



18 January 2021

Newsletter No 37

Kia ora

A “moment of moral clarity” in Israel

The New Year began with a political bang when the largest and most respected Israeli human rights group, B’Tselem, released a report on 12 January which clearly and unambiguously labels the situation in Israel/Palestine as apartheid.

The landmark report entitled [*“A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid”*](#) lays bare the reality of life across the entire area of historic Palestine – all of which is occupied and/or controlled by Israel.

You can read the short eight-page report at the link above and the [opinion piece from B’Tselem Executive Director, Hagai El-Ad, here](#).

B’Tselem calls this a “moment of moral clarity”



Hagai Al-Ad

In five minutes: how can you help amplify the impact of this critically important report?

1. Read the eight-page report at the link above.
2. Put links to the report on social media and encourage friends and family to read it and
3. Send a note to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs drawing their attention to this report and insisting New Zealand get off the fence, publicly condemn Israel's apartheid policies and take action to bring effective pressure on Israel just as New Zealand did against South African apartheid.



Jacinda Ardern

Here is a draft note you could email to j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz and n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz – or you can write your own note – **and copy in your local MP.**

Kia ora Ms Ardern and Ms Mahuta,

A moment of moral clarity in Israel/Palestine

*Last week the largest and most respected Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem, released a report which clearly and unambiguously labelled the situation in Israel/Palestine as **apartheid**.*

The landmark report entitled [“A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid”](#) lays bare the reality of life across the entire area of historic Palestine – all of which is occupied and/or controlled by Israel.

The Executive Director of B'Tselem calls this a “moment of moral clarity”. I agree.

It is high time the New Zealand government also recognised Israeli policies as “apartheid” and took steps to isolate Israel just as New Zealand governments did to isolate South Africa in the 1970s and 1980s.

Just as staying silent on apartheid in South Africa was unacceptable then, so is staying silent on apartheid in Israel/Palestine today.

There will be those who try to smear criticism of Israel as anti-semitic. We expect the New Zealand government to have the political leadership and courage to face down such abusive behaviour and stand with the people of Palestine for self-determination and human rights.

Please respond quickly to my request for you to take meaningful action on this important report.

*Regards,
(Name)*

Waitangi 2021

We are planning a presence with a stall, banners, flags, leaflets etc at Waitangi this year on 5th and 6th February. We are working with the Palestinian community to draw the links between the Maori struggle against colonialism and for “tino rangatiratanga” with the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. Colonialism is the common factor facing the indigenous people of Palestine and Maori in Aotearoa.

We are co-ordinating transport and accommodation from Auckland Can you come to help at the stall? If so please email secretary@PSNA.NZ

PSNA National Meeting – 27/28 March in Auckland

We are planning our first post-Covid face-to-face national meeting in Auckland on the weekend of 27/28 March. We hope all centres around the country will be able to be represented at the meeting and we can help with travel expenses for flights etc if necessary. Please don't let the cost be a barrier to coming. **Book your travel now to keep the cost down.** (We will be starting around 9am on Saturday and will finish before 1pm on Sunday) Auckland supporters will be providing billeted accommodation. It's going to be an important, interesting and stimulating event. We are looking forward to meeting up with you all. Please email secretary@PSNA.nz to register for catering purposes.

We will have details of the venue in the next newsletter.

Vaccinations for Covid 19 in Israel and Palestine

Here is a letter we sent to Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta on 6 January regarding Covid 19 in Israel and Palestine. The letter is self-explanatory. At the time of this newsletter, we have not received a response.



Nanaia Mahuta

6 January 2021

Ms Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Nanaia,

Urgent request for the government to speak out against Israel's medical apartheid

We are requesting the government speak out urgently and demand Israel abandon its apartheid medical practices and provide Covid 19 vaccinations for Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Israel has proudly touted itself as one of the first countries to begin widespread vaccination of its population but has specifically excluded Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza strip from its vaccination program.

Nine million Israelis are in line to receive the vaccination, but five million Palestinians are being excluded.

This is medical apartheid. It is racist, immoral and inhuman.

In a terrible irony, Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza are refused vaccination while hundreds of thousands of Israeli settlers living illegally on Palestinian land are receiving vaccinations now.

Under international law Israel is responsible for the health and well-being of the people living under its occupation. However, Israel is turning a blind eye to these legal and moral responsibilities.

As a signatory to the Fourth Geneva Convention – which deals with the responsibilities of an occupying power to look after the health and well-being of occupied people – it is New Zealand's responsibility to speak out quickly, strongly and publicly.

Silence is not an option.

We look forward to your response.

Nā,

*John Minto
Spokesperson
Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa*

Racism, lies and distortions

The pro-Israeli lobby, headed by the New Zealand Jewish Council and the Israel Institute, are very quick to react to any criticism of Israel with false smears of anti-Semitism.

They outdid themselves earlier in January when Green MP Golriz Ghahraman tweeted a report from Jewish Voices for Peace which called out the racism in Israel's vaccination programme (see above the PSNA letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs)



In [this Newshub report](#) Jewish Council spokesperson Juliet Moses was reported saying "This canard that Israel is withholding the vaccine from Palestinians invokes the disgusting centuries-old anti-Semitic trope that Jewish people spread disease" Really! She honestly can't believe that! Surely she is not so stupid!

This shows just how desperate the Israeli lobby are to find anti-Semitism in any criticism of Israel's racist policies. Their priority is to defend Israel by smearing its critics with false claims of anti-Semitism.

Juliet Moses' ridiculous statement was challenged by [Martyn Bradbury here](#) and by [Alternative Jewish voices here](#).

Merchandise for sale

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)

PSNA Groups

National Committee

Website	www.PSNA.nz	
Chair – John Minto	Chair@PSNA.nz	
Secretary – Neil Scott	Secretary@PSNA.nz	

Regional Groups

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
Whanganui	Whanganui@PSNA.nz	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

Other groups supporting Palestinian Rights

- [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](#)