**Ali Kazak** is a former Palestinian ambassador. Born in Haifa, Palestine in 1947 to a Palestinian father and Syrian mother, his family was separated as a result of al-Nakba in 1948. He and his mother were among the more than 900,000 Palestinians whose right to return to their homes was denied by Israel. His father was able to remain in Haifa, while he grew up and was educated in Syria. 48 years later, he would finally see his father in Haifa for the first time.

Kazak went to Australia in 1970 and became active in introducing the Australian people to the Palestine question. In 1982, the Palestine Liberation Organisation appointed him as its representative to Australia and Southeast Asia. He established Palestine’s mission in Australia in 1982 and later became Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the State of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and East Timor.

Mr Kazak was the founder, publisher and co-editor of the Australian newspaper, *Free Palestine* (1979-90), publisher and editor of *Background Briefing* (1987-93) and *The Jerusalem Question* (1997), which was translated into Portuguese and reprinted in Brazil. He authored ‘Australia and the Arabs’ (2012), as well as other booklets and publications, and penned the Palestinian entry in the *Encyclopaedia of the Australian People* in 1988. He organised several Palestinian exhibitions across Australia.

Mr Kazak was awarded the 20th Anniversary of Independence Medal by the president of Vanuatu, Rev. John Bani, on 30 July 2000.