



31 August 2021

## Newsletter No 54 – a second lockdown newsletter

This is our second newsletter in lockdown and we have included links to two excellent films to watch while we wait at home...

In the meantime, we'd like you to do **two things** with a few clicks...

**Something right now – with just a few clicks...**

### Number One

**Call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs to have New Zealand attend the Durban IV conference against racism to be held on 22 September in New York.**

Pressure is being applied to the Aotearoa New Zealand government to withdraw from an important [upcoming United Nations meeting](#) to mark twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action against racism. This meeting has been dubbed Durban IV and is to be held on 22 September in New York.



False smears of anti-Semitism have been made against this United Nations declaration and a number of apologists for the racist, apartheid state of Israel (eg the US, UK and Australia) have turned down invitations to attend. It is important New Zealand attend and support this very important international declaration which calls out racism in Israel.

Please send a note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs supporting Durban IV. You can cut and paste this note and adapt it or write your own note.

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

*Kia ora Ms Mahuta,*

*We are aware of pressure for New Zealand to withdraw from the upcoming one-day meeting in New York on 22 September to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action against racism.*

*It is very important Aotearoa New Zealand stands up against racism and refuses to be bullied into silence by apologists for the racist apartheid state of Israel.*

*We urge the government to take part in this important meeting and speak loudly and clearly against racism in all its forms such as anti-Arab racism, anti-Palestinian racism and anti-Semitism.*

*I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Ngā mihi.*

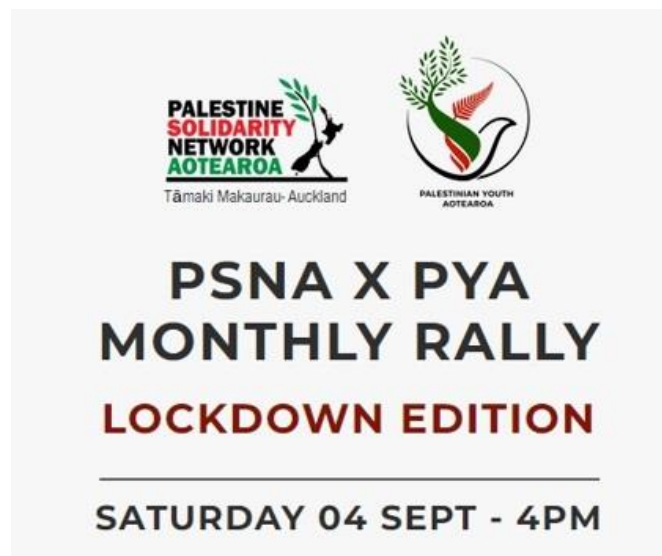
*Na,*

*(Your name)*

## Number Two

Join in our on-line solidarity protest with Palestine. Lockdown means the usual monthly solidarity protest in Auckland had had to go on-line.

## **PSN Tamaki Makaurau in conjunction with Palestinian Youth Aotearoa**



Given that Auckland is still in Level 4 lockdown, we have decided to hold our usual “First Saturday of the Month rally in support of Palestinian Human Rights” on-line this month.

All people throughout New Zealand are welcome to join with us.

We have a number of people lined up to speak:

Neil Scott – PSN Tamaki Makaurau

John Minto – Chair PSNA

A number of Members of [Palestinian Youth Aotearoa](#)

The link to the [Zoom](#) meeting will be posted on the PYA website and on the PSNA events Facebook page on Saturday morning.

Check in on Saturday morning [here](#) and [here](#) to see the Conference number and password for the meeting

Remember to wear your Kufiya, Palestine t-shirt, etc and have your web cams on so we can see them.

Date	Saturday 4 August – <b>This Saturday</b>
Time	<b>4.00 pm</b>
Zoom link	TBA
Password	TBA

## 40th anniversary tour will be rescheduled

Unfortunately, the entire second half of John Minto's tour to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1981 Springbok tour protests has been abandoned and will be rescheduled for later this year.

As soon as the pandemic situation has settled we will plan out the remaining meetings.

In the meantime, the planned meeting in Napier last week generated a letter from Pastor Nigel Woodley from the Flaxmere Christian Fellowship and a response from PSNA National Chair John Minto.

**LETTERS**

### Church protesters to challenge Minto on Palestine

Covid Alert levels willing, the Flaxmere Christian Fellowship and its supporters will be gathered at McLean Park on Wednesday evening to protest John Minto's "Free Palestine" meeting, where he will be trying to find traction for his campaign, comparing it to the protests he conducted in 1981.

Our protest will have nothing to do with the Springbok Tour of 1981, nor of the issues around that. My father was a police sergeant at that time leading a contingent of officers trying to keep the opposing sides apart.

We will be protesting the statement from Minto that Israel is an apartheid state.

Israel is the only free democracy in the Middle East where Jews, Arabs and other minorities have equal status. There are no separate buses or cafes or park benches in Israel, as there was in South Africa.

To give you a sample of what honest Palestinians have to say about the Jewish State, this is what Khaled Abu Toameh, an Arab journalist who calls himself an "Israeli-Arab-Muslim-Palestinian" says: "I am an Arab Muslim living in Jerusalem. . . If I were given the choice, I would rather live in Israel as a second-class citizen than as a first-class citizen in Cairo, Gaza, Amman or Ramallah."

Covid Alert willing, we will be there to challenge Minto. (Abridged)

**Pastor Nigel Woodley**  
Flaxmere Christian Fellowship

of level 4 restrictions.

And what a bright, fresh face she brings, with a lot of talent and work experience to contribute to her community.

Her commitment to water security and keeping a tight control on rates demonstrates a common sense attitude to current issues.

**J Gay Golds**  
Havelock North

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**  
Email  
editor@hbtoday.co.nz  
to have your say.

**Wanaka well-wisher**  
Having moved up from Wanaka last October, I was pleased to see "The Wanaka Tree" on your front page yesterday. Good taste!

**Tim Herrick**  
Havelock North

**Candidate shows initiative**  
I was pleased to receive (by email) the flyer of the regional council by election candidate Jacqueline Taylor. It showed initiative in getting her message to voters in the face

**LETTERS**

### Confusing the Bible's Israel with the modern state



Kia ora. There is no need for Pastor Woodley to protest outside our meeting when we discuss stepping up the fight against apartheid in Israel.

He is welcome to bring his supporters inside to listen and learn because Pastor Woodley is confusing the Israel of the Bible with the modern political state of Israel.

The connection is in name only.

South African leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela have called out Israeli policies against Palestinians as apartheid and this year they have been joined by major human-rights groups.

In January B'Tselem, the largest and most respected human-rights organisation in Israel, released a report called A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea — 'This is apartheid!' and in April Human Rights Watch, the large Nobel Peace Prize-winning US human-rights group, accused Israel of crimes of "apartheid and persecution".

I look forward to Pastor Woodley giving his supporters the chance to learn why international boycotts of Israel will help bring justice for Palestinians as they did for South Africans.

**John Minto**  
National Chair  
Palestine Solidarity Network  
Aotearoa

**Mangled verb tenses**

So often the past tense of irregular verbs is mangled in print these days.

Irregular verbs (those which don't just end in -ed), like swim, sing, shrink, spring, etc, follow the i-a-u pattern (I swim, I swam, I have swum; I sing, I sang, I have sung).

Some reporters seem to be unaware of this pattern. I wish they would use their past tenses correctly, and I imagine that Wyn Drabble will agree with me!

**Jeremy Ballantyne**  
Waipukurau

Palestinians inspect their destroyed houses after Israeli air strikes in May in the town of Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip.

PHOTO / AP



## Covid across historic Palestine – challenging racist lies

Last weekend [Fran O'Sullivan wrote a column for the Herald](#) (paywalled) which praised Israel's response to Covid 19 while ignoring the appalling racism in Israel's vaccination rollout. PSNA Chair John Minto wrote this response which was printed on Monday.



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## Two inspiring movies for lockdown

Try to make time to watch these two superb, inspiring movies – we have mentioned them before in previous newsletters and lockdown might give you time to watch them:

1. [Palestine Action – a year of direct action against Elbit Systems Limited](#)
2. [Gaza fights for Freedom!](#)

## Voices of Palestinians – “The 40 Rules of Engagement”

When this poem by Palestinian writer Marzouq al-Halabi was first published in May this year [some wondered if it could hold the key to ending Israeli racism and apartheid and opening a dialogue for peace.](#)

### **The 40 Rules of Engagement**

**By Marzouq al-Halabi (English Translation by Raphael Cohen).**

From the first round  
the roll call of your dead  
and of cities whose inhabitants were lost in exile  
lay before them.

Say: I am not seeking revenge  
I'd like us to agree on the beginning  
instead.

Ask them  
if they know how many oranges  
Jaffa sold to strangers?  
How many newspapers  
voyagers read on the quayside?  
How many language schools there were?  
How many halls were packed with fans of Umm Kulthoum?  
Ask them, and give them space to think  
as they remember the face of the Bride of the Sea.

If they tell you:  
Forget about the past  
the arrow once fired never returns,  
and the owner of space and time is master,  
say softly:  
their master owns meaning.

If you enter their language,  
take your language with you  
and your memory  
and a third language that blocks interpretation.

If you enter their time,  
negotiate  
as if time did not exist  
Say: I don't work for anyone  
I'm a gazelle who loves to run free  
who loves the melodies of shepherds  
and the light of the moon.

If you speak  
share all your pain with them  
show them every scar in your soul.  
Nobody dies from opening their heart.

If they ask you: v Do you hate us?  
say: I do not love my enemy  
but hate that question.

If they ask you about violence,  
say: Did you leave us an inch of land  
to plant roses for our women to shower on your soldiers  
did you leave us a stream  
to provide water equally  
or so we might take walks by the estuary  
and share our food  
like a pair of hikers?

Whenever the scales tip in your favour,  
they will remind you that they are the victims.  
Believe them  
and go along with them  
but say with affection: And we are the victims of the victims.

Do not interrupt them  
when they remember their dead in the cemeteries  
of Berlin,  
and recite the prayer for the missing dead.

Be decent if they weep  
and say kind words about their hurt.  
If they pray  
have high hopes for the moment they encounter God  
for you too need moments  
of hope.

Say: we will be fair  
we will agree with you  
over everything that happened overseas  
and the Question it posed  
but we will disagree with you to the core  
over your history with us  
and hold you to account.

Don't drive your interlocutors into a corner  
as if they were cats.  
Let them contemplate the impact of their language v in this space  
and their image reflected in a well.

Speak  
tenderly  
as if you were a poet  
fundamentally human  
not divinely inspired  
nor on the verge of nihilism.

Don't believe in missiles, should they be launched,  
but say: Would they were water pipes.  
Don't believe in the trigger happy  
and bullets sprayed for show  
that intercept a star in the sky.

Whenever they ask for time to think  
be generous, as if time were not an issue.  
Slowly smoke  
a cigarette or two,  
and why not squeeze  
lemonade for you and them too.

Don't make the same mistake as they do  
by saying you're better.  
You're just like the rest of God's people v no worse and no better.

Whenever you near a conclusion  
they whip up a minor war.  
Add it to their record  
and keep forgiving.  
Tell them that generals,

however far they overstep,  
die alone,  
a foreign nurse in their funeral procession.

While you negotiate  
a plane will pass over your dream.  
Just smile to the pilot  
and tell the negotiators:  
they are in fact killing children  
sheltering in seashells  
or busy at arithmetic class.

If they bring up stories of the prophets,  
don't be happy and don't take the bait.  
Say: We are allergic to mythology  
for it spilled our blood at your hands.  
Prophets no longer have a place in the annals of humanity.

Their fear  
is theirs  
even if without cause.  
It comes in cycles from past to present to past,  
so break the vicious circle every morning  
let them hear you reset your heart.

Those sleeping on a bed of spears  
fear the moment to come.  
Those guarding stolen time  
jump when a bird makes its nest.



Those roaming another's land  
fear  
like those settled in outposts of identity.

If they open maps  
to adjust borders  
and refigure places  
and populations  
and safe corridors,  
tell them:  
Fold up your maps.  
Our idea has room for all.

What's to stop the country having  
two languages  
two names  
two colours  
and two plaits?  
But sign up to one law for all.

Envisioning a future  
offers protection from a cruel past  
from pessimism  
and stops you from falling into a pit v with your enemy.

Maybe you can't get back an orange grove  
paved in concrete.  
but bargain with them over the books  
they confiscated,  
so that life can continue.

The broader the vision  
the more ways out of the confines  
of the moment.

History  
must remain free  
to include a third narrative.

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## **Anti-Semitism in the Agriculture Action Group**

PSNA has made a formal complaint to the Race Relations Conciliator concerning racist anti-semitic comments made by Robert Wilson of the Agriculture Action Group at a public meeting held in Riversdale on 23 November last year. In an earlier blogpost PSNA Chair John Minto incorrectly said the comments were made at a Groundswell meeting but this was incorrect and John Issued an apology.

The original article is here <https://thedailyblog.co.nz/2021/08/22/open-letter-to-groundswell-stop-giving-platforms-to-vile-and-repugnant-racism-and-anti-semitism/> and the apology is here

<https://thedailyblog.co.nz/2021/08/25/apology-to-groundswell-a-claim-in-my-blogpost-was-wrong/>

The offending comments made by Robert Wilson are in these notes taken at the meeting.

Agricultural Action Group Public Meeting Riversdale Community  
Hall 23 November 2020 Keynote Speaker Robert Wilson

Notes from Robert Wilson's speech

Zero carbon Act- Minister may introduce legislation without going  
through Parliament (Or overseas carbon farming)

"Extreme environmentalists"

SNA's allow Government to acquire these areas without  
compensation and bill farmers to protect areas.

Water – pre-human purity levels are now required.

Ability to run our farms as we know best taken away.

Won't allow farmers to run farms on economical basis.

Legislation will not be changed.

Destroy our businesses, can't pass them on to future  
generations...not going to be farming in a few years.

United Nations – Agenda 2021 – Global Sustainability

Jim Bolger(Non-binding / Warm fuzzies)

Now Agenda 2030- need for more rapid implementation.

Jacinda Ardern 'Article by Muriel Newman -former Act MP 2019'

New York -imbeded Agenda 2030 into legal and regulatory  
framework.

Gathering in New York hotel by Bill and Melinda Gates.

17 Key points

'Modern socialism – International Socialist experiment'

"It's fair to take from those who produce to give to those who  
don't produce".

"Incrementation"

Thriving Southland a front for Agenda 2030.

Removal of private property rights.

Socialist/Communist conspiracy

Jewish conspiracy – Rothschilds – Rockefellers

One World Government through control of the financial systems  
including Federal Reserve etc International Banking System

'The Great Reset'

Sky News Australia and other media overseas – the end-game is  
being proposed by IMF

World debt cannot be repaid.

To fix it-removal of all debt by relinquishing all private property  
and replacing with annual wage.

"Great reset' 2021-2030 – Being advertised in Europe –  
psychological conditioning .

United Nations Development Goals

## Stories from the Web

1. Racist Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett [vows to “even the score”](#)
2. Manchester University – statement on "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians [reinstated after complaint led to it being removed](#). Reported [here](#) also.
3. The [politics of power outages in](#) Gaza
4. Book – [“A Shared Struggle”](#)

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### **Congratulations to all our supporters – we are now up to \$14,000 in the appeal for the Gaza Centre for Human Rights which was targeted and destroyed by Israel in its recent attack on Gaza**

The money has been warmly welcomed and has been received in Gaza. The Centre is getting itself back on its feet again in its role of collecting evidence for war crimes prosecutions from the latest Israeli outrages. The money sent from Aotearoa New Zealand is being used to refurbish and get the essentials in place so the work of documenting Israeli war crimes continues. So far more than 2,000 complaints have gone to the International Criminal Court which has opened an investigation into

**Before: (a direct hit on the Gaza Centre for Human Rights from an Israeli missile)**



**After: (in new premises furnished and equipped with your donations)**



Donations are still welcome.

Account name: PALESTINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK

Account number: 38-9015-0849542-02 (Please put GCHR in the reference)



## Close the Israeli embassy

Remember our campaign to close the Israeli embassy in Wellington.

[The petition is on-line here](#) in English and Arabic or use the QR code here.



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## Solidarity with Palestine by Artists, Cultural Workers and Scholars of Aotearoa New Zealand

Remember to please help circulate this statement of solidarity with Palestine. It is aimed particularly at Artists, Cultural Workers and Scholars.

They can read and [sign on to the statement at this link](#).

This has been organised by **Dr Rand T Hazou**, Senior Lecturer in Theatre, School of Humanities, Media and Creative Communication, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Massey University.

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**How can New Zealanders help the Palestinian people?**

Move your Kiwisaver funds to one of these providers:

- AmanahNZ KiwiSaver Limited
- Generate Investment Limited
- Milford Funds Limited
- NZ Anglican Church Pension Board
- Pathfinder Asset Management
- Pie Funds Management Ltd

These are the only six Kiwisaver providers with no investments in the 112 companies listed by the United Nations Human Rights Council as complicit in the construction and maintenance of illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.

**PALESTINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK AOTEAROA**  
www.PSNA.nz

## 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**

- [Palestinian Community of New Zealand](#)
- [Palestinian Youth Aotearoa](#)
- [Preserved Identity \(Palestinian products\)](#)
- [Boycott Divestment and Sanctions NZ](#)
- [Kia Ora Gaza](#)
- [Letters for Palestine](#)
- [Auckland Peace Action](#)
- [Global Peace and Justice Auckland](#)
- [Auckland Uni– Students for Justice in Palestine](#)
- [Massey Uni- Students for Justice in Palestine](#)
- [Tamaki Loves Palestine](#)
- [Wellington Palestine](#)
- [Palestine Human Rights Campaign](#)