



Palestine

Solidarity Network

Aotearoa

4 December 2019

Newsletter No 12

Kia ora

This is our second to last newsletter for the year and we have one last request to make.

We have run our funds very low with the busy schedule of events and solidarity activities we have organised through the year (see summary below) and we need to build our funds to take on an even busier 2020. So please support our...

Special Christmas Fundraising Appeal



We have spent approximately \$15,000 on campaigning since the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa was revamped in June this year. We will need much more to be able to continue our solidarity campaigning at the same level so...

So before you leave this newsletter... please consider making a solidarity donation to support us in 2020! Everything helps!

Our account details are:

Account name: Palestine Solidarity Network

Account number: 38-9015-0849542-00

Or Pay Pal account: admin@palestinesolidaritynz.net

What have we done this year so far?

We have had a hectic six months since the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa was revamped in June this year. A quick look through our newsletters tells the story.

We have organised everything from media releases and letter-writing campaigns to government ministers to public pickets at busy street corners and outside PUMA stores as well as local film screenings.

We have produced a new general leaflet and the very popular "Let's talk about Palestine/Israel booklet". We have had the privilege to host two international guests – Dr Salman Abu Sitta and Gaza-based New Zealand journalist Julie Webb-Pullman – as well as organising delegations to MPs around the country.

What's coming up in 2020?

Next year is shaping up as busier than 2019. It will include:

- At least two "film tours" around New Zealand to tour New Zealand and hopefully our own New Zealand Palestinian film festival
- A strong New Zealand presence at the international BDS conference in Sydney in July next July (More details are here: <https://www.bdssydney.org/>)
- A tour of the country by the Director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History, Mazin Qumsiyeh.



- Completing our delegations to MPs
- Helping launch a special new initiative (more details early next year)

“Imprisoning a Generation”

Between 30th March and 17th April next year we will be screening the new film “Imprisoning a Generation” which is to have its New Zealand premier in Wellington early next year. The film follows the experiences of four Palestinian children imprisoned by Israel and this issue will be the focus of Wellington Palestine activities next year.

This will be a strong focus for our work at the start of 2020.



Date and Time

Location

Additional Information
Sponsor/ Co-sponsors



The trailer can be seen here <https://www.anemoia.net/>

Calling all students

We are working to help tertiary students revamp and reorganise local “Students for Justice in Palestine” groups around the country where these are no longer active.

Are you a student at a university or Polytech? Do you know someone who is? Can you help us get a campus group going?

This work is more important than ever now. Please email secretary@PSNA.nz if you can help.

Dr Abu Sitta presentation

We have been asked several times for a link to the presentation by Dr Salman Abu Sitta which was an eye-opening look at the issue of the right of return of Palestinian refugees to their homes and land in Palestine.

The link is here and well worth the time to watch: <https://vimeo.com/367673717>

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>

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!)

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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 in 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](https://www.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