



## Newsletter No 45

4 May 2021

Kia ora Palestine Supporter

Human Rights Watch declares Israel policies against Palestinians as  
the **crime of Apartheid!**



The largest human rights organisation in the United States (and winner of a Nobel Peace Prize!) Human Rights Watch (HRW) is the latest major group to label Israel an Apartheid State. HRW, headquartered in New York, has produced an [in-depth and comprehensive 213-page report](#) detailing how Israel is engaged in the **crime of Apartheid** as defined by international conventions including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

You can watch an excellent [three-minute summary of the Human Rights Watch report here](#).

HRW has called for an international UN inquiry and for sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes. The HRW report, titled "A Threshold Crossed - Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution" has received wide coverage across the globe from the BBC in London to the New York Times in the USA.

Palestinians, South Africans and others have long held that Israel policies are comparable to those of the former South African apartheid regime. For example in January this year, the largest and most respect human rights group in Israel, B'Tselem, declared Israel was practising apartheid in

their landmark report entitled ["A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid"](#).

Human Rights Watch is now saying there is a legal case that the Israeli regime is also complicit in the **crime** of Apartheid as defined by international law.

The international community is slowly but surely moving towards the condemnation and isolation of Apartheid Israel, just as it did in relation to Apartheid South Africa in the 1970s and 1980s.

---

## Three small but important things you can do right now...

1. Send the link to the three-minute HRW video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TLe4J7Dvd0>, to all your email contacts for them to see it.
2. Post the link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TLe4J7Dvd0>, on your facebook page, twitter feed etc
3. Send a message to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nanaia Mahuta, urging the government to recognise Israeli oppression of Palestinians as apartheid. You can send your own message or copy and paste this note here:

*Date*

*Nanaia Mahuta*

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

*Email [n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz)*

*Kia ora Nanaia,*

***Israeli policies towards Palestinians are apartheid policies.***

*The Nobel Peace Prize winning human rights organisation, Human Rights Watch, has declared Israeli policies towards Palestinians constitute the **crime of apartheid**.*

*The [full HRW report is here](#) and a [three-minute video of the main points is here](#).*

*We know you are busy but please take the time to watch the three-minute video.*

*The world is moving against Israel's racist, apartheid policies and I request the government join the right side of history with a formal declaration that New Zealand accepts Israel's policies towards Palestinians are apartheid policies.*

*I look forward to your response.*

*<your name>*

---

## Thanks for helping push the Human Rights Commissioner in the right direction...

In our last newsletter we asked supporters to email the Chief Human Rights Commissioner, Paul Hunt, and urge him to reject outright the adoption of the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of anti-Semitism. The IHRA "definition" is being used around the world to attack pro-Palestinian activists with false smears of anti-Semitism.



We are pleased to report the Commissioner has finally decided to reject the IHRA definition. Hunt says:

*22 April 2021*

*Tēnā koe*

*Thank you for your email.*

*In recent days, I have received a large number of similar emails regarding the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.*

*The Human Rights Commission has not adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism, and it has no plans to do so.*

*The Commission undertakes a lot of work against racism, Islamophobia, and other very serious forms of intolerance in Aotearoa, including antisemitism. As you may know, the Race Relations Commissioner is leading work alongside the Government's plan to develop a National Action Plan against Racism.*

*It is possible to be critical of the actions of the Israeli government, and supportive of Palestinian human rights, without being antisemitic. But this requires some understanding of antisemitic tropes, so that they can be avoided. The Commission is preparing a short paper advising on antisemitic tropes, and this will be published on the Commission's website within the next few weeks. I will let you know when this short note is published. I hope you will find it useful. The Race Relations Commissioner and I will be very pleased to discuss the note with you, if you might find this useful.*

*I appreciate you taking the time to write to me.*

*Paul Hunt*

This is an important step forward. The Human Rights Commission should not promote a "hierarchy of racism" but must oppose all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, equally, as PSNA does.

## World Keffiyeh Day – May 11



**Chief Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt wearing his keffiyeh**

World Keffiyeh Day is celebrated annually on May 11th as a visual way to raise awareness about the Palestinian cause by simply wearing the Keffiyeh/Kufiya - one of the most iconic symbols of Palestinians.

So, on 11 May put on a keffiyeh, take a photo and post it on social media.

World Keffiyeh Day has deliberately been set a few days before **Nakba Day**, 15 May, to help bring more awareness to the Nakba which led to the displacement of more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland, leading to millions of Palestinian refugees all over the world today.

If you don't have a keffiyeh you can [order one from Preserved Identity here](#). Preserved Identity sources keffiyehs made by Palestinians in Palestine.

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

We are making excellent progress in setting up public meetings around Aotearoa to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1981 Springbok Tour protests.

The meetings are being held in each centre to coincide with the dates of the games played in 1981.

PSNA Chair John Minto, who was National Organiser of HART in 1981, will be speaking at the meetings alongside local activists from 1981.

If you can help organise the public meeting in your area then please write to [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz) and let us know.

Date in 1981	Centre	Game	2021 Public Meeting dates
Wed 22 July	<a href="#">Gisborne</a>	<a href="#">Poverty Bay</a>	Thurs 22 July
Sat 25 July	<a href="#">Hamilton</a>	<a href="#">Waikato</a>	Sun 25 July
Wed 29 July	<a href="#">New Plymouth</a>	<a href="#">Taranaki</a>	Thurs 29 July
Sat 1 August	<a href="#">Palmerston North</a>	<a href="#">Manawatu</a>	Sun 1 August
Wed 5 August	<a href="#">Whanganui</a>	<a href="#">Wanganui</a>	Thurs 5 August
Sat 8 August	<a href="#">Invercargill</a>	<a href="#">Southland</a>	Sun 8 August
Tue 11 August	<a href="#">Dunedin</a>	<a href="#">Otago</a>	Wed 11 August
Sat 15 August	<a href="#">Christchurch</a>	<a href="#">New Zealand</a> (1st Test)	Sun 15 August
Tue 19 August	<a href="#">Timaru</a>	<a href="#">South Canterbury</a>	Thurs 19 August
Sat 22 August	<a href="#">Nelson</a>	<a href="#">Nelson Bays</a>	Sun 22 August
Tue 25 August	<a href="#">Napier</a>	<a href="#">NZ Māori</a>	Wed 25 August
Sat 29 August	<a href="#">Wellington</a>	<a href="#">New Zealand</a> (2nd Test)	Sun 29 August
Tue 2 September	<a href="#">Rotorua</a>	<a href="#">Bay of Plenty</a>	Thurs 2 September
Sat 5 September	<a href="#">Auckland</a>	<a href="#">Auckland</a>	No meeting
Tue 8 September	<a href="#">Whangārei</a>	<a href="#">North Auckland</a>	Wed 8 September
Sat 12 September	<a href="#">Auckland</a>	<a href="#">New Zealand</a> (3rd Test)	Sun 12 September

---

### Congratulations Auckland! 20 years of regular monthly pickets

This month on May 1, Palestine Solidarity activists in Auckland celebrated 20 years of regular monthly rallies (first Saturday of the month from 2:00 - 3:00 pm at Aotea Square) in support of the Palestinian struggle.

Wow!



Warm congratulations from all the movement! We take off our hats to you!



## Nakba Day (the catastrophe) – 15 May

Many centres around Aotearoa are planning public activities for Nakba Day. For example Christchurch are holding a vigil with distribution of leaflets etc at the Bridge of Remembrance from 12 noon to 1.30pm. Get in touch with what's happening in your local area. If you are not sure who to contact email [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz)

### A reminder about Nakba Day



**Palestinians are driven from their home at gunpoint during the Nakba (1947-49)**

The Palestinian "**Nakba**" ("catastrophe" in Arabic) refers to the mass expulsion of Palestinian Arabs (between 750,000 and one million) from British Mandate Palestine during Israel's creation (1947-49). The Nakba did not end in 1948 and continues today, in the form of Israel's ongoing theft of Palestinian land for Jewish settlements and denial of the internationally recognised legal right of return of millions of stateless Palestinian refugees.

---

## Elbit Systems can't be trusted



Huge Israel weapons manufacturer Elbit Systems Limited is [in trouble in Australia](#) over Australian use of its Battle Management System which is hugely expensive – its exploiting its monopoly – and has serious security concerns around it with allegations is "backdooring the system for information".

As the story indicates, even the US military don't trust the company.

Here in New Zealand we are still pursuing the Minister of Defence over decisions to purchase military equipment from Elbit Systems despite the company being complicit in grave breaches of international law.

## Wellington Phoenix muck up but then apologise

Wellington Phoenix soccer team has an Israeli player, their striker Tomer Hemed. We have been asked many times if this is a breach of BDS (Boycott Divestment and Sanctions) against Israel. The answer is no because Hemed is not representing Israel when he plays.

However, Hemed crossed the line last week when, after scoring a winning goal, he ran to a group of Israeli supporters, took one of their Israeli flags and wrapped himself in it.



**Hemed running to get an Israeli flag.**

The [video of the incident is here](#).

The Israeli flag is a symbol of brutal, racist oppression of Palestinians and has no place on any sports field. Note that this happened in the same week Human Rights Watch declared Israel complicit in the crime of apartheid (see first story in this newsletter)

Wellington Phoenix subsequently encouraged supporters to “Grab your Israeli flag” but then withdrew and apologised when challenged by PSNA Secretary Neil Scott and others on social media.

We are writing to the football club to ensure they do not in any way support or encourage support for the racist, apartheid state of Israel. This behaviour wasn’t acceptable in the fight against apartheid in South Africa and is not acceptable in the fight against apartheid in Israel.

### **The Day that the Wellington Phoenix Embraced Apartheid Israel? Is the “Israeli flag” now the “Nix flag”?**



When **Human Rights watch** publishes a report that **Israel has crossed the line into being an Apartheid state!**

and

**B'Tselem states Israel is an Apartheid state!**

# **“Death to Arabs”, “May your village burn” - the far-right racism that drives Israeli hatred of Palestinians**

By PSNA Chair John Minto



In a sickening but unsurprising development, last week a crowd of hundreds of far-right Jews marched in Jerusalem chanting “death to the Arabs” and “may your village burn”. Israeli police turned up and attacked a Palestinian counter-demonstration.

There are numerous reports on the violence, for example [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

These far-right demonstrators who support the fascist party, Lehava, have been emboldened by three things: Firstly, Lehava gained seats in the Israeli parliament in last month’s election. Secondly by Israeli Defence Force moves to ban Palestinians from near the Damascus Gate, a regular and traditional gathering place for Palestinians during Ramadan and thirdly, the Israeli regime’s systematic ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from East Jerusalem.

A Lehava leader, Jewish Rabbi Benzi Gopstein, is on record saying that [Christian churches in Israel must be burnt because Christians worship idols and idols must be destroyed](#). In 2014 Lehava held a demonstration at which members chanted “death to the Arabs” outside a wedding between a Muslim and Jewish woman who had converted to Islam.

But more important than the details of the demonstration or the history of Lehava itself is the incitement to hatred against Palestinians by Israeli political leaders for over 70 years. Reporting on the racist filth of various Israeli Prime Ministers would require several volumes but a small selection from the current Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, will suffice to make the point.

Netanyahu is on record as saying:

- “The way to deal with Palestinians is to beat them up. Not once but repeatedly, beat them up so it hurts so badly, until it’s unbearable”
- “Israeli is not a state for all its citizens” (ie Jews are first class citizens while Palestinians are lesser beings)
- Palestinians are an “existential threat” to Israel”.



Looking at the history of racism from Israel's leaders, its small wonder that young Jews take on the race hatred of Palestinians just as young Germans, for the same reason, took on race hatred of Jews in Nazi Germany. Genocidal behaviour always starts with words.

The same racism is evident in the pro-Israel lobby around the world and [New Zealand is no exception](#). So what did the Israeli political leadership say about the fascist protest and threats of genocide? Nothing. Instead, Israeli Internal Security Minister Amir Ohana [released](#) a statement condemning "attacks by Arabs."

Most countries have reported the violence as clashes between "extremists on both sides". This is cynical and wrong because at the heart of the issue is the ethnic cleansing of more than 750,000 Palestinians from their land by Israeli militias in 1948 (and which continues today), the subsequent Israeli military occupation and control of the entire area of historic Palestine from 1967 (which continues today), the medieval Israeli blockade of Gaza from 2006 and Israel's racist, apartheid policies against Palestinians.

The New Zealand government has remained silent. The indigenous people of Palestine have been left to face threats of genocide with the New Zealand government busy washing its hands on the side-lines.

---

### Some important stories from recent weeks

Gideon Levy - "We Can Keep Lying to Ourselves on 'Apartheid,' but Israel Has Crossed the Line" [here](#)

Carnegie Endowment - Approaching Peace: Centering Rights in Israel-Palestine Conflict Resolution [here](#)

B'Tselem - A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid [here](#)

After the Two-State Solution - New Israel-Palestine Peace Efforts Must Focus on Equality [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*)

---

## Merchandise for sale

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



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

---

## 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)

# 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](#)