

5 Mahuru 2023 5 September 2023

# **Newsletter No 103**

# Palestine and Election 2023



For election 2023 Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa has sent three simple questions to each candidate from all major parties. The questions are:

- 1. If elected to parliament, will you support moves to implement United Nations Security Council resolution UNSC 2334?
- 2. If elected to parliament, will you support the New Zealand government voting in favour of a planned United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring Israel an apartheid state?
- 3. If elected to parliament will you support moves for the New Zealand government to recognise Palestine as a state?

We provided <u>detailed background information</u> for each question to stress its importance and to give the context for it.

Despite requesting individualised responses from candidates, for the most part the National Party, Labour Party and Green Party candidates have relied on prepared responses from their party. These "party policy" responses, in alphabetical order, are:

## **Green Party:**

- Yes. The Green Party supports moves to implement United Nations Security Council resolution UNSC 2334. The Green Party believes the ongoing occupation of the West Bank and further encroachment by Israel into Palestinian territories is a denial of the rights of the Palestinian people. The Green Party supports boycotting goods and services produced in the occupied territories.
- 2. Yes. The Green Party would endorse New Zealand supporting UN resolutions that condemn discrimination against Palestinian citizens within Israel and the occupied territories. The Green Party agrees with international human rights groups that have labelled the actions of the Israeli government as a form of apartheid due to the persistent denial of Palestinian rights to selfdetermination and denial of equal rights within the territories controlled by the Israeli government.
- 3. Yes. The Green Party Manifesto 2023 includes a commitment to call on the Government of Aotearoa to formally recognise Palestine as a state.

#### **Labour Party:**

Aotearoa New Zealand remains committed to supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which envisions the creation of an independent state of Palestine living in peace and security alongside the state of Israel.

While New Zealand is a long-standing supporter of Israel's right to live in peace and security, successive New Zealand governments have also been clear that Israeli settlements and some actions are in violation of international law and have negative implications for the peace process.

All sides have a responsibility to de-escalate, stop the violence and prevent further suffering and loss of life.

In recognising the two-state solution, in recognising the right of Palestinians to security, to a stable home, and the right of Israel to exist, the Government is supporting the outcomes that much of the international community seeks and continues to call for increased efforts to reduce tensions and promote peace.

Aotearoa New Zealand stands ready to assist in any constructive way we can to support urgent deescalation of the situation.

#### **National Party:**

The three questions that you've asked each election candidate all have a degree of complexity behind them that does not lead to easy yes and no answers. For that reason the National party has provided the following statements.

1. If elected to Parliament, will you support moves to implement United Nations Security Council resolution UNSC 2334?

New Zealand supports the notion of Israel and Palestine living peacefully side by side and we support efforts to achieve that outcome.

- If elected to parliament, will you support the New Zealand Government voting in favour of a planned United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring Israel an apartheid state? National does not believe that labelling Israel as an apartheid state would advance the goal of a peaceful solution to the current very long-standing animosities.
- 3. If elected to parliament will you support moves for the New Zealand Government to recognise Palestine as a state?

National has long used the term 'Occupied Palestinian Territory', however we do not plan to recognise Palestine as a State at this stage.

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

Send an email to each of your local electorate candidates requesting they respond individually to the three questions, if they have not already responded. You can send your own message or copy and paste this message.

The candidate names and email addresses for those who have not provided an individual response are here and the background information for each question is here.

You can send your own email or copy and paste this email below.

(candidate name) Party Electorate

Kia ora (candidate name)

#### Please don't send Palestine to the back of the queue!

Earlier in the campaign you were sent these three questions from the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

- 1. If elected to parliament, will you support moves to implement United Nations Security Council resolution UNSC 2334?
- 2. If elected to parliament, will you support the New Zealand government voting in favour of a planned United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring Israel an apartheid state?
- 3. If elected to parliament will you support moves for the New Zealand government to recognise Palestine as a state?

I know you will be very busy with the election campaign but we'd appreciate if you could take the time to answer these questions. Important background material was provided for each question. In case you have lost track of <u>this information it is online here</u>.

The situation for Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation is becoming more serious by the day after the election of a particularly racist and rabidly anti-Palestinian regime in Israel.

Please don't send Palestine to the back of the queue.

Look forward to your response.

(your name)

## Appeal to Swimming New Zealand to withdraw its seven-swimmer team from the World Aquatics Junior Championships in apartheid Israel



Graphic from South African activists opposing their team going to Israel

PSNA issued this media release in response to Swimming New Zealand sending a team to the World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships which are being held in Netanya, Israel from 6 -10 September.

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa has sent an appeal to Swimming New Zealand to withdraw its seven-swimmer team from the <u>World Aquatics Junior Swimming</u> <u>Championships</u> to be held in Netanya, Israel from 6 -10 September. The appeal was sent yesterday.

The appeal is in response to repeated pleas from Palestinian civil society for BDS (Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions) against Israel because of its well-documented apartheid policies against Palestinians, its military occupation of all historic Palestine and its refusal to allow Palestinian refugees to return to their land and homes in Israel/Palestine.

"We are calling on Swimming New Zealand to stand with Palestinians and turn their back on racism and apartheid" says PSNA National Chair John Minto.

"As Israeli cabinet ministers <u>encourage racist pogroms against Palestinian villages</u> in the occupied West Bank it is unconscionable that New Zealand would give comfort to this regime"

"We don't want this country to be part of 'sports-washing' racism and oppression by Israel"

Already this year the Israeli regime has killed more than 200 Palestinians, including <u>at least</u> <u>34 children</u>, making 2023 the deadliest year for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since 2005. At the same time Israel has imprisoned <u>165 Palestinian children</u> and <u>issued</u> <u>demolition orders for 57 schools</u> in the occupied West Bank that will leave 6,550 Palestinians without education.

Even the venue for the competition reeks with racist history.

"The town of Netanya where the event is to be held has been built on the site of the Palestinian district of Umm Khalid, ethnically cleansed by Israeli militias during the 1947/48 Nakba. The Palestinian survivors are now refugees, refused the right to return to their land and homes"

The sports and cultural boycott of apartheid Israel this century follows the successful sports boycott of apartheid South Africa last century in which New Zealand played a significant role.

Hosting an international swimming competition on colonized land, violently stolen from its Palestinian inhabitants who continue to be denied basic human rights, is helping to 'sportswash' the ongoing system of apartheid, settler colonialism and war crimes that Israel is conducting against the Palestinian people.

"New Zealand stood against racism last century and we must do the same today. Nonviolent pressure through BDS against apartheid Israel is the way forward for Palestinian freedom"

"Swimming New Zealand must do the right thing"

John Minto National Chair Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa <u>Chair@PSNA.nz</u>

Our media release and appeal was circulated to South Africa as well as New Zealand which resulted in <u>this story in South Africa's City Press newspaper</u>.

#### Something else you can do now with just a couple of clicks...



Nick Tongue and Anna Tootill

Send an email to Swimming New Zealand. Write your own or copy and paste this email.

Nick Tongue Chair Swimming New Zealand c/o info@swimming.org.nz

Anna Tootill Deputy Chair Swimming New Zealand c/o <u>info@swimming.org.nz</u>

Kia ora Nick and Anna,

#### Urgent Appeal to Swimming New Zealand to withdraw the Aotearoa New Zealand team from the World Aquatics Junior Championships

*I am deeply concerned at the decision by Swimming New Zealand to send a swimming team to the World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships in Israel from 6 -10 September.* 

Why has Swimming New Zealand not been paying attention?

Israel is a racist, apartheid state where Palestinians have been calling for BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) for almost 20 years to bring pressure for on Israel to end its welldocumented apartheid policies against Palestinians, end its military occupation of all historic Palestine and its refusal to allow Palestinian refugees to return to their land and homes in Israel/Palestine.

It is a timorous decision to send a swimming team to Israel in these circumstances. True courage and sporting principles, in line with the constitution of World Aquatics, is best represented by this story of Former Palestinian backstroke champion Amjad Tantish



 Swimming instructor Amjad Tantish at the pool he constructed, literally, out of the rubble of war - image by Monther Rasheed.

"There is no level playing field in an apartheid state. Former Palestinian backstroke champion, Amjed Tantish, is fighting the odds to bring a Palestinian swimming team to the Olympics. From a 1948 refugee family, the first pool he built in Gaza port was polluted from sewage pipes destroyed by Israeli forces in 2004. Undeterred he built an improvised pool on the beach that was destroyed by Israeli bombs in 2006. Tantish then built a pool on his family farmland to continue giving swimming lessons to children. In the 2008 Israeli 'Cast Lead' war on Gaza Tantish's home was hit, killing two of his nephews, destroying the house and pool. Another attempt to create a pool in the port was thwarted by the 2014 'Protective Edge' Israeli onslaught on Gaza that again destroyed sewage pipes polluting the sea and rendering the water supply undrinkable. Finally, using the rubble from bombed out buildings, he has created a pool in the port upstream from the sewage spills. Children that have been traumatised by constant war and the ongoing siege of Gaza, the world's largest open-air prison, can again enjoy learning to swim and hope to live Tantish's Olympic dream. At least until the next Gaza bombing"

*I would welcome your assurance Swimming New Zealand will not attend any future swimming events in apartheid Israel or compete with teams representing this racist state.* 

New Zealand stood up with black South Africans against apartheid. We, including Swimming New Zealand, must now stand alongside Palestinians against apartheid Israel.

Please respond without undue delay.

(your name)



#### From the West Bank to Waikato

This month's issue of NZ Doctor features Palestinian Dr Ruba Harfeil who came to Aotearoa New Zealand in 2012 with her husband Ahmed Saadeh and has been involved in setting up a marae-based clinic in the Waikato at Mangatoatoa Paa.

This delightful <u>story is here</u> but is unfortunately paywalled. However, another picture and a couple of snippets are included below.

You can send your congratulations to the writer Stephen Forbes <u>here</u> and the magazine <u>here</u> for this excellent story which humanises Palestinians living in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Some of the team behind the Whare Hauora Mangatoatoa marae clinic: GP registrar Ruba Harfeil, clinical psychologist Diana Johnson, nurse Tash Clifton, Mangatoatoa Marae chair Derek Roberts, health navigator Rangi Paraha and counsellor Selina Paerata

Stephen Forbes looks at a marae health venture through the eyes of its regular doctor, Ruba Harfeil, who left behind the Middle East for New Zealand in 2012

G P registrar Ruba Harfeil's eyes shine with the enthusiasm she feels for her role supporting the small rural Waikato settlement of Mangatoatoa Paa.

And Dr Harfeil's past serves her every day as a doctor with Te Awamutu Medical Centre.

Born in Jordan, she grew up under Israeli occupation in Jerusalem in the Palestinian West Bank. The landlocked territory has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Her family eventually left the country and settled back in Jordan.

Dr Harfeil, 37, emigrated to New Zealand with her husband in 2012 and has been working at Te Awamutu Medical Centre since February last year.

# The weight of colonialism

Growing up under Israeli occupation, Dr Harfeil feels she can relate to the struggles Māori have faced because of colonialism.

Dr Harfeil returned to the West Bank in 2018 with her three children, but she says it was a traumatic experience for them. Having grown up in New Zealand, they found it too hard to deal with the endless checkpoints, body searches and surveillance in the Occupied Territories.

Dr Harfeil has since returned to the Middle East, but met her family in Jor dan to avoid the daily pressure of occupation. She and her husband were living in Jordan when they decided to move to New Zealand; he had gained a PhD scholarship in accounting at the University of Waikato.

It was in Jordan that Dr Harfeil trained as a doctor. (Her father is an immunologist and a professor at the Jordan University of Science and

### Palestinians told to go to the back of the queue

PSNA National Chair John Minto wrote an opinion piece in response to the cancellation of Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta's proposed visit to Palestine. It was published in the Otago Daily Times – see picture below – but can be <u>read more easily online here</u>.



# Australia's complicity with Israeli apartheid – webinar – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 9pm (NZ time)



Register here. ( Zoom details will be sent to people who register)

#### Background to the one state solution...



# Winter swimming in solidarity with Gaza...





Two pictures from Sumner Beach in Christchurch where despite the sunshine, the water was frigid.



**In Auckland's Mission Bay supporters gathered with Rangitoto in the background** – for more click <u>here</u>.

# Israel: #ShutDownNation



17 reasons to think again before investing in apartheid Israel <u>here</u>.

## A safe haven for Jews – a nightmare for Palestinians...



The New Zealand Herald's canvas magazine printed an excellent article last month written by Bex Silver of her stay in the occupied West Bank of Palestine. The <u>article is online here</u> but is unfortunately paywalled.

## 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 <u>apartheid-Israel@PSNA.nz</u> or text 027 4 APARTHEID or 027427278.



Israeli ambassador Ran Yaakoby

#### Is your property an "apartheid free zone"?



These are popping up on letterboxes and fences all over the country – to get your "Apartheid freezone" coreflute to stick on your letterbox or your front fence just deposit \$5 inAccount Name:Palestine Solidarity NetworkAccount Number:38 9015 0849542 00

and send an email to <u>secretary@PSNA.nz</u> 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 <a href="https://www.psna.nz/petition">https://www.psna.nz/petition</a>

# Important stories from the Web

#### General

Foreign Minister no longer headed for Palestine <u>here</u> Unpacking Christian Zionism with Rev Dr Don Wagner <u>here</u> Jews against white supremacy <u>here</u>

#### Palestine

Pedagogies of liberation and solidarity are how we resist Israel's war on Palestinian children <u>here</u> This school year students in Masafer Yatta brave settler and army harassment <u>here</u> A stateless Palestinian in Montreal wants to go home, but Canada's govt refuses to deport him or grant him status <u>here</u>

Organized Resistance: Labor Strikes in the Palestinian Liberation Struggle here



Court releases Palestinian who had Star of David imprinted on his face by Israel troops <u>here</u> (Paywalled)

#### Israel

- "What's the truth? Does Israel have the right to exist?" here
- Israel's PM backs his racist minister Ben Gvir here
- Scholars' 'Apartheid' letter is intended to crack 'rock of silence' in Jewish institutions here
- Itamar Ben-Gvir and his fascist ilk inadvertently advance the apartheid discourse here
- Israel's national airline El Al is an intelligence front for the Shin Bet here
- Police Block Thousands of Christians From Mount Tabor Church in Northern Israel here

#### US

- Palestinians rebut Israeli hysteria over Princeton course teaching book on Israel's policy to maim <u>here</u>
- United States cutting Israeli aid is not enough here

#### **Reminder: Dates for Palestine Solidarity activity in 2023**

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

#### 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)

## Merchandise for sale

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



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

# 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

(Please note we have changed the link).

#### 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 <u>Secretary@PSNA.nz</u> 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: <u>www.PSNA.nz</u>
  - PSNA Facebook page: <u>www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/</u>
  - PSNA email: <u>Secretary@PSNA.nz</u>
- 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	www.PSNA.nz	
Chair – John Minto	Chair@PSNA.nz	
Secretary – Neil Scott	Secretary@PSNA.nz	

#### **Regional Groups**

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

#### **Other groups supporting Palestinian Rights**

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