



## Newsletter No 44

13 April 2021

Kia ora PSNA Supporter

### A small thing you can do right now...

The Chief Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt is considering adopting the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of anti-Semitism which amounts to a blatant attack on Palestinian human rights and pro-Palestinian activists. This would be an outrage. If the HRC insists on a special definition of anti-Semitism, apart from its regular policies condemning racism, then the new definition, [the Jerusalem Declaration](#), is a much better alternative, despite its drawbacks. The drawbacks are discussed in articles [here](#) and [here](#).



Please send an email to Chief Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt [paulh@hrc.co.nz](mailto:paulh@hrc.co.nz) urging him to **reject the IHRA definition** and, if he insists on having a separate definition of anti-semitism, then the HRC should **adopt the Jerusalem Declaration**.

You can write your own note or copy and paste this note to [paulh@hrc.co.nz](mailto:paulh@hrc.co.nz):

*Kia ora Mr Hunt,*

*I understand the Human Rights Commission is considering adopting the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. This would be an appalling assault on Palestinian human rights.*

*I think the Commission should have policy to oppose all kinds of racism, including anti-Semitism without separate definitions for any particular kind of racism. If, however, you insist on adopting a separate definition of anti-Semitism then [the Jerusalem Declaration](#), despite its shortcomings, is a much better alternative than the IHRA definition.*

*Please let me know the Commission's position on these definitions of anti-Semitism.*

*(Your name)*

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## Foreign Affairs Officials sell us out on human rights

This important story appeared on Television One last week. PSNA National Chair has [written this blog in response](#) which we are reproducing in full [here](#):

Revelations that foreign affairs officials [have approved the sale of military equipment to a host of human-rights-abusing countries](#), including Israel, is an outrage.

In recent years senior foreign affairs staff have advised successive ministers of foreign affairs to prioritise trade above other considerations such as human rights. They have been given approval, rather than government ministers, to decide which countries will be able to receive New Zealand exports of military equipment.



The tragic outcome was seen in Friday night's Television One story which includes this:

*In the last three years, the ministry has received 256 applications for military exports to 41 countries and territories. It has declined just one, that was an export to Saudi Arabia in 2019.*

*1 NEWS understands that was rejected because Saudi Government assassins had recently murdered the journalist Jamal Khashoggi at their consulate in Turkey.*

Among the list of approvals are **Indonesia** (guilty of murder and mayhem against the indigenous people of West Papua who are fighting for independence and self-determination), **Israel** (guilty of grave abuses of human rights and war crimes against the Palestinian people), the **United Arab Emirates** (a medieval despotic regime) and **Turkey** (its democracy has been seriously degraded in recent years with numerous breaches of civil, political and human rights)

In Israel's case the situation is even more galling because New Zealand has also been importing military equipment from Israel which has been "battle-tested" on the civilian Palestinian population.

In 2012 the New Zealand Superfund withdrew investments from Israel's largest weapons manufacturer, Elbit Systems Limited, because it was involved in grave breaches of international law through building Israel's "apartheid wall" which the International Court of Justice declared in serious breach of international law.

Despite this, in an appalling double standard, the New Zealand Defence Force continues to purchase military equipment from this violator of international law and human rights.

Meanwhile these same unelected officials pressure successive governments about which human rights abuses around the world to ignore and which ones to highlight.

Their advice has led Minister of Foreign Affairs Nanaia Mahuta to go softly on Israel's human rights abuses against Palestinians and Indonesia's bloody campaign against the people of West Papua while continuing to allow the importation of "blood phosphate" from Western Sahara. Ironically these three cases involve struggles for self-determination by indigenous people against colonisation - something Nanaia Mahuta said would be a point of difference for her.

The only human rights abuses these officials encourage the government to speak out about are in China, Hong Kong and Myanmar because these are the human rights abuses our five eyes "allies", led by the US, want us to highlight while we quietly ignore the human rights crimes of America's friends - Indonesia and Israel in particular.

The government needs to wrench control of official advice from the trade-first and US-first-at-all-costs mandarins in the Minister Foreign Affairs.

We should speak clearly against human rights abuses wherever they occur. Ethics and morality should be the guiding principles we follow rather than sycophancy to the biggest schoolyard bullies.

## Ancestors of Palestinian liberation

Go to [this link](#) to navigate this exciting new project. (One of the people involved is Zelda Edmonds, producer of the film “Imprisoning a Generation” which has been screened around New Zealand and at parliament over the past year)



*Ancestors of Palestinian Liberation* is a project aiming to uplift, learn from and celebrate the lives and work of Ancestors that have shaped the diverse and resilient fabric of Palestinian culture — past, present, and forthcoming. *Ancestors* features seven Palestinian social, cultural, and political icons: **Fadwa Tuqan, Ghassan Kanafani, Naji Al Ali, Mahmoud Darwish, Rim Banna, Edward Said and Razan Al Najjar.**

This project is a multi-faceted visual, biographical and educational tool for organizers and educators. Here are some ways to interact with it:

-  Download and print the portraits and biographies to display in your home, schools and communities.
-  Explore the project on-line through the interactive **key terms, biographies** and **expansive links** to further learning opportunities.
-  Use the outreach **pamphlet** to let organizations, coffee shops, libraries and schools know about this resource, and how they can engage with this project.
-  Utilize the **PowerPoint** version of this project in educational settings.

Explore the project online at:  
[www.PalestineAdvocacyProject.org/ancestors](http://www.PalestineAdvocacyProject.org/ancestors)

    

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## 1981 – Fighting apartheid in South Africa: 2021 – Fighting apartheid in Israel

We need your help!

It's a long time since the 1981 Springbok tour – this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in fact. As we reported in the last newsletter we are planning a national tour by PSNA Chair John Minto to mark this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and at the same time to help build the fight against Israel apartheid and the oppression of Palestinians.

Here is the schedule for the tour which will include public meetings in each centre along with talking to community groups, media and schools. If you can help organise an event in one of these centres or put us in touch with some of the local activists at the time then please write to [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz) and let us know.

Date in 1981	Centre	Game	Score	2021 Public Meeting dates
Wed 22 July	<a href="#">Gisborne</a>	<a href="#">Poverty Bay</a>	SA 6–24	Thurs 22 July
Sat 25 July	<a href="#">Hamilton</a>	<a href="#">Waikato</a>	cancelled	Sun 25 July
Wed 29 July	<a href="#">New Plymouth</a>	<a href="#">Taranaki</a>	SA 9–34	Thurs 29 July

Sat 1 August	<a href="#">Palmerston North</a>	<a href="#">Manawatu</a>	SA 19–31	Sun 1 August
Wed 5 August	<a href="#">Whanganui</a>	<a href="#">Wanganui</a>	SA 9–45	Thurs 5 August
Sat 8 August	<a href="#">Invercargill</a>	<a href="#">Southland</a>	SA 6–22	Sun 8 August
Tue 11 August	<a href="#">Dunedin</a>	<a href="#">Otago</a>	SA 13–17	Wed 11 August
Sat 15 August	<a href="#">Christchurch</a>	<a href="#">New Zealand</a> (1st Test)	NZ 14–9	Sun 15 August
Tue 19 August	<a href="#">Timaru</a>	<a href="#">South Canterbury</a>	cancelled	Thurs 19 August
Sat 22 August	<a href="#">Nelson</a>	<a href="#">Nelson Bays</a>	SA 0–83	Sun 22 August
Tue 25 August	<a href="#">Napier</a>	<a href="#">NZ Māori</a>	12–12	Wed 25 August
Sat 29 August	<a href="#">Wellington</a>	<a href="#">New Zealand</a> (2nd Test)	SA 12–24	Sun 29 August
Tue 2 September	<a href="#">Rotorua</a>	<a href="#">Bay of Plenty</a>	SA 24–29	Thurs 2 September
Sat 5 September	<a href="#">Auckland</a>	<a href="#">Auckland</a>	SA 12–39	No meeting
Tue 8 September	<a href="#">Whangārei</a>	<a href="#">North Auckland</a>	SA 10–19	Wed 8 September
Sat 12 September	<a href="#">Auckland</a>	<a href="#">New Zealand</a> (3rd Test)	NZ 25–22	Sun 12 September

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## Some important stories from recent weeks

Canada's New Democratic Party passes motion to sanction Israel [here](#)

Medical apartheid: Structural racism, not race [here](#)

Iran blames Israel for attack on nuclear facility [here](#)

Israel throws dancer in prison [here](#)

Israel's interference in British politics blasted [here](#)

New Anti-Semitism definition excludes BDS but Palestine activists say it's still flawed [here](#)

Federal judge tosses out lawsuit targeting Palestinian rights group [here](#)



## 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*)

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## Merchandise for sale

We have Merchandise you can buy including T-shirts from our website.



Go here - <https://www.psna.nz/shop>

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## In Occupied Palestine daily newsletter – an invitation to subscribe from Leslie Bravery

Because of mainstream news media complicity, daily headlines and commentary only occasionally ever mention the relentless Israeli violence in Palestine, not even the frequent air strikes!

However, daily news and statistics regarding the violence Palestinians are forced to live under are regularly reported on in the “In Occupied Palestine daily newsletter”, sourced and compiled for easy reading and correlation chiefly from the Palestinian Monitoring Group's daily situation reports.

The “In Occupied Palestine” daily newsletter continues to be circulated, by email, worldwide to subscribers only, as it has been over the last two decades.

Contact: [Palestine Human Rights Campaign](#)

*(Please note we have changed the link).*

## 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)

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## PSNA Groups

### National Committee

Website	<a href="http://www.PSNA.nz">www.PSNA.nz</a>	
Chair – John Minto	<a href="mailto:Chair@PSNA.nz">Chair@PSNA.nz</a>	
Secretary – Neil Scott	<a href="mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz">Secretary@PSNA.nz</a>	

### Regional Groups

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
Whanganui	<a href="mailto:Whanganui@PSNA.nz">Whanganui@PSNA.nz</a>	email
Wellington	<a href="#">PSNA Wellington</a>	email
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

### 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](#)
- [Palestine Human Rights Campaign](#)