

[View in browser](#) or [download as PDF](#)



## Week 21: Preserving History and Culture

**WEEK 21**    **MAY 21 TO MAY 27**    **PRESERVING HISTORY AND CULTURE**

*Israel has destroyed some 530 Palestinian villages.*

*Immediately after the creation of the state of Israel a campaign to "remap" Palestine was launched, replacing Arabic names with Hebrew names so it could lay claim to towns, villages, and other geographical features.*

*Israel has demolished hundreds of Palestinian mosques, cemeteries and other religious sites since the state's creation in 1948. Dozens have been turned into bars and night clubs.*

Sources: Haaretz, Middle East Monitor, Mondoweiss

**<http://kuminow.com/PreservingHistory>**

[Next Online Gathering](#)

[On the Ground Podcast](#)

[This Week's Entry](#)

[Kumi Action](#)

[You Should Know](#)

[Upcoming Weeks](#)

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On Tuesday **Dr. Abdelfattah Abusrour** of **Alrowwad Cultural & Arts Society** spoke to us about the Ongoing Nakba. The replay of the session is now available [on YouTube](#) and [on our website](#). The website includes his bio and links shared during the gathering.

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

*Last week we marked Nakba Day and addressed the Ongoing Nakba. Our guests was Dr. Abdelfattah Abusrour of Alrowwad Cultural & Arts Society. Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. <https://youtu.be/RiLv8xaiDek>*

Now here is what is coming this week:



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.

## Next Online Gathering

WEEK <b>21</b>	<b>PRESERVING HISTORY AND CULTURE</b>	
TUESDAY MAY 24 6PM (UTC+3)	<b>KUMI NOW ONLINE</b> featuring Dr. Awad Halabi of the Nabi Musa Festival	
		

### May 24: Week 21 - Preserving History and Culture

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

As we commemorate World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development this week, we look at what is being done to preserve Palestinian history and culture and to ensure that it thrives.

Our guest will be **Dr. Awad Halabi**, who has worked with the **Nabi Musa Festival**.

**Time:** Tuesday, May 24, 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](#).

## On the Ground Podcast

Here's the latest episode of the On the Ground for Palestine podcast, focusing on events this week in and related to Palestine.

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



**On the Ground for Palestine**  
By Kaiti Howe

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 #21: Preserving History and Culture**

Week 21 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). 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. 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 Nora Kort. Last year we were joined by **Faisal Saleh**, chairman and founder of **Palestine Museum US** for our [online gathering](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

WEEK  
**21**

MAY 21  
TO  
MAY 27

## **PRESERVING HISTORY AND CULTURE**

### **Just the facts...**

*Israel has destroyed some 530  
Palestinian villages.*

*In 1957 an Israeli foreign ministry official urged the  
Israeli Department of Antiquities to speed the destruction  
of Palestinian homes: "They should be cleared away."*

*Many of these villages have been planted over with forests that  
hide their remains and replace native species with imported ones.*

*Immediately after the creation of the state of Israel a  
campaign to "remap" Palestine was launched, replacing Arabic  
names with Hebrew names so it could lay claim to towns,  
villages, and other geographical features.*

*A 1948 letter read: "The conventional names should be replaced by  
new ones ... we must begin the Hebraicization of our country's map."*

*Israel has demolished hundreds of Palestinian mosques,  
cemeteries and other religious sites since the state's creation  
in 1948. Dozens have been turned into bars and night clubs.*

*The Israel's Defense Ministry's security department, Malmab,  
has for decades run a program to conceal the events of 1948 so  
as to avoid unrest among the country's Palestinians.*

*Decades of Western and Israeli history and archeology have framed  
Palestinian history in terms of Biblical and Jewish history,  
destroying and hiding the stories/artifacts that don't fit.*

*Sources: Haaretz, Middle East Monitor, Mondoweiss*

**<http://kuminow.com/PreservingHistory>**

### **Understanding Preserving History and Culture: Just the Facts...**

- The Israel's Defense Ministry's secretive security department, Malmab, has for decades run a program to conceal the events of 1948 so as to avoid unrest among the country's Palestinian population.
- During the British mandate colonial authorities used around 3,700 Arabic names of localities, towns and villages.
- By contrast, there were just 200 Hebrew toponyms, most of them being names of Jewish settlements.
- Immediately after the creation of the state of Israel a campaign to "remap" Palestine was launched, replacing Arabic names with Hebrew names so the new state could lay its claim to towns, villages, and various other geographical features.
- A 1948 letter read: "The conventional names should be replaced by new ones ... since, in an anticipation of renewing our days as of old ... we must begin in the fundamental Hebraicization of our country's map."
- Israel has destroyed some 530 Palestinian villages.
- In 1957 an Israeli foreign ministry official urged the Israeli Department of Antiquities to speed up the destruction of Palestinian homes conquered during the Nakba: "They should be cleared away."
- Many of these destroyed villages have been planted over with artificial forests that hide their remains and replace native species with imported ones.

- Israel has demolished hundreds of Palestinian mosques, cemeteries and other religious sites since the state's creation in 1948. Dozens have been turned into bars and night clubs.
- Decades of Western and Israeli history and archeology have framed Palestinian history in terms of Biblical and Jewish history, destroying and ignoring the stories and artifacts that don't fit these narratives.

These facts are drawn from:

- [“Burying the Nakba: How Israel Systematically Hides Evidence of 1948 Expulsion of Arabs”](#) by Hagar Shezaf for **Haaretz**
- [“Man-made Israel \(and the obsessive erasure of Palestinian history\)”](#) by Sam Bahour for **Mondoweiss**.
- [“Remapping of Palestine: Why Israel's erasure of Palestinian culture will not succeed”](#) from **Middle East Monitor**
- [“Israelis to turn historic mosque into museum”](#) from **Middle East Monitor**
- [“Israel is 'weaponising culture', erasing Palestinian history with Eurovision”](#) from **Middle East Monitor**

## Learning More

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



We have written short profiles of different aspects of Palestine culture and history and they are available [on the website](#). Take these profiles and post them, one per day, on social media or share our posts on social media and add your own comments. Or take action in real life and print them out and post them someplace others can see them.

Include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #Palestinian, #KumiNow, and #Kumi21.



# You Should Know

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



## Palestine Museum US

Palestine Museum US has a five-fold mission:

- Research and preserve Palestinian history
- Showcase the Palestinian experience, pre- and post-Nakbah, in Palestine and in the diaspora
- Celebrate Palestinian cultural and artistic achievements
- Tell the Palestinian story to US and global audience through works of art, film, literature, and mixed media
- Serve as a cultural common ground for all Palestinians

While located in Woodbridge, Connecticut in the United States, there are a number of ways that people around the world can interact with the museum. You can start with their [online e-tour](#). And they have a variety of videos and interviews under the 'Viewing Room' tab on the menu and on their [YouTube channel](#). And no museum would be complete without a [gift shop](#).

You can find the museum on its [website](#) and follow it on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

## Upcoming Weeks

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

### KUMI NOW ONLINE: MAY/JUNE, 2022

Week 22	Week 23	Week 24	Week 25	Week 26
				
May 31 <i>Child Fatalities</i>	June 7 <i>Environmental Effects of Occupation</i>	June 14 <i>Tourism and Pilgrimage</i>	June 21 <i>Palestinian Refugees</i>	June 28 <i>Nuclear Israel</i>

**EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM**

Each week has online gathering with a guest or guests speaking on the topic. The time and Zoom link are the same each week.

The weekly newsletter will always contain reminders of the upcoming online gatherings and the Zoom link. But if you'd like a reminder right before the sessions begin, you can [register to receive a reminder email one hour prior to each online gathering](#). And no more digging through your inbox looking for the Zoom link! Just [use the registration form at the bottom of the page](#).



## May 28 to June 3: Week 22 - Child Fatalities

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The United Nations observes June 1 as the Global Day of Parents, acknowledging the critical role that parents have in the lives of their children. But it is common for Palestinian parents to spend time worrying about their children and the reality that, in the end, the occupation has more control over their children than they do as parents. And many Palestinian parents spend this day thinking about, or trying to visit, their children held in Israel's military court systems. Worst of all are the parents who have seen the lives of their children taken from them by the weapons of Israeli occupation forces.

For our Kumi Action we will share the stories of children whose lives have been cut short by occupation.



## June 4 to 10: Week 23 - Environmental Effects of Occupation

[Read the full entry online.](#)

June 5 is World Environment Day. While Palestinians as a people are under constant threat and assault from the occupation, the environment around them, and on which they rely, bears similar attack. A community can't hope to heal in an environment that is sick, and conversely, a society that is suffering is unable to aid the environment in its own recovery.

For our Kumi Action we will help out the Palestine Museum of Natural History.



## June 11 to 17: Week 24 - Tourism and Pilgrimage

[Read the full entry online.](#)

For the northern hemisphere, students and families around the world are beginning their summer vacations. While in the southern hemisphere students may be looking forward to a winter break. Many people take these times to travel: to visit family, as tourists, or as pilgrims. Whether or not you are spending your own travel money to go on holiday or pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, you can, as part of the Kumi Community, help



have an impact.

For our Kumi Action we will share information about Palestinian historical and tourist sites.



## June 18 to 24: Week 25 - Palestinian Refugees

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Palestinians who were either forced from or fled their homes in 1948 and 1967 hoped for a quick return to their houses and land. Few would have foreseen that, decades later, they and their descendants would be living as refugees or internally displaced Palestinians. As the United Nations celebrates June 20 as World Refugee Day,<sup>1</sup> we want to work to restore hope to those original Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

For our Kumi Action we will send copies of U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 to those that really need to read it.



## June 25 to July 1: Week 26 - Nuclear Israel

[Read the full entry online.](#)

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was signed on July 1, 1968. According to the U.N., “More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the treaty’s significance.”<sup>1</sup> Only five countries are not party to the treaty: North Korea, South Sudan, India, Pakistan, and Israel.

For our Kumi Action we will design nuclear hazard signs and give them to Israel.

### 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, [Child Fatalities](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

[Go to Kumi Now Page](#)

[kumi@kuminow.com](mailto:kumi@kuminow.com)



[View in browser](#) or [download as PDF](#)

This email was sent to rcniman@gmail.com  
You received this email because you are registered with Kumi Now

[Unsubscribe here](#)



© 2022 Kumi Now