

Cross Party Group on Palestine – meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013

MSP members present – Jim Hume, Jean Urquart, Sandra White. MSP apologies Drew Smith, Elaine Smith, John Finnie, Sarah Boyack, Jackie Baillie, C;audia Beamish, Neil Findlay.

There were 36 non-msp members present.

The meeting reviewed changes to cross party group rules.

A comprehensive discussion took place about future activities. The secretary is now working on these.

Politicians from both Westminster parliament and the European parliament are to be invited to address future meetings.

The Palestinian Ambassador will be invited to address a future meeting.

Two major subjects were considered for the Festival of Politics Aug20 – 23<sup>rd</sup>. The plans are ambitious but it is hope to organise an event including Balfour and Britians role in Palestine and/or Lessons that can be learned from the anti-apartheid struggle in the campaign for justice for Palestine. There are also proposals for exhibitions in the Scottish Parliament on Balfour and also STEPS – which helps Palestinian students to study at St Andrews University.

The Cross Party Group will explore political links to Palestinian political groups.

A discussion took place about the position of the Scottish Government and Israeli trade relations, also support for Palestine. Minister for External relations to be invited to a future meeting. What would be the foreign policy of an Independent Scotland?

A discussion also took place on how BDS can be advanced and what role the cross party group can play.

A future meeting will contain a segment explaining the process and procedures around motions to the Scottish Parliament.

The meeting would like a report on the plight of Palestinian refugees targeted in the Syrian conflict.

The meeting ended at 8pm

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| REPORT FROM FBU |
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The FBU project is currently on track to deliver LEO (Leading an Empowered Organisation) courses to all 27 Senior Fire Service Managers from the Palestinian Authority Civil Defence Fire and Rescue Service. The second phase will be delivered in Glasgow 2nd-10th February, the final phase will be delivered in Dundee 2nd-10th March. A full itinerary will be available as soon as visa clearance is confirmed. Could the FBU thank all those who contributed to the huge success of Ambassador Manuel Hassassian's visit to the Scottish Parliament in November with phase one members of the project. The Ambassador has indicated he will come back to Scotland on a further visit to meet phase three course members in March. Again a full itinerary will be available once arrangements are confirmed. We hope that Professor Hassassian can meet with as many supporters as possible.

Members wishing to meet with our visitors during their stay in Scotland can contact me to make the necessary arrangements. jim.malone@fbu.org.uk

STEPS - [www.stepspalestine.org.uk](http://www.stepspalestine.org.uk)

Vote G4S as worst company in the world

Hi Tony

One to forward to Cross Party group to sign petition on G4S as worst company in the world! Also maybe someone can remember the 'Children in Chains' person in West Bank - may be able to help on first item?

I wonder if people from other groups would like to support them in their effort to put on pressure to free this young boy

--- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** arafat mahmod <[peacepalestine2005@yahoo.com](mailto:peacepalestine2005@yahoo.com)>

**To:** >

**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 January 2013, 15:54

**Subject:** Re: Boy in prison

Dear my freind ,i hope you are well

the boy mahmoud mefleh was sheeping his sheeps near eli sattelment under the scurity line ..the scurity gurd forced him to leave the area ..after that he took his sheep back to home ..after 30 minutes the sheeps and goats started to move quicly the boy also ran behind the sheeps the so him runing and thought that he may do something and follow him ,after that the israeli millitary came to that place and stoped the boy and calimed that the security guide were stoned ..they arested the boy ..the sheeps have been let alone the familly notes that mahmoud not with the sheeps ,they called me and other human rights activist in the village ,we started to search for mahmoud after many calls we discovered that the boy were taken by israelis millitary to police station called benyamena ...after that the arested him ,the familly have been asked to tell the palestinian preson club to bring layer ..the want to juge him with out any reson ..we asked all peace and human rights organizations to stop this vulation against the law ..the boy still in the preson ..

we need support to help him to be released..we also ask some help for his familly ..

please do your best my dear to pass the story for several human rights organizations may be they can do some thing ..

we really apreciate that very much ..

many thanks

arafat

0547269580

0597624706

arafat abu ras

human rights activist

Palestinian children's photography showcased in Scottish Parliament

We Teach Life, Sir exhibition aims to forge international solidarity.

<http://electronicintifada.net/content/palestinian-childrens-photography-showcased-scottish-parliament>

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/2013/vote-for-g4s-as-worst-company-of-the-year-10357>

## Vote for **G4S** as worst company of the year

Posted on January 8, 2013 by BNC

G4S has been nominated for the infamous 'Worst Company of the Year' Public Eye People's Award'. G4S is complicit in human rights abuses across the world and helps Israel commit crimes against the Palestinians. G4S is involved in running Israel's prisons, checkpoints, police force and Apartheid Wall.

Israel has a contract with the Israeli Prison service and provides equipment and services to prisons at which Israel detains Palestinian political prisoners without charge and subjects them to torture and ill-treatment. Many Palestinian political prisoners remain on hunger strike to protest detention without trial and one prisoner, Samer Al-Issawi, is approaching 165 days of hunger strike.

Voting closes on January 23 and the winner will be announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Let's embarrass G4S for its support for Israeli Apartheid at one of the most important corporate events of the year.

Please take a minute to vote for G4S and and share this widely.

**Click here to go to the voting page**

<http://www.publiceye.ch/en/vote/g4s/>

### Background information

G4S is a British-Danish private security company that provides services and equipment to Israeli prisons, checkpoints, the Apartheid Wall and the Israeli police.

In 2007, G4S signed a contract with the Israeli Prison Authority to provide security systems and other services for major Israeli prisons. G4S provides systems for the Ketziot and Megiddo prisons, which hold Palestinian political prisoners from occupied Palestinian territory inside Israel. Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the transfer of prisoners from occupied territory into the territory of the occupier.

G4S also provides equipment for Ofer prison, located in the occupied West Bank, and for Kishon and Moskobiyyeh detention facilities, at which human rights organisations have documented systematic torture and ill treatment of Palestinian prisoners, including child prisoners. Defence for Children-Palestine (DCI-Palestine) has released an urgent appeal to end the practice of holding Palestinian children from the West Bank in solitary confinement in facilities in Israel. The organization has documented 53 such cases since 2008.

As Palestinian political prisoners begun a mass hunger strike on April 17, Palestinian organisations called for action to be taken to hold G4S accountable for its involvement with Israel's unlawful detention of Palestinians.

G4S is also complicit with other aspects of Israel's system of apartheid over the Palestinian people. G4S provides equipment and services to Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank that form part of the route of Israel's illegal Wall and to the terminals isolating the occupied and besieged territory of Gaza. G4S has also signed contracts for equipment and services for the West Bank Israeli Police headquarters and to private businesses based in illegal Israeli settlements. A panel of legal experts concluded that G4S may be criminally liable for its activities in support of Israel's illegal Wall and other violations of international law.

G4S has attempted to deflect the criticism it has been facing by announcing that it intends to end some aspects of its involvement in Israel's illegal settlements by 2015. However, this response is unsatisfactory. The public announcements make no mention of the participation of G4S in the illegal detention and torture of Palestinian political prisoners inside Israel. Additionally, the announcement mentions only some aspects of the company's involvement in Israel's illegal settlements and pledges only to exit them at some undetermined point in the future.

#### **Solidarity activists have already started to take effective action against G4S:**

- A student-led campaign at the University of Oslo pressured the university to announce that it will terminate its contract with G4S in July 2013.

- Pressure by campaign groups and members of the European Parliament was followed by a decision by the European Union not to renew its contract with G4S for security services at some of its Brussels premises.

- In the UK, mainstream newspapers prominently covered a demonstration that took place outside the G4S annual meeting and have pressured a major energy company to end ties with the company.

In Denmark, a major bank and several large NGOs have cut their ties to the company because of its ties to Israeli apartheid.

<http://english.pnn.ps/index.php/national/3550-state-of-palestine-name-change-shows-limitations>

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| From SPSC |
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Best wishes for a fulfilling 2013 to all who want to act in solidarity with Palestinians.

We mourn the loss of friends - Ron Deen, Stephen Maxwell, Marion Woolfson, Rev Hugh Drummond - whose stalwart defence of Palestinian rights inspires us to continue and intensify our own efforts.

2012 was an active year for Palestine solidarity in Scotland, against a background of escalating Israeli dispossession and massacre, with full UK government backing of the criminal and apartheid state. The question is still open whether the worldwide

movement of disgust at Israeli crimes and sympathy for the Palestinian cause can be turned into active solidarity of sufficient impact to force an end to Israeli crimes before the Zionist project is completed.

SPSC is simply still too small as 2013 opens; we need your energy and your ideas to prevent the complete colonisation of all of Palestine with all Palestinians herded into walled and electronically controlled prisons.

Unsurprisingly, UK Foreign Secretary Hague supported the November surge in Israeli killing of Palestinians without reservation, and Tony Blair still slouches around the Middle East, at huge public expense, as our official 'peace-bringer'. We expect by now that Hague and Blair will rub salt in the open wounds of Palestinians, but many were surprised when the Scottish Government dropped the First Minister's previous rhetorical commitment to sanctions against Israel and opted for normalisation.

2012 witnessed the development of Scottish-Israeli trade and technical cooperation, diplomatic relations unhampered by Israel's violations of international law, and Scottish Government defence of its financial aid to Israeli settler company, Eden Springs, to forward its business plan promoting the products of another Israeli settler company, Soda Stream.

2012 also saw ordinary citizens and civil society institutions take a stand against Israeli crimes, with the building of the BDS campaign, boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it conforms to minimum standards of justice for Palestinians.

Seven Scottish PSC members participated in the World Social Forum - Free Palestine, in Brazil in November, which went ahead despite sustained Israeli and local Zionist efforts to prevent it.

Observing South America, Palestinians can draw inspiration from current successes of indigenous peoples there to challenge colonial-settler systems based on racial domination by a white elite of mainly Spanish European descent. The current Bolivian President, Evo Morales, describes the Bolivian struggle as similar to that of South Africans. The inspiration is two-way; some talk of the indigenous people's intifada.

We appeal to you personally to help us build a stronger campaign in support of Palestinians and against UK and Scottish Governmental complicity. Please support SPSC.

- Join - wherever you are. Even if you can't attend the AGM from Alaska, you'll know you're helping.
- Donate - we are all volunteers and no-one makes a dime out of our activism.

- Network - ask your group, campaign or friends to join our mailing list and receive occasional updates. Use Scottish PSC as a resource to put you in contact with groups/activists in your area or to get you started with a local solidarity group.

Alone you can do something, but if you organise with others of your ilk you can do much more. Together we have a real chance to consign apartheid Israel to the dustbin of history with apartheid South Africa.

*Mick Napier*

*On behalf of Scottish PSC*

*chair@scottishpsc.org.uk*

- Scottish PSC correspondence with the Scottish Government - <http://bit.ly/UBulQx>
- Scottish PSC: looking back at 2012 - <http://bit.ly/XkVo4U>

## Coming events

- 9 February: Agricultural trade day of action against complicit companies - <http://bit.ly/VlBjco>
- 23 February, Dundee: Scottish PSC AGM - <http://bit.ly/Wu2q4R>
- 23 & 24 February, Dundee: Members meeting - Scottish PSC campaign planning 2013 (email [secretary@scottishpsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@scottishpsc.org.uk) for details)
- 14-16 June, Comrie: Scottish PSC residential weekend - politics of solidarity (email [secretary@scottishpsc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@scottishpsc.org.uk) for details)

## Take action now

- Vote for G4S in the worst company of the year awards - <http://www.publiceye.ch/en/vote/g4s/>
- Time For Justice, a call from Palestine to EU citizens: Write to your MEP - <http://palsolidarity.org/timeforjustice/>

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| <h3>Book Suggestions After Cross-Party Group 9 January 2013</h3> |
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- Some book suggestions from Liz Sim - thanks
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- I prefer books that are (semi)-academic, well-researched, well-informed, perhaps personal experience, with decent index (helps skimming!) and sound references to good sources. Often good to start with recent publications - advantages of recent scholarship, more open attitudes, and some critical thinking about the past.
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- First, a couple of very accessible recent books which cover a range of issues, then some specifically on Balfour and on apartheid, and end with some more general stuff like history occupation, etc

- Many of these may be available at Hadeel.
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- **Two recently published 'good reads':**
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- 'The General's Son, Journey of an Israeli in Palestine' Miko Peled, 2012, ISBN 9781935982159 .A personal but very informative account of experiences of father (Israeli General Matti Peled) and son, from 1947, 1967, military service, subsequent discovery of Palestinian perspectives. An excellent introduction which touches on a wide range of interlocking issues.
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- 'After Zionism: One state for Israel and Palestine' ed. Antony Loewenstein, Ahmed Moor, 2012, ISBN 9780863568169. A powerful, informative and very readable collection of 14 essays by distinguished experts in their fields, mostly not directly about one-state, but addressing several significant contextual factors around Israel-Palestine. Style is generally very direct and waffle-free. The one-state issues seems only to arise near the end - essays by Omar Barghouti and then Ghada Karmi I'm still reading this one.....
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- **On Balfour:**
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- 'Britain in Palestine - the story of British Rule in Palestine 1917-1948', Karl Sabbagh, publ 2012,
- ISBN 978 0 9551810 - 1 - 6. Based on exhibition ' Britain in Palestine' by Anne Lineen at Brunei Gallery.
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- 'Palestine and the Legacy of Balfour', ed. Hugh Humphries, 2006, ISBN 09052121034. Proceedings of Haddington Conference November 2005. Publ. Scottish Friends of Palestine.
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- **On Apartheid:**
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- 'Israeli Apartheid, a Beginners Guide', Ben White (forward by John Dugard), 2009, ISBN 978 0 7453 2887 4
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- 'Palestine Peace Not Apartheid', Jimmy Carter, 2006, ISBN 978 0 7432 8502 5
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- 'Palestine/Israel: Peace or Apartheid', Marwan Bishara (forward by Richard Falk), 2002,
- ISBN 1 84277 2732

- 'The Rainbow People of God - South Africa's victory over apartheid' Archbishop Desmond Tutu, ed. John Allen, 1994. Possibly out of print, but likely to be in decent libraries.
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- **BDS:**
- 'The Case for Sanctions Against Israel', ed. Audrea Lim, 2012, ISBN978 1 84467 450.
- - another very useful collection of essays. Contributors include Mustafa Barghouti, Omar Barghouti, Ronald Kasrils, Ilan Pappé, Rebecca Vilkomerson.....
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- **Changing perceptions of Israel and Zionism** - from US and Israel
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- 'Knowing Too Much - Why the American Jewish Romance with Israel is coming to an end', Norman G Finkelstein, 2012, ISBN 978 1 935928 77 5.
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- 'The Crisis of Zionism', Peter Beinart, 2012, ISBN 978 0 8050 9412 1.
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- 'The Unmaking of Israel', Gershom Gorenberg, 2011, ISBN 978 0 06 198508 9
- - 'a penetrating and provocative look at the state of contemporary Israel... How the nations policies are undermining its democracy..... To save itself Israel must end the occupation'..... etc
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- **More Introductions**
- Too many to list Try:
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- 'Married to Another Man', Ghada Karmi, 2007, ISBN 978 0 7453 2065 6.
- .
- 'The Palestine-Israeli Conflict, A Beginner's Guide', Dan Cohn-Sherbok & Dawoud El-Alami, 2001. ISBN 1-85168-261-9 '... a rare insight into Palestine-Israeli dilemma... outlining political, religious historical and emotional issues...' by a Jewish Rabbi and Palestinian lawyer, both lecturers in Univ Wales. Useful chronology, but (my copy) only goes up to election of Sharon in 2001.
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- **History**
- Some versions tend to give Israeli-Zionist 'mythistory'. Others - from the 'new historians' - are based on sound academic research and methods. I prefer the latter.
- Some names recur, so books grouped by authors - titles mostly self-explanatory.
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- Avi Shlaim:
- 'Israel and Palestine', 2009, ISBN 978 1 84467 366 7 . Substantial and very comprehensive.

- ‘... Balfour to failure of Oslo, ... 1948 to 2008 invasion of Gaza... places current events in their proper historical perspective..... assess impact of key political figures... re-examines US... role, explores missed opportunities for peace...’
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- ‘The Iron Wall - Israel and the Arab World’, 2000, ISBN 0 14 028870 8. new edition Sept 2013.
- 
- ‘War and Peace in the Middle East - a Concise History’, 1995, 978 0 14 024564 6. Really concise - just under 150 small-format pages.
- Ilan Pappé:
- ‘The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine’, 2006, ISBN 1 85168 467 0. ‘Ground-breaking research into a well-kept Israeli secret, classic of historical scholarship’ (Ghada Karmi)
- 
- ‘A History of Modern Palestine - One Land, Two Peoples’, 2006, ISBN 0 521 68315 7, from c.1956 to 2003
- 
- ‘The Making of the Arab-Israeli Conflict 1947-1951’, 2001, ISBN 1 85043 819 6
- 
- **More histories:**
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- ‘The Iron Cage - the story of the Palestinian struggle for statehood’, Rashid Khalidi, 2006,
- ISBN 978 1 85168 582 0
- 
- **Experience of Occupation**
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- ‘Occupation Diaries’ Raja Shehadeh, 2012, ISBN 978 1781250 167
- 
- ‘Palestine Inside Out - an everyday occupation’, Saree Makdisi, 2008, ISBN 978 0 393 33844 7
- 
- ‘Palestinian Walks - notes on a vanishing landscape’, Raja Shehadeh, 2008,
- ISBN 978 1 86197 899 8
- 
- **Revealing the ‘Spin’**
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- ‘Palestine in Israeli School Books - ideology and propaganda in education’, Nurit Peled-Elhanan, 2012, ISBN 978 1 78076 505 1
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- 'More Bad News from Israel', Greg Philo & Mike Berry, 2011, ISBN978 0 7453 2978 9.  
Using Critiques, content analyses, surveys, examines media coverage of issues and events up to 2010 Gaza flotilla. Notes sophisticated Israeli PR, repeated by media, without offering alternative Palestinian perspectives From Glasgow University Media Group.
- 
- 'Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict', Norman G Finkelstein, 2003,
- ISBN 1 85984 422 1
- 
- **and finally.....**
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- 'The Palestinian State - a Jewish Justification', Dan Cohn-Sherbok, 2012,
- ISBN 978 1 907605 29 1
- 
- Websites and newspapers - try Haaretz, Guardian, Al Jazeera, BBC .....