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Week 38: Blockade of Gaza



Dear Kumi Now supporter,

September 21 is the **International Day of Peace**. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. It is one of two days in the year (the other being the first day of spring) when the Peace Bell, donated to the UN by Japan in 1954, is rung. You can [watch a previous ring of the bell](#).

You can find more information about the day [on the website](#). In particular, you might want to check out the ["Peace Begins With Me" multimedia poem](#). And join us this week as the Kumi Now community celebrates International Day of Peace by standing together for the part of Palestine most in need of peace: Gaza.

Next Online Gathering

September 19: Week 38 - Blockade of Gaza

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

We will be joined by **Yusef AlKhouri** of **Bethlehem Bible College**.



Time: Tuesday, September 19, 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 #38: Blockade of Gaza

Week 38 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). In Week 13 we outlined the unsustainable living conditions caused by Israel's blockade of Gaza and the internal political struggle. This week, given the extreme nature of the oppression facing Gazans, we'd like to go into a little more detail on specific issues in Gaza, specifically Gaza's infrastructure, farmland in Gaza, and women in Gaza.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of the farmer Mosaad Khalaf Habib. And here are some facts for you:

Understanding the Blockade of Gaza: Just the Facts...

- The blockade was first imposed on Gaza by Israel in 2006 after Hamas won the Palestinian elections.
- Gaza's unemployment rate is around 50%—one of the highest in the world.
- Youth unemployment is over 60%.
- Over 80% of the population depends on international assistance.
- The United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross have declared the blockade an illegal form of collective punishment against the Gaza population.
- 70% of households in Gaza have running water for only six to eight hours once every two to four days.
- Restrictions on the import of basic construction materials have deteriorated basic services and impede the reconstruction of homes.
- In March 2021, there were 4,403 crossings in and out of Gaza, less than 10% of the monthly average (about 50,000) prior to the imposition of movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In March 2021, 1,293 exit permit applications were submitted for patients referred to specialized treatment in the West Bank or Israel. Only 66% were approved.
- Following the hostilities in May 2021, the World Bank estimates up to US\$485 million are needed for the recovery of Gaza during the first 24 months.

Sources

- [“About the Gaza Blockade”](#) from **Gaza Unlocked**
- [“The Gaza Strip: The Humanitarian Impact of the Blockade”](#) from the **United Nations**
- [“Gaza Strip: Snapshot | March 2021”](#) from **OCHA oPt**
- [“The Rebuilding of Gaza Amid Dire Conditions: Damage, Losses, and Needs”](#) from the **World Bank**

Learning More

To learn more about the blockade of Gaza we suggest you read [“Gaza Strip: A beginner’s guide to an enclave under blockade”](#) from **Al Jazeera**. And you can watch the short video [“How life changed since Israel blockaded the Gaza Strip?”](#) from WION.

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



This week, commit to writing in bold and big letters the hashtag #OpenGaza on every piece of paper currency you come across. The more bills in circulation with this message, the more people will see it. Respect currency laws if able. Alternately, you could write #OpenGaza on every assignment you turn in, prescription you write, business card you hand out, email you send, etc. Take pictures of whatever you write on and post them to social media. Include a link to this Kumi campaign page and the hashtags #OpenGaza and #KumiNow.

This is the sort of action you can take all year! Have #OpenGaza printed on your next order of business cards, etc. Share your creative ways of making this an ongoing action by posting your ideas on social media using the hashtags above. Include a link to [this page of the Kumi Now website](#) along with the hashtags #OpenGaza, #KumiNow, and #Kumi38.

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.

Pontifical Mission for Palestine

The **Pontifical Mission for Palestine (PMP)** is a special agency of the Holy See, founded by Pope Pius XII in June 1949 to assist Palestinian refugees. While it

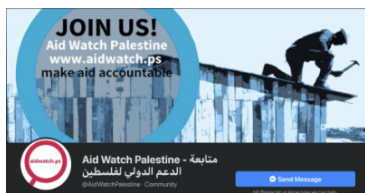


I. Overview

Established after the adoption of 24 November 1987 by the General Assembly of the United Nations of a plan for the provision of temporary, limited financial and technical assistance to the Holy See, the Mission's financial and technical assistance is to be used for the benefit of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, in an ecclesiastical manner.

was intended to be a temporary agency, it eventually became the Holy See's relief and development agency for Israel, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. The Mission is administered by the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA).

You can find the PMP on CNEWA's [website](#) and follow the PMP on [Facebook](#). You can read more about its founding and history [here](#).



Aid Watch Palestine

Aid Watch Palestine (AWP) wrote our entry on ["Gaza Farmland"](#).

AWP is an independent, Palestinian-driven initiative that stimulates and supports efforts to make international aid more accountable to Palestinians—starting with reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. They invite the Palestinian community and aid actors-local and international, public and private-to join them in critical and constructive scrutiny of aid. Together, we can utilize aid to advance the Palestinian cause and focus on long-term solutions.

You can follow Aid Watch Palestine on [Facebook](#).

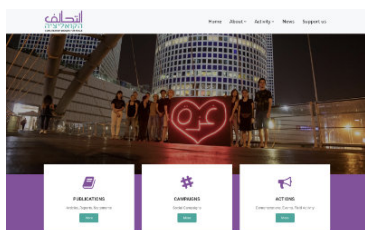


Churches for Middle East Peace

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) wrote our entry on ["Living in Gaza Under Blockade"](#).

CMEP is a coalition of 27 national church denominations and organizations in Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions. Through its more than 47,000 individual constituents and denominational partnerships, CMEP influences millions of American Christians. CMEP works to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote a just, lasting, and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights, and religious freedom for all the people of the region.

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



Coalition of Women for Peace

The Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP) wrote our entry on ["Women of Gaza"](#).

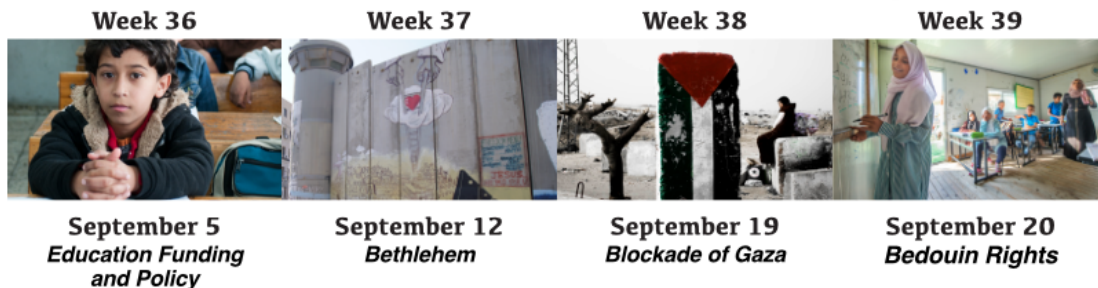
CWP is a feminist organization active in the struggle to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine, for the liberation of the Palestinian people from oppression, for the creation of a society based on principles of justice and equality, and for securing life and dignity for all the inhabitants of Israel/Palestine.

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

Upcoming Weeks

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

KUMI NOW ONLINE: SEPTEMBER, 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](#).



September 24 to 30: Week 39 - Bedouin Rights

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Refugee Bedouin communities in Palestine and Israel have experienced decades of home demolitions and forcible transfers along with virtually non-existent services. In September 2011, Israel adopted the Praver Plan. One of its goals was to relocate 40,000 to 70,000 Negev Bedouin from their chosen homes to government-mandated lands.

For our Kumi Action we will send some sheep to Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday, **Lucy Talgieh**, a member of the **Municipal Council of Bethlehem** and the Women's Project Coordinator at **Wi'am**, spoke about how Israel's occupation chokes Bethlehem and its people. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on

[our website](#). The website includes his 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, [Bedouin Rights](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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