



22 Here-turi-kōkā 2023

22 August 2023

## Newsletter No 102



After more than a year of talking about a visit to Palestine, and several false starts, Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta has finally called off a proposed trip to Palestine before October's election citing "scheduling problems".

This is deeply disappointing – Palestinians are being told once more to go to the back of the queue.

With opinion polls as they are in the leadup to October's national election it is unlikely Nanaia Mahuta will ever get to Palestine as Foreign Minister.

Abandoning the visit will be welcomed by the pro-Israel lobby who do their best, often very successfully, to keep Israel's racist, apartheid policies and practices out of public discussion in New Zealand. It will also be quietly welcomed by many in Wellington's government bureaucracy who want to see New Zealand policy on the Middle East mirror US policy. In other words, they want us to be quiet as Israel continues its military occupation of Palestine, its ethnic cleansing of Palestinian communities and its theft of Palestinian land. They want us to give Israel ongoing impunity for its violations of international law and United Nations resolutions. They want New Zealand to continue to give Israel a free pass for its blatant violations of human rights.

A visit by the Foreign Minister should have led to the government changing direction and beginning to hold Israel to account for its egregious violations of Palestinian human rights.

## Something you can do right now with a few clicks...

Send a message to Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta expressing disappointment at the cancellation of her visit to Palestine. You can write your own note or copy and paste this note into an email.

*Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Parliament Buildings Wellington  
[n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz)*

*Kia ora Minister,*

### ***Sending Palestinians to the back of the queue again***

*I am deeply disappointed at the cancellation of your proposed trip to the Middle East before October's election.*

*Your proposed visit was an opportunity to shift New Zealand policy so that we stand with the oppressed people of Palestine and hold Israel to account for its racist, apartheid policies.*

*"Scheduling problems" should never be a reason for New Zealand to fail to stand up for Palestinian human rights, and to hold Israel to account for its flagrant breaches of international law and United Nations resolutions.*

*The effect of abandoning your visit is to tell Palestinians they must go to the back of the queue again.*

*I expect your government to rapidly remedy this if you remain in government after the October national election.*

*<your name>*

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**Please consider stopping and sending your email before reading on.**

It will take less than 2 minutes.

Also, please consider BCC'ing [Secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz) so we can track how many emails the minister receives.

Or forward your email to me after you have sent it to Minister Mahuta.

With each newsletter, the number of emails sent grows.

The more emails we send, the more traction we get.

Nga mihi

Neil (Secretary)

# Swim in solidarity with Gaza's children this coming Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>



PSNA is supporting this international [Swim with Gaza](#) action on this Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Supporters in Auckland, New Plymouth and Christchurch will be out swimming or paddling their feet in the cool – hopefully not freezing – water of winter.

**Auckland:** 2pm at Mission Bay Beach – watch out for Palestinian flags. [Facebook event is here.](#)

**New Plymouth:** 2pm East End Beach near the bridge. [Facebook event is here](#)

**Christchurch:** 2pm Sumner Beach by the clocktower. [Facebook event is here.](#)

Here is the leaflet designed by the New Plymouth crew which we will be distributing.



“Gaza is often described as ‘the world’s largest open air prison’ because no one is allowed to enter or leave. But that seems a bit unfair to prisons – they don’t have their electricity and drinking water cut off randomly almost everyday.” Banksy

## Why are we swimming For Gaza?

We are swimming in solidarity with the Palestinians, for their liberation and an end to the oppressive occupation under Israeli Apartheid.

- 1) About 2.1 million Palestinians in Gaza are living in an ‘open air prison’ with all borders controlled by Israel. The vast majority of Gazans are unable to leave the Gaza strip, severely compromising their access to medical treatment, higher education, employment, family and social life. These longstanding access restrictions by Israel contributes to high unemployment, food insecurity and aid dependence.
- 2) Restrictions on the entry of goods further undermines quality of basic services like housing, health, education, water, electricity and infrastructure (regular bombing of Gaza over the years also destroys buildings, infrastructure and life)
- 3) Until recently the beaches in Gaza were polluted with sewage due to continuous electricity deficits of its only failing power plant. This was improved in 2022 with an international effort and now 65% are swimmable beaches. As long as the occupation and blockade always be temporary.

For Gazans living under occupation and blockade with

“To swim is to feel, to feel is to exist, to exist is to resist”

**What you can do:** Join your local solidarity group  
[www.psna.nz](http://www.psna.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/PSNA.Taranaki](https://www.facebook.com/PSNA.Taranaki)





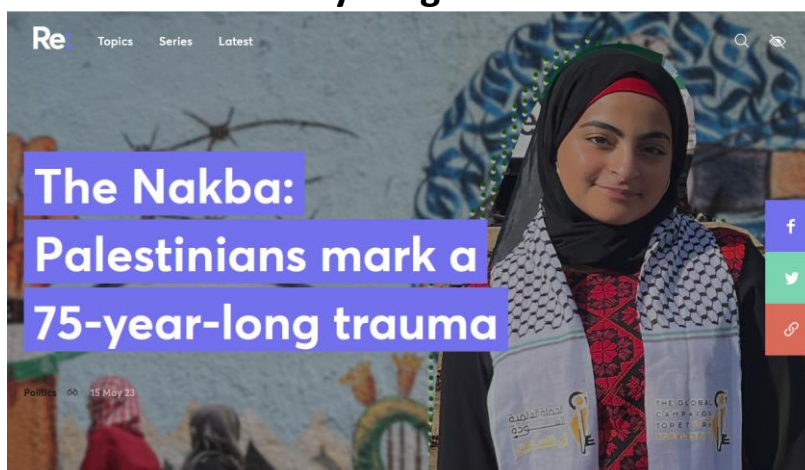
In the meantime. If you haven't already, have a look at this great film about the Gaza Surf Club...



<https://www.waterbear.com/watch/gaza-surf-club>

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## Voices of young Palestinians



Two young Palestinians girls Layan Khalil & Rahaf Gouda were interviewed by renews on Nakba day earlier this year. We didn't have the link at the time so here it is – [voices of young Palestinian New Zealanders](#).

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## Freedom Flotilla Boat “Handala” continues tour of Europe

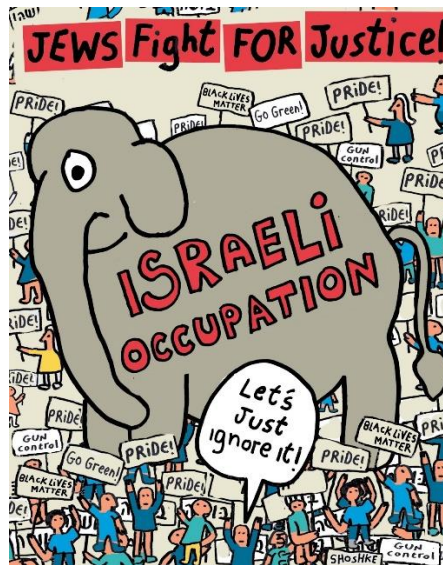


*The Freedom Flotilla boat, Handala, arrived in Copenhagen yesterday to a warm welcome.*

The freedom flotilla boat Handala has [arrived in Copenhagen](#) on its way to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. We will keep you posted on the boat's progress.

## Two pieces of important reading

### 1. The Elephant in the Room



Art by Shoshke ©

You ignore apartheid: Angry Jewish scholars letter to US Jews signed by 750 including Benny Morris [here](#)

### 2. It's apartheid

Long-time defender of Israel, Benjamin Pogrund says – “I have long rejected claims that Israel is an apartheid state. Now I believe that is where it is heading” [here](#)

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## Antony Loewenstein's book an official bestseller

Antony Loewenstein's book was on the New Zealand “bestseller” list in the New Zealand Listener 12 August 2023 – see below. Congratulations Antony!





# Waiheke's Palestine film festival in the news

Gulf News, 3 August 2023

KO NGĀ MAHI TOI / THE ARTS

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## Politics and art collide in State of Palestine

Tivoli, aka Liz Eastmond, sourced works from several notable Aotearoa artists for the new exhibition, *State of Palestine*, which opened at Gallery Anomalous last weekend.

The main walls of the gallery are filled with political cartoons from Malcolm Evans, who has worked for a variety of esteemed titles including the *New Zealand Herald*, *Christchurch Press* and *Manawatu Standard* during his long career. Twice awarded New Zealand Cartoonist of the Year during his time at the *Herald*, it was his refusal to stop drawing cartoon commentary on Israeli treatment of Palestinians which led to his dismissal in 2003.

Following a particularly uncompromising cartoon suggesting that Israel was the new apartheid state, Malcolm felt pressure begin to arise for him to cease and desist his focus on Israeli/Palestinian matters. He says the next cartoon he submitted on the topic was faxed back to him with a clear ultimatum from the editor of the time: "Malcolm, if you wish to continue drawing for the *Herald*, you will stop trying to force this issue. Another subject please."

Evans' response: "I'll be going at your pleasure."

The cartoonist is clear in his assertion that he is not antisemitic, and that his focus is on "Zionism as opposed to the Israel State as such, and certainly as opposed to Jewish people, who I hold in high regard." He asks viewers to be open to a wider world view than that presented by mainstream media, calling himself once a "lackey of the machine" but saying that his work was irrevocably changed once he had access to the internet and a wider range of information sources.

The work of a political cartoonist is subjective and oftentimes polarising,



*State of Palestine*, as viewed through a window box installation created by the et al. collective. Photo Emma Hughes

with Evans acknowledging that his cartoons are "not me saying 'this is the truth', they're me saying 'what do you think of this as a possibility, something to consider?'. I've got no mortgage on the truth, I'm just a silly little boy from Tauranga who grew up with a pencil in his hand. I was given the job and I wanted to do it as best I could."

In addition to the Evans' cartoons, the et al. collective has contributed an installation in the window box of Gallery Anomalous, making use of old and broken, empty chairs - operating as metaphors, in the words of Liz Eastmond, "communicating something about Palestine; in terrible shape, but surviving" - and placards which were part of a 2010 installation/performance at Khartoum Place referencing Maori

and Palestinian land rights. This original performance also included a reading of *Seven Jewish Children, A Play for Gaza*, by Caryl Churchill, a Waiheke rendition of which is one of several video works available to view on a small screen in the gallery.

There is a banner on the back wall by Fiona Jack, director of Elam School of Fine Arts, which was made for a group called Kila Ora Gaza, and a reproduction of a new painting by iconic New Zealand artist Jacqueline Fahey completed at age 94 which references the killing of Palestinian American journalist Shireen

Liz Eastmond and Malcolm Evans at the opening night of *State of Palestine*. Photo Emma Hughes

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KO NGĀ MAHI TOI / THE ARTS

Gulf News, 3 August 2023



Political cartoonist Malcolm Evans shares his journey with the crowd on opening night. Photos Emma Hughes

Abu Akleh in 2022, an artwork that Liz calls "a very, very telling work by her, and also a very beautiful painting".

In pairing these works with a selection of Palestinian cultural artefacts and garments, cookbooks, and kufiyas (scarves), and eight documentary shorts (including works by current and former Waiheke contributors Hue Ross, Scott Ewing and the previously mentioned 2010 Caryl Churchill play, directed by Carol



Above: A section of the exhibition showing garments, the reproduction of Jacqueline Fahey's painting and the flag created by Fiona Jack.

Weitzel, Tivoli has curated a thought-provoking and visually stimulating exhibition.



Above: This cartoon was faxed back to the artist with an editorial ultimatum.

*State of Palestine* is open each day between 10am and 3pm at 16 Hamilton Road in Surfdale, showing until Sunday 13 August.

Although Waiheke Community Art Gallery / Te Whare Taonga o Waiheke have had to close their doors for the month of August for a flooring refurbish-



Left: A reproduction of *Look mum, they killed her*, a new painting by 94 year old Aotearoa artist Jacqueline Fahey is part of the exhibition.

## Papal award for Bethlehem University's Peter Bray



Regular readers of this newsletter will know of New Zealander Brother Peter Bray who, after 15 years in the role, is shortly leaving his position as Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University.

He recently received a papal honour as reported [here](#).

*Taranaki-raised Br Peter Bray FSC EdD – Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University in the Holy Land since 2009 – has been awarded a high Papal honour as he prepares to leave his “amazing” and “challenging” role at the end of the year.*

*Br Peter was presented with the [Papal Cross of Honor – officially the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice](#) (“For the Church and the Pope”) – during a recent visit to Rome. It is one of the highest honours that the Pope can bestow upon the laity and religious.*

*Br Peter, from Waitara, a Brother of the Catholic [De La Salle teaching congregation](#), describes his 15 years at [Bethlehem University](#) as an amazing blessing and by far the most difficult job of his career.*

*“I count myself so blessed to have had the opportunity to be here and experience the wonder of God's spirit at work among the young people here.”*

*Bethlehem University was established under Israeli occupation in 1973. It was the first registered university in the Occupied West Bank territory of Palestine and is the only Catholic university in the Holy Land. It is a Catholic co-educational institution in the De La Salle tradition, its mission being to provide quality higher education to the people of Palestine.*

*Br Peter undertook [a speaking tour of Aotearoa New Zealand in January and February](#) this year, invited by the Catholic bishops to talk about the lives and conditions of his students and ordinary Palestinians.*



## Watch out for this man promoting racism and apartheid

Here he is – the Israeli ambassador – watch out for him around Aotearoa New Zealand – if you hear of any planned appearances or speaking engagements please contact us urgently: Email [apartheid-Israel@PSNA.nz](mailto:apartheid-Israel@PSNA.nz) or text 027 4 APARTHEID or 027427278.



Israeli ambassador Ran Yaakoby

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## Is your property an “apartheid free zone”?



These are popping up on letterboxes and fences all over the country – to get your “Apartheid free zone” coreflute to stick on your letterbox or your front fence just deposit \$5 in

Account Name: Palestine Solidarity Network  
Account Number: 38 9015 0849542 00

and send an email to [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz) with your address and we’ll send you one - or as many as you’d like for your neighbours and friends....



# Petition to Close the Israeli Embassy

If you haven't signed our petition to close the Israeli embassy yet...

**Scan and Sign here**



**Or Click and Sign here**

<https://www.psna.nz/petition>

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## Important stories from the Web

### General

- The inhumanity of Israeli authorities' treatment of Walid Daqqah must be challenged. Please help us build pressure for Walid's release to allow him to spend his remaining days with his family. You can update your action [here](#) (Amnesty Campaign)
- The Palestine catastrophe – how should Australians respond [here](#)
- Labour stays the course over Palestine recognition [here](#)
- Explainer: Plan Dalet and the ethnic cleansing of Palestine [here](#)
- Jewish supremacy won't end from within. BDS is still the only hope [here](#)
- Sanctioning Israel: Feasibility and ethical considerations [here](#)
- Australia's decision to again use the term 'occupied Palestinian territories' brings it into line with international law [here](#)
- Australian Zionist groups at odds over criticism of government's language on Palestinian territories [here](#)

### Palestine

- Palestinians: the final victims of the holocaust [here](#)

### Israel

- More Zionists are finally acknowledging Israeli apartheid but what comes next? [here](#)
- Ex-IDF general likens military control of West Bank to Nazi Germany [here](#)
- "I have long rejected claims that Israel is an apartheid state. Now I believe that is where it is heading" [here](#)
- Israel might allow Gaza residents to travel through Ramon Airport. It won't undo the blockade's damage [here](#)
- Real-life shift among Jews as they question support of Israel amid Palestine conflict [here](#)
- Finding my hidden history in Israel's colonial settler past and present [here](#)

### US

- Washington Post and MSNBC voices say 'Apartheid' (and J Street inches closer) [here](#)  
Israel's new entry procedures for Palestinian Americans are meaningless if the occupation remains [here](#)

- Conditioning U.S. aid to Israel and anti-Palestinian smears at Florida State University [here](#)
- Israel and the U.S. are laughing in our faces, all the way to the visa waiver program [here](#)
- The Democratic consensus on Israel is beginning to fracture, but leadership is not budging on issue [here](#)
- Calls grow to boycott Santo Domingo International Book Fair over plan to honour Israel [here](#)
- AIPAC strikes back with the help of cooperative Democrats [here](#)
- Cutting aid to Israel IS about 'whacking Israel' — and would have huge impact [here](#)

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## Reminder: Dates for Palestine Solidarity activity in 2023

28 Mar – 4 Apr	<i>Israel Apartheid Week</i>
30 Mar	<i>Land Day Palestine</i>
5 Apr	<i>Palestinian Childs Day</i>
9 Apr	<i>Deir Yassin massacre - Irgun Terrorism - 107-120 Palestinian men, women and children massacred</i>
17 Apr	<i>Palestinian Prisoners Day</i>
11 May	<i>World Kufiya Day</i>
15 May	<i>Nakba Day – marking the mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Palestine in 1948</i>
5 Jun	<i>Nakba Day - Start of 1967 War - Land Grab – Invasion of Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza, Egypt and Syria - 5 June 1967 – 10 June 1967</i>
20 Jun	<i>Attack on Gaza - 6–21 May 2021 (2 weeks and 1 day)</i>
16-18 Sep	<i>40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres</i>
28 Sep	<i>Second Intifada - 28 Sept 2000 – 8 Feb 2005</i>
2 Nov	<i>Balfour Declaration</i>
29 Nov	<i>United Nations - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People</i>
8 Dec	<i>"First Intifada - 8 Dec 1987 – 13 Sept 1993</i>

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## 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](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*)



## Merchandise for sale

We have Merchandise you can buy including T-shirts from our website.



Go here - <https://www.psna.nz/shop>

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## In Occupied Palestine daily newsletter – an invitation to subscribe from Leslie Bravery

Because of mainstream news media complicity, daily headlines and commentary only occasionally ever mention the relentless Israeli violence in Palestine, not even the frequent air strikes!

However, daily news and statistics regarding the violence Palestinians are forced to live under are regularly reported on in the “In Occupied Palestine daily newsletter”, sourced and compiled for easy reading and correlation chiefly from the Palestinian Monitoring Group's daily situation reports.

The “In Occupied Palestine” daily newsletter continues to be circulated, by email, worldwide to subscribers only, as it has been over the last two decades.

Contact: [Palestine Human Rights Campaign](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz)

*(Please note we have changed the link).*

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## 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 at 2.00 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Please consider doing the same in your community. Contact [Secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz) 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
  - ❖ Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa (PSNA) website: [www.PSNA.nz](http://www.PSNA.nz)
  - ❖ PSNA Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/)
  - ❖ PSNA email: [Secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz)
- The Palestine Human Rights Campaign produces the *In Occupied Palestine* newsletter. It is a regular daily newsletter on the daily situation in Palestine, compiled by Leslie Bravery and emailed to subscribers. If you would also like to become a subscriber, please contact Leslie at “sumud1 @ outlook. com” (remove the spaces to use as an email address) for further information.
- Keep Updated on our Facebook pages and websites (listed below)

## PSNA Groups

### National Committee

Website	<a href="http://www.PSNA.nz">www.PSNA.nz</a>	
Chair – John Minto	<a href="mailto:Chair@PSNA.nz">Chair@PSNA.nz</a>	
Secretary – Neil Scott	<a href="mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz">Secretary@PSNA.nz</a>	

### Regional Groups

Bay of Islands	<a href="#">PSN Bay of Islands</a>	email
Whangarei	<a href="#">PSN Whangarei</a>	Facebook
Auckland	<a href="#">PSN Auckland – Tamaki Makaurau</a>	Website
Hamilton	<a href="#">Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato</a>	Facebook
Tauranga	<a href="#">Tauranga Moana 4 Palestine</a>	Facebook
Napier/Hastings	<a href="#">Aotearoa Standing with Palestine</a>	Facebook
Hawkes Bay	<a href="#">PSNA-Hawkes Bay – Page</a> <a href="#">PSNA-Hawkes Bay - Group</a>	Facebook Facebook
Palmerston North	<a href="#">PSN Palmerston North</a>	email
New Plymouth	<a href="#">PSN Taranaki</a>	Facebook
Whanganui	<a href="mailto:Whanganui@PSNA.nz">Whanganui@PSNA.nz</a>	email
Wellington	<a href="#">PSN Wellington</a>	email
Nelson	<a href="#">Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine</a>	Facebook
Christchurch	<a href="#">PSN Christchurch</a>	Facebook
Dunedin	<a href="#">Dunedin for Justice in Palestine</a>	Facebook
Invercargill	<a href="#">PSN Invercargill</a>	email

### Other groups supporting Palestinian Rights

- [Palestinian Community of New Zealand](#)
- [Palestinian Youth Aotearoa](#)
- [Preserved Identity \(Palestinian products\)](#)
- [Boycott Divestment and Sanctions NZ](#)
- [Kia Ora Gaza](#)
- [Letters for Palestine](#)
- [Auckland Peace Action](#)
- [Global Peace and Justice Auckland](#)
- [Auckland Uni– Students for Justice in Palestine](#)
- [Massey Uni- Students for Justice in Palestine](#)
- [Tamaki Loves Palestine](#)
- [Justice for Palestine](#)
- [Palestine Human Rights Campaign](#)
- [Pax Christi Aotearoa](#)