



Palestine

Solidarity Network

Aotearoa

22 January 2020

Newsletter No 14

Kia ora

We hope that you had a safe and enjoyable festive season with family and friends.

PSNA looks forward to your continued support in so many ways this year. We have plans to bring a number of speakers to New Zealand during the year so any financial support you can give is most appreciated. You can find our bank account for donations below.

This is our first newsletter for the year and we are hitting the ground running.

Brother Peter Bray events

Brother Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University will be in New Zealand late January – mid February and will give a talk on **Creating a Future of Hope**.



Bethlehem University is a Catholic University in the Holy Land, established in 1973 as a joint venture between the De La Salle order and the Vatican. With a student population that is 25% Christian and 75% Muslim, the University strives to be a place of peaceful coexistence, an oasis of peace and a beacon of hope.

Vice-Chancellor Brother Peter Bray FSC, a New Zealander, will offer a presentation on what is happening at the University; its context in the Holy Land and the challenges faced; and real-life stories of the students and the impact the University is having on their lives.

This talk will be delivered in three centers:

- Auckland Wed 29 Jan, 7:00 pm, Pompallier Centre, 30 New St, St Marys Bay
- Wellington Tues 11 Feb, 6:00 pm, Saint Andrews on the Terrace, 30 The Terrace
- Christchurch Sun 16 Feb, 7:00 pm, WEA Center, 59 Gloucester Street

Calling all students

We are working to help tertiary students revamp and reorganise local “Students for Justice in Palestine” groups around the country.

Are you a student at a University or Polytech? Do you know someone who is? Can you help us get a campus group going? We hope to have Palestinian Human Rights representation on most campus’s during Orientation week.

We are hoping to cover:

- Auckland
- Hamilton
- Palmerston North
- Wellington
- Christchurch
- Dunedin

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 middle of 2020 before electioneering is full on.
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