



20 Pipiri 2023

20 June 2023

Newsletter No 98

RNZ Investigation of unauthorised edits of overseas wire stories draws in Palestine



Readers will be aware RNZ has set up an independent investigation of what CEO Paul Thompson described as [“pro-Kremlin garbage”](#) being inserted into overseas news reports before they were added to RNZ website.

Since then the issue of unauthorised edits has [widened to include stories about the Middle East with claims of some apparently “pro-Palestine” edits](#) making the stories biased.

The [pro-Israel lobby pounced claiming Israel was the victim](#) of misinformation while the ACT Party [demanding an independent inquiry](#) alongside what amounted to a nasty attack on Palestinians.

Here are two responses – the first from PACC (Palestinians in Aotearoa Co-ordinating Committee) challenging the ACT Party statement and the second from PSNA pointing to the “cruel irony” behind the alleged “pro-Palestinian bias” in the edits.

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Palestinians in Aotearoa Co-ordinating Committee (PACC)



14 June 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

RE: ACT Party leader's statement regarding Palestine stories on 13/06/2023

As Palestinian New Zealanders, we condemn David Seymour's, leader of ACT party, use of inflammatory and harmful language against our community in Aotearoa.

Coming largely from migrant and refugee and/ or Muslim background, the Palestinian community in Aotearoa faces an intersectional set of challenges including xenophobia and Islamophobia.

Additionally, the portrayal of Palestinians in media as 'angry', 'irrational', and 'violent' Arab/Muslim and militants turns into racism against members of our community, barriers to participation in society, and feelings of social exclusion. Those are all dangerous tropes that cause harm to the community. It is worth mentioning that among the 51 Muslims who were murdered in 15th of March terrorist attack, six were of Palestinian origin.

The use of inflammatory and mischaracterising language by David Seymour, in relation to Palestinians, promotes further exclusion of our community, and spurs extremism and verbal and physical hate against the community.

We condemn putting our community at equal footing with China in its treatment of Uyghurs, and Russia in its invasion of Ukraine. We also condemn the use of the word "propaganda", and the framing of "Palestinian-friendly" as an "appalling" evil act.

As a community of everyday New Zealanders, who share a Palestinian heritage, we expect from New Zealand's political parties mutual respect and a focus on policies and programmes that improve our lives, and to be kept away from political rhetoric that is harmful to our community.

About PACC

We are an inclusive group of Palestinians from a wide range of backgrounds and diverse experiences. We are non-denominational, independent, and politically unaffiliated in Aotearoa New Zealand, Palestine, or internationally. We promote respect for others, non-discrimination, equality, and social justice.

Our mission is to provide opportunities for the diverse Palestinian community in Aotearoa to participate in all aspects of the cultural, social, and political life, as well as provide opportunities for New Zealanders from all walks of life to engage with Palestinian experiences, perspectives, and culture. Our mission includes advocating for Palestinian human rights and enhancing relationships with Iwi, government ministers, human rights organisations, news agencies, social media, and the wider public in New Zealand.

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

14 June 2023

Media Release:

Cruel irony in claims RNZ reports are biased in favour of Palestine

“There is cruel irony in reports that Radio New Zealand has edited foreign news reports in favour of Palestinians”, says John Minto, National Chair of PSNA.

It’s ironic because Radio New Zealand reporting is consistently and systematically biased against Palestinians – in large part because RNZ relies significantly on BBC reporting which is methodically dreadful.

PSNA has raised this time and again with RNZ Head of News, Richard Sutherland, but to no obvious effect.

“Whatever tweaks may have been made to some news reports it can’t erase the ongoing RNZ misreporting from the Middle East that comes courtesy of the BBC”.

Systemic anti-Palestinian bias in RNZ reporting from the Middle East:

1. RNZ wire stories typically talk about the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem when they should be reported as the occupied West Bank, occupied Gaza and occupied East Jerusalem. “Occupied” is the status these territories have under international law and United Nations resolutions and NZ government policy and should be consistently reported as such.
2. BBC stories, and by default RNZ, consistently refer to Palestinians resisting occupation as Palestinian “militants” or “terrorists” or similar derogatory and dismissive descriptions.

We wouldn’t call Ukrainian teenagers throwing stones at occupying Russian soldiers as “militants” so why does RNZ think it’s OK to use this term to describe Palestinian teenagers throwing stones at Israeli occupation troops?

Under international law Palestinians have the right to resist Israel’s military occupation and should not be abused for doing so by RNZ. Palestinian resistance groups should be described as “resistance fighters” while Israeli soldiers should be described as “Israeli occupation soldiers”.

3. The BBC, and by default RNZ, will often give wide sympathetic coverage to Israelis killed by Palestinians but do not give similar sympathetic coverage to Palestinians killed, on a near daily basis, by the Israeli occupation.

For example, when two British Israelis were killed earlier this year they received wide sympathetic coverage on RNZ and TVNZ while the hundreds of Palestinians, including dozens of children, killed this year are simply reported as statistics.

4. Wide coverage is given to Israeli spokespeople in most stories with rudimentary reporting, if any, from Palestinian viewpoints.

RNZ’s consistent Eurocentric reporting from the Middle East, particularly in its uncritical use of BBC reports, is insulting to New Zealanders.

John Minto
National Chair
Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

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

Email the message below to Willie Ake, chair of RNZ's independent review committee asking that whatever the findings of the independent investigation, Palestinian New Zealanders and Palestinians in general should not face even greater difficulties in having their struggle heard by New Zealanders through RNZ reporting.



Willie Ake

Willie Ake
Chair
RNZ Independent Investigation Committee
c/o
support@sangrochambers.co.nz

Kia ora Mr Ake,

I have been deeply concerned to see reports of alleged “pro-Palestinian bias” in Radio New Zealand’s on-line reporting on the Middle East is being used to further pressure RNZ to marginalise Palestinians and Palestinian voices.

Whatever minor changes may have been made to some news reports it can’t erase the systemic and continuous RNZ misreporting from the Middle East that comes via foreign news agencies.

The systemic anti-Palestinian bias in RNZ reporting from the Middle East includes:

- 1. RNZ wire stories typically talk about the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem when they should be reported as the occupied West Bank, occupied Gaza and occupied East Jerusalem. “Occupied” is the status these territories have under international law, United Nations resolutions and NZ government policy and should be consistently reported as such.*

RNZ refuses to do so.

2. *RNZ reporting consistently refers to Palestinians resisting occupation as Palestinian “militants” or “terrorists” or similar derogatory and dismissive descriptions.*

We wouldn’t call Ukrainian teenagers throwing stones at occupying Russian soldiers as “militants” so why does RNZ think it’s OK to use this term to describe Palestinian teenagers throwing stones at Israeli occupation troops?

Under international law Palestinians have the right to resist Israel’s military occupation, including armed resistance and should not be abused for doing so by RNZ. Palestinian resistance groups should be described as “resistance fighters” or “armed resistance organisations” while Israeli soldiers should be described as “Israeli occupation soldiers”.

RNZ refuses to do this.

3. *RNZ reporting will typically give sympathetic coverage to Israelis killed by Palestinians but do not give similar sympathetic coverage to Palestinians killed, on a near daily basis, by the Israeli occupation.*

For example, when two British Israelis were killed earlier this year they received wide sympathetic coverage on RNZ and TVNZ while the hundreds of Palestinians, including dozens of children, killed this year are simply reported as statistics.

It is Palestinians who are the victims of ethnic cleansing, land theft, military occupation and unbridled Israeli brutality and yet RNZ reporting frequently gives the impression it’s the other way round.

4. *Wide coverage is given to Israeli spokespeople in most stories with rudimentary reporting, if any, from Palestinian viewpoints.*

Whatever the findings of your independent investigation, Palestinian New Zealanders and Palestinians in general should not face even greater difficulties in having their struggle heard by New Zealanders through RNZ reporting.

Ngā mihi.

(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 the minister receives.

Or forward your email to me after you have sent it to Mt Akel.

Nga mihi

Neil (Secretary)

Antony Loewenstein to tour in July

We are delighted to announce that much acclaimed author and filmmaker Antony Loewenstein is to tour New Zealand in July to speak at public meetings around the country and promote his latest book “The Palestine Laboratory” which has high-profile international endorsements.

Antony previously toured New Zealand in 2010 to promote his earlier book “My Israel Question”.



Antony Loewenstein

His latest book is *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports The Technology Of Occupation Around The World*, released in 2023. Published by [Verso](#) in the US + UK and [Scribe](#) in Australia + New Zealand, the book is a global investigation into Israel’s endless occupation which gives the Jewish state invaluable experience in controlling an ‘enemy’ population, the Palestinians. It’s here that they have perfected the architecture of control, using the occupied Palestinian territories as a testing ground for weaponry and surveillance technology that they then export around the world. The book is endorsed by Noam Chomsky, Ilan Pappé, Avi Shlaim, Gideon Levy, Eyal Weizman and others.

His other books include [My Israel Question](#), [The Blogging Revolution](#), [Disaster Capitalism: Making A Killing Out Of Catastrophe](#) and [Pills, Powder and Smoke: Inside the Bloody War on Drugs](#). His films include [Disaster Capitalism](#) and the Al Jazeera English films [West Africa’s Opioid Crisis](#) and [Under the Cover of Covid](#).

A recent opinion piece written by Antony was published in the Sydney Morning Herald here <https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-may-13-edition-20230405-p5cygt.html>

Antony will be speaking in Christchurch, Wellington, Hawkes Bay and Auckland. More details will be in the next newsletter but confirmed meetings so far are:

- **Christchurch:** Monday 17th July, 7pm at Knox Centre, Cnr. Bealey Avenue & Victoria sts
- **Hawkes Bay:** Wednesday 19th July, 8pm at Greenmeadows Community Hall, 83 Tait Drive, Napier
- **Auckland:** Thursday 20th July, 7pm at the Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road

“The Palestine Laboratory” – important new book by Antony Loewenstein



This important new book by Australian writer Antony Loewenstein is coming out next month and we hope to have Antony over here promoting his book in the next couple of months. In the meantime here are three internationally-renowned endorsements for the book.

‘This is a must-read on a hidden and shocking aspect of the Israeli colonisation of the Palestinians. This book shows clearly that this kind of export is now Israel’s most significant contribution to the global violation of human rights.’

Ilan Pappé, author of The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine and Ten Myths About Israel

‘A triumph of investigative journalism. It exposes the ruthlessness with which Israel exploits the experience gained from the illegal occupation to export all kinds of military hardware as well as the technology of surveillance, espionage, cyber warfare, phone-hacking, and house demolition. It also shines a torch on the dark side of Israel’s support for despots around the world. Altogether, a profoundly depressing audit on a country that used to boast of being “a light unto the nations”.’

Avi Shlaim, Emeritus Professor of International Relations at the University of Oxford and author of The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab world

‘A sad and sordid record of how “the light unto the nations” became the purveyor of the means of violence and brutal repression from Guatemala to Myanmar and wherever else the opportunity arose.’

Noam Chomsky

More details of the book can be read [here](#) and all reviews so far can be found [here](#).

And here is the link to an excellent article in the Sydney Morning Herald earlier this month by Antony Loewenstein – <https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-may-13-edition-20230405-p5cygt.html>

Daoud Nassar on the Tent of Nations

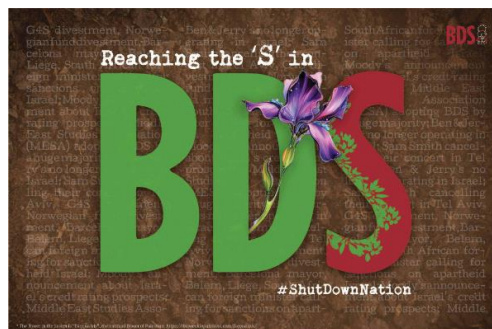
Daoud Nassar is a Palestinian Christian landowner who runs an educational and environmental family farm called Tent of Nations. His land is surrounded by settlements but he believes in non-violence and aims to build bridges between people, and between people and the land. A short video clip of Daoud is [here](#).



Daoud is a graduate of Bethlehem University as are many of his family and the university is very proud of the stand he takes to preserve his land. You can see more information at the Tent of Nations website [here](#).

Building towards the “S” in BDS

Message from the BDS national committee:



Israel's massacres, siege, and land theft against our people are escalating. **It has killed at least 158 Palestinians already this year**, including many children. Yet, the fact that its government is the most far-right, fundamentalist and sexist ever – with a proud fascist component – gives us an unprecedented opportunity to dramatically build our people power to reach the S in BDS – targeted, lawful sanctions.

Our people's steadfastness (sumud) and relentless popular resistance are our main inspiration. Despite 75 years of its ongoing Nakba against the Indigenous Palestinians, Israel's regime of settler-colonialism and apartheid has utterly failed to colonize our minds with despair.

Supported by our intersectional solidarity partners in racial, Indigenous, social, gender and climate justice movements representing tens of millions worldwide, **we are building power**. Just days ago, the BDS movement celebrated bringing G4S, the world's largest security company, to its knees, making it end all its business in apartheid Israel

Like apartheid South Africa before it, apartheid Israel derives its power and impunity from the US and Europe. They continue to unconditionally arm it, fund it and shield it from accountability, partly through ruthless bullying and racist repression. **But this McCarthyism is a sign of their despair and our strength**. They know we shall never rest until Israel receives the full apartheid South Africa treatment.

Building on our grassroots networks, we're winning more local governments than ever. This year alone, mayors and city councils, **from Barcelona (Catalonia) to Liege and Verviers (Belgium), and from Oslo (Norway) to Belem (Brazil)**, have taken decisive measures against Israeli apartheid and the companies supporting its crimes to express meaningful solidarity with our liberation struggle.

Over the last few years, major state sovereign funds have divested from banks and companies sustaining Israel's occupation and settlements— a war crime under international law. With Israel's current political instability and worsening economic troubles (hi-tech shutdowns, capital flight, lower credit rating prospects and drying foreign investments) warranting the **#ShutDownNation** label, our strategic divestment and corporate accountability campaigns are becoming more effective than ever.

You can donate to the BDS international movement [here](#)

Mapping the Nakba – MLN Webinar



Dr Rona Sela and Dr. Heba Yazbak's were two of the speakers on the latest MLN (Movement for liberation from Nakba) speak on the ["Mapping the Nakba" webinar](#). It is well worth your time to watch!

Mexican senate votes to recognise Palestine



"If Palestinians can be rendered stateless and without any real human rights, that situation detracts from our very notion of human rights. It clearly wouldn't be universal anymore and would be subject to many important exceptions that might render it meaningless. That is, the situation of the Palestinians affects our very conception of what human rights are, and that is why it is so important."

Senator Héctor Vasconcelos, Mexico's chairman of the Commission on Exterior Relations, "[In wake of Mexican Senate Vote to Recognize Palestine, Palestinians seek to upgrade to Full Embassy in Mexico City](#)".

Roger Waters speaks out fearlessly for Palestine again



Roger waters speaks out here: <https://youtu.be/AwIZoJSrIJU>

It's a very interesting discussion by Roger Waters about the how criticism of BDS and apartheid Israel is leading to dangerous cancel culture and oppressive anti democratic actions throughout 'liberal' Western societies, the elimination of anything progressive in the current British Labour Party, and worthwhile observations on a number of events and issues. Definitely worth watching and sharing.

Give a Little page to fundraise for PSNA

To broaden our fundraising base we have set up a "Give a Little" page with a target of \$5,000 for a month. Feel free to make a donation yourself or pass on the QR code below to family and friends who may be able to help

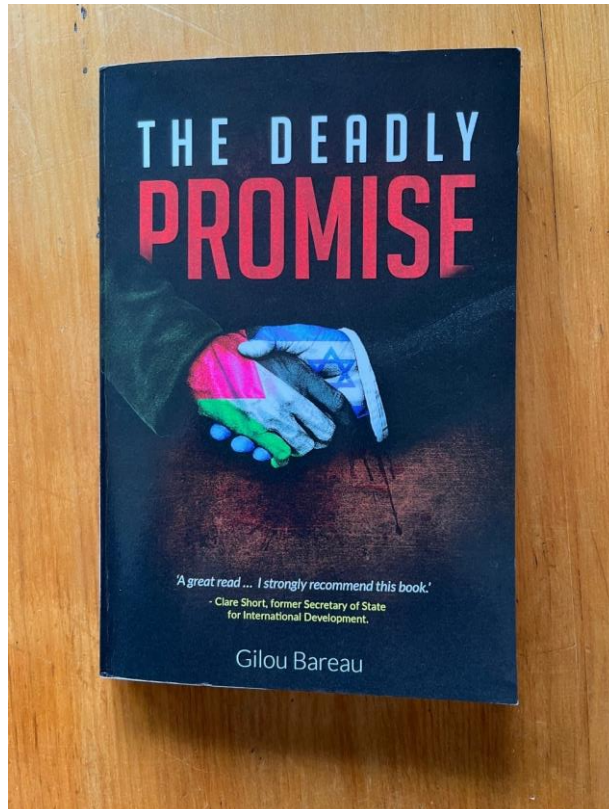


Or

Transfer your donation directly into our account and then email secretary@PSNA.nz for a receipt.

Our account name is:	PALESTINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK
Our account number is:	38-9015-0849542-00

“The deadly promise” – book review



PSNA National Chair John Minto was sent this book by the author Gilou Bareau. Here is John's review on the [PSNA website](#).

Watch out for this man promoting racism and apartheid

Here he is – the Israeli ambassador – watch out for him around Aotearoa New Zealand – if you hear of any planned appearances or speaking engagements please contact us urgently: Email apartheid-Israel@PSNA.nz or text 027 4 APARTHEID or 027427278.



Israeli ambassador Ran Yaakoby

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....

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.pсна.nz/petition>

Important stories from the Web

General:

- Xi Jinping backs Palestine entry into Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as Beijing offers to Mediate Israeli-Palestinian Peace [here](#)
- How the IHRA definition of anti-semitism is chilling Palestine advocacy in Europe [here](#)
- IHRA antisemitism definition 'suppressing Palestinian advocacy in Europe' [here](#)
- Labor is being called to adopt neutral language on the Israel-Palestine conflict at its national conference in August [here](#)
- The One State Reality: What Is Israel/Palestine? [here](#)

Israel

- How long can Israel keep insulting its benefactors [here](#)
- Israeli plan to divide Al-Aqsa Mosque presents profound threat to Jerusalem status quo [here](#)
- Israel Is Officially Annexing the West Bank [here](#)
- 'Patriarchal and biased': Israeli women fear loss of rights in legal overhaul [here](#)
- Jewish identity beyond Israel [here](#)
- Liberal Zionism is a pillar of Israel's settler colonial project [here](#)
- Israel Is Officially Annexing the West Bank [here](#)

Israeli brutality

- When an Israeli airstrike destroys your house for the second time [here](#)
- Israel's military called the settler attack on this Palestinian town a 'pogrom.' Videos show soldiers did little to stop it [here](#)
- Israel's OPT Palestinians deaths and extensive destruction in latest Gaza offensive highlight human toll of apartheid [here](#)
- I saw Israel's final solution to the Palestinian problem in Lebanon 41 years ago and I see it again today [here](#)
- Three-year-old Palestinian boy shot by Israeli soldiers dies in hospital [here](#)

Palestine

- New report describes continuing forcible displacement and dispossession of Palestinian Christians [here](#)
- 56 years of occupation – explaining the Palestinian Naksa [here](#)

UN

- The rights of civil society members are being violated by all entities in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, UN Commission of Inquiry says; Israeli Government restrictions intrinsically linked to occupation [here](#)
- US plans to rejoin UNESCO [here](#)

US

- US warns of Israeli settlement expansion after reports of new West Bank plans [here](#)
- The USS Liberty – a well-planned accident [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](#)

(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](#)