



Palestine Solidarity Alliance

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged human rights activists across the globe to find new ways to reach out and support those in need. As a Palestine solidarity organization, the PSA has always been rooted in the local struggles of our communities and from the onset of the lockdown, started to hear the call from the most vulnerable amongst us for support.



We were fortunate that a number of our regular supporters and volunteers came forward to establish the **PSA-COVID19 Relief Team**. Over the past month this team has worked to together with the *Ahmed Kathrada Foundation*, *Gauteng Together*, the *University of South Africa (Unisa) Institute for Social and Health Studies* as well as the *Thembelihle Friendship and Hope Campaign* to provide food parcels to the informal settlements and impoverished communities in the south of Johannesburg. This city region has the highest number of informal settlements and is densely populated with

an extremely high level of poverty. It is also one of the most politically active regions in the country and has a close relationship with the struggles of the Palestinian people. In fact, one major settlement near the Orange Farm township has been named 'Palestine,' in solidarity with those who suffer the same effects of apartheid inequality and oppression as they do. To date, and thanks to our generous donors, the PSA-Covid19 Relief Team has distributed grocery hampers to over 950 homes and has also been able to support a home for cerebral palsy children in Dobsonville, Soweto.



Apart from the relief efforts, the PSA has also been hosting a daily live radio programme with Salaamedia. **The Palestine Report** has been engaging with a number of Palestinians to hear their day-to-day experiences of Covid-19, the Israeli Occupation and the illegal settlements. Palestinians have also shared with us their daily life during the Muslim holy month of Ramadhan. Through this people-to-people solidarity initiative we have heard of the difficulties of living under 'Colonialism and Corona-ism' as described by Professor Haidar Eid. We have also heard encouraging stories of hope and perseverance from those who are doing remarkable work in the fields of medicine, sports and arts.

The PSA together with the Freedom Flotilla Coalition will also be hosting an online webinar regarding the possibilities of charging Israel and Israelis guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court. This will be held on the 28th of May and will mark the 10th Anniversary of Israel's attack on the Mavi Mamara in international waters and the murder of 10 international peace activists.