



6 Pipiri 2022

6 June 2022

Newsletter No 72

Boycott the Doc Edge Festival and help get this Israeli propaganda film out of the 2022 Doc Edge Film Festival!



“Dead Sea Guardians” – Film as propaganda

Israel has an international programme of propaganda to gain “legitimacy” and “normalise” its brutal oppression of Palestinians. Doc Edge has become part of this propaganda drive.

“Dead-Sea Guardians” – the one Israeli film the Israeli Embassy in New Zealand is sponsoring in the Doc Edge festival – claims to centre on a swim across the Dead Sea **“from Jordan to Israel”** but in fact is a swim **“from Jordan to the Occupied Palestinian Territories”**. (Kalia Beach, where the swim ends, is in the Occupied West Bank – part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories) Israel itself is another 30 kilometres away across Palestinian land.

The Occupied Palestinian Territories were to be part of a Palestinian state but Israel has prevented this by building hundreds of illegal Jewish-only settlements across the area and brought in 600,000 Israeli settlers. Now they claim it is part of Israel.

The Aotearoa New Zealand government, and the entire international community, do not support Israeli claims to the Occupied West Bank but Doc Edge, who say they selected the film for the festival, is happy to promote the crude propaganda lie that this is part of Israel.

This film wants to literally “wipe Palestine from the map”

Can you imagine the outcry if a festival film wanted to “wipe Israel off the map”?

More background to the issue is [here](#). And the call to boycott the festival from PSNA is [here](#) and from Palestinians in Aotearoa Co-ordinating Committee here is [here](#)

Take action now to have this film removed from the festival!

Write to the Doc Edge organisers/patron and Festival Board using the template below or create your own message.



Dan Shanan



Alex Lee



Rachael Penman



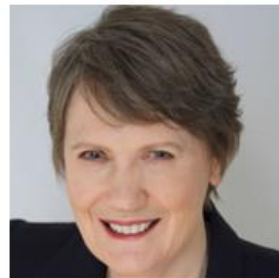
Glenn Johnstone—Board Chair



Deborah Hart



Cameron McGregor



Helen Clark—Patron

To:

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Kia ora koutou,

Please remove the Israeli propaganda film “Dead Sea Guardians” from the Doc Edge film festival.

Any film which renames the “Occupied Palestinian Territories” as “Israel” is crude propaganda for Israel’s attempts to “wipe Palestine from the map” of the Middle East.

No government recognises the Occupied Palestinian Territories as part of Israel.

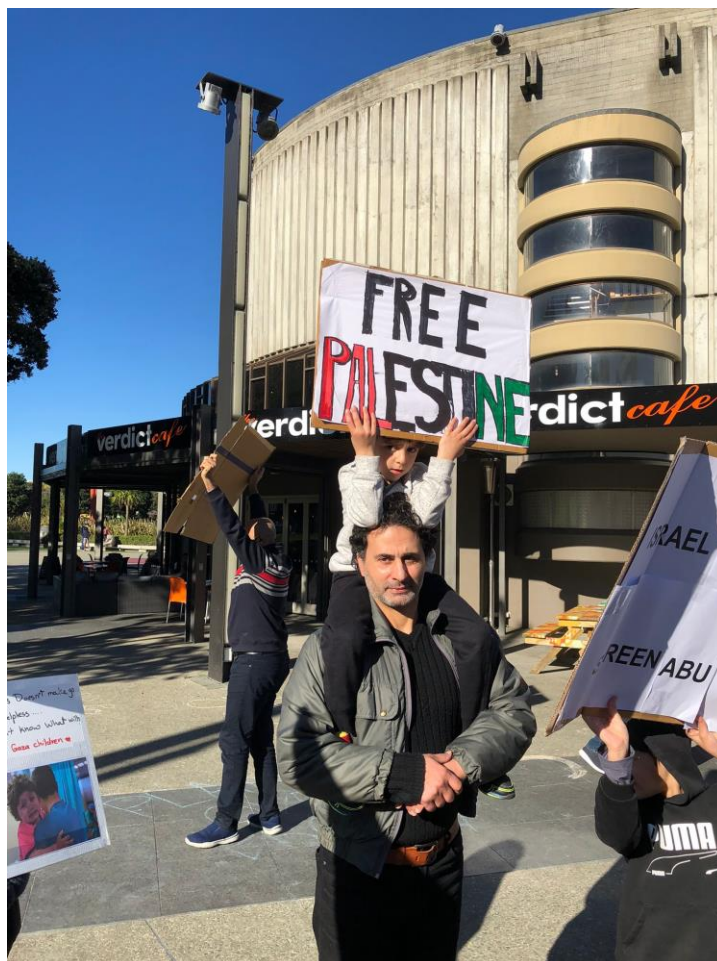
Would you screen a film which tried to “wipe Israel off the map”?

Please withdraw this film and remove the Israeli Embassy logo from the list of financial supports for the festival.

Please respond urgently.

<your name>

Palmerston North protests the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh



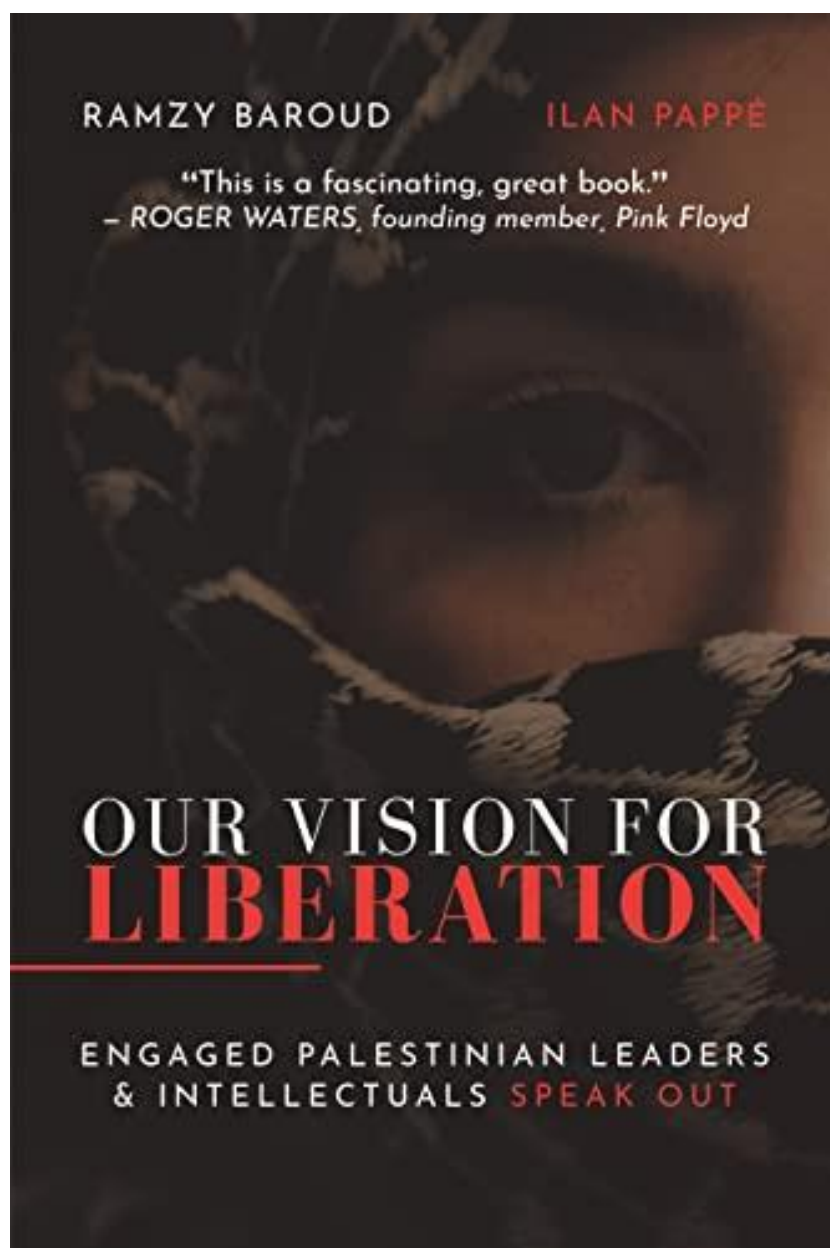
At the Palmerston North protest against the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh

Media report of the Palmerston North protest is [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 with your address and we will get your copy in the mail!
Looking forward to hearing from you!

For Israelis, the future is impossible to see

This is an important piece to read from courageous Israeli journalist Gideon Levy. We are printing it in full here because it is behind a paywall online.



[Gideon Levy](#)

*The writer, Gideon Levy is a Haaretz columnist and a member of the newspaper's editorial board. Levy joined Haaretz in 1982, and spent four years as the newspaper's deputy editor. He was the recipient of the Euro-Med Journalist Prize for 2008; the Leipzig Freedom Prize in 2001; the Israeli Journalists' Union Prize in 1997; and The Association of Human Rights in Israel Award for 1996. His new book, *The Punishment of Gaza*, has just been published by Verso.*

A society cannot go far with its head buried in the sand, and will certainly be unable to cope with the real challenges confronting it. If there is one thing completely missing from the public agenda in Israel, it is the long-term view. Israel does not look ahead, not even by half a generation.

Children are important in Israel, and the time and energy devoted to them may substantially exceed what is typical in most other societies, yet no one talks about what lies ahead for them or for their own future children. There is not a single Israeli, not one, who knows where his country is headed.

Ask any ordinary Israeli or any politician, any journalist or scientist, from the political centre or the right or the left: where are you going? How will your country look in another 20 years? Or 50? They can't even describe what 10 years from now might be like. Few Israelis could even say where they would like their country to be going, apart from empty slogans about peace and security and prosperity.

Troubling question

Also very instructive is the one question that does arise about the long term: will Israel still exist in another 20 or 50 years? That is all you will hear queried in Israel about the future. And meanwhile a different question - Will there ever be peace? - which a generation or two ago was omnipresent, is no longer on the agenda and almost never asked.

There are very few places where people ask whether or not their country will exist a few decades hence. People don't ask that in Germany or Albania, or in Togo or in Chad. This question may not be pertinent for Israel either - a powerfully armed regional power, impressively well-connected, with such technological prowess and such prosperity, the darling of the West.

Note the incredible efforts Israelis expend to obtain a second passport for themselves and their children - any passport

Yet consider the fact that so many Israelis continue to ask this question, more often lately than ever. Note the incredible efforts Israelis expend to obtain a second passport for themselves and their children - any passport! Let it be Portuguese or Lithuanian, the main thing is to have some option beyond an Israeli passport, as if an Israeli passport is some kind of temporary permit nearing its expiration date, as if it weren't possible to go on renewing it forever.

All of that suggests that the Israeli habit of burying their heads in the sand about the future of their country disguises a deep-seated, and possibly very realistic, fear about what the future may hold.

Israelis are afraid of the future of their country. They brag about their country's power and ability, a righteous nation, a chosen people, a light unto the nations; they are exceedingly boastful about their army, about their skills, while at the same time a primordial fear gnaws at their innards.

The future of their country is hidden from them, shrouded in mist. They like to talk in religious terms about eternity, "a united Jerusalem for eternity" and "God's eternal promise to Israel", while deep down they have no clue what will be happening to their country tomorrow or, at the latest, the day after that.

Self-delusion provides no answer

The name of the game is repression, denial, self-delusion, on a scale unknown in any other society that comes to mind. Just as for most Israelis there is no occupation, and definitely no apartheid, despite the mountains of evidence towering higher all the time - so, for most Israelis, tomorrow is not a thing. Tomorrow is not a thing in terms of the environment or climate change in Israel; tomorrow is not a thing in terms of relations with the other nation living alongside us with our knee on its throat.

Just try asking Israelis what it is going to be like here one day with a Palestinian majority between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, and in the best case you'll get nothing but a shrug. Where is it all headed? Will we live forever by the sword? Is it worth the price?

What you'll discover is that - guess what? - Israelis have never asked themselves this question before and no one has ever queried them about it before, either. Their expression will tell you that they've never heard such a strange question. In any event, there will be no answer. Israelis have no answer.

This situation is very unhealthy, of course. A society cannot go far with its head buried in the sand, and will certainly be unable to cope with the real challenges confronting it. The occupation, which more than anything else is what defines Israel today, presents more than a few challenges - with which Israel refuses to grapple. What will happen with the occupation? Where will it take the two societies, occupier and occupied, Israeli and Palestinian? Can the occupation go on forever?

Until recently, I was convinced that the occupation cannot last forever. History has taught us that a people fighting to be free generally wins and that rotten regimes, like the military occupation of the Palestinian people by Israel, collapse of their own accord, crumbling internally from the decay that always pervades them. But as the Israeli occupation drags on and its end continually recedes, doubts have riven my once-solid conviction that something will surely happen soon to bring down the occupation, like a tree that looks robust but has rotted from within.

The most frightening case in point is that of America and the Native Americans, a story of a conquest that became permanent, with the conquered herded onto reservations where they have independence and self-determination only in theory and their national rights are ignored.

Indefinite occupation

In other words, there are indeed occupations that go on indefinitely, defying the odds and all the predictions, persisting and persisting until a conquered people stops being a nation and becomes an anthropological curiosity living in its cage on a reservation. This happens when the occupation is particularly powerful and the conquered are especially weak and the world loses interest in their fate. A future like that now looms over the Palestinians. They are at their most perilous hour since the Nakba in 1948.

Divided, isolated, lacking strong leadership, bleeding at the side of the road and slowly losing their most precious asset in terms of the solidarity they aroused all over the world, especially in the global south.

Yasser Arafat was a global icon; there was nowhere on earth that did not know his name. No Palestinian leader today even comes close. Worse yet, their cause is gradually disappearing from the world's agenda as it pivots to pressing issues like migration, the environment and the war in Ukraine. The world is tired of the Palestinians, the Arab world tired of them long ago and the Israelis were never interested in them. That could still change, but the current trends are deeply disheartening.

Part of the world has simply lost interest, and the rest clings to the formula of a two-state solution as if it were sanctified by religious edict

Another [Nakba](#) on the 1948 model would not seem a realistic option for Israel at the present time; the second Nakba is an ongoing one that creeps along insidiously all the time, but without drama. There are certainly those in Israel who toy with the idea that under the cloak of some future war, Israel could "finish the job" only partially completed in 1948. Threatening voices in that key have sounded louder lately but they remain a minority in Israeli discourse.

Continue with the settlements? Why not? Most Israelis just do not care. They have never been to the settlements, will never go there and couldn't care less whether Evyatar is evacuated or not.

The struggle has long since moved to the international front. The crucial shift will come only from there, as happened in South Africa. But part of the world has simply lost interest, and the rest clings to the formula of a two-state solution as if it were sanctified by religious edict. Yet, most decision-makers already know that the two-state solution is long dead, if in fact it ever lived and breathed.

Equality is the path

The only exit from this depressing impasse is by creating a new discourse, a discourse of rights and equality. People must stop singing the songs of yesteryear and embrace a new vision. For the international community, this should be obvious; for the Israelis and to a lesser extent the Palestinians, the idea is revolutionary, threatening, and exceedingly painful.

Equality

Equal rights from the river to the sea. One person, one vote. So basic and yet so revolutionary. This path requires a parting of the ways with Zionism and the rejection of Jewish supremacy, and letting go of the entire self-definition of both peoples - but it represents the only ray of hope.

In Israel until just a few years ago this idea was viewed as subversive, treasonous and illegitimate. It is still viewed that way but with somewhat less force. It has become mentionable. It now remains for civil societies in the West and then the politicians to embrace the change. Most of them already know that this is the only solution left, but are afraid to admit it lest they lose the magic formula for a continued Israeli occupation provided by the now dead two-state solution.

The present is deeply discouraging, the future no less so. And yet to persist in thinking that something can still be hoped for, some action can still be taken, is of the utmost importance. The worst thing that could happen in this part of the world would be for everyone to lose interest in what happens here and resign themselves to the current reality.

That must not be.

Important stories from the Web

- Wellington mayor refuses meeting to explain decision to refuse to fly Palestinian flag on Nakba Day [here](#)
- Israeli's paroxysm of Judeo-hate: Richard Silverstein [here](#)
- PACC call to Boycott Doc Edge Film Festival [here](#)
- The Australia political parties and their policies on Palestine [here](#)
- Richard Falk on the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh [here](#)

Reminder: Dates for Palestine Solidarity activity in 2022

28 Mar – 4 Apr	<i>Israel Apartheid Week</i>
30 Mar	<i>Land Day Palestine</i>
5 Apr	<i>Palestinian Childs Day</i>
9 Apr	<i>Deir Yassin massacre - Irgun Terrorism - 107-120 Palestinian men, women and children massacred</i>
17 Apr	<i>Palestinian Prisoners Day</i>
11 May	<i>World Kufiya Day</i>
15 May	<i>Nakba Day – marking the mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Palestine in 1948</i>
5 Jun	<i>Nakba Day - Start of 1967 War - Land Grab – Invasion of Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza, Egypt and Syria - 5 June 1967 – 10 June 1967</i>
20 Jun	<i>Attack on Gaza - 6–21 May 2021 (2 weeks and 1 day)</i>
16-18 Sep	<i>40th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres</i>
28 Sep	<i>Second Intifada - 28 Sept 2000 – 8 Feb 2005</i>
2 Nov	<i>Balfour Declaration</i>
29 Nov	<i>United Nations - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People</i>
8 Dec	<i>"First Intifada - 8 Dec 1987 – 13 Sept 1993</i>

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*)

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 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
 - ❖ PSNA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/
 - ❖ PSNA email: 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	www.PSNA.nz	
Chair – John Minto	Chair@PSNA.nz	
Secretary – Neil Scott	Secretary@PSNA.nz	

Regional Groups

Bay of Islands	PSN Bay of Islands	email
Whangarei	PSN Whangarei	Facebook
Auckland	PSN Auckland – Tamaki Makaurau	Website
Hamilton	Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato	Facebook
Tauranga	Tauranga Moana 4 Palestine	Facebook
Napier/Hastings	Aotearoa Standing with Palestine	Facebook
Palmerston North	PSN Palmerston North	email
New Plymouth	PSN Taranaki	Facebook
Whanganui	Whanganui@PSNA.nz	email
Wellington	PSN Wellington	email
Nelson	Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine	Facebook
Christchurch	PSN Christchurch	Facebook
Dunedin	Dunedin for Justice in Palestine	Facebook
Invercargill	PSN Invercargill	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](#)