



28 Poutū-te-rangi 2023

28 March 2023

Newsletter No 92

While the media continues to focus on demonstrations in Israel against the new far right government's plans to weaken the courts, the racist, apartheid regime continues its rampage against Palestinians. Finance Minister, best described as a fascist as well as a racist, has said [Palestinians don't exist](#); demolition of Palestinian property [has doubled](#) and Jewish radicals, emboldened by their racist leadership have [attacked Jerusalem's Church of Gethsemane](#) during Sunday's worship.

On the positive side our government has become more vocal in pointing out Israel's breaches of international law and an opinion piece on Mondoweiss suggests the [Israeli protests have opened a crack in apartheid](#) and our job is to widen it.

75th anniversary of the Nakba International Day of action – Saturday 13 May



Saturday 13 May is the international day of action marking the 75th anniversary of the Nakba ("catastrophe" in Arabic) which marks the **ethnic cleansing of more than 700,000 Palestinians** from their land and homes by Israeli militias in 1948. The Nakba continues today with ethnic cleansing, house demolitions and land theft across Palestine.

Marches and demonstrations will be held across the world and here in Aotearoa New Zealand, because we are close to the international dateline, we will be **the first country to be taking action**.

Mark this day in your calendar now – details of protest activity around the country will be in the next newsletters leading up to **Saturday 13 May**.

New Animated Film Explainer on Israeli Apartheid



For more than seven decades, Israel has maintained a regime of institutionalized racial discrimination and domination over the Palestinian people as a whole. [Al-Haq's new animated film](#) titled, 'Israel's Settler Colonial Apartheid Regime: Segregating the Palestinian People,' explains the origins and evolution of Israeli apartheid.

The film accompanies a landmark Palestinian coalition [report](#): 'Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism,' which was launched by Al-Haq in November 2022.

<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/20931.html>

Aotearoa New Zealand government speaks out

← Tweet



Nanaia Mahuta ✨

@NanaiaMahuta

New Zealand government official

Aotearoa NZ is concerned by amendments to Israel's 2005 Disengagement Law that risk encouraging further settlement activity in occupied Palestinian territories. Such moves are provocative, undermining the 2-state solution & recent work to de-escalate tensions in Sharm el-Sheikh.

17:37 · 23 Mar 23 · 4,464 Views

17 Retweets 1 Quote 85 Likes



It's good to see the Aotearoa New Zealand government speaking out more frequently and clearly on Palestine. Israel's new far-right apartheid regime of racists and fascists has reinstituted settlements Israel withdrew from in 2005. This is another outrageous provocation to Palestinians and the international community. More details are [here](#)

An important thank you message to the minister now with just a few clicks...



*Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz*

Kia ora Ms Mahuta,

Thank You

I was very pleased to see you send a clear message of concern to the Israeli government regarding their reinstatement of settlements they disengaged from in 2005. As you pointed out this will encourage Israeli settlers to expand further illegal settlement building on Palestinian land.

I urge you to keep speaking out like this because Palestinians suffer under a vicious apartheid regime which is backed up with a brutal military occupation.

You are the biggest voice Aotearoa New Zealand has to speak out on our behalf. Please keep using it on behalf of the Palestinian struggle for justice and self-determination.

(Your name)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please consider stopping and sending your email before reading on.

It will take less than 2 minutes.

Also, please consider BCCing Secretary@PSNA.nz so we can track how many emails the minister receives.

Or forward your email to me after you have sent it to the Prime Minister.

With each newsletter, the number of emails sent grows.

The more emails we send, the more traction we get.

Nga mihi

Neil (Secretary)

Is your property an “apartheid free zone”?



These are popping up on letterboxes and fences all over the country – to get your “Apartheid free zone” coreflute to stick on your letterbox or your front fence just deposit \$5 in:

Account Name: Palestine Solidarity Network
Account Number: 38 9015 0849542 00

and send an email to secretary@PSNA.nz with your address and we’ll send you one - or as many as you’d like for your neighbours and friends....

Normalisation with Israel – whose agenda?



This excellent webinar was held on 11 March – You can watch it online [here](#)

Israel Apartheid Week

Thanks to everyone who shared our posters on social media – we had excellent positive responses from around the country – even from South Africa where our posters were adapted for use in their Israeli Apartheid Week activities! Feel free to keep sharing them. The Desmond Tutu one is below. If you can't find them all go to [this link](#) to our previous newsletter.

What did Archbishop Desmond Tutu say about Israel?

Nobel Peace prize winner and South African Archbishop, Desmond Tutu said "I have witnessed the racially segregated roads and housing in the Holy Land that reminded me so much of the conditions we experienced in South Africa under apartheid"

He said international solidarity such as BDS – Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions – is critical to ending injustices like Israeli apartheid against Palestinians.

"We could not have achieved our democracy without the help of people around the world, who through... non-violent means, such as boycotts and divestment, encouraged their governments and other corporate actors to reverse decades-long support for the apartheid regime!"



Regarding Israeli policies Tutu said:

"Call it apartheid and boycott"

"Those who turn a blind eye to injustice actually perpetuate injustice. If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."



The pro-Israel lobby goes nastier than usual at Auckland University

Earlier this month a well-paid, pro-Israel propagandist **Yoseph Haddad** turned up at Auckland University to try to do a hatchet job on **Students for Justice in Palestine**.

Firstly, Haddad posted on twitter to say he had met with "senior officials" at our largest universities and "we agreed on a number of steps that will allow for a counter-stage for the Israeli side".



A few days later Haddad posted a video on YouTube with an “interview” with a member of Students for Justice in Palestine and a PSNA national committee member in the hope of disrupting and undermining the campaign for Palestinian human rights and criticism of Israel.

Instead of an “interview” it amounted to a 19-minute tirade with finger-pointing, table-slapping and general bully-boy behaviour. True to form for the pro-Israel lobby, Haddad did not reveal he was recording and filming the conversation. The microphone was hidden behind his lapel and the video recording was done unobtrusively from a distance by **Perry Trotter – a co-founder of the Israel Institute**. The well-known [anti-Palestinian racist and Auckland University lecturer, Dr David Cumin](#), tweeted in support of Haddad. No surprises there.

It was a crude attempt to harass, entrap and encourage abuse against students standing up for Palestinian human rights.

Mr Haddad is a highly-paid pro-Israeli propagandist who has the sole objective of undermining and discouraging criticism of Israel.

It turns out Haddad had not met with “senior officials” at Auckland University and had received no assurances or made any agreement with the University as he claimed.

Students for Justice in Palestine put out an [excellent statement](#) in response to Haddad. Auckland University has since provided support for the students abused by Haddad and Haddad’s photo has been passed to the university security staff so action can be taken if he turns up again.

In addition, Auckland University discussed Haddad’s abusive behaviour with the Auckland Police.

Israelis Know That True Democracy Will Spell the End of Zionism

(We sometimes reprint entire articles because they are important and are often behind a paywall so can’t be read from a link by most supporters. Here is one from Israeli columnist Gideon Levy writing in Israel’s Haaretz newspaper last week)



The greatest threat facing Israel is the democratic threat. There is no greater danger to the regime in Israel than its turning into a democracy. There is no society that opposes democracy like Israeli society. There are plenty of regimes opposed to democracy, but not a free society. In Israel the people, the sovereign, is opposed to democracy. This is why the current struggle, which presumes to be about democracy, is a masquerade. It is designed to maintain the pretence of democracy.

To most Israelis, [real democracy](#) is tantamount to “the destruction of Israel.” They’re right. True democracy will bring an end to the [Jewish supremacy](#) they call Zionism, and an end to the state they call Jewish and democratic. Therefore the threat of democracy is the existential threat, against which all Jewish Israelis unite: Should democracy be instituted [for all the state’s residents](#), it will bring an end to the pretend democracy.

Therefore, the [leaders of the protest](#) make sure to steer clear of any true contact with democracy, lest the entire thing collapse like a house of cards. It is not due to racism or hatred of Arabs that they don’t want [Palestinian flags or protesters](#) – they are good people, after all – but only due to the understanding that raising the question of apartheid will render their struggle ludicrous.

The mere mention of the idea of [one democratic state](#), in which one person equals one vote and all are equal, evokes an instantaneous and hostile reaction among liberal and conservative Israelis alike: “What does that have to do with anything?” followed by “It’s never worked anywhere,” ending with “destruction of Israel.” No less. There is no other country whose citizens view becoming a democracy as tantamount to destruction. There is no other fight for democracy that utterly ignores the state’s tyranny in its own backyard.

As I write these words, early Wednesday morning, [the protesters’ shouts](#) in front of the Eretz Israel Museum thunder in the background, “Democracy, democracy.” As legendary left-wing leader Moshe Sneh once famously put it, in notes for his own speech: “Raise your voice here, as the argument is weak.” Raise your voices, comrades. Even if all your demands – as justified as any – are fully met, Israel will not become a democracy.

When democracy is shouted with pathos by hoarse throats, while a half hour drive away from the demonstration [soldiers snatch civilians from their beds](#) night after night with no judicial warrant; a town is under curfew because it fell victim to a pogrom; a thousand people are in prison without trial and rock-throwing teens are shot to death as a matter of course, the hypocrisy is impossible to stomach.

The most terrible articles of Justice Minister Yariv [Levin’s plan](#) are glorious monuments to democracy compared to the occupation regime. Even if the Likud Central Committee were to choose all the Supreme Court Justices, one for each Likud voting district, that [new court would be a beacon of world justice](#) compared to the military tribunals. And how can you ignore the military tribunals, when fighting for Israel’s justice system? Are they not part of the justice system? Are they outsourcing? A foreign legion? Are they not where many of Israel’s judges take their first steps? Or shall we repeat the lies about an emergency situation and temporary state of things?

Keep protesting vigorously, do all you can to topple this bad government, but don’t utter the name of democracy in vain. You aren’t fighting for democracy. You’re fighting for a better government in your view. That’s important, it’s legitimate and it’s impressive. But had you been democrats, you would fight for a democratic state, which Israel isn’t – and which you aren’t.

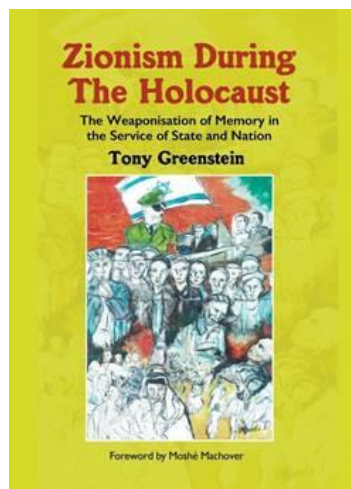
You’re fighting against a horrible government, which must be fought because it is destroying the fabric of society with terrifying speed. It is demolishing our good lives, [our flourishing economy](#), science, culture, the justice system and also the most sophisticated military in the world. Shame, shame, shame. It must be fought; and when you have time, fight for democracy.

Thanks and appreciation to PSNA



Out of the blue this week came this note of thanks and appreciation from acknowledgement from **Essam Youssef, President Director of Miles of Smiles** – the humanitarian aid organisation for Gaza. Kia Ora Gaza has had a partnership/collaboration with MoS since the 2012 international land convoy to Gaza, including co-sponsorship of an ambulance on the November 2021 solidarity convoy of 37 new ambulances to Gaza, and the \$NZ10,000 donation by Kiwis for the recent MoS/Medics Worldwide medical aid convoy to Gaza - all missions generously supported by PSNA and PHRC members.

Zionism During the Holocaust



Here is a new important book focusing on the links between leading Zionists and leading Nazis during the holocaust.

More information and how you can purchase the book is [here](#) and a book review by the Electronic Intifada's Asa Winstanley is [here](#)

Don't forget to be on the lookout for this man...



The Israeli ambassador Ran Yaakoby is active around the country promoting positive messages about Israel's apartheid system against Palestinians.

We are keen to be there whenever he speaks to protest and call out Israel's racist apartheid policies.

If you find out about any speaking engagements Ran Yaakoby has please let us know by texting 027 4 APARTHEID (0274272784) or email apartheid-israel@psna.nz

Background

Back in the 1980s the New Zealand Anti-Apartheid movement launched a campaign to close the South Africa consulate in Wellington. A critical part of this campaign was to target the South African Consul General with public protest whenever he turned up to promote apartheid. The campaign was successful with the government forcing the closure of the consul-general's information service (its propaganda wing) In a fit of pique the South African government then closed its consulate entirely – a victory in the campaign to isolate South Africa's apartheid regime.

In 2023 the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa is launching a similar campaign to close apartheid Israel's embassy in Wellington. We need our supporters everywhere to help by letting us know whenever Ran Yaakoby is to speak and we will be there to protest. Help to spread the poster above among family, friends and work colleagues.

If you see him on the street give him a piece of your mind.

We will not stand by while the racist Israeli government continues its brutal oppression of Palestinians.

Petition to Close the Israeli Embassy

If you haven't signed our petition to close the Israeli embassy yet...

Scan and Sign here



Or Click and Sign here

<https://www.psna.nz/petition>

Israel's nuclear Inventory



A partial view of the Dimona nuclear power plant in Israel's Negev desert, September 2002.

AFP/ Thomas Coax. (Photo inserted)

Fact Sheet: Israel's Nuclear Inventory [here](#)

Important stories from the Web

General reading

- Nidal Khazem: profile of a slain resistance fighter [here](#)
- Israel's liberals need to support Palestinian rights if they care about democracy [here](#)
- What the Saudi-Iran deal means for Palestine, Israel, the U.S., and the Mideast [here](#)
- Why is the EU suddenly worried about Israeli democracy? [Here](#)
- The Israeli protests have opened a crack in apartheid. Our job is to widen it [here](#)
- Protests assist Israeli state propaganda [here](#)
- 'Til Kingdom Come unpacks the power and politics of Christian Zionism [here](#)
- The danger of treating Smotrich as an anomaly [here](#)
- Hezbollah, Hamas seek to exploit Israel's internal weakness to attack [here](#)
- Movie: The wrong sort of Jew [here](#)
- Israel is not, cannot be democratic based on Jewish superiority [here](#)
- Before Zionism: The shared life of Jews and Palestinians [here](#)

United States

- Gallup poll: support for Palestinians continues to grow among Democratic voters [here](#)
- State Department human rights report whitewashes Shireen Abu Akleh killing [here](#)
- Pro-Israel Lobby Doesn't Deserve Exemption From Criticism of Money in Politics [here](#)

Israeli brutality

- In Paris speech, Israel Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich claims Palestinians don't exist [here](#)
- Far-right Minister Smotrich: There's No Such Thing as the Palestinians [here](#)
- Demolition of Palestinian property doubles [here](#)
- In Paris speech, Israel Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich claims Palestinians don't exist [here](#)
- Enforcing Apartheid in the West Bank [here](#)
- Israeli Forces Shot Directly at Sheltering Civilians During Deadly West Bank Raid, Report Says [here](#)
- Jewish radicals attack Jerusalem's Church of Gethsemane during Sunday's worship [here](#)

Rachel Corrie – 20 years on



20 years later Rachel Corrie lives [here](#)

Rachel Corrie was killed in Gaza by the IDF. 20 years on, her parents are still fighting for justice [here](#)

Reminder: Dates for Palestine Solidarity activity in 2023

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.pсна.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
Hawkes Bay	PSNA-Hawkes Bay – Page PSNA-Hawkes Bay - Group	Facebook 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](#)