



## Newsletter No 63

25 Kohitātea 2022  
25 January 2022

### **Ethnic cleansing, war crimes and human rights abuses in government agricultural event**

We have been deeply concerned to learn of an online event next month called [Israel and New Zealand: Embracing Agri-technologies through partnership](#), organized by Agritech New Zealand, at which the Chief Science Advisor to the Ministry of Primary Industries, John Roche, is scheduled to speak.

We have issued a media release describing this a “a celebration of ethnic cleansing, war crimes and human rights abuses”.

“Our government and farming groups should be demanding Palestinian refugees be allowed to return to their land instead of helping Israel profit from this stolen land”.



Minister of Primary Industries Damien O'Connor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Nanaia Mahuta

## Something you can do now with just a couple of clicks...

Send an email to Minister of Primary Industries, Damien O'Connor, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nanaia Mahuta, calling for Aotearoa New Zealand to withdraw from this event. You can write your own letter or copy and paste this letter to Damien O'Connor at [d.oconnor@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:d.oconnor@ministers.govt.nz) and [n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz)

*Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs*

*Damien O'Connor  
Minister of Agriculture*

*Kia ora Ms Mahuta and Mr O'Connor,*

### ***Aotearoa New Zealand must withdraw from celebration of ethnic cleaning, war crimes and human rights abuses***

*We have been deeply concerned to learn of an online event on 16/16 February called [Israel and New Zealand: Embracing Agri-technologies through partnership](#), at which the Chief Science Advisor to the Ministry of Primary Industries, John Roche, is scheduled to speak.*

*This is an outrage.*

*Israel is a racist, apartheid state and Aotearoa New Zealand should not be co-operating with an Israeli agriculture sector based on:*

- Abuse of International law. (eg Illegal Jewish-only settlements built on occupied Palestinian land)*
- War crimes (eg Illegal settlement building on occupied Palestinian land is a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court)*
- Violation of United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. (eg UNGA 194, UNSC 242. UNSC 2334)*
- Ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their land and the blatant refusal to allow refugees to return to their land (UNGA 194)*
- Frequent racist attacks by Israeli settlers, backed by the Israeli Defence Force, on Palestinian farmers (eg [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#))*
- Seizure of water supplies and blatant theft of water from Palestinian farmers. (eg [here](#) and [here](#))*
- Destruction of Palestinian crops and olive groves (eg [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#))*
- Instances of draining sewage onto Palestinian land and crops (eg [here](#) and [here](#))*
- Indiscriminate aerial spraying of Palestinian farmland along the border with Gaza. (eg [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#))*

*Groups like Agritech New Zealand and the Aotearoa New Zealand government should be supporting the Palestinian struggle just as New Zealanders supported the international struggle against apartheid South Africa.*

*We request the Ministry of Primary Industries withdraw from this online event and decline to take part in similar future events till everyone living in historic Palestine has equal rights.*

*Please respond urgently.*

*(Your name)*

## Solidarity with Sheikh Jarrah! (Another solidarity action you can take with just a few clicks)

Israel is continuing its policies of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from East Jerusalem with the [demolition of the Salhiyeh family home in Sheikh Jarrah](#).



The demolished Salhiyeh family home in East Jerusalem

**This Friday, 28 January**, show your solidarity with Palestinians living in East Jerusalem by either:

- taking a photo of yourself with the hashtags **#SheikhJarrah** and **#SaveSheikhJarrah**
- making a short video of yourself (up to 40s) expressing support for Sheikh Jarrah (use information from the newslink above for background information)

and post your picture or video onto the PSNA Facebook page post [here](#)

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## Fat Freddy's Drop pull out of Sydney Festival



Fat Freddy's Drop



Thanks to everyone who sent messages to Fat Freddy's Drop from our last newsletter asking them to withdraw from the Sydney Festival which was sponsored by the Israeli government.

Fat Freddy's Drop did withdraw but cited pandemic problems rather than the calls to boycott the festival. They declined to comment publicly. This was disappointing because over 40 other artists and performers pulled out of the Festival for principled reasons in a huge show of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Here are some of the stories to emerge from this hugely successful Sydney Festival boycott campaign:

- The PSNA initial request to Fat Freddy's Drop is [here](#)
- The NZ Herald report is [here](#)
- Fat Freddy's Drop withdrawal was reported [here](#)
- Reporting of the successful boycott campaign by Mondoweiss is [here](#), from Electronic Intifada is [here](#) and from John Menadue is [here](#)
- Support for the boycott from Jewish voices is [here](#)

PSNA extends its warm congratulations to the Sydney Festival campaign organising committee which spearheaded the boycott.

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## A Palestinian voice in the mainstream media



**Tameem Shaltoni**

It was good to see a Palestinian narrative in Aotearoa New Zealand's mainstream media last week. Normally it is pro-Israeli voices which dominate media coverage of the Middle East with Palestinian New Zealanders effectively shut out of any reportage or discussion.

Tameem Shaltoni has told the powerful and moving story of his family's experience during the 1948 Nakba. [The link is here.](#)

Tameem's story is a [dramatic reinforcement to the archival material released last week](#) in which Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben Gurion declared Israel's intent to "wipe out" Palestinian villages during the 1948 Nakba while another Minister said he could 'forgive instances of rape' by Israeli forces although he disapproved of the stealing of jewellery from Palestinian women! More details are [here](#).

**NOTE:** These Israeli government comments were meant to be kept classified but were accidentally [released after a technical glitch](#).

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## Football for Freedom raises money for Gazan football clubs. The Tamaki Makaurau Palestinian community celebrates



Football for Freedom's annual soccer tournament was held in Auckland last weekend to raise funds for the Al-Ahli Football Club in Gaza, Palestine. It was a huge success – here are a few pics from the event.

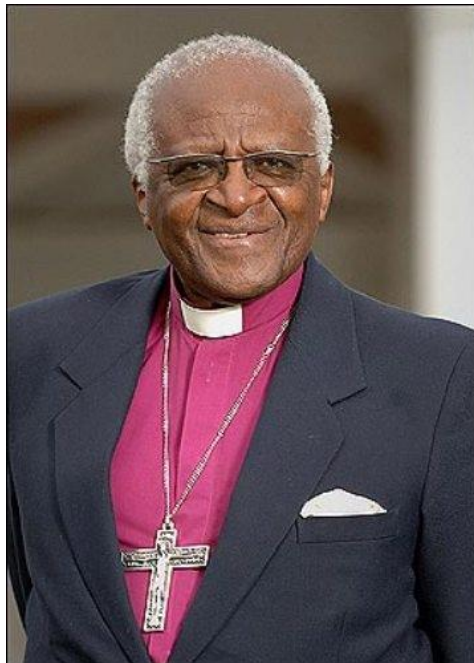







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## Wellington event to remember Archbishop Desmond Tutu



A memorial event for South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu is being organized at St Peters Church (cnr of Willis and Ghuznee Streets) Wellington on Tuesday 15 February (date TBC) 5.30pm – 7.30pm. PSNA National Chair John Minto will be one of the speakers. We will have confirmed details in our next newsletter but Wellington supporters should keep this date free in the meantime. It will be great to see you there.

## Hisham Abu Hawash ends 140-day hunger strike after Israel agrees to his release



Hisham Abu Hawash on Day 138 of his hunger strike

In our last newsletter we reported on Hisham Abu Hawash and his 140 plus days of hunger strike against his “administrative detention” (detention without trial) by Israel. Hisham ended his hunger strike when Israel finally agreed to his release. More details are [here](#).

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## PSNA makes solidarity donation to legal costs for Palestinian activists in the UK



Earlier this week the PNSA National Committee made a solidarity donation of \$200 to Palestine Action in the UK. We have reported in previous newsletters on the inspiring and effective campaign they are waging against the huge Israeli weapons manufacturer Elbit Systems Limited which has factories in the UK.

The Palestine Action website is [here](#) and their latest court success has been reported [here](#).

## Dates for Palestine Solidarity in 2022

The following are the dates for likely local and national Palestine solidarity activity this year. They will be able to be found on the PSNA Calendar [here](#) in the near future.

30 Mar	Land Day Palestine
5 Apr	Palestinian Childs Day
9 Apr	Deir Yassin massacre - Irgun Terrorism - 107-120 Palestinian men, women and children massacred
17 Apr	Palestinian Prisoners Day
11 May	World Kufiya Day
15 May	Nakba Day – marking the mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Palestine in 1948
5 Jun	Naksa Day - Start of 1967 War - Land Grab – Invasion of Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza, Egypt and Syria - 5 June 1967 – 10 June 1967
20 Jun	Attack on Gaza - 6–21 May 2021 (2 weeks and 1 day)
28 Sep	Second Intifada - 28 Sept 2000 – 8 Feb 2005
2 Nov	Balfour Declaration
29 Nov	United Nations - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
8 Dec	"First Intifada - 8 Dec 1987 – 13 Sept 1993

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## Important stories from the Web

1. Second court victory in campaign to drive Israel's largest arms manufacturer, Elbit Systems Limited, from the UK [here](#)
2. Police tear down Palestinian home in Sheikh Jarrah [here](#)
3. Israel's genocidal intent against Palestinians is confirmed [here](#)
4. Israel's first Prime Minister Ben Gurion declared Israel's intent to "wipe out" Palestinian villages during the Nakba [here](#)
5. What Gabriel Boric's victory in Chile will mean for Palestine [here](#)
6. Major US foundations donate \$105 million to Islamophobic groups [here](#)
7. Israel's war of attrition against Palestinian children [here](#)

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## 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](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz)

(Please note we have changed the link).

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## 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

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