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Week 31: Collective Punishment



Dear Kumi Now supporter,

Adopted in August of 1949, the Fourth Geneva Convention (more properly called the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War) was the first to address the rights and needs of civilians in war zones, both during conflict and in its wake. Here at the start of August, the Kumi Now community looks at how the Fourth Geneva Convention outlawed collective punishment and how Israeli forces use collective punishment against families, communities, and Palestinians as a whole. Learn more and what you can do to help at Tuesday's online gathering:

Next Online Gathering

August 2: Week 31 - Collective Punishment

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

Our guest will be **Daniel Seidemann**, the author, activist, and founder of **Ir Amim**.

Time: Tuesday, August 2, 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> (There might be a quick registration form, and please set an alarm for yourself for Tuesday.)

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

Kumi Week #31: Collective Punishment

Week 31 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Given the tragic history of the use of collective punishment around the globe, when the world came together following World War II in the Fourth Geneva Convention, it was a monumental step when Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention stated:

- "No protected person may be punished for an offense he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited."
- Pillage is prohibited.
- Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited."

As such, international law is clear: collective punishment is both immoral and illegal. And yet, Israel has made collective punishments key components of their policies towards Palestine for decades and have gotten away with it, with little more than the occasional wag of the finger from the international community.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of Al-Khatib's mother. And here are a few more facts for you:

Understanding Collective Punishment: Just the Facts. Forms of Israel's collective punishment of Palestinians...

- checkpoints
- walls
- curfews
- the Nakba Law
- home demolitions
- forcible transfers
- checkpoints
- cancelling entry permits

- destroying infrastructure
- night raids
- tear gas
- land seizures
- uprooting olive trees
- online censorship
- indiscriminate attacks
- attacking civilian buildings
- forced closures
- mass arrests
- and more!

Learning More

- Start by reading the **UN's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory**. Mr. Michael Lynk, [statements on the illegality of Israel's use of collective punishment](#).
- And then **Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor**'s conclusion that "[Israel collectively punishes the population in Gaza by targeting homes and civilians](#)".
- You can watch **AI-Shabaka**'s "[Collective Punishment: Israel's Strategy to Subdue Palestinian Resistance](#)".

To go deeper, we will be 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:

Kumi Action



Is your local community supporting the occupation with your tax dollars? A major supplier of tear gas, and possibly other equipment, used in the occupation is Combined Systems. They have a long history with Israel, as [documented by the Electronic Intifada in 2011](#). In addition to contributing to the terror of the occupation, the long-term effects of tear gas exposure are unknown.

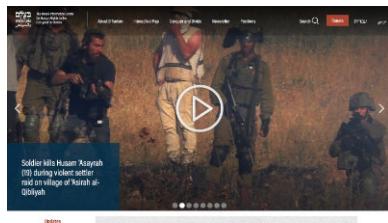
Send a letter to your local police chief or sheriff asking, "Does your department purchase from Combined Systems (<https://www.combinedsystems.com>) or any other companies that profit from the Israeli occupation? Please cancel any contracts with these companies and refuse to do business with them in the future. I love my safe community and police officers, but I don't want to support the Israeli occupation."

While it is good to send these messages directly to your police and sheriff departments, we can amplify the scrutiny of local law enforcement agencies by also making these messages public, tweeting your questions to them and posting these questions to their

Facebook pages. Remember to tag your local agencies and include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi31.

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations generally related to the issue of the week you should know, and how you can follow them online.



B'Tselem

B'Tselem is an Israeli human rights organization founded in 1989. At the time, B'Tselem devoted itself primarily to documenting Israeli violations of Palestinians' human rights in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip. Its goal was to minimize such violations, and operated based on the assumption that the occupation was a temporary state of affairs.

However, as time passed, its position changed:

"Yet after more than half a century of occupation, during which time Israel implemented policies which cemented significant changes that indicate long-term intentions, this reality can clearly no longer be considered a temporary one. Therefore, while continuing to document and publicize human rights violations, B'Tselem – in its capacity as a human rights organization – now unequivocally demands an end to the occupation. To promote that goal, B'Tselem works to expose the injustice, violence and dispossession inherent to the regime of occupation, to deconstruct the apparatuses that enable it, and challenge its legitimacy in Israel and internationally."

Recently, it published the groundbreaking report "A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid". This was the first time that a major Israeli organization has called the occupation a form of apartheid. You can [read the report](#) and the [visual explainer](#).

It has recently published [databases on home demolitions and fatalities](#) and the report "[This Is Ours – And This, Too: Israel's Settlement Policy in the West Bank](#)". Since our last update on B'Tselem, they have done a lot of coverage of Israel's [open-fire policy](#).

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

Upcoming Weeks

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

KUMI NOW ONLINE: AUGUST, 2022



August 2
Collective Punishment

August 9
Indigenous Rights

August 16
U.S. Role in Palestine

August 23
Christian Zionism

August 30
Art as Resistance

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINow.com

Each week below will have an 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're like me and need 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](#).



August 6 to 12: Week 32 - Indigenous Rights

[Read the full entry online.](#)

August 9 is International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. This week, Kumi Now is following U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres's call: "On this annual observance, let us commit to fully realizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the rights to self-determination and to traditional lands, territories and resources." We look at how indigenous populations around the world are struggling for their rights and what you can do so that Palestinians and all indigenous peoples can *rise up*.

For our Kumi Action we will read, study, and share the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

August 13 to 19: Week 33 - U.S. Role in

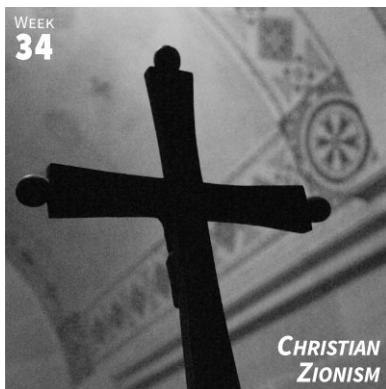


Palestine

[Read the full entry online.](#)

August 19 is World Humanitarian Day. As we advocate for the “safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, and for the survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises” around the world, it is not without irony that we analyze U.S. cuts to humanitarian aid to Palestine and the Palestinians.

For our Kumi Action we will educate our local officials on the need for humanitarian aid for Palestine.



August 20 to 26: Week 34 - Christian Zionism

[Read the full entry online.](#)

All Palestinians regardless of their faith face similar challenges. However, Palestinian Christians face a specific kind of challenge from Christian Zionists who manipulate scripture to support the oppression of Palestinians. On August 22, 2006 Palestinian Christian churches addressed the threat of Christian Zionism with the “Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism.” We mark the anniversary of the declaration by learning about Christian Zionism and learning what you can do so that together we can rise up.

For our Kumi Action we will encourage our local libraries to stock more books on Palestine, particularly on the effects of Christian Zionism.



August 27 to September 2: Week 35 - Art as Resistance

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Art as a creative tool of resistance is a cornerstone of a successful nonviolent resistance. While some resist the occupation with stones or guns or worse, and others turn to politics or religion, still others turn to art. One such artist was Naji Al-Ali, the political cartoonist who created Handala. Naji Al-Ali was assassinated for his art, and died on August 29, 1987. In honor of Naji Al-Ali, and all the brave Palestinian artists who have risked their lives in the service of truth and art, this week we look at art as resistance in Palestine.

For our Kumi Action we will work with a local church, gallery, concert venue, theatre, or school to host or produce a show of Palestinian art or that features Palestinian artists.

Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday **Adi Mansour** of **Adalah** spoke about the discriminatory laws keeping Palestinian families apart. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes bios, the advocacy instructions, and links shared during the gathering.

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next topic, [Indigenous Rights](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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