



JERUSALEM LEGAL AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER



JLAC 2018

Annual Report



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A Message of Hope from JLAC's Chairman and Director

Despite the Passing of Another Year of Occupation and Internal Repression

This year marked the 51st year of occupation and 70th year since nearly half of the Palestinian people were displaced into refugee camps or the diaspora. This year also bore witness to political developments spearheaded by the American administration, which placed the world-power on the side of the Occupier and formalized its role as partner in Israel's war crimes and unlawful expansion. This political backing was perceived by the Occupation as a green light for expanding their colonial settlement activity and moving forward with administrative and legislative measures aimed at shifting the status of the occupied territory from de facto to de jure annexation. This took such forms as the enactment of discriminatory laws as that of the Nation-State Law aimed at strengthening the hegemony of the Jewish majority and restricting Palestinian political participation (see page 14 for more details).

To this effect, recent figures indicated an increased pace of settlement construction and expansion and enactment of new legislations towards the facilitation of this crime, in blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions. Such is mirrored by the fast tracking of forced displacement of Palestinians in Jerusalem and the remainder of the West Bank. Consequently, these facts on the ground are dually reflected in the breadth and scope of JLAC's activities in 2018; with 2,803 cases treated (at various stages of litigation before the Israeli authorities) of which 2,193 (78%) address demolition and displacement and an additional 100 addressing land confiscation or settler violence. Such

is in addition to the 3,679 legal services provided in Jerusalem and the 2,927 legal consultations provided in Jerusalem and Area C.

Aware of the ever shrinking space available for legal recourse, JLAC further focused its efforts in 2018 on enhancing community preparedness through legal awareness as a preventive measure in many of its areas of intervention. Taking a particular focus due to its urgency was Military Order 1797 which concerns the demolition of uninhabited structures (see page 16). Additionally, effort was made to develop JLAC's local mobilization and international advocacy strategies towards obliging the Occupation to adhere to IHL.

Escalations in violations on the part of Israel were also echoed by a worsened internal state of affairs under to the Palestinian Authority. While the National Development Plan for 2018-2022 was titled "Citizens First"; the internal situation lived by citizens was marred with legislative developments exhausting their energies and setting them up for internal battles, i.e. a weakened judiciary, appointment of generals and ministers without Ministries, lack of transparency therein, and ultimately the consolidation of powers within the executive authority (as recently formalized by officially dissolving the Palestinian Legislative Council). In such an environment, the right to association, nonviolent resistance, and freedom of opinion and expression are feared to be modes of dissent, as evident in continued complaints of torture, abuse and arbitrary confiscation of freedom.

This downward spiral in the state of internal affairs, coupled with the diminishing environment for reconciliation, and imposed siege on the Gaza Strip (and its perpetuation of the furthered deterioration of humanitarian conditions therein); have collectively prompted JLAC to continue addressing internal matters both legally and through its various coalitions. Indeed, JLAC is an active member of various local coalitions advocating for the resumption of democratic life (through fair and free legislative and presidential elections involving the entirety of the occupied Palestinian territory), as well as, reforming and improving the judiciary and strengthening its independence.

Amin Inabi

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Lastly, we salute the entirety of JLAC's working team, volunteers, and resources (the General Assembly and the Board of Directors, local and international partners and supporter). We pledge to tirelessly work to defend human rights regardless of whom the violator or what facet of human dignity is being violated, through use of available local and international mechanisms, in accordance to results-based management and human rights-based approach, and in adherence to the standards of transparency and integrity ensured by JLAC over the years. Most importantly, we pledge to kindle the flame of hope for a better future in which our youth are not deprived of political, economic and social participation, but rather are leading the way.

Issam Aruri

General Director





Who We Are

Going on its 45th year of operations, since being established by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in 1974, the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC) has consistently safeguarded Palestinians' human rights through the provision of pro-bono legal aid, legal awareness, and (more recently) international advocacy. While its areas of intervention have shifted to accommodate the emerging needs over the years, JLAC has constantly stood to defend human rights regardless of the violator and what facet of human dignity is being violated. To this affect, JLAC's coverage spans to hold the Israeli government (in East Jerusalem), its military (in Area C) and the Palestinian Authority to account.

Vision

A free and independent Palestinian society founded on principles of justice, in which human dignity is protected.

Mission

As a Palestinian human rights organization, JLAC works to protect vulnerable groups exposed to recurring violations of human rights (whether by the Israeli occupation or under the Palestinian Authority) through: available legal mechanisms, fostering a culture of human rights, promoting legal knowledge, and using advocacy tools towards activating accountability mechanisms and urging the prosecution of perpetrators at both national and international levels.

Areas of Intervention

JLAC's programming (comprised of legal aid, outreach and mobilization, and international advocacy) serve to address the following thematic areas;

- House Demolition
- Land Confiscation
- Forced Displacement of Bedouins
- Confiscation of Humanitarian Equipment/ Goods
- Settler Violence
- Social & Economic Rights of Jerusalemites
- Retrieval of Confiscated War Victims' Remains
- Freedom of Movement
- Human Rights Violations by the PA
- Among an assortment of matters of Public Interest

Israel & the PA's Obligations under International Law & International Humanitarian Law

Israel's obligations as the Occupying Power in the occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) are set out in two provisions of international humanitarian law (IHL): the Regulations Annexed to the Fourth Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land of 1907 (Hague Regulations), and the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949 (IVGC). However, it should be noted that IHL and international human rights law (IHRL) are not mutually exclusive. Thus, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), as well as the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), among others, can also be regarded as possible legal frameworks for the protection and promotion of Palestinian rights. Israel, it should be indicated, has signed and ratified these conventions, which form the cornerstone for IHRL.

Though Israel has rejected the applicability of its human rights obligations outside its national territory, the applicability of its human rights obligations in the oPt (i.e. the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip) has been continuously asserted in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations (UN), in reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and by various human rights treaty bodies. These provisions were reaffirmed by the UN Security Council Resolution 799 (on 18 December 1992): "[The General Assembly] reaffirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva

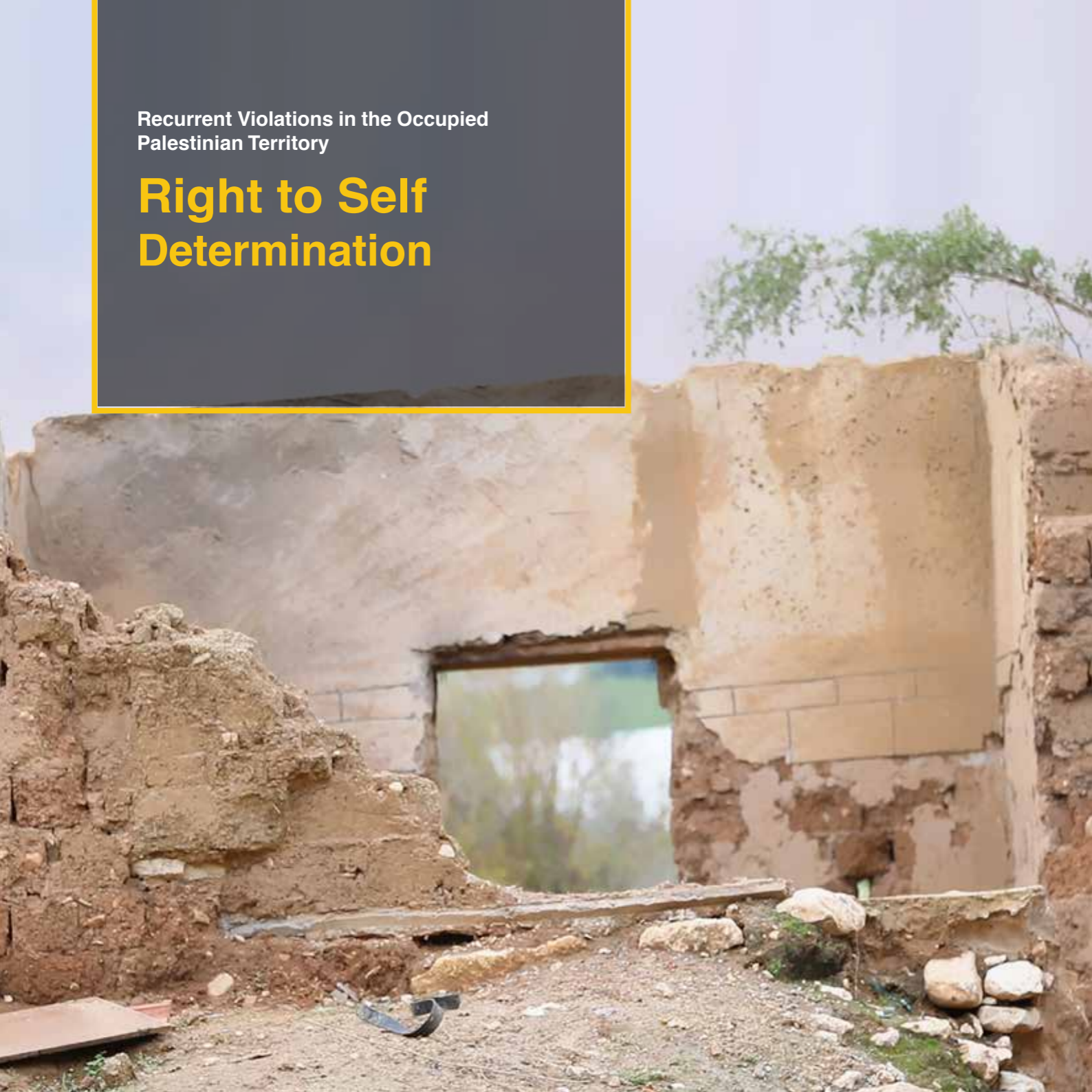
Convention of 12 August 1949 to all the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and affirms that deportation of civilians constitutes a contravention of its obligations under the Convention." Such is in addition to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 (on 23 December 2016) calling for an end to Israeli settlement building.

Indeed, the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements within the West Bank constitute the central violations of the law of occupation. In addition to undermining the possibility of a Two-State solution, the continued expansion of settlements is the core of many human rights violations within the West Bank (i.e. land confiscation, house demolition, forced displacement of Bedouins, settler violence, social and economic rights violations in Jerusalem, etc.). Israel is violating Palestinians' fundamental civil, political and economic rights through its occupation-related policies; which though claiming to be made for security purposes solely seek to preserve its oppressive regime and appropriate more land and resources therein. Moreover, the State of Palestine acceded to the same core human rights treaties as Israel and to the Fourth Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and the Fourth Hague Convention (among other instruments), on 1 April 2014, and likewise is held to account. JLAC's 2018 Annual Report will explore a number of Israel's gross violations of IHRL and IHL (as well as the human rights violations committed by the PA) and how its programming work to remedy the emerging facts on the ground, given the limited room for legal intervention



Recurrent Violations in the Occupied
Palestinian Territory

Right to Self Determination



A principle invoked with the post-World War II decolonizing efforts aimed at reclaiming the right of independence for colonies, self-determination is an inalienable right of all peoples enshrined in the United Nations Charter (Article 1). In this context, self-determination acquired the status of an established rule of customary international law. The UN's largest representative body, the General Assembly, regularly invoked the concept in a series of resolutions, the most important of which were passed in 1960s and 1970s.

As far as the right of Palestinians to self-determination is concerned, Israel has consistently denied them this right and has continued to occupy Palestinian land since 1967. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination was recognized with the UN's resolution calling for the partition of Palestine as it allowed for the establishment of an Arab Palestinian state and did not consider the Palestinians as merely refugees and war victims. The UN went on to pass several resolutions securing Palestinians' right to return to their homeland and to determine themselves therein. Resolution 3236 of 22 November 1974, recognized the "inalienable rights" of the Palestinian people, including that of return and self-determination and the right to independence; with Resolution 3376 (in 1976) establishing a special committee (The Committee for

the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People) to safeguard these particular rights. In its first report in 1976, the committee stressed the fact that unless Israel withdrew from the Palestinian territories it occupied (by force and in violation of the UN Charter) and allowed those expelled in 1948 or displaced in 1967 to return to their homes and properties, the Palestinians would be unable to exercise their right to self-determination.

The right to self-determination continued to be reiterated in more recent resolutions and decisions. The advisory opinion of the International Criminal Court of Justice concluded in 9 July 2004, that the construction of the wall by Israel (the occupying Power on Occupied Palestinian Territory) impedes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Furthermore, Resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004 stressed the importance of preserving territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of the entirety of the oPt, including East Jerusalem. Resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012 and 71/184 of 19 December 2016 also stressed Palestinians' right to self-determination; a right increasingly threatened by Israel's expansionist efforts and silent displacement practices in the West Bank, and consequent inability to expand their communities, control their resources, move freely, among other restrictions.

Right to Equality Under the Law

Dual Legal System

“Racial discrimination” is prohibited in many bodies of international law and international humanitarian law. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) of 1969, to which Israel is party, defines “racial discrimination” as: ... any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.” This provision is mirrored in Article 2(1) and Article 26 of the ICCPR and Article 2(2) of the ICESCR, which likewise prohibit discrimination in the enjoyment of rights based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Racial discrimination based on religion and nationality is a pervasive practice in the West Bank; one that is articulated and enforced through Israel’s creation of a dual legal system in which Israeli settlers (living illegally on occupied land) are subject to Israeli domestic civil law as applied extraterritorially, while Palestinians are subject to Israeli military law in addition to the Palestinian legal system. The application of two different legal systems in the same territory, on the sole basis of nationality or origin, is inherently discriminatory and the very definition of apartheid. It also violates the principle of equality before the law which is central to the right to a fair trial and raises

concerns as to the obligation of the occupying power to respect the laws in force in the territory it occupies, unless absolutely necessary. The biased treatment of these two groups by the occupying forces, has led to drastically different outcomes; with one group enjoying complete impunity and the other subjected to a draconian military legal regime. Worse yet, Israel is directly complicit with Israeli private persons subjecting the occupied Palestinian population to acts of violence amounting to gross violations of IHL and IHRL, affording those responsible complete impunity. Such is contrasted with its harsh subjection of the occupied population to a military legal regime itself amounting to serious violations of IHL and IHRL, constituting prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity and national origin.

Indeed, these concerns have been highlighted by the UN committee responsible for the implementation of the CERD which stated in its March 2012 report the following: “The Committee is extremely concerned at the existence of two sets of laws, [about the increase in racist violence and acts of vandalism on the part of Jewish settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory], [about information according to which 90 per cent of Israeli police investigations into settler-related violence closing without prosecution], and [alarmed by reports of impunity of terrorist groups such as Price Tag, which reportedly enjoy political support from certain sections of the Israeli political establishment]. More recently in the UN CERD Committee meeting (held on 14 December 2018), the State of Palestine expressed its concern over continued construction and approval

of funds for large-scale road infrastructure projects in the occupied West Bank (including East Jerusalem) that improve the connectivity of settlements to Israel at the further discontinuity of the Palestinian territory. The State of Palestine also reminded the committee of the inter-State complaint filed in April 2018 against Israel, the Occupying Power, for its breach of obligations under the Convention with the passing of the discriminatory Nation-State Law in July 2018.

Israel's imposed dual legal system continues to be further perpetuated by the enactment of new discriminatory legislation and military orders; the most prominent of which are elaborated on below;

Discriminatory Legislation

Since its establishment, Israel has sought to perpetuate its ethnocratic identity through institutionalized discrimination on the legal and practical levels. Legislations have played a major role in strengthening the hegemony of the Jewish majority, implementing the official Israeli vision of "less Palestinian people and less lands," and subjugating the indigenous population. Throughout its seventy years of existence, the Knesset has passed over 65 laws that directly or indirectly discriminate against Palestinians and/or violate their fundamental rights in different areas (as documented by Adalah). While legalized discrimination has always been part and parcel of Israel's policy, the last few years have witnessed an escalation in the pace and number of discriminatory legislations. The current Knesset (2015-2018) alone, served to review 185 discriminatory bills

threatening Palestinian communities within Israel and the occupied territory and enacted 54 laws to this effect, as reported by Madar Institute. The following is a list of the main laws and military orders enacted by the Knesset or issued by the Israeli military that discriminate against and violate the rights of Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line:

1. Nation-State Law: Backed by the right-wing government, the Nation-State Law was passed in July of 2018 after months of political argument. The law served to enshrine within the Israeli constitution Israel as "the historic homeland of the Jewish people" and afford Jews with the "exclusive right to national self-determination" in it. It also views the development of Jewish only settlements as "a national value" whose establishment should be actively encouraged and promoted. Moreover, the law also strips Arabic of its designation as an official language alongside Hebrew, downgrading it to a "special status" that disables its continued use within Israeli institutions. In making the right to self-determination in Israel "unique" to the Jewish people, the law serves to eradicate the democratic character from the definition of the state. While Netanyahu hailed the passing of the new law before the Knesset as "a defining moment in the annals of Zionism and the history of the state of Israel"; it is feared (by EU Foreign Affairs Chief, Federica Mogherini, as stated in the "Guardian") that it will only deepen a sense of alienation within the Arab minority and further complicate or prevent a Two-State solution.

2. Amendment to the Administrative Affairs Courts Law: The amendment (passed on 17 July 2018) transfers legal review jurisdictions over administrative decisions taken by the occupying authorities in the West Bank from the High Court of Justice (HCJ) to the Administrative Affairs Court, a district court in Jerusalem. The scope of decisions whose legal review rests now under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Affairs Court includes requests made under the Freedom of Information Act; planning and construction issues; freedom of movement; and restraining and supervision orders. While this law does not directly discriminate against Palestinians, it carries dangerous implications. The law drastically hinders Palestinians' access to the legal system and limits their capacity to challenge demolition orders in court. Palestinians have hitherto been entitled to submit petitions against practices or decisions by Israeli authorities in the occupied West Bank before the Israeli Supreme Court, sitting as the High Court of Justice. Transferring the exclusive jurisdiction over those matters from the Supreme Court to the Administrative Affairs Court normalizes the legal status of the occupied West Bank, effectively sanctioning its de jure annexation, stripping the territory of any special status as an occupied territory, and ultimately marginalizing IHL even further.

3. The Regularization Law: Passed by the Knesset in February 2017, the Law retroactively authorizes the expropriation of private Palestinian land in the West Bank, thus legalizing some 4,000 outposts in Israeli settlements built without proper Israeli permits.

The law represents the first direct legal recognition of the expropriation of Palestinian private land for the sake of settlement construction since the Elon Moreh ruling of 1979. It came on the heels of a UN Security Council resolution declaring the illegality of Israeli settlements under international law. Apart from flagrantly violating IHL, this law violates Israeli laws, specifically the right of private property protected by the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty. This flagrant violation led the Israeli Attorney-General to refrain from defending the State's position before the Israeli High Court. Palestinian human rights organizations, including JLAC, submitted a petition demanding the law be struck down. On 3 June 2018, the Supreme Court held a hearing to discuss the petition. No decision has been taken yet.

4. New amendments to the Planning and Building Law: Palestinians are denied urban rights, they cannot expand according to the needs of their natural growth, and they only have 13% of the total area of East Jerusalem fit for construction, an area already densely populated and used. Moreover, Israel designates much of the city as green or open lands, in which building is prohibited. Palestinians also encounter difficulties in obtaining permits or proving that there is any engineering progress due to the high costs that this entails, consequently facing threat of demolition. Further exasperating the situation is the new amendments to the Planning and Building Law. Known as the Kemintz amendment, the newly-introduced provisions make it harder for Palestinians to receive injunctions or delay demolition orders.

5. Amendment number 20 of the Higher Education Law: enacted by the Knesset on 12 February 2018, the Amendment stipulated the application of the Higher Education Law in the West Bank, subjecting universities in the West Bank (within illegal Israeli settlements) to the same laws governing higher education in Israel proper. It represents yet another form of legal annexation.

6. Amendment number 30 of the Entry into Israel Law: Approved by the Knesset on 7 March 2018, the amendment authorizes the Israeli Ministry of Interior (MOI) to revoke the permanent residency of those deemed to have “breached their duty of allegiance” to the state of Israel. The amendment came in response to the Supreme Court ruling that determined the illegality of the decision to revoke the residency of four Palestinian MPs due to their affiliation with Hamas. The court gave the Knesset a six-month deadline to enact a law that explicitly authorizes the MOI with revoking residence under such grounds. According to IHL, it is illegal for an occupying power to demand allegiance from an occupied population.

7. Amendment 2 of the Counterterrorism Law: approved by the Knesset on 7 March 2018, the amendment authorizes police to withhold corpses of Palestinians accused of carrying out attacks under the guise of protecting law and public order. The amendment came in response to a Supreme Court decision ruling the illegality of police withholding the corpses of three slain Palestinians

from Umm al-Fahem who were accused of killing two border police officers in occupied Jerusalem. This amendment only pertains to the actions of the policy rather than the military commander and is concerned with cases where the withholding of corpses is carried out under the pretext of protecting public order and safety.

8. Military Order 1797: Issued by the Coordinator of Government Activities in the OPT, COGAT, on 17 April 2018, the military order allows the occupation authorities to demolish or remove new Palestinian property within 96 hours of delivering a demolition permit, notwithstanding legal appeal against the removal. The military order concerns properties whose construction was completed less than six months before the demolition order or that was inhabited for less than a month. Moreover, the military order virtually strips the affected citizens of the right to due process and the capacity to challenge the demolition orders through legal avenues, by requiring that objections to the demolition order be accompanied with a valid building permit, though such is unattainable. In response, JLAC and St. Yves jointly filed a motion demanding the Israeli authorities immediately revoke the new military order, which would fast-track the forced transfer of the occupied population, in blatant violation of customary international law and in contravene to existing local legislation. JLAC and St. Yves have since succeeded in attaining an injunction freezing the order until final deliberation.



Right to Freedom from Persecution to Liberty & Security

Settlement Expansion and Violence

Settlements are built on Palestinian land that has been unlawfully appropriated solely for the use of Israeli settlers, to the complete exclusion of the Palestinian population. Approximately 651,000 settlers (413,000 in Area C and 238,000 in East Jerusalem) live in around 130 government-authorized settlements and over 100 illegal outposts, controlling nearly 43 percent of the territory of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. A population which has more than tripled since the beginning of the Oslo process in 1993 in Area C alone (from a population of 127,800 to 413,000), according to the Israeli organization Peace Now. The establishment of settlements amount to the transfer of a State's population into occupied territory, an act prohibited by international humanitarian law as detailed in the Fourth Geneva Convention and confirmed by various international bodies, including the ICJ, the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. The illegality of settlements has been recognized as a war crime that may lead to individual criminal responsibility. Moreover, the human rights ramifications of settlements and their related activities include the prohibition of Palestinians' enjoyment of the right to self-determination, natural resources, private property, tenure of housing, freedom of movement and (with the emergence of settler violence) personal security.

Organized and systemically practiced by extremist settler groups living illegally in the West Bank and carrying ideological and racist motives, the phenomenon of settler violence is carried out to push Palestinians out of their homes and lands (through verbal assault and intimidation, physical attack up to murder, and destruction of property, fencing off land, etc.). According to Haaretz Newspaper, 2018 witnessed a more than threefold increase in reported incidences of settler violence as compared with those reported in 2017 (482 attacks vs. 140 respectively). Such is in addition to political pressure being placed of Israeli police and judiciary to deal leniently with attackers. Indeed, settler violence exists as a tactical pillar of the sustenance and expansion of illegal settlements throughout the West Bank. And as such, it has been afforded structural guarantees towards safeguarding the legal impunity of Israeli aggressors (i.e. dual legal system).

While much of the physical violence against Palestinians and their properties is perpetrated by Israeli settlers, Israel bears responsibility in two forms. First, these attacks are carried out under the watchful eyes of the Israeli army, which fails to protect Palestinians from attack. Second, occupation forces intentionally deprive Palestinians of their right to legal recourse for harms incurred. For once the attack is carried out and Palestinians submit a complaint before the Israeli military, the only possible avenue to secure a remedy, the vast majority of their complaints are turned down and no indictment is made. Even in the

Settlement Expansion (4x increase)



Year	New Settlement Housing Units (Announced Bids/Plans)
2018	9426
2017	9896
2016	2655
2015	2292

“ According to the Israeli movement Peace Now ”

rare cases where there is indictment, the sentences handed out are minor. According to Yesh Din, between 2005 and 2017 93.4% of reported incidents of settler violence involving property damage (i.e. cutting of olive trees) were closed without indictment due to “investigation failure”. Such is dually echoed in JLAC’s legal efforts addressing settler violence. The structural impunity granted to settlers responsible for acts of violence against Palestinian civilians, including the complicity of the occupying forces in these violent acts and negligence on the part of Israeli police to investigate reported crimes, amount to multiple violations of international law. Such include the obligation of Israel, under the law of belligerent occupation, to protect the occupied population and uphold public order, and the human right to life and

the right to be free from torture and ill treatment.

Since 2012, JLAC treated 61 cases of settler violence (2 of which were adopted and 7 documented in 2018) ranging from physical attack to property damage and theft. Despite taking the cases through all the required legal channels, the cases which were closed were done so without indictment, on such grounds as “lack of evidence” or “lack of public interest”. Though JLAC (like the predominance of other actors addressing settler violence) failed to attain justice for the individual victims represented, it hopes to have this casework serve in building a larger public interest case against the negligence of the Israeli police itself. JLAC plans to review its strategies regarding settler violence in 2019.



Right to Land & Natural Resources



Land Confiscation

Land rights are consistently highlighted in various human rights treaties. Protection of private property is guaranteed in the Charter of the United Nations and the two international covenants on political, civil, economic and social rights. The Hague Convention of 1907 (Article 26), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, and the Treaty of Rome of 1957 (Article 47) address the confiscation of private property by an occupying power with the latter stating that “pillage is formally forbidden”. Moreover, the Fourth Geneva Conventions, banned pillage, confiscation of private property of protected persons, transferring citizens of the occupying state to administered territories, and other acts engrained in Israel’s settlement enterprise. An enterprise which violates UN and SC resolutions specially the latter resolution 2334 of 2017 calling for the halt of Israeli settlement activity in occupied territory and their dismantling.

Regretfully, the cornerstone of Israel’s practices in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) has been land annexation and control of natural resources. Its first measure following the occupation of the West Bank was to declare on 7 June 1967 all publicly owned land as “State Land” and effectively ceasing it. The scope of “State Land” was later expanded through the manipulation of existing land related laws (i.e. the 1858 Ottoman Land Code). Other measures taken towards facilitating the confiscation of Palestinian land include; freezing the land registration process, establishing “military zones” under the guise of military necessity, continuously issuing military orders, reclassifying privately owned land, establishing Jewish-only settlements (and their associated roads

and public infrastructure) and the constructing of the Annexation Wall. Consequently, with more than 60% of the West Bank designated as Area C and under full Israeli control, with the ICA prohibiting construction in nearly 70% of these lands and imposing a broad range of restriction in the remaining 30%; Palestinians are effectively left with 1% of Area C and 13% of already heavy populated area of East Jerusalem for its use and natural expansion as compared to the 35% of East Jerusalem confiscated for Israeli settlement use, as per OCHA figures.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics’ most recently issued data, in 2017 alone the Israeli occupation razed and uprooted approximately 10 thousand trees, approved the transfer of 2,100 dunums of Palestinian land towards facilitating settlement expansion, renewed orders to seize 852 dunums of Palestinian land in the West Bank, and confiscated hundreds more dunums of Palestinian lands for the expansion of Israeli roadblocks and establishment of military checkpoints for the protection of illegal settlers. The Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission’s 2018 figures echo this trend, with 15 military orders issued appropriating 344 dunums of land (in addition to 508 annexed through other measures), 7,122 razed and uprooted Trees, and 110 thousand dunums of Palestinian privately-owned land cultivated by Israeli settlers for agro-industry purposes.

JLAC takes on cases of land confiscation towards safeguarding rights holders’ ability to access and utilize their property, predominantly for agricultural/livelihood purposes. In 2018, JLAC served to undertake 5 new and follow-up 42 on-going cases of land confiscation from years prior.

Right to Adequate Housing



House Demolition

Towards further stifling Palestinian expansion and development, Israel long coupled its illegal land annexation policies with restrictive zoning building regimes both in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank. In what limited areas remain viable for Palestinian expansion in those geographies, approximately 13% of East Jerusalem and 1% of Area C (as per OCHA figures), a complex range of restrictions effectively preclude Palestinians from obtaining and/or affording building permits. While East Jerusalem suffers from limited highly populated areas and inflated building permit fees; Area C has witnessed exclusion from the land planning process and the continued use of outdated/inadequate master plans. Both models, however share the same discriminatory “non-planning policy” that denies adequate due process and perpetuates demolition and displacement; and only serves to expand the scope of Israeli control over the region through the construction of illegal settlements and de facto annexation of Palestinian lands. In effect, 241 villages are left completely designated as Area C, nearly all Bedouin communities with blanket demolition orders, and at least a third of all Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem lacking Israeli-issued building permits (potentially placing over 100,000 Jerusalemites under threat of displacement). Since 2000, the Israeli authorities have demolished some 1,400 houses and other structures in East Jerusalem, with 177 demolitions carried out in the City and another 288 demolitions in the remainder of the West Bank (collectively displacing 472 people) in 2018 alone, as per OCHA figures.


The right to adequate housing is reaffirmed in numerous international instruments ratified by Israel (i.e. UDHR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, and CRC, among

others). Adequate housing is defined as constituting the following core criteria: (1) legal security of tenure, (2) availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure, (3) affordability, (4) habitability, (5) accessibility, (6) location, and (7) cultural adequacy. Israel’s discriminatory and restrictive planning policies in the occupied territory and consequent demolition and forcible transfer systematically violate each of those components. Various UN Resolutions (i.e. the Pinheiro Principles) have stressed the importance of security of tenure and reaffirmed the illegality of forced evictions therein. Moreover, as per customary international humanitarian law, Article 43 of the 1907 Hague Regulations obliges the occupying power to respect “unless absolutely prevented” the laws in force in the country. By diverting from the inclusion of local communities (as to ensure cultural adequacy, equity, etc.) in the planning process vested in the Jordanian Planning and Construction Law applied in the West Bank prior to its occupation, Israel is in further violation of IHL’s requirement to respect the existing laws in the country. Furthermore, Israel’s ulterior motive of fast-tracking the forced transfer of the occupied population through discriminatory and restrictive planning stands as crime against humanity as stipulated in Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court pertaining to forcible transfer.

In 2018 alone JLAC served to treat 181 new cases of house and agricultural demolition (i.e. 83 house demolitions in Area C, 8 house demolitions in East Jerusalem, and 90 agricultural facility demolitions) and 1,756 accumulated such cases (i.e. 1,191 house demolitions in Area C, 98 house demolitions in East Jerusalem, and 467 agricultural facility demolitions) from prior years.

Demolition & Displacement Figures

Total Structures Demolished



	2016	2017	2018
Area C	867	270	271
East Jerusalem	190	142	177



Total People Displaced due to Demolitions

	2016	2017	2018
Area C	1225	103	220
East Jerusalem	254	233	176



Structures Demolished (donor funded structures)

	2016	2017	2018
Area C	299	103	53
East Jerusalem	1	1	3



Children Displaced due to Demolitions

	2016	2017	2018
Area C	856	223	115
East Jerusalem	129	133	80

“ according to OCHA ”



Indigenous Rights



Forced Displacement

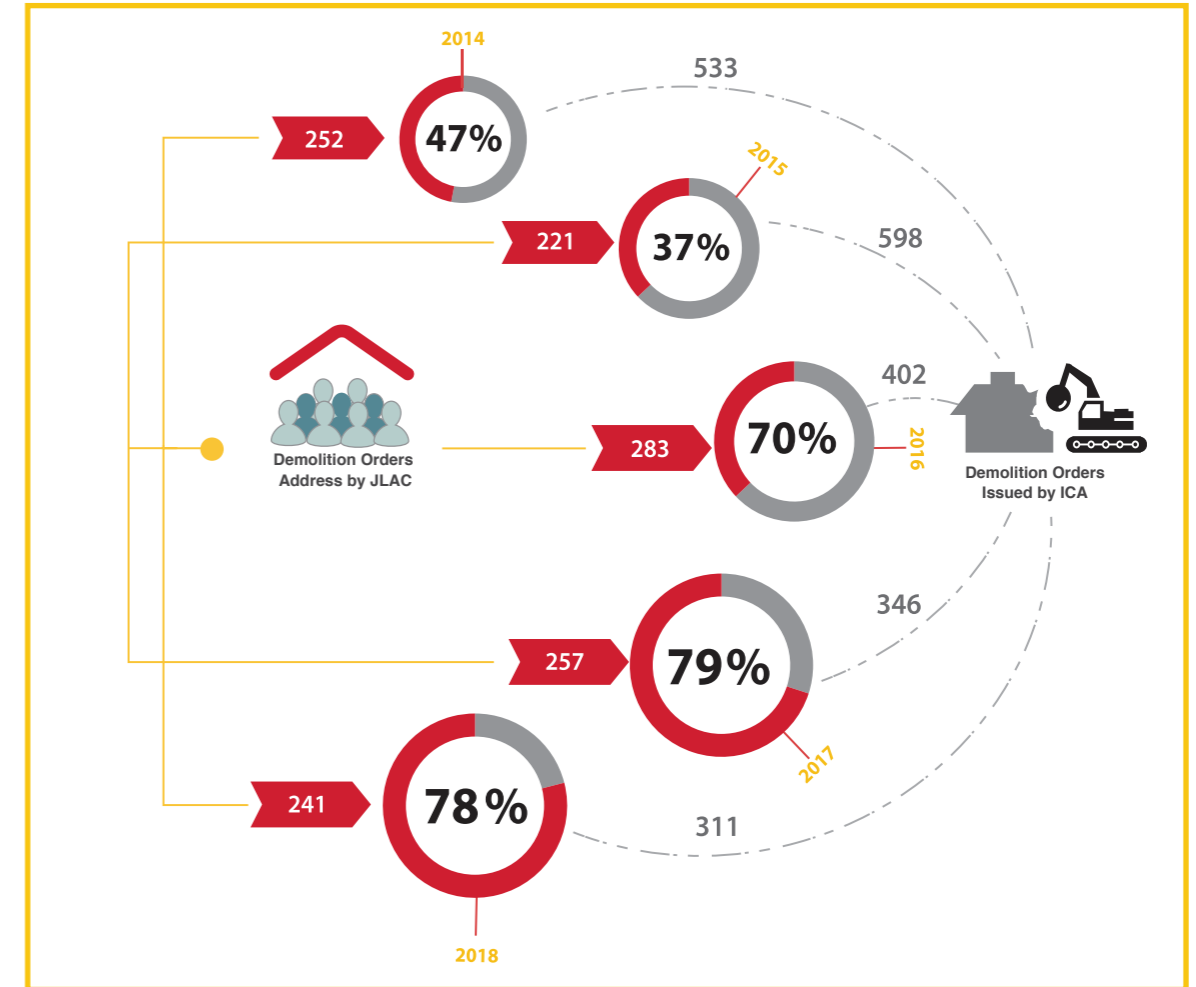
The crisis in Khan al-Ahmar has highlighted the perils faced by Bedouin communities in the oPt. As Khan al-Ahmar, most of the Bedouins currently residing in Area C of the West Bank were first displaced from the Negev in 1948. Never presented with alternative equitable solutions, they were forced to find refuge in vacant areas, either land classified as state land or upon the vacant private property of other Palestinians. It is this precarious land ownership and land status which now makes them particularly vulnerable to Israeli measures. A distinct sub-group of the indigenous Palestinian population on account of their semi-nomadic and herder lifestyle, their livelihood is contingent on seasonal mobility and access to large expanses of land. Such is directly at odds with Israel's efforts to concentrate Palestinian communities in urban ghettos and to free up "state lands" and other vacant areas for confiscation. Indeed, Bedouins' presence in such key areas as the Jerusalem periphery and the Jordan Valley remain the final obstacle before Israel in the areas' effective annexation. Consequently, as affirmed by JLAC's field documentation, nearly all Bedouin communities are facing blanket eviction orders (accompanied with demolition, violence and confiscation of livestock and equipment) and are being coerced to concede to unequitable forceful relocation plans aimed at eradicating their way of life. Such plans have served to place 46 Bedouin communities (comprised 1,358 households) in eminent risk of displacement, as per OCHA figures.

Indigenous peoples have the right to be free from measures that seek to forcefully assimilate them or destroy their culture, as vested in the UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2017. To this effect, the UNDRIP strictly prohibits the forcible removal of indigenous peoples on any grounds (military or security necessity) and holds that relocation must take place through free, prior, and informed consent and agreement on just and fair compensation. Genuine consent, however, cannot be presumed in an environment marked by the use or threat of physical force, coercion, fear of violence, or duress. Moreover, the premise of state land should be that its use be geared towards the enjoyment of the local population (i.e. for infrastructural needs, roads, highways, etc.) and not for such ulterior and dually illegal motives as settlement expansion and control of natural resources. JLAC argues to these effects while seeking to maintain Bedouins' presence in their homes and lands in the hundreds of forced displacement cases it takes on each year.

In 2018 alone, JLAC adopted 60 new case of forced displacement and followed up 282 on-going cases carried over from prior years. Such was also coupled with outreach efforts aimed at strengthening the legal capacity of serviced Bedouin communities, as well as, local advocacy efforts aimed at leveraging due attention from the PA (as a significant duty bearer) in better meeting the basic needs of Bedouin communities (i.e. to health, education, water, etc.).



Demolition Orders Issued by ICA vs. Demolition Orders Address by JLAC (in JLAC's Areas of Intervention)

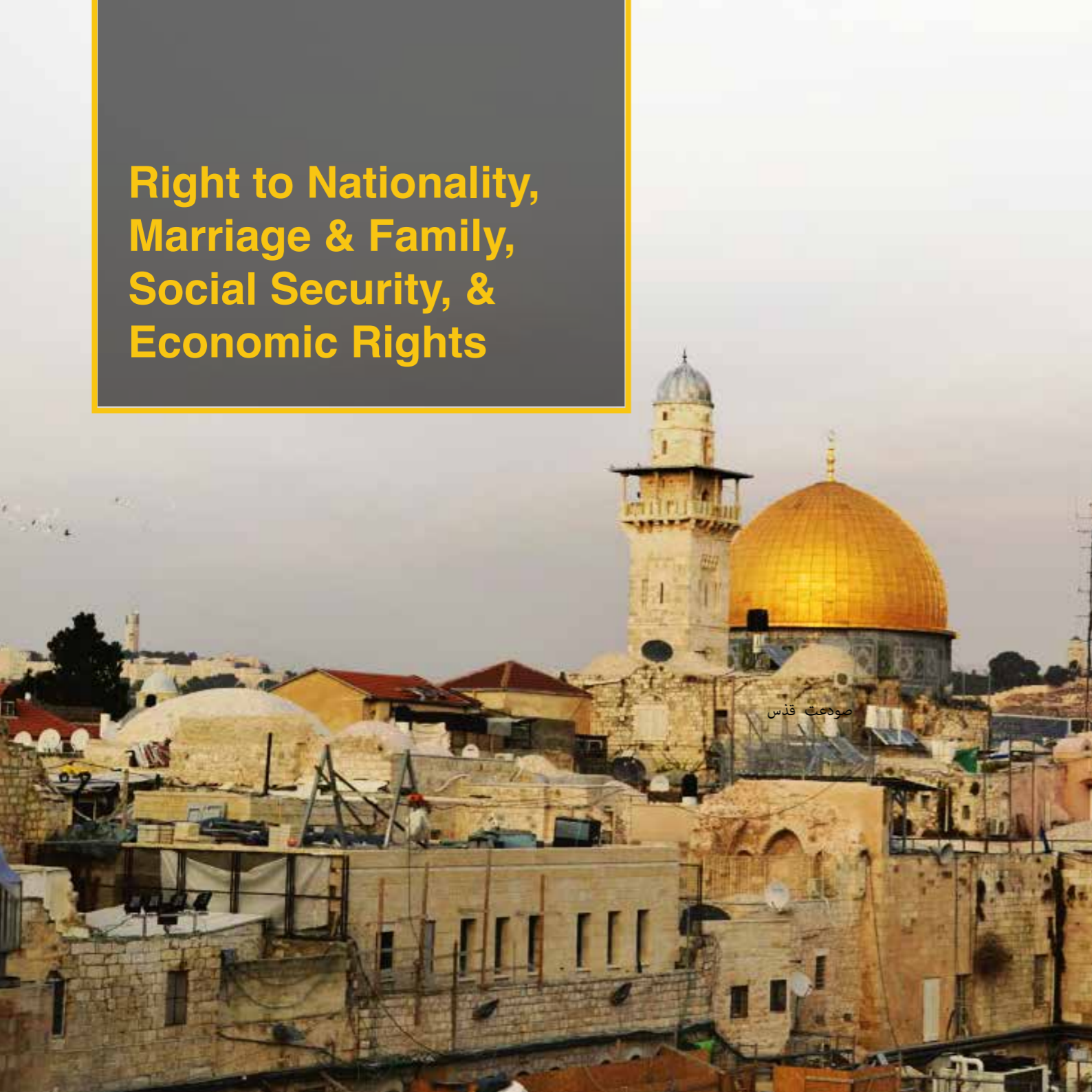


Confiscation of Humanitarian Aid/ Equipment

In violation to the duty of an Occupying Power to facilitate the humanitarian assistance of protected persons (as vested in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols), Israeli forces have increasingly demolished or confiscated donor-funded humanitarian assistance in Area C. Such items have included shelters and tents, water cisterns, animal barracks and other basic structures for survival and livelihood. This practice is among Israel's many efforts to excerpt control over Area C, with 2018 seeing a two-and-a-half-times increase in confiscations being carried out; 45 confiscations (displacing a total of 33 people including 17 children and affecting another 358) were carried out in 2018 as compared to 17 (affecting 312 people) in 2017. JLAC treated 29 such cases in 2018 (11 new and 18 accumulated from prior years).

“ According to the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission ”

Right to Nationality, Marriage & Family, Social Security, & Economic Rights



East Jerusalem

Forcible transfer does not always arise from authorities' direct physical force, but can dually be perpetuated by the intentional creation of circumstances that leave individuals or communities with no other choice but to leave their homes and lands. This is known as the creation of a "coercive environment", a form of transfer also considered forcible. An array of coercive factors are silently displacing communities in Area C, Hebron, and East Jerusalem of the West Bank, the latter suffering from unique challenges due to the contingent nature of the residency status its indigenous Palestinian population has been afforded. In addition to discriminatory construction and planning, home seizure and demolition, restrictive movement and access restrictions, and settler violence similarly endured by their brethren in Area C and Hebron, the permanent residency status of Jerusalemites subjects them to a range of social and economic push factors. Residency revocation, the denial or restriction of family unification and child registration, collectively, along with restrictive building, create a complex apparatus of control, dispossession and displacement. Such is in addition to the more direct and formal measures taken by the State of Israel to Judaize the City by way of discriminatory legislation and settlement expansion; as legitimized by the United States' recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moving its embassy to the City (with other right-wing governments following suit).

ID Revocation

Indeed, Israel has succeeded to postpone discussion on Jerusalem until final-status negotiations and to push to create "facts on the ground", in the meantime, through its bureaucracy and legally sanctioned

demographic engineering. Such has been openly proclaimed in the Jerusalem Master Plan 2000 (ratified in 2007) which seeks to maintain a 70% (Jewish) to 30% (Arab) ratio in the City. One such key item of legislation to this effect is the "Center of Life" policy which subjects the residency status of Jerusalemites to revocation in a number of broadly-defined, vague, discretionary reasons that are mired by inconsistency and discrimination. Residency revocation is also being utilized as a measure to punish Palestinian Jerusalemites accused of carrying out attacks against Israeli targets. The residency of the families of those accused are at times also subject to revocation; a measure constituting collective punishment prohibited under customary International Humanitarian Law (including Article 40 of the 1899 and 1907 Hague Regulations and Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, among others). According to the latest official figures provided by the Israeli Ministry of Interior, Israel has revoked the residency of more than 14,500 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem since 1967, with the residency of 17 Palestinians revoked in 2017. Whether on punitive grounds or based on the arbitrary "Center of Life" policy, all residency revocations amount to legalized forcible transfer, a war crime under Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Family Reunification

The Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (temporary provision) likewise seeks to alter the City's demographics to Israel's favor by severely restricting the right of Jerusalemites married to spouses from the West Bank or the Gaza Strip to family unification. Palestinians who live in the Gaza Strip or are registered as Gaza residents are absolutely barred from living

with their spouses in areas under Israeli jurisdiction, while those with West Bank IDs are subject to gender specific age limitations (males below 35 and females below 25 being barred). West Bank ID holders who are permitted to apply for status pursuant to family unification, if their application is accepted (after going through the daunting bureaucratic and legal procedures that takes three to four years on average), only receive a temporary permit that protects them against deportation without granting them any civil, social and economic rights or even a driving license. The “temporary” order, passed in 2003 and extended on a nearly annual basis ever since, constitutes a form of ethnic and national profiling as it ascribes an assumption of a “prior dangerousness” to an entire group of individuals based on their nationality, place of residence and even place of registration. These measures encroach upon the fundamental right to family life as protected by Article 16 (3) of the UDHR and Article 23 (1) of the ICCPR, ratified by Israel.

Child Registration

Children of Jerusalemites married to West Bank ID holders must be registered by their parents in order to safeguard their rights to social security, healthcare and education in Jerusalem. Such is another emotionally-taxing bureaucratic procedure that imposes huge stress and legal fees on Palestinian families and takes an average of four to five years to resolve, as affirmed by court statistical reports. According to information attained by JLAC from the Israeli Ministry of Interior, approximately 8,300 children of such “mixed” families have gone un-registered. Children

who are not registered or whose application for registration is pending are stuck in a perpetual cycle of uncertainty; denying them such rights as social security stipends, free healthcare, school enrolment, etc. The denial and/or systematic delay in processing and accepting child registration applications violates Article 7(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which Israel has ratified.

Economic Rights

As permanent residents of Israel, Palestinian residents of Jerusalem are obliged to pay taxes and are dually entitled to the services and rights vested to Israeli citizens, save for the right to vote in general elections. Such is in theory, however in practice, less than 10% of municipal budgets are being spent on Jerusalemites in the form of municipal services, even though the municipality collects around 30% of the municipal taxes in East Jerusalem from Palestinian residents, according to the Jerusalem Center for Social and Economic Rights. Israel has severely neglected East Jerusalem by way of disproportionate service delivery, with Palestinian areas lacking in the quality and sanitation of public roads, sewage systems, public areas, and public facilities (i.e. schools, clinics, libraries, play grounds, etc.). OCHA estimates the chronic shortage of classrooms in East Jerusalem at about a deficit of 2,600 classrooms, with many existing educational facilities “substandard” in condition. Understandably, the Palestinian perception of municipal taxes is that of being a means of maintaining residency rights than of receiving municipal services. Palestinians are likewise heavily taxed disproportionately in comparison to Jewish

residents of Jerusalem, augmenting their already devastated economic state. Palestinian residents earn comparatively lower incomes and have been economically disenfranchised by their isolation from the remainder of the West Bank. According to figures released by OCHA, 76% of Jerusalemites (and 83% of children) live below the Israel-defined poverty line. Socio-economic human rights, such as the right to education, health, adequate standard of living, are implicitly protected in the ICESCR.

Further contributing to Palestinian residents’ ability to fully access such due rights as national insurance, child stipends, etc. is the language barrier and lack of legal awareness. JLAC works to help mitigate the above set of coercive push factors through the provision of legal aid and outreach addressing house demolition and social and economic rights in Jerusalem. In 2018 alone, JLAC served to provide 1,117 legal consultations, 3,679 legal services (i.e. 641 social, 3,038 economic), 50 cases (i.e. 8 housing, 32 social, 10 economic), and provided 16 community awareness sessions, and 4 trainings workshops targeting new lawyers.



Freedom from Collective Punishment



Right to a Dignified Burial

Collective punishment is expressly prohibited under IHL, as is the denial of a dignified burial. Regrettably, Israel has served to dually violate the both by withholding the corpses of war victims killed in clashes with occupation forces in an effort to suppress their memorialization, collectively punish their families, and utilize their remains as bargaining chips in negotiations/ prisoner exchange deals. This practice is in clear violation of the First Geneva Convention Articles (16) and (17) concerning the deceased and their identities and Article (34) providing for the return of remains of the deceased in armed conflict to their home country upon request by the state or by the next of kin, as well as, the Fourth Geneva Convention in all matters obliging parties to the armed conflict to search, assemble and identify those deceased and the need for their dignified burial.

This practice of Israel witnessed a lull following the conclusion of the second Intifada of the early 2000s, prior to which withheld corpses were haphazardly buried in Israeli military cemeteries (dubbed “cemeteries of numbers” as codes and not names are haphazardly ascribed to the plots) inaccessible to the victims’ families. As per JLAC’s documentation, 253 war victims currently remain buried in such cemeteries, although Israel has not disclosed figures or details. The surge of extra-judicial killings by occupation forces intensifying in 2015 and onwards, however, saw a re-emergence of this practice, now with corpses kept in Israeli morgue refrigerators and

often accompanied with additional means of collective punishment as subjugating of their families’ homes to demolition (and more recently subjecting family members to loss of Jerusalem residency status, in the cases of Jerusalemites). JLAC undertakes such cases of punitive demolition when the need arises. 37 of these more recent victims remain in Israeli morgue refrigerators.

In combating this abhorrent and illegal practice, JLAC has led a grassroots campaign mostly comprised of the victims’ families (entitled: The National Campaign to Retrieve Arab and Palestinian War Victims’ Remains and Disclose the Fate of Those Missing) in building needed popular momentum, buy-in by the PA, and legally demanding the return of individual cases before the Israeli Supreme Court. Though the campaign saw much achievement in way of activism and retrieval of victims’ remains for burial (190 corpses retrieved), there have been setbacks. During a recent deliberation of a collective case for the retrieval of withheld corpses submitted by JLAC before the Israeli Supreme Court, the Court concluded with a 2/3 majority that the State does not have a law vesting it with the authority to detain bodies, and thus this practice is illegal, unless such a law is since developed. JLAC understood this as an indicator of the court’s complicity with the State by alluding to the encouragement of developing a law to this effect. Moving forward in 2019, JLAC will continue to follow-up the remaining cases, document new offenses and move towards international advocacy.

Freedom of Movement

Another form of collective punishment exercised by the Occupation is the institutionalized system of administrative, bureaucratic and physical impediments collectively restricting Palestinians' freedom of movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In Gaza, the continued siege, use of force in access-restricted areas, and permit regime have effectively served to imprison the population by severely restricting the movement of people and goods in and out of the territory. In the West Bank obstacles to freedom of movement involve the imposed permit regime and Annexation Wall, closed military zones/ restricted areas, checkpoints and physical obstacles (i.e. road closures, fencing off of privately owned lands, and more recently roadside settler violence). In 2018 alone, OCHA documented the following obstacles to freedom of movement throughout the West Bank; 165 road gates, 149 earth mounds, 96 road blocks, 76 partial checkpoints, 64 checkpoints, 67 road barriers, 31 earth walls, 12 trenches, and 45 others.

On the macro level, movement restrictions have served to completely besiege Gaza, further sever and isolate East Jerusalem, buffer illegal settlements, cut-off access to much of the Jerusalem periphery and Jordan Valley, and ultimately create a discontinuous territory unviable to sustain a Two-State solution. Moreover, movement restrictions are impeding the development of the Palestinian economy; from farmers' inaccessibility to agricultural areas and water resources to the movement of produce/products for sale domestically or abroad, involving the West Bank,

and the undermining of all development efforts by the siege involving Gaza, as concluded by Amnesty International. On an individual level, freedom of movement is a precondition for the enjoyment of many other human rights, with a lack thereof serving to impact Palestinians' rights to education, health, livelihood resources, work opportunities, and family life (with Gazans most severely impacted by movement restrictions in exiting the Strip even in cases of dire need for medical treatment). More specifically, the permit regime in the West Bank also serves to restrict Palestinians' ability to access Israel for work and family visitation; including Israeli military prisons in visiting detained family members. Many Palestinians are dually banned the right to travel outside the West Bank (through Jordan) for mostly undisclosed reasons. JLAC takes on cases of freedom of movement focused on denial of prisoner visitation, denial of entry permits into Israel for medical treatment, and travel bans; with 47 cases of freedom of movement (37 new and 10 accumulated) undertaken in 2018 in total. JLAC likewise legally addresses road closures/demolitions through its public interest work.

While the illegality of each practice prohibiting the enjoyment of freedom of movement each amount to violations of international law in their own right (i.e. the Annexation Wall's illegality as per the 2004 UN Advisory Opinion, fencing off land in terms of the protection of private property as vested in the Charter of the United Nations, and so on and so forth), jointly they amount to collective punishment for their indiscriminate and unproportioned denial of freedom of movement as stipulated in Article 12 of the ICCPR.



Right to Democracy, Freedom of Opinion & Expression



Violations by the Palestinian Authority

The Palestinian constitution (i.e. Basic Law) enshrines most of the fundamental principles of universally recognized human and civil rights and is based on parliamentary democracy and pluralism (i.e. democratic elections, separation of powers, rule of law, etc.). Dually, since being accorded with Non-Member Observer State status by the UN in November of 2012, the State of Palestine went on to endorse several key human rights treaties which further root it in human and civil rights obligations (i.e. CEDAW, CRC, ICCPR, ICEFRD, CAT (Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment), CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), etc.). Regrettably, the disparity between the guarantees enshrined in these texts and their implementation in reality is quite vast; the catalyst to which being the 2007 Hamas legislative elections win, its later takeover of the Gaza Strip, and President Mahmoud Abbas' rule in the West Bank and declaring a state of emergency therein. This power struggle propelled both de facto governing bodies to derail from earlier ideals and engage in an array of human rights offences. The following will be touching upon those violations enacted by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

Separation of Powers

Despite the Basic Law establishing that the Palestinian government is to be based on rule of law and the separation of powers, the contrary has been seen 2007 and onwards. That year ushered in the arrest of much of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) members by Israeli forces and the consequent declaration of a state of emergency by President

Mahmoud Abbas. Two developments which began the constriction of powers within the hands of the, since long expired, presidency. Though by its nature, a state of emergency (as referenced in and drawn from the Basic Law) is intended to be temporary (up to 30 days and solely extended with a 2/3 majority of the PLC), this status was abused to allow the President to continually issue presidential decrees with weight of law. While the main concern is the unconstitutional and totalitarian means by which such "laws" are enacted, they likewise pose the additional threat of often being in conflict with past legislation and serving to further expand the legislative rift between the West Bank and Gaza (as Hamas is dually arbitrarily issuing laws from its own end). The scale of this catastrophic situation can best be gauged when comparing the 90 laws ratified by the PLC during its first 10-year term as compared by the 243+ presidential decrees publicly issued in the West Bank since 2007.

Compounding this situation is the presidential appointment of the judiciary and the failure on the part of the various forces to implement court rulings. The PA recently reaffirmed its continuation along such totalitarian lines in its December 2018 Explanatory Decision (No. 10/2018) by the Palestinian Supreme Constitutional Court (SCC) which formally dissolved the PLC and called for President Mahmoud Abbas to set legislative elections within six months of the decision. The cryptic and vague decision left constituents wondering as to whether this might serve a precedence for the dissolution of any other elected legislative councils to come or if it will formalize the current status quo. This decision not only has no basis in the Basic Law (which prohibits the dissolution of the PLC under any circumstances, even while under a "state of emergency", as per

Article 113) nor constitutional principles of rule of law and separation of powers; but the Palestinian SCC itself was established in violation of the Basic Law and has directly contributed to deepening the political rift. Worse yet, the decisions emanating from the SCC have served to further consolidate powers by; granting the President the right to lift the parliamentary immunity of PLC members, vesting the military judiciary authorities over civilians, and making reservations to acceded international treaties to such effects, all in violation of the Basic Law and international conventions and standards.

Public Freedoms

Chapter 2 of the Basic Law recognizes public freedoms (i.e. right to equality before the law, freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, and freedom of expression, political participation, peaceful assembly and association, among other public freedoms) as do the various international treaties the State of Palestine ascribed to. The situation on the ground as assessed by JLAC through its various coalitions, however, denotes the rise of a repressive environment characterized by the shrinking of the available space for freedom of the press, expression, right to association, peaceful assembly, and unionism. Any dissent is subsequently at risk of being met by politically motivated human rights abuses as; harassment, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrest, forced early arbitrary retirement and (though less seldom) torture; with legislations as the Cyber Crimes Law of 2017 and the draft presidential Decree of Associations seeking to give legal legitimacy to such practices. Administrative detention is an increasingly more common practice in the West Bank, void of legal grounds (as could be simply based on orders

issued by provincial Governors) and respect of strict procedural guarantees regarding the right to a fair trial (i.e. right to be informed of charges, to counsel, to access courts, presumption of innocence, etc.) as vested in local and international laws safeguarding the right to liberty and security. Although international law justifies the restriction of freedom of expression when necessitated to protect such public interests as national security or public safety, however, surveillance and detainment of ordinary people as a means of suppressing peaceful criticism of a political authority falls far beyond these lines and ventures into fascism.

Arbitrary forced retirement emerged in 2018 as a new area of intervention, following the issues of the Law Decree of Early Retirement of Security Forces No. 9 and Law Decree of Early Retirement of Civil Servants No. 17 of 2017. The laws intend to create a “legal” space for arbitrary dismissal of public employees, by vesting Ministers and department heads therein, with the right to change a staffer’s employment status to that of “retired” without reason or prior notice. As per these laws, decisions may only be appealed before the High Court. In 2018, JLAC engaged in much outreach efforts on the emerging violation of arbitrary forced retirement, with one television show in particular airing live in April specifically addressing this subject. Following the show, tens of forced retirement victims were found waiting outside the studio to speak to JLAC’s lawyers, in addition to those calling in. JLAC went on to adopt 59 such cases (in the fields of health, education, and security force) and provide necessary legal aid. While building the cases, JLAC noted that the beneficiaries had predominantly clean records and were solely engaged in interpersonal disputes with their administrations. JLAC chose to take these

cases individually to court versus building one collective case, due to the complex nature of the individual cases. Of the 59 cases, 6 cases have so far closed (1 positively and 5 negatively). JLAC noted the trend that the number of years served in one’s post was the determining factor in how their case closed. It seemed that the Court implicitly considering administrations having the right to retire persons whom had served 15 years or longer.

In addressing the above violations JLAC works both through coalition and takes on individual cases. The most prominent of its coalitions addressing violations by the PA include; the National Committee for the Defense of Public Freedoms, the National Committee for Monitoring Legislation, Popular Protection Coalition for the Judiciary, Coalition Against Torture, and the National Coalition to Support Transparency. In 2018, JLAC adopted and followed-up 84 cases of violations by the PA (i.e. 59 forced arbitrary retirement, 13 political detention, 6 public interest, 3 public freedom, public freedoms, and 3 miscellaneous).



Freedom of Association & Non-violent Resistance



Shrinking Space

The emergence and intersection of several key developments (1. polarized geopolitics both within the current Israeli Likud-led coalition government and far right governments emerging within Europe and the Americas, 2. strides being made in the international arena concerning the recognition of Palestine and Israeli accountability, and 3. efforts on the part both Palestinian and Israeli civil society in holding their governments and the international community to account) have created an environment in which the space available to those advocating for the human rights of Palestinians is ever shrinking and plagued with risk and restraint. Palestinian civil society faces manifold burdens of restrictions from the Palestinian Authority (though to a lesser extent), the Occupation, and criminalization and smear campaigns threatening their funding resources abroad. Collectively these restrictions serve to deny Palestinians their right to non-violent resistance as asserted by UNESCO (in 1981 UN Educational, Social and Cultural Organization conference of experts in Freetown, Sierra Leone to consider the individual and collective right of resistance against government violations of human rights), punish supporters for exercising the “ethic of human solidarity” and “moral imperative to resist” as discussed by Richard Falk (Revitalizing International Law, 1989), and facilitating State’s evasion of their third-state responsibility as outlined in Article 53 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Under the Palestinian Authority, safeguards afforded to civil society organizations (CSOs) as per the Palestinian NGO Law of 2000 have consistently been

undermined in an attempt to restrict CSO space through imposed laws, regulations and policies. One such legislation is the Law Decree of Associations prepared by a committee from among the Palestinian Council of Ministers’ (at the exclusion of civil society) aimed at increasing administrative burdens and financial controls over CSOs, in affect diverting their limited energy and resources away from addressing human rights offences and compromising their independence. Such is in addition to more explicit measures, as PA-led defamation campaigns to undermine the credibility of CSOs and CSO closures and diversion of assets.

As assessed by JLAC through its coalition work, Palestinian CSOs operating in the OPT likewise face restrictions to their day-to-day operations by the Occupation, in such aspects as accessing heavily restricted areas, supporting developmental works in Area C, acquiring working visas for international staff, as well as a range of more coercive measures as detention, storming of offices, and destruction/confiscation of computers and databases. Palestinian CSOs in East Jerusalem face the additional challenge of having to comply with Israeli laws, as per the Israeli Basic Law- Jerusalem, Capital of Israel of 1980 which served to administratively reinforce the illegal annexation of the City. CSOs with branches in both East Jerusalem and under the PA (as has JLAC) are compelled to have two different registrations, bank accounts, and auditors, with any flow of cash between the two branches considered as international wires subject to much scrutiny on both ends.

These facts on the ground are also met with smear campaigns abroad led by both official Israeli bodies

and sponsored NGOs (i.e. anti-BDS' task force of the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs and NGO Monitor, respectively), aimed at threatening and discrediting human rights organizations towards deterring attention away from the human rights violations they work to address and reducing their public support and donor funding. Efforts by human rights defenders to hold Israel accountable through lobbying for international support therein has likewise been met by governments conceding to Israeli pressures to enact domestic legislation criminalizing support of the BDS movement and equating critique of Israel with antisemitism. Such legislation has been enacted in 25 out of 50 US states, with an additional 10 states with pending draft legislation (according to the US-based group Palestine Legal). Such is in addition to the federal level effort on the part of a bipartisan group of senators to enact the Israel Anti-Boycott Act targeting individuals and corporations engaging in BDS, respectively. Unconstitutional,

these bills oppose the US Supreme Court, which has long held that political boycotts are a form of expression protected by the First Amendment. In Europe, Israel is lobbying parliaments to declare BDS "Fundamentally Anti-Semitic", which is being met by a range of positions. While voices like Margrete Auken, the vice-chair of the European parliament's delegation for relations with Palestine reject "the unceasing attempts to amalgamate this Palestinian-led movement with antisemitism"; others as Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union in Germany went on to adopt a resolution calling on "all political parties to pass a binding resolution rejecting BDS activities as fundamentally anti-Semitic", as per the Middle East Monitor.

JLAC works to address the various forms of shrinking space through its undertaking of cases of CSO closures, strategizing in coalitions, and participating in targeted international advocacy efforts.

On 10 December 2018, Israeli occupation forces arrested at least 25 Palestinians in pre-dawn raids across occupied Jerusalem and the West Bank. Among those arrested in the mass crackdown was a JLAC colleague, Hussein Shejaey. Shejaeya, 31, is a field researcher at JLAC, as well as a Palestinian human rights defender and a freelance photographer. He was arrested from his home in the West Bank village of Deir Jarir northeast of Ramallah at around 4:30 and was released more than a month later. His arrest had been preceded by several interrogations by Israeli forces while conducting his field research. JLAC condemns the wave of arrests carried out by the Israeli army in general, and the arrest, intimidation and persecution of human rights defenders in particular. JLAC calls for the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners of conscience. Criminalizing human rights defenders is a blatant breach of the freedom of expression, a clear attack on Palestinian civil society, and constitutes an attempt to silence the Palestinian society as a whole.



JLAC's Methodology

To varying extents, JLAC works to address the above-mentioned violations through a comprehensive and interdependent approach involving legal aid, outreach & mobilization, and advocacy; as detailed below:

Legal Aid

The brunt of JLAC's workload lies in legal aid, with much fieldwork and volunteer efforts carried out in the background to facilitate the Center's ability to deliver such an astounding amount of legal aid per annum. Legal aid involves a large spectrum of mechanisms and amenities that include; consultations, legal services, mobile clinics, legal representation, and public interest cases. In 2018 alone JLAC served to provide 3,227 consultations and 3,679 legal services and to treat 2,803 cases (364 new and 2,439 accumulated from prior years).

- **Legal Consultations:** The first step along the path to ascertaining one's rights begins (and sometimes ends) with legal consultation, whether in office (at one of JLAC's 4 branch offices in East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, and Salfeet), over the phone, in the field (during outreach, filed visits, mobile clinic sessions, etc.) or via JLAC's on line portal featuring "frequently asked questions". It is during legal consultation that the initial legal advice is provided, the case's viability is assessed, and (for those requiring legal representation) case files are opened and needed documentation begun to be collected. In 2018 alone, JLAC served to provide 3,227

legal consultations across its various areas of interventions (i.e. 1,750 in Area C, 1,177 in East Jerusalem, and 300 under the PA)

- **Legal Services:** Given the complexity of reinstating due social and economic rights in East Jerusalem and inherent language barriers therein (given much of the official forms being in Hebrew language), JLAC dedicates three days of the week in its Jerusalem branch office to opening its doors to those needing assistance in completing necessary forms. Though these days see scores of people waiting in line and piles of paperwork, legal services are gratifying in terms of their nearly complete rate of successful achievement. 641 social and 3,038 economic rights related legal services (totally 3,679 legal services) were provided in 2018, of which all closed with successful completion.
- **Mobile Clinics:** A recently systemized, though historically practiced, means of providing legal consultation and adopting new cases in bulk, is that of the "mobile clinics". This mechanism is comprised of a JLAC attorney and paralegal physically going to more remote areas to a pre-coordinated session to debrief a group of beneficiaries on a particular subject, walking them through the legal procedures, answering individual inquires, and beginning case adoption procedures. So, doing so saves beneficiaries the added burden of needing to go to JLAC's offices and saves JLAC's team the need for individual meetings. Such 2-hour sessions often result with

tens of new cases being processed and initiated. With the cooperation of local councils (in Area C) and, to a lesser extent community-based organizations or CBOs (in East Jerusalem), this mechanism has required minimal coordinative and logistical input from JLAC. In 2018, JLAC held weekly mobile clinic sessions in Tubas, Qalqila, and Nablus, and held 2 mobile clinic sessions in East Jerusalem.

- **Public Interest Cases:** In addition to JLAC's reactionary legal aid, treating individual cases of violations as they arise, JLAC often takes a step backwards and seeks to challenge the discriminatory measures that allow the violations to take place to begin with or secure a joint resource for a community. In 2018 JLAC treated 31 cases of public interest (7 new and 24 accumulated from prior years) in both East Jerusalem and the remainder of the West Bank. Such cases of public interest served to address; Military Order 1797 (see page 16), protection of schools servicing Bedouin communities, protection of water networks, protection of parks/football fields in Area C, etc.). In East Jerusalem, public interest cases involved improvement of municipal services, roads, wastewater treatment plants, etc.
- **Legal Representation:** Cases requiring to continue to full legal representation are discussed internally in determining the best legal strategy (i.e. arguments used, supporting documents needed, initial correspondences, etc.) and proceed through the available legal mechanism that pertains to the violation at hand. For demolition and displacement related cases,

JLAC's legal strategy has been to buy time for beneficiaries given the inherently discriminatory nature of the legal mechanism afforded and the consequent rare ability to fully cancel demolition orders. However, as long as cases remain in the legal channels and continuously under deliberation, they remain safe from demolition/displacement. Thus, the status of "on-going" is deemed a success by JLAC, although resulting in an ever-growing and burdensome accumulated caseload. Other means of buying time under deliberation utilized by JLAC have involved the formation of community master plans, which while being debated secure protection from demolition for the involved communities. Other cases require more swift action to reinstate due rights, as in the case of Jerusalemites' social and economic rights violations. While, other cases have reached a standstill (i.e. settler violence cases consistently closing with lack of indictment both at JLAC and among peer organizations) requiring discussion of new approaches (see page 19). Collectively in 2018, JLAC served to undertake 364 new cases (i.e. 83 cases of house demolition in Area C and 8 in East Jerusalem, 90 agricultural facility demolition, 60 forced displacement, 5 land confiscation, 11 confiscation of humanitarian equipment/goods, 32 social and 10 economic rights of Jerusalemites, 2 settler violence cases and 7 documentation, 37 freedom of movement cases, 12 retrieval of bodes, 8 public interest, 68 addressing violations by the PA, etc) and follow-up 2,439 cases accumulated from prior years.

Legal Aid Provided by JLAC in 2018
Addressing Israeli Violations

Case Type	Treated Cases		Closed			On-Going	# of Petitions	
	New	Accumulated	Positively	Negatively	Other			
Public Interest	26		5			21		
	7	19	2	0	3			
Land Confiscation	47		1			46		
	5	42	0	0	1			
Settler Violence Cases	53		0			53		
	2	51	0	0	0			
Settler Violence Documentation	7					0		
	7	0	7	0	0			
Right of Dwelling	1274		26			1248	11	
	House Demolition WB	83	1191	8	3			15
	House Demolition EJ	8	106	5	16			11
	Agricultural Facilities	90	557	4	31			20
Forced Displacement	342		13			329		
	60	282	0	0	13			
Jerusalemites	103		31			72		
	Social Rights	32	71	15	4			12
Economic Rights	47		33			14		
	10	37	18	4	11			
Freedom of Movement	15		8			7		
	Travel	11	4	1	0			7
	Prison Visitation	7	8	1	2			1
Permits	24		13			11	2	
	19	5	5	0	8			
Confiscation of Humanitarian Equipment	29		20			9		
	11	18	14	2	4			
Bodies Campaign	158		24			156	4	
	12	146	1	0	1			
Miscellaneous	7		0			7		
	0	7	0	0	0			
Legal Representation Total	2803					2595		
	364	2,439	81	20	107			
Legal Services in Jerusalem	3,679 (641 Social Rights and 3,038 Economic Rights)							
Legal Consultations	1,750 in Area C and 1,177 in East Jerusalem							



Addressing Volitions by the PA

Case Type	Treated Cases		Closed			On-Going
	New	Accumulated	Positively	Negatively	Other	
Public Interest	6		4			2
	1	5	0	1	3	
Public Freedoms	3		0			3
	3	0	0	0	0	
Forced Early Retirement	59		6			53
	59	0	1	5	0	
Political Detention	13		13			0
	5	8	13	0	0	
Miscellaneous	3		2			1
	0	3	1	0	1	
Legal Representation Total	84		25			59
	68	16	15	6	4	
Legal Consultations	300					



Outreach & Mobilization

JLAC's legal aid acquires its strength from its outreach efforts which seek to enhance local preparedness in tackling human rights violations as they arise. Towards this end, a range of target groups and mechanisms are employed, most notably; the legal training of local councils/ CBOs, community awareness, legal training of fresh graduates, and specialized human rights training of JLAC's volunteer base, media, coalitions, and subject focused local advocacy campaigns, as elaborated on below:

- Legal Training of Local Councils/ CBOs:** JLAC's outreach begins here, at the source; for local councils (in Area C) and CBOs (in East Jerusalem) are ordinarily human rights victims' first destination in beginning to understand and challenge violations incurred. In ensuring their sound understanding of due rights and legal procedures in their safeguard (and JLAC's role therein), local councils and CBOs begin to function as an efficient referral system for JLAC and liaison for its outreach efforts. In 2018, JLAC served to implement 4 such trainings in Area C, with 1 of the legal trainings in East Jerusalem also involving staff of CBOs.
- Community Awareness:** Through the coordinative and logistical support of local councils and CBOs, JLAC is able to engage with numerous communities per annual in helping to raise their human rights capacities. Subject focused community awareness sessions are led by JLAC lawyers and paralegals whom go into an in-depth discussion of the violations at hand, available legal recourse, strategies therein, documentation needed for case development, among other details. The sessions are often followed by side meetings with individual
- Legal Training of Fresh Graduates:** In an effort to expand the pool of available attorneys equipped to take on cases of human rights unique to Jerusalemites within the complex legal system they are subjected to as "residents" of Israel, JLAC annually delivers a series of specialized legal training seminars targeting fresh graduate lawyers. The intensive training workshops, led by JLAC attorneys, provide the fresh graduates with theoretical and practical training in equipping them to be able to adopt cases of demolition and social and economic rights (i.e. pertinent legislation both local and IHL, legal procedures, strategies, possible outcomes, etc.). In 2018, 4 such seminars and workshops were implemented, targeting 45 graduate lawyers in total.
- Volunteerism and Specialized Human Rights Training:** JLAC's 300+ member volunteer base (comprised of former legal aid and outreach beneficiaries, activists, and community leaders) is often called upon for efforts requiring their attention within their various communities (i.e. collecting needed documents, facilitating field visits, etc.) and are often consulted when determining community needs. This network plays a key role in JLAC's ability to provide such densely packed programming in a timely and cost effective manner. Towards maintaining their momentum and connectivity, JLAC conducts an

attendees and the adoption of new cases (i.e. relinquishing of power of attorney and documenting needed biographical information). In 2018, JLAC delivered 37 community awareness sessions (21 in Area C and 16 in East Jerusalem) outreaching the northern West Bank, Jordan Valley, and the various neighborhoods of East Jerusalem.

annual conference bringing in the entire volunteer base to hear pertinent presentations and network among each other. Other platforms for exchange include a specialized Facebook page and other social media forums. More recently, JLAC has been delivering specialized human rights training workshops to groups from among its more active volunteers upon their request. Such trainings have included practical photo documentation training with the provision of sophisticated cameras for the volunteers to then take back to their communities for broader use. In 2018, the 3 trainings focused on building advocacy campaigns, social media, disability rights, facilitating JLAC's operations, among other skills. Collectively the workshops served to train 60 volunteers.

- **Media:** Media, whether written in the presses, broadcasted on radio or television, produced in documentary form, or circulated via social media, has played a vital role in JLAC's ability to raise awareness of inherent rights and its role in safeguarding them. 2018 was an active year for JLAC in this regard with 1,390 radio spots, 2 radio shows, 3 television shows, 5 motion/video graphics, 2 newsletters, and 1 documentary produced addressing a range of issues from presidential dominance under the PA to the various coercive push-factors inflicted by the Occupation. Most unique in 2018, were the call-in radio shows produced which allowed the opportunity for direct engagement with listeners and have since been replicated by the radio station on its own accord due to the shows' success. In addition to the items it produces itself, JLAC has increasingly been sought out by the media for providing its input on a range of matters relevant to its work, predominantly

in addressing the detainment of victims' remains (as JLAC is the main body documenting this abhorrent practice).

- **Coalitions:** Sensitive matters as challenging the practices of the Palestinian Authority are oftentimes better embarked on under the collective protection of coalition, as to mitigate one single organization being targeted. Work in coalition also allows for a multidisciplinary perspective in tackling the challenges at hand, mitigating overlaps, and honing resources towards achieving much with minimal individual input. During 2018, JLAC focused on the following coalitions, in much of which it took a predominantly leading role; PENGO (Palestinian Non Governmental Organizations Network), PHROC (the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council), NGO Code of Conduct Coalition, the National Committee for the Defense of Public Freedoms, the National Committee for Monitoring Legislation, Popular Protection Coalition for the Judiciary, Coalition Against Torture, the National Coalition to Support Transparency, and the Jerusalem Coordinating Committee.
- **Local Advocacy Campaigns:** Certain issues often require the building of popular momentum from the grassroots level up, with accompanying advocacy campaigns needed to propel the initiatives forward. JLAC has spearheaded several such movements over the years, with 2018 primarily focused on the following local advocacy campaigns:

The National Campaign to Retrieve Arab and Palestinian War Victims' Remains and Disclose the Fate of Those Missing (See section on: Right to Dignified Burial page 37).

Right to Water

Despite the Second Oslo Interim Agreement of 1995 having established the status of water in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Palestinians' right to water being both consistent with international law (i.e. 2002 UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted General Comment No. 15 on the right to water) and consistently upheld by the UN General Assembly (with members as recent as the 73rd session held on November 29, 2018, calling for improved access to clean water in the territory); Israel continues to control water resources as a means of dominating the Palestinian people. Israel has consistently undermined the Palestinians' right to water through hindering their development of water resources and access to their allotment, as well as through the exploitation of water resources to the benefit of illegal settlers.

Different estimates state that between 80- 85% of groundwater in the West Bank is used either by Israeli settlers or flows into Israel, allotting the more than 594,000 Israeli settlers residing illegally in the area 6 times more water than to the 2.6 million Palestinians. Banned from the development of any water projects and the digging of wells, with even rain water cisterns at risk in Area C, Palestinians are compelled to buy back their own water at higher costs than sold to settlers, with the most remote communities needing to tank water in paying the most per cubic liter. Moreover, water

inequality has resulted in Palestinian communities failing to consume the WHO recommended 100 liters per person, per day (i.e. 30-50 liters per person/per day in the norther West Bank, 20-25 liters per person/per day in areas not connected to a water grid) , as per World Bank figures. Water insecurity is further aggravated by the brutal practices of the Occupation forces and settlers. Occupation forces often demolish water tanks, cisterns, reservoirs, and networks, with the Annexation Wall (found illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004) destroying 60% of the water infrastructure /irrigation networks of the 173 directly affected communities, according to the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem.

Subjecting the right to water to further risk is the recent effort on the part of the PA, vis-a-vis municipalities and local councils, to install prepaid water meters as a means of managing this conflict of limited resources, rather than pushing back against Israeli for their full right to water. Such will subject more disenfranchised Palestinian families to go without water when times are tough, impacting their access to hygiene, health, and livelihood. JLAC has recently undertaken a study into the socio-economic ramifications of the implementation of prepaid water meters as part of a pilot project funded by Rosa Luxemburg Fund seeking to build community awareness and momentum (through a media campaign) and engage in dialogue with decision makers concerning this critical emerging measure.

Disability Rights

In the West Bank, there is a predominance of public facilities lacking the necessary structures to facilitate accessibility by persons with special physical needs. Such is in violation of Palestinian Disability law No 4 of 1999 and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006 ratified by the State of Palestine in 2014. Through a core group from among its 300+ volunteer base, JLAC launched a local advocacy campaign in 2017, aimed at remedying this reality by first tackling a series of public facilities in Nablus (under the slogan “Nablus is Special Needs Friendly”). JLAC has since served to rehabilitate several public facilities to accommodate accessibility by those with special needs in the City in 2018. Additionally, a coordinative committee was established in Nablus to identify further needs and coordinate the various efforts taking place in the City pertaining to special needs. The campaign has gone on to provide legal aid (by way of correspondences) for persons with special needs subjected to violations of their human rights (i.e. travel ban, detainment, and access to health services under the PA). Efforts have been initiated to replicate these achievements in other cities, with committees now forged in Ramallah and Salfit and receiving necessary initial training from JLAC, as well as initial surveying of public facilities lacking necessary accessibility in the two districts.



International Advocacy

In such a discriminatory legal environment as imposed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where one's Occupier is in fact judge, jury, and executioner and the committees and courts one seeks legal redress before in securing their homes and lands are comprised of council who live in the very settlements which are at odds with their very existence; how can justice be accessed? Undoubtedly, in many instances JLAC has run into a legislative brick wall in which all it can buy for its beneficiaries is time. Given this grim reality in which certain local available mechanisms have been exhausted and deemed ineffective in dismantling oppressive structures, JLAC has increasingly seen the need to engage in international advocacy. In 2018 such mostly entailed; debriefings and taking 13 visiting delegations to the field (5 in Jerusalem and 8 in the remainder of the West Bank targeting diplomats, journalists, university students, human rights activist, etc.) participating in several speaking engagements abroad (i.e. in East Europe, Germany, Spain, Belgium, etc.), participating EU lobbying days in November, writing 8 briefs legally analyzing pertinent key legislation/ measures (addressing the Nation-State Law, Military Order 1797, etc.), and partaking in key Palestine focused advocacy networks as the local OCHA-led protection working group and legal taskforce, the

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network- EMHRN (with attendance in the Berlin, Paris, and Brussels workshops), and recently accrued membership in the US-based National Lawyers Guild and its Palestine focused sub-committee. In 2018, East Europe was newly targeted through a series of panel discussions and meetings with parliamentarians (i.e. Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland), which collectively served to contribute to a pro-Palestinian voice in an otherwise polarized and right-wing region of the world.

In the last quarter of 2018, JLAC sought to strategize its international advocacy for the coming years as to diverge from its currently more reactionary efforts and channel its energies and resource along a more thoughtful and streamlined trajectory. Such entailed the formation of an interdepartmental taskforce, conducting a mapping of peer organizations' methods of international advocacy and partner organizations' preferred information received therein, a review of JLAC's programmatic strengths and priorities in rooting its advocacy, and much internal discussion. This process, facilitated by an external expert, led to the formation of a strategy document; the details of which and its eventual implementation will come to be worked out through 2019 and onwards.

2018 Highlights

Legal Aid: In Area C, one representative case in 2018 involved completely closing a house and agricultural facilities demolition case of a villager from Frush Bait Dajan, located in the Nablus governorate. The villager sought to rehabilitate a plot of his privately-owned land (with ownership documentation dating back before 1967) as to establish a small farm. In July of 2016, he approached JLAC after receiving a demolition order involving his small home (80 sq m³), agricultural pods, and small irrigation pond. Completely falling within Area C, the village is beset with military orders prohibiting construction and presence on land. JLAC went on to raise his case before the relevant Israeli military committees, with his building permit request later rejected on the grounds of allegedly “lacking ownership documentation”. The matter was then raised to the Israeli Supreme Court where JLAC argued the contrary. After two sessions, the court ruled in the favor of JLAC’s beneficiary and cancelled the demolition order, protecting his home and agricultural facilities from demolition as long as he ceased any further expansion therein. Such a case closure, within the span of just two years, is a rare feat in Area C. JLAC attributes this success to the cooperation of the beneficiary and timely action on the part of JLAC.

A noteworthy legal achievement made by JLAC’s Jerusalem branch involves a resident facing mental health issues married to a West Bank ID holder, whose two children went unregistered. The issues being faced by this man were a microcosm of the scope of violations

imposed on Jerusalemites in the creation of a coercive environment to wane their continued presence in the City. JLAC took on the various social and economic matters faced by this resident through the provision of legal services and legal representation. He was aided in reactivating his due national insurance, receiving retroactive payments for due social security, securing his threatened ID (through proving his continued presence in Jerusalem), and beginning the process of registration of his children and family reunification of his wife.

Outreach: JLAC’s major achievement in 2018 pertaining to its outreach efforts is the intensified awareness campaign regarding Military Order 1797, which if implemented would have facilitated the implementation of blanket demolitions. In addition to JLAC’s legal efforts to freeze the order (see page 16), JLAC intensively worked to ensure community preparedness in case of its implementation. Such involved raising the legal awareness of at risk communities as for them to take the necessary measures to safeguard themselves; to inhabit the structures (i.e. move in and connect to necessary infrastructure) and to timely complete structures under construction. This effort also included raising the legal awareness of local governments (i.e. councils, governors, ministries, etc.) to help in facilitating these ends. JLAC found these bodies and the local communities very receptive and emerged with many

lessons learned which can be applied in any prospective need for emergency responsiveness. In the span of 3 weeks alone (May 25- June 11), JLAC served to outreach 207 persons from among 67 local council in 6 governorates through the provision of 11 awareness sessions.

International Advocacy: In regards to international related advocacy, a diplomatic briefing was organized by JLAC’s Jerusalem Branch office among other peer organizations in East Jerusalem on March 7, 2018 entitled “Emboldening Full Annexation in Jerusalem” as to precede the scheduled move of the US embassy to Jerusalem. The debrief addressed the possible political ramification of such a move, as well as the emerging trend of discriminatory legislation which JLAC offered legal analysis for. In attendance were nearly 50 high level representatives of diplomatic missions and consulates, heads of international organizations, ambassadors, peer organizations, academics, etc. The timing of this briefing served to equip diplomats/ stakeholders with needed information in reacting to this move and in dealing with the ramifications to come. JLAC’s prominent role as the dynamo behind this undertaking allowed the event to take shape, as based in Jerusalem JLAC is able to strengthen civil society’s presence in the City and ability to defend its Judaization.



Institutional Development

2018 brought with it much introspection and efforts to develop JLAC's institutional capacities towards refining and advancing its operations, such predominantly entailed the following main aims:

Strategic Planning

The start of 2018 saw the launch of JLAC's new five-year strategic plan for 2018-2022, which emanated from the external evaluation (covering the entirety of JLAC's programming) concluded the year prior. The close of the year saw the preparation to initiate an external evaluation of JLAC's new EU funded project, which touches upon many areas of JLAC's work. Such opportunities for extern experts to come in and lay fresh eyes on JLAC's undertakings often allows the Center to consider new areas for growth. The 2017 external evaluation, for instance, highlighted the importance of strategizing JLAC's advocacy efforts and systemizing its operations through the formation of a number of manuals. To this effect, JLAC commenced the development of an international advocacy strategy as led by an external expert. A process which also expanded JLAC's considered approaches (see page 56 for more details). For the third consecutive year, JLAC continued in its effort to bring the entirety of JLAC's 32 member working team (across four branch offices) and much of the Board of Directors to collectively strategize for the coming year. The 2018 planning weekend served to finalize draft action plans and related strategies, but equally important, it afforded the working team the ability to better connect on an interpersonal level given their daily geographic divides.

Supervisory Engagement

JLAC is fortunate to poses a very active and engaged Board of Directors backed by a strong General Assembly. Both bodies are multidisciplinary in composition and offer years of relevant experience from academia, civil society, grassroots movements, and human rights activism. In addition to their strategic and technical oversight of JLAC's operations, the Center has been keen to engage the Board in public events and in its planning process. A number of Board member participated in the "planning weekend", including the social activities meant to strengthen comradery among the various tiers of the organization. While prior years sought the inclusion of more female members, more recently effort has been made to seek increased youth participation given the range of insight and skills they would bring along with them. As scheduled, the General Assembly met on the 21st of April as to; discuss and approve JLAC's narrative and external audited financial reports for the year prior, select a new auditing firm (Earnest & Young), review the outcomes of the external evaluation and strategic plan, select two replacement board members, among other actions. The Board met three times (April 21st, August 12th, and November 21st) as to review and endorse JLAC's reports prior to their submission to the General Assembly and address other pertinent administrative and finical matters concerning JLAC's operations.

Systemized Manuals

As previously mentioned, JLAC's recent strategic plan recommended the systemization of the Center's operations through the formation of a number of manuals, with 2018 seeing the initiation of a Legal Manual, Volunteer-base Manual, and Campaigns Manual anticipated to be completed in 2019. In addition to institutionalizing our efforts and ensuring best-practice, the manuals will help to better document the data emanating from JLAC's undertakings in serving as a reference for the sector.

Infrastructural Developments

Following a number of attempted hackings, JLAC took needed measures to strengthen the protection of its website and database. Such involved the procurement of IT services, new servers, and related built-ins and shelving. Other procurements included office furniture/ equipment, with a more recent sophisticated camera procured to help boost JLAC's compiling of accounts from the field and later use in communications pieces.



Continuous Education

Believing that it's only as strong as its weakest link, JLAC encourages the continuous education of its working team and maintains an annual budget for this purpose. In 2018, staff training opportunities included; digital security, documentation, disability rights, campaign development, program management, time-management, international financial report standards, etc. Staffers perusing higher education degrees were also afforded with the needed flexibility therein to attend lectures and conduct necessary study/ research.

Diversification of Funds

Given the current turbulent funding environment resulting from financial recessions and competing regional priorities, JLAC has consistently sought to mitigate its dependence on any particular donor. Indeed, the Center has actively sought to diversity its funding resources as to not have any particular donor's share be detrimental in the event funds were not renewed. Such involved seeking out new donor as the European Commission back in 2016, and the more recent introduction of the Swiss Development Cooperation (in place of the HR-IHL Consortium) and partnership forged with Rosa Luxemburg Fund in the last quarter of the year. Moving forward, JLAC hopes to expand the scope of its donor base and consider new means of cooperation and raising funds (i.e. seconding, crowd funding, etc.).

Funds Contributed in 2018:

Core Donors

- Irish Representative Office (Irish Aid): 75,000 € (January -December 2018).
- EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst/Brot für die Welt): 430,000 € (2016-2018).
- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD): 46,300 \$ (January - December 2018).
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP): 40,000 \$ (October 2017- March 2018).
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): 180,000 \$ (January- December 2018).

Project- based Support

- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): various projects 542,00 (January -December 2018).
- European Union: 561,100 € (mid 2016- mid 2019).
- Spanish Cooperation: 94,732 € (mid 2016-2018)
- Asfari Foundation: 30,000 £ (January- June 2018).
- GVC: 5,350 € (December 2017- February 2018).
- Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung: 17,600 € (October- December 2018).

Financial Report


Name	USD (\$)
Revenue	
Released from TRC \ Grants Revenue	1,222,680.00
Deferred Revenue	21,277.53
Deferred Revenue Recognized	21,434.81
Other Revenue (Court Fees, Applications, Bank Interest, etc.)	33,750.32
Unrestricted Revenue	41,310.00
Subtotal (\$)	1,340,453
Expenses	
Personnel Cost (salaries & other related cost)	
Admin Staff Salaries & Diff, Currency	123,321.77
Provident Fund	50,192.00
Severance Pay	63,670.67
Staff Insurance	27,107.18
Other Staff Exp.	7,448.77
Program Staff Salaries & Currency Difference	648,006.83
Subtotal (\$)	919,747
Operational / Admin. Cost	
Rent Offices	34,711.27
Utilities	21,335.79
Admin & General Expenses	8,692.46
Repair & Maintenance	12,904.76
Professional Expenses	7,284.22
Communications & Internet Expenses	10,323.77
Bank Charges	4,458.52
Subtotal (\$)	99,711

Legal Aid	
Public Awareness Announcements	689.39
Court Fees, Maps, Applications, Expert Reports,etc.	60,748.27
Public Awareness Sessions	4,225.34
External Legal Consultants	47,401.75
Subtotal (\$)	113,065
Advocacy	
Local & International Advocacy(cases, events, confrences)	14,114.39
International Interns, Networking & Collations	4,901.42
JLAC's volunteer base maintained and expanded	8634.53
Printing & Publications	4,609.26
Campaigns (National Campaign for Retrieving Palestinian & Arab,etc.)	3,838.00
Transportation for Advocacy Activities	12,645.00
Media Campaign	33,871.85
Subtotal (\$)	82,614
Capacity Building	
Staff Training & Team Building	2,372.75
Institutional Development	5,169.56
Subtotal (\$)	7,542
Investment Cost	
Furniture	3,303.39
Office Equipment	17,599.14
Software	375.00
Subtotal (\$)	21,278
Other	
Currency Exchange Difference	20,812.00
Depreciation	27,522.34
Subtotal (\$)	48,334
Total Expenses (\$)	1,292,291
Change in Net Assets (\$)	48,161

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