



23 June 2020

## Newsletter No 25

Kia ora

**Three essential steps** we must all take NOW to stop Israeli theft of more Palestinian land.



Published by Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa [www.PSNA.nz](http://www.PSNA.nz)

**Winston Peters criticises  
China for human rights  
abuses against the  
people of Hong Kong**

**Winston Peters criticises  
Israel for human rights  
abuses against the  
Palestinian people**

### **Essential Step 1:**

#### **Rally against Israeli theft of Palestinian land**

Nationwide protests around New Zealand will take place on **July 4<sup>th</sup>** – American Independence Day – because the US is encouraging and supporting this brazen theft. Rallies are planned from Northland to Otago.

Check out the event in your area and come along with your energy, passion, placards, banners and flags in Support of Palestinian Human Rights.

[You can find out what is happening in your local area here.](#) **Please share widely.**

## **Essential Step 2:**

### **Copy and paste letter to PM and Foreign Minister**

Demand New Zealand take action to back up the government's criticism of Israel rather than simply "express serious concern" over its plan to again violate international law and steal more Palestinian land. Copy and paste the letter below to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs into an email and send to [j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz) and [w.peters@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:w.peters@ministers.govt.nz)

*Kia ora Ms Ardern kōrua ko Mr Peters,*

*I was pleased to see the government express serious concern about Israeli plans to steal more Palestinian land. However I think the government should back this up with real pressure on Israel to abide by international law and United Nations resolutions because polite criticism has never worked.*

*Steps the government should take include:*

- *suspending our bilateral agreements with Israel*
- *prohibiting the importation of products of illegal settlements made in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*
- *instructing the Superannuation Fund to disinvest in any Israeli company complicit in settlement activities or land confiscation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*
- *ending arms and military equipment purchases from Israeli companies*
- *closing the Israeli embassy (as we did when Israeli Mossad agents stole New Zealand passports in another breach of international law)*
- *ending visa free travel to New Zealand for Israelis (Palestinians are already excluded)*

*Palestinians will never achieve peace with justice unless countries like New Zealand turn words into meaningful action. We did it against South African apartheid. We must do it against Israeli apartheid.*

*Please respond urgently.*

*(Your name)*

## **Two Deadly Racists**



American President Donald Trump

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

**working together to steal more Palestinian land**

# **Boycott Israel**

Produced by Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa [www.PSNA.nz](http://www.PSNA.nz)

### **Essential Step 3:**

## **Send a short letter to your local newspaper**

You could use some of the information from our media release below.

## ***Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa***

23 June 2020

Media Release:

### ***Peters criticism of Israeli annexation plan 'all gums and no teeth'***

*Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa is pleased that the Foreign Minister, Winston Peters, has today [expressed serious concern](#) at Israeli plans to annex large parts of the Occupied West Bank, but says the New Zealand government is failing to use any leverage to get Israel to take any notice.*

*PSNA National Chair, John Minto, says the statement is 'all gums and no teeth'.*

*"New Zealand governments have been saying ad nauseum that Israel should give up territory which it occupied in the 1967 war, ever since Israel fought that war to take more Palestinian land."*

*"However by never joining with other countries to put real pressure on Israel to comply with international law and United Nations resolutions, Israel is now poised to commit another flagrant breach of international law and extinguish the last hope that Palestinians could ever achieve statehood."*

*Steps New Zealand should be taking to back up its criticism of Israel include:*

- *suspending our bilateral agreements with Israel*
- *prohibiting the importation of products of illegal settlements made in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*
- *instructing the Superannuation Fund to disinvest in any Israeli company complicit in settlement activities or land confiscation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*
- *ending arms and military equipment purchases from Israeli companies*
- *closing the Israeli embassy (as we did when Israeli Mossad agents stole New Zealand passports in another breach of international law)*

*"We still import Israeli goods from the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and our Superfund still invests in Israeli companies which profit from illegal settlement building and the occupation."*

*When Russia annexed Crimea our then Foreign Minister Murray McCully put in place some limited sanctions on individuals associated with the annexation. Despite much more egregious and long-standing breaches of international law and UN resolutions by Israel, Peters is signalling no such steps.*

*"Any objective look at the situation will show Peters' claim of New Zealand's "principled and balanced approach to the Middle East Peace Process" is a fairytale". The conflict derives from Israel's brutal military occupation of Palestine in the first instance. It is not a "both sides have legitimate issues and grievances", as Mr Peters claims"*

*New Zealand should also NOT be calling for direct negotiations to solve these issues because the power imbalance will prevent a solution based on justice for Palestinians. Instead we must insist that Israel abide by international law and United Nations resolutions and take action with other countries to force compliance on this rogue state. That is the only path to peace based on justice.*

*John Minto says Israel has become increasingly identified as an apartheid state.*

*"New Israeli nationality laws have reinforced the permanent supremacy of people with Jewish ancestry over the indigenous Palestinians."*

*As Nobel Peace prize winner and South African Archbishop, Desmond Tutu, says "we should name it apartheid and boycott"*

*New Zealand has a proud history in the fight against South African apartheid. We must do the same against Israeli apartheid"*

*John Minto  
National Chair PSNA*

## **Gaza and Covid 19 – brief update**

As you know we have been watching the Covid 19 situation in Gaza closely over recent months as the blockaded territory faced this deadly threat in an area where 97% of the water is unfit to drink and where the densely-crowded area means "social distancing" as we know it is impossible. Meanwhile under the tightly controlled Israeli blockade Gaza hospital and medical lack the medical equipment and personnel to deal effectively with an outbreak.

GAZA has so far done the almost unimaginable. They have been able to keep the virus out of community transmission through a rigid border quarantine system. This is a stunning achievement almost unmatched elsewhere in the world. We hope it continues.

We will keep you posted on progress.

## **Appeal to help Palestinians prepare cases of war crimes to take to the International Criminal Court.**

We are continuing to make progress towards our target of NZ\$4,000 for the Gaza Centre for Human Rights to employ two additional people to collect and prepare evidence of Israeli war crimes for the International Criminal Court. Can you help us reach this target?

The GCHR is the group which employs specialist investigator New Zealander Julie Webb-Pullman. In the last three months however two temporary staff working with Julie have had their promised funding source dry up through Covid 19 disruption and we need the NZ\$4,000 to bridge the gap and keep the work moving forward.

At our last national committee meeting we met online with the two Palestinian women doing this work in very difficult circumstances and we were deeply impressed with their energy and drive and obvious competency for the work.

Please donate if you can and put GCHR (Gaza Center for Human Rights) in the Reference field.

Thanking you in anticipation...

Account name: PALESTINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK  
Account number: 38-9015-0849542-02  
Reference: GCHR

## An invitation from Palestinian journalist and author Tuma Hazou for Auckland and the Far North...

**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 shambolic 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.

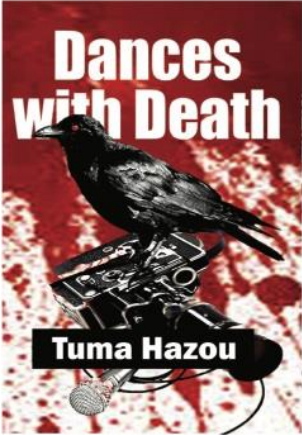
He relates the agonising loss of a colleague when fighting flares up in Jerusalem between the Israelis and the Jordanians.

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.




**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

**TUMA HAZOU, AUTHOR**



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



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.

I have the pleasure of inviting you to the Launch of my book *Dances with Death*. In it I recount my many 'brushes with death' reporting on hostilities in the turbulent Middle East. The on-going conflicts and upheavals in the region have their roots in the infamous 1917 British Balfour Declaration committing Britain to set up in Palestine a national state for the Jews, ignoring the Muslim and Christian majority population.

The book ends with an overview of the prevailing dire consequences of the 1967 June War. Addendums to the book add further substance to the personal traumatic narrative and related historical facts.

The digital flyer above provides more details on the book and author

Launch dates:

**Sunday 5th July at 2 pm, at the Whangaparaoa Library, 9 Main St, Whangaparaoa, North Shore**

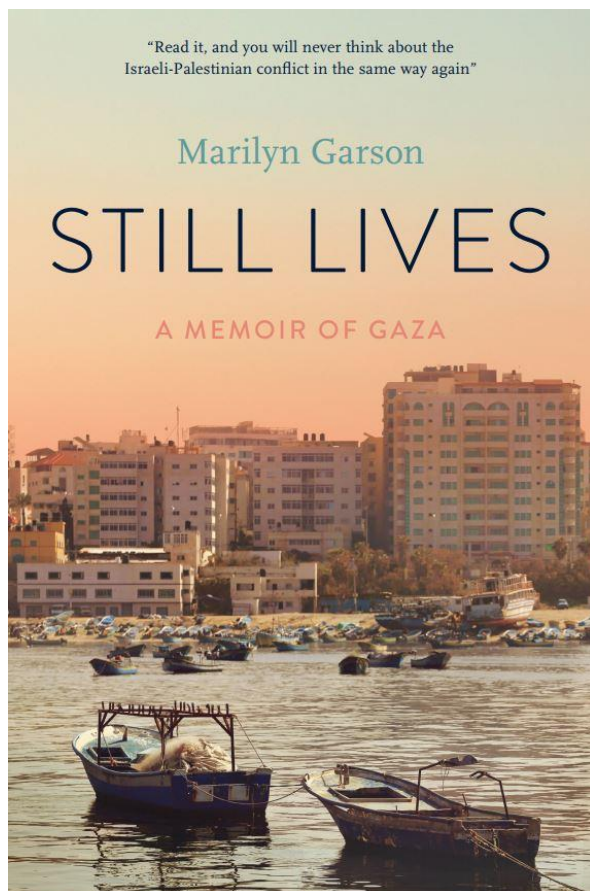
And

**Tuesday 14th July, 6pm at the Women's Bookshop, 105 Ponsonby Rd.**



## Still Lives – Marilyn Garson

Canadian-Kiwi Marilyn writes of her experiences working in GAZA under the Israeli blockade from 2011 to 2015. This is a book which brings to life the horrific brutality of the 2014 Israeli invasion of Gaza which left over 300 killed – including over 500 children. Marilyn documented her experiences as she worked through this horror. It is a MUST READ.



You can purchase this from your local bookshop or order your eBook [here](#) or order a physical copy at [www.marilyngarson.com](http://www.marilyngarson.com)

## Looking ahead – Palestinian political prisoners

PSNA is working on another on-line rally focusing on Israel's brutality towards Palestinians imprisoned, often without trial (including Palestinian children). The tentative date is Sunday 26 July. More details in the next newsletter.

## Don't be tricked!

In August 2002 former Israeli Minister of Education Shulamit Aloni was interviewed on the radio and television program *Democracy Now*. When she was asked why people in the US were labelled anti-Semitic when they criticise Israel she said –

*"Well, it's a trick, we always use it. When from Europe somebody is criticizing Israel, then we bring up the Holocaust. When in this country (the US) people are criticizing Israel, then they are anti-Semitic.....it's very easy to blame people who criticize certain acts of the Israeli government as anti-Semitic, and to bring up the Holocaust, and the suffering of the Jewish people, and that is to justify everything we do to the Palestinians."*



The late Shalomit Aloni

In New Zealand and other Western countries “the trick” is used to silence criticism of Israel.

People such as newspaper editors, journalists, cartoonists and members of parliament are intensely pressured whenever they speak out against Israel’s brutal military occupation and apartheid policies towards Palestinians.

In New Zealand the pressure comes from groups like the Jewish Council, the Israel Institute, the Israel Friendship Group in parliament, the Israeli embassy and Christian Zionist supporters. Pressure from “the trick” helps silence criticism and sometimes results in otherwise good people making excuses for Israel’s murderous policies and blaming the Palestinian victims.

Don’t be silenced! Don’t be tricked!

## 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>

## 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*)

## 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/](https://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 “sumud1 @ outlook. com” (remove the spaces to use as an email address) for further information.

Keep Updated on our Facebook pages and websites (listed below)



## Regional and Affiliates

### Regional

Bay of Islands	<a href="#">PSNA Bay of Islands</a>	email
Whangarei	<a href="#">PSNA Whangarei</a>	Facebook
Auckland	<a href="#">PSNA Auckland – Tamaki Makaurau</a>	Website
Hamilton	<a href="#">Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato</a>	Facebook
Tauranga	<a href="#">Tauranga Moana 4 Palestine</a>	Facebook
Napier/Hastings	<a href="#">Aotearoa Standing with Palestine</a>	Facebook
Palmerston North	<a href="#">PSNA Palmerston North</a>	email
Wellington	<a href="#">Wellington Palestine</a>	Website
Nelson	<a href="#">Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine</a>	Facebook
Christchurch	<a href="#">PSNA Christchurch</a>	Facebook
Dunedin	<a href="#">Dunedin for Justice in Palestine</a>	Facebook
Invercargill	<a href="#">PSNA Invercargill</a>	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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