



15 September 2020

Newsletter No 31



Wellington supporters were out on the steps of parliament at midday on Wednesday 2 September – the final sitting day of parliament. We had a small protest in very cold, wet conditions but with good spirits. As you can see from the photo – flags fly well in the Wellington wind!

It was great to see Kirsten from Hamilton (thanks Kirsten!) and three people from Hawkes Bay, including Nadina Hohaia whom many of you will know from the “Aotearoa Standing with Palestine Facebook page”. It was great to have two people from the Council of Trade Unions attending as well. Myself, Julie Webb-Pullman (New Zealand journalist and human rights worker from Gaza), Don Carson and Fr Gerard Burns spoke. We didn’t stay as long as planned because of the cold weather but we were a very visible and vocal protest. Three Moslem women from Egypt came along and are keen to encourage others from the Moslem community to also get involved.

We had apologies from Labour MP Duncan Webb who was in Christchurch and also apologies from Green MP Golriz Ghahraman who is not doing any Level 2 events as she is immune-compromised.

A short video of the event can be seen here - <https://youtu.be/PyR5V0bjQYE>

Complaint of racism against Dr David Cumin



PSNA has lodged a complaint of anti-Palestinian racism and anti-Arab racism against Senior Lecturer at Auckland University's School of Medicine Dr David Cumin. The letter we sent speaks for itself:

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

4 September 2020

*Professor Dawn Freshwater
Vice Chancellor
Auckland University
vice-chancellor@auckland.ac.nz*

Kia ora Ms Freshwater,

Complaint of anti-Palestinian and Anti-Arab racism against University of Auckland Senior Lecturer Dr David Cumin

We are writing to ask the University of Auckland to investigate this complaint of anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab racism by Senior Lecturer in the University's School of Medicine, Dr David Cumin.

Dr Cumin was speaking at a debate on "Different perspectives of Israel" held at Auckland University on Thursday 3 October last year. During the debate Dr Cumin attempted to defend Israeli brutality against unarmed Palestinian protestors in the Great March of Return protests by saying Palestinians engaged in

"...violent riots on the border with Israel to which they bring children to use as human shields. The quote of Israel's first woman Prime Minister sums the situation up beautifully. Golda Meir said: "there can only be peace when the Arabs start to love their children more than they hate us"

Video of Dr Cumin delivering these comments is [here](#).

In our view this is a particularly vile statement of anti-Palestinian racism and a repugnant slur on all Arabs.

An important way to identify racism is to reverse the ethnicities in a statement and then evaluate it again. If another employee made the same statements in relation to Jews they

would quite rightly be condemned as despicable anti-semitism and the employee would be sacked. Similarly if these statements were made in relation to Maori, Pasifika or European peoples they would likewise be condemned as deeply racist and the staff member sacked.

We request this matter be investigated by Auckland University and disciplinary action taken.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Nā,

John Minto
National Chair
Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa
0220850161
johnminto@orcon.net.nz

cc:

Professor Cindy Kiro – Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori)
Associate Professor Toeolesulusulu Damon Salesa – Pro Vice-Chancellor (Pacific)
Trudie McNaughton – Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity)

“Black Palestine” Seminar – well worth the watch

Here is the link to the “Black Palestine” seminar – a marvellous two hour watch. It has two Palestinian speakers and two Aboriginal speakers talking about the shared experience of dispossession, state-based discrimination and racism and how to counter it. On the Palestinian side the importance of BDS is emphasised.

The seminar was organised by BDS Australia and held online on August 29. It is now available on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/7XdFUhOfHNc>



Omar Barghouti

The Palestinian and Australian speakers on the seminar are:

Omar Barghouti - Palestinian writer, activist and founding member of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement

Amy Mcquire - Darumbal and South Sea Islander journalist and academic

Dr Randa Abdulfattah - Palestinian academic, author and former lawyer

Professor Tony Birch - Indigenous Australian author, academic and activist

Hiba Farra - moderator - Palestinian lawyer and activist

Hilmi Dabbagh - convenor and co- founder of BDS Australia

We hope to organise something similar for New Zealand soon, linking the Palestinian and Maori struggles for indigenous rights.

Mazin Qumsiyeh

Mazin Qumsiyeh is a Palestinian scientist and author and the director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History. We invited him to tour New Zealand this year before the pandemic struck.

Hopefully he will be able to come eventually...

He has written a [short insightful piece here](#) which is well worth the read.



Mazin Qumsiyeh

38th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila Massacre – online seminar

This should be an important event remembering the massacres of Palestinians carried out by Lebanese fascists with the active connivance of Israel who sealed the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps while their fascist allies massacred hundreds of Palestinian refugees. Registration details for the seminar are on the poster.

Teaching Palestine: Pedagogical Praxis and the Indivisibility of Justice

MEMORIALIZING THE SABRA AND SHATILA MASSACRE: BEARING WITNESS, RESILIENCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY



PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Swee Ang	Dr. Zulaiha Ismail	CO-MODERATORS Sabreen Imtair Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi Omneya Ragab
Hoda El-Asfar	Dr. Rosemary Sayigh	
Lilliane Ghanem	Ellen Siegel	
Nohad Hammad	Dr. Jaber Suleiman	

Join the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS) and the Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas (AMED) Studies in an open classroom to commemorate the 38th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila Massacre, with oral histories of resilience, activism, bearing witness and accountability for war crimes.

REGISTRATION
bit.ly/34LMo4r

SPONSORED BY

 Dr. Swee Ang	 Hoda El-Asfar	 Lilliane Ghanem	 Nohad Hammad	 Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi
 Zulaiha Ismail	 Dr. Rosemary Sayigh	 Ellen Siegel	 Dr. Jaber Suleiman	 Sabreen Imtair
 Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies Program, SFSU • amed.sfsu.edu				 Omneya Ragab
 The General Union of Palestine Students				

September 16, 2020 10am-1pm PST, 1-4pm EST, 8-11pm Palestine and Jordan

Update of our social media guidelines

Earlier this year PSNA developed guidelines for our supporters using social media to build the solidarity campaign for Palestine. This week our national committee added another point (see the fourth bullet point in our undated guidelines below) It is an attempt to keep the discussion on our social media pages positive and forward-looking. Any feedback would be welcomed to secretary@PSNA.nz

Here are our updated guidelines:

PSNA guidelines for social media

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.
- If racist comments of any kind are made on our social media sites these will be removed as soon as they are seen. We will also remove comments which are offensive or dehumanising because although not racist, such comments don't help the building of solidarity with Palestinians and can encourage more of the same types of unhelpful comments.
- 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.

Election pledges for all parliamentary candidates

These are being sent out this week to all candidates from all political parties standing for election. Nominations close this Thursday 18 September and we hope to hear from candidates shortly afterwards.



Keep watching this space!

The David Wakim Memorial Lecture 2020

St Columba
Centre

40 Vermont St
Ponsonby
Auckland

7pm

Thursday 8th
October

A koha towards costs
will be appreciated.



John Minto

Telling Lies about Palestine

Many lies are told about Palestine by pro-Israeli lobby groups. John will talk about these and how claims of anti-semitism are used to deflect criticism of the Israel's brutal military occupation of Palestinian land and the blockade of Gaza.

John will also talk about the future direction and way forward for the Palestine Solidarity Movement.

John Minto is a political activist, who is well known for taking a leading role in the anti-apartheid movement and the Springbok tour protests in New Zealand in 1981. He is involved in many social justice campaigns. Currently, John is the convener of the Christchurch Progressive Network and the National Chair of the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa.

The Memorial Lecture commemorates the life and work of David Wakim, first national president of Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand who died on the 2nd October 2005.

Boycott Hewlett-Packard! Don't buy HP!

If you haven't had a chance to read through this information about Hewlett Packard then please do so. We will begin building a national campaign against Hewlett-Packard shortly so get yourself up to date and ready to act!

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

S2S SDR, trade discounts available

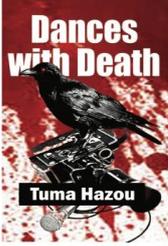
RELEASE: March 2020

TUMA HAZOU, AUTHOR



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

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 shamboic 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 Kwiw 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 Kwiw wife in New Zealand.

"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".
—Janefrie Wakim, NZ Human Rights Activist



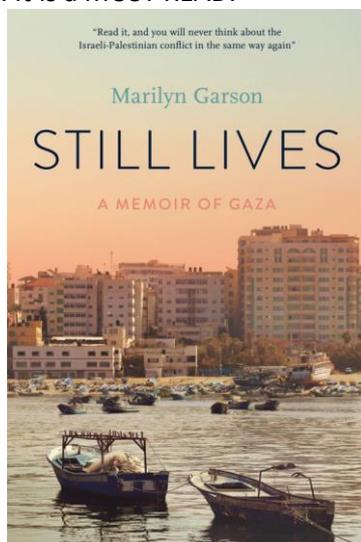
King Hussein and Tuma Hazou in 1968, meeting on top of a captured Israeli tank. This is just one of several situations that adorn the book.

"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

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

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 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
 - ❖ PSNA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/
 - ❖ PSNA email: 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	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
New Plymouth	PSNA New Plymouth	email
Wellington	PSNA Wellington	email
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](#)
- [Wellington Palestine](#)