



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

*Southeast Asian Support for the Rights of the Palestinian People*

**Kuala Lumpur, 28-29 February 2020**

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### PANEL I

**Ms. Dalal Iriqat** is Vice President of the International Relations Department at the Arab American University in Palestine (AAUP), and Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution, Diplomacy and Strategic Planning since 2015. She is a weekly columnist at Al-Quds newspaper since 2016 and served as senior advisor of Strategic Communications at the Prime Minister Office's from 2017-18. Ms. Iriqat has a PhD in Public Administration from Paris I Sorbonne (2011), a master's degree in Diplomatic Studies from Westminster University in London (2004), and a Bachelor of Political Science from the University of Jordan (2003).

**Mr. Alex Kane** is a Brooklyn-based freelance journalist who holds a master's in journalism and Near East Studies from New York University. He writes on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, with a focus on Israel/Palestine and post-9/11 civil liberties. His work has appeared in *Al Jazeera*, *Haaretz*, *The Intercept*, *VICE*, *The Nation*, *In These Times*, *the Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Forward* and more. Mr. Kane contributed the chapter, "The collapse of the pro-Israel consensus," to the book *Letters to Palestine: Writers Respond to War and Occupation* (Verso 2015). He is a former editor at Mondoweiss, a news site that covers Israel/Palestine, and AlterNet, a progressive web magazine.

**Mr. Omar Dajani** is the co-director of the law school's Global Center for Business & Development, University of the Pacific, and is recognized as a leading expert on legal aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In 1999, Professor Dajani was recruited to serve as a legal adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team in peace talks with Israel, ultimately participating in the summits at Camp David and Taba. He then joined the office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), where he worked on peacebuilding initiatives and played a lead role in marshaling and organizing international efforts to support Palestinian legal and political reforms. Professor Dajani has continued since that time to work as a consultant on a variety of legal infrastructure development and conflict resolution projects in

the Middle East and elsewhere – for institutions including the U.S. Department of State, the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Center (NOREF), and the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue.

**Mr. Abdirahman Aynte** is the Director of Strategic Partnerships in the Department of External Relations and Communication at UNRWA. Previously, he was the Chair of the “Dignity is Priceless” global fundraising campaign following the decision of the US to stop funding UNRWA in 2018. He was also the Director of Planning at UNRWA. Prior to joining UNRWA, Mr. Aynte in the Government of Somalia, serving as a Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and later as a Senior Advisor to the President of Somalia. Before that, Mr. Aynte was the co-founder and Executive Director of the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies, the first think tank in Somalia. He spent the first 12 years of his career as a journalist with BBC, VOA and Al Jazeera English, where he was a Senior News Editor. He holds a BA in journalism and political and an MA in Government from the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC.

## PANEL II

**Mr. Akram Natsheh** is a youth activist from Hebron. He is a journalist, active social worker and participant in youth movements within the non-violent popular struggle. He holds a B.A. degree in Media from Al-Yarmouk University in Jordan and a Master's degree in Contemporary Arab Studies from Birzeit University. Mr. Natsheh is the media coordinator of Youth Against Settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory. He is also the founder of many youth societies, such as Skills Development Society, and also a member in a number of youth and cultural societies. He is a media trainer for youth in the field dealing with new mass media and a writer of research papers about Hebron such as "Social effect of political division for the city of Hebron."

**Ms. Dua'a Qurie** is the executive director of the Palestinian NGOs network (PNGO) in the West Bank. She also works as an academic advisor and early childhood education at Bethlehem and Al-Quds universities. She has over 18 years of experience in community development related programs in a variety of different positions including, but not limited to, executive director, consultant, and grant manager. Additionally, Ms. Qurie has over 16 years of experience working in project management, with a specialization in youth-oriented programs. Due to her extensive experience in civil society development, she has expertise on a number of different topics including European community development, human rights education, youth development, civic education, community participation, EuroMed cooperation, and social inclusion.

**Ms. Ang Swee Chai** is a consultant trauma and orthopedic surgeon at St. Bartholomew and the Royal London Hospital, England. Since 1982, she has worked on multiple occasions as orthopedic surgeon to the Palestinians in Lebanon and Gaza, with the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the United Nations, including the World Health Organization. She is the co-founder and patron of the British Charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians. Her publications include papers on acute care of the war wounded. She penned her survivor eye-witness account of the 1982 Beirut Sabra Shatila massacre in her book "From Beirut to Jerusalem". The late Yasser Arafat awarded her the Star of Palestine for her work with his people.

### PANEL III

**Mr. Chandra Muzaffar** is the president of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), a human rights advocacy organization in Malaysia that works to implement global justice, rooted in universal moral principles. He is also board chairman of Yayasan 1Malaysia, a foundation promoting national unity. Prior to his work with JUST and 1Malaysia, Mr. Muzaffar founded a multi-ethnic reform coalition, the National Consciousness Movement, which served to raise awareness for issues surrounding ethnic relations in Malaysia. A political scientist, he has focused his academic work largely on the issues of civilizational dialogue and the crossroads between religion and human rights. He served as the first director of the Centre for Civilizational Dialogue at the University of Malaysia. Muzaffar's publications include numerous books and journal articles on Malaysian politics and international relations, such as *Muslims, Dialogue, Terror* (2003) and *Religion and Governance* (2003, as editor).

**Ms. Zulaiha Ismail** is a retired Professor in graduate business programs. She is currently a Trustee of the Perdana Global Peace Foundation, an NGO committed to energizing peace and criminalizing wars. As past Executive Director, she organized international conferences, and participated in humanitarian aid projects as well as engaging with fellow activists around the world. She also serves in the KL Foundation to Criminalize War and sits on its Commission in investigating war crimes. This has resulted in three International Tribunals being held, one of which was on Israeli war crimes. She was also invited to sit on the Rome based Permanent Peoples Tribunal in September 2018 in Kuala Lumpur to examine State Crimes against Rohingyas, Kachins and other groups in Myanmar. She continues to work in a personal capacity with NGO's in Lebanon, specifically on the plight of Palestinian refugee camps, with a focus on their right of return.

**Ms. Sara Saleh** is a daughter of migrants from Palestine, Egypt, and Lebanon, living and learning on Gadigal (Aboriginal) land. A long-time human rights activist, community organizer, and campaigner for refugee rights and racial justice, she has spent over a decade in grassroots and international organizations such as Amnesty International and Care International in Australia and the Middle East. Sara's work has focused on advocacy, law and policy change, and has taken her from Western Sydney to the refugee camps in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Syrian border. Through her role at the Australian Palestine Advocacy Network and within the Palestinian diaspora, Sara's work is centered around reframing the settler-colonial narrative, as well as elevating youth and helping build communities of resistance grounded in the interconnectedness of Indigenous struggles for self-determination. Sara has a Master of Human Rights Law and Policy from UNSW, and is currently completing her Juris Doctor there, concentrating on police accountability, the prison industrial complex as state sanctioned violence, and the ongoing detention of marginalized populations, specifically asylum seekers and refugees. Sara is co-editor of the recently released anthology, *Arab-Australian-Other: Stories on Race and Identity* (Picador 2019), a seminal collection of creative essays, memoirs, and poems which brings together 23 writers of Arab-Australian backgrounds to celebrate and platform voices from marginalized communities. She is developing her debut novel as a recipient of the Affirm Press Mentorship for Sweatshop Western Sydney.

**Mr. Stuart Ward** was born and brought up in Exeter, England, UK, moving to Sweden in 1973 with Price Waterhouse after qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in the City of London. He is

British by birth and Swedish by choice. He worked for more than 25 years in the music and entertainment industry before moving to Thailand in August 2004. During those 25 years he was a radio DJ and producer, TV host, record company manager and MD of a music export trade organization. Stuart was MD of the Polar Music Prize, created by Stig Anderson, who put ABBA together, and presented every year by H.M. The King of Sweden. Mr. Ward worked until 31st October 2016 as Controller at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) or the Development Cooperation Section of the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok. He also performed various other duties during his 12 years at the Embassy. Before retiring on 31<sup>st</sup> May last year Stuart spent some months as Finances & Operations Administrator at the Manushya Foundation after which he acted for 14 months as Assistant to the President for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability at the Mechai Viravaidya Foundation. He has been a long-standing activist for Palestine, including founding the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) Thailand in December 2007.