



21 July 2020

## Newsletter No 27

Kia ora PSNA Supporter

The Israeli government has quietly shuffled their annexation plans to the side after a much stronger critical international reaction than they expected. For example, Jordan said it would result in serious conflict while the Belgium and Netherland parliaments threatened sanctions against Israel.

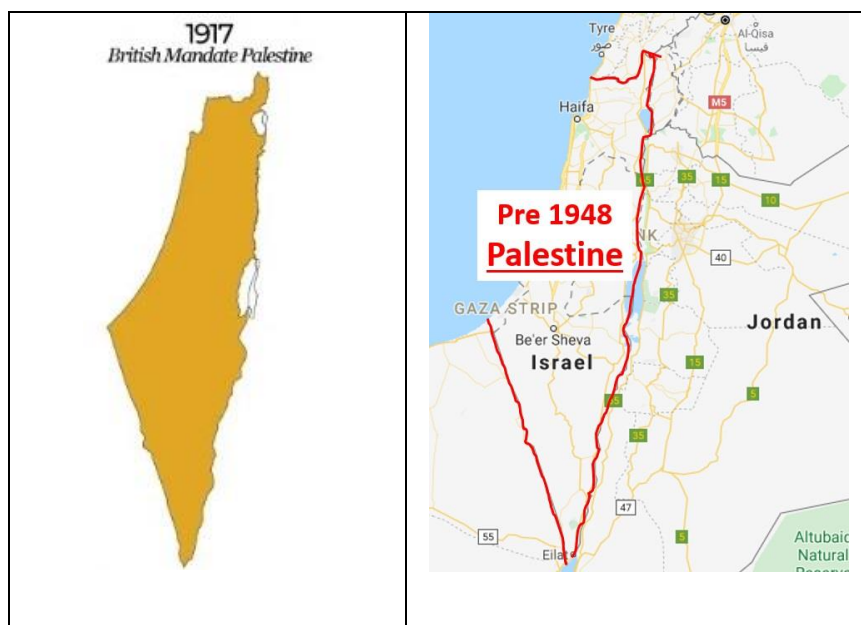
Meanwhile the Israeli government is embroiled in the Covid 19 crisis and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is on trial facing fraud and corruption charges.

Israel is slowly but surely losing the political battle to legitimise their theft of Palestine. Here in New Zealand we need to be ready to come out again quickly on the streets to fight these racist Israeli policies.

Two things you can do before you close this newsletter are in the first two items below:

### Google - Put Palestine on your maps!

Google are helping Israel try to erase Palestine. [Sign the online petition here](#) and share it on social media.



# Support the Humboldt 3 – email (or adapt) this letter to the German Ambassador to New Zealand

A Palestinian from Gaza and two Israeli Jewish activists were arrested in 2017 when they interrupted an anti-BDS propaganda speech by an Israeli Knesset (parliament) member at Humboldt University of Berlin.

They are due to appear in court in Germany on 3 August and an international campaign has begun to have the charges against them dropped.

You can [read more about the case here](#).

You can help this international campaign by emailing the following letter to the German Ambassador to New Zealand.

## Letter to the German Ambassador

Gerhard Thiedemann  
German Ambassador to New Zealand  
[info@wellington.diplo.de](mailto:info@wellington.diplo.de)

Kia ora Mr Thiedemann,

I am writing to you as a New Zealand citizen appalled at the German state's prosecution of three activists who interrupted a propaganda speech by an Israeli Knesset member at Humboldt University in Berlin on June 20, 2017.

These activists are due to appear in court on 3 August and we ask that the German State withdraw the charges against them.

The three activists, a Palestinian from Gaza and two Israeli Jewish activists, were exercising their rights of free speech to denounce the racist policies of the Israeli regime. In particular they were protesting the support the Israeli government representative, Mrs Aliza Lavie, was giving to the Israeli military's murderous 2014 invasion of Gaza.

These activists were speaking the truth. They were exercising their right to free speech. They were standing up for the voiceless Palestinians of Gaza who suffer under a brutal Israeli blockade.

The three activists are accused of "aggression" when video coverage of the incident supports no such allegation. This is clearly an attempt by the German state, presumably at Israel's behest, to silence activists who call out the vicious brutality of the Israeli state against Palestinians.

I ask that you forward this letter to the German Government and I look forward to receiving your response.

(name)

## Election pledges for all parliamentary candidates

As we mentioned in an earlier newsletter we have prepared pledges to support Palestine which we will be sending to all candidates from all political parties ahead of this year's general parliamentary election. We will include the text of the pledges in a future newsletter and we may need to ask supporters to follow up with the candidates in their local electorate to make sure they have received the pledges and to encourage them to sign.

We don't want the next parliament here to sit on the side-lines where silence means support for the racist policies of Israel.

For three years Foreign Minister Winston Peters refused to speak out against the most egregious Israeli behaviour and only under serious pressure did he finally make a statement expressing "serious concern" at Israeli plans for annexation of 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**

## Still miraculous – Covid contained at Gaza's borders

If New Zealand is looking for places to form Covid-free bubbles with then Gaza should be high on the list.

The latest official figures from Gaza's Dr Medhat Abbas this week show: in quarantine: 271; Cases: 72; Recovering: 68; Active: 3; Deaths: 1

Gaza's health authorities have kept the virus at the border and prevented any community transmission. It is a credit to their leadership. While further serious Covid 19 outbreaks have occurred in Israel, Gaza has enforced firm quarantine measures which have prevented its entry into the densely packed "open air prison" blockaded by Israel where it would lead to serious consequences.

Meanwhile the Gaza government is finding quarantine very expensive and they still face the same critical shortages of supplies, personnel, medicines and equipment. We have [asked the New Zealand government to speak out](#) but so far our appeals have fallen on deaf ears.

## **We are almost there – can you help Palestinians prepare cases of war crimes to take to the International Criminal Court?**

We are now very close to 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.



**New Zealander Julie Webb-Pullman**

The GCHR is the group which employs New Zealander Julie Webb-Pullman as a specialist investigator. Julie has been stranded in New Zealand during the Covid 19 pandemic but is due to return to Gaza shortly. In the meantime she has been able to help employ two additional temporary staff in Gaza to help with the evidence gathering. The \$4,000 we need it to help the GCHR bridge the funding gap created when their promised funding source dried up through Covid 19 disruption.

We are nearly there – please help if you can.

We have met online with the two Palestinian women doing this work in Gaza and they were a delight to interact with. We were deeply impressed with their energy and drive and obvious competency for the work.

Please donate if you can and put GCHR in the particulars. Thanking you in anticipation...

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



## Israel's secret list of officials likely to be implicated in war crimes investigations

For those who don't think the International Criminal Court will impact on Israel it's important to understand that [Israel has prepared a secret list of 200 to 300 Israeli officials](#) likely to be implicated in the International Criminal Court's opening of war crimes investigations into Israeli conduct.

Should any of these officials travel overseas they could be arrested for trial at the Hague. In 2006 Former Israeli Defence Force Chief Moshe Ya'alon, the butcher of Qana, visited New Zealand and had a warrant for his arrest issued by the Auckland District Court on charges of war crimes.

It was only [the intervention of Deputy Prime Minister Michael Cullen](#) at the time which saved Ya'alon from arrest.



Former Israeli Defence Force Chief Moshe Ya'alon – the butcher of Qana

This was a shameful betrayal of New Zealand's support for the International Criminal Court. Ya'alon should have been sent for trial at the ICC.

## Boycott Hewlett-Packard! Don't buy HP!

PSNA will be joining the international campaign against Hewlett-Packard in a more strategic way in the future but in the meantime BDS Australia has taken on this campaign and have some excellent material we should read to get up to speed with it. Here are two important links to look at in the meantime:

The online HP campaign page is here: <https://bdsaustralia.net.au/campaigns/dont-buy-hp-products/>

And the online petition is here: <https://bdsaustralia.good.do/boycotthp/individualpledge/>

# Dances with Death

**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.

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

**TUMA HAZOU, AUTHOR**



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".  
—Janet Wain, NZ Human Rights Activist



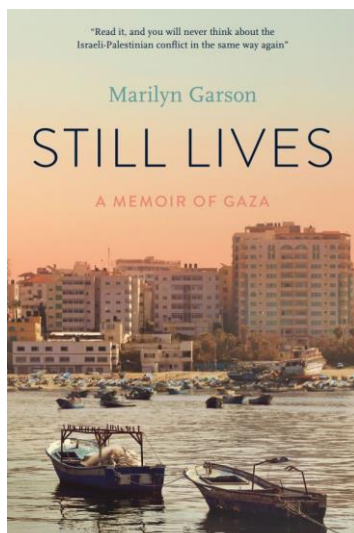
King Hussein and Tuma Hazou in 1968, meeting on top of a captured Israeli tank. This is just one of several illustrations that adorn the book.

"In this book 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"

Books can be ordered directly from the author 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. 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 now in August. More details in the next newsletter.

## 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 [Secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz) 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@PSNA.nz](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.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    |
| New Plymouth     | <a href="#">PSNA New Plymouth</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](#)