

# Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

27 June 2019

## PSNA Newsletter No 1

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa.

I'm very pleased to let you know that a new national organisation to support the Palestinian struggle was formed at our one-day national seminar in Christchurch last Saturday, 22 June. The seminar was a huge success with people from ten cities outside Christchurch represented.

There was an outstanding presentation from our guest speaker followed by workshops where ideas for local activity and national actions were discussed. Planning for future events/activities is well underway. The energy, enthusiasm and determination from the seminar were impressive. It was a great day.

The new group is called the **Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa** (PSNA for short) and has formed an interim committee with representatives from across the country. We will be meeting regularly online.

It is an interim committee because we want representation decided by local Palestine support groups. In practice want to work from the ground up rather than the reverse.

Your interim committee representatives are:

<b>Interim National Committee</b>		
John Minto (Interim Chair)	Christchurch	JohnMinto@orcon.net.nz
Neil Scott (Secretary)	Auckland	Secretary@PSNA.nz
Billy Hania	Auckland	billy@bloodycomputers.co.nz
Don Carson	Wellington	w.Don.Carson@gmail.com
Eugene Lee	Dunedin	EugeneLee4@outlook.com
Fred Hayward	Hamilton	FredHay@xtra.co.nz
Jenny Kelso	Whangarei	beddha@gmail.com
Lucy Abdulla	Christchurch	LucyAbdula@hormail.com
Maher Nazal	Auckland/Kuwait	Maher.nzpal@gmail.com
Sandra Budaak	Invercargill	daviniaappletree@gmail.com
<b>Advisory Group</b>		
Janfrie Wakim	Auckland	JWakim@xtra.co.nz
Roger Fowler	Auckland	Roger.Fowler@icloud.com

The seminar discussed plans to meet with all MPs, a national petition calling for the closure of the Israeli embassy in Wellington, national speaking tours from Palestinian representatives, Nakba Day events across the country, leaflets and posters, T-shirts and other merchandise as well as the critical importance of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign.

We want you all to be an active part of this campaign.

**What can you do today?**

Each newsletter we will ask everyone to take a small step in support of the Palestinian struggle. In this first newsletter we are asking all of us to consider donating a cup of coffee a month to the campaign. In other words, **can you afford to make an automatic payment of \$5 per month to support the Palestinian struggle?** (If you can afford more that would be great!)

Our account details are:

**Account name: Palestine Solidarity Network**

**Account number: 38-9015-0849542-00**

Pay Pal account: [admin@palestinesolidaritynz.net](mailto:admin@palestinesolidaritynz.net)

We are happy to provide a receipt upon request (however, we are not a registered charity so this is not tax-deductible)

In the meantime, warm regards from your new committee.

Na,

John Minto

PSNA Interim Chair

**PS One of our first actions is this letter to the Prime Minister. Scroll down to see the letter. . .**

# Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

25 June 2019

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Prime Minister  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

[j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz)

Kia ora Ms Ardern,

## **Two critical developments in the Palestinian struggle**

In the coming days and weeks there will be two important developments in the struggle for Palestinian human rights and we urge the government to respond firmly and appropriately to put New Zealand on the right side of history in each situation.

Firstly, the United States government is promoting its “deal of the century” whereby economic development finance for Palestinians is promised in return for acceptance of the political status quo in the region.

The proposal seeks to use the promise of development dollars to purchase Palestinian compliance with Israeli abuse of international law and United Nations resolutions.

Palestinians have rejected the proposal and we urge the New Zealand government to stand with them and insist on a political solution to the long-standing crisis.

Secondly, Israel has been so emboldened by the uncritical support of the current US administration that Israeli leaders are talking of the annexation of parts, if not all, of the occupied Palestinian territories.

This would be another grave breach of international law by Israel but it has already taken similar steps in regard to East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. It is now highly likely that in the context of the coming Israeli election campaign, at least some of the contending party leaders will make such promises of annexation.

Current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already signalled a willingness to annex more Palestinian land and is on record as saying:

*“The way to deal with Palestinians is to beat them up. Not once but repeatedly, beat them up so it hurts so badly, until its unbearable” Benjamin Netanyahu 2001.*

Again, we urge the New Zealand government to reject any proposals to annex more Palestinian land and vigorously oppose such action as intensely provocative.

In place of these highly dangerous proposals we believe it is important for the government to reiterate calls for Israel to abide by United Nations resolutions and international law. If this occurred

then Israel would end its military occupation of the West Bank and medieval siege of Gaza, allow Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and land in Israel and end Israel's apartheid laws which discriminate against Palestinians with Israeli citizenship.

These two developments have such grave consequences for the situation in the Middle East we believe this should be handled by yourself as Prime Minister rather than by other government ministers.

We look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Na,

John Minto  
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