



# Palestine

## Solidarity Network

# Aotearoa

4 February 2020

## Newsletter No 15

Kia ora

Tau Hou oaoa! Happy New Year!

One thing we'd like you to do before you close this newsletter is to send a message to your local MP and the Prime Minister urging the New Zealand government to reject outright the Trump/Netanyahu so-called "deal of the century"

There is a lot of good material you can use in your email. A copy of the letter we have sent to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs is copied below and here are links to good articles on the deal.

UK MP's letter - <https://www.caabu.org/news/news/letter-133-uk-parliamentarians-rejecting-us-peace-plan-calling-action-against-israeli-anne>

Jimmy Carter slams Trump deal <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/1/31/jimmy-carter-says-trump-peace-plan-violates-international-law>

Noam Chomsky [https://ppost24.com/post/611/noam-chomsky-us-its-allies-saudi-arabia-and-israel-undermine-peace?fbclid=IwAR1XxDoP3Y2h1\\_bjS4zF3pvUUMu\\_71VYCreK79UtalQnyX8xXYV7Ql4b7Q](https://ppost24.com/post/611/noam-chomsky-us-its-allies-saudi-arabia-and-israel-undermine-peace?fbclid=IwAR1XxDoP3Y2h1_bjS4zF3pvUUMu_71VYCreK79UtalQnyX8xXYV7Ql4b7Q)

Michael Lynk <https://imemc.org/article/un-expert-says-us-deal-a-one-and-a-half-state-solution/>

Kushner - <https://www.newsweek.com/jared-kushner-disclosure-form-west-bank-settlements-israel-white-house-729290>

OUR LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

3 February 2020

Ms Jacinda Ardern  
Prime Minister  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

[j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz)

cc [w.peters@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:w.peters@ministers.govt.nz)

cc Members of Parliament

Kia ora Ms Ardern,

## **Call for New Zealand to reject outright the so-called “deal of the century”**

The Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa is calling on your government to reject outright the proposed “deal of the century” announced by US President Donald Trump last week.

This proposal claims to promote peace but is a recipe for ongoing conflict and further brutal oppression of Palestinians.

Among other things the US proposes to

- Accept illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land
- Approve Israel annexing (stealing) most of the occupied West Bank for itself
- Approve the ongoing military occupation of Palestinian land and the siege of Gaza
- Refuse Palestinian refugees the right to return to their land and homes
- Approve the on-going ethnic and religious cleansing of Jerusalem

For the Palestinian side there is nothing aside from a vague reference to a hollowed out Palestinian state sometime in the future which would resemble apartheid South Africa’s bantustans. As the Israeli human rights group B’Tselem says: “The deal is like Swiss Cheese – the Israelis get the cheese while the Palestinians get the holes.”

It is important to understand that this proposal rides roughshod over 70 years of United Nations resolutions and thumbs its nose at international law.

New Zealand supports the United Nations as a forum for the resolution of disputes and the use of international law to ensure, for example, that it is illegal to take and occupy land by force as Israel has done for 52 years.

The US proposal is not a negotiated settlement. It is an attempt to force an illegal and unjust “solution” onto the long-suffering people of Palestine. It has no moral, ethical or legal standing. It must be rejected outright.

New Zealand has a significant history of standing up for justice, human rights, international law and United Nations interventions. Our voice is needed now on this issue more than ever before. We urge you to speak out on behalf of the people of New Zealand.

Silence means complicity.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Na,

John Minto  
National Chair  
Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa  
0220850161  
[johnminto@orcon.net.nz](mailto:johnminto@orcon.net.nz)

## **International Criminal Court decides to investigate Israeli war crimes**

This was a welcome announcement in late December. After five years of preliminary investigation the ICC has decided to begin the process of opening a formal investigation into Israeli war crimes.

This also makes it very important that New Zealand war crimes investigator Julie Webb-Pullman gain New Zealand government assistance to re-enter Gaza to continue her work training Palestinians in the gathering of evidence of war crimes.

We reported in December that she had been refused New Zealand consular assistance to do this but she has reapplied and is waiting to hear back. In the meantime she is continuing her work on-line with the Gaza Centre for Human Rights.



## **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.

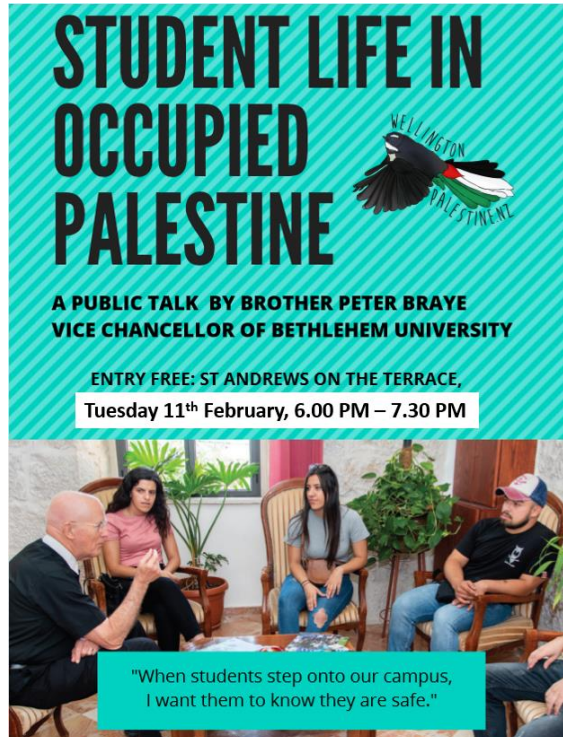
Are you a student at a university or Polytech? Do you know someone who is? Can you help us get a campus group going?

This work is more important than ever now. Please email [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz) if you can help.

## Brother Peter Bray's visit to New Zealand

Brother Peter Bray has begun his latest visit to New Zealand with an excellent public meeting in Auckland. He is also visiting several other centres so watch out for local details.

The poster below is for the **Wellington meeting to be held on Tuesday 11 February**.



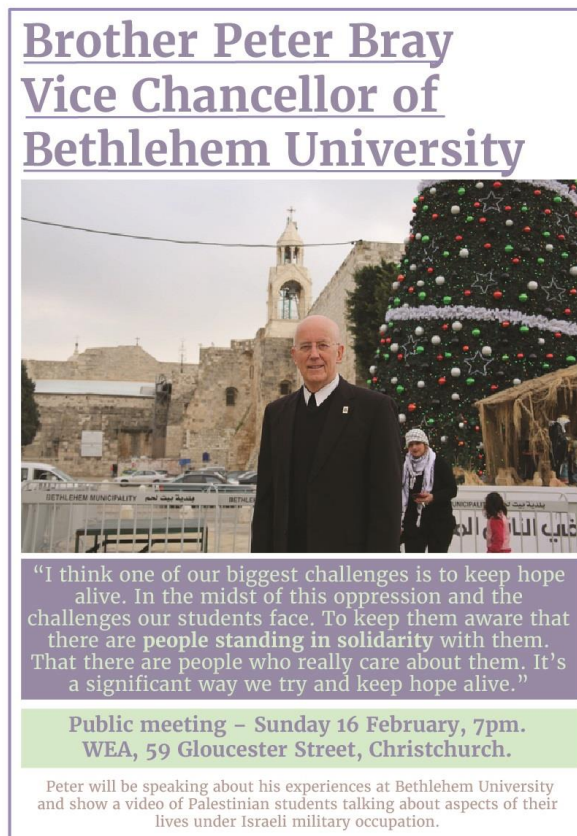
**STUDENT LIFE IN  
OCCUPIED  
PALESTINE**

**A PUBLIC TALK BY BROTHER PETER BRAYE  
VICE CHANCELLOR OF BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY**

**ENTRY FREE: ST ANDREWS ON THE TERRACE,  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 6.00 PM – 7.30 PM**

"When students step onto our campus,  
I want them to know they are safe."

The poster below is for the **Christchurch meeting to be held on Sunday 16 February**.



**Brother Peter Bray  
Vice Chancellor of  
Bethlehem University**

"I think one of our biggest challenges is to keep hope alive. In the midst of this oppression and the challenges our students face. To keep them aware that there are people standing in solidarity with them. That there are people who really care about them. It's a significant way we try and keep hope alive."

**Public meeting – Sunday 16 February, 7pm.  
WEA, 59 Gloucester Street, Christchurch.**

Peter will be speaking about his experiences at Bethlehem University and show a video of Palestinian students talking about aspects of their lives under Israeli military occupation.

## 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](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz) for your local MP.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

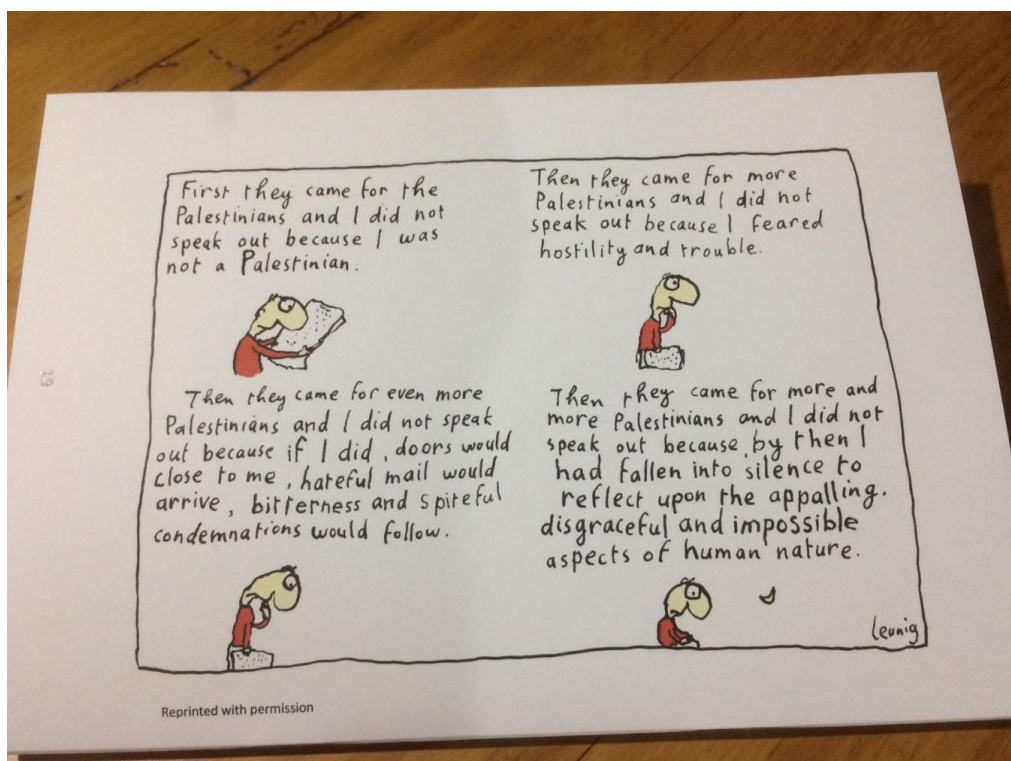


We are on our third reprint of the booklet.

### 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](mailto: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

The booklet now has a cartoon by Leunig – reprinted with permission – on the back cover.



## T-shirts and merchandise for sale:



Our spokesperson John Minto recently finished walking Te Araroa (from Cape Reinga to Bluff) wearing this T-shirt (actually about four t-shirts as they wore out and bleached in the sun!) He still has his latest 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](mailto: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](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)

## 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](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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/)
  - NZ Palestine Solidarity Network email: [admin@PalestineSolidarityNZ.net](mailto:admin@PalestineSolidarityNZ.net)
- Keep Updated on our Facebook pages and websites (listed below)

<b>Regional</b>	
Whangarei	<a href="#">Freedom &amp; Peace for Palestine from Whangarei</a>
Auckland	<a href="#">PSNA – Auckland – Tamaki Makaurau</a>
Hamilton	<a href="#">Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato</a>
Tauranga	<a href="#">Tauranga Moana 4 Palestine</a>
Napier/Hastings	<a href="#">Aotearoa Standing with Palestine</a>
Palmerston North	<a href="#">PSNA Palmerston North</a>
Wellington	<a href="#">Wellington Palestine</a>

Nelson	<a href="#">Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine</a>
Christchurch	<a href="#">PSNA Christchurch</a>
Dunedin	<a href="#">Dunedin for Justice in Palestine</a>
Invercargill	<a href="#">PSNA Invercargill</a>

<b>New Zealand Affiliates</b>	
	<a href="#">Boycott Divestment and Sanctions NZ</a>
	<a href="#">Kia Ora Gaza</a>
	<a href="#">Letters for Palestine</a>
	<a href="#">Auckland Peace Action</a>
	<a href="#">Global Peace and Justice Auckland</a>

**John Minto**

**Spokesperson**

**Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa**