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[Next Online  
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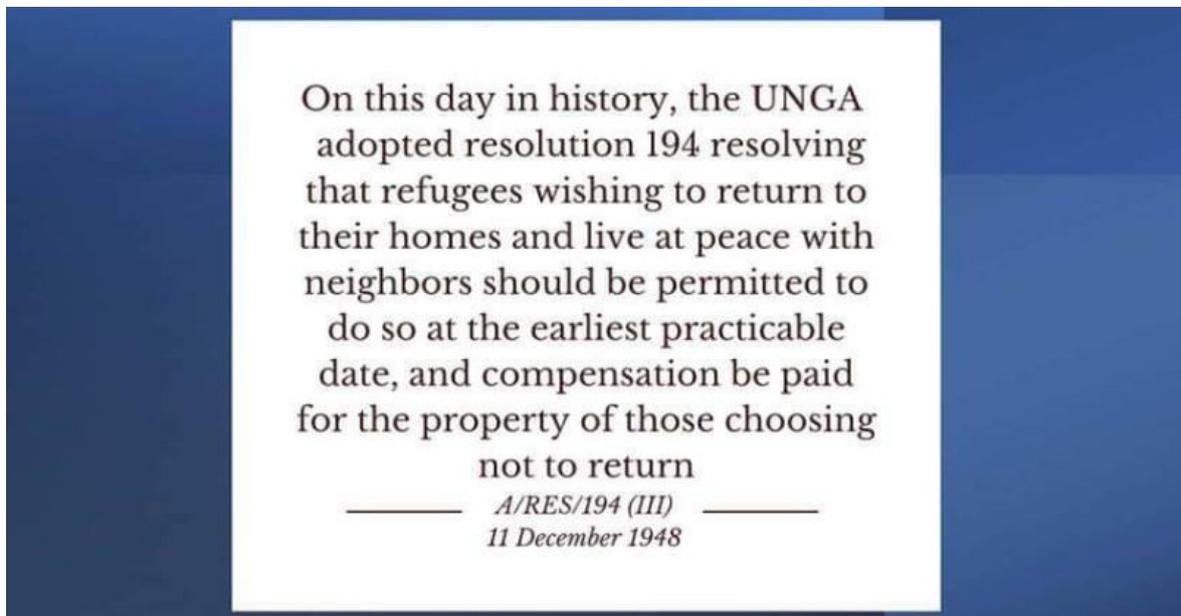
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## Week 50: Right of Return



Dear Kumi Now supporter,

December 11 is the anniversary of the passage of U.N. Resolution 194 in 1948. It stated, "refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible." You can read the full resolution [here](#).

## Next Online Gathering

**December 13: Week 50 - Human Rights**

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

Our guest will be the author **Don Wagner**, as we celebrate the recent release of his book *Glory to God in the Lowest: Journeys to an Unholy Land*.

**Time:** Tuesday, December 13, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+2) 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: 6pm
- Manila: 12am
- Sydney: 3am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 5am (+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 #50: Right of Return

Week 50 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Over 5 million Palestinians (first-generation refugees and their descendants) are recorded as displaced persons as a result of the Nakba (the Palestinian catastrophe of 1948). During and following the 1948 war, more than 600 Palestinian localities were depopulated and destroyed and over 800,000 Palestinians were dispossessed. Furthermore, another 250,000 Palestinians were forced from their native lands and homes, becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Israel. The majority of the internally displaced refugees still live within a few kilometers from their former villages, while a majority of the Palestinian refugees in the neighboring Arab countries still live within 100 kilometers of the border to Israel and are denied the right to return to their homes.

Please read the essay on the Right of Return along with the story of Lubya Village. And here are some facts for you:

### Understanding the Right of Return. Just the facts...

- In 1948 over 1 million Palestinians, 73.2% of the native Palestinian Arab population, became refugees or IDPs.
- More than half were driven out under direct military assault, while others fled after hearing of massacres committed in Palestinian towns such as Deir Yassin, Ad Dawayima, Eilaboun, Saliha, and Lydda.
- More than 400 Palestinian cities and towns were systematically destroyed by Zionist and Israeli forces, while Jewish immigrants were quickly moved into Palestinian homes that remained.
- In December 1948 the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 194, which

states, "refugees wishing to return to their homes...should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date" and calls for compensation to those that choose not to return and for damage to property.

- The Palestinian right of return has repeatedly been confirmed by the UN General Assembly.
- There are now at least 6.6 million refugees and 427,000 internally displaced persons, 67% of the Palestinian population as a whole.
- More than 4.6 million Palestinian refugees live in camps in Jordan, Gaza, the West Bank, Syria, and Lebanon.
- An additional 60,000 Palestinians have been displaced in the West Bank due to home demolitions, revocation of residency rights, construction of illegal settlements on stolen Palestinian owned-land, the construction of Israel's Apartheid Wall.
- Palestinian refugees are the largest and longest-standing population of displaced persons in the world.
- In the over 70 years of Palestinian displacement, the UN has successfully repatriated refugees in numerous other conflicts, including Bosnia/Kosovo, Abkhazia/Georgia, Cyprus, Namibia/South Africa, and Iraq/Kuwait.

### Source

These facts come from:

- ["The Right of Return & Palestinian Refugees"](#) from **IMEU**
- ["The 'Right of Return' for Palestinians"](#) from **CJPME**
- ["Factsheet: The Right to Return, a Basic Right Still Denied"](#) from **Al Wada: The Palestinian Right to Return Coalition**

### Learning More

To learn more you can read ["Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return"](#) from **American Friends Service Committee**. And we have a playlist of related videos on [YouTube](#).

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week:

## Kumi Action



*[Photo](#) by Karen used under a [Creative Commons license](#).*

First, you can watch ***The Village Under the Forest***, a 54-minute documentary that tells the story of Lubyia, the village described above. Screen it for your class, your church group, your family, your school club, etc. You can [purchase the video online for less than US\\$8, or rent it for US\\$3](#). Watch a trailer [here](#).

But please don't stop with a film screening! Lubyia is just one of the many destroyed Palestinian villages that have been covered with the JNF forests funded by overseas donations. If you look at these forests on Google Maps you see reviews that praise

these locations for their beauty and recreational opportunities. The stories, rights, and villages of Palestinians are being buried online just as they are in real life. Alert other travelers to the true stories of the lands they are using by leaving a review on Google Maps.

We suggest you leave a 1 or 2 star review that says something like: “While this is a beautiful area, the truth is that this forest was planted over destroyed Palestinian homes and villages and is land that rightfully belongs, according to international law, to those refugees and their descendants. I encourage everyone to urge the JNF to both acknowledge and right these wrongs so that Jews and Palestinians may live in peace as neighbors.”

### **Lavi**

You can write a review of Lavi (South Africa) Forest and tell the story of Lubyah [here](#).

### **Canada**

You can learn about Canada’s donations by watching:

- [“Three Palestinian Villages Are Buried Under Canada Park”](#)
- “Canada Park in Israel”: [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

Then leave a review of [Ayalon Canada Park](#).

### **Great Britain and the United States**

You can watch [“Stop the JNF”](#) to learn about Britannia Park and USA Independence Park.

You can write a review of Britannia Park [here](#) or of USA Independence Park [here](#).

### **Lifta**

Finally, Lifta is one of the few Palestinian villages to not be entirely leveled. It is now a park, popular with Israeli Jewish citizens who use its pools for pleasure and for their ritual ablutions. If you read the reviews they are overwhelmingly positive, with no mention of the injustice done to its owners. Watch a short video on Lifta from BADIL called [“Sons of Lifta”](#), then leave a review [here](#).

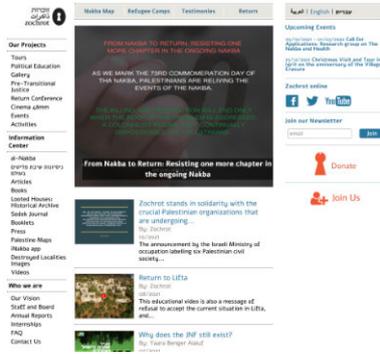
Share a photo of your film screening and/or Google Maps reviews on social media. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi50.

## **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.*

### **Zochrot**

**Zochrot** (*remembering* in Hebrew) is an NGO working since 2002 to promote acknowledgment and accountability for the ongoing injustices of the Nakba, the Palestinian catastrophe of 1948, and the conceptualization of the Return as atonement for the Nakba and a chance for a better life for all the country’s inhabitants.



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

## Upcoming Weeks

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

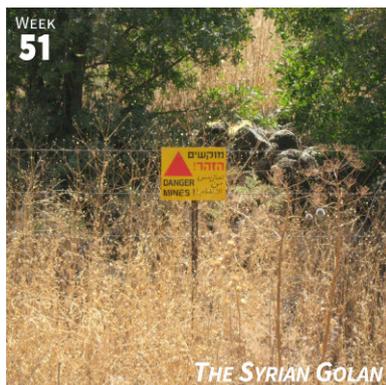
# KUMI NOW ONLINE: DECEMBER, 2022

Week 49	Week 50	Week 51	Week 52
<b>December 6</b> <i>Human Rights</i>	<b>December 13</b> <i>Right of Return</i>	<b>December 20</b> <i>Syrian Golan</i>	<b>December 27</b> <i>Christians in the Holy Land</i>

**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](#).



## December 17 to 23: Week 51 - The Syrian Golan

[Read the full entry online.](#)

This week, we mark the occupation and annexation of the Syrian Golan. Israel occupied the Syrian Golan in 1967, then passed the Golan Heights Law in December of 1981, a move condemned by the United Nations at the time but backed by the United States in 2019.

For our Kumi Action we will discourage travel companies from doing business with Israeli settlements.



## December 24 to 30: Week 52 - Christians in the Holy Land

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Palestinians in the occupied territory face increasingly difficult circumstances due to the Israeli occupation. This has led many Palestinian Christians to emigrate, leading to a diminished Christian presence in the Holy Land. This week, as the World Council of Churches publishes the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for Palestine and Israel, the Kumi Community is focusing on this problem.

For our Kumi Action we will be encouraging our local churches to preach on Palestine.

### Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday, **Donald Pageler**, who served on the **USS Liberty** told us about the attack on the ship and she subsequent cover up. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes the advocacy instructions and links shared during the gathering. If you want to learn more about the USS Liberty, we have created a [YouTube playlist](#) about it.

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

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

Go to Kumi Now Page

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