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Week 20: The Ongoing Nakba

WEEK 20 MAY 14 TO MAY 20 **THE ONGOING NAKBA**



After 1948 Israel continued to confiscate land, so that by 1962, 93% of the land in Israel was controlled by the Israel Lands Administration, while Palestinian citizens only owned 4%.

Up to 150,000 Palestinians were displaced under the Mandate, roughly a million in the Nakba, and another 400,000 to 450,000 in 1967.

Today, Jews control over 85% of the land of historic Palestine (compared to 6.2% during the British Mandate).

Sources: PASSIA, BADIL

<http://kuminow.com/OngoingNakba>

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Dear ,

As I write this, it is the end of a very difficult week in Palestine and tomorrow is Nakba Day. I won't list here all of the tragic events of the week. If you'd like to know more, please check out the **On the Ground for Palestine** podcast listed below. You can also learn more as we begin again our weekly webinar series this Tuesday, discussing the Ongoing Nakba. And we have a guest! Please see the details below.

We should also tell you we're adjusting the newsletter a little to better stay focused on Kumi Now and activism. Sadly, this means removing the You Should Watch and Read section, but we've mainly been covering the ongoing [Palestinian Film Forum series](#) (which this week is showing the heartbreaking documentary *Jaffa: Mother of the Stranger*) and you can check their website for their latest film. Instead, we have a section dedicated to the podcast, so you will know where to find it each week.

Now let's discuss what's coming up this week:



Tomorrow is **Nakba Day** (ذكري النكبة in Arabic, meaning 'Memory of the Catastrophe'), the annual day of commemoration of the Nakba, which refers to the destruction of 1948 and the permanent displacement of a majority of the Palestinian people. It is commemorated on May 15, the day after the end of the British Mandate for Palestine, when the State of Israel took its place. Please read ["73 Years of Ongoing Nakba, Palestinians Continue to be Steadfast against Israel's Settler-Colonial and Apartheid Regime"](#) from **Al-Haq**.

There are events planned around the world:

- **Jewish Voice for Peace** has a [list of events in the United States](#).
- **Samidoun Prisoner Support** has a [listing of events around the world](#).
- **Combatants for Peace** will hold a [joint online remembrance](#).
- And on Tuesday you can attend this week's **Kumi Now online gathering**, where we will address the several aspects of the Ongoing Nakba:

Next Online Gathering



May 17: Week 20 - The Ongoing Nakba

[Full information on the gathering is here.](#)

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 **Dr. Abdelfattah Abusrour** of **Alrowwad Cultural & Arts Society**.

Time: Tuesday, May 17, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC%2B3) 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 (%2B1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (%2B1 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](#).

On the Ground Podcast

It was hard to not be overwhelmed by events in Palestine this week. We've tried to keep the podcast straight and to the point, and if you want to learn more there are always links related to each story in the show notes.

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 your 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 Kuni 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



Or it is available as a video [on YouTube](#):

ON THE GROUND FOR PALESTINE AND ISRAEL



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 #20: The Ongoing Nakba

Week 20 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). The groundwork for the expulsion of Palestinians began under the British Mandate, then accelerated with the Nakba of 1947–49 and the 1967 war. BADIL estimates that between 100,000 and 150,000 Palestinians were displaced under the Mandate, roughly a million were displaced in the Nakba, and another 400,000 to 450,000 were displaced in 1967. BADIL provides more of this historical context in their Kumi Now entry and explains why the decades since then are rightly called the ongoing Nakba, as Palestinians continue to be forced from their lands by 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 Arij Abaeid. Last year, we were joined by **Reem Hamad**, a resident of Sheikh Jarrah, and **Dr. Bernard Sabella** of **Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)**. You can see their presentation and Q and A starting at the [4:00 mark of the recording](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

WEEK
20

MAY 14
TO
MAY 20

THE ONGOING NAKBA

Just the facts...

Up to 150,000 Palestinians were displaced under the Mandate, roughly a million in the Nakba, and another 400,000 to 450,000 in 1967.

In Jerusalem alone, more than 14,000 Palestinians have lost their residency status and right to live in East Jerusalem since 1967.

From 2008 to 2012, 97.7% of Palestinian applications for building permit in Area C were rejected by Israeli authorities.

Israel has confiscated or annexed over 61% of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) for the exclusive benefit of Jewish colonizers.

After 1948 Israel continued to confiscate land, so that by 1962, 93% of the land in Israel was controlled by the Israel Lands Administration, while Palestinian citizens only owned 4%.

Since 1948, Palestinian refugees are denied their right to return, in opposition to U.N. Resolution 194, which resolves that refugees should be allowed to return to their homes or be compensated.

Israel has established 131 illegal settlements and over 100 outposts on Palestinian soil.

Residency rights have been stripped from over 100,000 residents of Gaza, some 140,000 residents of the West Bank, and over 14,500 Palestinian Jerusalemites.

Today, Jews control over 85% of the land of historic Palestine (compared to 6.2% during the British Mandate).

Sources: PASSIA, BADIL, UNRWA

<http://kuminow.com/OngoingNakba>

Understanding the Ongoing Nakba: Just the Facts...

- Between 100,000 and 150,000 Palestinians were displaced under the Mandate, roughly a million were displaced in the Nakba, and another 400,000 to 450,000 were displaced in 1967.
- In Jerusalem alone, more than 14,000 Palestinians have lost their residency status and right to live in East Jerusalem since 1967.
- Between 2008 and 2012, 97.7 percent of building permit applications in Area C submitted by Palestinians were rejected by the Israeli authorities.
- Israel has confiscated or de facto annexed more than 3,456 km² (61 percent) of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) for the exclusive benefit of Jewish colonizers.
- Since 1948, Palestinian refugees are denied their right to return and citizenship, in opposition to U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194, which resolves that the refugees should be allowed to return to their homes or be compensated.
- After 1948 Israel continued to confiscate land, often declaring it "state land", so that by 1962, 93% of the land inside Israel was controlled by the Israel Lands Administration, while Palestinian citizens only owned 4% of the total.
- Today, Jews control over 85% of the land of historic Palestine (compared to 6.2% during the British Mandate).
- Since 1967, Palestinians have lost access to over 60% of West Bank land and two thirds of its grazing land, while over 2.5 million productive trees have been uprooted.

- In Gaza half of the cultivable area has been lost.
- Israel has destroyed over 27,000 Palestinian homes and structures.
- Israel has established 131 illegal settlements and over 100 outposts on Palestinian soil.
- Over 600,000 Jews have been transferred to settle in Palestinian territories,
- Residency rights have been stripped from over 100,000 residents of Gaza, some 140,000 residents of the West Bank, and over 14,500 Palestinian Jerusalemites.
- Nearly one-third of the registered Palestine refugees, more than 1.5 million individuals, live in 58 recognized Palestine refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

These facts are drawn from:

- [“Palestinian Refugees”](#) from **UNRWA**
- [“The Nakba: 70 Years On”](#) from **PASSIA**
- [“Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: 2013-15”](#) from **BADIL**

Learning More

Several excellent webinars occurred last year, and are just as relevant this year. You can start with:

- [“Holding Palestinian Ground: Lessons from Gaza to Sheikh Jarrah”](#) from **Jadaliyya**
- [“The Nakba & the Current Crisis”](#) with Lara Friedman and Dr. Carol Daniel Kasbari from **Foundation for Middle East Peace**
- [“Nakba73: Memories of 1948”](#) with Dr. Ghada Karmi and Dr. Salman Abu Sitta from **PSC**
- [“The Palestinian Nakba: What Happened in 1948 and Why It Still Matters”](#) from **Middle East Institute**

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



Look up the street of the closest Israeli consulate or embassy to you and petition the city where the consulate is located to change their street name to “Free Palestine Street” to help raise awareness of Palestine and Palestinian refugees. Imagine the address of every Israeli consulate and embassy being “Free Palestine Street!”

If you are unable to change the name of the street nearest the Israeli consulate or embassy, get creative and take matters into your own hands! Commemorate Nakba Day on May 15 by changing the name of your driveway, private road, school walkway, local street, or hall. Post informational signs to help people understand the name and Nakba Day.

Take a photo of your street signs and post them to social media. Include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #NakbaDay, #KumiNow, and #Kumi20.

You Should Know

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



Jadaliyya

Jadaliyya refers to itself as “an independent ezine produced by the [Arab Studies Institute](#).” ASI is the umbrella organization that produces the Arab Studies Journal, Jadaliyya, Tadween Publishing, FAMA, and Quilting Point. Jadaliyya (meaning “dialectic”) is a free multidisciplinary news organization founded in 2010. It features English, Arabic, French, and Spanish-language content by academics, journalists, activists, and artists from and/or on the Middle East.

“Jadaliyya is run and produced on a primarily volunteer basis by an editorial team and an expanding pool of contributors committed to discussing the Arab world and

the broader Middle East on their own terms. Where others see only a security threat, conflict, or data on a graph, we see a region inhabited by living communities and dynamic societies.”

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

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 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.

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, [on Preserving Palestinian History and Culture](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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