



Palestine

Solidarity Network

Aotearoa

27 August 2019

Newsletter No 5

Kia ora koutou,

Another big couple of weeks.

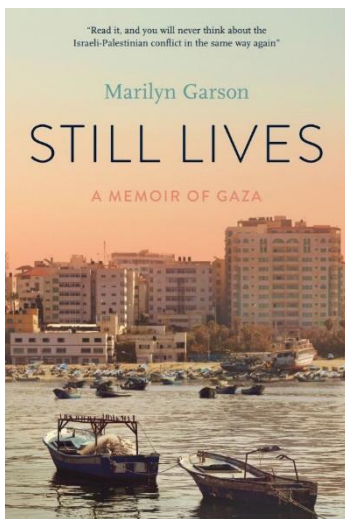
Lots of updates in this newsletter – two dates to put in your diary if you are in Auckland – see details later. If you are outside Auckland don't feel left out – plenty of things to get on with here.

We are especially keen to hear if you are able to visit your local MP for a chat and leave them with a copy of the Q and A booklet. This is a critically important initiative. We have a script to guide you through the meeting. See more details later in this newsletter.

Hamilton Film Evening

Hamilton supporters organised a film screening at a local theatre last week of the film "The Idol" which tells the story of a young Palestinian and his difficulty living under occupation while he enters an international talent quest – and wins! It was a very successful night with 82 people attending the screening. Other centres are looking to organise similar screenings. We will bring you details in future newsletters. Meanwhile well done in the Waikato!

A new book on life in Gaza



EARLY NOTICE

Coming on 21 October: [Still Lives - a memoir of Gaza](#)

This is a first-hand account of a Canadian Kiwi's experience in Gaza.

Pre-order your eBook [here](#)

www.marilyngarson.com

Visit from the Palestine National Council

All the flights have been booked and the arrangements made for the visit to New Zealand in October by Dr Salman Abu Sitta. This is a very important visit. Dr Abu Sitta is the most senior Palestinian leader to visit in almost 20 years.

Dr Abu Sitta is a well-respected academic, author and member of the Palestine National Council.

He is giving the Edward Said Memorial Lecture in Adelaide, Australia and dropping in here for a few days afterwards.



On his visit here he will be meeting with MPs and various government officials in Wellington and will deliver a lecture in Auckland. The lecture will be on **Thursday 17th October at 7pm at Auckland University (Room to be advised)**

New general Palestine Solidarity leaflet and website on the way

The National Committee has approved the wording for a new national leaflet for PSNA. It is designed to be read and understood in a New Zealand context. We hope it will help New Zealanders understand Palestine/Israel much more clearly and understand why BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) on Israel are so important.

Meanwhile we are also working on a new PSNA logo and website. We will keep you updated on all these in future newsletters.

Delegations to Members of Parliament

We are well underway with visits to MPs around the country but we have many holes still to fill! Are you able to organise a delegation of two or three people to speak with your local MP and deliver a copy of the "Let's talk about Palestine/Israel" booklet?

If you can please email secretary@PSNA.nz or your local MP? We are aiming to cover all MPs with a visit over the coming six months. Please let us know and we will send you the details of the points that need to be raised with MPs and a copy of the booklet.

Puma, HP and Airbnb

Our PSNA committee are looking at campaigns against these three international brands which are active in supporting the occupation in different ways. More details to come.

Debating with Dr David Cumin – **change of date to 3 October**

The debate between PSNA National Chair John Minto and the Israel Institute's Dr David Cumin is now on **Thursday, 3rd October at 7pm at Auckland University** – details of venue will be in coming newsletters. The debate topic is "Different Perspectives on Israel".

The debate came about after John challenged Dr Cumin to a debate (via the letters section in the Press newspaper) after Cumin claimed the Middle East situation was very complicated. It is common for Zionist supporters of Israel to claim the situation is complex – it's a key tactic they use to discourage people from criticising Israel.

It's not too late to be part of the important campaign to stop New Zealand military imports from Israel.

Yes, we are still driving this important campaign to make New Zealand an Israeli military free zone.

Send an email to the Prime Minister urging her to use Rule 44 of the Government's Electronic Tender Service rules to abandon the proposal to purchase \$9 million in military equipment from Israel. Rule 44 says the government may exclude a supplier on the basis of "human rights violations by the supplier or in the supplier's supply chain".

Here's an example of the email you could send NOW to j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz



Dear Ms Ardern,
Please invoke government purchase rule 44 to cancel the proposed purchase of \$9 million in military equipment from Israel by the New Zealand Defence Force. The company providing the equipment, Roboteam, is an integral part of the Israeli Defence Force and provides equipment to support the illegal occupation of Palestinian land and the siege of Gaza. It is providing active assistance to the Israeli Defence Force in their human rights abuses such as the murder and maiming of unarmed Palestinian youth (16 killed so far this year) and the detention without trial of Palestinian children and minors.

Please respond urgently.

(Name)

Background: The NZ Defence Force have decided to purchase \$9 billion in robots from Israeli company Roboteam.

The founders of Roboteam, Yossi Wolf and Elad Levy, both served as officers in the Israeli Air Force Special Forces before establishing Roboteam in 2009. They developed and supplied a robot to the IDF that was actively used in Operation Protective Edge, the sustained Israeli attack on the Gaza strip in 2014 involving numerous human rights abuses and war crimes committed against the civilian Palestinian population of Gaza (1,492 Palestinian civilians were killed - 551 children and 299 women)

Rule 44 of the Government's Electronic Tender Service Rules say the government may exclude a supplier on the basis of -

“human rights violations by the supplier or in the supplier’s supply chain”

Meanwhile recent [media reports](#) indicate the Roboteam products to be purchased by our Defence Force have been trialled by the Israeli Defence Force in its occupation of the West Bank and on the Gaza “border”. The tests were termed a “success”.

The IDF is renowned for its testing of military equipment on the civilian population of occupied Palestine. It is also renowned for its brutality – for example the murder and maiming of Palestinian children – 16 killed so far this year and its widely condemned detention without trial of Palestinian children and minors. In April this year for example 205 Palestinian minors were being held in Israeli prisons, without trial, as security detainees and prisoners.

3rd Reprint - If you haven’t purchased one yet - buy a copy of our excellent small booklet of common questions and answers on the Middle East conflict.



We are on our third reprint of the booklet.

Have you got your copy yet?

Buy a copy for yourself and maybe a few to give to friends and family. Send your address in an email to bronwensummers@gmail.com and pay \$5 online for a single copy – includes post and packaging – add \$2 each for extra copies) Account Name: Palestine Solidarity Network Account No: 38 9015 0849542 00

New logo and website

We are working on a new website and new logo for PSNA – more details when we have something more to share...

T-shirts and merchandise for sale:



Our spokesperson John Minto recently walked Te Araroa (from Cape Reinga to Tekapo – he will finish in Summer) wearing this T-shirt. He still has the T-shirt but has lost the beard!

We have these T-shirts for sale:

\$26 + postage XXL, XL, L, M, S, XS (size 8)

\$30 + postage XXXXL, XXXL

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>

Do you know of Israeli products sold in New Zealand?

We are building a database of Israeli products made in New Zealand as part of the BDS campaign. If you come across any such products please let us know. Email secretary@PSNA.nz with the details.

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)

Links to important stories

Victoria University: Shut Down Unethical Israeli Prize

<https://www.change.org/p/victoria-university-of-wellington-victoria-university-shut-down-unethical-israeli-prize>

Why is this important?

Victoria University of Wellington has refused to remove an essay prize funded by the Apartheid government of Israel. The prize is insulting to the university's own Palestinian students who have been forced from their homeland by the Israeli government.

The Embassy of Israel Prize of \$250 is awarded to one student per year on the merit of an essay on one of the given topics - including "Israel in the Middle East", "Israel's bilateral relations with its neighbours", and "Israel's democracy in the context of the Middle East".

This prize is unethical because the Israeli government is guilty of building illegal settlements in Palestinian territory, preventing the flow of essential resources, and denying Palestinians the right to vote. It is a regime akin to Apartheid South Africa.

Petition to stop global tourism sites from profiteering from stolen Palestinian Lands

There is currently a petition from Amnesty International NZ calling on Trip Advisor to stop profiting from illegal Israeli settlements. The target is 1000 signatories, let us help them achieve this!

<https://www.amnesty.org.nz/tell-tripadvisor-pull-out-illegal-israeli-settlements-occupied-palestine>

Please note Trip Advisor are not the only company to do this, others include Air BnB, Expedia, and [booking.com](https://www.booking.com)

See Amnesty International's full report titled ***Destination: Occupation*** here:

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE1594902019ENGLISH.PDF>

<https://www.newstalk.com/Tourism-giants-fuelling-human-rights-violations-with-Israeli-settlement-listings>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=92&v=-lk7VLsAKIM

The Daily Blog has regular articles in it about Palestine/Israel.

<https://thedailyblog.co.nz/>

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, we hold a monthly Protest at 2.00 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Please consider doing the same in your community. Contact <mailto:admin@palestinesolidaritynz.net?subject=Flags> and Banners 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
 - NZ Palestine Solidarity Network website: <http://PalestineSolidarityNZ.net/index.html>
 - NZ Palestine Solidarity Network Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/
 - NZ Palestine Solidarity Network email: admin@PalestineSolidarityNZ.net
- Keep Updated on our Facebook pages and websites (listed below)

Regional	
Whangarei	Freedom & Peace for Palestine from Whangarei
Auckland	New Zealand Palestine Solidarity Network
Hamilton	Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato
Napier/Hastings	Aotearoa Standing with Palestine
Wellington	Wellington Palestine
Christchurch	PSNA Christchurch
Dunedin	Dunedin for Justice in Palestine

New Zealand Affiliates	
	Boycott Divestment and Sanctions NZ -
	Palestine Human Rights
	Letters for Palestine
	Kia Ora Gaza
	Auckland Peace Action
	Global Peace and Justice Auckland

John Minto

Spokesperson

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa