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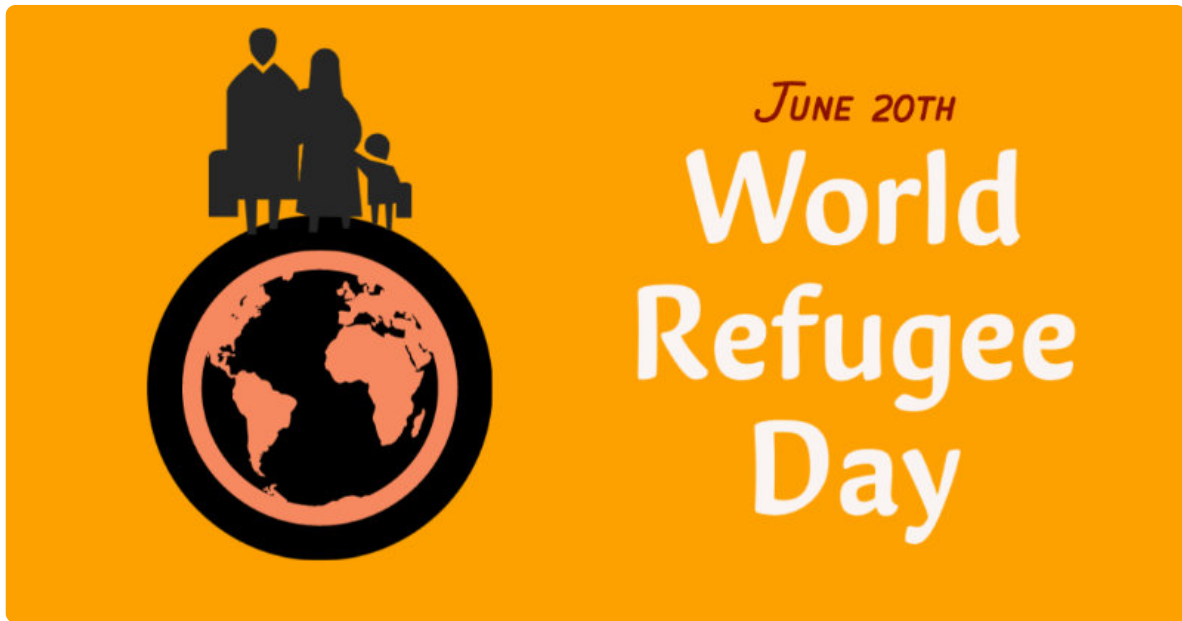
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## Week 25: Palestinian Refugees



Dear Kumi Now supporter,

June 20 is **World Refugee Day**. It is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives. You can learn more about World Refugee Day on the [United Nations website](#). And join us this week to learn more about Palestinian refugees:

### Next Online Gathering

#### June 20: Week 25 - Palestinian Refugees

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

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, we want to work to restore hope to those original Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

Our guest will be **announced soon**.

**Time:** Tuesday, June 20, 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

### Kumi Week #25: Palestinian Refugees

Week 25 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). 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, we want to work to restore hope to those original Palestinian refugees and their descendants. Here's what the Kumi Now community can do this week so that together we can *rise up*.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of Salwa Naser. Last year we were joined by **George Rishmawi** of **Siraj Center** and **Palestinian Heritage Trail** for our [online gathering](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

### Understanding Palestinian Refugees: Just the Facts...

- At least 8.7 of 13.05 million (66.7%) Palestinians worldwide are forcibly displaced persons.
- Among them are at least 7.94 million Palestinian refugees; the rest are internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- During the Nakba 6.71 million Palestinian were made refugees.
- The number of Palestinian refugees originating from the 1967 War is estimated to be 1.24 million refugees.
- Approximately 415,876 current IDPs are a result of the 1948 Nakba.
- Approximately 344,599 Palestinians have been made IDPs in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) since 1967 as a result of Israel's regime of colonization, annexation, and apartheid.
- In 1948, an estimated 65% of Palestinian refugees remained in the territory of Palestine which was not under Israeli control at the time – i.e., the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- The remaining 35% found refuge in neighboring states, mainly Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.

- The majority of Palestinians displaced from the oPt during the 1967 War found refuge in neighboring states; 95% to Jordan.
- UNRWA estimates that half of the refugees forced out of the oPt in 1967 were also refugees from 1948.
- Most refugees still live within 100km of the borders of Mandatory Palestine where their homes of origin are located.
- The conflict in Syria has internally displaced more than half of the 560,000 registered Palestinian refugees in the country since 2011.

These facts are drawn from **Badil's** ["Q and A: What you need to know about Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons"](#). It is available as a PDF [here](#).

### Learning More

To learn more, in addition to reading BADIL's pamphlet, you can also look at Visualizing Palestine's [visual](#).

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.

## Kumi Action



Find the address to your country's permanent mission at the United Nations and send a physical copy of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194, which calls for the Right of Return and compensation for Palestinian refugees. You can also send a digital copy to their email address. Write to the mission asking them why the U.N. continues to fail the Palestinian refugees and ask the mission to take stronger measures to support them and their return in accordance with international law.

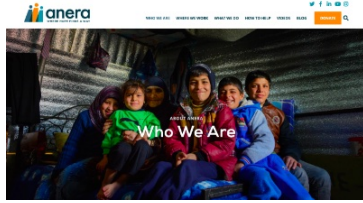
Resolution 194 is found [here](#).

You can find your country's permanent mission's mailing address and contact information in the Blue Book: <https://bluebook.unmeetings.org>. Select 'Member states maintaining permanent missions at Headquarters' in the first dropdown menu, then your country in the second menu. It should provide you all the contact information you need.

Share the message you sent on social media, tagging your country's U.N. mission if possible. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #OngoingNakba, #KumiNow, and #Kumi25.

# 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.*



## Anera

The Arab-Israeli War of 1967 left hundreds of thousands of Palestinians homeless and impoverished. As various international entities struggled to respond, a small group of concerned Americans began working to provide immediate assistance to the victims of the conflict. The result was the creation of **Anera (American Near East Refugee Aid)**. From these modest beginnings, Anera began decades of committed work responding to the critical needs of the Palestinian people and others caught in regional conflicts.

Anera, which has no political or religious affiliation, works on the ground with partners in Palestine (West Bank and Gaza), Lebanon and Jordan. We mobilize resources for immediate emergency relief and for sustainable, long-term health, education, and economic development. Our staff serve in their communities, navigating the politics that constrict progress to get help where it's needed most.

That's how Anera received more than \$100.4 million in support of programs in 2020 alone, and it's how we will keep building better lives until hope finds its way in the Middle East.

You can find Anera on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). You can watch a short video about Anera [here](#).



## Badil (Kumi Partner)

**BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights** is an independent, human rights non-profit organization committed to protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Our vision, mission, programs, and relationships are defined by our Palestinian identity and the principles of international humanitarian and human rights law. We seek to advance the individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people on this basis.

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

## The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) (Kumi Partner)



**The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)** emerged as an ad-hoc group of spirited clergy and lay persons following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the start of the Palestinian refugee problem. Locally formed groups and Area Committees in Jerusalem and the West Bank, the East Bank of Jordan, Lebanon, Gaza, and Galilee responded to the first wave of Palestinian refugees. The problem of the Palestinian refugees and their basic rights to essential services remains a key problem to which DSPR responds. The vision of DSPR is based on Diakonia, the call to serve the poor and oppressed, applied to sustain the efforts of Palestinian refugees to lead dignified lives and to strengthen their communities as essential to the exercise of the right of return.

You can find DSPR on their [website](#) and follow them on [Twitter](#).



## United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

The **UNRWA** is a UN agency that supports the relief and human development of Palestinian refugees. It was established in 1949 by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to provide relief to ALL refugees resulting from the 1948 conflict. In 1952, Israel took over responsibility for Jewish and Palestinian refugees within the borders of Israel. Since then, the UNRWA has worked to support Palestinian refugees from the 1948 and all subsequent conflicts, as well as their patrilineal descendants. As of 2019, more than 5.6 million Palestinians are registered with UNRWA as refugees. The UNRWA employs over 30,000 people, most of them Palestinian refugees, and provides education, health care, and social services to the refugee population, in addition to employment opportunities and direct relief. It operates across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The UNRWA is perhaps best known for providing free basic education to all registered refugee children, currently numbering 526,000, through one of the largest school systems in the Middle East and for being the primary health provider for Palestinian refugees through 139 primary health care facilities.

You can find out more about UNRWA and sign up for their email newsletter on their [website](#) and follow their UNRWA tv programming [on YouTube](#). You can also follow the regular UNRWA account on [YouTube](#), and find the agency on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

## Upcoming Weeks

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

# KUMI NOW ONLINE: JUNE, 2023



**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](#).



## 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.

### Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday, **Hamza Sarraj**, the founder and CEO of [Memories from Palestine](#), which is creating [virtual tours of Palestine](#). The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes links shared during the gathering.

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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