



15 April 2020

## Newsletter No 20

Kia ora PSNA supporter,

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We are halfway through lockdown...

But as we said in the last newsletter – we can all be digital human rights warriors for Palestine during the lockdown!

### 1) One quick thing you can do right now...



April 25<sup>th</sup> in the next international day campaigning against PUMA so we are inviting our supporters to send an email to **Silver Ferns CEO Jenny Wylie** at [mediainfo@netballnz.co.nz](mailto:mediainfo@netballnz.co.nz) requesting the Silver Ferns to end their sponsorship agreement with PUMA because PUMA is a sponsor of the Israel Football Association. (See the PUMA logo matched with the silver fern on the uniforms above)

PSNA has written to Jenny Wylie three times but she has refused to answer our emails. It's time we got serious and so we are asking our supporters to reinforce the message. Why the boycott call? Here are extracts from the letter PSNA sent which outlines to issues with PUMA sponsorship.

*PUMA is a sponsor of the IFA (Israel Football Association) The IFA includes football clubs based in illegal Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land and despite many appeals from human rights organisations, in Israel and around the world, it has refused to dissociate itself from these illegal settlements.*

*Meanwhile PUMA is continuing to sponsor the IFA, Puma is its only international sponsor, which helps legitimise the IFA's actions and the associated appalling Israeli policies towards Palestinians.*

*It's important to understand that the issue of settlements goes to the heart of the Israeli government's racist, apartheid policies towards the indigenous people of Palestine. The establishment and expansion of these settlements, illegal under international law, involves driving Palestinian families from their homes and off their land. This is an ongoing part of the Nakba ("catastrophe") under which Palestinians have suffered ethnic cleansing every day since 1948.*

*The settlements are an integral part of Israel's military occupation which robs Palestinians of natural resources and denies them their right of movement.*

*In contrast to the behaviour of the IFA in recognising sports teams from illegal settlements, Palestinian sportspeople are often forced to abandon practices, games and tournaments due to Israeli Defence Force harassment at checkpoints and Israeli government policies to make them refugees in their own land.*

*When young Palestinians protest to demand an end to the theft of their land many have been murdered by Israeli snipers and many more lose their legs, also from sniper fire, and the chance to play sport. Many young Palestinians have had their sports careers ended in this way over the years.*

*For these reasons we are requesting the Silver Ferns end their sponsorship deal with PUMA until PUMA ends its support for the IFA.*

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## **2) Gaza's looming human catastrophe – the government replies...**

Many of you will have signed the letter to the Prime Minister calling for New Zealand to speak out and call for Israel to abandon its 12 year blockade of Gaza to allow Palestinians to bring in the medical supplies, equipment and personnel they need to tackle Covid 19. The letter and its main signatories are at [www.PSNA.nz/petition](http://www.PSNA.nz/petition)

(If you haven't signed the letter yourself it's not too late – please sign now and forward to any friends or family who would be interested)

Last week we received this response from the government:

**From:** Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <[Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 April 2020 12:15 p.m.

**To:** 'johnminto@orcon.net.nz' <[johnminto@orcon.net.nz](mailto:johnminto@orcon.net.nz)>

**Subject:** FW: Response sought to urgent letter to the PM

Dear John Minto

Thank you for your letter dated 20 March and your subsequent email of 31 March 2020. Your emails and letter to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, have been referred to me, as the issues you raise fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

New Zealand recognises the serious strain the outbreak of COVID-19 is having in the Middle East region, and the particular healthcare vulnerabilities in the West Bank and Gaza. New Zealand's current focus will remain on providing support to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in New Zealand and the Pacific.

New Zealand made its annual contribution of NZ\$1M to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in March 2020. This brings our total contribution to UNRWA to NZ\$6M since 2017. New Zealand is a long-standing supporter of UNRWA, committing NZ\$1M in core funding each year. As you know, this is a significant humanitarian mission, but also supports peace and security between Israelis and Palestinians, as well as stability in regional host countries.

New Zealand believes the situation in Gaza is unsustainable, and has consistently called for improved access for humanitarian and other essential supplies into Gaza, including at the United Nations.

There are no plans to change New Zealand's position on key Middle East issues, including our long-standing support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As you are also aware, successive New Zealand governments have condemned Israeli settlements. They are a violation of Israel's international obligations and have negative implications for the peace process.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The positive aspect of the government's response is that, despite lobbying from the US to promote Trump's so-called "deal of the century" which aims to destroy the Palestinian national identity, the New Zealand government is continuing to hold firm to its policy positions. The negative aspect of the response is that the government does not have the courage to turn its policy into effective political pressure on Israel. Instead New Zealand is a largely passive observer of Israeli brutality and Palestinian suffering.

It's not good enough! Silence is not an option. We are continuing to pressure the government over this and you will receive more information on this from us shortly.



At the time of writing there are many cases of Covid 19 infection in GAZA but they have so far been contained in quarantine areas at the Gaza border. It will be a human catastrophe if the virus gets in because it will spread quickly through the densely populated area which has had its medical services seriously degraded by the Israeli blockade and frequent Israeli military attacks.

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### 3) Kiwisaver update – another provider in the clear

We have had another Kiwisaver provider, Milford Asset Management, confirm that they do not have investments in any of the 112 companies which the United Nations Human Rights Council has identified as being complicit in illegal settlement building or settlement maintenance on occupied Palestinian land. We are encouraging any providers with such investments to transfer their investments elsewhere rather than in assisting in Israel's blatant abuse of international law and oppression of Palestinians.

[The UNHRC media release and link to the full report are here.](#)

The Kiwisaver providers which do not have investments in the 112 companies are:

- Milford Asset Management
- Amanah Kiwisaver ([www.amanahnz.com/](http://www.amanahnz.com/))
- Christian Kiwisaver (<https://christiankiwisaver.nz/>)
- Caresaver Kiwisaver ([caresaver.co.nz/](http://caresaver.co.nz/))
- Juno Kiwisaver ([www.junokiwisaver.co.nz/](http://www.junokiwisaver.co.nz/))

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### 4) New website is up and running

Our new website is at [www.PSNA.nz](http://www.PSNA.nz) and is slowly being "populated" with campaign material. Have a look and feel free to send feedback to [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz)

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## 5) Palestinian rights pledge for general election candidates

We have begun working on an election pledge for all candidates for this year's general election scheduled for September. The pledge will commit candidates to taking effective political action in support of Palestinian human rights. While we have successive governments which "vote the right way" at the United Nations, they have not been prepared to put political pressure on the Israeli government to abide by international law and United Nations resolutions. This has to change. We will be publishing the results of our approaches to election candidates before the election.

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## 6) At home with PSNA Chair John Minto

On 7 April PSNA Chair John Minto featured in the "At home with..." section in the Stuff national weekend magazine. The online version is [here](#).

The main picture has John pictured in his living room at home in his Palestine solidarity T- shirt. If you check the other pictures you will see then wrist bands that we have for sale on our website.



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## 7) Two new books provide great reading during the lockdown

**NEW TITLE INFORMATION**

### Dances with Death

Perilous Encounters  
Reporting on Hostilities  
in the Turbulent Middle East

**PUBLICATION DETAILS**

Format: Paperback  
150 pp, 148mm by 210mm  
ISBN: 978-0-473-50605-6

\$25.50R, trade discounts available

**RELEASE: March 2020**

**TUMA HAZOU, AUTHOR**

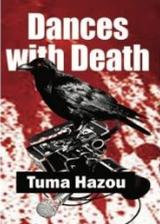


When he joined the BBC Arabic Service in London in 1957, at 22, Tuma was the youngest announcer at the BBC.

A remarkable insight into Middle East affairs and events through the eyes of an accomplished journalist with 40 years experience in the media.  
Author Tuma Hazou contributes the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East to the 1917 Balfour Declaration committing Britain to create a 'national home' for Jews in Palestine, at the expense of the Muslim and Christian indigenous majority. The subsequent shambling Jewish-Arab conflict culminated in establishing Israel in 1948 and the defeat by young Israel of six Arab armies.  
Tuma Hazou highlights also the events leading to the 1967 June war, with pre-emptive strikes by Israel against Syria, Egypt and Jordan.  
He relates the agonising loss of a colleague when fighting flares up in Jerusalem between the Israelis and the Jordanians.  
On yet another fateful day, he goes through 3 'dances with death' during repeated Israeli air raids on Jordan in August 1968. His chilling eyewitness account of the harrowing raids is included in a United Nations Security Council record of the raids, cited in Addendum 2.  
The book's addendums add intriguing substance to Tuma Hazou's narrative, such as his wife's role in circumventing a Jordanian law preventing her Kofi friend Christine from marrying a high-ranking officer who ends up, for only 10 days, as Jordan's Prime Minister at the start of Jordan's 1970 September civil war.  
The author reviews what led to the civil war between King Hussein's Jordanian army and the Palestinian guerrillas after a leftist guerrilla faction hijacked a number of civilian planes, forcing them to land in the Jordanian desert before blowing them up. While covering that gruesome 8-day civil war, Tuma was incredibly spared being blown up when he dove over 4 anti-tank mines.

Relocating in 1967 to Amman, in Jordan, the author worked as a radio programmes producer and freelance journalist contributing Middle East coverage to UPI, BBC, NBC TV & Radio News and later as both cameraman and radio reporter with ABC TV & Radio News of New York. He also acted as media advisor to Prince Hassan of Jordan. In 1990 Tuma joined UNICEF as Director of Information for the Middle East and North Africa, working there until 1997 when he took early retirement and settled with his Kofi wife in New Zealand.

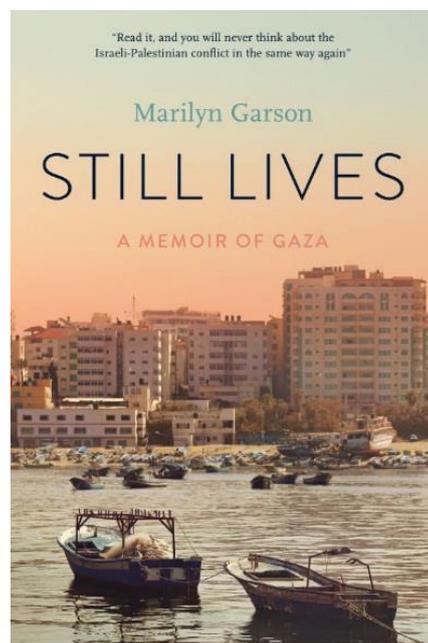
**Tuma Hazou**



"Written without rancour, Tuma Hazou's account of his war-time reporting experiences is an engaging, authentic and rare Palestinian account of recent Middle East events, and of nerve-racking personal trauma."  
—Janet Walker, NZ Human Rights Activist



King Hussein and Tuma Hazou in 1968 meeting on top of a captured Israeli tank.  
This is just one of several flash-frames that adorn the book.



## **Dances with Death -- Tuma Hazou**

*“Written without rancour, Tuma Hazou’s account of his wartime reporting experiences is an engaging, authentic and rare Palestinian account of recent Middle-East events and of nerve-racking personal trauma” - Janfrie Wakim - Auckland*

Tuma is a Palestinian New Zealander. He was planning to attend book launches around the country but that’s not possible. You can purchase a book from Tuma at [gandthazou@gmail.com](mailto:gandthazou@gmail.com)

## **Still Lives – Marilyn Garson**

Canadian-Kiwi Marilyn writes of her experiences working in GAZA under the Israeli blockade from 2011 to 2015. It’s a great book and has been accepted for the Auckland Writers Festival.

Order your eBook [here](#) or order a physical copy at [www.marilyngarson.com](http://www.marilyngarson.com)  
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## **8) Guidelines for engaging on social media**

Our national committee recently discussed the best ways for us to engage in supporting Palestine in social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc and we came up with these guidelines for PSNA supporters. We would welcome feedback to [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz)

### **PSNA Online Policy Guidelines**

Social media is an unregulated space where there are many opportunities to get clear pro-Palestinian messages out to a wider audience than through traditional mainstream media. We need as many voices as we can muster speaking out on all social media platforms. Our goal is to amplify the Palestinian side of the issue which has previously been lost in a sea of pro-Israeli lies which has so often dominated media reporting. However, there are potential dangers to avoid. Keep these guidelines in mind when you engage with social media:

- When we encounter pro-Israeli trolls on social media we should attack their views rather than attack them personally – stick to the issues and avoid being side-tracked. Be assertive but stay on track.
- Remember the real target is the wider social media audience. We won’t convince individual pro-Israeli trolls to support the Palestinian struggle but those reading and watching an exchange are our real audience. We must keep them as the real target for our social media activism.
- Calling out racism in all its forms, such as white supremacy, Islamophobia or anti-Semitism builds consistency with the messages of support for Palestinian rights and places into context the fundamental racist premise on which the state of Israel is founded.
- People in leadership or spokesperson roles within PSNA and its affiliates should be especially careful in social media interactions because as we become more effective in advocating for Palestine we will face more vitriolic, personal attacks from elements of the extremist pro-Israeli lobby who will look for ways to undermine our kaupapa by undermining us.

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## 9) Merchandise for Sale

T shirt Free Palestine End Israeli Occupation medium size only \$22



Kaffiyeh 110 x 110 \$44 + postage



For any of these 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>

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## 10) 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)

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## 11) 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 <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
  - Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa (PSNA) website: [www.PSNA.nz](http://www.PSNA.nz)
  - PSNA Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/)
  - PSNA email: [Secretary@SNA.nz](mailto:Secretary@SNA.nz)
- 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 “lesliebravery @ icloud .Com” (remove the spaces to use as an email address) for further information.
- Keep Updated on our Facebook pages and websites (listed below)

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## 12) Regional Branches and Affiliates

Regional	
Bay of Islands	<a href="#">PSNA Bay of Islands</a>
Whangarei	<a href="#">PSNA 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>

New Zealand Affiliates	
	<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>
	<a href="#">Preserved Identity (Palestinian Goods)</a>
	<a href="#">Auckland – Students for Justice in Palestine</a>
	<a href="#">Massey University- Students for Justice in Palestine</a>

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