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Who are we?

Since its inception over 42 years ago, the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC) has formed a specific and specialized niche for itself; that of rendering legal aid to vulnerable communities in combating human rights violations. JLAC has since become a key and major player in certain interventions; undertaking pro-bono legal cases related to house demolition, forced displacement, land confiscation, and more recently settler violence.

Without JLAC's services, victims would face costly private sector fees compelling them to forfeit their claims. JLAC, more recently, has coupled its legal aid rendered to individuals with; public interest cases, legal reform, community awareness, advocacy, among other interventions.

Our Vision

A free Palestinian society in which human dignity is valued and secured.

Our Mission

To combat all forms of human rights violations regardless of perpetrating authority, through; facilitating access to justice, lobbying and advocacy, mobilizing social capital, and high professionalism.

The Jerusalem Legal Aid & Human Rights Center (JLAC) Wins the Award of " We work for Jerusalem"

Jerusalem Legal Aid & Human Rights Center- JLAC was this year's winner of the Welfare Association's Ragheb Al Kalouti Award for Community Development in Jerusalem, for the Center's distinguished work in defending the presence of Jerusalemites through the provision of pro-bono legal aid and raising awareness of the economic and social rights, especially among marginalized groups. In addition to building the capacities of the center's lawyers and other lawyers in adopting and following up these cases.

The Welfare Association established an annual prize for community development in Jerusalem in recognition of leading local civil society organizations in the field of community service and effective development programs offering programing

that contribute to; strengthening the Palestinian social fabric, preserving national identity, strengthening foundations, and supporting the steadfastness of Palestinians on their land. The award is funded by Mr. Munir Kalouti, son of the late Ragheb Al Kalouti.

JLAC extends its sincere gratitude to the Welfare Association and to the panel of judges for the award, as well as for their confidence in JLAC's work and belief in its mission; that of strengthening the steadfastness of Palestinians in their land through the deference of their rights.

JLAC's staff would like to dedicate this award to their late Chairman of the Board of Directors,



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2016; another bad year for human rights at Palestine

With the issuing of this newsletter, another difficult year in the life of the Palestinian people unfolded, with no actual progress made towards solving any of the major issues and dilemmas which they face. Among which, is the continued division which is hindering the work on a unified national program. The siege of the Gaza Strip persists, as do obstructions to rebuilding efforts. Thousands upon thousands are waiting their turn in the slow rebuilding process due to lack of funding and Israel's tight grip over the flow of materials, as well as issues of mismanagement. In the West Bank, the Israeli policy of intensification continued, with high settlement expansion accompanied with the biggest wave of demolitions the Palestinian territory witnessed over the last two decades. An integral component of facilitating forced displacement plans by the occupation forces, are demolitions. Collectively they feed into the greater aim of annexing Area C (constituting 60% of the West Bank), after displacing the vast majority of its inhabitants, namely the Bedouin communities. More than one third of demolition and displacement orders target pastoral and Bedouin communities.

The end of the year 2016 brought with it contradicting indicators; though UN Security Council resolution 2334 (reached by unanimous vote) condemned settlements (including those in Jerusalem) and called on countries to take measures of non-cooperation with settlement activities and demanded the United Nations Security General provide quarterly reporting of settlement activity; yet the international body is not yet able to oblige Israel to commit to principles of international humanitarian law. As a backlash and in an effort to show unyielding US support for Israel, newly elected American president, Donald Trump declared his intention to move the American embassy to occupied Jerusalem. These words of encouragement were directed to the extreme Israeli governing coalitions in the country's history. In the same tone, discussions and plans for annexing Area C, starting with Ma'ale Adumim settlement and the implementation of E1, were made as a means of putting the last nail in the coffin of the Two-State Solution. The alternatives offered, through varying, all exceeded the dangers of the defunct apartheid system in South Africa.

And during the writing of this report, the legislative committee of the Israeli Knesset ratified in its second and third reading the bill aimed at retroactively legalizing settlements and settlement outpost previously considered illegal even in Israeli standards. This ratification of the bill to law challenges the recent UN Security Council resolution concern settlement expansion and international humanitarian law, which considers continued settlement expansion a war crime. In cooperation with Adalah, Al Mezan, JLAC submitted an objection regarding the said law through a collective case involving 18 local village councils and municipalities throughout the West Bank that are affected by the law.

On the internal Palestinian level, the situation has not improved, as authorities and entities whose electoral legitimacy has expired continued to function. Moreover, local elections set for October of last year were cancelled. Indeed, there is a whole generation of those less than thirty years of age (constituting 72% of the citizenship base) who have never partaken in any of the elections which placed the authorities in their held positions. Although, a new date for

holding local elections was set, May of 2017, it's not clear yet if all areas of the oPt will be included in this process. With the Legislative Council continuing to be inactive, the executive authority's domination only deepened over both legislative and judiciary branches. Further weakening of the judiciary, was made by the recent removal of two officials from the Higher Judiciary Council by powerful members from the security sector. According to a survey by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (conducted on behalf of the UNDP's SAWASYA Program) featuring a sample of 8000 Palestinian families, there is a marked decrease in the number of crimes reported. Such is due to the fact that 85% of those who reported crimes up to 12 months before the survey believed that the investigations led by the police were below acceptable. While 47% of the study sample believed that justice and security departments do not have sufficient capacities. The most critical outcome of the survey came as a result of comparing findings with past surveys, which indicated major deteriorations in the sector.

While just a few years ago, courts mostly dealt with cases involving land and financial disputes, now the courts mostly consider issues related to divorce, fights, and other cases of violence, followed by traffic-related cases. Such is an indicator that citizens are resorting to other means of solving disputes, while courts are dealing with the cases of internal violence emanating from such efforts. Such was confirmed by 43% of the study sample, whom indicated that they do not seek out the judiciary for solving their disputes as they lost faith in it. Half of the studied sample considered the judiciary system to be slow, at best. These are indicators of the deterioration of the Judiciary system despite the vast investments in it. We all know that the deterioration of the judiciary pushes people to take matters of justice into their own hands, and in so doing threatening civil peace, social stability, and vulnerable groups whom lack power and privilege. Indeed, such fosters chaos and the establishment of gangs who play the role providing protection in return for collecting bribes, a situation which only brings further instability.

With all of that in mind, we are facing a loss of faith in the judiciary on the part of citizens, on one hand, and our own hesitance as a Center to knock on the door of a judiciary whose independence has been over-run by the executive authority (as many of our cases have shown). The situation has only worsened with the establishment of a constitutional court lacking in key elements as independency and efficiency. Indeed, it only threatens to further worsen the status and reputation of the judiciary. Palestinian society and civil society organizations, particularly those working to defend human rights, face major challenges as a result of the interference and domination of the executive authority and its monopoly over legislation. Such is in addition to the issuance of legislations without dialogue or respect of the constitution. Collectively, the deteriorated state of the judiciary has prompted us to look for other means such as advocacy campaigns, building coalitions, and even demonstrating in the streets. Such civil efforts were met with violations being made against the right to assembly and freedoms of expression. Indeed, these challenges form additional pressure on our resources and cadres, pushing us to classify our priorities in combating these developments, resulting in complications to various other fields operations.

Letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations regarding the Withdrawal of the ESCWA Report on Palestine

H.E. Mr António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations' Council (PHROC) is dismayed by your decision to withdraw the report of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regarding "Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid" from the website of the Commission.

The aforementioned report addresses with great professionalism the reality to which the Palestinian people is subjected under the Israeli occupation and its colonial policies that have been based on racial discrimination since the Declaration of Establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. The report objectively transmits the legal procedures and separate and unequal practices towards the Palestinian people, who Israel has sought to divide into different groups (within the 1948 Green Line, occupied Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the diaspora) with the purpose of achieving racial domination over them.

The withdrawal of the report from the ESCWA website as a result of political pressure is at odds with the principles upon

which the United Nations was founded, and as enshrined in its Charter, in addition to the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law upon which the report is based. It is our belief that the withdrawal of this report will contribute to the commission of further violations by Israel, the occupying Power, especially in light of a continued politicization of the application of international law.

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations' Council deplores the decision to withdraw the aforementioned report and affirms that it will adopt the analysis and conclusions contained therein in an effort to achieve justice for the Palestinian people, especially since the report was written by renowned experts known for their high professionalism and objectivity.

In the same vein, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations' Council calls upon the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to take the aforementioned report into consideration during its preliminary examination into the situation in Palestine.

"Know your Rights" legal portal

The Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights center launches a new legal portal through its website. The legal portal consists of more than 175 frequently asked questions and corresponding answers which tackle the various human rights carried out in area "C" of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Palestinian Authority area. You can find in the legal portal, clear answers and detailed explanations about human rights violations pertaining to various areas; house demolitions, forcible transfer, lands confiscation, settler violence, social and economic rights of Jerusalemites (i.e. child registration, family reunification, national insurance, etc.). The legal portal will save both the time and efforts of rights holders, as it provides comprehensive legal explanations concerning human rights violations, needed legal follow-up, and documents to be gathered.



What is the Right to Housing?

The right to housing is the economic, social and cultural right to adequate housing and shelter. It is recognized in many national constitutions and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The right to housing is recognized in a number of international human rights instruments. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right to housing as part of the right to an adequate standard of living. It states that:

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, and housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

The right to housing; should not be understood as being limited only to basic shelter. Instead, States should advance appropriate national frameworks to realize this right, including addressing immediate threats to housing, developing policies and practices to respond to the long-term housing needs of changing populations, and regulating housing provision by the private sector.

In its General Comment 4, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) provided detailed guidance to States regarding their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate housing. The Committee also noted that the right includes the following seven interrelated and essential features:

- **Legal security of tenure.** Everyone should have a level of security in their housing situation to protect against forced or arbitrary eviction, harassment and other threats. Such protection may take varying forms, such as legal ownership, rental or cooperative arrangement.
- **Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure.** States must ensure that housing contains the facilities necessary for health, security, comfort and nutrition. This includes sustainable access to natural and common resources, safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, site drainage and emergency services.
- **Affordability.** Housing and housing-related costs should be commensurate with income levels, and at a level that does not

compromise other basic needs. States should establish housing subsidies for those unable to obtain affordable housing, put in place protections for tenants against unreasonable rents, and ensure availability of natural materials in societies where such resources are the main sources used to build housing.

- **Habitability.** Adequate housing should provide its inhabitants with sufficient space, be safe to live in, and give protection from cold, heat, rain and other elements of nature, and structural hazards. States should pay particular attention to the links between inadequate housing and threats to health.
- **Accessibility.** Everyone should have access to adequate housing, especially the most vulnerable. States should offer housing priority to disadvantaged groups including, among others, the elderly, children, persons with disabilities, the terminally ill, and victims of natural disasters. States should develop appropriate housing frameworks to increase access to land by landless or impoverished sections of society.
- **Location.** In many cases, in both cities and rural areas, transportation can be expensive and time consuming. Adequate housing must be in a location which allows access to employment options, health and education facilities, and other social services. Houses should not be built in unsafe or polluted locations.
- **Cultural adequacy.** Home building materials and construction must be connected with the expression of cultural identity and diversity of housing, as appropriate to the communities within the particular context. Efforts to modernize housing should take into accounts the beliefs as well as developing needs of the inhabitants.

In its General Comment 7, CESCR confirmed that forced evictions can only be justified in the most exceptional circumstances and in accordance with relevant principles of international law, such as the Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement. Among other things, States must ensure legal safeguards including non-discrimination, non-arbitrariness, due process and procedural fairness, including consultation and participation in decision-making, access to remedies, compensation, and adequate rehousing.

House Demolition “Case Study”

The family home of Mrs. Sana Atiyeh is under imminent risk of demolition by the Israeli forces, as a direct consequence of Israel’s discriminatory permit regime. The house is located in the village of Mazmuria, in Arabic called Al Nu’man, in southern East Jerusalem, behind the Annexation Wall. This area is located in the West Bank but it is under the jurisdiction of the Jerusalem Municipality. Most of its inhabitants hold Palestinian IDs (akin to West Bankers). However, the house is considered to be within the Jerusalem Israeli municipality, where Israeli law is applicable. Nearby the home, sits the illegal settlement of Har Homa, officially Homat Shmuel, located on Abu Ghneim Mountain. The house of Mrs. Sana Atiyeh is among the only ones in the village under risk of demolition. The reason behind this is that the other structures were built before Israel had control over the area in 1967. Sana’s house was built in May 2000 by her husband, Mr Raddy Atiyeh, on land owned by his family since 1932. In 2003, Sana received a demolition order for her home and was fined 60,000 NIS. Soon after this point, Sana lost her husband and became the sole provider for the household, despite being unemployed. She and her 3 children (now aged 18,16, and 14 years old) suffered over the years, although her 70-yearold father-in-law made an effort to help support the family on his minimal pension of 800 NIS every 6 months. The three children are students and Sana is concerned that they may be compelled to discontinue their education if their home is demolished. Sana is adamant that her eldest, a daughter finish her higher education so that

she doesn’t become stuck in the cycle of poverty as Sana has

been. Over the years, JLAC took over the case and challenged the demolition orders before different Israeli Courts and Committees. However, the Israeli authorities have rejected the different legal arguments presented before them. In 2013 JLAC brought the case of Sana’s house before of the Court of Local Affairs. JLAC claimed that the house demolition order issued against her was invalid because it had been issued against her deceased husband, and it did not pass to her upon his death. Her husband passed three months after the order was issued. This claim was rejected as the Court stated that the demolition order was not a punitive measure and it is effective upon the owner of the house, which passed to her upon her husband’s death. Currently, an engineer is working on the case to prove the progress of obtaining the Israeli building permit. However, this is a lengthy process that has gone 13 years. On August 15th 2016, the Inspection Unit of the Israeli Ministry of Finance took photos of Sana’s house and measurements of the plot as preparation for the actual demolition of the house. On the same day, JLAC sent an application to the Israeli Court of Local Affairs to stop the demolition procedure. The Court approved this application to stop the demolition procedures until the 11th of September. Thus, from the 11th of September onwards Sana’s house has fallen in a precarious state under risk of demolition at any time. Due to the lack of progress in legal procedures, JLAC now seeks to pursue the case through alternative means such as through gaining attention and support through advocacy and media campaigns



Settler Violence

Israeli settler attacks perpetrated against Palestinian citizens in the West Bank continued through 2016, with the total number of attacks during the year reaching 98 assaults. The attacks ranged from firing arms, physical assault, and vandalism/ destruction of property, most commonly the uprooting of trees (according to B'tselem and the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission). The Nablus area's share of the attacks was the largest (89) followed by Hebron (49) assaults. Such includes assaults on holy places which are mostly in Jerusalem and Hebron.

All these attacks are theoretically "handled" by Israeli Police, oftentimes situated in the vary settlements housing the perpetrators. Though there is clear evidence of neglect on the part of the police in following up complaints, JLAC continues to document violations and provide necessary follow-up towards proving the negligence, failure to undertake serious investigations, and closing complaints without even informing the victims.



Settlement Expansion / Settler Violence:

- Since the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993, the number of Israeli settlers and settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem has multiplied by 600%.⁽¹⁾
- By the end of July 2015, the settler population in the West Bank (379,755) and East Jerusalem (205,313) stands at approximately 585,068. This represents an increase of 65,000 since the release of the UN Report, or 12.5 per cent.⁽²⁾
- The Israeli Government invested \$795 million in the settlements, and provides a subsidy of up to \$28,000 for each apartment built in a settlement and settlers enjoy access to numerous financial benefits, including tax exemptions.⁽³⁾



- Complaints by Palestinians against settlers have a 91 per cent chance of being dismissed without effective action, whereas in cases involving settler complaints against Palestinians, up to 95 per cent of cases proceed to court.⁽⁴⁾
- Israeli settlers' related incidents resulting in casualties and or property damage since 2012-October 2016 is 1,415 incidents.⁽⁵⁾

1. <https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/oxfam-oslo-20-factsheet.pdf>.

2. WCLAC. Sep. 2015. <http://www.wclac.org/english/userfiles/SETTLER%20VIOLENCE%20-%20SEP%202015.pdf>

3. <https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/oxfam-oslo-20-factsheet.pdf>.

4. <https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/oxfam-oslo-20-factsheet.pdf>

5. OCHA. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/monthly-figures>.

Qayrout Case Study

A microcosm of settlement expansion

Settlement expansion and violence, as perpetrated by illegal Israeli settlers, has devastated not only the viability of a two-state-solution but the ability of rural Palestinians to maintain presence and livelihood in areas classified as “C”. Indeed, the settlement enterprise is created to push out Palestinians from their homes and lands towards further annexation of land, vis-à-vis house demolition, land confiscation, and violence and intimidation. There is no better example of this phenomenon than that of the village of Qaryout. Centrally located between Nablus and Ramallah, Qaryout’s land falls in the midst of three large illegal settlements (Shilo, Eli, and Shivot Rahal) and four outposts considered illegal even by Israeli standards (Yes Kodesh, Adi Ad, Yehya, etc.). Consequently, Qaryout is a friction point in Israel’s quest to expand and connect these illegal settlements in the area. In fact, in 2016, six settlement expansion related decisions were made by the ICA, either involving settlement master plans or reclassification of Palestinian land to this effect.

Land Confiscation and House Demolition

Of the village’s 22,000 dunams , 14,000 thus far has been appropriated by the settlements. Of the remaining 8,000 dunams , only 366 dunams are allotted for development i.e. are classified as B, with the remainder classified as C and not for development, either inaccessible behind settlement fences or dangerous to reach. 29 of the village’s homes fall within areas classified as C have orders of demolished with JLAC following the cases. Recently the village has been connected to a water network, a multi-village initiative. Prior, the needs were met to a certain extent from natural springs and rudimentary piping, as well as rain water harvesting. Of the 5 natural springs utilized, 3 have been overtaken by settlers. The remaining 2 are threatened and frequented by settlers causing intimidation. Palestinians approaching the springs face abuse by settlers and even arrest by the military.

The collective pressures imposed upon the population of Qaryout, from the confiscation of land, threats of house demolition, settler violence, in addition to the daily pressures of occupation have prompted much of the community to be internally displaced (to other areas of the West Bank) or to seek asylum abroad. Currently of the community’s 23,000 population, 20,000 live outside the village, with many having immigrated and lost the ability to return (i.e. lost their Palestinian ID or that of their children or subject to asylum restrictions). But if they could return, what land would they return to?

Shilo and Eli’s main enterprise is farming and thus, appropriation of Palestinian land is an essential input in this endeavor. The settlement produces grapes, flowers, an assortment of fruit trees, and more recently olives. Behind each meter of land, is Palestinian lose, tears, and bloodshed. The discontinuity of Palestinian communities towards the annexation of large expanse of undisturbed land is essential in this endeavor. Towards this aim, the main entrance and road connecting the village of Qaryout to the Nablus-Ramallah road and the “outside world” was closed off with cement blocks in 2002. Such has deep political ramifications, in addition to impacting the villagers’ freedom of movement (i.e. accessibility to farm land and hours added to daily journeys).

The families attempted to reopen the road 118 times, through protests and peaceful resistance that were met each time with brutality (tear gas and physical assault) by Israeli military and accompanying settlers. Each time, the road was reclosed as to ensure settlers’ continued access and use of the land surrounding the road and the continuity of the various settlements in the area. The road is more than a road, it is a microcosm of the struggle to connect or disconnect one area over another; for either Palestinians preserve continuity or settlements establish it. Indeed, the road closure allows for the connection of the settlements Shilo and Eli and the severing of Jalood, Turmos Aya, and Qaryout (which Shilo lies upon) and Qaryout, Liban, and Sawye (which Eli lies upon) from each other and Qaryout from itself (as it is the link or meeting place of these two settlements).

Violence & Intimidation

Contained in the settlement of Shilo is a religious school caring an extreme ideology with inciting and violent messaging towards Palestinians. Not surprisingly, violent settler gangs (i.e. “price tag” gangs) have emerged from the school and its surrounding settlements. The gangs have inflicted much devastation in the area from destruction of property up to murder, with the burning alive of the Dawabshe family last year being perpetrated by settlers from the outpost Yes Kodesh. Vandalism graffiti messages affirm the connection between each individual violent act to the same ideology and gangs, as locations of the crimes are marked with graffiti messages in Hebrew stating “price tag”. Often the sound of their pseudo military training and target practice echoes through the mountains, in a show of power and intimidation. Qaryout has witnessed many acts of settler violence in recent years impacting the freedom of movement (presence of military areas), the ability to farm, the safety of those in remote



areas and children on the way to school, the ability to access water, in addition to the brutality by the military in an effort to break the spirit of resistance.

Settler violence oftentimes targets Palestinians' farmland both towards its appropriation and towards destroying essential livelihood resources (i.e. hundreds of trees burned in the area this year alone). This past olive harvest season (in the autumn) witnessed much abuse and attack. One young family and their children had their car vandalized and were forced out of their land at gun point by armed settlers from Eli settlement while harvesting their olives. The family was traumatized by the event, which is regrettably a routine occurrence for the community whose members often are threatened with death if they work their privately owned and registered land.

Case of the Child Mayasara

Two years ago during the olive harvest, 12 year old boy named Mayasara was attacked by settlers while in his family's field. The boy was shot at by settlers and in running for his life he broke his leg in three places after jumping from a high distance. He hid among thrones for over an hour as the settlers searched for him, but he was eventually found by the gang (whom at that point was joined by the military) and the group began to torture the boy, by pulling at and twisting his broken leg while holding him at gun point. The incident was caught on camera and documented by Mr. Bashar Qaryouti (member of the village council and Palestinian Red Crescent Medical Coordinator), whom immediately called in his paramedic unit and together approached the scene. The beating had stopped at that point, but the medics were prevented from approaching the boy, who lied bleeding and falling in and out of consciousness. After the medics' insistence to treat the boy, they were allowed to deliver basic care and make a makeshift cast while being held at gunpoint. The boy, however was quickly taken by force from the medics' hands and carried off on a military stretcher for medical "care" in the settlement of Eli. The "care" Mayasara received while in Eli was that of being given a hallucinogen and interrogated by the police, adding numerous violations of human rights and human decency to the mix. After much emergency advocacy efforts and frantic calls to the settlement by the community and local and international organizations, Mayasara was released to the medics whom promptly took him to a Palestinian hospital in Nablus. There, doctors told the family that Mayasara had been on the brinks of paralysis and even death. The family has since decided to move out of the village, after the appropriation of their land, multiple military bombardments

of their home, the final blow was the violation and brutality which their child endured. They are now residing in the US, with Mayasara receiving continued medical and psychosocial care which was started in Palestine before his departure. Mayasara regrettably, is unlike the tens of farmers enduring such violence and violation on a daily basis.

Military Brutality

This past year, brutality by settlers and military resulted in the murder of two young men (both aged 18) from Qaryout. The young men whom were shot by settlers for being "too close" to the settlement, tortured, and their bodies defiled and run over repeatedly by a military jeep. Such was a very ugly and inhumane crime, aimed at instilling fear in the greater community. Adding insult to injury, is the complete impunity the settlers enjoy as protected by the military. The military itself, is the largest perpetrator of violence. The army enters the village nearly daily in an effort to intimidate the community through raids of homes (involving sound and gas canisters being thrown inside homes) and arbitrary arrests of youth. Bashar, a member of the Qaryout village council and activist against the wall and settlement expansion, told JLAC of the many arrests he has endured and of his most recent one earlier this year. Young active men intending to resist occupation are often targeted by the military, but so is the entire community indiscriminately. This was his fourth arrest, amounting to 3 years of his life (and 7 injuries) in total. He has also been physically harmed by settlers while farming, and by the military while demonstrating and while just being at home during arbitrary raids. The way in which he was detained also served to brutalize his parents and siblings, with private property destroyed in a form of collective punishment.

JLAC's Interventions for the Community

JLAC undertakes cases of demolition, land confiscation, and settler violence for the community as well as provides awareness raising and training in documentation of offences. The community has taken the initiative to formulate a committee representative of the surrounding villages tasked with monitoring the various tactics of the Israeli military and settlers in displacing Palestinians. Currently, the group is keeping a log of the various violations until the committee is fully launched later in 2017. Among the inputs needed from civil society in establishing this initiative include GIS maps and training in documentation (the latter of which JLAC can contribute to).



Within the activities of the project “Protection of Marginalized Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem and Area “C” of the West Bank through Legal Aid, Outreach and Advocacy” JLAC accomplished a successful advocacy tour to London and Brussels

CAFOD led an advocacy visit to the UK and Brussels, participated in by 2 staffers from JLAC. The visit took place between Sunday the 22nd of January and Thursday 2nd February 2017. The visit had 2 main objectives: influencing of policy makers and awareness raising of CAFOD’s Catholic supporters in England and Wales. The visit highlighted the important role CAFOD plays in amplifying the voice of partners, particularly in the asymmetrical Israeli/Palestinian conflict. There has been good media coverage of the visit both in the UK and Brussels which included a comment piece in the online edition of a national newspaper by JLAC’s Director Issam Arruri. The statement from the Catholic Bishops Holy Land Coordination Group was timely and allowed CAFOD to use social media to raise awareness of the issue ahead of the report launch and visit of JLAC. Faith media picked on the CAFOD report launch press release and combined this with the Bishops’ statement.

London-based advocacy

CAFOD and JLAC held a joint briefing in the UK Parliament on Tuesday the 24th of January which was attended by a cross-party group of 8 Members of Parliament. A selection of JLAC photographs was on display and representatives from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) attended.

JLAC provided an in-depth briefing for Parliamentarians on the realities of life under occupation and worrying trends on the ground including evictions and demolitions in Area C and further outlined JLAC’s work providing legal aid to marginalised communities. All 8 parliamentarians who attended were very engaged and supportive, MPs emphasised how useful they find it to hear about these issues directly from those working on the ground, and that JLAC’s testimony was extremely powerful.

Both MPs and DFID staff highlighted the issue of needing to continue to raise these issues at the highest levels. Two of those Parliamentarians who attended/were represented at the briefing session subsequently sponsored a debate on 9th February in which the UK Government reaffirmed its support for a two-state solution and called on the Government of Israel to cease settlement construction in the oPt. CAFOD was able to include information from the JLAC presentation and some quotes as part of the background given to MPs, sharing this information with a wider audience than those who were able to attend the briefing. CAFOD will seek to get more parliamentary questions asked concerning demolitions and human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) over the coming year. A visit for two Parliamentarians to the oPt is also tentatively planned for summer 2017.

A photography exhibition depicting life in Bedouin communities in both Israel and the oPt was displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons between Monday 30th January and Friday 3rd February as an effective way of educating and



engaging both Parliamentarians and members of the public. As the exhibition space is a public area, it is not possible to report on how many people saw the exhibition but it is estimated that hundreds of MPs, Peers and their staff passed by the exhibition over the course of the week.

An additional meeting was held with a Labour MP who was unable to attend the main parliamentary event. Following discussions on the current situation, he also visited the photography exhibition with JLAC and CAFOD staff. He will raise JLAC's messages with colleagues in the UK and the oPt and will support through parliamentary questions.

Brussels-based advocacy in conjunction with JLAC, Adalah and CIDSE

On the occasion of the publication of the report 'No place like home', CIDSE (an international Catholic family of international development and social justice organisations of which CAFOD is a member), Adalah (an independent human rights organization and legal centre registered in Israel) and JLAC organized an advocacy tour in Brussels on the 25th and 26th January. The delegation met with several European officials and diplomats in order to brief them on forced displacement in the oPt and Israel and the profound impact it has on the ability of Palestinians to access their rights under International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. These discussions were fruitful as they enhanced the officials' understanding of the reality on the ground and the parallels that exist between displacement on both sides of the Green Line.

On 26th January CIDSE also organized a successful seminar with over 30 participants as an official launch event for the report entitled 'No Place Like Home'. Adalah focused on the State of Israel's attempts to dispossess and forcibly displace the Palestinian Bedouin, citizens of Israel, from their homes and villages throughout the Naqab (Negev) in the south of Israel. There was a discussion around Adalah's litigation concerning Atir-Umm al-Hiran, and the state's new plan "Praver 2" or the "Ariel Plan" to forcibly transfer all of the Bedouin currently living in villages unrecognised by the state to a concentrated area of government-planned and recognised towns, among the poorest places in the country. Adalah demonstrated that by implementing this policy, Israel makes vast tracts of land in the south available for the use and settlement of Israeli Jewish citizens only.

In their presentation, JLAC focused on displacement in Area C and argued that the evictions are not limited to the E1-zone that receives a lot of attention. Issam Arruri highlighted that almost 90 percent of the communities in Area C face eviction orders, that forced displacement is forbidden under International Humanitarian Law and that it has far reaching consequences for Palestinian communities. He also expressed concerns about worsening trends on the ground and fears that the Trump administration will strengthen the

Israeli government in its annexation plans. He called for renewed political support to the peace process.

Martin Konecny (Director at European Middle East Project (EuMEP) provided analysis of recent diplomatic activity and commented on future political developments in light of the election of President Trump.

In conclusion, it was clear that certain aspects of displacement are on the EU agenda: evictions, demolitions and mass transfer plans have been recognised as contrary to international law. The forcible transfer of Bedouin communities has been identified as a "red-line" trigger for further EU action. EU statements and diplomatic interventions call for restraint. Yet, the prevalent approach taken by the EU towards the displacement of Palestinians fails to protect their rights as there are no concrete consequences for the persistence of unlawful practices on the ground and no consensus on the measures necessary to ensure Israel's respect for international law. CAFOD will continue to work with its CIDSE partners to encourage policy makers to shape EU-Israel bilateral relations in accordance with international and EU law and to align aid policy and political objectives with a commitment to IHL and human rights law.

UK regional CAFOD supporter and awareness raising events

CAFOD and JLAC held three events to raise awareness of the realities of life in the OPT with CAFOD supporters. These events took place on 28th, 29th, 30th January in Birmingham, Newcastle and London respectively. The final event was filmed and once edited will be available on the CAFOD website to be watched again as a webinar and a resource for future engagement with the Catholic community.

There was more than 110 attendees at these events. JLAC's presentation highlighted the realities of daily life for Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and focussed on a case study from the Jordan valley where all members of the community are under an eviction order. In response to the events, supporters were asked to write to their Member of Parliament to encourage the UK government to continue to support the conditions necessary for the two-state solution to be possible. This supporter action will be shared more widely amongst CAFOD supporters and campaigners in May 2017 in the lead up to the 50th anniversary of the occupation. It is too early to report on how many CAFOD supporters have completed this 'action', there will be further information on this in the second half of year 2.

CAFOD also held several briefings for staff who will be involved in leading CAFOD's media, campaigns and advocacy work on the oPt in order to better equip them to develop resources and campaign strategies, particularly in relation to the 50th anniversary events to take place in 2017.

JLAC conducted a training course in photo documentation in southeast Nablus

On Tuesday, Mar 3, 2017, JLAC conducted a training course in photo documentation; aimed at generating evidence of violations committed by Israeli settlers and soldiers throughout the villages of southeast Nablus. The three-day course was held in Qusra and was attended by 20 participants from Qusra and the surrounding villages of Qaryout, Sawyeh, Qabalan, Jourish and Yetma.

The training course was launched with opening remarks by JLAC's Nablus Branch Office Manager Mr. Saher Sarsour, who asserted the importance of such training in raising community awareness towards addressing surrounding threats. He also emphasized the significance of proper legal documentation of Israeli violations. Mr. Sarsour thanked the Qusra village council for hosting the training and for their cooperation with JLAC.

On the second day, journalist, Fatima Abdel Karim, delivered the practical training, in which she introduced different skills such as; handling the camera, photography techniques (i.e. lighting, grids, angles), and most importantly personal protection while in the field. She focused on the importance of object clarity within photos. During the third day, the training was focused on personal protection and how to secure the original piece of evidence as to prevent its manipulation. The training also discussed the methods which should be employed in presenting the photos as evidence and seeking legal intervention. In a practical learning exercise, Ms. Abdel Karim asked the participants to go out in the field and apply their new skills. The group later discussed the photos taken and how they can be improved upon.

The participants expressed their gratitude for having this kind of training which included theoretical knowledge and practical skills using cameras. The training, as they mentioned, equipped them with new skills which they were in need of. Additionally, they pledged to establish protection committees in each location in order to address violations committed and to ensure proper legal evidences.

This activity was carried out as part of JLAC's EU funded project, entitled; "Protection of Marginalized Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem and Area "C" of the West Bank through Legal Aid, Outreach and Advocacy".



Project's progress

"Protection of Marginalized Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank through Legal Aid, Outreach and Advocacy"

The following achievements were made during the featured quarter of the project

- 38 individual cases undertaken (i.e. 9 in East Jerusalem and 29 in the remainder of the West Bank), ranging from social insurance and child registration in East Jerusalem to house and agricultural facility demolition and confiscation of humanitarian aid/ equipment in the remainder of the West Bank..
- Provision of 136 individual consultations (57 in the West Bank and 72 in East Jerusalem) through our offices in Ramallah, Jerusalem, Qalqilya, Nablus and Salfeet governorates.
- The provision of 895 legal services for the Jerusalemites' in EJ office. The legal services addressed these issues: (children registration, Detention, municipal tax, residency rights Prisoner's Visitation Rights, social insurance and family reunification).
- Provision of 7 legal consultations to local governments (i.e. involving; expansion of master plan, land confiscation, settler violence, submission of registration documents, halting of road construction, etc.).
- Organizing weekly legal mobile clinic visits to Tubas, Qalqilya and Nablus, with lawyers providing needed legal consultation to over 375 right holders coming to benefit from services ranging from legal consultation to full legal representation. Services were carried out in Qalqilia, Tubbas, Nablus, Salfeet, and Eisawiyeh.
- An advanced training course was conducted for the students of law at EJ where 20 students are participating in this training; it was extended for 40 hours distributed on 10 lecturers. Our lawyers from the legal department conducted the training and addressed various issues and concerns of the Jerusalemites' such as social and economic rights, family reunification, children registration, withdrawal of residency rights, taxes and unemployment allowances. The course began in January 2017 and was completed in March 2017.

- An intensive training workshop was conducted for the students of law at EJ in Yabous center on November 19, 2016. 19 students attended this workshop, which extended for 6 hours. This workshop is a part of series intensive workshops that we are planning to implement. In this workshop, we had covered social security allowances, disability allowance, and maternity allowances.

- One community awareness session was hold on 30Nov 2016 at Shufat Refugee Camp in East Jerusalem targeting women and hosted in a women's community center in the camp. Issues covered include social and economic rights, maternity allowances, and labor laws.

- UK and Brussels advocacy tour accomplished, during the period from 22 January – 3 February 2017. Tour involved various high-level meetings with Parliamentarians', EU officer's, presentations to CAFOD supporters, photo exhibition, and launching of the CIDSE report.

Upcoming events:

- JLAC had started broadcasting their program "You are not alone" every Monday at 14.00 pm Raya fm .The major topics which will be tackled include; house demolition in East Jerusalem and Area "C", forced displacement, lands and goods confiscations, ID's withdrawal, family reunification, child registration, National Insurance allowances for mother and child. A JLAC attorney will be available live to provide information on the topic (which includes the provision of legal procedures and mechanisms to be undertaken) and answer questions and inquiries raised via phone.

- JLAC will broadcast a live talk show on local TV channels (Ma'an) on 27/4/2017. The objective of the show is to bridge the gap between victims of human rights violations and officials (PA's Ministries) and Palestinian NGOs.

- JLAC had started a specialized legal training course consists of 40 hours distributed at 10 sessions for law students at EJ.

