



8 May 2020

Newsletter No 22

Kia ora

This week – Sunday 10 May at 7pm – we are holding an **Online rally with Gaza for Nakba Day**. This is our second on-line rally with Gaza to hear directly from Palestinians on the front line of the Covid 19 pandemic. It's an astonishing achievement that Palestinians have kept Covid 19 out of the Gaza community so far through quarantining all those entering the strip. However, the danger remains extreme.

One thing you can do now – copy and paste this notice into your social media posts TODAY



Dr Medhat Abbas – Director General of Primary Health Services in Gaza. One of the speakers for our online rally with Gaza for Nakba Day.

“Join the Online rally with Gaza for Nakba Day

Join the Zoom Meeting at 7pm this Sunday 10 May <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85164678448>

Nakba Day (15 May – ‘Nakba’ means ‘catastrophe’ in Arabic) refers to the mass expulsion, at gunpoint and with many massacres, of Palestinian Arabs (between 750,000 and one million) from Palestine during Israel's creation (1947-49)

We will be hearing from Palestinian medical professionals, community activists and journalists about the huge threat Covid 19 poses to the people of Palestine – and Gaza in particular – and what we can do about it. See you there”

Rest in Peace -Denis Goldberg



On 29 April the world lost one of the heroes of the South African anti-apartheid struggle when 87-year-old Denis Goldberg died.

He was involved in the ANC and sentenced to life in prison in 1964 at the end of the infamous Rivonia trial of activists accused of planning armed struggle to end white rule in apartheid South Africa. Denis was Defendant No 3 (Nelson Mandela was No 1 and Walter Sisulu No 2)

At 31 he was the youngest defendant and served 22 years in prison. [Details of the trial and Denis's life are here](#)

Denis is being remembered for his “unflinching commitment to the struggle against all forms of racism and Apartheid”.

We must also remember what this courageous Jewish South African said about the brutal, racist state of Israel:

“Having lived through apartheid in South Africa. There's no doubt in my mind that Israel is an apartheid state. I cannot allow in my name, the same kind of oppression to go on against the Palestinians. I have to speak out against it. And I have to try and speak out against it in a rational and calm voice when really I'm very angry about it [...] when [Israeli] people say, well, you South Africans, you're biased against us. We're not. We're talking international law... The pro-Israeli lobby, the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and SA Zionist Federation try to say that it [the Palestinian Israeli issue] is not a simple matter, [they say that] it's complicated. It's not complicated! It's very simple, the simplicity is that a dominant group [Jewish Israelis] exclude the indigenous Palestinian people from equal rights”.

Another online event for Nakba Day – Mazin Qumsiyeh speaks



BDS Australia and Sydney Staff for BDS are honoured to present a talk by Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh, director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History, professor at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities, and a long-term activist for justice in Palestine-Israel. Mazin will detail the current political and humanitarian situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, amid the joint threats of coronavirus and Israeli annexation. After his talk there will be a question period. As well as more than 140 academic papers, Mazin is the author of "Sharing the Land of Canaan: Human rights and the Israeli/Palestinian Struggle" and "Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope and Empowerment" (Pluto Press, 2004, 2011). The meeting will be held on Zoom.

Here's the FB event (and Zoom link) for this event on Tuesday 19th May. New Zealand time 9.00pm
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2880180992060108/>.

Click on the link to join: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/99488383325>.

Give PUMA the boot – Boycott PUMA



In an earlier newsletter we asked supporters to write to the Silver Ferns to ask them to drop their PUMA sponsorship because of PUMA's support for illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.

We jumped the gun a bit because May 4 was third international day for the boycott of PUMA.

It's never too late to take international action so we'd like everyone to do these three things:

1. Post the image above to Facebook or Instagram with the following message:

"Israeli settlements force Palestinian families from their homes, crowd Palestinians in refugee camps and limit access to clean water & healthcare.

I will #BoycottPuma until @Puma ends its complicity. I won't be part of #PumaFam"

Use the hashtags #BoycottPuma and #PumaFam.

2. Phone or email PUMA New Zealand urging PUMA to stop supporting illegal Israeli settlements.

Free call: 0800 800 094 or Email: info-nz@puma.com

3. Phone or email Netball New Zealand urging they abandon their PUMA sponsorship.

Phone: +64 9 623 3200 or Email: info@netballnz.co.nz

Puma is listening. A Puma lawyer told activists that our calls to boycott Puma are making their lives "miserable." Ending Puma's already deeply immoral support for Israel's violations of Palestinian rights is more urgent than ever.

International Court of Justice – another step towards Israeli accountability

Last month the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, restated her position that Palestine is a state for the purposes of allowing Palestinians to bring war crimes investigations to the court.



This is a victory for Palestinians over attempts by many countries, including Australia, to argue that because Palestine is not a full state recognised by the United Nations it should not be allowed to bring Israeli war crimes to the court.

Dismissing the legal opinions of several states and dozens of international law scholars, Fatou Bensouda's view, laid out in great detail in a [60-page document](#), could pave the way for an investigation of alleged war crimes committed in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

"The Prosecution has carefully considered the observations of the participants and remains of the view that the Court has jurisdiction over the Occupied Palestinian Territory," she wrote.

Bensouda's decision now needs to be ratified by a bench of three judges at the ICC after which, hopefully, Israel will begin to face accountability for the murder and mayhem it has inflicted on Palestinians over 70 years of occupation.

A big win for BDS in Britain

Here is the message from the UK Palestine Solidarity Campaign.



We have some fantastic news to share with you. Since 2017 the Palestine Solidarity Campaign has been fighting the UK Government in the courts, protecting the right to undertake BDS campaigns in the UK. First we won in the High Court, then we lost in the Court of Appeal, but today (29 April) the final verdict from the Supreme Court is in and...WE WON!

Together we have taken on the Government to defeat regulations that would have stopped Local Government Pension Schemes from divesting from companies complicit in Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people, and additionally from divesting from the UK defence industry.

The Supreme Court has ruled in our favour and the regulations the Government introduced in 2016 are now finally and definitively declared illegal and thrown out. You can read more [here](#).

This victory shows what we can do when we join together to stand up for justice and for what is right. PSC took on the burden of fighting the case, but were supported with submissions from our colleagues at the Quakers, Campaign Against Arms Trade and War on Want.

This is a great victory. We haven't faced situations like this before in New Zealand but most importantly it shows the potency of BDS. It is the Achilles Heel of the racist apartheid state of Israel – just as boycotts were for the apartheid state of South Africa.

New digital posters

Here is another sample poster we are working on for the series we mentioned in the last newsletter

South Africa 1976 Palestine 2019



Same racism, same brutality

BOYCOTT Israel

Published by Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa www.PSNA.nz

We are delighted our new website is up and running

Our new website is at www.PSNA.nz and is slowly being “populated” with campaign material.

Have a look and feel free to send feedback to secretary@PSNA.nz

Two new books provide great reading during the lockdown

NEW TITLE INFORMATION

PUBLICATION DETAILS

Format: Paperback

150 pp, 148mm by 210mm

ISBN: 978-0-473-50605-6

\$25 SOR, trade discounts available

RELEASE: March 2020

Dances with Death

**Perilous Encounters
Reporting on Hostilities
in the Turbulent Middle East**

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 attributes 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.

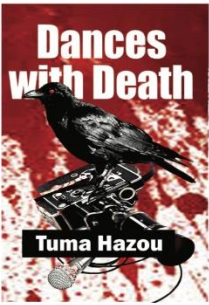
He relates the agonising loss of a colleague when fighting flares up in Jerusalem between the Israelis and the Jordanians.

On yet another fateful day he goes through 3 'dances with death' during repeated Israeli air raids on Jordan in August 1968. His chilling eye-witness 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 Kiwi 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 drove 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 Kiwi wife in New Zealand.




Dances with Death
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".
—Janfrie Wakim, NZ Human Rights Activist

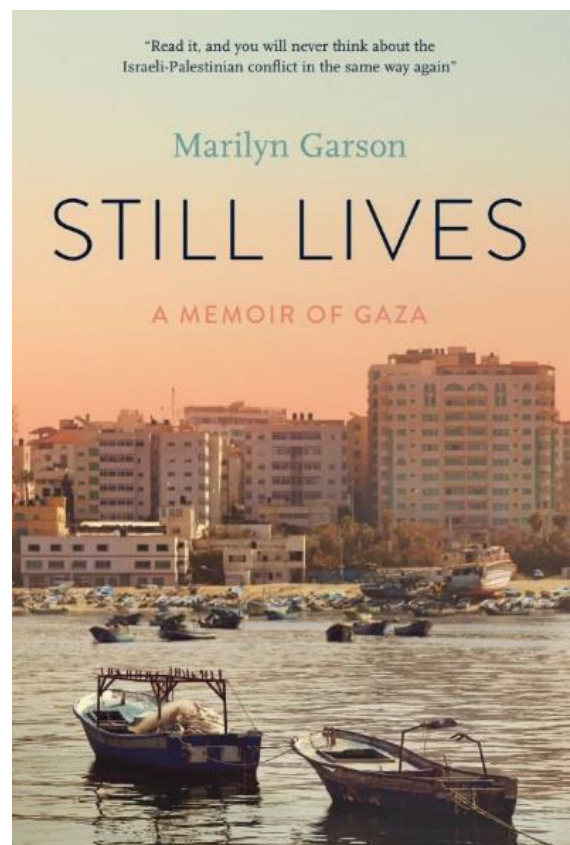


King Hussein and Tuma Hazou in 1968, meeting on top of a captured Israeli tank. This is just one of several illustrations that adorn the book.

TUMA HAZOU, AUTHOR



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



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

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

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

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.

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 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*)

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
 - ❖ PSNA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/
 - ❖ PSNA email: 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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Regional and Affiliates

Regional

Bay of Islands	PSNA Bay of Islands	email
Whangarei	PSNA Whangarei	Facebook
Auckland	PSNA Auckland – Tamaki Makaurau	Website
Hamilton	Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato	Facebook
Tauranga	Tauranga Moana 4 Palestine	Facebook
Napier/Hastings	Aotearoa Standing with Palestine	Facebook
Palmerston North	PSNA Palmerston North	email
Wellington	Wellington Palestine	Website

Nelson	Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine	Facebook
Christchurch	PSNA Christchurch	Facebook
Dunedin	Dunedin for Justice in Palestine	Facebook
Invercargill	PSNA Invercargill	email

Affiliates

- [Boycott Divestment and Sanctions NZ](#)
- [Kia Ora Gaza](#)
- [Letters for Palestine](#)
- [Auckland Peace Action](#)
- [Global Peace and Justice Auckland](#)
- [Preserved Identity \(Palestinian products\)](#)
- [Auckland Uni– Students for Justice in Palestine](#)
- [Massey Uni- Students for Justice in Palestine](#)

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