



Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

18 December 2019

Newsletter No 13

Kia ora

Meri Kirihimete e hoa mā.

Have a great festive season with family and friends. We look forward to you joining us again in the New Year after a restful break. Thank you for all your help and support in so many ways this year.

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

One last thing for you to do this year...

We'd like you to find time to read this report to the United Nations Human Rights Council by Special Rapporteur on Palestinian human rights, Michael Lynk, which was released just last month.

The report is [here](https://undocs.org/A/74/507) -- <https://undocs.org/A/74/507>.



UN Special Envoy to Palestine Michael Lynk

The report represents a significant and welcome change in thinking at the UN. It calls on governments to implement a list of effective “counter measures” and **apply and escalate these till Israel complies**. The report suggests measures such as: diplomatic public statements, trade sanctions, flight bans, travel restrictions and reduction or suspension of aid.

It's 24 pages long and if the language is a bit heavy then just read the **recommendations** and the excellent summary of the report from the [United Nations media release](#).

Powerful and meaningful stuff. This report will be an important focus for our work next year.

Also don't forget our Special Christmas Fundraising Appeal



We have raised \$2,000 so far from this appeal in our last newsletter and if you haven't donated yet then please consider making a solidarity donation to support us in 2020! Everything helps!

You can donate at:

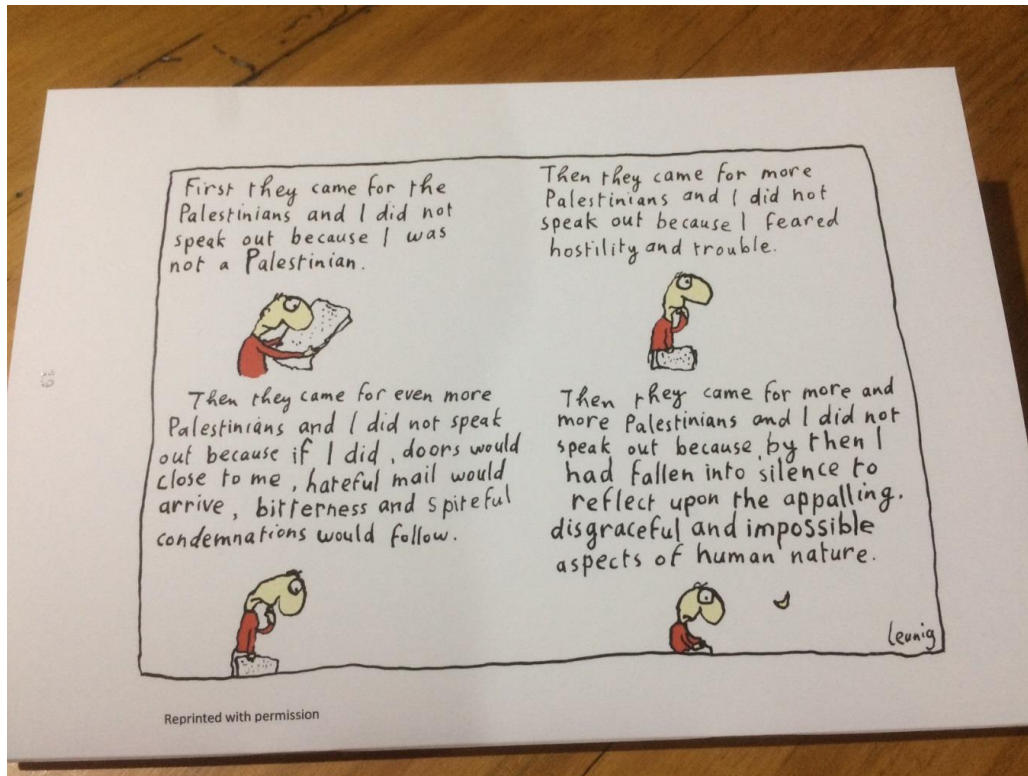
Account name: Palestine Solidarity Network

Account number: 38-9015-0849542-00

Or Pay Pal account: admin@palestinesolidaritynz.net

Michael Leunig says yes!

We wrote to Australian cartoonist Michael Leunig to ask if we could reprint his excellent cartoon on silence about the Palestinian struggle. We were delighted when he said yes!



The latest reprint of the booklet now has the cartoon on the back cover. Thank you Michael!

Government refuses consular help to Julie Webb-Pullman

It's deeply disappointing to let you know that, despite our best endeavours, the New Zealand government has refused to give assistance to Julie Webb-Pullman to re-enter Gaza after Egypt would not accept her travel papers and required New Zealand to approve her re-entry.



Julie is returning to New Zealand and will continue her work on-line for the Gaza Centre for Human Rights as a war crimes investigator and she will continue her liaison role with the International Criminal Court.

Here is the media release we put out in protest at the government's intransigence.

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

16 December 2019

Media Release:

New Zealand government refuses support for New Zealand Human rights worker in Gaza

The New Zealand government has refused consular support to New Zealand Human Rights worker Julie Webb-Pullman who needs government permission to return to her humanitarian work in the Israeli-besieged territory of Gaza, Palestine.

Julie has spent the past eight years in Gaza and was in New Zealand in recent months to raise funds for the Gaza Human Rights Centre which is gathering evidence of war crimes to present to the International Criminal Court.

However, on her return to Gaza this week she has been told at the Egyptian border that she needs New Zealand government permission to enter GAZA.

Despite numerous appeals to the government through Foreign Affairs, she has been refused outright and Julie is stuck in Egypt in a New Zealand-imposed limbo.

"New Zealand is knowingly colluding not only in the oppression of Palestine, but also in the process of de-development underway since the Gaza siege was imposed in 2007, whereby skills and infrastructure are systematically destroyed, undermined and otherwise obstructed in their development", says Julie.

Foreign Affairs say they cannot give permission because they have a travel advisory against travel to Gaza. However, Julie is not a tourist to Gaza. She has lived in Gaza for the past eight years, has a full-time job there along with an apartment and all her household and personal effects.

The only winner here is the Israeli government which is doing its best to avoid accountability for war crimes and maintains a medieval siege of Gaza which it polices with unbridled brutality. Over the past year for example over 200 unarmed Palestinian protestors, many of them children, have been killed in Gaza during resistance marches to demand the end of Israel's brutal siege.

This is a sorry day for New Zealand where a gutless government decision represents a betrayal of Palestinians.

New Zealand government claims to be "even-handed" in dealings with the Middle-East. This is untrue. We have strong relations with Israel but only token dealings with Palestinians.

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.

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!)

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](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