



12 Paenga-whāwhā 2023

12 April 2023

Newsletter No 93

Israeli attacks on Al Aqsa mosque

The last fortnight has seen a series of brutal, deliberately provocative Israeli attacks on Palestinian worshippers at Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Needless to say, Israel had no business interfering in Muslim worship at Al Aqsa, the third holiest shrine for Muslims after Mecca and Medina, and an area which is not under their authority or control. Despite this, Israeli attacks on Al Aqsa have intensified in recent years as the apartheid state strives to undermine all aspects of Palestinian life in Jerusalem. It is applying ethnic cleansing in slow motion.

Inevitably missile attacks on Israel from Gaza and Southern Lebanon followed and Israel has reveled in once again trying to portray itself to the world as the victim.



There is an [excellent 10-minute video](#) in which former Palestinian spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi more than held her own against a hostile BBC interviewer [here](#).

There is also an [excellent podcast produced by Al Jazeera](#) which backgrounds the increase in violence in the Middle East. Speakers on the podcast are:

- **Nour Odeh** – Political analyst and former spokeswoman for the Palestinian National Authority.
- **Uri Dromi** – Founder and president of the Jerusalem Press Club and a former spokesman for the Israel government.
- **Francesca Albanese** – United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Further background on the politics around Al Aqsa is covered in [this Al Jazeera podcast](#).

Media reporting over the past fortnight

Initially reporting here in New Zealand was reasonable and clearly identified Israel as the brutal racist aggressors attacking Palestinian civilians at worship. However, within a couple of days media reporting deteriorated dramatically with the “normal” appalling reporting taking over – painting Palestinians as terrorists and Israel as simply enforcing law and order.



At the heart of appalling reporting for a long time has been the BBC which slavishly and consistently screws the scrum in Israel's favour. The BBC does not report on the Middle East – it propagandises for Israel.

Journalist Jonathan Cook describes how the [BBC coverage is enabling Israeli violence](#) and UN Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian Territories, Francesca Albanese, called out the BBC's awful reporting in a tweet.



It's not just the BBC of course. For example the New York Times has been called out for [deliberately distorting the news to blame Palestinians for Al Aqsa mosque crisis](#).

It's not reporting – it's propaganda!

Why is the BBC important for Aotearoa New Zealand?

Unfortunately, here in Aotearoa New Zealand our media frequently and uncritically uses BBC reports to inform New Zealanders on the Middle East.

Radio New Zealand and Television New Zealand, our state broadcasters, are the worst offenders.

For example here are two BBC stories carried on RNZ this past week [here](#) and [here](#). They cover the deaths of three Jewish women in a terrorist attack in the occupied West Bank. The media should report such killings but there is no context whatever given for the illegal Jewish-only settlements at the heart in the occupied West Bank, Israel's military occupation across all Palestine, the daily ritual humiliation and debasement of Palestinians or its racist apartheid policies towards Palestinians – or as Israeli human rights groups B'Tselem describes it "[A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid](#)" Neither are there Palestinian voices in the above reports – they are typically absent from most Middle East reporting, or at best muted, compared to extensive quoting from racist Israeli leaders.

The BBC is happy to report the "What?" but not the "Why?"

Needless to say neither Radio New Zealand, nor TVNZ, has provided any such sympathetic coverage for the many dozens of Palestinians killed by Israel this year – including at least 16 Palestinian children. To the BBC, RNZ and TVNZ, murdered Palestinian children are simply statistics.

RNZ and TVNZ say they cannot ensure to cover all the complexities of the Middle East in every story and that people get a balanced view over time from their regular reporting.

This is not true. Their reliance on so much systematically-biased BBC reporting, and other sources which are often not much better, tells a different story. For example, references to Israel as an apartheid state – something attested to by every credible human rights groups – such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch – are always absent from any RNZ or TVNZ reporting and yet this is critical to help people understand what is going on in Palestine. Neither are there significant references to international law or United Nations resolutions – the tools which provide for a Middle East peace based on justice – the only peace possible.

Unlike their reporting on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, RNZ and TVNZ reporting on the Middle East leaves people confused and ready to blame both sides equally for the murder and mayhem unleashed by Israel on Palestinians and Palestinian resistance to the Israeli military occupation and all that entails.

Something you can do now with just a few clicks...



Richard Sutherland and Phil O'Sullivan

Copy and paste this letter to our state broadcasters, RNZ and TVNZ. The letter can be pasted directly into the TVNZ response form at the link below.

Richard Sutherland
Head of News
Radio New Zealand
rnz@rnz.co.nz

Phil O'Sullivan
Head of News and Current Affairs
Television New Zealand
<https://helptvnz.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>

Kia ora,

Request RNZ and TVNZ abandon using BBC reporting on the Middle East

Much of the recent reporting by Radio New Zealand and Television New Zealand on the Middle East has been appalling. In large part this is because RNZ and TVNZ rely on BBC reporting which is demonstrably and systematically biased in favour of Israeli perspectives.

For example here are two BBC stories carried on RNZ this past week [here](#) and [here](#). They cover the deaths of three Jewish women in a terrorist attack in the occupied West Bank. The media should report such killings but there is no context whatever given for the illegal Jewish-only settlements at the heart in the occupied West Bank, Israel's military occupation across all Palestine, its daily ritual humiliation and debasement of Palestinians or its racist apartheid policies towards Palestinians – as attested by every credible human rights group, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch or Israeli human rights groups B'Tselem which describes Israel as "[A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid](#)"

Neither are there any Palestinian voices in the above reports – they are typically absent from most Middle East reporting compared to the extensive quoting from racist Israeli leaders.

The BBC is happy to report the "What?" but not the "Why?"

Neither Radio New Zealand nor TVNZ has provided any such sympathetic coverage for the many dozens of Palestinians killed by Israel this year – including at least 16 Palestinian children. To the BBC, RNZ and TVNZ, it seems murdered Palestinian children are simply statistics.

Previously you have said you cannot ensure to cover all the complexities of the Middle East in every story and that people get a balanced view over time from ongoing reporting.

However your reliance on so much systematically-biased BBC reporting tells a different story. When journalism has hard-baked bias built into it then your readers, listeners and viewers are consistently and seriously misinformed.

As an important service to journalism and New Zealanders, I urge RNZ and TVNZ to no longer carry any BBC reports on the Middle East.

(Your name)

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Please consider stopping and sending your email before reading on.

It will take less than 2 minutes.

Also, please consider Bcc'ing Secretary@PSNA.nz so we can track how many emails RNZ and TVNZ receives.

Or forward your email to me after you have sent it to Richard and Phil.

With each newsletter, the number of emails sent grows.

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

Nga mihi

Neil (Secretary)

**75th anniversary of the Nakba
International Day of action – Saturday 13 May
Put it in your diary now!**

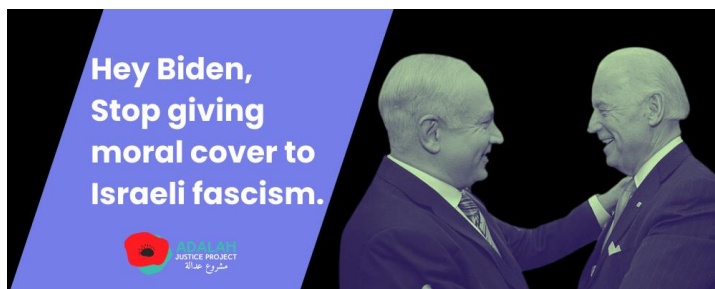


Saturday 13 May is the international day of action marking the 75th anniversary of the Nakba ("catastrophe" in Arabic) which marks the **ethnic cleansing of more than 700,000 Palestinians** from their land and homes by Israeli militias in 1948. The Nakba continues today with ethnic cleansing, house demolitions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

Adalah Justice Project – Petition calling for signatures



Tell Biden this sinister deal to create a private militia for a man already convicted of racist incitement is NOT A WIN for democracy [here](#)

Conversations with my immigrant parents



(L-R) Sameer and Wajd stand on the street with the Palestinian flag Photo: Saraïd de Silva & Julie Zhu

RNZ program

[Episode 2: Representation Matters - Conversations With My Immigrant Parents S3](#)

From Conversations With My Immigrant Parents, 6:00 am on 10 April 2023

Produced for RNZ by Saraïd de Silva and Julie Zhu | Made with the support of NZ On Air

Palestine is where the heart is for father Sameer and his daughters Wajd and Shahd. The family discuss the difficulties returning home, sisterhood, and what they learnt from Shortland Street.

Petition to parliament calling for New Zealand to recognise Palestine as a state



This petition has been organised by Kate Stone from Justice for Palestine. You can use the QR code in the picture above or [go to this link to sign the petition](#). Please sign and share.

Here are a few items from previous newsletters in case you missed them.

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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>

Is your property an “apartheid free zone”?

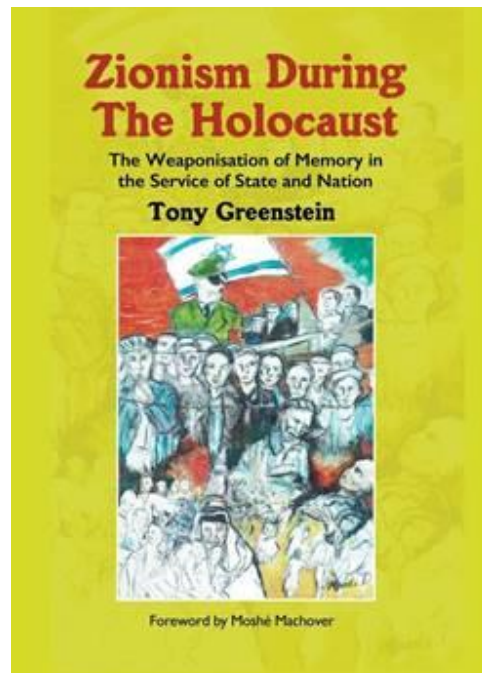


These are popping up on letterboxes and fences all over the country – to get your “Apartheid free zone” coreflute to stick on your letterbox or your front fence just deposit \$5 in:

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....

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

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>

Important stories from the Web

Attacks on Al Aqsa

- Israeli forces storm Al Aqsa and arrest over 300 worshippers [here](#)
- Al-Aqsa Mosque raid: How a night of worship became a night of Israeli brutality [here](#)
- Israel attacks Al-Aqsa two nights in a row, beating worshippers at holy site [here](#)
- UN condemns Israeli raid on Al Aqsa mosque [here](#)
- The far-right Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said Israelis “must” storm the mosque on Wednesday [here](#)
- Al-Aqsa raid: How BBC coverage is enabling Israeli violence [here](#)
- The New York Times deliberately distorts the news to blame Palestinians for Al Aqsa mosque crisis [here](#)
- World leaders condemn Israeli raid on Al Aqsa mosque [here](#)

Israeli protests against Netanyahu to protect Israel’s “democracy”

- More than democracy is at stake in Israeli protests [here](#)
- Say They’re Defending Freedom. Palestinians Know Better [here](#)
- Israel’s crisis is about who gets to play tyrant: the generals or religious thugs [here](#)
- Israel’s protest movement is bringing Netanyahu to his knees [here](#)
- Analysts say Palestinians will pay the price for Israeli “democracy” [here](#)

United Nations

- Sixty Rights Groups Urge United Nations Not to Adopt IHRA Definition of Antisemitism [here](#)

General

- Interview with Noam Chomsky on Palestine, climate change etc [here](#)

Gaza

- Palestine Centre for Human Rights – new report on serious repercussions on Gaza strip due to shortage of medical equipment [here](#)

Australia

- Freedom of Information request exposes Australia’s attempts to protect Israel on apartheid reports [here](#)

United States

- Israel fears US will push interim nuclear deal with Iran [here](#)

- Biden's disinclination to Netanyahu followed PM's accusation U.S. is funding demonstrations to 'topple' him [here](#)
- 'Precedent-setting': US lawmakers demand Biden probe Israel's use of US arms [here](#)
- Biden administration refuses to condemn Israeli storming Al Aqsa mosque and blocks UN Security Council statement [here](#)
- US media turn on Netanyahu finally for meddling in US policy [here](#)

Israeli racism and brutality

- Israel's Police Chief in Leaked Recording: 'Arabs Murder Each Other. It's in Their Nature' [here](#) (paywalled)
- Fake Friends: Leak Reveals Israeli Firms Turning Social Media Into Spy Tech [here](#)
- Soft gloves police treatment of Jewish protestors reveals Israeli racism [here](#)
- The law and the prophets offers a master class on Israel's control of Palestinians [here](#)
- Meet Avichai Buaron - the new Likud lawmaker who advocated for extermination camps for Israel's enemies [here](#)
- The Israeli right is planning to ban Palestinian parties – here's how! [here](#)

Reminder: Dates for Palestine Solidarity activity in 2023

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 th 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

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](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz)

(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](#)