

Russell Tribunal on Palestine

With the support of
The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation Ltd

Media Briefing for the Russell Tribunal on Palestine

The Russell Tribunal on Palestine is a public awareness tribunal set up by international civil society to investigate violations of international law perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

Its second international session, in London on 20-22 November, will examine international corporate complicity in violations of human rights and humanitarian law and war crimes.

Last March in Barcelona the Tribunal considered the complicities and omissions of the European Union and its member states in the occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel.

It also examined the perpetuation of international law violations committed by Israel.

The Tribunal called on the EU and member states to take action, including diplomatic, trade and cultural sanctions against Israel.

The London session will establish the responsibilities and obligations of corporations under international law and assess the conduct of companies over Israel's violations of human rights.

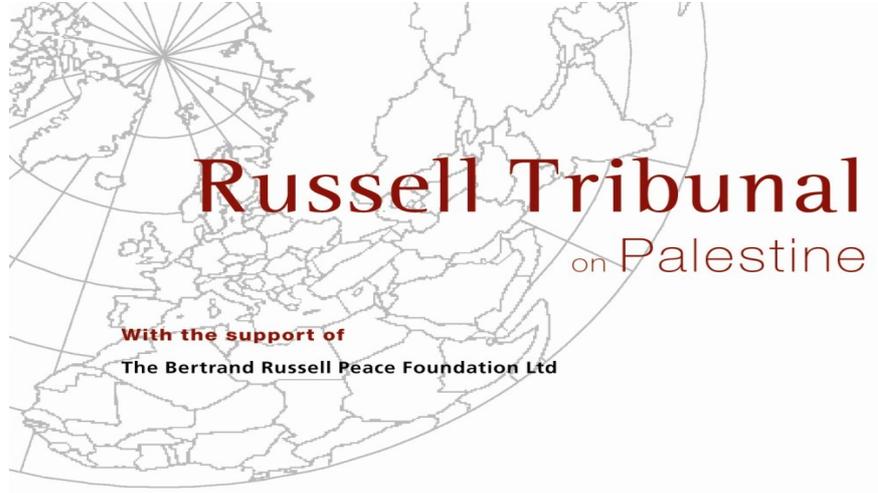
The Tribunal will also seek to uncover the system that allows corporations to act in such unlawful ways, and to show in how states and international organisations could be held accountable.

During this session, the jury will examine cases on:

- Corporations providing tangible services and infrastructure that support illegal Israeli settlements and the occupation of Palestinian territory in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.
- Overseas banks and other financial institutions providing services to illegal settlements, and Israeli banks trading abroad which provide services to settlements.
- Foreign companies that manufacture products inside the settlements and industrial zones in the West Bank and Israeli firms which export agricultural and other products from West Bank settlements and industrial zones.
- Firms abroad involved in the export of arms and the infrastructure of war, occupation, colonisation and repression in the territories and Israeli companies that export arms and repressive hardware and knowledge abroad

As in the Barcelona session, experts and witnesses will present cases to the jury.

Corporations will also be invited to defend their position, before the jury presents its conclusions in a news conference.

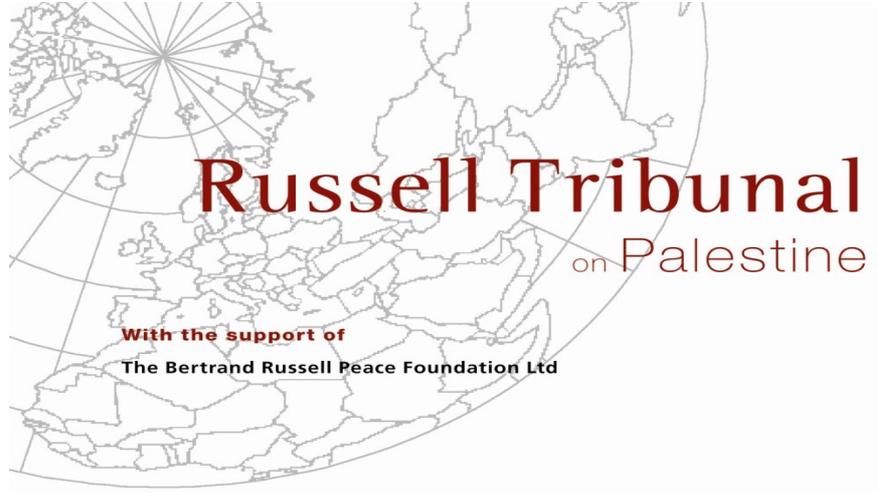


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What is the Russell Tribunal on Palestine?

The first Russell Tribunal met in 1967 to investigate war crimes committed in Vietnam and to adjudicate them on the basis of international law.

It was set up by Bertrand Russell, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1950, and chaired by Jean-Paul Sartre.

Eminent intellectuals such as Lelio Basso, Julio Cortazar Lazaro Cardenas and Simone de Beauvoir took part in the tribunal's proceedings.

Despite lacking formal judicial status, the tribunal acted as a public awareness forum, highlighting acts of injustice and impunity for violations of international law.

Decades later, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation is sponsoring the establishment of a Russell Tribunal on Palestine.

This tribunal is formed to discuss errors, omissions and complicity of third nations and international organisations causing Israel's occupation of the territories and its impunity.

It comprises eminent people from a wide range of countries, including Israel.

The tribunal and its legitimacy does not stem from any government or political party, but its members' prestige, professionalism and commitment to human rights.

Its international support committee features over 100 diverse personalities, such as the former United Nations secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Among others is Mohammed Bedjaoui, ex-president of the International Court of Justice, philosopher Noam Chomsky and filmmaker Ken Loach.

Why is the Tribunal Needed?

July 9 in 2004 saw the International Court of Justice issue an advisory opinion ruling that the wall built by Israel in occupied Palestine was illegal.

Eleven days later, the UN general assembly adopted by an overwhelming majority a resolution which acknowledged the ICJ opinion.

The resolution called on UN member states to comply with their legal obligations as mentioned in the opinion.

These obliged them not to render aid or assistance for the wall's construction or to recognise this illegal situation.

It also required them to ensure Israel's compliance with obligations under international humanitarian law and the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people.

But all the states that voted for the resolution were then content to issue mere condemnations and policy statements.

This allowed Israel to continue its policy of land confiscation, creating illegal settlements in occupied territory, and violating Palestinians' rights.

In December 2008 the Israeli army launched a war on the Gaza Strip, which was already reeling under a brutal siege.

The war rendered Israel's contempt for international law more apparent than ever.

It highlighted the responsibility and complicity of other countries – especially the United States and the EU – in the injustice suffered by the Palestinian people.

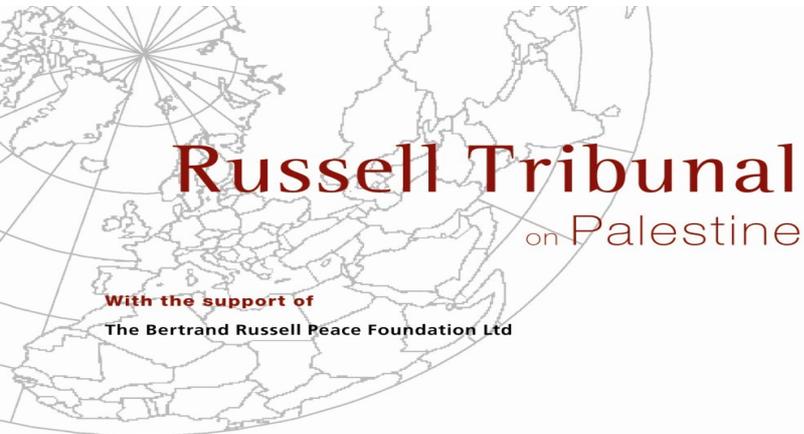
Yet as the condemnations have not been accompanied by sanctions of any kind, Israel enjoys the tacit support of the international community.

This is the context that led to the establishment of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine.

It represents a civil initiative that aims to promote international law as the key factor applicable to the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

The tribunal also seeks to mobilize international public opinion so the UN and member states can be persuaded to act to end Israel's impunity and build a lasting just peace.

It is not only established to focus on Israel's manifest responsibility. The tribunal also intends to show the complicity of third-party states and international bodies whose passive stance or active support allow Israel to continue violating rights.



How does the Tribunal Operate?

The RTP was established in response to a call by the late Ken Coates, chair of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Nurit Peled, the Israeli winner of the Sakharov prize for freedom of speech, and Leila Shahid, the EU general delegate for Palestine.

Responsibility for organising the Russell Tribunal on Palestine lies with **the International Organizing Committee**.

Its members are: Pierre Galand, Stéphane Hessel, Marcel-Francis Kahn, Robert Kissous, François Maspero, Paulette Pierson-Mathy, Bernard Ravenel and Brahim Senouci.

The **international support committee** comprises individuals from the academic, scientific, cultural and political fields with an international reputation and no current political mandate (see annex).

The **national support committees** contribute to fundraising and ensure popular mobilisation and media coverage.

They may also assume responsibility for organising a session in their country or help to arrange others.

National support committees have been set up in France, Belgium, United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Portugal, Germany, Italy, and Spain and Catalonia.

Such committees are also being established in the Netherlands, Austria, Algeria, Lebanon, India and Chile.

The UK National Support Committee will host the second session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine in London on the 20-22 November.

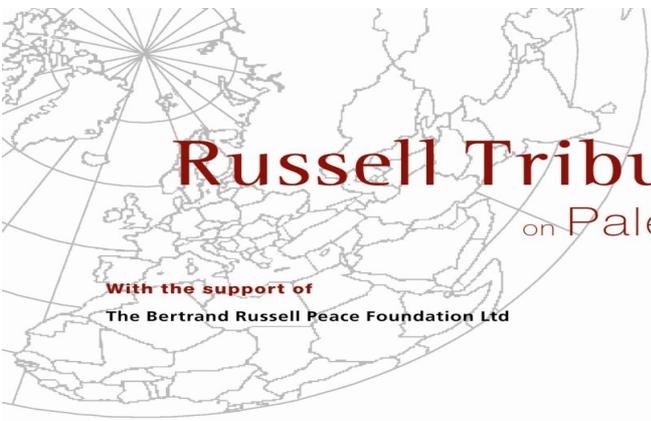
The UK committee brings together individuals such as academics, lawyers, journalists, activists, writers specialised in Human Rights as well as British organisations involved in defending human rights and international law in Palestine.

Tribunal sessions are prepared with assistance from dozens of **experts and academics** from different countries. Experts present arguments at the hearings. **Witnesses** testify on relevant aspects of the issues addressed.

A **jury** comprising eminent personalities from the legal, academic, scientific, cultural or political fields will be present at each session.

The tribunal is the core element of the project.

Once the hearings end after the experts' reports and witness statements, the jury will present its conclusions.



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London session (20-22 November)

The Russell Tribunal on Palestine has been planned as a decentralised initiative that will involve sessions in different cities between 2010 and 2012.

The second international session will take place in **London from 20-22 November** at the Law Society.

It will examine corporate complicity in Israel's violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The content of the London session will be prepared with help from many prominent legal experts in international law and Corporate Law.

These academics are from Britain, the US, France, Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Israel and Palestine.

Jurors

The **jury** will comprise eight people of internationally recognised moral or legal prestige:

José Antonio Martín Pallín, a judge in the Spanish supreme court, has been a member of the Spanish judiciary for over 40 years. In 2006 he received Spain's National Human Rights Award. He is a member of the International Secretariat of Jurists for Amnesty and Democracy and is serving his first term as commissioner at the International Commission of Jurists. He has undertaken numerous missions for organisations to Latin America and has taught law at universities in Spain.

Michael Mansfield QC, barrister and president of the Haldane Society of socialist lawyers in Britain. He is also a socialist, republican and self-described "radical lawyer". He has participated in court cases including accused IRA bombers, the Bloody Sunday killings, and the deaths of Jean Charles de Menezes and Diana, Princess of Wales.

John Dugard, South African international law professor and former special rapporteur on Human Rights in the Palestinian territories. He has served as judge ad hoc on the International Court of Justice and as a [special rapporteur](#) for the former UN Commission on Human Rights and the International Law Commission. He is a serving member of the Institut de Droit International. He now practices in the Netherlands, with public international law his speciality.

Ronald Kasrils, South African writer, politician and activist. He was earlier minister for South African intelligence services and a member of the national executive committee of the African

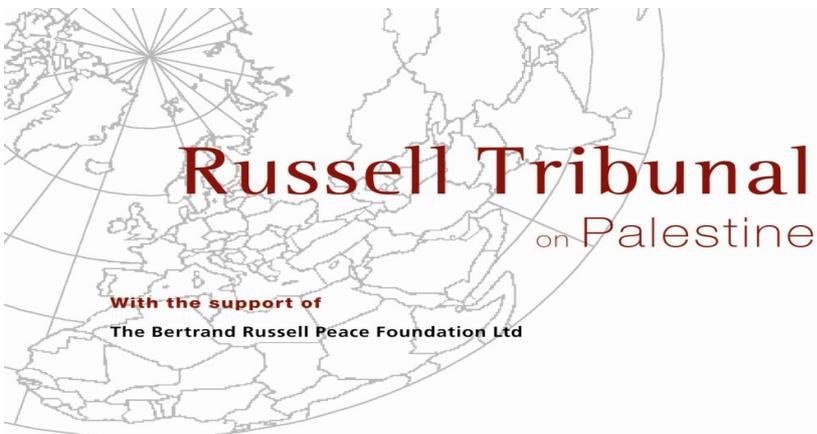
National Congress. He also served on the central committee of the South African Communist Party.

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, the former Nobel peace laureate from Northern Ireland and Irish peace activist. She co-founded the Community of Peace People with Betty Williams, an organisation which attempts to encourage a peaceful resolution of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Both women received the Nobel peace prize. Corrigan was awarded the Pacem in Terris award and is a founding member of the Nobel Woman's Initiative.

Cynthia McKinney, former US congresswoman and a member of the Green Party. She served six terms as a Democratic Party member of the US House of Representatives. In 2008, the Green Party nominated McKinney for the US presidency. She is the first African-American woman to have served for Georgia in the House of Representatives. Last February she was awarded the Peace through Conscience award from the Munich American Peace Committee. In 2004, during a break from office, McKinney received the Backbone Award by the Backbone Campaign "because she was willing to challenge the Bush administration and called for an investigation into 9-11".

Aminata Traoré, author and former Malian culture minister. She is also a former coordinator of the UN development programme. Traoré coordinates the Forum pour l'autre Mali. She is associate coordinator of the International Network for Cultural Diversity and was elected to the board of the International Press Service. She is a critic of globalisation and the economic policies of the most developed nations. Traoré has voiced opposition to western countries' subsidies for their cotton farmers which disadvantages West African nations.

Lord Anthony Gifford QC, hereditary peer, was a barrister for over 30 years in Britain, where he was involved in well-known cases such as those of the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four. He was actively engaged in the Southern African freedom struggle. He conducted inquiries into human rights abuses in Northern Ireland and into racism in Britain. At the age of 50 he moved his main home to Jamaica, where he has been recognised as a leading advocate in a range of human rights fields.



Experts and witnesses

Pierre Galand

A former Belgian senator, he has worked for 40 years in development cooperation. A leading member of numerous Belgian and international solidarity and human rights organizations. He is a member of the organizing committee of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine.

Stéphane Hessel

Born in Berlin, he assumed French nationality in 1937 and was a member of the Resistance during the Second World War, joining General de Gaulle in London. He was deported to the concentration camps Buchenwald and Dora. After the war, Hessel contributed to the writing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He is a Ambassador of France and serves on the support committee for the French coordination for the decade of peace culture and non-violence. Since its creation, Hessel has supported the Non-Violence XXI foundation. He is Grand Officer of the French Légion d'Honneur and Grand Cross of the Ordre National du Mérite. Hessel was a member of the consultative National Committee for Human Rights and of the High Counsel for international cooperation. He is the honorary president of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine.

Richard Hermer QG

A lawyer in human rights, public international law, actions against the police and personal injury, Hermer has been identified in the Chambers Global rankings as one of the world's leading public international law advocates. He has acted in many high profile cases, including representing UK citizens detained in Guantanamo Bay and victims of extraordinary rendition. Hermer was earlier appointed the first Human Rights Practitioner in Residence at Columbia University in New York, specializing on international human rights and corporate responsibility.

Yasmine Gado

Yasmine Gado has practiced corporate law in New York and Washington, and served as in-house counsel for the US Export-Import Bank. Gado received her law degree with honours from George Washington University Law School and her undergraduate degree from Washington University. She now lives in Amman, devoting her time to researching and writing on issues related to Palestine and human rights, including consultancy for human rights organizations such as Badil.

William Bourdon

A French lawyer and member of the Paris bar, he specialises in defending human rights and victims of crimes against humanity. Bourdon has acted as secretary general of the International Federation for Human Rights and founded the Sherpa Association, a French network of jurists which promotes corporate social responsibility. He has been active in legal procedures against former Serbian and Rwandan leaders, Tunisian torturers and General Augusto Pinochet.

Dalit Baum

Dr. Dalit Baum teaches gender and the global economy at the Haifa University and Beit Berl College in Israel, exposing injustice and promoting equality between communities. She has been a co-founder of Black Laundry, the Community School for Women and the Coalition of Women for Peace. Baum is the project coordinator of Who Profits from the Occupation, a group which details the economic connections and business practices of Israeli and international corporations in the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Hugh Lanning

Deputy General Secretary of the Public and Commercial Services, Lanning has special responsibility for negotiations with the Cabinet Office in Britain on jobs, pensions and all personnel management issues. He also works on equality and international disputes. As chair of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, he has led delegations investigating Palestinian workers' rights in settlements.

Fayez Al Taneeb

Coordinator of the Palestinian farmers' union and the campaign organisation Stop the Wall. Al Taneeb worked his own land until he was evicted to make way for the wall. His campaigning has focused on labour rights, the impact of the wall and the environmental and human costs of settlement industries and their impact on Palestinian land, livelihoods and health.

Wael Natheef

Wael Natheef is the general secretary of the Jericho branch of the workers' organisation the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions. He collaborates with the Israeli workers rights' group Kav LaOved to expose Palestinians' exploitation in settlements.

Adri Nieuwhof

A consultant and human rights advocate, based in Switzerland, Nieuwhof is a consultant to Palestinian and Israeli social campaigns for justice, undertaking research, evaluations and strategic planning on corporate involvement with settlements. She is director of the organization Samora Advies. Nieuwhof earlier led the Dutch Refugee Council and for many years advised government programmes. She was also involved in numerous initiatives on boycott, divestment and sanctions for the Holland Committee on Southern Africa.

Ghaleb Mashni

A Palestinian engineer who lives in Shuaffat, East Jerusalem. Ghaleb's family land was confiscated to build the Jerusalem Light Railway.

John Dorman

John Dorman is an Irish architect, human rights campaigner and a member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Amnesty International for over 20 years. He is a member of the national committee of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Dorman is leading a campaign on the involvement of Cement Roadstone Holdings in the construction of Israel's "apartheid" wall.

Salma Karmy

She is a barrister at Toops Chambers in London and specializes in criminal defense work. Karmy is now working as a legal researcher at the Palestinian human rights organisation Al Haq. Her cases focus on individuals and companies involved in breaches of international law in the occupied territories. Karmy is also conducting research into the legal issues on settlement products, such as labelling and supply chains.

Christophe Perrin

Christophe Perrin is a member of CIMADE, a French social organisation focused on Palestinian human rights and part of the Languedoc coalition against Agrexco in France. Perrin has been instrumental in research and campaigning against the trade in settlement agricultural produce.

Nancy Kricorian

A writer based in New York and has taught at Yale, Columbia and Rutgers colleges, Kricorian is the campaign manager for Code Pink Women for Peace's Stolen Beauty Ahava Boycott. She is a member of PEN USA and on the board of the Armenia Tree Project

Rae Abileah

A national organiser with Code Pink Women for Peace, the US-based women-initiated peace and justice group, Abileah has visited Israel and the West Bank several times. She went there with a Code Pink delegation in the summer last year and travelled to Gaza in December. Abileah is a contributing author to 10 excellent reasons not to join the military and the anthology *Sisters Singing: Incantations, Blessings, Chants, Prayers, Art and Sacred Stories by Women*.

Phon Van Den Biesen

A lawyer for over three decades, Van Den Biesen graduated from the University of Amsterdam and helped pioneer legal aid. He started on civil litigation before tackling issues on war and peace and international and European law. Van Den Biesen earlier served as deputy agent for Bosnia and Herzegovina at the International Court of Justice in Bosnia's genocide case against Serbia and Montenegro. He has also represented Djibouti in the country's ICJ case against France.

Genevieve Coudrais

A retired French lawyer and active member of Association France Palestine Solidarity, Coudrais has taken part in solidarity campaigns against the French occupation of Algeria and has advocated non-violent resistance to colonialism. She participated in a delegation to Palestine last year and is now active in campaigns for Palestine human rights in France.

Merav Amir

Amir is research coordinator with the Who Profits from the Occupation research project for the Israeli organization the Coalition of Women for Peace. She is now writing her PhD dissertation on the restriction of movement within occupied Palestine. She is also an active in Machsom (Checkpoint) Watch, an Israeli group which documents and challenges human rights abuses at checkpoints across the West Bank.

Mario Franssen

Franssen is a construction engineer who coordinated INTAL, a Belgian solidarity movement on rights to overseas health, development and peace. The countries included the Philippines, the

Democratic Republic of Congo and Palestine, as well as the Latin American region. Franssen is now the INTAL spokesperson in Brussels and coordinator of a campaign against the bank Dexia.

Saskia Müller

Saskia Müller studied public administration at Amsterdam University's faculty of law. She worked as a senior consultant for Coopers & Lybrand (Price Waterhouse Coopers) and later started a training institute for Dutch lawyers. She is now an adviser and coach for organisational change in the private and public sectors.

John Hilary

Executive director at the anti-poverty charity War on Want, Hilary has campaigned for trade justice and against corporate complicity over human rights abuses in arms companies, agricultural production, manufacturing and other industries.

Maria LaHood

A senior staff Attorney at the Centre for Constitutional Rights in New York and specialist in international human rights litigation, LaHood has worked on cases against US officials in challenges to extraordinary rendition (Arar v Ashcroft) and targeted killing (Al-Aulaqi v Obama). She has also taken cases for extrajudicial killing and war crimes abroad against former overseas government officials (Matar v. Dichter and Belhas v. Ya'alon) and corporations (Wiwa v. Shell and Corrie v. Caterpillar).

Josh Ruebner

Reubner is the national advocacy director for the Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, a national coalition of more than 325 groups. The coalition works to end US support for Israel's occupation and make Washington policy support human rights, international law and equality. He is a former Middle East analyst for the Congressional Research Service, a federal government agency briefing congress members. He holds a graduate degree in international affairs from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington.

Shir Ever

An economic researcher in the Alternative Information Center, a Palestinian-Israeli organisation active in Jerusalem and Beit-Sahour, Ever's work also includes giving lectures and presentations on the economy of the occupation. His first book - Political Economy of Israel's Occupation: Repression Beyond Exploitation – was published by Pluto Press this year.

Jamal Juma'a

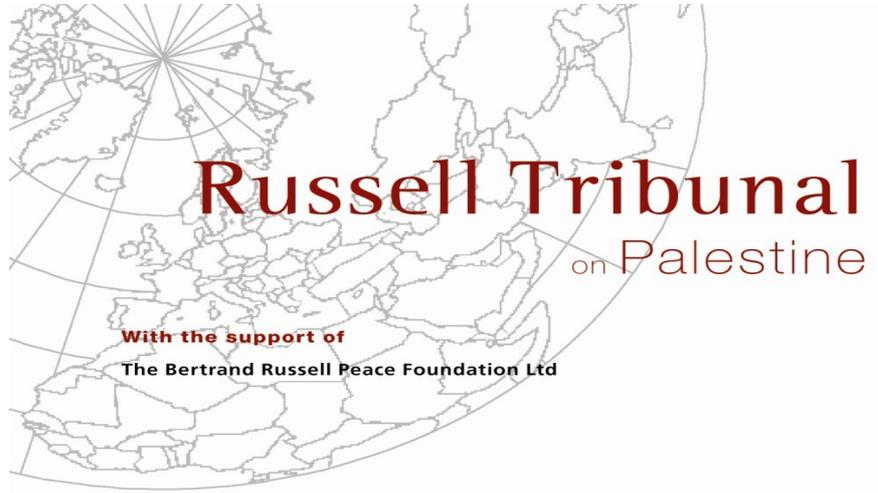
Coordinator of the Palestinian organisation Stop the Wall. The group seeks to empower local communities in the West Bank affected by the wall and campaigns on the impact of the occupation on Palestinian human, economic and social rights. Juma'a was a political prisoner jailed by Israel for several weeks at the end of last year for his involvement in a peaceful demonstration against the wall. His articles are widely published and he has addressed many international conferences and been a founding member of a number of Palestinian civil society organizations.

Paul Troop

A barrister at Tooks Chambers in London and practices in human rights and civil liberties, covering both domestic and international work. The UK Legal 500 lists him as a leading junior in human rights and civil liberties. Recent cases include discrimination, national security, the right to protest and universal jurisdiction. Particular regions which interest him include the Middle East and the former Yugoslavia. Troop has a number of cases now before the European Court of Human Rights, as well as other international courts and tribunals, such as the UN Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Human Rights Advisory Panel for Kosovo.

Ben Hayes

Hayes is a civil liberties advocate, and since 2006, has worked for the organisation Statewatch. He is director of the Statewatch European Monitoring and Documenting Centre on Justice and Home Affairs in the European Union. Hayes also works as researcher for the Transnational Institute on their militarism and globalisation programme. Widely published on civil liberties issues, he has worked as a consultant or researcher with many organizations. These include the International Federation of Journalists, American Civil Liberties Union, Open Society Justice Initiative, House of Lords, Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.



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Programme

Day 1: Saturday 20th November 2010
Law Society, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL

9.15 Doors Open

10.00 Pierre Galand (Belgium) will open the session for the international organising committee of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine

Introduction to the second session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine by Ambassador of France **Stephane Hessel** and **Michael Mansfield QC** (U.K)

I. The legal framework on corporate conduct

10:15 Legal experts **Richard Hermer QC** (UK), **Yasmine Gado** (U.S.A) and **Dr. William Bourdon** (France) set out the tribunal's legal framework. Each expert will discuss the details of UK and French law, their relevance to the application of international law as well as to the session's focus on corporate complicity.

Coffee Break 11.30

II. Implications of corporate activities in and around settlements (Part 1)

11:50 **Dr. Dalit Baum** (Israel) and **Hugh Lanning** (UK) provide an overview of the issues concerning business practices over settlements and the settlement industry.

Fayez Al Taneeb (Palestine) and **Wael Natheef** (Palestine) speak about the direct impact on Palestinians as workers and residents in and around settlements

LUNCH 13:30 – 14:45

Session II Implications of corporate activities in and around settlements (Part 2)

15:30 **Adri Nieuwhof** (Netherlands) speaks as the lead expert on public contracts regulations and on the French multinational Veolia's business practices in the territories.

Ghaleb Mashni (Palestine) offers an account of the impact on Palestinians.

John Dorman (Ireland) rounds off the session with an account of the relationships between Cement Roadstone Holdings and the construction of the wall.

III. Trade and Labelling of Settlement Goods

15.50 A representative from Al Haq (Palestine) offers an overview of the legal issues relating to the trade and labelling of settlement goods.

16.10 Coffee break

16.30 Christophe Perrin (France) speaks on the business practices of agricultural producer Carmel Agrexco.

Nancy Kricorian and **Rae Abileah** (US) discusses the cosmetics firm Ahava and its manufacture of spa products.

Phon Van Den Biesen (Netherlands) discusses issues on the labelling of products from Israeli settlements.

Genevieve Coudrais (France) closes the first day with a talk on Soda Stream.

18.00 End of day 1

DAY 2: Sunday 21 November 2010

Law Society, Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1PL

10.00 doors open

Pierre Galand (Belgium) opens the second day.

IV. Financial services sector

10.30 Merav Amir (Israel) offers an overview of both Israeli and international finance companies and their connection to the occupation.

Mario Franssen (Belgium) will speak on the Dexia group.

Saskia Muller (Netherlands) speaks on the PFZW Pension Fund.

11.40 Coffee Break

V. The security industry and the war industry

12.00 John Hilary (UK) gives an overview of the security industry and corporate involvement

Maria LaHood (US) provides information on Caterpillar and the use of its equipment in Israeli military practices.

Josh Ruebner (US) gives further information and evidence on Caterpillar

Merav Amir and or **Dr. Dalit Baum** (Israel) provide an account of the British private security firm G4S

13.30 – 14.45 LUNCH

V. The security industry and the war industry (part 2)

14.45 Shir Hever (Israel) and **Jamal Juma'a** (Palestine) speak about Elbit Systems and its role in Israeli security practices.

Paul Troop (UK) discusses court cases against British arms companies EDO ITT and Raytheon.

Ben Hayes (UK) gives details on EU subsidies to the security industry.

16.10 Break

16.30 Speaking time for corporations

Wrap up questions

The tribunal may want to recall experts from the session or other international legal experts to seek clarification on issues heard throughout the two days.

Closing

Round up and overview of the two days, what has taken place and the way forward

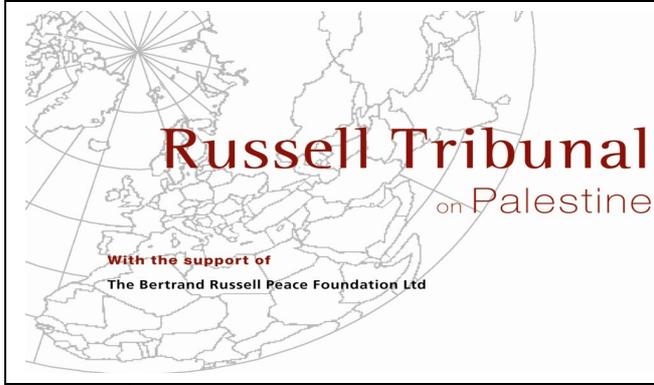
17.30 End of day two

19.00 The jury withdraws for deliberations

Day three, Monday 22 November

10.30 am news conference on the jury's conclusions

Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA



al law in the Israel-Palestine conflict tends to be

Journalists wishing to convey the reality are faced with a major challenge.

The London session of the tribunal offers media a unique opportunity to talk to people working on international law with direct experience of the results of non-compliance, .

Some ideas:

- Interview with Dalit Baum about her research in corporations involvement in Israel/Palestine.
- Interview with Merav Amir about the activities of the British Corporation G4S in Israel/Palestine.
- Mairead Maguire about her recent visit to Israel and the similarities between her fight for justice in Ireland and in the middle East
- Michael Mansfield about the Barcelona session of the Tribunal and why, as a prominent QC, he got involved in this initiative.
- Ronnie Kasrils about Apartheid South Africa and his fight for justice in Palestine
- John Dugard about his years as UN special envoy to Israel-Palestine
- Shir Hever about Israel's economy
- Ghaled Mashni about the life of a Palestinian on the ground and the impact of the Veolia-Alstom Jerusalem Light Railway

Contact information

For the latest news on the Russell Tribunal on Palestine:

www.russelltribunalonpalestine.com/en

London session

For general information:

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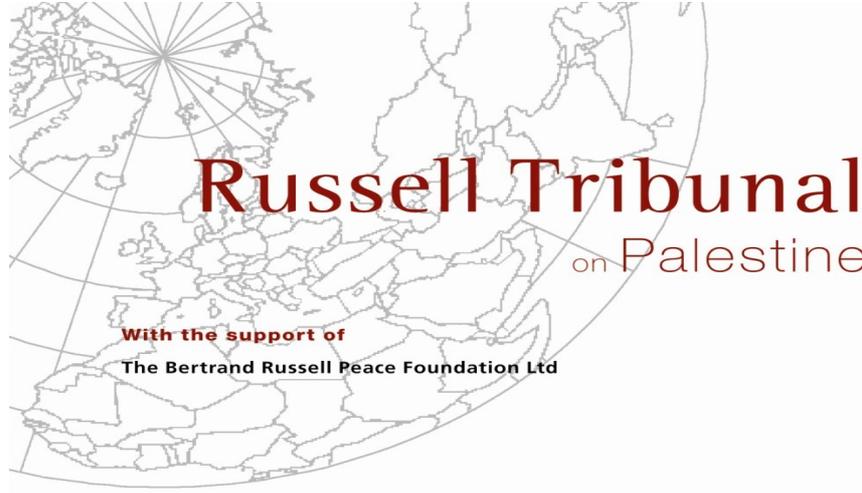
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For press and communications:

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00 44 7983550728



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Patrons and Members of the International Support Committee

Patrons of the Support Committee:

The late **Ken Coates**† Chairman of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, UK

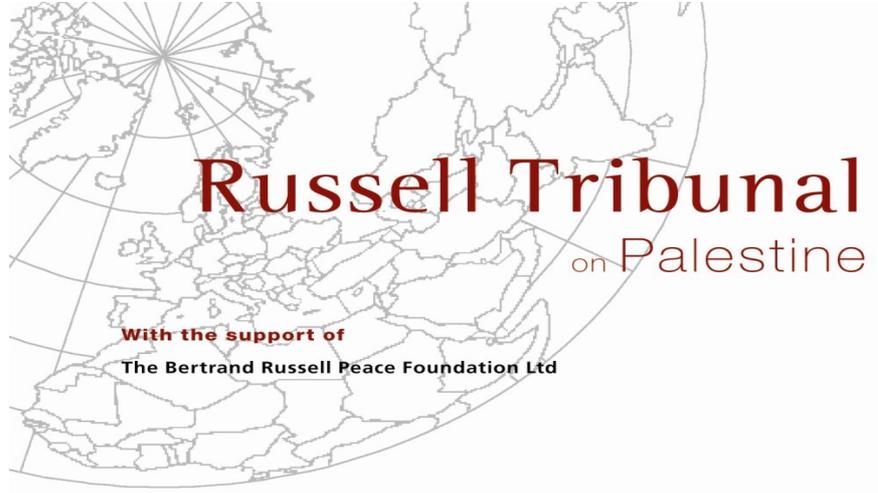
Nurit Peled Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Speech 2001, Israel

Leila Shahid General Delegate of Palestine to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, Palestine.

Members of the Support Committee

Boutros Boutros-Ghali Former Secretary General of the United Nations, Egypt | **Nguyễn Thi Bình** Former Vice-President, Vietnam | **Ahmed Ben Bella** First President, Algeria | **Milan Kučan** Former President, Slovenia | **Andreas Van Agt** Former Prime Minister, Netherlands | **Gilbert Achcar** Professor, UK | **Tariq Ali** Writer, UK | **Henri Alleg** Journalist, France | **Martin Almada** Lawyer, Writer, Right Livelihood Award 2002, Paraguay | **Kader Asmal** Professor, Former Minister, MP, South Africa | **Raymond Aubrac (and Lucie Aubrac †)** Former Members of the French Resistance, France | **Agnès B** Fashion Designer, France | **Etienne Balibar** Professor Emeritus, France | **Anna Balletbò** President of Fundació Internacional Olof Palme, Spain | **Russell Banks** Writer, USA | **Mohammed Bedjaoui** Former President of the International Court of Justice (The Hague), Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Algeria | **Tony Benn** Peace activist, UK | **Amar Bentoumi** President Emeritus of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Algeria | **John Berger** Writer, UK | **Karl Blecha** Former Minister of Interior of Austria, Austria | **Howard Brenton** Writer, UK | **Breyten Breytenbach** Author, France-South Africa | **Carmel Budiardjo** Right Livelihood Award 1995, UK | **Judith Butler** Professor, USA | **Eric Cantona**, Actor and Film producer, France | **Franco Cavalli** Former President of International Union Against Cancer, Switzerland | **Monique Chemillier-Gendreau** Professor Emeritus, France | **Noam Chomsky** Professor MIT, USA | **Julie Christie** Actress, UK | **Vincenzo Consolo** Writer, Italy | **Jonathan Cook** Writer, Journalist, UK | **Georges Corm** Writer, Former Minister of Finance, Lebanon | **Mairead Corrigan Maguire** Nobel Peace Prize 1976, Northern Ireland | **Raymond Deane** Composer and author, Ireland | **John Dugard** Former Special Rapporteur of UN on Palestine, South Africa | **Geraud de Geouffre de la Pradelle** Professor Emeritus, France | **Andy de la Tour** Actor/Screenwriter, UK | **Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz** writer, USA | **Salim El Hoss** former Prime Minister, Lebanon | **Miguel Angel Estrella** Pianist, Former Ambassador to UNESCO, Argentina | **Irene Fernandez** Right Livelihood Award 2005, Malaysia | **Norman Finkelstein** Writer, USA | **Cees**

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Russell Tribunal on Palestine

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Legal Framework and International Law

The Russell Tribunal on Palestine has been set up to address the failure of states and the international community to implement the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, and Resolution ES-10/15 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 July 2004.

The following treaties, resolutions and international legal norms constitute the legal frame of reference for the work of the Committees of Experts set up in different countries and for the Tribunal:

International treaties (to which Israel is a party):

- Charter of the United Nations, 26 June 1945
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 9 December 1948
- Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 21 December 1965
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16 December 1966
- International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, 1973
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, 1977
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989

Relevant United Nations resolutions on Palestine: Security Council:

- Resolution 242 (obligation to withdraw from the occupied territories)
- Resolution 338 (obligation to withdraw from the occupied territories)
- Resolution 446 (illegality of Israeli settlements)
- Resolution 478 (nullity of the annexation of Jerusalem)General Assembly:
- Resolution 181 (Partition Plan)
- Resolution 194 (return of the refugees)
- Resolution ES 10/15 (illegality of the Wall, Israel's obligation to dismantle, states' obligation to ensure compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention)

Norms of customary international law (norms established through practice, including the application of treaties to which Israel is not a party):

- Legal principles governing occupation contained in The Hague Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, 18 October 1907
- Principle of the non-acquisition of territory through the threat or use of force (United Nations General Assembly resolution 2625)
- Principle of the right of peoples to self-determination – Right of the Palestinian people to self determination
- Principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations General Assembly resolution of 10 December 1948 (non-binding instrument that has acquired customary status)