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Week 30: Family Unification

Nationality and Entry into Israel Law

July 31

נספח מס' מ-31/א'

הצעת חוק לקריאה שנייה ולקריאה שלישית

חוק האזרחות והכניסה לישראל (הוראת שעה), התשס"ג-2003

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

Family unification is the process whereby a nation permits the immigration of a citizen's close relatives and provides those immigrants with a legal status, potentially leading to citizenship, within the state. The goal is to allow citizens the right to marry and to maintain a full family life: a right recognized under international law. Most countries understand this right and allow such immigration. But 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. Join us this week for Tuesday's online gathering, as we learn more about Israel's discriminatory and illegal policies on family unification:

Next Online Gathering

July 25: Week 30 - Family Unification

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

Our guest will be announced soon.

Time: Tuesday, July 25, 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 #30: Family Unification

Week 30 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). Family unification is the process whereby a nation permits the immigration of a citizen's close relatives and provides those immigrants with a legal status, potentially leading to citizenship, within the state. The goal is to allow citizens the right to marry and to maintain a full family life: a right recognized under international law. Most countries understand this right and allow such immigration.

However, Israel has never recognized the right of Palestinians to family unification. And while the annexation of East Jerusalem has created a political border between Palestinians, it has not severed the familial and social ties between Palestinians. Israel has chosen to ignore this reality and instead has imposed a rigid family unification policy that (a) conflicts with normal Palestinian society and (b) creates a separate system for Palestinians than for that of Jewish citizens, who face a much easier system that actively encourages their family unification process.

Please read the essay on this issue and the testimony of S. K., 36, married with two children and a resident of Ras el-'Amud. You can find 2021's gathering [here](#) and 2022's gathering [here](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

Understanding Family Unification: Just the Facts...

- Israel controls immigration into both Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.
- Israel's control over the Palestinian population registry effectively means that it can decide to whom status gets granted in Palestine.
- The last batch of IDs Israel granted was in 2009.
- Under the Law of Return, "every Jew has the right to come to" Israel.
- However, the rights of Palestinian citizens in Israel, and of their spouses and their children are limited.
- 140,000 families were divided as a result of the 1967 war.
- Between 1967 and 1994, Israel also cancelled the residency status of 130,000 Palestinian residents of the West Bank.
- From 1994 to 2014, 11,448 Palestinians from East Jerusalem had their IDs revoked by Israel.
- Between 2000 and 2005 alone, 120,000 requests for family unification were not considered by Israel.
- As "permanent residents," Palestinians in East Jerusalem have to continually prove that their "center of life" is in the city, or they could have their ID revoked by Israel.
- Israel's family reunification ban was passed in 2003 as a "temporary" security measure in the wake of the Second Intifada.
- The reunification ban has been renewed annually every year since.
- While the Knesset failed to extend the Citizenship and Entry to Israel Law in July 2021, the Israeli Ministry of the Interior is still refusing to process family reunification applications.

This week's facts come from:

- "[Engineering Community: Family Unification, Entry Restrictions and other Israeli Policies of Fragmenting Palestinians](#)" from **AI-Haq**
- "[Israel: Thousands of unregistered Palestinians fear deportation, separation from families](#)" from **Middle East Eye**
- "[Israel: Interior Ministry Blocks Palestinian Family Reunification Requests](#)" from **Palestine Chronicle**

Learning More

- To learn more you can start by reading "[Israel has denied certain married couples the right to live together. Some hide. Others break up.](#)" from the **Washington Post**.
- You can listen to the "[Love Under Israeli Apartheid](#)" episode of the **This Is Palestine** podcast from the **IMEU**.
- You can watch "[Palestinians Daring to Love](#)" from the **IMEU**.
- And also watch "[Love Stories for Social Justice](#)" from **Visualizing Palestine**.
- Finally, you can look at the [Timeline of Family Unification in the Occupied Palestinian Territories](#) from **Hamoked**.

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



Israel does not hesitate to move people against their will. Help keep the Israeli Minister of the Interior, Prime Minister, and the rest of the cabinet occupied without running afoul of international law by sending them silhouettes cut from paper (also known as paper dolls). Connect your paper dolls into families and send them to the current Minister of the Interior and include a message along the lines of, "At your next cabinet meeting you and your friend Benjamin Netanyahu can have fun cutting apart these families instead of Palestinian families. Stop playing with the Palestinian people."

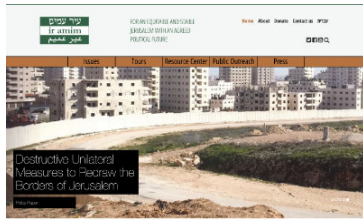
Send your paper dolls and messages to:

Interior Ministry
Attn: Minister of the Interior
Box 6158
2 Kaplan St.
Jerusalem
Israel

Share a photo of your paper doll families on social media, along with your messages. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi30.

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.



Ir Amim

Ir Amim (“City of Nations” or “City of Peoples”) focuses on Jerusalem within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The related issues of family unification and residency revocation are central to their work.

The mission of Ir Amim is to render Jerusalem a more equitable and sustainable city for the Israelis and Palestinians who share it and to help secure a negotiated resolution on the city through sustained monitoring, reporting, public and legal advocacy, public education and outreach to re-orient the public discourse on Jerusalem.

You can find Ir Amim on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), 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, 2023

Week 31	Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35
August 1 <i>Collective Punishment</i>	August 8 <i>Indigenous Rights</i>	August 15 <i>U.S. Role in Palestine</i>	August 22 <i>Christian Zionism</i>	August 29 <i>Art as Resistance</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](#).

July 30 to August 5: Week 31 - Collective Punishment

[Read the full entry online.](#)

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.

For our Kumi Action we will find out if our local police forces do business with Combined Systems.



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.

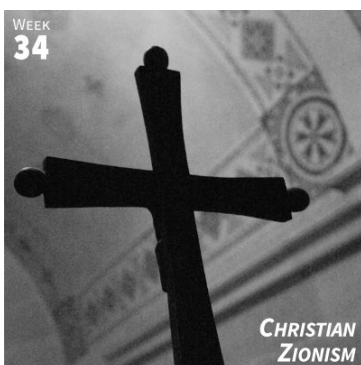


August 13 to 19: Week 33 - U.S. Role in Palestine

[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 Jamal Juma' of Stop the Wall joined us to address the Israelil Apartheid Wall. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and [on our website](#). The website includes her bio, 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 Sunday, focused on our next topic, [Collective Punishment](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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