

September Newsletter Fourth Edition

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Ambassador's Foreword:

Civil Society Solidarity



The recent signing of the Emirates, Bahrain and Israel normalization agreements on Tuesday 15 September, is the latest in a long line of measures which aim to further systematically deny the Palestinian people inalienable right to self-determination in establishing their sovereign and independent state on the 4th of 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. It also aims to destabilize the region through polarization and tension to serve Trump's and Netanyahu's self-interest. Indeed, these agreements only unifies and supports prior

recent announcements, including the Israeli annexation plan, Trump's so-called Peace Plan, and all of which further validate Israel's impunity and lack of accountability for its brutal occupation and continued illegal *de facto* annexation. The façade of peace which Israel uses to cloak over its human rights violations, violations of humanitarian law and permanent subjugation of Palestinian people, is not sustainable, and is a bullying tactic used to entirely undermine the role of international law, UN Resolutions and human rights.

Yet, despite significant international support for the recent normalization agreements, including by the Australian government, and contrary to the belief that this agreement will establish peace in the region, indeed, it will only weaken security and hinder any prospects for finding a sustainable and just peaceful solution to Palestine Israel, in which Palestinians can achieve their right to self-determination in sovereign statehood.

However, consistent with shifting dynamics in the region towards democracy and changes in international relations, to rules-based multilateralism and international law, now, more than ever, is a time for international civil society solidarity and in particular Australian civil society solidarity. Yet, this requires the continuity of unity and steadfastness, amongst not only Palestinian people, but throughout all of civil society movements and organisations. The growth in the mobilization of grassroots movements, including the Black Lives Matter, labor unions, farmers unions, faith-based organizations, social movements, NGOs, human rights organizations, academia, solidarity groups and Indigenous rights movements, in solidarity with Palestinian people, is crucial to standing against global grave social injustices, discrimination, colonialist agendas, foreign occupations, among other issues based on international law and human rights. This is key to achieving just and permanent solutions and is a prerequisite to achieving self-determination for the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Izzat Abdulhadi

Ambassador of the State of Palestine

Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific



This month at the Delegation

United Nations International Day of Peace

Organised by the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin in partnership with United Nations Information Centre for Australia, Ambassador Abdulhadi participated in observing International Day of Peace held in Canberra. The main themes were the prerequisite to sustainable peace and mechanisms for conflict resolutions. The speakers, in particular Ms Louise Aubin, the representative of UNHCR, read a message from His Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Antonio Guterres, who reiterated the position of the United Nations of the necessity to have a peaceful world and solve international conflict according to just peace.



Weekly Intern Report Discussion

The GDOP has established a weekly meeting to discuss past intern reports. Each week one report is analysed and discussed amongst staff. A brainstorming session is held in order to develop a plan to best utilise the report to assist the GDOP with its work.

Below is the link to all GDOP intern policy reports:

<http://www.palestine-australia.com/embassy/publications/policy-reports/>

palestine-australia.com

Meetings with Members of Parliament

Ambassador Abdulhadi continued to meet with parliamentarians throughout September, as part of the continued advocacy campaign.

Annexation remained the key topic of these meetings, in particular, in addition to the UAE and Israel normalization agreement. Ambassador Abdulhadi reaffirmed the position of the Palestinian government and noted the grave violations to international law, Arab Peace Initiative and Palestinian human rights which these agreements pose.

Ambassador Abdulhadi attends online webinar sessions

Ambassador Abdulhadi attended several online webinars this month, including “Does Australia have a policy towards the Israel Palestine Conflict?”, organised by the Australian Institute for International Affairs (AIIA). This event hosted Dr Peter Rodgers, Former Australian Ambassador to Israel, who shared his expertise and significant insight and analysis into the recent events and current situation. Especially, Israeli de jure and de facto annexation and normalization agreements between Israel, UAE and Bahrain.





Steering Committee of the OIC Heads of Mission Group Meeting with Shadow Foreign Minister, the Hon Senator Penny Wong

On the 23rd of September, Ambassador Abdulhadi had the privilege of participating in a virtual meeting with the Steering Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Mission Group in Canberra and Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Australian Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The meeting discussed the position of the Labor Party towards Israel Palestine conflict, in particular the de jure and de facto Israeli annexation plans and the future for the two-state solution.

Senator Penny Wong reiterated the Labor Party's position towards the Israeli annexation plan, which is illegal by international law and will destabilise peace and security in the region. She also reiterated the Labor Party's position of supporting a just and durable two-state solution.

Ambassador Abdulhadi was encouraged by the huge support from his colleagues, the Ambassadors.

In addition, the technical committee of the OIC in Canberra have been regularly meeting in preparation for the first **OIC Day on 7 October.**



Ambassador Abdulhadi interviewed by SBS World News

On Friday 25th Ambassador Abdulhadi was interviewed by SBS World News about the forthcoming elections and how this relates to the recent Israel, UAE and Bahrain normalization agreements.



Meeting between Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) and the GDOP

On 15 September, PIEN and the GDOP held a virtual meeting to brief each other of their respective advocacy campaigns.

The two parties discussed the UAE normalization agreement and the statements by Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Senator Penny Wong in this regard. Including the welcoming of this normalization agreement and highlighting the importance of the two-state solution.

PIEN briefed Ambassador Abdulhadi of the advocacy campaign PIEN has been developing and implementing. Ambassador Abdulhadi briefed PIEN of the past and current advocacy campaign against annexation.

PIEN and the GDOP agreed to hold further discussions in the future.



Palestine in the news

UAE, Bahrain and Israel signed agreements and Australia's position

On 15 September, Israel, UAE and Bahrain signed normalization agreements to establish formal relations.

Both the Australian Liberal and Labor Parties welcomed the normalization agreement between Israel, UAE and Bahrain. It is worth mentioning that the Labor Party accompanied their welcoming of the agreement to the achieving of a just and durable Two-state solution.



Marise Payne ✓ @Marise... · 12 Sep. ▾

Australia welcomes the historic announcement of the normalisation of relations between Israel & Bahrain. It is a courageous step forward for peace & security in the Middle East.

[@bahdiplomatic](#) [@Gabi_Ashkenazi](#)
[@ABZayed](#)

🗨️ 78 ↻ 108 ❤️ 428 🔗



Senator Penny Wong ✓ @... · 13 Sep. ▾

Labor welcomes the normalisation of relations between Bahrain & Israel, in addition to the UAE and Israel, in the hope it will bring new opportunities for stability & peace in the region, & meaningful progress to achieve a just and durable two-state solution.

🗨️ 48 ↻ 40 ❤️ 352 🔗

Statement of His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas

His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas issued a statement at the UN General Assembly Debate of the 75th Session on 25 September. Link to full statement:

<https://palestineun.org/statement-of-h-e-president-mahmoud-abbas-president-of-the-state-of-palestine-un-general-assembly-general-debate-of-the-75-th-session-25-september-2020/>

Dr Hanan Ashrawi: Normalization with Israel will not solve the conflict

“The Bahrain-Israel announcement is not a peace deal. It is US President Donald Trump playing to his base in the wake of elections and a reward to Israel’s escalating aggression and impunity. Normalization has been taking place between Bahrain and Israel surreptitiously. The US administration has used all its political and economic might to extort, pressure, and bully Arab and other states to normalize Israeli colonization and trample on foundational principles of international law, including the tacit endorsement of the war crime of annexation. The path to real peace must be founded on mutual respect and adherence to international law...”

Link to full press release below:

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/en/article/16332/Dr-Ashrawi-Normalization-with-Israel-will-not-solve-the-conflict>



Hanan Ashrawi ✓ @DrHa... · 12 Sep. ▾

To the incredible, honourable people of Bahrain: we are overwhelmed & heartened by your support & solidarity. We never doubted your genuine commitment to Palestine. We love you.

🇸🇦🇵🇸 بحرينيون_ضد_التطبيع #
[#Bahrainis_against_normalisation](#).

🗨️ 96 ↻ 753 ❤️ 2,212 🔗



Additional information and sources

“Normalization Can Inject New Life into the Arab Peace Initiative”

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/normalization-can-inject-new-life-into-the-arab-peace-initiative>

Dr Hanan Ashrawi: World must reject US sanctions on ICC officials and protect them from bullying:

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/en/article/16252/Dr-Hanan-Ashrawi-World-must-reject-US-sanctions-on-ICC-officials-and-protect-them-from-bullying>

Leadership: Bahrain-Israel normalization deal is a betrayal of Jerusalem

<https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/120164>

PM Shtayyeh: Elections are the gate to reconciliation:

<https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/120226>

Palestine Fair Trade Australia: New crafts arrived from Gaza!

<https://mailchi.mp/68e92ffc8356/september-newsletter>



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- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/paldelausnz?lang=en>
- **Website:** <http://www.palestine-australia.com/>
- **Instagram:** palestiniandelegation_au_nz

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