.S. funding to any UN specialized agency that acts against the national security interest of the U.S. or one of its allies, including Israel.
- The U.S. stopped financially supporting UNESCO, which it co-founded after WWII, in 2011 after Palestine was granted full membership.
- The U.S. and Israel then quit UNESCO completely in 2019.
- The U.S. also cooperates with Israel on scientific research, particularly in energy.

These facts are drawn from:

- [“U.N. Security Council: U.S. Vetoes of Resolutions Critical to Israel \(1972 - Present\)”](#) from **Jewish Virtual Library**
- [“FACT SHEET: Memorandum of Understanding Reached with Israel”](#) from the **Obama White House**
- [“U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel: History & Overview”](#) from **Virtual Jewish Library**

Learning More

To better understand some of the possible problems with U.S. military aid to Israel, read the section called “Aid Restrictions and Possible Violations” starting on page 25 of [“U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel”](#) from **Congressional Research Service**.

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



Americans: How much of the annually allocated \$3.8 billion of military aid to Israel is

provided by your state, congressional district, county, and city? What could be funded instead with this money to benefit your community? Visit <http://militaryaidtoisrael.org/> to learn these details and more through our interactive map.

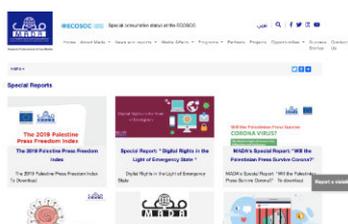
If you don't live in the United States, you can do your own research into your local government's support of Israel and share that knowledge with the Kumi Community.

Armed with this knowledge about your local government's involvement in Israeli human rights abuses, you can visit <https://www.citiesforpalestine.org> and explore options to engage and mobilize your local community to support Palestinian rights and bring the struggle for freedom, equality and justice to your city. Learn from successful campaigns in other cities, and equip yourself with the toolkits provided here!

Post photos or other evidence of your action to social media and include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #CitiesforPalestine, #KumiNow, and #Kumi19.

You Should Know

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



Palestinian Center for Development and Freedoms (MADA)

The **Palestinian Center for Development and Freedoms (MADA)** was established in 2006, where a group of passionate vision-driven Palestinians “citizens and journalists” joined forces to promote and defend the right to freedom of expression and opinion. For the first two years MADA was run solely by volunteers and activists who believed it was time to make a difference, and aimed to support the journalists who face daily numerous oppressive constraints while exercising their professional duty.

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

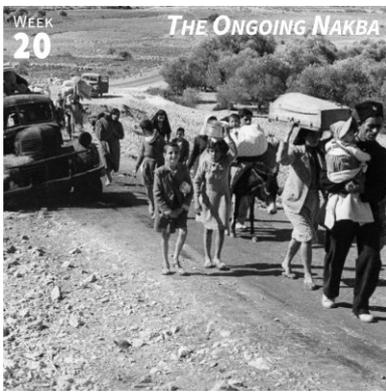
Upcoming Weeks

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 14 to 20: Week 20 - The Ongoing Nakba

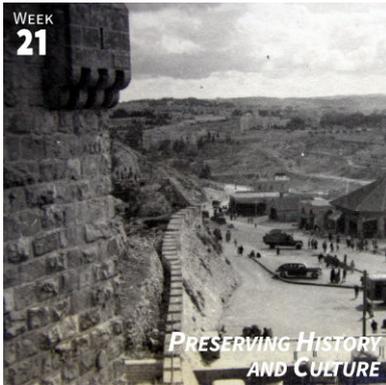
[Read the full entry online.](#)

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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.

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



May 21 to 27: Week 21 - Preserving History and Culture

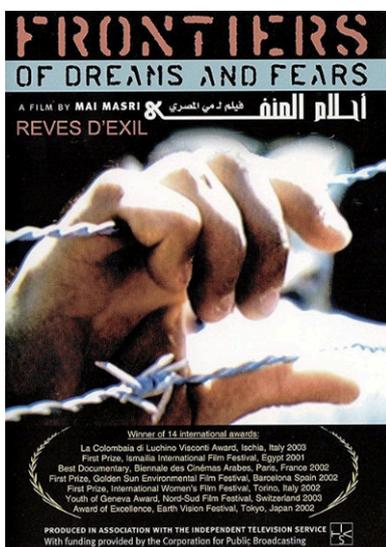
[Read the full entry online.](#)

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.



Frontiers of Dreams and Fears

The **Palestine Film Institute's** film of the week is **Frontiers of Dreams and Fears** (documentary, 2001, 60 minutes). You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). About the film:

"Mona and Manar are two Palestinian girls growing up in refugee camps in Beirut and Bethlehem. Despite the overwhelming barriers that separate them, the girls form a close friendship through letters and a dramatic meeting at the Lebanese border. Shot during the liberation of southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation and at the beginning of the Palestinian intifada, frontiers of dreams and fears articulates the feelings, hopes, and growing activism of a generation of young Palestinians

living in exile."

What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, May 17th. You'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next issue, [the Ongoing Nakba](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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