



# Palestine

Solidarity Network

# Aotearoa

22 October 2019

## Newsletter No 9

Kia ora

We need you this Saturday!

Things are quieting down a bit from a hectic two months but we have a big weekend coming up and we need your help! We want to have 10 centres around New Zealand join the International day of action against PUMA this Saturday.

### Boycott PUMA - International Day of Action – this Saturday 26th October

Across the world PUMA is facing protests this Saturday because it sponsors the Israel Football Association (IFA) which includes football teams that are based in illegal settlements and hosts matches on land stolen from Palestinians.

Here is the leaflet for the day of action:

By sponsoring the Israel Football Association (IFA), Puma is endorsing the continued ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. Israel uses sport to whitewash its crimes and normalise the status of illegal settlements.

As the main international sponsor of the IFA, Puma is lending its brand to cover up and sportwash Israel's human rights abuses, including against Palestinian footballers.

Until they end their sponsorship of the IFA, join us in boycotting Puma and calling on Puma-sponsored teams to drop Puma.

**BOYCOTT**  
GIVE **PUMA** THE BOOT

 **Palestine**  
Solidarity Network  
**Aotearoa**  
[WWW.PSNA.NZ](http://www.psn.nz)



Every Israeli settlement in the west bank, including East Jerusalem, is illegal, and a war crime under international law.

Israel's settlements contribute to serious human rights abuses and are a direct cause for restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement, access to natural resources, and ability to build homes and conduct business.

PUMA's sponsorship of the IFA legitimises and gives international cover to Israel's illegal settlements.

We aim to have 10 centres around New Zealand support this International Day of Action. Join your local PSNA group in a Boycott PUMA protest in your area – see details at the end of this newsletter.

## **Reporting on Dr Salman Abu Sitta's visit**

We were delighted to host a two-day visit by Dr Abu Sitta to Wellington and Auckland. He is a very warm, gracious and passionate advocate for the Palestinian right of return to their land and homes stolen from them in the ongoing Nakba ("catastrophe") He was travelling with his daughter Rania.

Dr Abu Sitta has left us with many fabulous resources to help understand Palestine prior to 1948.

In Wellington he had meetings with the Race Relations Conciliator, church leaders, Foreign Affairs officials and was hosted to a dinner at parliament in his honour.



MPs at the dinner were Harete Hipango, National MP for Whanganui, Tamati Coffey, Labour MP for Waiariki, Duncan Webb, Labour MP for Christchurch Central and Green Party MP Golriz Ghahraman.

We had very little success getting Dr Abu Sitta interviewed on mainstream media but his excellent interview on Radio Waatea is [here](#).

## Julie Webb-Pullman tour

Julie has finished her tour of New Zealand but is continuing to attend meetings and raise funds to employ further war crimes investigators in GAZA.

So far she has raised approx. NZ\$4,500 towards a goal of US\$6,000. Please consider donating to this critically important campaign. Details of the bank account etc are on this flyer.

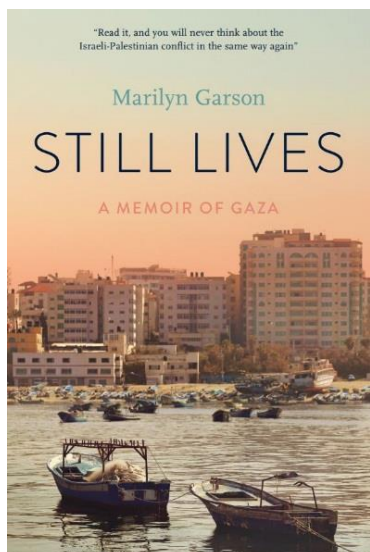
**YOU CAN HELP INVESTIGATE WAR CRIMES IN  
GAZA**

**GAZA-BASED NEW ZEALAND JOURNALIST AND WAR  
CRIMES INVESTIGATOR JULIE WEBB-PULLMAN IS  
TOURING NEW ZEALAND TO RAISE FUNDS TO EMPLOY  
MORE WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATORS IN GAZA.**

**DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**  
ACCOUNT NAME: PALESTINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK  
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 38 9015 0849542 02  
REFERENCE: GAZA

**TOUR ORGANISED BY PALESTINE SOLIDARITY  
NETWORK AOTEAROA**  
**WWW.PSNA.NZ**

## Marilyn Garson - a new book on life in Gaza



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

Marilyn Garson was on the TV1 Breakfast programme on Monday morning. It can be accessed On Demand at 2hr 19.29 mins into the show <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/breakfast/live>

Marilyn wrote the book after spending 4 years living in Gaza.

You can purchase a book through [www.marilyngarson.com](http://www.marilyngarson.com)

Marilyn co-authored this [excellent article](#) in the New Zealand Herald in February this year.

## Delegations to Members of Parliament

More MPs are being visited every week but we still have a long way to go...

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?

We are aiming to cover all government MPs by the end of this year BUT TO DO THIS WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you can please email [secretary@PSNA.nz](mailto:secretary@PSNA.nz) for your local MP.

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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

## 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](mailto: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>

## 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](mailto: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.

## **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)

## **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 in 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](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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/)
  - NZ Palestine Solidarity Network email: [admin@PalestineSolidarityNZ.net](mailto:admin@PalestineSolidarityNZ.net)
- Keep Updated on our Facebook pages and websites (listed below)

Regional	
Whangarei	<a href="#">Freedom &amp; Peace for Palestine from Whangarei</a>
Auckland	<a href="#">PSNA – Auckland – Tamaki Makaurau</a>
Hamilton	<a href="#">Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato</a>
Tauranga	<a href="#">Tauranga Moana 4 Palestine</a>
Napier/Hastings	<a href="#">Aotearoa Standing with Palestine</a>
Palmerston North	<a href="#">PSNA Palmerston North</a>
Wellington	<a href="#">Wellington Palestine</a>
Nelson	<a href="#">Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine</a>
Christchurch	<a href="#">PSNA Christchurch</a>
Dunedin	<a href="#">Dunedin for Justice in Palestine</a>
Invercargill	<a href="#">PSNA Invercargill</a>

<b>New Zealand Affiliates</b>	
	<a href="#">Boycott Divestment and Sanctions NZ</a>
	<a href="#">Palestine Human Rights</a>
	<a href="#">Kia Ora Gaza</a>
	<a href="#">Letters for Palestine</a>
	<a href="#">Auckland Peace Action</a>
	<a href="#">Global Peace and Justice Auckland</a>

**John Minto**

**Spokesperson**

**Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa**