

PSC YOUTH AND STUDENT

ISSUE 3: MARCH 2021



Hello and a warm welcome to our third newsletter from all of us at the PSC Youth & Student Committee!

As always, Israeli Apartheid Week is coming round fast. Students across the world are organising inspiring virtual events as an international protest against all forms of racism and discrimination, including Israeli apartheid.

You can read on and find out about national webinars we've organised. There's still time to organise something on your campus! Get in touch for advice and support.

In this newsletter, along with our plans for IAW, you'll find reports from our previous events, including our workshop on how to resist unfair, and potentially illegal, restrictions on your events, as well as news from Palestine and our 'Visit Palestine' segment.

In solidarity!

Palestine Solidarity Campaign Youth and Student Committee

ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK 2021



From March 15th to 21st, students and others across the world will be organising events and holding protests focused on growing the struggle against Israel's regime of systematic racial discrimination against all parts of the Palestinian people, amounting to the crime apartheid.

They'll be joining up with those struggling against all forms of racism, marginalisation, and oppression, and promoting the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement for Palestinian freedom, justice and equality.

From Hebron to Ferguson, from Khirbet Humsa to London, **racism strips us of our humanity, tearing at our collective soul. But together, united as a movement for liberation - we can fight back.**

Our events around the world will act as massive virtual protest to resist racial discrimination, colonialism, and apartheid and celebrate our struggles' diversity and connectedness. History has shown us that when movements for justice unite to take on oppressive structures, we can and will win.

Liberation struggles must work together against institutional racism and oppression, challenging unjust systems of power together. So, let's educate our peers about Israeli apartheid, and grow the struggle against all complicity.

Along with many events organised across UK campuses, **here's two online events you can join wherever you are:**

March 16th: [Understanding Israeli Apartheid \(co-hosted by PSC and Leicester Palestine Society\)](#), Featuring Lubnah Shomali (BADIL), Rania Muhareb, Dr Nimer Sultany + more!

March 18th: [United Against Racism - Resisting Israeli Apartheid \(co-hosted by KCL Students for Justice in Palestine and PSC\)](#) w/ Omar Barghouti, Ben Jamal, Larissa Kennedy + more!

REPORT: RESISTING LAWFARE ON CAMPUS



As support for Palestinian rights amongst students grows, an increase in unjust attacks on students has also been witnessed. In an effort to maintain support for all students, PSC hosted a webinar in January titled 'Resisting Lawfare on Campus', where legal experts outlined what students must do if their event faces unfair (and potentially illegal)

restrictions in the run up to Israeli Apartheid Week 2021.

As a university student myself, being part of this event allowed me to know exactly what my rights are and how to manage any violation of such rights. The webinar also highlighted the support available for any student subjected to threats of litigation or inaccurate legal arguments.

Throughout the webinar, students and participants had the opportunity to raise questions which were answered by the speakers Lewis Backon, a campaigns office at PSC, Giovanni Fassina, the Programme Director of the European Legal Support Center - the first independent organisation that exists solely to defend and empower advocates for Palestinian rights across Europe through legal means, and Dima Khalidi, the founder and director of Palestine Legal and Cooperating Counsel with the Center for Constitutional Rights.

It's evident that crude lawfare tactics mainly aim to discourage students from speaking up for Palestinian rights on campus as well as educating others about the constant infringements of international law occurring in Palestine.

However, according to the students' questions and contributions, such acts carried out by Israel and its allies have only motivated student activists to continue their support for Palestinian human rights until Israel complies with international law.



**If you are subject to any unfair treatment please email:
lewis.backon@palestinecampaign.org**

News From Palestine

Palestinian elections have been set for the coming months, but the seemingly welcome news has been met with a mixture of hope and apathy by Palestinians accustomed to living under seemingly perpetual occupation.

Elections are planned to take place in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, although Israel is likely to undermine, if not stop entirely, voting in East Jerusalem. East Jerusalem, predominantly made up of Palestinians and recognised as Occupied Territory under international law, has been claimed by Israel as part of its sovereign territory since 1980.

Regardless of whether elections actually take place in all or part of the Occupied Territory, Palestinians in the global diaspora will not be able to take part, meaning the elections will not reflect the views of all Palestinians living outside occupied Palestine.

In addition, and perhaps more significantly, there is widespread scepticism amongst Palestinians that the election process will be accepted or will translate into meaningful positive change for Palestinians.

The last time elections were held in Palestine in 2006, the results were not accepted by the international community and Hamas, the winners, were squeezed out of the West Bank before consolidating power in Gaza following a failed coup d'état by their political rivals Fatah. Whilst Fatah's chance of victory in these elections appears stronger than in 2006, there are rumours that, in an attempt to mitigate possible international condemnation of election results, Fatah and Hamas may put forward a joint list of candidates, although this remains unclear at time of writing.



In other news, Palestinians continue to suffer the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic without access to significant quantities of vaccines. Meanwhile Israel, its neighbour and occupying power, has the highest per-capita vaccination rate in the world and

appears set on dispensing its surplus vaccine stocks globally in support of its geo-strategic national interests, at the expense of Palestinians next door.

VISIT PALESTINE

I studied in Nablus for one year, as part of my Arabic degree at SOAS university in 2012-13. There are too many aspects to choose from of what I loved about Palestine, so I thought I would go through a few places which I would tell anyone going, to visit!

Nablus is my number one! I lived in this beautiful, extremely friendly city for a year and I miss it. It nestles between two mountains - Aybal and Gerzim - and has an ancient quarter home to the city's market where you can find local soap, olive oil, cheese, and the famous local dessert 'knafe' - and lots more - in the stunning winding covered alleyways.



I would definitely recommend visiting Sebastia, where there is a lovely café overlooking the place where you get dropped off. The 'hummous ma lahem' is delicious as are the fresh Palestinian olives...during a short walk round the hilly village you will see the remains of a roman amphitheatre, the site Salome danced for John the Baptist's head (so they say) and extensive remains of what I was told was King Herod's palace.



Finally, the old city of Jerusalem during Ramadan is magical, with the markets opened through the night and lanterns of every colour decorating the arched stone passageways, as families visit shops and cafes after iftar, or go to the Haram al-Sharif to pray during this special and holy period. There is so much more to say (the coffee♥!the falafels♥!), but more than all the magical places and amazing food is the warmth and generosity of the people I met, so many of whom treated me like a member of their family, and looked after me and my friends. Free Palestine ♥

I AW CALL AGAINST COLONIALISM, RACISM, AND APARTHEID FROM THE BDS NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Racism tears the soul of the world
It strips us of our humanity
Those in power use it to generate fear and separate us from each
other and from our dreams
In 2020 alone, thousands of migrants have lost their lives because of
the racist migration policies
imposed by the US and fortress Europe
Police brutality has taken the lives of hundreds of black people in the
US
Israel's regime of apartheid, colonialism, and military occupation has
gone unpunished for
decades,
subjecting the entire Palestinian people to a system of
institutionalized and systematic racial
oppression that denies their most basic rights
Many cannot enjoy freedom and equality because of where they are
born, the color of their skin,
or their sexual identity

This is the ugly reality we have, but not the beautiful one we want
We don't accept privileges for a few
We demand rights for all.

**We and millions like us take to the streets to protest against
systemic racism, patriarchal
violence, climate injustice, neoliberal austerity, and economic
inequality.**

We will not stop until we tear down the structures of oppression

We will not stop resisting injustice

We will continue dreaming of freedom, justice, and rights for all.

**We need all our voices united across the world to end racism,
colonialism, and apartheid.**

Together we are unstoppable.

Stand united against racism

***Get involved in Israeli Apartheid Week 2021. Take action online, or
organise a webinar for your campus!***