



24 Haratua 2022

24 May 2022

## Newsletter No 71

Kia ora koutou,

The two big issues for this newsletter are the murder of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the Israeli regime's plans for the largest ethnic cleansing of Palestinians since 1967.

Israel's apartheid regime is acting with complete impunity because countries like Aotearoa New Zealand refuse to call them out. Our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and MFAT officials are acting in a spineless and racist fashion.

If Jews were being murdered anywhere in the world and being ethnically cleansed from their homes and land our government would, quite rightly, condemn such actions as anti-semitic and impose sanctions on those responsible.

We expect the same respect and action for Palestinians.

### 1. The murder of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh



Israel says it will [not investigate Shireen's killing](#) because they fear a backlash from right-wing Israelis. The regime attitude is best summed up by an Israeli military spokesperson who said Shireen and her colleague Ali al-Samudi, who was shot in the back, [were](#)

“armed with cameras, if you will permit me to say that.”

Israeli human rights group Yesh Din sums up the situation like this:

*“the army law enforcement mechanisms no longer even bother to give the appearance of investigating. Eighty percent of the complaints that are submitted are dismissed without a criminal investigation. It appears that politics and image count for more than truth and justice. An army that investigates itself in such a serious case as this again proves that it is incapable or unwilling to undertake a fair and effective probe.”*

The Aotearoa New Zealand government issued a pitiful tweet which didn't even mention Israeli state forces.



**Nanaia Mahuta**  @NanaiaMahuta · 16 May

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Aotearoa New Zealand is deeply saddened by the death of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in Jenin and the violence at her funeral. We call for an independent, transparent and thorough investigation into the circumstances of her death.

 119

 195

 1,471



## 2. The largest ethnic cleansing of Palestinians since 1967

The Israeli regime is planning its largest ethnic cleansing operation against Palestinians since 1967 in Masafer Yatta. This mass eviction of Palestinians has been described by [United Nations human rights experts as a breach of international humanitarian and human rights law](#).

Israeli actions such as this occur because Israel is not held to account by countries like Aotearoa New Zealand. It's time we did.

Aotearoa New Zealand supporters can join the letter-writing campaign for Masafer Yatta [here](#)

## Action you can take now with a couple of clicks...

Copy and paste this email into a message to the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
[n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz)

Kia ora Ms Mahuta,

You have been in the role of Foreign Minister for 20 months now and your reaction to Israel's occupation and brutal oppression of Palestinians has been either invisible or ineffective. Aotearoa New Zealand is bigger than this and if you are unable to reflect our values on the international stage you should not be in the role.

Three actions by you are urgent:

1. Speak out in condemnation of the murder of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by the Israeli regime and the vicious, brutal attack on her pall bearers and mourners. [Israel says it will not investigate](#) – speak out for an independent United Nations investigation.
2. Speak out against Israel's planned largest ethnic cleansing of Palestinians since 1967 – in Masafer Yatta. UN human rights experts have [appealed to the international community to act](#). That means us.
3. Speak out against the flagrant breach of international law with the Israeli regime's approval of the [building of 4,500 additional homes in illegal Israeli settlements](#) on Palestinian land.

If Jews were being treated like this you would, quite rightly, speak out as you have done over the Russian invasion and occupation of Ukraine. We expect you to do the same for Palestinians.

Please respond without delay.

(your name)

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## NAKBA Day 2022 review

Thanks to all supporters who turned out around the country last weekend for Nakba Day events. The turnouts were excellent even in places like Christchurch where the weather was very cold, windy and wet.



Palestinian flag flying at New Plymouth City Council on Nakba Day 2022

This year we approached parliament and City Councils around the country to fly the Palestinian flag on Nakba Day. New Plymouth Council raised the flag – see picture above.

Most councils however consulted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who advised strongly against doing so “because it might cause offence to the Israeli embassy or the Israeli community here”. There



was no consideration from these officials for the deep offence this would cause to Palestinian New Zealanders.

In Wellington the mayor told us they had no flagpole and so couldn't fly the flag. PSNA contacted Wellington city councillors to see if they could find an alternative and councillor Tamatha Paul arranged for the Michael Fowler Centre to be lit up in the colours of the Palestinian flag. However MFAT called the mayor and advised against it so the mayor vetoed the arrangement – a story which was on [the front page of the Wellington's Dompost newspaper](#).

**THE DOMINION POST** TE UPOKO-O-TE-IKA

**Putin's strategic blunder**  
IN DEPTH

**Road trippin' in the Naki**  
STUFF TRAVEL

**Mayor vetoes Palestine event**

**Nakba Day**  
Tom Hunt  
tom.hunt@stuff.co.nz

Wellington mayor Andy Foster vetoed a plan to light up the Michael Fowler Centre in the colours of the Palestinian flag after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Mfat) expressed concerns about Israeli sensitivities.

The projection, driven by Wellington city councillor Tamatha Paul, was to mark a national commemoration of Palestine, and had been ready to go ahead today until Foster took advice from Mfat and was told the act "could be construed as state recognition" of Palestine.

Nakba Day, which means catastrophe in Arabic, commemorates the estimated 700,000 people who fled or were driven from their homes in what is now Israel during the war in 1948.

New Zealand does not recognise Palestine as a state.

Foster stood by his decision yesterday and said Mfat told him displaying the Palestinian colours could result in complaints from the Israeli ambassador and other Israeli groups.

Mfat made it clear it was his choice but strongly urged him to cancel the projection.

Foster confirmed he did not seek outside advice during recent decisions to light the centre in Ukrainian and trans colours.

"It is very weak-kneed," said Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa national chairperson John Minto.

"I would urge the council to look at this again."

Yesterday, Minto emailed Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta to ask her to over-ride the "outrageous" Mfat interference.

"Aotearoa New Zealand is bigger than the venal, self-serving advice of cowardly Mfat officials," his email said.

Mahuta's office referred questions to Mfat, which sent a statement saying New Zealand took a "principled and balanced approach" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Mfat's recommendation was that support for the day would not align with Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment to a two-state solution, and lasting peace for Israelis and Palestinians alike, nor would it support the Middle East peace process."

A Mfat spokesperson said it had been approached by Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington city councils.

Minto confirmed events on council property in Auckland and Christchurch went ahead as planned yesterday.

Nadia Abu-Shanab, from the Palestine Solidarity Network in Wellington, said Israel's treatment of Palestinians was apartheid. Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre was one way to show support for Palestine but "we continue to get censured".

"My cousins and young people in Palestine are not able to live a life of dignity. They live under the threat of violence constantly. They can't move freely," she said.

Wellington had a separate event yesterday at Cuba St's Thistle Hall, which is owned and partially funded by the council but is independently run by a board of trustees.

Paul said the Michael Fowler Centre event was initially approved by council-controlled organisation WellingtonNZ.

But she got a call from Foster on Saturday saying the event was cancelled.

"We are more than comfortable to recognise injustices in Ukraine but we are reluctant to show solidarity with Palestine," Paul said.

This year's event carried extra significance after the fatal shooting of Palestinian-American reporter Shireen Abu Akleh during an Israeli military raid in the West Bank, she said.

The embassy of Israel in Wellington could not be reached for comment but Zionist Federation of New Zealand president Rob Berg said having the flag displayed on a public building in the capital city would cause distress to Israeli people.

"It does not help promote peace," he said, though he confirmed that the action in New Zealand in itself would be highly unlikely to have any actual impact in Palestine or Israel.

**Read More**  
**THE IMPERIAL CURSE THAT STILL HAUNTS MIDDLE EAST**  
PAGE 20

**Reshaping economy, society to drive down carbon emissions**

**Net zero**  
Luke Malpass

Climate Change Minister James Shaw will today launch a "three-decade-long" economic transition that will fundamentally reshape the economy and society.

At midday the Government is releasing its long-awaited first emissions reduction plan.

The plan will outline which regulatory changes and financial sticks and carrots will be wielded in the fight to drive down New Zealand's emissions to reach a target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

"What you are talking about here is a three-decade-long economic transition, that affects all of our major industries. It affects how we design our towns and cities, it affects the quality of the houses that we live in. It affects the method by which we get to and from work in and so on. So in that sense, yes, it is a very far-reaching transition," Shaw said.

While Shaw would not be drawn on whether it was the biggest change to New Zealand society since the Rogernomics reform period of the 1980s – "You can understand why I am hesitant about the comparison," he said – what he describes is the first step in a far-reaching reorganisation of the economy and society over the coming 30 years.

The Government's approach, which is expected to lean heavily on recommendations by the Climate Commission, will see the Government identify sectors and industries where targeted interventions will drive emissions down. The current emissions trading scheme is expected to be further modified and to have a less central role in emissions reduction.

Shaw said that, if successful, the plan would decouple New Zealand's economic growth path from its emissions path – something few countries have managed to do.

"For donkey's years, you know, our economy has kind of continued to grow and develop ... the pollution that we put into the atmosphere has been tied to that.

"And there are only about 20 countries in the world that have successfully decoupled their emissions from their economy.

"And now we have a plan to do

**Kupu o te Rā** Tūtanga pakihi means shares/equities. Learn more at [kupu.mot.govt.nz](#)

**Weather** High: 18 Low: 14 Forecasts, page 33

**TURN TO PAGE 3**

Front Page of the Dompost last week



Justice for Palestine activists ignored the mayor's ban and lit up Te Papa with the Palestinian flag and the picture of murdered Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh



Justice for Palestine activists light up Te Papa

Media reporting of the Wellington events are [here](#) and [here](#)



The **Auckland** rally was attended by more than 300 people even though it rained on us. The Palestinian flag, which the Mayor of Auckland had Refused to fly, was wide spread throughout the crowd.

Particularly moving was the visual tribute to Murdered Palestinian Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

You can watch the whole event [here](#)

# Call for New Zealand speak up

During the Nakba day event in Auckland, Professor Nicholas Row called on the New Zealand government, church leaders, artists and academics to speak up.



Nick had personally met Palestinian Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and condemned the Cowardice of an Israeli soldier who killed her, the military which backs him and the Silence of Politicians around the world which allow the Israeli Abuse of Palestinians to continue unabated. You can watch his moving tribute to Shireen Abu Akleh [here](#).

The text of his speech is this:

Kia ora Koutou

Shireen, was a sister

Shireen was an Auntie

Shireen has a family who now feels a great loss at her absence.

Shireen has a close circle of friends who similarly share in that loss and miss her right now.

Shireen has many colleagues who feel buoyed and had great support and encouragement and are encouraged to go on because of Shireen. They had high respect for her. High esteem and admiration. There is now an absence for them in that leadership.

Shireen also lived in a community. She is someone who would dance at your wedding. Walking through the snow, she would look up and smile. She was part of a small society.

Shireen, as you all know, is a leader. For Palestine and for the world in journalism presenting the truth. And throughout all these dimensions of Shireen, she is known for her courage and her bravery. As she died, in the last hours and moments of her life, exhibiting that bravery.

That bravery stands in stark contrast to the soldier who pulled the trigger. A Cowardly little boy with his gun. The Israeli soldier who decided at that moment to end Shireen's life. Her courage and her bravery stands in stark contrast with the Cowardice of the military unit that that soldier belongs to. And will help keep it covered up.

That Courage and Bravery of Shireen stands again in stark contrast to the Israeli police officers who use their batons to beat her mourners and desecrate her funeral.

Now. Those soldiers and those police officers are not cowards because they are soldiers and police officers, and that they use weapons that others don't have. They are Cowards

because they know that they are not accountable for their actions. They know that they live in a state of exception. They are cowards because they know they can get away with this. That nobody will do anything about it and that is what emboldens their actions. Because the Israeli government will never hold them accountable for their actions. And that is what emboldens the Israeli Government. That state of exception. The idea that the rest of the world will not hold it accountable for its actions.

So how do we stop this?

We can look a bit closer to home. To our own politicians, our own government which for too long has been silent. And said nothing. As our current foreign minister remains silent and says nothing and does not condemn them. This exception.

*<calls of shame from the crowd>*

We can look at our business leaders who have their contracts with Israel. And justify this and rationalise this under the name of economic prosperity. And yet remain silent now. And maintain this state of exception, for Israel, when they would otherwise happily pull out and say we will boycott this space.

We can also look at our preachers and priests who can stand in their pulpits who can talk about redemption and the rapture and use some biblical fantasy as a rationalisation as to why Israel should be an exception. And they use this to try to rationalise why Israel should not be held accountable to the same laws we expect all humanity.

And we can all look at academics, our artists, our journalists who collaborate with Israel. Who write and take empathy and sympathy and speak out and make it look glossy and beautiful.

This is their moment to condemn.

On this day.

At this hour.

In memory of Shireen.

And in the face of the evidence against them.

This is the moment to say No! No more exceptionalism.

We condemn this actions.

This is a call to you as politicians. As preachers in your pulpits. Artists and Academics who might have ever once said something to defend, and protect Israel. And maintain its state of exception.

Now.

On this day.

At this hour in memory of Shireen.

In front of this evidence.

Now is your moment to condemn.

I am waiting for your words. . .

I am waiting for our leaders, to express these words. . .

Silence.

Not a word.

No.

And that silence. . . Is oppression!

That silence is Complicity!

That silence is Cowardice!

*<clapping. Chant from the crowd - From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free. Free free Palestine.>*

And that silence, ultimately is condemnation.

Condemnation for all Palestinians to suffer the same state, and the same experience because they wish to maintain the same state of exception for Israel.

Thank you.

We can all take action when we see Israeli atrocities. We can write to our politicians as we have asked in the request at the top of this newsletter.

We all have a Local MP. You can find their contact details [here](#).

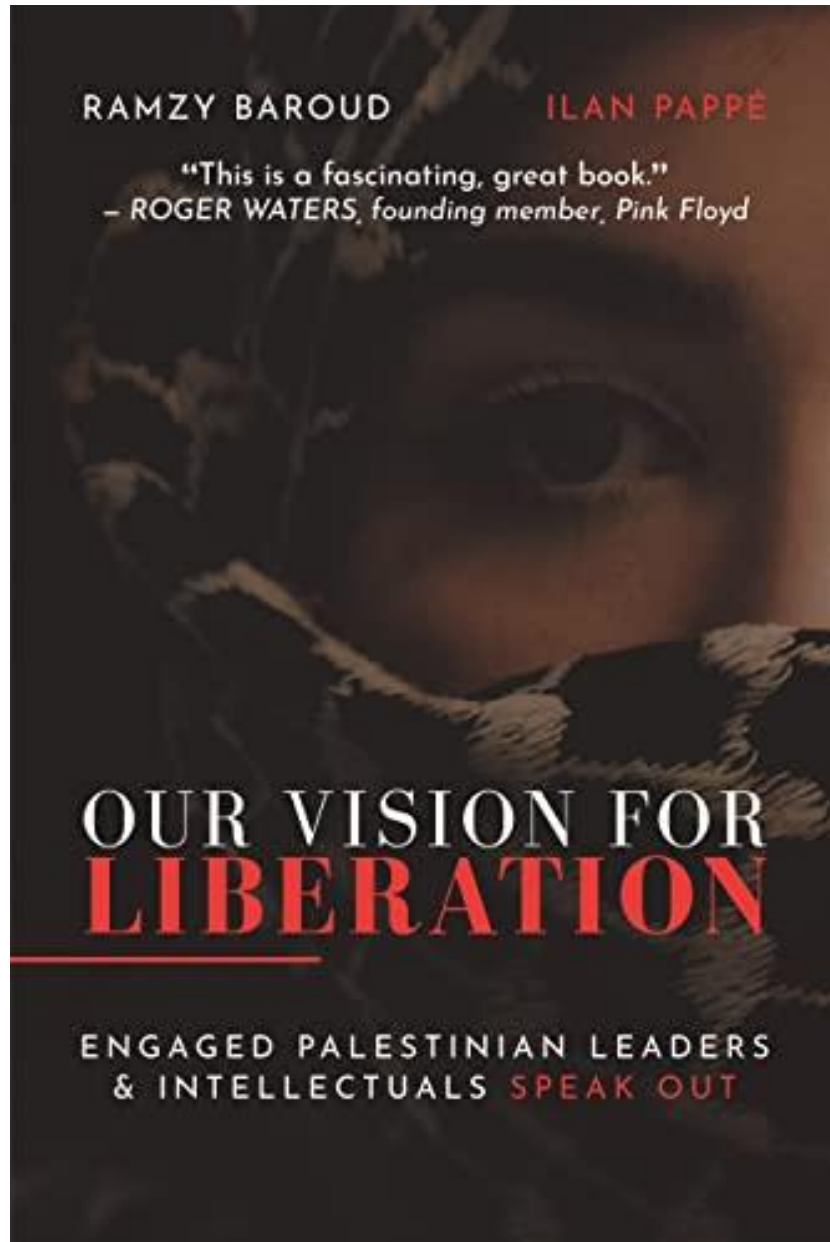
Ministers run departments which interface with Israel like Foreign Affairs, Immigration, Agriculture, etc. You can find the relevant ministry and controlling Minister's contact details [here](#).



# Our Vision for Liberation

This is an outstanding book which documents what liberation looks like from Palestinian viewpoints.

A book review by Christchurch-based Lois Griffiths is [here](#)



It is presented by outstanding Palestinian author and activist Ramzy Baroud (who toured Aotearoa New Zealand several years back) and renowned Israeli historian Ilan Pappé. It is a not-to-be-missed publication!

We have purchased 50 copies for PSNA supporters and we are selling these at \$35 per copy to cover our costs. To get your copy simply deposit \$35 in our bank account here:

Account name: PALESTINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK  
Account number: 38-9015-0849542-00

And then email [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz) with your address and we will get your copy in the mail!  
Looking forward to hearing from you!

## In conversation with Michael Lynk



Michael Lynk has just stood down as United National Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He did a fantastic job in promoting support for Palestinian human rights and in his last report he called out Israel for its apartheid policies against Palestinians. You can register for the event [here](#).

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## Important stories from the Web

- Israel will not investigate the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh [here](#)
- Shireen Abu Akleh and Israeli propaganda [here](#)
- The Nakba doesn't disappear down under [here](#)
- The imperial curse that continues to haunt the Middle East [here](#)
- Israeli forces use Palestinian girl as human shield [here](#)
- Anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism [here](#)
- Canadian agency rules "produce of Israel" label violates Canadian law [here](#)
- Israel's policy "Kill the messenger and attack the mourners" [here](#)
- Israel's police are storm troopers [here](#)

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## Reminder: Dates for Palestine Solidarity activity in 2022

28 Mar – 4 Apr	Israel Apartheid Week
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	Nakba 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)
16-18 Sep	40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres
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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## 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).

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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)

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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="#">PSN Bay of Islands</a>	email
Whangarei	<a href="#">PSN Whangarei</a>	Facebook
Auckland	<a href="#">PSN 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="#">PSN Palmerston North</a>	email
New Plymouth	<a href="#">PSN Taranaki</a>	Facebook
Whanganui	<a href="mailto:Whanganui@PSNA.nz">Whanganui@PSNA.nz</a>	email
Wellington	<a href="#">PSN Wellington</a>	email
Nelson	<a href="#">Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine</a>	Facebook
Christchurch	<a href="#">PSN Christchurch</a>	Facebook
Dunedin	<a href="#">Dunedin for Justice in Palestine</a>	Facebook
Invercargill	<a href="#">PSN 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](#)