



Palestine

Solidarity Network

Aotearoa

6 November 2019

Newsletter No 10

Kia ora PSNA Supporter

The year just seems to be getting busier when it should be slowing down a bit. Have you contributed to Julie Webb-Pullman's fundraising campaign yet? Find out how to below...

Quick and easy competition – be a winner!



Win a copy of this fantastic map from the Palestine Land Society which shows the Palestinian villages “depopulated” by Israel and the illegal Jewish-only settlements built on occupied Palestinian land.

We have five copies to give away to people who would like to have this marvellous resource to share with their friends and family.

Just answer these two questions by naming the two racist Israeli political party leaders who said –

1. “What’s so horrifying about understanding that the entire Palestinian people are the enemy?” and
2. “Israel isn’t a state of all its citizens...Israel is the nation state of the Jewish people...and it alone?”

We will send a map to the first five correct answers emailed to chair@PSNA.nz

Boycott PUMA – report from International Day of Action on Saturday 26th October

We had five centres around New Zealand taking part in highlighting PUMA's sponsorship for the Israel Football Association which supports soccer teams in illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. This helps Israel to “normalise” its occupation of Palestine.

Here is a picture from the Christchurch crew – there is a PUMA outlet store in Dressmart behind Harcourts on this busy corner. We had a great response from the public – lots of toots and waves and just a couple of fingers!



And in Wellington – a great response from the foot traffic in Cuba Mall!



We have written to Netball New Zealand to ask them to cancel their sponsorship deal with PUMA. We haven't had a response yet but will keep you updated.

Learning about the Holocaust and Al Nakba (“the catastrophe” in Arabic)

This week we are writing to all secondary schools which have agreed to provide an hour of teaching each year about the Holocaust. We will follow up later with a letter to all schools in New Zealand.

Here is the letter:

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

5 November 2019

The Principal

Address

Email:

Kia ora

Helping students learn about the Holocaust and Al Nakba (“the catastrophe” in Arabic)

We understand your school is one which has committed to providing at least an hour of education each year on the horrors of the Holocaust. We congratulate you on this because it is very important New Zealand children have at least a basic understanding of this horrific programme of Nazi genocide against European Jews and other European communities.

However, I’m sure you will understand that to look at the Holocaust in isolation could leave students with deeply negative views towards Palestinians because Israel’s dominant propaganda narrative says that after surviving the Holocaust in Europe the Jewish people have then had to suffer constant terrorism from Palestinians. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is important that students understand that following the Second World War Jewish militias undertook a programme of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Palestine (called Al Nakba or “the catastrophe” by the Palestinians) to make way for a Jewish-majority state. This ethnic cleansing, including many massacres of Palestinians, was conducted prior to and following Israel’s declaration of Independence in 1948.

In fact, this ethnic cleansing is still going on. Every day since 1948 more Palestinians are being driven off their land and having their homes bulldozed.

What also makes Al Nakba especially relevant to the study of the Holocaust is that, had the Holocaust not occurred, it is very likely that Al Nakba would not have happened. Palestinians today are victims of the victims. We cannot be racist in selecting which victims to support. The remedy is the implementation of the Right of Return for Palestinians to their homes.

In summary it is important for students to understand that Palestinians are being forced to pay the price for European anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

To assist schools in teaching the Holocaust and the Nakba we have two resources:

1. A small booklet called “Let’s talk about Palestine/Israel” which is in question and answer format suitable for students to gain an understanding of history of the Holocaust and the Nakba. It explains the deeply racist policies of the Israeli state and explains why Nobel Prize winner and South African Human Rights champion, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, says we must declare Israeli policies “apartheid policies” and support the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign to pressure Israel.
2. An excellent map – produced by the Palestinian Land Society – which shows the Palestinian villages “depopulated” by Israel and the illegal Jewish-only settlements built on occupied Palestinian land.

We would be happy to send a copy of each to your school, at your request, free of charge although we would need to charge a small amount if you decide to purchase more copies.

Thank you for your time in reading through this letter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Na,

John Minto
National Chair
Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa
johnminto@orcon.net.nz
0220850161

29 November – United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people

More details are here: <https://www.un.org/en/events/palestinianday/index.shtml>

Several centres are organising activities to mark this day. Get in touch with your local group – contact details below – to find out what is happening in your area.

Early warning for two important events coming up next year.

1. BDS Conference in Sydney next July.

The conference is titled “BDS – Driving Global Justice for Palestine, 24-26 July 2020” and is being hosted at University of Sydney.

More details are here: <https://www.bdssydney.org/>

2. Visit by Mazin Qumsiyeh.



Mazin is a well-respected Christian Palestinian scientist and author and the director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History. Mazin will be here for a week following the BDS conference in Australia. We are planning for him to visit all the main centres over the week of 27th July next year.

Julie Webb-Pullman's fundraising tour of New Zealand



Julie speaking in Palmerston North.

She is a New Zealand journalist and human rights worker who is training local Palestinians in Gaza how to collect evidence of war crimes for presentation to the International Criminal Court.

Julie is making a return trip to Christchurch later in November where she will speak at a Public Meeting at the **Transitional Cathedral, Latimer Square, Thursday 28th November at 7pm.**

Julie has so far raised NZ\$5,000 towards her target of US\$6,000 so we still have a way to go. Have you contributed yet? It's not too late.

Account Name: Palestine Solidarity Network

Account Number: 38 9015 0849542 02

A great resource on Al Nakba

This is an interesting and important presentation about Al Nakba in a series of videos.

Al Nakba - The Story of Palestine from 1799 to today - 4 Episodes

Al Nakba is available in 10 languages

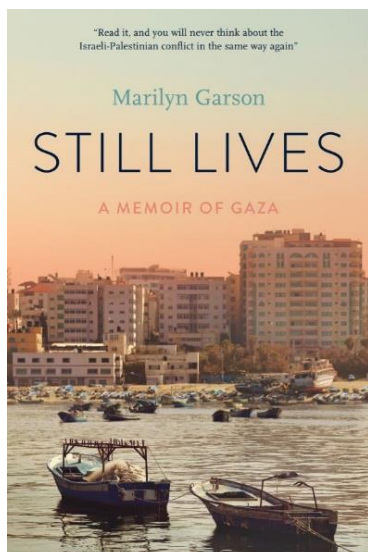
Part One: <https://youtu.be/H7FML0wzJ6A>

Part Two: <https://youtu.be/yI2D5Fsd9lg>

Part Three: <https://youtu.be/5SKECszemmA>

Part Four: https://youtu.be/0m_A7MIDrk

Marilyn Garson - a new book on life in Gaza



This is a first-hand account of a Canadian Kiwi's experience in Gaza.

Marilyn Garson was on the TV1 Breakfast programme on Monday morning. It can be accessed On Demand at 2hr 19.29 mins into the show <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/breakfast/live>

Marilyn wrote the book after spending 4 years living in Gaza.

You can purchase a book through www.marilyngarson.com

Marilyn co-authored this [excellent article](#) in the New Zealand Herald in February this year.

Delegations to Members of Parliament

More MPs are being visited every week but we still have a long way to go...

Are you able to organise a delegation of two or three people to speak with your local MP and deliver a copy of the "Let's talk about Palestine/Israel" booklet?

We are aiming to cover all government MPs by the end of this year BUT TO DO THIS WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you can please email secretary@PSNA.nz for your local MP.

3rd Reprint - If you haven't purchased one yet - buy a copy of our excellent small booklet of common questions and answers on the Middle East conflict.



We are on our third reprint of the booklet.

Have you got your copy yet?

Buy a copy for yourself and maybe a few to give to friends and family. Send your address in an email to bronwensummers@gmail.com and pay \$5 online for a single copy – includes post and packaging – add \$2 each for extra copies)
Account Name: Palestine Solidarity Network
Account No: 38 9015 0849542 00

T-shirts and merchandise for sale:



Our spokesperson John Minto recently walked Te Araroa (from Cape Reinga to Tekapo – he will finish in Summer) wearing this T-shirt. He still has the T-shirt but has lost the beard!

We have these T-shirts for sale:

\$26 + postage XXL, XL, L, M, S, XS (size 8)

\$30 + postage XXXXL, XXXL

Email bronwensummers@gmail.com or phone 03 55 00 132
txt 0220850161

Alternatively, you can buy merchandise including T-shirts from our website

<http://www.palestinesolidaritynz.net/shop.html>

It's not too late to be part of the important campaign to stop New Zealand military imports from Israel

Yes, we are still driving this important campaign to make New Zealand an Israeli military free zone.

Send an email to the Prime Minister urging her to use Rule 44 of the Government's Electronic Tender Service rules to abandon the proposal to purchase \$9 million in military equipment from Israel. Rule 44 says the government may exclude a supplier on the basis of "human rights violations by the supplier or in the supplier's supply chain".

Here's an example of the email you could send NOW to j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz



Dear Ms Ardern,
Please invoke government purchase rule 44 to cancel the proposed purchase of \$9 million in military equipment from Israel by the New Zealand Defence Force. The company providing the equipment, Roboteam, is an integral part of the Israeli Defence Force and provides equipment to support the illegal occupation of Palestinian land and the siege of Gaza. It is providing active assistance to the Israeli Defence Force in their human rights abuses such as the murder and maiming of unarmed Palestinian youth (16 killed so far this year) and the detention without trial of Palestinian children and minors.

Please respond urgently.

(Name)

Background: The NZ Defence Force have decided to purchase \$9 billion in robots from Israeli company Roboteam.

The founders of Roboteam, Yossi Wolf and Elad Levy, both served as officers in the Israeli Air Force Special Forces before establishing Roboteam in 2009. They developed and supplied a robot to the

IDF that was actively used in Operation Protective Edge, the sustained Israeli attack on the Gaza strip in 2014 involving numerous human rights abuses and war crimes committed against the civilian Palestinian population of Gaza (1,492 Palestinian civilians were killed - 551 children and 299 women)

Rule 44 of the Government's Electronic Tender Service Rules say the government may exclude a supplier on the basis of -

“human rights violations by the supplier or in the supplier's supply chain”

Meanwhile recent [media reports](#) indicate the Roboteam products to be purchased by our Defence Force have been trialled by the Israeli Defence Force in its occupation of the West Bank and on the Gaza “border”. The tests were termed a “success”.

The IDF is renowned for its testing of military equipment on the civilian population of occupied Palestine. It is also renowned for its brutality – for example the murder and maiming of Palestinian children – 16 killed so far this year and its widely condemned detention without trial of Palestinian children and minors. In April this year for example 205 Palestinian minors were being held in Israeli prisons, without trial, as security detainees and prisoners.

Are you able to donate a cup of coffee a month to the campaign?

We will need some serious money to make our campaign as effective as possible. For example, we will need somewhere in the vicinity of \$25,000 to bring speakers to New Zealand over the next year and organise large public meetings to help spread the message.

You can help. Are you able to donate 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

Or Pay Pal account: 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)

Links to important stories

Victoria University: Shut Down Unethical Israeli Prize

<https://www.change.org/p/victoria-university-of-wellington-victoria-university-shut-down-unethical-israeli-prize>

Why is this important?

Victoria University of Wellington has refused to remove an essay prize funded by the Apartheid government of Israel. The prize is insulting to the university's own Palestinian students who have been forced from their homeland by the Israeli government.

The Embassy of Israel Prize of \$250 is awarded to one student per year on the merit of an essay on one of the given topics - including "Israel in the Middle East", "Israel's bilateral relations with its neighbours", and "Israel's democracy in the context of the Middle East".

This prize is unethical because the Israeli government is guilty of building illegal settlements in Palestinian territory, preventing the flow of essential resources, and denying Palestinians the right to vote. It is a regime akin to Apartheid South Africa.

Petition to stop global tourism sites from profiteering from stolen Palestinian Lands

There is currently a petition from Amnesty International NZ calling on Trip Advisor to stop profiting from illegal Israeli settlements. The target is 1000 signatories, let us help them achieve this!

<https://www.amnesty.org.nz/tell-tripadvisor-pull-out-illegal-israeli-settlements-occupied-palestine>

Please note Trip Advisor are not the only company to do this, others include Air BnB, Expedia, and booking.com

See Amnesty International's full report titled *Destination: Occupation* here:

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1594902019ENGLISH.PDF>

<https://www.newstalk.com/Tourism-giants-fuelling-human-rights-violations-with-Israeli-settlement-listings>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=92&v=-lk7VLsAKIM

The Daily Blog has regular articles in it about Palestine/Israel.

<https://thedailyblog.co.nz/>

More ways you can get involved

- Forward this Newsletter – If you know people who may be interested in this movement, please forward this Newsletter to them.
- Join in local activities in your area monthly Rallies - In Auckland, we hold a monthly Protest at 2.00 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Please consider doing the same in your community. Contact <mailto:admin@palestinesolidaritynz.net?subject=Flags> and Banners if you would like to know where and how to get Flags and Banners
- Help set up a Students for Justice in Palestine groups on your campus
- Tell Your MP your opinions on Divestment and Sanctions of Israel.
- Write Letters to Newspapers – Call Talkback Radio
- Keep in touch with the campaign on social media
 - NZ Palestine Solidarity Network website: <http://PalestineSolidarityNZ.net/index.html>
 - NZ Palestine Solidarity Network Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/
 - NZ Palestine Solidarity Network email: admin@PalestineSolidarityNZ.net
- Keep Updated on our Facebook pages and websites (listed below)

Regional	
Whangarei	Freedom & Peace for Palestine from Whangarei
Auckland	PSNA – Auckland – Tamaki Makaurau
Hamilton	Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato
Tauranga	Tauranga Moana 4 Palestine
Napier/Hastings	Aotearoa Standing with Palestine
Palmerston North	PSNA Palmerston North

Wellington	Wellington Palestine
Nelson	Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine
Christchurch	PSNA Christchurch
Dunedin	Dunedin for Justice in Palestine
Invercargill	PSNA Invercargill

New Zealand Affiliates	
	Boycott Divestment and Sanctions NZ
	Palestine Human Rights
	Kia Ora Gaza
	Letters for Palestine
	Auckland Peace Action
	Global Peace and Justice Auckland

John Minto
Spokesperson
Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa