



Saturday 13th April, 10am-4.30pm

Brunei Gallery, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, London WC1H 0XG

Programme

#Gaza13 @PSCupdates

10am-10.30am	Registration
10.30am	<p>Aims & objectives of the conference Hugh Lanning</p> <p>Welcome Jeremy Corbyn MP</p>
10.50am-12.30	<p>Palestine in the 21st Century: new challenges; new opportunities Diana Alzeer, Maha Rezeq , Prof Nur Masalha , Prof Kamel Hawwash</p>
12.30-1.15pm	Lunch
1.15pm-2.45pm	<p>Gaza siege: Surviving Siege; challenging occupation</p> <p>In Gaza: Jamal El Khoudary, Raji Sourani, Khalil Abu Shamallah, Mona El-Farra In London: Sarah Colborne, Patricia McKeown, Phyllis Starkey</p>
2.45-3.00pm	Break
3.00-4.30pm	<p>Challenges and opportunities for the solidarity movement Lindsey German, Jamal Juma, Hugh Lanning, Lubna Masarwa, Essam Mustafa, Azeem Sayani</p>
4.30pm	Close



DOR GUEZ
40 DAYS
12.04.13 – 31.05.13

The Mosaic Rooms hosts the first UK solo show by artist Dor Guez. His work focuses on depicting the history and experiences of the Christian Palestinian minorities in the Middle East.

Advert

G4S Prisoners' Day Protest
Wednesday 17 April | 4.30-7pm
outside 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT

End Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians

Saturday 18 May 2013
11am-1pm
Old Palace Yard,
opposite Westminster
End the ongoing Nakba
Palestine's catastrophe
65 years on

Biographies

For the full biographies go to www.palestinecampaign.org/biographies

Diana Alzeer

Diana Alzeer is a Palestinian activist and former journalist- film producer from Ramallah- Palestine. She graduated in Journalism and sociology from Birzeit University and worked in several media outlets, co-produced the reality film series (Sleepless in Gaza and Jerusalem). She is now a masters student at Durham University in Politics and International Relations "Political Theory" with a focus on the Palestinian discourse of resistance through visual arts and political posters. Diana is one of the founders of March 15 movement that demanded an end to political division through PNC (Palestinian National Council) elections within the PLO. She is also active with the Jordan Valley Solidarity groups and the popular resistance groups in the village of Bilin and Nabi Saleh in the Friday protests. Diana and her fellow activists in Palestine use social media outlets such as twitter and YouTube to cover news from weekly protests and the daily violations of human rights taking place in the occupied territories.

Sarah Colborne

Sarah Colborne is Director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. She has been involved in the PSC, either as an Executive Member or staff member, since 2000. Sarah was on the Mavi Marmara in 2010, which was sailing to Gaza as part of the First Freedom Flotilla when it was attacked in international waters by the Israeli army. Nine on board were killed, and over 80 were injured.

Jeremy Corbyn

Jeremy Corbyn was first elected to parliament in 1983 and has shown himself to be a very determined and hands-on constituency MP. He is very accessible, holding weekly advice sessions for anyone, and maintaining a local office. He is also involved with numerous local organisations and community centres. In Parliament Jeremy speaks up on all of the above issues which he believes to be so important. He would prefer that the cost of replacing Trident nuclear missiles go toward basic needs such as health and housing, and he has voted against the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In the last five years Jeremy has tabled 709 parliamentary questions, and made 878 parliamentary speeches of one sort or another on a wide range of subjects.

Mona El Farra

Dr Mona El Farra, Director of Gaza Projects, is a physician by training and a human rights and women's rights activist by practice in the occupied Gaza Strip. She was born in Khan Younis, Gaza and has dedicated herself to developing community based programmes that aim to improve health quality and link health services with cultural and recreation services all over the Gaza Strip. Mona is also the Health Chair of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society of the Gaza Strip and a member of the Union of Health Work Committees. Mona has a son and two daughters.

Lindsey German

Lindsey German is the convenor of the Stop the War Coalition. She is a lifelong socialist and campaigner, who has written on a number of topics, including women and war. Her latest book is 'How a Century of War changed the Lives of Women'. She was born in London where she still lives, and she is a lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire.

Kamel Hawwash

Professor Kamel Hawwash is a British Palestinian academic based at the University of Birmingham. He is the President Elect of the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI) and Chair of the Association of Civil Engineering Departments (ACED). Kamel is Vice Chair of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC); Chair of the Birmingham Ramallah Twinning Initiative (BRTI), and was founding member and Chair of the Britain Palestine Twinning Network (2006-2010). He initiated the Midlands Palestinian Community Association (MPCA), based in Birmingham and was a member of the committee of the Association of the Palestinian Community in the UK (2009-11). Kamel speaks regularly about the Palestinian issue and offers commentary in the media.

Jamal Juma

Jamal Juma' was born in Jerusalem and attended Birzeit University, where he became politically active. Since the first Intifada, he has focused on grassroots activism. He is a founding member of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees, Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange and Palestinian Environmental NGO Network. Juma' is since 2002 the coordinator of the Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign. He has been invited to address numerous civil society and UN conferences, where he has spoken on the issue of Palestine and the Apartheid Wall. His articles and interviews are widely disseminated and translated into several languages.

Jamal El-Khoudary

Jamal El-Khoudary is a former Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology in Gaza; Independent member of Palestinian Legislative Council; Founder and Chairman of the Popular Committee against Gaza siege; Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic University of Gaza; Chairman of Board of Trustees of the University College of Applied Sciences, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Kitab Channel.

Hugh Lanning

Hugh Lanning has worked for the civil service trade union movement for over 30 years, starting with the Civil Service Union and all the subsequent merged unions. He represents PCS trade union on the National Trade Union Committee (formerly the Council of Civil Service Unions) with special responsibility for negotiations with the Cabinet Office on jobs, pensions and all personnel management issues, including the Compensation Scheme and Facility Time Negotiations. He has line management responsibility for National Bargaining, Pay and Pensions; Legal, Equality, Education and Policy Support, as well as Personnel and Facilities Management and covers International matters. Hugh is also Chair of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and has headed PSC trade union delegations to Palestine.

Patricia McKeown

Patricia McKeown is Regional Secretary of the public service union UNISON. She is lead negotiator and represents both UNISON and the Irish Congress of Trades Unions on a wide range of public policy forums and negotiating bodies. She is also a leading equality and human rights activist and has been directly involved in specific trade union projects on both Palestine and Colombia. Patricia was Chair of the ICTU Northern Committee (2004-2006) and President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (2007-2009). In 2007 she led an ICTU delegation of senior trade unionists to the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. ICTU was the first trade union congress in Europe to adopt the BDS policy. Patricia is also a member of Trade Union Friends of Palestine. She is actively engaged in the campaign to promote and secure justice for the Palestinian People.

Nur Masalha

Professor Nur Masalha is a Palestinian academic and writer. He is Professor of Religion and Politics and Director of the Centre for Religion and History and the Holy Land Research Project at St. Mary's University College, University of Surrey, England. He is also currently Professorial Research Associate, Department of History, School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London).

Nur is the editor of "Holy Land Studies: A Multidisciplinary Journal", and the author of many books on Palestine-Israel, (please see full list on palestinecampaign.org/biographies-for-gaza-conference).

Nur has also served as an honorary fellow in the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Durham University; Research Associate in the Department of Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies; and has taught at Birzeit University, Palestine. He is also the historian commentator in the award-winning, documentary film "La Terre Parle Arabe" (The Land Speaks Arabic) (2007).

Lubna Masarwa

Lubna Masarwa is a Palestinian grassroots activist who has been working in the Palestinian community in their daily struggle for justice. The Nobel Women's Initiative said of Lubna: 'In recent years she has done a great deal of international work to raise awareness of the situation in Gaza. She has also been active in attempting to break the siege in Gaza, and was among the passengers who were attacked on *Mavi Marmara* ship in May of 2010.'

Essam Mustafa

Essam Mustafa (Abu Yusuf) is the founder and Coordinator of the Miles of Smiles Aid Convoys to Gaza (more than 20 to date); and the founder, Vice-Chairman and Managing Trustee of Interpal, a leading British charity which has focused on helping Palestinians in need since 1994.

Essam is a graduate in Computer Science from London International college and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Islamic University, Gaza in 2004 in recognition of his commitment and dedication to the provision of humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine, wherever they might be. Of Palestinian background, his family hails from the occupied West Bank.

He has dedicated the last 35 years of his life to humanitarian work. Essam is keen to build bridges between communities and has been the driving force behind many humanitarian initiatives with input from people of all faiths and none.

Maha Rezeq

Maha Rezeq is a Palestinian human rights activist, originally from the Gaza Strip, while also having lived as a refugee in Syria and Libya. Upon returning to Gaza, she received her BA in English Literature from Al-Azhar University. After completing her undergraduate degree, Maha was awarded a Said Foundation scholarship to attend the School for Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, focusing on The Political Economy of Violence, Conflict and Development. Professionally, Maha has worked as a Humanitarian Aid Specialist with international organisations including UNICEF, Save the Children, and Oxfam International, to promote and safeguard the rights of Palestinian refugees. In addition to development, Maha is also a regular commentator on issues relating to the wellbeing of Palestinians, particularly children and women facing multiple forms of discrimination and violence.

Khalil Abu Shamalla

General Director of AL-Dameer Association for Human Rights in Gaza, one of the three main human rights organizations in Gaza strip, Khalil Abu Shamalla is the Deputy Chairman of the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organisations Network, he is one of the prominent human rights activists in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Khalil was arrested for 30 months in administrative detention during the first intifada . In addition he has a clear cut position against violations whether committed by Israel or Palestinians, Hamas or Fateh.

He is married with three children and studied English literature . He is a board member in several international organizations including the Arab Commission for Human Rights in Paris and the Global Network for Rights and Development, based in Geneva.

Azeem Sayani

Azeem Sayani is a student at Westminster University and, since January, has been student officer on the PSC exec. He attends the weekly sessions organised by PSC in which students from London talk to students in Gaza via Skype. The project has been running for a year, during which time the London students have gained a deeper understanding of the effects of the siege on young people in Gaza. In particular, they have heard how the Palestinian students' ability to study, with limited electricity and the constant threat of attack, is affected. Azeem, who says he's been inspired by the courage and determination of the Palestinian students, is here to talk about what he's learned from the year's Skype conversations.

Raji Sourani

Raji Sourani has been dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory throughout his professional career. He has been an active lawyer since his qualification in 1977, representing victims of human rights abuses.

Despite periods of political imprisonment in Israel; years of harassment and violence from the Israeli military; harassment from the Palestinian Authority, and even death threats from Palestinian fundamentalist parties, Raji has maintained an unwavering commitment to human rights. He has been an advocate for basic human rights standards both at a domestic and international level and has refused to curtail his outspoken criticisms of failures by Israel, the Palestinian Authority, political parties and other states to adhere to human rights standards.

Raji founded the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights in 1995 with a group of fellow lawyers and human rights activists in the Gaza Strip.

Phyllis Starkey

Dr Phyllis Starkey was Labour Member of Parliament for Milton Keynes South West 1997-2010, a Parliamentary Aide to Middle East and Europe Ministers 2001-5 and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Palestine Group 1997-2001. Her sustained lobbying in Parliament contributed to the introduction in 2009 of government guidance on correct labelling of settlement produce.

Since 2010, Phyllis has worked with a range of NGOs across Europe and in the UK lobbying the European Union and its Member States to adopt more robust policies to end Israel's occupation of Palestine. She is a trustee of Medical Aid to Palestinians and a Senior Associate Member of St Antony's College, Oxford.



Lessons from Gaza: Transforming public support into political action

Israel's ongoing siege and repeated attacks on Gaza have caused immense loss of life, destruction of infrastructure and environmental problems. This places huge pressure on the daily lives of Palestinians trapped in Gaza.

Despite this, Palestinian society in Gaza has not only managed to survive, but has done so by using creative and innovative methods to counteract the effects of the siege. And over six years into the siege, there is increased awareness that Israel's brutal siege is not only inhumane and illegal, but also that it has failed to break Palestinian society.

This conference is designed to highlight the current situation in Gaza and to explore how to break the siege by ending Gaza's political isolation, as well as overcoming the physical isolation of Palestinians in Gaza from those in the West Bank and Israel.

Gaza can't be separated from Palestine

Palestinians living in Gaza consistently send a clear message – that their struggle is not just about the situation of the 1.6 million Palestinians besieged in Gaza, but is an integral part of the struggle of all Palestinians for freedom, justice, equality and self-determination. And this must include the right of return.

Palestine can't be separated from the struggle against racism and apartheid

Palestinians are facing increasing numbers of racist attacks, and are being subjected to a growing network of racist laws and apartheid practices. Solidarity with Palestinians means building opposition to Israel's racism and apartheid.

Implement human rights and international law

Above all we must pressure the UK Government to act to implement UN resolutions and human rights law, and end Israel's ability to breach international law with impunity.

End the political siege

The policy of governments including our own not to talk to the legitimate representatives of Palestinians is wrong and short-sighted. History teaches us – South Africa and Northern Ireland being just two examples – that there can be no lasting peace or resolution without acceptance of the right of a people to choose their own leaders.

Turning public support into political action towards liberation and justice

Solidarity with Palestinians is based on fundamental principles of freedom, justice and equality as well as the right of self-determination.

Public support in Britain is clear. In a BBC opinion poll, 68% of those polled held a mainly negative view of Israel's influence, compared to only 16% who held a positive view (*Country Ratings opinion poll May 2012*). There is a growing sympathy for Palestinians and awareness of their plight. The key task before us in the solidarity movement is to turn sympathy into solidarity and by doing so to make a real difference.

With over 40 branches, and active links with trade unions, faith organisations and other movements, PSC has seen solidarity activism grow massively. We are committed to increasing our impact and achieving our aims, working on:

- Building the movement, based on the principles of freedom justice and equality for Palestinians.
- Effective and targeted campaigning work – Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) has given us a great tool to raise awareness, exert pressure on businesses and build the movement.
- Raising awareness of Israel's racist and apartheid policies as well as telling the Palestinian narrative
- Affecting change – changing policy at student union and trade union level, to pressuring MPs and MEPs for a change in government policy.
- Building links and alliances locally and nationally across diverse communities in support of Palestinian rights
- Challenging media bias

Palestine Solidarity Campaign's 100 Club

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign 100 Club is a small group of PSC members and supporters who give an extra, regular donation to PSC to help with basic campaign work.

Members of the 100 Club pledge to donate £100 or more per year, through a standing order. These funds contribute to the core costs of running PSC – office overheads, including paid members of staff. Having a predictable and reliable income enables us to plan ahead more effectively, and to support the work of our members and branches.

We are now seeking additional members of the 100 Club to increase our ability to build a mass solidarity movement with the aim of effecting changes in awareness, policies and actions at a national and international level.

100 Club members who are not already members of PSC will be made honorary members and will receive mailings and copies of our quarterly magazine, *Palestine News*.

For more information pick up a leaflet today or contact us on 020 7 700 6192

To set up a direct debit you can visit www.palestinecampaign.org/100club

Lessons from Gaza Conference Evaluation

to complete this online visit palestinecampaign.org/conferencefeedback

1. Overall, how would you **rate** the event?

- Excellent Very good Fairly good Not good at all

2. How likely would you be to **recommend** the conference to a friend?

- Extremely likely Very likely Slightly likely Not at all likely

3. What did you **like** about the Conference?

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4. What did you **dislike** about the Conference?

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5. Did the conference offer **value** for money?

- A great deal of value A moderate amount of value Little value
 Almost no value at all

6. How **unique** was the conference?

- Extremely unique Very unique Slightly unique Not at all unique

7. **Prior** to the event, how much of the **information** that you needed did you get?

- All of the information Most of the information Some of the information
 None of the information

8. Was the **conference length** too long, too short, or about right?

- Much too long Somewhat too long Slightly too long About right
 Slightly too short Somewhat too short

9. Is there **anything else** you'd like to share about the conference?

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Please return this form to one of the conference organisers. Thank you