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Week 26: Nuclear Israel

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

This week, Kumi Now looks at Israel's nuclear past and present. However, having told that story in previous Kumi Now webinars (see our [2021 webinar](#) and [2022 webinar](#)), for our webinar this week, we will focus on what activists outside of Palestine can do for Palestine. Given the deteriorating conditions in Israel and Palestine and increased violence, this is an important conversation to have as we all look to intervene for Palestine:

Next Online Gathering

June 28: Week 26 - Activism for Palestine

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

Our guest is **Milan Van Baren**, whose research focus on how activism in the western world can support Palestine

Time: Tuesday, June 27, 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 #26: Nuclear Israel

Week 26 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). 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." Only five countries are not party to the treaty: North Korea, South Sudan, India, Pakistan, and Israel. As we mark the anniversary of this important treaty, the Kumi Now community looks at the story of how the world came to know that Israel possessed nuclear weapons and examines what this means for Palestine and the region, so that together we can *rise up*.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of Earth Caravan and the Peace Flame. Last year we were joined by **Ryokyu Endo** of **Earth Caravan** for our [online gathering](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

Understanding Nuclear Israel: Just the Facts...

- Israel began to research nuclear weapons soon after it declared independence in 1948 and secretly built the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center with French assistance.
- Its first nuclear weapon was completed in late 1966 or early 1967, making it the sixth nuclear power.
- Israel is believed to be able to launch nuclear warheads by aircraft, as submarine-launched cruise missiles, and via intermediate to intercontinental range ballistic missiles.
- Israel is believed to possess 90 plutonium-based nuclear warheads and have enough plutonium for 100-200 weapons.
- It is believed that Israel conducted a nuclear weapons test with South Africa in 1979 known as the Vela incident.
- There are reports that 300 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium was diverted from the U.S. to Israel in the late 1960s.
- Israel is not a party to any of the major treaties governing WMD nonproliferation, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).
- It has signed, but not ratified, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
- Israel's nuclear arms secrets were disclosed to the London Sunday Times by nuclear reactor technician Mordechai Vanunu in 1986.
- Mossad agents abducted him from Europe and returned him to Israel to stand trial for espionage and treason.
- He was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment, 12 of which were served in solitary confinement.
- Since his release in 2004, Vanunu has been barred from speaking to foreigners and leaving the country, and has his internet and phone usage monitored.
- Vanunu has been repeatedly arrested for offenses such as talking to foreigners in bookshops, meeting his girlfriend, traveling to the West Bank, and giving interviews.

These facts are drawn from:

- ["Fact Sheet: Israel's Nuclear Inventory"](#) from **Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation**
- ["Israel"](#) from **Nuclear Threat Initiative**
- ["Nuclear Weapons and Israel"](#) from **Wikipedia**
- ["Vanunu Affair"](#) from **Jewish Virtual Library**

Learning More

To learn more you can start by reading ["The truth about Israel's secret nuclear arsenal"](#) by **Julian Borger** for the **Guardian**. Then watch ["Everything We Don't Know About Israel's Nuclear Program"](#) from **Unpacked**.

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



Israel has nuclear weapons, but the world is in denial. We want to help change this by designing [nuclear hazard signs](#) and giving them to Israel! Send your sign to [Israel's embassy in your country](#) along with the message, "We know you have nuclear weapons. We donate this sign to you!"

Take a photo of your nuclear sign and post it to social media. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi26.

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.



Earth Caravan

The **Earth Caravan** is a global interfaith pilgrimage dedicated to peace, healing and justice for the most traumatic places on our planet. Since 2015 the Earth Caravan has traveled from Nagasaki to Hiroshima, from Auschwitz to Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to Serbia, and from the First Nations of Canada to Israel and Palestine.

You can visit Earth Caravan on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Upcoming Weeks

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

KUMI NOW ONLINE: JULY, 2023

Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30
			
July 4 Kumi Relaunch <i>(no webinar)</i>	July 11 Morally Responsible Investing	July 18 Israeli Apartheid Wall	July 25 Family Unification

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](#).



July 2 to 8: Week 27 - Kumi Relaunch

[Read the full entry online.](#)

This is a week for all of us to recharge our activist batteries and reflect on our advocacy for Palestine.



July 9 to 15: Week 28 - Morally Responsible Investing

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Israel's oppression of Palestinians and flouting of United Nations resolutions is ongoing and unwavering. Dozens of international corporations profit off this oppression by contracting with the Israeli government and participating in the construction of illegal settlements. As we mark the beginnings of the BDS Movement on July 9, 2005, here's what you need to know about morally responsible investment and what you can do so that together we can rise up.

For our Kumi Action we write to our church, company, school, place of worship, or any community we belong

to and find out where/how they invest their money.



July 16 to 22: Week 29 - The Israeli Apartheid Wall

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Resolution ES-10/15 doesn't, in name, sound like much. But it was a resolution passed on July 20, 2004 that acknowledged the illegality of Israel's separation barrier under international law. Years later, Palestinian communities in the occupied territory are still being torn apart due to the construction of the separation barrier, otherwise known as the Apartheid Wall. As the wall gets built, Israel is effectively annexing more and more Palestinian land to itself.

For our Kumi Action we will send empty boxes to the Knesset, showing them how easy it is to open a gate or barrier.



July 23 to 29: Week 30 - Family Unification

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On July 31, 2003 Israel passed the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law, making the lives of thousands of Palestinian individuals and families even more precarious and complex.

For our Kumi Action we will send the Prime Minister and his cabinet paper dolls to move around and play with.

Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday **Mustafa Sheta**, the director of the **Freedom Theater** in the Jenin refugee camp spoke to use about the situation for Palestinian refugees. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes his bio, information about the theatre, 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 mid-year [Kumi Relaunch](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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