



PALESTINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #7 • APRIL 2021



IN THIS ISSUE

The Big Ride for Palestine
• P.2

Spotlight on Israeli Apartheid
• P.3

Campaign highlights • P.4 & 5
AGM • P.6

Artist Spotlights • P.7

Resources • P.8

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

KAMEL HAWWASH

Palestinian peaceful resistance to Israel's settler colonialism and its apartheid policies takes many forms and the current campaign to #SaveSheikhJarrah in Jerusalem is a key example of this. Here we have a situation where 500 Palestinians could be made homeless and then replaced by Jewish settlers simply because they are not Jewish Israelis. The remaining families currently live in houses allocated to them in 1956, under an agreement between the Jordanian Authorities and UNRWA in return for their refugee cards.

The arrangement included an undertaking to register the deeds of the land to each family in 1959. The registration did not apparently happen before East Jerusalem was illegally occupied in 1967, but settler organisations laid claim to the land a few years later and Israeli courts have approved the eviction of some families who were immediately replaced with settlers. Israeli courts have now ruled that in May four more families will be evicted. Supporters of justice including all involved in the PSC stand with the families of Sheikh Jarrah and others in Al-Bustan and Baten El-Hawwa in Silwan facing evictions from their homes under Israel's continuing settler colonialist and Apartheid policies. In case you missed it, view our #SaveSheikhJarrah webinar here.

We call on the British government to urgently intervene to stop this naked ethnic cleansing and we will not rest until the fight for freedom, justice and equality for Palestinians is won. Together, we can make this a reality.

THE BIG RIDE FOR PALESTINE

There are still a few days left to form a team of up to six riders to complete the 547 miles. Ride separately or together, but ride some of the 547 miles as a powerful act of solidarity! [Full info here.](#)



From the Organisers

This year's 'Spring Challenge' emphasises our support for Palestine and makes sure that we take every opportunity to keep Palestine in the public eye with our physical presence. You still have a few days left to participate in the challenge, and do keep an eye out for our Big Ride 2021 this summer!

51 Day Challenge

The Spring Challenge will run for 51 days from Saturday 20th February to Sunday 11th April 2021 so will finish before the start of Ramadan. 51 days is the length of the bombardment of Gaza in July and August 2014. Appalling events like this are briefly in the news, but the impact of destroying schools, hospitals and infrastructure lasts for years, especially when reconstruction work is obstructed by Israel's blockade of so many essential items.

547 Children, 22 Miles

547 is the number of children murdered in Gaza in 2014 during the bombardment. 22 miles is the extent of the road stretching the length of Gaza. Cyclists can ride for no more than this before turning round and repeating as shown in the fantastic film 'Cycling Under Siege in Gaza'. You can use these figures for the distance you want to ride when completing the challenge but they be applied flexibly depending on experience, circumstances and, of course, weather.



JULIET MYERS



YURIKO KOTANI



GAVIN WEBSTER



SUSAN MURRAY



ANDREW O'NEILL



ISABELLE FARAH

STAND UP FOR PALESTINE

20/04/21 | 8PM | WWW.PALESTINECAMPAIGN.ORG



COMEDY FUNDRAISER

Get your tickets below for PSC's upcoming Stand Up for Palestine comedy fundraiser, taking place on April 20th!

BOOK NOW

SPOTLIGHT ON: ISRAELI APARTHEID

Since its foundation, Israel has developed a system of institutionalised racist discrimination against the Palestinian people. Whether living under occupation, as citizens of the Israeli state, or in exile, Palestinians face a system of rule which collectively oppresses and subjugates them. Last year, Israel's publicly stated aim of annexing at least 30% of the West Bank – following its illegal annexation of East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights – has further exposed its apartheid reality. PSC has been campaigning against this in a variety of ways.

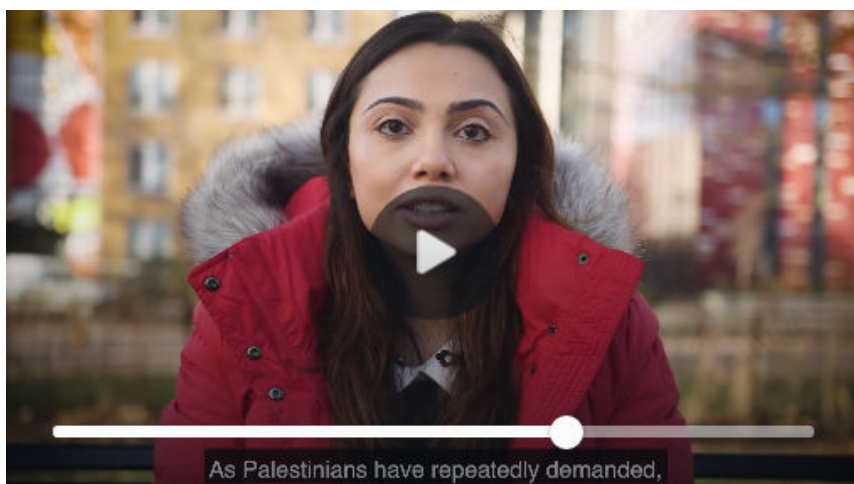


Israel's largest human rights group, B'Tselem, recently published the [report](#) '*A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid*'. Palestinians have been pointing out the apartheid reality they live in for years, but B'Tselem's declaration remains hugely significant and we were delighted to host B'Tselem's executive director, Hagai El-Ad, and renowned Palestinian lawyer Diana Buttu, for an extremely informative webinar ([available to watch here](#)) discussing why we should call Israel an apartheid regime.

Another issue which has come to the forefront, is that of medical apartheid due to Israel's blatant discrimination against Palestinians when it came to its Covid-19 vaccination program. According to the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel is required to apply the "prophylactic and preventive measures necessary to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics." However, it chose to vaccinate illegal settlers in the West Bank whilst ignoring the Palestinian population it occupies. PSC has created an [e-action](#) to the Secretary of State and [produced infographics](#) raising awareness of the situation.

Furthermore, from 15th-21st March, students marked the annual Israeli Apartheid Week. The global protest acted as a loudspeaker against all forms of racism and injustice. Supported by PSC, students in UK led the way with over 20 events and hundreds of attendees across the week, including film screenings, rallies, lectures, panels, and cultural events.

Finally, PSC has been working with Makan to produce a series of short videos raising awareness of Israel's apartheid regime. The first one has now been published. Check it out by hitting the play button below.



CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

READ ABOUT HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOME OF OUR CORE CAMPAIGNS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS!

LGPS DIVEST

In February, in a massive victory for campaigners, East Sussex Pension Fund has revealed that it has divested funds from Elbit Systems, Israel's largest private arms manufacturer. This decision followed months of pressure by scheme members and supporters of Palestinian human rights who have lobbied the fund to divest from companies complicit in Israel's violations of international law, including Elbit Systems. Since May 2020, campaigners have flooded council meetings with over 60 letters demanding the fund divests from Elbit.

In Hertfordshire, local scheme members and human rights campaigners have [launched a petition](#) calling on Herts County Council to request HLGPS to withdraw all complicit investments, and ensure no complicit investments are made in the future. The petition can be signed by anyone who lives and works in Hertfordshire.

Campaigning has also gone from strength to strength in Hackney, where the campaign now has the support of the Hackney Green Party, and Hackney South Constituency Labour Party. Over 300 people have signed the petition calling on Hackney council to divest from companies supporting the occupation of Palestine, [join them today!](#)

PSC's research has uncovered local gov pension funds invest

£4,400,000,000

in companies complicit in Israeli apartheid

JCB

NSPCC shouldn't profit from Palestinian suffering! We have enormous respect for the work of the NSPCC, but are deeply concerned by their continuing corporate partnership with JCB - a company directly involved in the suffering of children in Palestine.

JCB knowingly supplies Israel with the machinery used to demolish Palestinian homes and build illegal Israeli settlements. Their diggers recently featured on channel 4 news razing the entire village of Khirbet Humsah to the ground. This left over 40 children homeless in winter and during a health pandemic. The United Nations lists JCB on their database of companies complicit in sustaining illegal Israeli settlements, all of which are war crimes.

Urgent action is needed to hold businesses accountable, and – thanks to you – we know JCB is feeling the heat of our campaign. Over 50 parliamentarians have already signed [Early Day Motion 1140](#) to register their alarm at JCB's business conduct, and are calling for government intervention.

The NSPCC is aware of this information, but has decided to shield JCB's reputation by continuing a corporate partnership. Please join us in asking the NSPCC to stop accepting JCB's dirty money, and stand up for Palestinian children. **[TAKE ACTION.](#)**

TO THE NSPCC: PALESTINIAN CHILDREN MATTER TOO



STUDENT WORK

From 15th-21st March, students marked the annual Israeli Apartheid Week, a global protest acting as a loudspeaker against all forms of racism and injustice. The week draws attention to Israel's regime of institutionalised racist discrimination against all parts of the Palestinian people, and calls for BDS to bring it to an end.



Hundreds of students joined webinars across the week, to listen to expert Palestinian speakers and activists. This included at KCL, where students heard from Omar Barghouti, co-founder of the BDS Movement, Ben Jamal, Director of PSC, William Shoki, from the South African BDS Coalition, and Larissa Kennedy, President of the National Union of Students, who gave her support to students fighting for justice on campus.

Over 20 events took place on UK campuses across the week, including film screenings, rallies, lectures, panels, and cultural events.

Despite the pandemic, students showed they are still active campaigning for justice, and calling for their universities to end all investments and ties with companies and institutions complicit in Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people.

FACEBOOK, WE NEED TO TALK...

And you're not letting us! Over 55,000 people have now signed the petition calling on facebook not to censor Palestinian voices. The social media giant is considering restricting the use of the word "Zionist" by making it a protected category under its hate speech policy.

This means Palestinians talking about their experiences of living under apartheid could have their posts blocked, and labelled as hate speech. PSC has joined a coalition of over 50 global partner organisations to fight this move and defend the right to openly criticise Israel.

As part of the international campaign, PSC hosted a webinar conversation with Human Rights Watch and War on Want. This looked at the ongoing attacks on human rights defenders, and the importance of social media as a tool for holding governments accountable.

A day of action in February made sure Facebook heard our message, with the petition being delivered in 17 cities across the world (see video highlights) and projected onto the side of their office building in London. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

**facebook,
we need to talk,
and you're not
letting us.**

2021 AGM

The time is fast approaching for PSC's first ever online AGM. PSC Members will be gathering on zoom on April 24th, giving us a chance to both look back and see what we achieved in 2020 and what we can do better, as well as where we make plans to take our campaigns forward into 2021.

Palestinians need an effective and powerful solidarity movement now more than ever and AGMs are also where we vote for members of PSC's Executive Committee who will oversee the delivery of the plans we make together.

We have planned an AGM that will be lively, engaging, interactive and informative. Alongside debates on motions and elections, we will also have breakout sessions, a cook-along over lunch and you will get a chance to hear from prominent Palestinians including Dr Mustafa Barghouti. Join us!

Come and add your voice to shaping how we build to be even stronger and louder in our solidarity work. If you haven't registered, do so now!

[REGISTER](#)

Watch the video below for a sneak peak of what we have planned:



**2021
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

SATURDAY 24TH APRIL

ART AS RESISTANCE

Israel's project of colonisation seeks not just to colonise the land but to erase the memory of Palestinian presence, history and culture. Those of you who have visited Palestine will have seen written many times, especially on the apartheid wall that snakes its way through East Jerusalem and the West Bank, the slogan 'to exist is to resist'.

And so in solidarity with the Palestinian artists keeping culture alive, we have created the 'Art As Resistance' Monthly Spotlight, our series celebrating Palestinian voices and bringing Palestinian art to the forefront. On the first of every month, we share the work of a different artist from Palestine and giving you the chance to support their work.



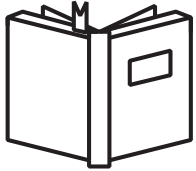
See below to learn more about the artists we have featured so far, and be sure to keep an eye out on the first of every month for our upcoming artists!



- [October - Sameer Qumsiyeh](#), filmmaker
- [November - Malak Mattar](#), expressionist painter
- [December - Maysa Daw](#), singer, rapper, song-writer and musician
- [January - Sharaf Darzaid](#), dancer, trainer and choreographer
- [February - Taqi Spateen](#), contemporary and conceptual artist
- [March - Nidal Tantoura](#), actor, writer, theatre producer and puppeteer
- [April - Ruba Shamshoum](#), musician

RESOURCES

Every newsletter, we will be bringing you recommendations for a book, a film and a podcast on Palestine!



Palestine: A Socialist Introduction systematically tackles a number of important aspects of the Palestinian struggle for liberation, contextualizing it in an increasingly polarized world and offering a socialist perspective on how full liberation can be won. Through an internationalist, anti-imperialist lens, this book explores the links between the struggle for freedom in the United States and that in Palestine, and beyond. It examines both the historical and contemporary trajectory of the Palestine solidarity movement in order to glean lessons for today's organizers, and compellingly lays out the argument that, in order to achieve justice in Palestine, the movement has to take up the question of socialism regionally and internationally. [Purchase here!](#)



From IMEU, this podcast episode is titled **This Is Palestine: The Ethnic Cleansing of Sheikh Jarrah**. Listen to hosts Diana Buttu and Omar Baddar speak on the ongoing ethnic cleansing in East Jerusalem by Israel, particularly in the village of Sheikh Jarrah. They are joined by local activists and families on the ground who are directly affected by the situation. [Listen here.](#)



Farah Nabulsi's Oscar-nominated film, **The Present**, is now on Netflix! The film, Nabulsi's first effort as a director, centers around a father and daughter who go out to buy the girl's mother a present, a simple task that proves difficult due to the various checkpoints they must go through across Palestine's West Bank. Make sure to watch it on [Netflix](#) and keep an ear out for Oscars news!



PSC ONLINE SHOP

Buy Keffiyahs, t-shirts, accessories and more Palestine-related products (including our brand new tote bags) on our online shop! All money raised goes towards funding our crucial campaigns for Palestinian rights.

Shop now: shop.palestinecampaign.org