



Annual Report 2011



JLAC

JERUSALEM LEGAL AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

מרכז לזכויות אדם ולעזרה משפטית בירושלים

Annual Report 2011

38 Years

in the Defense of Human Dignity







6

38 Years in the
Defense of Human Dignity

Area "C"

12



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Occupied Jerusalem

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A Message from the Chairman



2011 was ushered in by momentous regional changes, with youth and middle-class-led revolutions changing the face of Middle Eastern politics and creating new arenas for self-expression. The most significant outputs of these changes are: the fathoming by the local populations that indeed they deserve to live in dignity, that they have the right to demand so, and the power to effectuate the change. Equally important is the shift in the regional balance of powers which has begun to be played out, and the resulting loss of Israel's historic alliance and its alleged standing as the only "true democracy" in the Middle East.

Regretfully, changing the Palestinian reality is more complex. Though steps towards reconciliation have been taken (by PA in the West Bank and Hamas in the Gaza Strip), they have been met by opposition from a number of international players. Particular national players have shown a lack of political will to reconcile, for various reasons owing to maintaining fractional power. Moreover, negotiation efforts have hit a political stalemate before the brick wall of forcefully accepting Israel as a "Jewish State."

Such is in addition to other efforts of negating the Palestinian identity as; the Nakba Law, changing Arab street names, and restricting the freedom of expression of civil society organizations that oppose occupation procedures. In response to such political deadlocks, the Palestinian Authority submitted an application to the United Nations for state membership. In light of the likely US opposition, this bid was largely a political strategy to breathe new life into the dormant peace process. Palestinians have endured a range of Israeli responses to this move, with countless being subjected to human rights offences of varying kind. Escalations in demolitions and forced evictions targeting herder and nomadic communities in Area "C", particularly against their water cisterns, have been carried out in an effort to have thirst be an additional push out of their homes.

This year thus far has witnessed an economic stagnation in the West Bank, as indicated by the PA claiming its inability to secure full governmental salaries for June and July. Although the World Bank report's findings indicating that there is a growth in GDP in the West Bank, facts on the ground present an opposite reality in which poverty is prevalent, high government and individual debts are owed to Palestinian banks, there is high un-employment rates and increasing malnutrition, etc. This discrepancy is attributed to the methods employed by the World Bank in gauging prosperity. For example, international funding (though limited) received by the PA is figured in its GDP though it does not permeate down to the populous; as the PA

employs economic/social policies which benefit monopolies and the affluent fragments of society. What we are left with is a PA in severe deficit and a Palestinian society in economic turmoil.

Though reduction in movement restrictions have allowed for a few urban areas to experience commercial benefits and improvements in law and order, such is mostly enjoyed in “Area A” of the West Bank. Marginalized areas such as East Jerusalem, Area “C” and the seam zones, on the other hand continue to suffer from movement restrictions and consequent inaccessibility to social services and economic resources. Movement restrictions likewise have humanitarian implications, such as on the right of families to visit their loved ones politically detained in Israeli prisons. Moreover, reductions in direct conflict-related casualties have been over shadowed by persistent political arrests being made by the PA and other offences (on its part) on public freedoms.

Though macro-economic improvements conceal vast disparities on the ground, the situation at the end of 2011 is unquestionably characterized by unabated human rights violations, motivated mostly by Israeli objectives of colonial expansion of settlements and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian communities from East Jerusalem and Area “C” of the West Bank. Restrictions on planning and development in Area “C” and East Jerusalem serve to inflict constant hardships on Palestinians, of whom more than 150,000 reside in homes vulnerable to demolition as result of such discriminatory policies. In Gaza, the blockade has partially been eased, but many fundamental restrictions remain in place (i.e. restrictions on reconstruction material, exports, movement of people, etc.). Persistent settler violence in the northern West Bank is particularly on the rise, with perpetrators enjoying impunity and protection (and often complicity and sponsorship) by Israeli occupying forces.

As we look forward to 2012, we do so with great concern at the changing legal environment which may come to limit our ability to protect victims through available legal means alone. For already discriminatory, the allotted space for legal recourse is being further constricted by recent military orders. Such has led us to seek out other remedies. And thus we call all our supporters to aid us in demanding of the international community to press for Israel’s impunity and policies of aggression and expansion to cease. This can only come about by the imposition of sanctions (in the likes of other countries that have violated international law), for today Israel stands sheltered behind the inability of the United Nations and UN Security Council, denying international bills and internationally legitimate resolutions.

Ours is a call to all States; for those whom did not support the request of the Palestine Liberation Organization to recognize the State of Palestine and give it full membership in the United Nations, to retreat from positions that are inconsistent with the principles of right and justice, and to take a principled position away from moral double standards.

Letter from the Director



JLAC is proud to report that, during the last year, it was able to protect 733 homes from demolition, and, in turn, the displacement of nearly a thousand families. We were also able to aid 110 families in protecting their agricultural and commercial facilities and preserving their livelihood. 125 Bedouin families, living in Area “C”, were likewise provided the needed legal aid in preventing their displacement. In addition, 800 Jerusalemite families were assisted in reinstating their due rights, whether civil, social or economic.

Indeed, the list of achievements is long, requiring us to extend much gratitude to all those whom made this possible; starting with JLAC’s Board of Directors and its General Assembly for their voluntary efforts and unlimited support. We also thank our international partners who supported us and provided us with true partnerships, based on mutual trust, over the year.

We would like to also extend our gratitude to the various governmental bodies and hundreds of volunteers throughout the cities, towns, villages, and Bedouin communities of the West Bank and to the dozens of suppliers (engineers, surveyors, lawyers, experts, governmental bodies, and providers of numerous other services) whom aid in this effect.

Thanks should also go to JLAC’s working team whom worked hard day and night; without thought to working hours, without turning off their cell phones (even during holidays and vacations), and bearing the massive moral and ethical weight of reassuring the frightened and frustrated victims of human rights violations.

We thank this collage of players and re-emphasize our commitment (to both them and to the thousands of victims) of remaining loyal to our mission and to utilizing our resources (i.e. time, money, etc.) to the furthest extent of efficiency.

The below table serves to illustrate JLAC's 'efficiency' in managing its various donor grants and its "optimal use" of resources.

	Case Type	# of Cases	Cost of Case in Private Sector	Total
Israeli Courts	Public interest	9	10000	90000
	Land	4	5000	20000
	Settler Attacks	6	2000	12000
	House Demolition	194	1500	291000
	Agricultural Facilities	25	1500	37500
	Forced Displacement	35	3000	105000
	Social Rights	290	700	203000
	Economic Rights	470	700	329000
	Travel	8	500	4000
	Prisoner Visitation	7	300	2100
	Permits	13	300	3900
	Bodies Campaign	0	0	0
	Miscellaneous	129	700	90300
	Sub Total	1190		1187800
Palestinian Courts	Public Interest	1	10000	10000
	Arbitrary Dismissal	1	1000	1000
	Political Detention	10	1000	10000
	NGO Closure	0	0	0
	Miscellaneous	1	0	0
	Sub Total	13		21000
Petitions	Israeli Courts	48	3000	144000
	Palestinian Courts	11	2000	22000
	Sub Total	59		166000
Total		1262		1374800

Who We Are

Since its inception over 37 years ago, the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC) has formed a specific and specialized niche for itself; that of rendering legal aid to vulnerable communities in combating human rights violations. JLAC has since become a key and major player in certain interventions; undertaking pro-bono legal cases related to house demolition, forced displacement, land confiscation, and more recently settler violence.

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

Our Vision

To establish a democratic Palestinian society, free from occupation and governed by justifiable laws.

Our Mission

To defend victims of human rights violations, according to local and international humanitarian and human rights laws.

Our Objectives

First: To reduce the suffering and improve the lives of victims of human rights violations, through tackling the following:

1. Israeli orders and procedures aimed at forceful displacement within Area "C" .
2. Israeli procedures aimed at demolishing Palestinian homes in Jerusalem and the West Bank.
3. Israeli procedures aimed at demolishing agricultural facilities (or permitting attacks on land & property).
4. Defending the social and economic rights of Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank.
5. Israeli policies and procedures restricting the movement and mobility of Palestinians.
6. Adopting public interest cases towards confronting administrative and arbitrary procedures which violate laws in the opt.
7. Arbitrary procedures aimed at closing or freezing NGO activities.

Second: To reform public policies and laws in line with human rights and good governance practices, through undertaking the following:

1. Exposing human rights violations and public interest cases towards creating public opinion.
2. Creating a culture of human rights awareness and appreciation among individuals and organizations towards forming local forces of advocacy.
3. Empowering the roles of Palestinian NGOs specializing in human rights and good governance towards the protection of human rights in the oPt.

Localities of Interventions

JLAC stands to defend justice regardless of whom the perpetrator is and what aspect of living a dignified life is being violated. As a result, the breadth of JLAC's core programming spans to encompass several areas of intervention, holding multiple authorities accountable for their actions.

The following sections provide a synopsis of JLAC's interventions by locality:

Area "C"

4th Geneva Convention

Article. 33

No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.

Pillage is prohibited.

Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited.

Article. 49

"An Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies".



Taken By:Fadi Arori



The occupation authorities utilize a combination of policies and violations in Area “C” of the West Bank towards ethnically cleansing the region from its Palestinian inhabitants as to make way for settlement expansion. Such involves efforts to constrict the available space and means of Palestinians to live and earn a livelihood; by driving them out of their homes and agricultural lands, cutting off access to water by demolishing/forbidding construction water collection cisterns (46 cisterns demolished in 2011 vs. 21 cisterns in 2010), and condoning the violent acts against them (and their property) by settlers. Indeed, the unprecedented escalation in attacks by settlers this past year has left communities in the area both traumatized and facing a further impediment to their steadfastness in their lands. Women in such communities are particularly vulnerable, for they are among the first in communities facing settler violence to be held at bay from tending their more remote crops, coming to lose their liberties and ability to earn a livelihood in the process.

House Demolition

2011 witnessed a devastating escalation in the issuance of demolition orders against homes, agricultural facilities, and water cisterns by the various committees of the Civil Administration, as well as the actual demolitions carried out (i.e. 622 demolitions carried out in 2011 compared with 439 demolitions in 2010, a 42% increase and 271 demolitions in 2009, as reported by OCHA). The numbers displaced in 2011 had likewise increased, with 1100 persons displaced this year compared to 600 person sin 2010 (an 83% increase).

Such is attributed to several causes, most notably the political stalemate between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli strategic vision for a final status agreement that involves the Israeli stand that the majority of Area “C” (60% plus of the West Bank) will cease to be part of the Palestinian Territory and thus should be made rid of its inhabitants. The second cause is that of the lobbying pressures of Israeli pro-settler organizations upon the Israeli Supreme Court, against the Israeli Civil Administration and its alleged failure of implementing demolition orders as desired. The third cause (which arose from the second) involves particular decisions of the Israeli Supreme Court which have served to prioritize particular areas



for demolition, accelerate the process, and closing the available channels of litigation.

It has become apparent that the Israeli is losing its independence and it increasingly seeing eye-to-eye with the Israeli government's vision in regards to Area "C" (i.e. confiscation of land and resources for settlement expansion). Such has prompted many local Palestinian human rights NGO's (including JLAC) to consider boycotting the Israeli Supreme Court and solely approaching the Civil Administration. As this is not a solution (since cases must at a certain point be taken before the High Court, which is the final stage of litigation), international advocacy efforts may be undertaken as an alternative accountability mechanism. For instance, efforts may be made to hold Israel (as an Occupying Power) accountable to its violations made against protected persons and their property (as per the Fourth Geneva Conventions and other agreements). In 2011, 733 cases of house demolition were provided needed legal aid, of which 194 were new cases. 38 of the cases have been taken before the Israeli Supreme Court level, with the remaining 695 standing at the various stages of litigation. Given the above developments, JLAC anticipates the continuation and escalation of the issuance of demolition orders and their implementation (i.e. house demolition) in 2012.

Um Ahmad is among the many Palestinians facing orders of house demolition. She comes from the village of Qarawat Bani Hassan in the Salfit District. Um Ahmad, was widowed fourteen years ago at a young age with six children under the age of seven. Despite this adversity, Um Ahmad was able to raise her children and secure a living for them from cultivating her land herself and herding her small flock of sheep. Now Um Ahmad faces a new challenge. The widow's modest home which she seeks to inhabit with her six children is under threat of demolition under the pretext of being situated outside of the village's structural plan. With the support of JLAC's attorneys (Razan Musleh whom is taking on the case), Um Ahmad is armed with the legal means to defend her home from demolition and to maintain steadfastness in her land.

Public Facilities

The Israel's discriminatory planning policies applied in Area "C" are not solely limited to private structures, but come to encompass and consequently threatened public facilities as well. The Civil Administration, and its associated committees, does not hesitate in issuing demolition orders for public facilities under the guise of building on public(state) lands. The irony is that public facilities are to be built on public and not private lands. Prior to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, public facilities were allotted state land by the majesty of Jordan; as government property was logically considered under law to be utilized for public facilities (i.e. for schools, hospitals, highways, etc.).

Schools

In 2011, JLAC undertook several cases of demolition of public facilities (built with private and/or international funds) including; four mosques in various villages, cases involving village roads, and seven schools. Three of the school cases undertaken are located among Bedouin communities (i.e. the schools of Ka'abneh and Fasayel Fawqa and the kindergarten of Anata); making their continued presences of particular importance. Situated in remote areas of rugged terrain, Bedouin communities are heavily dependent upon the few schools located in their various vicinities.

Otherwise their children face the alternative of walking tens of additional miles daily to reach schools in distant cities and villages. The consequences of losing their schools to demolition may come to effect Bedouin girls disproportionately more, as families in such an instance may opt to discontinue their daughters' education out of fear of letting them travel long distances by foot along high-ways (exposing them to violent settlers).

The remaining four of the school cases are located in remote village communities (i.e. Kirbet Ijbara, Deir Balout Bruquin, and Akaba). The school in Khirbet Ijbara was of particular importance to the children of the village. Isolated behind the Annexation Wall, the village children had to daily endure extensive security checks and cross armored gates and barbed wire on their way to and home from school (in a neighboring village). With JLAC's intervention, a detailed master plan for the school was submitted to and approved by the Israeli Civil Administration allowing for the legal and threat-free presence of the school.

The Ka'abneh (or Mu'arrajat) School encapsulates the ordeals of securing education for such marginalized communities. The school was established in Jericho in 1969, the only school in the area at the time. It started out as a tent and expanded to include preparatory and elementary classes (grades, 1st- 8th) serving 200 families from among the Muleihat clan residing in the Mu'arrajat area. In 1983, the Jehta area was declared a closed military zone and the majority of its residents moved to Mu'arrajat area, augmenting the demand on this tiny school. Three years later, the Civil Administration approved the construction of tin barracks to for the school, but the children continued to suffer from the limited space and poor conditions.

The Palestinian Ministry of Education stepped-in and initiated the construction of an additional tin caravan in 2005 and two others in 2007. In 2010, a mosque was established next to the school to serve the community.

On January 19, 2010, an inspector from among the inspection sub-committee of the Civil Administration issued 5 stop-work orders against the new classrooms and the mosque. In February of the same year, the Civil Administration gave the school a time-span of 30 days to apply for a license. The Commission refused the claims of JLAC's attorney regarding the need to deal with the structures on exceptional basis as they are public facilities. JLAC went on to submit a time extension in this regard and approached the organizing office of the Civil Administration in Jericho in applying for a building permit. The organizing office, however refused to open a file under the pretext of "lack of proof of ownership" concerning the land which the school and mosque are situated on. Following the Civil Administration's refusal to open a permit file, JLAC submitted an appeal before the Israeli Supreme Court in early April 2010. During the appeal, JLAC's attorney raised such arguments as the violations imposed upon the community's fundamental rights to education and religious observation. The attorney also attacked the policy of the Civil Administration which imposes obstacles to Palestinian construction in areas classified "C", especially the construction of Bedouin facilities. The petition succeeded in attaining a freeze in the demolition orders until a final decision in its regard.

The Civil Administration has decided that it does not intend to implement the demolition at this current point in time, provided that no addition additions are made to the school. In the event of any new intentions, the school will be notified in writing prior to the prosecution's retraction of the demolition orders.



Water Cisterns

The Israeli authorities (vis-à-vis the Civil Administration) are failing in their responsibility as an occupying power, to render the most basic of services (water supply). The authorities are intentionally prohibiting communities situated in Area “C” from connecting to water networkers, in a push to drive Palestinians from their land out of thirst. Hundreds of Palestinians, as a result, have been compelled to incur large sums of their personal funds (as well as international funding in a number of cases) in digging underground cisterns to harvest rainwater. Such structures have increasingly faced orders of demolition, with 46 cisterns demolished in 2011 versus 21 cisterns demolished in 2010.

In 2011, JLAC provided legal aid to 18 cases of cistern demolition, of which ten cases were new. JLAC undertook 27% of the total cases of cistern demolition wells in areas classified as “C” for the years 2010 and 2011. However, legal intervention in this regard is difficult. In the village of Kafr ad-Dik in the Salfit District and the village of Ithna in the Hebron District, cistern were demolished immediately after the completion of legal proceedings. JLAC had not been given any time (not even 24 hours) to go before the Supreme Court and obtain an injunction to freeze the demolition.

This difficulty is most probably a result of the cases’ association with reclamation of land that is abandoned or neglected (due to its inaccessible as a result of military order). As a result, the protection of cisterns in localities classified as “State Land” is much more difficult than the protection of those in private land. JLAC therefore plans to focus its awareness efforts on the dangers of neglecting military orders or any notices relating to land prior to digging cisterns. JLAC also encourages international and local development agencies to seek legal advice prior to funding such infrastructural projects.



Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions

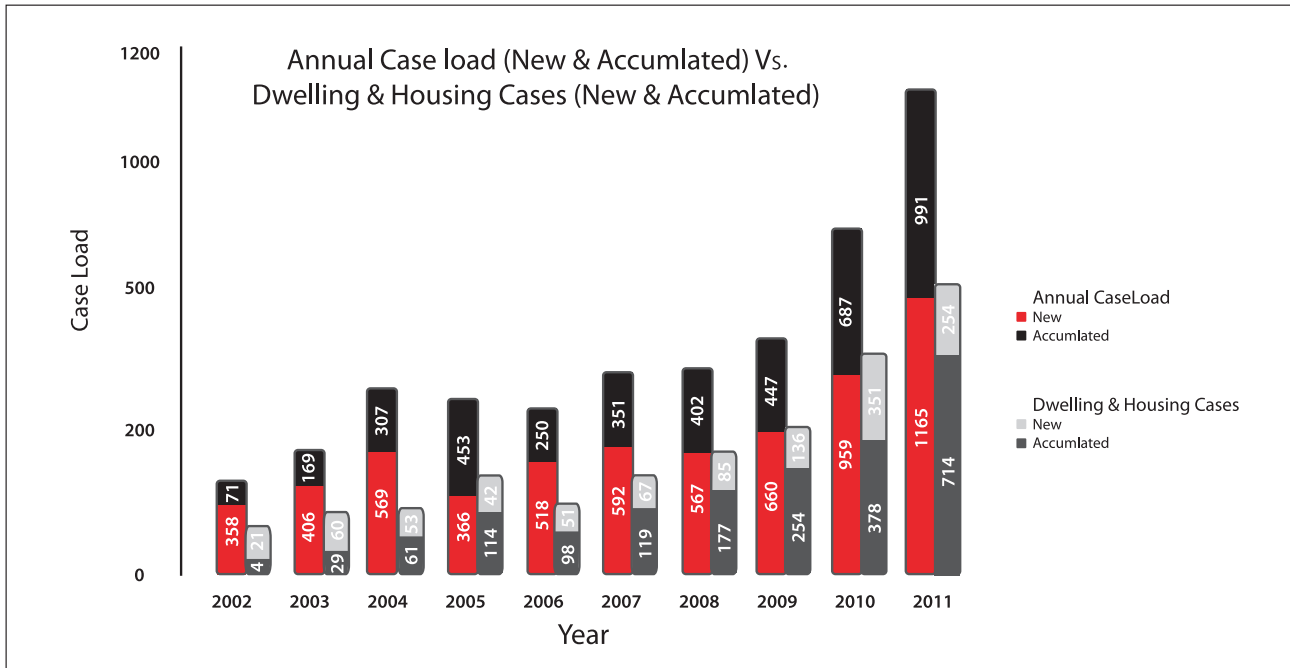
Art 54. Protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population

It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population..., drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works,...

Parks

An additional case of public facilities threatened with demolition involves that of a public park in Deir Al Hatab, in the Nablus district. The village is surrounded by several illegal Israeli Settlements, and as a result suffers greatly from settler violence (reporting the highest incidence of settler attack in the West Bank over the past 10 years). Such prompted the villagers to solicit the needed funds to create a park in the community for their children to safely play. Regretfully, in March of 2011, Deir Al Hatab's local village council received a demolition order against the park under the pretext of lacking a building permit and the land belonging to the state. The head of the council approached JLAC shortly, and an objection was submitted in May of 2011 to the Israeli Civil Administration, followed by a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court in June of 2011. As a result of these efforts, a temporary injunction freezing the demolition of the park was awarded in August of 2011.

Year	Annual Case Load		Housing & Livelihood Cases	
	new	on-going	new	on-going
2011	1165	991	254	714
2010	959	687	351	378
2009	660	447	136	254
2008	567	402	85	177
2007	592	351	67	119
2006	518	250	51	98
2005	366	453	42	114
2004	569	307	53	61
2003	406	169	60	29
2002	358	71	21	4
Total	6160	4128	1120	1948



Forced Displacement

Bedouin communities along the Jordan Valley, the peripheries of East Jerusalem, and southern Hebron witnessed intensified measures towards their displacement from the territories they inhabit. To this effect, the Israeli Civil Administration declared their plan to “relocate” 23 Bedouin communities; starting from the village of Annata and the Khan Al Ahmar area (bordering Jerusalem) and along Route 1 through the outskirts of Jericho. JLAC, along with local and international players, has begun to discuss available means in combating such a plan. The plan is currently being implemented with final demolition orders being issued against numerous Bedouin structures and 12 demolitions being carried out against structures in southern Annata in December of 2011.

Further devastating these intensified measures, is a recent development involving a response by the Israeli Attorney General’s office to an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief filed by Regavim (an Israeli pro-settler non-governmental organization). The Brief was filed in connection to an appeal against the destruction of Khirbet Zanuta, a Palestinian village in the south of Hebron. The statement communicated the Israeli prosecution’s intention to respond to 165 pending appeals before the Israeli Supreme Court prior to August 8, 2012. Such will serve to accelerate the demolition of many structures in the West bank and close the available channels of litigation. The listing primarily

Jamileh, who lives with her four children in a Bedouin community that is threatened with forced displacement, in the area of Anata of East Jerusalem is among the many Bedouins facing forced displacement. Jamileh is originally from the Bedouin community in the area of al-Kahn al-Ahmar, but she chose to live in Anata in order to secure a decent life for her children. Her move was prompted by the lack of schools in the Khan Al Ahmar area and to thus allow for her children to have access to education. Despite being outside the Annexation Wall and quite a distance away from it, the occupation forces' coercive policy has come to affect Jamileh and the entire community (due to their alleged proximity to the Wall). The Relocation Plan, communicated by the Civil Administration will serve to displace Jamileh's community (in addition to tens of other communities) to an area close to the dump of the Jerusalem municipality in the village of Abu Dees. This area, is not only unsanitary and lacking in the minimum level of services, but is unfit to maintaining a livelihood in animal husbandry. This "relocation" will serve to deprive these already marginalized communities of their most basic right, that of living a dignified life. In November of 2011, the Civil Administration issued a demolition order against Jamileh's modest tent, which is already lacking in basic amenities. JLAC adopted her case and brought it before the Israeli High Court. JLAC's attorneys succeed in freezing the demolition order for a while, but the demolition is expected to be carried out in the future. During the preparation of this report, JLAC learned that the community in which Jamileh lives, as well as other neighboring communities, received a new kind of notifications from the occupation Civil Administration. Plans were communicated of developing an additional segment to the Annexation Wall around the city of Jerusalem, which will come to pass through the lands which her community inhabits.

featured Bedouin communities in East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley, homes in proximity to the Annexation Wall and settlements, and several schools.

The listing was developed as per priorities established by Civil Administration (in response to a previous petition raised by Regavim to the Supreme Court against the Civil Administration), in which structures and facilities on State Land (or Area "C" at large) or in proximity to settlements, out-posts, by-pass roads, or the Annexation Wall are prioritized for demolition. Such includes water cisterns, roads, agricultural facilities, and temporary structures such as Bedouin tents. These policies are beginning to be implemented on the ground with the Fasayel community in the Jordan Valley facing multiple demolitions in June and December of 2011, displacing 56 persons and later 30 persons respectively in the process. Several other communities witnessed similar devastation, the community of Al Hamra east of Tubas.

In total, JLAC provided legal aid for 125 cases of forced displaced in 2011, of which 35 cases were newly opened. JLAC's attorney served to close 16 cases before the Israeli Supreme Court, with the remaining 109 cases standing at the various stages of litigation. JLAC is likewise engaged in strategic dialogue sessions with sector players (through various member working groups and coalitions) towards developing a strategy in confronting Israeli aims of displacing Bedouins from the lands they inhabit.

Master Plans

JLAC continued in its efforts of developing four master plans towards legalizing the homes of the villages facing threat of demolition due to the out-dated master plans, or lack thereof which they are bound by. JLAC is also considering undertaking efforts to expand the master plan of the village of Ithna, in southern Hebron as too save 57 homes built outside the out-dated master plan which does not accommodate the village's natural growth. In brief, the master plans undertaken serve to aid the following villages;

Al Aqba; A specialized engineering firm was contracted to develop a master plan for the village which was discussed with the local community prior to its submission to the Civil Administration. The master plan was refused on the grounds of failing to meet planning specifications of Civil Administration in regards area per person and Military Orders prohibiting construction in certain areas of the village (the all the lands are privately owned by the citizens). A second revision was developed and resubmitted to the Civil Administration in August of 2011, which took into consideration restraints (imposed by the Civil Administration's response) to the furthest extent while still trying to meet the community's needs.

JLAC is still awaiting a response by the Civil Administration. It should be noted, that in light of the submitted master plan the Civil Administration continues to issue demolition orders, with 3 homes actually demolished and the main road leading in and out of the village ruined twice. JLAC has since adopted the newly issued demolition orders and is following-up the proposed master plan. Bruqin: JLAC submitted an objection against the master plan for the village developed by the Civil Administration and raised recommendations for its reform as to include within it more homes threatened with demolition, to merge the two regions of the village, and to hand over planning authority to the village of Bruqin (as is the case for the larger portion of the village). The Civil Administration agreed to expand the plan to include more homes (though not all) and refused the merger of the two village areas. JLAC refused the Civil Administration's rebuttal and reiterated its previous recommendations. JLAC is currently awaiting reply in this regard.

Kirbet Ijbara: The community is un-recognized by the Civil Administration. The village grew out of surrounding villagers establishing homes in the locale in the late 1960s as to be in closer proximity to their privately owned farming lands. Currently, the community is comprised of 48 families subsiding on herding and agriculture. In 2004, Israeli efforts to erect the Annexation Wall reached the village and rendered all of its land behind the Wall (on the Israeli side of the Wall). The Civil Administration

issued at that point demolition orders to all the structures standing in the village. As a result of the second Intifada and resulting closures, the villagers were unable to access urgent legal aid. In 2007, the villagers approached JLAC for legal intervention after they had received final demolition orders. Since the allotted time was exceeded for issuing individual petitions or applying for building permits (as to inter needed legal channels), JLAC was unable to undertake individual cases. As a result, JLAC formed an elected committee from among the villagers (recognized by the Ministry of Local Government) and decided to submit a master plan proposal for the village. The master plan was submitted in mid 2008. A petition was launched in parallel to the Supreme Court to freeze the demolition orders until the proposed master plan is deliberated. Though the Supreme Court did not provide a final ruling towards this request, it has also not gone on to litigate the pending demolition cases.

The proposed master plan includes a few public facilities, including a school as the children of the village must exit the area through the Wall (and its security checks and guards) on their way to school each day. A separate detailed plan for the school was submitted to the Civil Administration, with revisions requested and fulfilled by JLAC's part, and JLAC was formally informed in November of 2011 that the school built in 2009 is legal and will not face further threats of demolition. Such is a positive indicator that the homes in the community are safe to stay. It should be noted that the people of this community are isolated behind the Wall; visitors may only enter with Israeli approved permits and they may only leave after thorough checks. Even JLAC's field workers and lawyers are only able to visit after attaining permits. Despite the UN's Advisory Opinion regarding the illegality of the Wall, the Israeli Supreme Court did not recognize the opinion but stated that it will try to reduce the negative ramifications of the Wall upon Palestinian communities by shifting particular areas of the Wall. The Supreme Court has since declared the movement of the Wall from certain segments of the village's periphery as to have it included within the West Bank territories.

Al Sawye: A master plan developed by JLAC for the expansion of the village's allotted space for development was submitted to the Civil Administration in 2009, at which point it was rejected under the pretext that it had not met required specifications. Neither Al Sawye's local council nor JLAC are able to cover the additional costs of the need revisions. In order to avoid overlapping with the efforts of the Ministry of Local Affairs, which has pledged to prepare a number of master plans in the area including Al Sawye, JLAC will not be moving forward in preparing the revised master plan. Once completed by the Ministry, however, JLAC will submit the revised plan to the Civil Administration and provide any needed legal follow-up.

Land Confiscation

Nearly 60 percent of the lands in the West Bank territory are un-registered, the majority of which today lie in Area “C”. The majority of the land is privately owned land (i.e. owners pay property taxes), though unregistered, as Israeli Military Commander ceased revising private lands (as previously done so by the Jordanian Authority as per Jordanian Law that continues to be in effect today) with the West Bank’s occupation in 1967.

Two military orders, Order 58 and Order 59, stipulated that any un-registered land left un cultivated for three continuous years is subject to appropriation by the Military Commander and reclassification as “State Land”. JLAC has been approached by land owners whom have received a banishment orders by Military Commander via the inspection committee, stipulating that their land is no longer theirs for allegedly failing to cultivate their lands. In effect, they are considered to be trespassing in their own land, now to be considered as State Land.

The causes for a Palestinian to have his/her land go uncultivated include; difficult terrain, dependence of season rains (due to deprivation of water resources), fear of settler violence, land falling behind the Wall, checkpoints, settlements, or other forms of physical obstacles. The farmers often find it either physically impossible to access their land, life threatening or economically/environmentally unfeasible to continue cultivating their land. International Humanitarian Law, particularly the Geneva Conventions, obliges the Military Commander (as the Occupation authority) to care for the wellbeing/best interest of the occupied person and the protection of their private property. Regretfully, the majority of the private lands appropriated by the Israeli Military Commander are done so for such ulterior motives as settlement expansion





and illegally annexing East Jerusalem and its greater surrounds.

JLAC intervenes in this regard by utilizing the legal mechanisms available, to appeal the banishment order before the appropriate committees (established by Military Order 172), as a first stage that may last several years. JLAC there ties to prove either that the cultivation was not interrupted or if interrupted was done so for reasons beyond the beneficiaries' control. Advisory opinions are submitted to the committees to strengthen the beneficiaries' cases by elaborating on the methods of cultivation, i.e. that the cultivation did not require plowing in the case of wild herbs sold in the local markets, or where reaped prior to the photos being taken by the inspection committees and thus appeared barren, etc. This may be followed by the last stage, litigation before the Supreme Court.

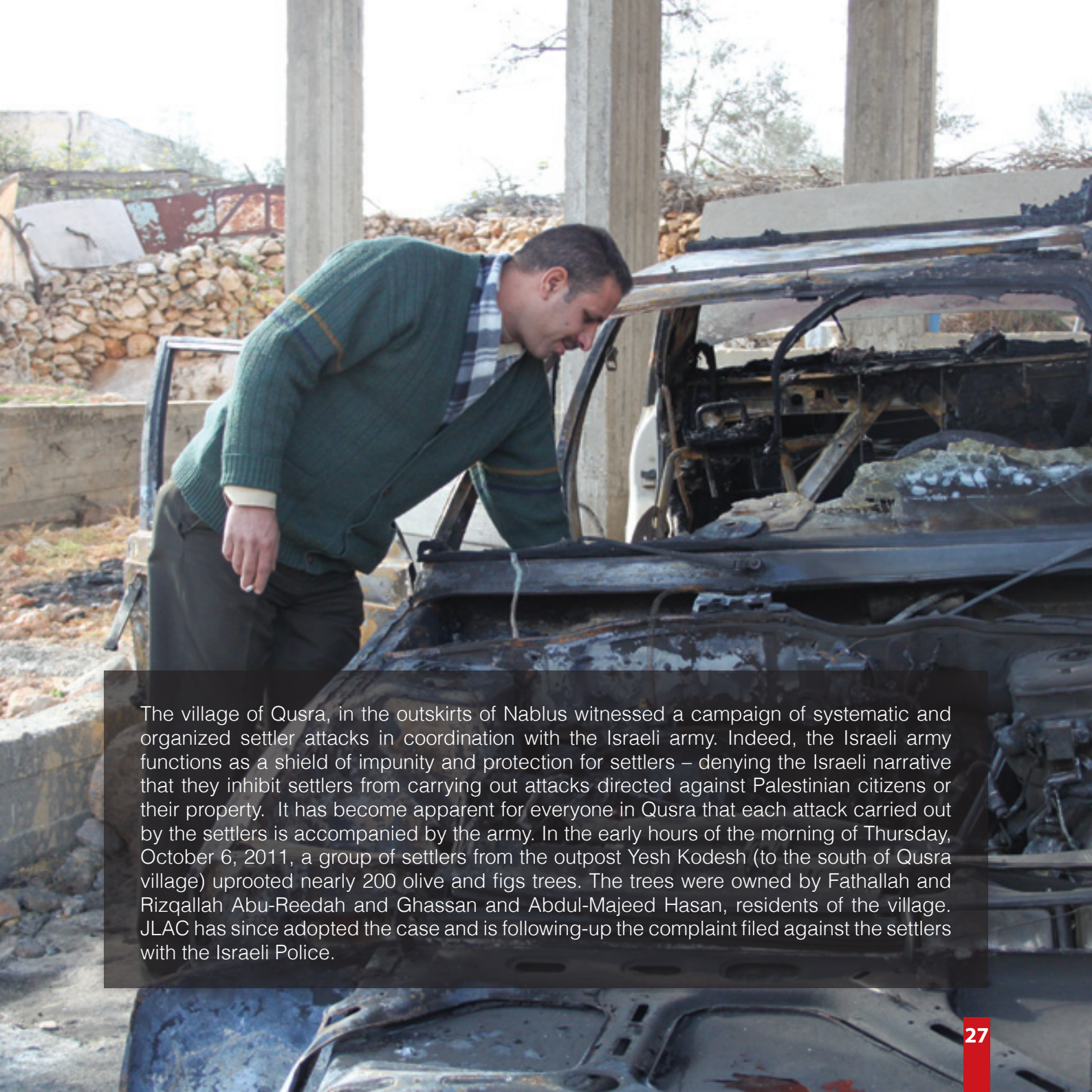
One such case of land confiscation involves a plot of land (20 dunums in size) in Deir Ballot of the Salfeet District belonging to an elder beneficiary. The Military Commander submitted maps indicating that the land falls within the master plan of the settlement Arya. Through legal follow-up it was revealed that the Military Commander gave the land in question to the World Zionist Foundation towards the development of the settlement Arya. This case serves to prove the Israeli policy of ethnically cleansing Palestinians from the land they own and inhabit, for the benefit and development of Israeli settlement expansion. In 2011, 25 cases of land confiscation were provided with the necessary legal aid, in various localities of the northern West Bank.

Settler Violence

Further worsening the already dire state of human rights in the oPt, are the relentless and unruly attacks being carried out by Israeli settlers upon Palestinians in Area “C” and East Jerusalem. Settlers seek to deny surrounding Palestinians access to their agricultural lands and to make life intolerable, in the aim of ridding and ethnically cleaning Palestinians from the area. Moreover, during critical harvest seasons (i.e. the olive harvest in the fall and the wheat harvest in the late spring) settlers burn and thrash agricultural lands; destroying the only source of livelihood left for many Palestinians. Indeed, 2011 witnessed an escalation in such settler violence (by 40% from 2010 and by 165% from 2009); with 10 thousand trees uprooted, 167 Palestinians wounded and 3 killed (as per figures from OCHA).

According to international humanitarian law, an occupying authority is obligated with maintaining security and ensuring the protection of the people it occupies. The blind eyes and soft hands of the Israeli Occupying Forces, however, have left settlers with the needed room to freely and fearlessly attach Palestinians and their properties without consequence. Moreover, the Israeli police employ a discriminatory practice in terms of investigating Palestinians’ claims of settler attacks, identifying the perpetrators, and imposing criminal law. Palestinians’ claims, when they are investigated, are often dismissed on account of ‘lack of evidence’ or ‘perpetrator unknown’. As per the case files of two prominent local human rights organizations, more than 90 percent of followed-up citizen complaints of settler violence closed due to claims of “lack of evidence” and registered as protractor “unknown”. This complicity serves to put nearly 76,000 Palestinians, residing in 80 localities (hot-spots as determined by OCHA) at high risk of settler violence.

Palestinians residing in Area “C” (and to a lesser extent those in East Jerusalem) are critically in need of legal protection from settler attacks. Towards this end, JLAC held four community awareness workshops as to prepare community leaders within at-risk villages to take legal action in instances of violations. The trainings covered such matters as; documentation, appropriate follow-up procedures, contacts of relevant institutions/authorities, etc. During 2011, JLAC served to provide needed legal aid to 10 cases of assaults by Israeli settlers on Palestinian civilians and their properties. The adopted cases are still open before the Israeli Supreme Court, and will continue to be followed-up in 2012. A number of the undertaken cases will go towards building a test case to monitor whether Palestinian claims of settler attacks are properly followed-up by the occupying authorities. In holding settlers accountable for their violations (through existing legal channels), JLAC hopes to constrict the space in which they freely assault Palestinians.



The village of Qusra, in the outskirts of Nablus witnessed a campaign of systematic and organized settler attacks in coordination with the Israeli army. Indeed, the Israeli army functions as a shield of impunity and protection for settlers – denying the Israeli narrative that they inhibit settlers from carrying out attacks directed against Palestinian citizens or their property. It has become apparent for everyone in Qusra that each attack carried out by the settlers is accompanied by the army. In the early hours of the morning of Thursday, October 6, 2011, a group of settlers from the outpost Yesh Kodesh (to the south of Qusra village) uprooted nearly 200 olive and figs trees. The trees were owned by Fathallah and Rizqallah Abu-Reedah and Ghassan and Abdul-Majeed Hasan, residents of the village. JLAC has since adopted the case and is following-up the complaint filed against the settlers with the Israeli Police.

Occupied Jerusalem

UN Resolution 478

“Measures and actions that seek to change the character and status of Jerusalem ... annulled and voided”.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 17

“No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his/her property”







A clear policy to have more land and less Palestinians in Jerusalem has been employed from the onset of the city's illegal annexation in 1967, which served to exclude heavily populated Palestinian areas while illegally annexing Palestinian land from surrounding Palestinian villages in its quest to re-define the municipal boundaries to Israel's demographic favor. This clear policy to maintain demographic dominance over the city has persisted to this day, with the Jerusalem Master Plan 2020 (ratified in 2007) openly seeking to maintain a 70 (Jewish) to 30 (Arab) ratio in the city. Towards this end, several legislative and administrative actions have been taken to isolate East Jerusalem from the remainder of the West Bank and to forcefully displace its Palestinian residents.

In mitigating such ends, JLAC employs a combination of strategies involving; legal clinics in Jerusalem providing legal aid and counseling (both in house and in the field), community awareness sessions, the dissemination of needed information through pamphlets and the media, etc. In total, JLAC serviced 1,180 families in Jerusalem in 2011. In order to better respond to the growing number seeking legal support, JLAC increased its Jerusalem team to 15 persons (from a total 31 full/part-time/or contracted staffers operating out of JLAC's three other offices). Such allowed JLAC to increase the total number of undertaken civil and social rights cases by 50% in 2011 compared to 2010, and the total cases of economic rights by 42% for the same period.

The following details JLAC's interventions in East Jerusalem by the various imposed violations, as follows;

Restrictive Planning & Zoning/ House Demolition

An additional tactic implemented by Israel in forcibly displacing the Palestinian population from Jerusalem, is its policy of restrictive zoning and planning, and consequent house demolition. Strategic municipal zoning efforts have served to zone only 13% of the land area in East Jerusalem for development by Palestinian residents; while 35% of confiscated Jerusalem lands have been zoned for the development of Jewish settlements. The limited locations in which Palestinians may



develop are predominantly over-populated to begin with and lack the necessary urban master plans which prerequisites applying for a building permit, as Israeli authorities solely develop master plans for those areas ear-marked for Israeli settlement development. Palestinians seeking to build in East Jerusalem, on the other hand, are obliged to develop master plans at their personal expense, a costly and time consuming process. The permit application process, as a whole, often amounts to proximal the cost of the home construction itself. As a result, Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem are increasingly building/renovating homes without the possession of needed permits. It is estimated that nearly 32% of current structures owned by Palestinian in East Jerusalem are not licensed.

In East Jerusalem, an estimated 86,500 Palestinian Jerusalemites are at risk of displacement through either eviction (as a result of Israeli settler activity) or house demolition (under administrative pretexts). Between 2004 and 2008, over 500 homes were demolished in East Jerusalem, with 87 homes demolished in 2008 alone and 459 house demolition orders being issued. Such prompted JLAC to begin taking on home demolition cases in East Jerusalem in 2009. This past year, 21 cases of home demolition were undertaken by JLAC in the city of Jerusalem.

Nuzha Najajreh is among the many Jerusalemites facing forced displacement on account of the discriminatory planning and building policies in place. The humble home that she and her five children live in is situated on a small plot of land that belonged to her late husband. The municipality of Jerusalem served Nuzah with a demolition order against her small concrete block home in 2005 and a further indictment and an imposed fine for failing to demolish her home. Nuzha approached JLAC in March of 2011 for legal aid in this regard. JLAC's attorney Mohammed Abu Sneineh took on the case and submitted a claim on behalf of Nuzha and requested a postponement to the implementation of the demolition order; which was granted consent. However, Nuzha was faced with a further indictment overburdening her with additional expenses and fines. After several hearings before the court, JLAC succeeded in freezing the demolition order until March 2012. JLAC hopes to renew the freeze in March.



Civil & Social Rights

ID Confiscation

A strict residency permit policy has been employed in Israel's effort to limit the number of Palestinians in East Jerusalem. Initially following the annexation of the city in 1967, Israel conducted a census within the new municipal boundaries it had designated, and rendered "permanent residency" Jerusalem IDs solely to those persons present at the time. This situation has been pivotal in the question of both the fate of Jerusalem (as a capital of the prospective state of Palestine) and of Jerusalemites. For as Jerusalem ID holders, Palestinian Jerusalemites live in a state of limbo where they are neither Israeli Arabs nor linked to the Palestinian Authority.

Their status gives them the right to live in Israel (in effect in East Jerusalem), but not to exist as fully fledged Israeli citizens (holding Israeli passports and partaking in national elections). Worst yet, as permanent residents (not citizens of Israel) their status is conditional and may be revoked upon violation of conditions there in. Jerusalemites must satisfy multiple conditions just to maintain their resident IDs (otherwise they risk losing all their social and economic rights as Jerusalemites). Resident IDs may be revoked on a number of grounds. Since 1967, 14,000 Palestinians have had their Jerusalem residency revoked by the Israeli authorities (according to OCHA figures). In 2011, JLAC undertook 49 cases of ID revocations, 5 of which were appealed to the Supreme Court.

Family Reunification

Jerusalemites, as permanent residents of Israel, likewise face difficulty in being able to legally reside

in Jerusalem with spouses who hold Palestinian IDs (i.e. from the West Bank or Gaza Strip), as permanent residency is not automatically transferred through marriage. In 2011, JLAC provided needed legal aid for 305 cases of family unification, 28 of which involved appeals to the Supreme Court. JLAC anticipates this situation to worsen in 2012 following the Supreme Court's recent approval of the discriminatory Citizenship Law.

One family among the many divided by Israel's permit regime, is that of Raya and Amjad. In March of 2011, JLAC succeeded in obtaining an entry visa for the Jordanian citizen, Amjad Mustafa, as to allow him to visit his Jerusalemite wife and new born son (suffering from birth defects) residing in Jerusalem. Raya (Amjad's wife) initially approached JLAC for legal aid in this regard when she learned of her baby's birth defects. She was advised to approach the Israeli Ministry of Interior in Jerusalem and the Israeli Embassy in Jerusalem to obtain an entry permit for her husband. After her requests were rejected, JLAC went on to file an urgent petition on his behalf to the District Court in Jerusalem. The petition, which was submitted by the attorney Shaheen, challenged the position of the Israeli Interior in Jerusalem. Shaheen indicated that it was illegal to link the conditions of visiting the country (for a short period of time for humanitarian reasons) to applying for a permanent residency (which requires filing a family reunification application that takes more than two months to approve). Moreover, the attorney annexed to the petition all the necessary medical documentation to prove the infant's urgent medical condition. As a result of the intervention, Mustafa was immediately granted a visa for two months, under the condition that he undertakes a security check once he enters the country (a measure ordinarily done prior to entering Israel). Mustafa has since been reunited with his wife and child and was able to care for them during this troubling time.

Child Registration

Similarly, Jerusalemites' permanent residency (unlike Israeli citizenship,) is not automatically passed on to one's children. Rather, permanent residency is granted to spouses and children only under certain conditions (i.e. place of birth, residency status of parents/spouse, etc.). Recent figures released from the Israeli Ministry of Interior indicate that an estimated 10,000 children have gone unregistered in East Jerusalem. Such has bearings upon the ability of such children to access basic education, health and other social services. In 2011, JLAC's attorneys' adopted 45 cases of child registration.

Jad, whom has yet to turn two, is among the thousands of children to go unregistered. His father holds a West Bank, and his mother holds a Jerusalem ID. As a result, his family has faced much difficulty in registering Jad with the Israeli Ministry of Interior and acquiring a birth certificate in order for Jad to be able to enter Israel, to receive medical treatment and economic benefits, and to

eventually enroll in school. After several visits by Jad's family to review his file at the Israeli Ministry of Interior, their requests were refused under the pretext of lack of proof of residence. Jad's mother then approached JLAC's Jerusalem branch office in April of 2011, whose attorney's in turn began to work on the issue. Preliminary correspondences were raised to Ministry of Interior aimed at proving Jad's mother lived in Jerusalem. In October of 2011, the Ministry of Interior stated that it will give the child a birth certificate and that it will record the identity of his mother.

Economic Rights

Israel, as an Occupying Power, is obliged to render municipal services in East Jerusalem. However, service provision is rendered in a clearly discriminatory manner, with solely 5-10% of the annual municipal budget being spent on the Palestinian populous that comprises nearly 35% of the city.

The disparity is clear, 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.), with a shortage of 100 classrooms reported in Palestinian schools in the city. In fact, the Palestinian perception of municipal taxes is that of being a means of maintaining residency rights than of receiving municipal services. Such is evident by the fact that nearly all economic rights are based on residency status. For example, spouses of Jerusalemites whom hold West Bank IDs are unable to work or apply for unemployment compensation until their request for reunification is approved. Similarly, children whom have gone unregistered are not able to attain health services, to register in municipal schools, or be allotted allowances to their families.

In addition to the issue of disproportionate services delivery, Palestinians are taxed more heavily when compared to Jewish residents of Jerusalem. Such has served to worsen the already devastated economic state of Jerusalemites (i.e. Palestinian residents' earn relatively lower incomes and have been economically disenfranchised from their isolation from the remainder of the West Bank).

JLAC intervenes in the above regards by taking on cases of disenfranchised Jerusalemites as to reduce unjustifiably heavy tax burdens and re-instate denied social security and other due rights. In 2011, JLAC undertook 601 cases of economic rights; of which 170 were municipal tax cases and 431 were social security cases.

Jamil is among the many beneficiaries of JLAC whom were aided in reinstating their due economic rights as Jerusalemites. Jamil holds a Jerusalem ID and lives in the Wadi al-Joz neighborhood of the city with his wife (whom lacks a residency permit and is thus unable to work in the city) and his two young children. He suffers from critical psychological condition which renders him unable to work and, thus in need of the National Insurance Institute to provide Jamil and his family

with an allowance. Jamil approached the National Insurance Institute to reinstate his due disability allowance both in 2010 and 2011, but to no avail. The Institute refused him for several alleged reasons. It is noteworthy to mention, that Jamil was unable to follow-up his case himself and it was his elderly mother who did so (as his wife is unable to do so as a Palestinian ID holder).

In August of 2011, this case was brought before JLAC's attorney Ms. Fadia Qawasmi, who adopted the case and started communications with the Institute, filling-out applications and attaching medical documents as needed. In January 2012, JLAC received a response from the National Insurance Institute that Israel acknowledged the condition of Jamil and his right to receive full disability allowance (100%). The Institute also recognized his right to obtain retroactive compensation for the period in which he did not receive his allowance, which amounted to NIS 58,950. Moreover, Jamil will be receiving a monthly allowance that will be transferred regularly to his bank account. It is worth noting that the cost of undertaking such a case in the private sector would ordinarily amounts to 15% of the compensation amount, in addition to a percentage of up to 15% for the first six months.

Public Interest

Re-opening of the Old Esawiyyeh Road

In 2011, JLAC followed up several prominent public interest cases in East Jerusalem, among them the case of re-opening the old Esawiyyeh road that runs through the village of Esawiyyeh. The road closure, which was made during the al-Aqsa Intifada in 2000, has caused much hardship for the adjacent communities in terms of movement, commerce, education, access to health among other aspects. The road connects the village of Esawiyyeh with al-Tour and Wadi al-Joz, and is used by locals in reaching al-Makased Hospital and Hadassah Hospital.

JLAC's attorney Mo'een Odeh undertook this case and submitted several correspondences and requests to re-open the road to the following parties: the General Inspector of the Israeli Police, the Commander of the Jerusalem District (both former and new), the Legal Advisor of the police and the public prosecution. The response of the mentioned parties was negative to the submitted correspondences, which led JLAC to consider filing a petition before the Israeli Supreme Court since the closure of the road came without any legal justification and came to be considered a form of collective punishment for the citizens of the area. This effort prompted the Israeli police to accept JLAC's request and to reopen the road to the public benefit of the surrounding community.

Palestinian Authority

Article 12

Every arrested person shall be informed of the reasons for his arrest or detention. He shall be promptly informed, in a language he understands, of the nature of the charges brought against him. He shall have the right to contact a lawyer and to be tried without delay.

Article 19

Every person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and expression, and shall have the right to publish his opinion orally, in writing, or in any form of art, or through any other form of expression, provided that it does not contradict with the provisions of law.

Article 26

Palestinians shall have the right to participate in the political life individually and in groups. They have the following rights in particular:
To hold public office and positions in accordance with the principle of equal opportunities







Violations by the PA

Although 2011 witnessed a relative improvement in the state of affairs (as a result of reconciliation efforts between President Mahmoud Abbas and Chairman of the Political Bureau of Hamas, Khaled Meshaal last May), many human rights offences persist. Most notably, the absence of a culture of accountability has let impunity and immunity of human rights offenders fester in its wake. Approximately 15-20% legislative members have been detained by the Israeli authorities. Moreover, Hamas and the PA continue to operationally be separate, where in Gaza the Legislative Council holds separate meetings and in the West Bank the role has been overtaken by the President as per Article 43 of the Basic Law. The excessive use of this article has served to threaten the legal system and may lead to prejudice in delivering justice. Moreover, there is still considerable debate about the effectiveness of the judiciary, particularly in regards to its ability to serve as a refuge for the oppressed. The division also makes the judiciary susceptible to the influences of other players. Such is evident in delays in ruling, particularly in regards to mass unfair dismissals from governmental posts, where when questioned actions have been deferred on the issue, raising doubts about the motives of such postponements

Also persisting through 2011 is the disability of the democratic process, most notably the lack of follow through with the decision of the High Court requiring the executive branch to hold elections for local bodies that have long eroded their legitimacy.

A number of local councils have not held elections in forty years, with administrative decisions perpetuating this illegal state through “legal” means. Such only serves to implement rule of law against the poor and marginalized, with the power above the law. It is known that JLAC’s work is limited to the West Bank, including Jerusalem, taking the decision not to work in the Gaza Strip as to avoid duplication with existing organizations there. So what is written here is of greater focus to the



West Bank, without noting the situation in the Gaza Strip. We would like to stress, that we reject the principle of attempting to justify violations in one place due to the presence of violation in another. Human rights and security are fundamental rights in all circumstances and are not subject to barter or bargain.

Main Violations

The violations imposed by the authorities come to effect various aspects of life, most notably the confiscation of the will of the citizens to elect their representatives, the absence of the legislative branch and the observatory role of the Legislative Council, and the lack of true citizenship for what exists now is a skewed perception of the notion in which rights and duties are subject to political affiliations and allegiances. The later has come to create a classed society in which the privileged few are reaping the privileges of the marginalized. Prejudices to freedom, arbitrary detention, and repeated summons by multiple-authorities have served to fatigue citizens and infringe upon their most basic of rights. Other offences include the infringements upon the freedom of the press and right to peaceful assembly, as well as the right to move and travel. Such is in addition to complaints raised of torture and the unjustifiable confiscation of individuals' and associations' property. This is not to say that advances have not been made to stop the subjection of civilians to military courts in the West Bank (as mentioned in regards to dismissal from public posts), but such does not equate to the practice of equal opportunity employment.

The following serves to provide more detail in this regard; Top of Form

Arbitrary Detention

Since the internal Palestinian political division in 2006, JLAC has adopted and litigated hundreds of cases of political detention. Although the number adopted this year (10 cases), is much lower



Once such story of double jeopardy is that of a young man from the outskirts of Ramallah, whose parents approached JLAC after he was detained by the Palestinian Authorities two weeks after being released from Israeli detention (for 29 months). In his short time of freedom, the young man wed his fiancé and was hoping to resume his life and responsibilities (which include securing the livelihood of his new family and elder parents). JLAC's attorney, Othman Hamdallah undertook this young man's case and challenged the prosecution that the charges raised against him are the same as those he had previously been tried for by Israel. The High Court allowed for the young man's release on bail, until a final ruling is made. The prosecution objected to this and requested a hearing to object to his release on bail, which has since been scheduled for February 2012.

number for years prior, the Palestinian executive authority continues to violate basic human rights principals such as subjecting civilians to military court in contradiction to the Palestinian Basic Law. This decrease is not necessarily a positive indication that political arrests is not going on, but merely that such persons are now being subjected to civilian courts rather than military courts. Other violations include the failure to issue warrants of arrest and failure to follow necessary legal procedures. Prior to 2011, the mere subjection of a civilians to military court was rejected by the Palestinian High Court (as it was in contradiction to the Palestinian Criminal Procedures Law), in 2011 JLAC was stunned to learn that in several cases the High Court rejected JLAC's petition regarding political detainees based on statements by the court indicating that the said persons have already been brought before the military court and therefore should not face double-jeopardy. Perhaps one of the most dreadful aspects of arbitrary detention is the risk of the same person to be tried multiple times by various authorities (before the PA's civil and military courts and the Israeli military) for the same charges. Indeed, the system allows for the anomaly of double and even triple jeopardy.

Many such cases have passed through our doors. This threat has compelled many released detainees (whether from Israeli or Palestinian jails) to go in hiding rather than to rejoice in a warm homecoming, out of fear of being captured yet again by another authority. Numerous detainees have come to prefer to continue to be held in Palestinian prisons than to be released and possibly arrested in Israeli jails, where the conditions are harsher (i.e. torture, exposure to the elements, isolation, etc.) and family visitation

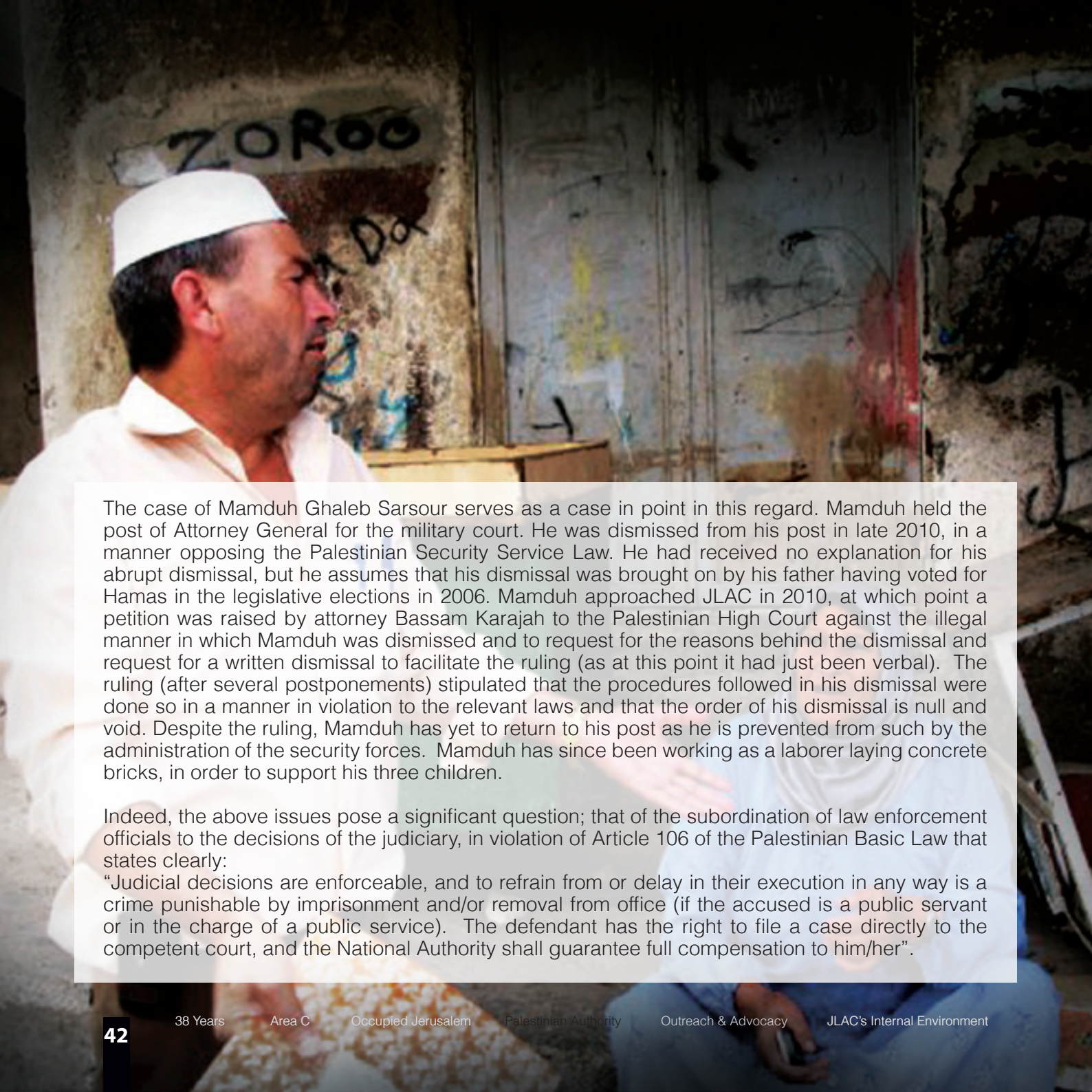
is harder to come by. What state have we reached when a person would rather be arrested than freed? Some families have the majority of their young sons arrested, with siblings distributed among the jails of the various authorities.

In 2011, JLAC received ten new cases of arbitrary detention, along with four on-going cases carried over from 2010. The Center's intervention led to the release of 8 persons by decision of the Palestinian High Court. Towards the end of the year, 109 detainees in the West and 53 detainees in Gaza remain arbitrarily held on charges related to their political affiliation. Although their various lawyers (as well as their families) consider them as political prisoners, their indictments charge them with criminal acts and raise such allegations as espionage for the occupation. More ludicrous, an unusual charge coming from Gaza was that of "communicating with Ramallah", a reference to contacting the Palestinian authority or its security services.

Unfair Dismissal from Governmental Posts

Another ramification of the political division in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is the unfair dismissal of governmental employees on account of their political affiliation, by order of the relevant line Ministry upon the request of security forces. The Palestinian Basic Law stipulates the principals of rule of law and equality. It also stipulates the principal of equal opportunity among all citizens in acquiring public employment, the right to earning a livelihood, and the government's responsibility in affording such. The Palestinian Civil Service Law also defines the requirements (i.e. level of academia, years experiences) for particular governmental posts, among them include that recruited person may not have a criminal record. However, a 2007 Ministerial Cabinet decree permitted 'security checks' to become a prerequisite for employment. Such a policy deems affiliations with opposing parties as criminal acts and, thus, a threat to security. This policy is in violation of Palestinian laws regarding 'freedom of thought' and 'equal opportunity' in obtaining governmental employment (i.e. article 24, paragraph 4 of the Palestinian Basic Law). It is also in violation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which the Palestinian constitution affirms.

In the cases of unfair dismissal undertaken by JLAC, the reasons given by the relevant administrations in dismissing the persons in question were often premised around "security clearance". JLAC promptly challenged this decree, but its petition has been blocked since 2009, with no session yet to be scheduled by the court. In addition to following-up the 103 ongoing cases, JLAC undertook one new case this year. The reason for the smilingly improved numbers coming in, is the new reality in which those affiliated with opposing political parties are not recruited for governmental posts to begin with (a phenomenon which is difficult to monitor). This predominantly affects those seeking teaching positions, due to the mass-employment and formal channels such entails. What is remarkable is that the Palestinian courts did not rule in regards to any of these issues, causing speculations of evasion on the part of the executive authority. Such serves to raise concern about the independence of the judiciary and the extent to which it is serving as a safe haven for those subjected to injustice and as a custodian of rule of law.



The case of Mamduh Ghaleb Sarsour serves as a case in point in this regard. Mamduh held the post of Attorney General for the military court. He was dismissed from his post in late 2010, in a manner opposing the Palestinian Security Service Law. He had received no explanation for his abrupt dismissal, but he assumes that his dismissal was brought on by his father having voted for Hamas in the legislative elections in 2006. Mamduh approached JLAC in 2010, at which point a petition was raised by attorney Bassam Karajah to the Palestinian High Court against the illegal manner in which Mamduh was dismissed and to request for the reasons behind the dismissal and request for a written dismissal to facilitate the ruling (as at this point it had just been verbal). The ruling (after several postponements) stipulated that the procedures followed in his dismissal were done so in a manner in violation to the relevant laws and that the order of his dismissal is null and void. Despite the ruling, Mamduh has yet to return to his post as he is prevented from such by the administration of the security forces. Mamduh has since been working as a laborer laying concrete bricks, in order to support his three children.

Indeed, the above issues pose a significant question; that of the subordination of law enforcement officials to the decisions of the judiciary, in violation of Article 106 of the Palestinian Basic Law that states clearly:

“Judicial decisions are enforceable, and to refrain from or delay in their execution in any way is a crime punishable by imprisonment and/or removal from office (if the accused is a public servant or in the charge of a public service). The defendant has the right to file a case directly to the competent court, and the National Authority shall guarantee full compensation to him/her”.

Cases Taken Before Israeli Courts 2011

	Case Type		Undertaken		Closed			On-Going	# of Petitions	Notes
			New	Accumulated	Positively	Negatively	Other			
1	Public interest		29		7			22	0	
			9	20	7	0	0			
2	Settler attacks		10		0			10	0	
			6	4	0	0	0			
3	Land Confiscation		25		0			25	0	
			4	21	0	0	0			
4	Right of Dwelling	House Demolition	733		38			695	48	
			194	539	18	1	19			
		Agricultural facilities	110		28			82	0	
			25	85	4	4	20			
		Forced Displacement	125		16			109	0	
35	90		0	10	6					
5	Jerusalemites	Social Rights	312		258			54	0	
			290	22	248	0	10			
		Economic Rights	489		456			33	0	
470	19		451	3	2					
6	Freedom movement	Travel	8		1			7	0	
			8	0	1	0	0			
		Prisoner Visitation	19		3			16	0	
			7	12	2	0	1			
		Permits	18		6			12	0	
13	5		5	1	0					
7	Retrieval of Bodies Campaign		54		1			53	0	
			0	54	1	0	0			
8	Miscellaneous		103		85			18	0	
			91	12	85	0	0			
	Total		2035		899			1136	48	
			1152	883	822	19	58			
Legal Consultations			1,275 Consultations provided regarding the various violations by the Israeli authorities.							

Cases Taken Before Palestinian Courts 2011

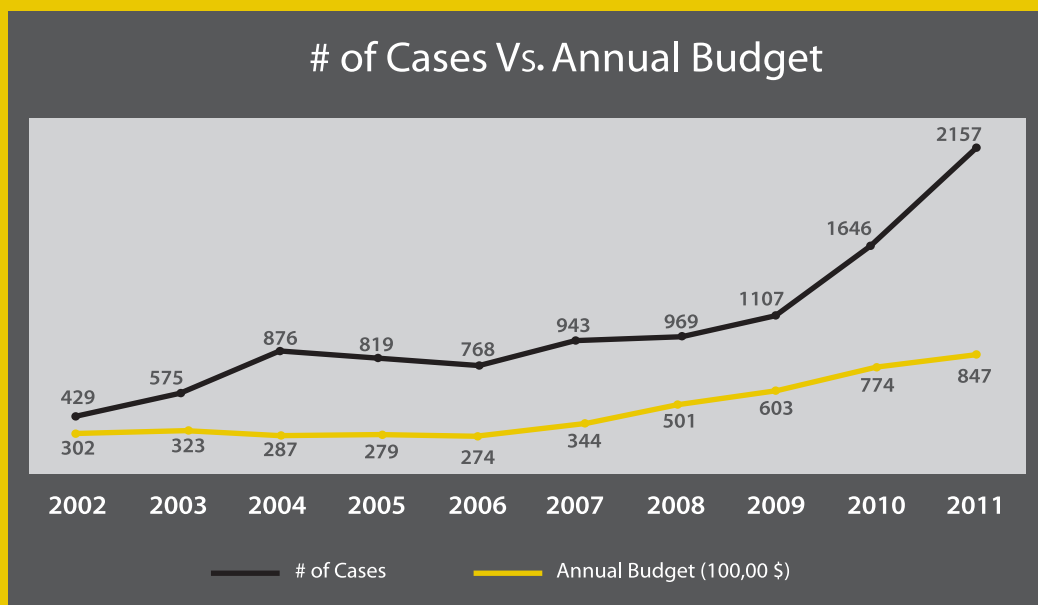
	Case Type	Actual Cases		Closed			On-Going	# of Petitions	Notes
		New	Accumulated	Positively	Negatively	Other			
1	Public Interest	3		2			1	0	
		1	2	1	0	1			
2	Unfair Dismissal	104		0			104	1	
		1	103	0	0	0			
3	Political Detention	14		10			4	10	
		10	4	8	2	0			
4	NGO Closure	0		0			0	0	
		0	0	0	0	0			
5	Miscellaneous	1		1			0	0	
		1	0	0	0	1			
	Total	122		13			109	11	
		13	109	9	2	2			
	Legal Consultations							200 consultations provided concerning issues related to the Palestinian Authority	

Table (3): # of accumulated cases in the last 10 years (2001-2011)

Year	Total of cases adopted through a year	New cases	Accumulated cases	Closed cases	Positive	Negative	Others	On-going
2001	237	134	103	107	33	16		130
2002	429	358	71	260	203	45	42	127
2003	575	406	169	267	136	86	45	307
2004	876	569	307	422	243	105	74	454
2005	819	366	453	569	257	184	128	250
2006	768	518	250	417	217	140	60	351
2007	943	592	351	541	381	177	46	402
2008	969	567	402	533	419	28	86	436
2009	1107	660	447	415	359	10	46	692
2010	1646	959	687	655	573	10	72	991
2011	2157	1165	991	912	831	21	60	1245
			1245					2012

Analytical View of Tables

The above tables demonstrate the significant growth and development in JLAC's operation during the last year (2011), in terms of the total number of cases undertaken. This figure exceeded more than two thousand cases (2,157), the majority of which are being dealt with before Israeli military courts and objection committees. It is noteworthy to mention that the majority of the right to housing cases (968 cases undertaken in total) were undertaken in response to the escalation in Israel's policy of ethnically cleansing East Jerusalem and large portions of the West Bank from its Palestinian inhabitants. The table also illustrates the immense work load that has been transferred from previous years into 2012, 866 cases of which involve housing and displacement. Such an undertaking requires a high degree of vigilance and flexibility as to face any further Israeli escalation, particularly given the negative decisions made by the Israeli Supreme Court and the Israeli Judiciary and their resulting trends pertaining to demolition. On a positive note, international advocacy is shedding increasing light upon these devastating developments with the European Union releasing a report on the Israeli practices in Areas "C". The tables also show a decline in the number of cases that are dealt with and adopted before the Palestinian courts. This decline is attributed to improvement in the situation of human rights in the West Bank and the resulting decline in certain abuses, particularly as a result of the PA discontinuing its practice of subjecting civilians to military courts and its signing of the reconciliation agreement in May. Comparing our work during the year 2011 with previous years, we notice that the growth in JLAC's staff, capacities and budgets was accompanied with an increase in its effectiveness and reputable place among Arab and Palestinian human rights organizations. The number of new cases adopted by the JLAC in 2011 reached 1,165 cases, which exceeds the total amount of cases adopted in any year prior and the total cases adopted between 2000 and 2004. These tables also reflect particular institutional weaknesses and shortcomings which JLAC has made a priority to address in the coming year. In each area of JLAC's interventions, we serve to provide information, analysis, and legal impact. Our hope is to continue in this regard.



Outreach & Advocacy

JLAC believes that legal remedies are not the sole path to justice. For this reason, JLAC couples its legal efforts with that of awareness and advocacy.

Through its trainings, campaigns, membership in coalitions and working groups, research studies and documentaries; JLAC is able to build local capacities, illustrate the trends and realities on the ground, and rally relevant players in advocating for their mitigation (i.e. diplomatic pressure).







Legal Awareness Raising

In 2011, JLAC served to conduct 28 awareness sessions targeting different segments of the Palestinian society. One prominent group which JLAC works to raise its capacity is the Human Rights Defenders Movement that is comprised of 300+ youth from among all the governorates in the West Bank (including Jerusalem). Their sessions aim at raising the youths' awareness on a number of issues, such as, the role of youth in following-up cases of settler violence, as well as in political and social life.

Another major target group of JLAC's is that of joint service councils (representing several local governments) in the northern West Bank, namely: Howwarah Joint Council, Iraq Bourin Joint Council, and East of Nablus Joint Council (which collectively include more than thirty local and village councils). The issues addressed in such sessions include; necessary measures in preparing house demolition case files and files related to settler violence. Leaders from among Bedouin communities are also targeted, in such localities as Jericho, Salfet, Jaba' and Anata. The issues tackled in these sessions typically include; dealing with Israeli military orders (i.e. demolition notifications), the gravity of neglecting to follow-up such notices, among other pertinent matters. These sessions, likewise, serve as an opportunity to provide the communities with information on the latest judicial developments, new measures and laws, and legal developments regarding their cases.

JLAC likewise conducted 18 training courses, 16 of which targeted the Human Rights Defenders Movement volunteers. The training sessions were held in throughout the West Bank and served to train the youth in such areas as; the use of electronic media, methods in documenting human rights violations (especially settler violence), among other skills. The other two trainings were conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and served to target the agricultural directorates in the northern governorates (Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilia, Salfit and Nablus) and southern and central governorates (Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho and Hebron) of the West Bank respectably. The trainings addressed the topics of documenting various human rights violations, assessing damages resulted from settler attacks, and preparing house demolition case files.

Specialized Legal Training:

JLAC held an intensive specialized legal training course over a two day period in Ramallah. The training was part of a project entitled; “Enhancing the Concept of Human Dignity in Judicial Proceedings before Palestinian Courts”, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and implemented in cooperation with the Law Institute at Birzeit University and the Law Institute at the University of Windsor, Canada. The training targeted 20 lawyers from several Palestinian NGOs (among them; al-Haq, Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, Defense for Children International- Palestine Chapter, Addameer Association for Human Rights, and JLAC) whose programming engages the judiciary. A number of registered lawyers referred from the Palestinian Bar Association were also in attendance.

A number of issues were addressed in the first day of the training session, more notably, the legal principles in defending constitutional rights, human dignity as a constitutional right and the judicial applications of the notion of human dignity with regards to economic and social rights and gender related issues. The second day of the training addressed human dignity and its relation to; the right to adequate housing, detainees and prisoners, and relevant articles from the Palestinian Basic Law and how they may be utilized in judicial proceedings. The participating lawyers were divided into groups and asked to; discuss three of the issues that were identified in the last meeting and to link them to human dignity. This training was followed by a third meeting held with a group of lawyers as to present the related research conducted during the month.

A manual for integrating the concept of human dignity in lawyers’ judicial proceedings is scheduled to be released in 2012. The manual will include theoretical explanation and practical examples including relevant court arguments and decisions from different countries and in various fields of law.



Mobile Legal Clinic

The Center integrates a mobile legal clinic in its annual programs as to better meet beneficiaries' needs. In this regard, JLAC's lawyers operate out of the Salfit or Nablus satellite office on a bi-weekly basis, meeting clients and following-up their legal cases in the process. In addition, the number of attorneys conduct visits to the joint service councils in the northern West Bank (such as: the joint councils of al-Fundoq, Azzoun and Kafr al-Balad local councils, etc.) as to adopt new case files or follow-up on existing cases. Attorneys likewise visit the legal departments of local government offices in the northern West Bank, such as in the governorates of Salfit and Qalqilia, to provide beneficiaries with legal information.

Volunteerism

A year following its formation, the Defenders Movement's 300+ youth volunteers have become viable monitors of the human rights situation in oPt. Specifically, the volunteers monitor, document, and expose the grave violations practiced by settlers against Palestinians in area "C" and the occupied city of Jerusalem. One such example involves the village of Qusra that is plagued by incessant settler violence. The youth volunteers in that vicinity have diligently monitored settler activity in the area, raised the communities' awareness, and developed a specialized Facebook account for informational and networking purposes in this regard.

In 2011, the Movement also held internal dialogue sessions among its members to discuss pressing societal issues. Several training workshops were also rendered to the group on such topics as electronic media, local elections, and documentation techniques. Two new issues of the group's specialized magazine (The Defenders Magazine) were also developed by the youth and published. The issues served to address various social issues and matters related to human rights in the oPt. Furthermore, the Human Rights Defenders Movement participated in demonstrations and sit-ins calling for the end of the political division, as well as, in solidarity activities with victims of settler violence.

The volunteers have gone on to conduct activities on their own accord, which truly bespeaks of



their commitment to human rights. Such activities have included receiving foreign delegations and providing them with briefings and tours, as well as, providing local communities with such social services as tutoring of students with learning difficulties.

Advocacy Campaigns:

The National Campaign for the Retrieval of Arab and Palestinian War Victims' Bodies and the Disclosure of the Fate of those Missing

The year 2011 witnessed a series of successes by the “National Campaign for the Retrieval of Arab and Palestinian War Victims' Bodies and the Disclosure of the Fate of those Missing”, with steps taken by the Campaign towards making even bigger achievements in the years to come. Fore and foremost, JLAC's legal department succeeded in retrieving the remains of, Hafez Abu Zant, making it the second achievement on its kind (superseded by the retrieval of the remains of Mashoor Saleh in 2010). Collectively, both legal achievements enabled the Campaign's leadership and JLAC's legal department to take the decision to develop and implement the following strategy in 2011:

- An initial legal petition demanding that the Israeli Supreme Court uncover localities where the victims' remains are kept, to enable their families and loved ones to visit these localities, and to establish a DNA bank.
- Collective petitions involving victims with the strongest cases.
- A legal seminar organized by the Arab League, which resulted in the decision (the Campaign's most prominent) to internationalize the Campaign and its objectives.
- Bringing the cause before the European Union, among other confederations and national parliaments.
- A series of correspondences with several governments, as to request of them to pressure Israel to cease its current practices pertaining to the detainment of war victims' bodies and those missing. The government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has communicated its willingness to aid in this regard.
- A series of meetings with representatives from among a number of United Nations agencies,

especially those mandated with human rights. The meetings resulted in the file being followed-up with the Israeli government through the envoy of the United Nations General Secretary and the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

- Participation in an international conferences held in Algeria and Morocco, addressing the rights of prisoners and casualties whose bodies are detained or missing. Among the achievements emanating from the conferences was the consideration of August 27 as an Arab and International Day for the support of the right of war victims' families to retrieve their bodies and bury them according to their religious traditions and in a manner befitting to human dignity.
- Continuation of documentation efforts. The total number of cases documented thus far has mounted up to 345 cases, all of whose family are Palestinians residing in the occupied Palestinian territory or are Arab Israelis. Efforts are underway to document the cases of Arab war victims from outside of the occupied territories.
- Effort to develop and release the second edition of the book entitled; "We Have Names and We Have a Homeland" originally published in 2010, as well as an assortment of publications (i.e. brochures, banners, posters, stickers, etc.).

Through the support of the Palestinian Leadership, the movement was able to reach an agreement between the Palestinian Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Israeli Government to immediately release the remains of 48 war victims, to be followed by the release of another 102 victims' remains. Despite the announcement made by the Israeli Minister of Defense, Ehud Barak, the implementation of this agreement was frozen under the pretext of the continued detention of the Israeli captive, Gilad Shalit. This agreement, however, constitutes a significant precedent and efforts should continue to be made to pressure the Israeli government to commit it to follow through with implementing its agreement immediately. Building upon the achievements made to this point, through the various political, diplomatic and legal efforts undertaken, the Campaign is optimistic that 2012 will bring with it closure to many of the wounds left unable to heal.

Retrieval of Hafeth Abu Zant's Remains

Killed over 35 years ago, Hafeth Abu-Zant's remains continued to be held in what is known as the Israeli 'Cemetery of Numbers' until October of 2011. The case of Abu-Zant was adopted as a part of the Retrieval of War Victims Bodies Campaign, by JLAC's attorney Haytham Khateb. Khateb's efforts resulted in the release of Abu-Zant's remains to his family for burial in their hometown of Nablus as per their religious beliefs.

On October 9, 2011 the remains of Abu-Zant were returned to his family near Jaljolia check point, near the city of Qalqilia. Among the crowd was JLAC's attorney and Campaign Coordinator (Salim Khilah). The crowd received the casket and proceeded to walk in a funeral procession through

Qalqilia before heading towards the city of Nablus. Unlike when coordinating the handing-over of Aruri's remains, in the case of Abu-Zant JLAC's attorney was advised by the Officer of the Israeli Liaison in Qalqilia to carry out the process away from the eyes of the press.

Shalit Deal: Contradictory Messages

On October 18, 2011 the prisoners exchange deal between Hamas and Israel was implemented, simultaneously with the release of Abu-Zant's remains, but there is no relation between the two events. The prosecutor notified the approval regarding the return of Abu-Zant's remains on March 31, 2011, which affirms the handover is not connected to the prisoner release deal. The return of Shalit has bearings upon the ability to retrieve the remains of victims' bodies in the future, as the Israeli prosecution claimed in court that such files will be postponed until the completion of the prisoner exchange deal and the release of Shalit. Indeed, the biggest obstacle before retrieving victims' remains has been removed, but many difficulties in dealing with these cases persist.

During the preparation of this report, specifically on January 4, 2012 news concerning the Shamgar Committee (headed by the former Chairman of the Israeli Supreme Court and commissioned by the Israeli Minister of Defense nearly two years ago as to set standards to govern prisoner exchange negotiations) was published in the Israeli press. The committee submitted recommendations to the Israeli Ministry of Defense (Ehud Barak) as for him to comply with the strict standards governing prisoners exchange deals which have come to include; the transfer of negotiations' management responsibilities from the Israeli Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of Defense as to prevent the release of large numbers of Arab and Palestinian prisoners in exchange of one Israeli soldier. Some of the recommendations related to standards in negotiating prisoner exchanges remain confidential.

Currently there is no mention to the relationship between the Shamgar report and the release of bodies, but in the past there was a statement by the Shamgar Committee that one of the criteria for prisoners exchange deals is not to exchange Palestinian prisoners for the bodies of Israeli soldiers. Also mentioned was that the exchange of Israeli bodies would be for the bodies of Palestinians and Arabs. More information may be acquired from the original article (Ma'ariv Newspaper article dated June 23, 2009 at: www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/907/340.html).

At this stage, it must be emphasized that it is not known whether the recommendations raised to the Minister of Defense contain references to keeping the remains of war victims as a bargaining chips. If such turns out to be the case; JLAC's scope of legal intervention would be severely restricted. We at JLAC will continue to follow-up legal cases of retrieving war victims' remains through the strategy of dealing with each case separately and highlighting each as a humanitarian case. This approach serves to ease dealing with the Israeli Supreme Court, even if the recommendations of the Shamgar Committee are indeed adopted.



The International Campaign for the Freedom of Traveling with Dignity for the Palestinians (Karama)

Although the work of the Movement witnessed some stagnation, on account to the relative improvements achieved in travel procedures and the decline of the travelers' complaints, many campaign undertakings were made in 2011.

The Campaign's coordination commission continued in its efforts with many strategic sessions held throughout the year. Mr. Ameen Annabi was elected as Campaign Coordinator and an annual plan was developed by the group.

Moreover, the Movement held several meetings with the Crossings Commission and the Office of the President to emphasize the demands that were made earlier by the Campaign in regards to; opening the bridge around –the-clock, conducting renovation works to accommodate the needs of the handicapped, and eliminating or reducing taxes at the crossings. Some of these demands were met; with significant improvements made to the resting areas (for the arrivals and departures) and some of the imposed fees for travelers being cancelled. Representatives from among the coordination commission likewise met with the Jordanian ambassador in Ramallah and submitted to him their demands; i.e. the cancellation of



some imposed entry and exit taxes, the improvement of the arrival/ departure hall. The Jordanian ambassador promised to follow-up these pressing demands with the Jordanian authorities. Moreover, the Campaign (in conjunction with JLAC) adopted several cases related to reopening a number of main roads previously closed by the Occupation forces as part of their collective punishment regime. JLAC's lawyers succeeded in obtaining approval from the Civil Administration to re-open Road No. 466 (or the Old Nablus Road) which connects the central West Bank with the northern region. The Campaign is now working to release a documentary that addresses the issue of crossing in and out of Jordan, in cooperation with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

Residency Rights of Jerusalemites

JLAC (in conjunction with the Coalition for Jerusalem and the Palestinian Network of Non-Governmental Organizations) initiated a campaign aimed at inhibiting, halting, or reversing Israel's revocation of residency rights of Palestinians from Jerusalem. The Campaign also seeks to increase awareness of Israeli breaches of Palestinian residency rights; recruit an international counter position to these policies; document cases of ID revocation and conduct research into their political, economic, social and physiological impact, as well as to coordinate the efforts of human rights and civil society organizations.

Coalitions

Working in coalition with Palestinian organizations mandated with the protection of human rights greatly serves efforts involving reform and advocacy. In 2011, JLAC maintained its participation in six member coalitions and assumed a leading position in several of them. JLAC has been a prominent member of the Palestinian NGOs' Network since 2006, as well as a member of the Coalition for Jerusalem. JLAC likewise holds a secretariat position with the Palestinian Human Rights Council and plays an active role in the Civil Coalition for the Code of Conduct in terms of establishing a body to monitor the commitment of organizations to the Code. The Center also partakes in events and activities that are implemented by such coalitions as: the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Resource Group, the Palestinian Coalition against Torture, the Palestinian Coalition against the Death Penalty, and the Coalition for the Monitoring of Public Freedoms.

Working Groups

Collaboration among similarly mandated local and international organizations is key in maximizing international advocacy efforts. For this reason, JLAC joined in the beginning of 2010 a number of working groups lead by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights / OHCHR in the Palestinian territories. JLAC is an avid member of its Displacement Working Group (DWG), the Legal Task Force (LTF), and Settlers' Attacks Group (SAG).

Field Visits & Meetings

In 2011, JLAC conducted a total of 32 field visits to communities in the West Bank. Often the visits entail the follow-up by the Center's field workers of undertaken cases. Field visits are likewise organized to brief international delegations, allow them to see the situation on the ground first hand, and to encourage them to lobby for needed reforms both locally and internationally. The delegations briefed and rendered field visits in 2011, were namely to the UNDP, NRC, DFID, BftW, and CAFOD.



Publications

2011 was an active year for JLAC on many fronts, including research and film production. The following is an overview of the various studies and films produced in the past year;

Concealed Intentions: Israel's Human Rights Violations through the Manipulation of Zoning and Planning Laws in Area "C"

The study discusses Israel's discriminatory zoning and land planning policies in Area "C" of the West Bank, demonstrating how such policies are in direct contravention of international law. The first chapter serves to define and examine how Israeli policies aim at restricting Palestinian use and ownership of land through practices such as land parceling and annexation, exclusion of Palestinians from the planning process, building restrictions, home demolitions, and forced eviction or displacement. Chapter two goes on to identify how such policies are in direct violation of international human rights and humanitarian law. Lastly, chapter three serves to illustrate what JLAC is doing to combat the adverse social, political, and economic effects of such policies. JLAC hopes in producing the study that it will serve as a tool for human rights practitioners, government officials, and international organizations in putting pressure on Israel to obey its obligations under the law.

Banished Identity: Israel's Systematic Destruction of Palestinian Bedouins

Through this study, an examination is provided of Israel's policies in Area "C" of the West Bank that distinctly affect Bedouin communities on a social and economic level, severely thwarting their ability to maintain their livelihood, culture, customs, and traditional way of life. The first section of the study examines how Israeli policies towards the Bedouin communities in Area "C" violate longstanding principles of international humanitarian and human rights law, particularly those provisions asserting the rights of indigenous peoples in maintaining their traditional way of life and the standards other parties must adhere to in respect of indigenous populations. A case-in-point of the Khan Al-Ahmar Bedouin community is also provided, an area particularly targeted by aggressive Israeli policies due to its location in the coveted Jordan Valley. Lastly, JLAC's legal interventions on behalf of Bedouin communities are discussed and a number of recommendations to address the urgent needs of these communities are proposed.

Alert

Alert depicts (through the telling of several case stories) the implications of Israel's discriminatory policies (inhibiting expansion in Area "C" of the West Bank) upon the lives of Palestinians. The case stories involve an impoverished rural Palestinian family whose life-long project was to build their modest home now threatened with demolition. The film then takes the viewer to a Bedouin tribe faced with forced displacement and the consequent loss of their herder and nomadic way of life. The village of Al Aqaba is then visited, which is facing blanket demolition orders due to its un-recognized status. The film wraps up with an overview of the legal remedies available in such instances, the limitations therein, and a call for needed advocacy and reform. The documentary was screened in al-Qasaba Theater, in Ramallah, in a launching ceremony that was organized by JLAC in May of 2011. A number of local and international human rights organizations, ambassadors, and representatives of consulates, representative offices, volunteers and beneficiaries were in attendance.

Under the Sky

The film depicts the struggles of a Jerusalemite family, forced to live under the sky due to building restrictions. From there it illustrates the greater discriminatory system in place in Jerusalem, aimed at ridding Palestinians inhabitants in the city. The film goes on to follow the arduous track a West Banker married to a Jerusalemite woman takes in entering the city to see his family. Along the way, the plight of shattered families and the gravity of the loss of Jerusalemite IDs (and inability to pass it to spouses and children) is discussed. JLAC hopes this film will shed light upon the grave infringements made in the city of Jerusalem towards ethnically cleansing from it the Palestinian population. The documentary was screened in al-Hakawati Theatre in the occupied city of Jerusalem in November of 2011. Among the audience members were many prominent figures, including diplomats, academics, and trade unionists, as well as, persons from non-governmental organizations and the media. Many attendees expressed their rejection to the Israeli policies discussed in the film. The ceremony was concluded with honoring a number of Jerusalemite figures who are active in the field of human rights and those featured in the film.

JLAC's Internal Environment

2011 brought with it a variety of development in JLAC's internal environment.

In particular, great strides were taken towards enhancing existing administrative and financial systems, developing a more efficient organizational structure, expanding the working team and building its capacity, as well as remodeling the Ramallah headquarter as to have its spatial plan accommodate the staff's growth and needs.







Developments in 2011

General Assembly and Board of Directors

JLAC's General Assembly held two meetings in 2011, one as scheduled annually and the other exceptional as to discuss and approve the administrative and financial changes (i.e. development of systems, new organizational structure, etc.). The Board of Directors held four meetings to discuss such pertinent matters as; administrative and financial progress reports, annual plans and budgets, and budget review and amendments towards the second half of the year.

Staff

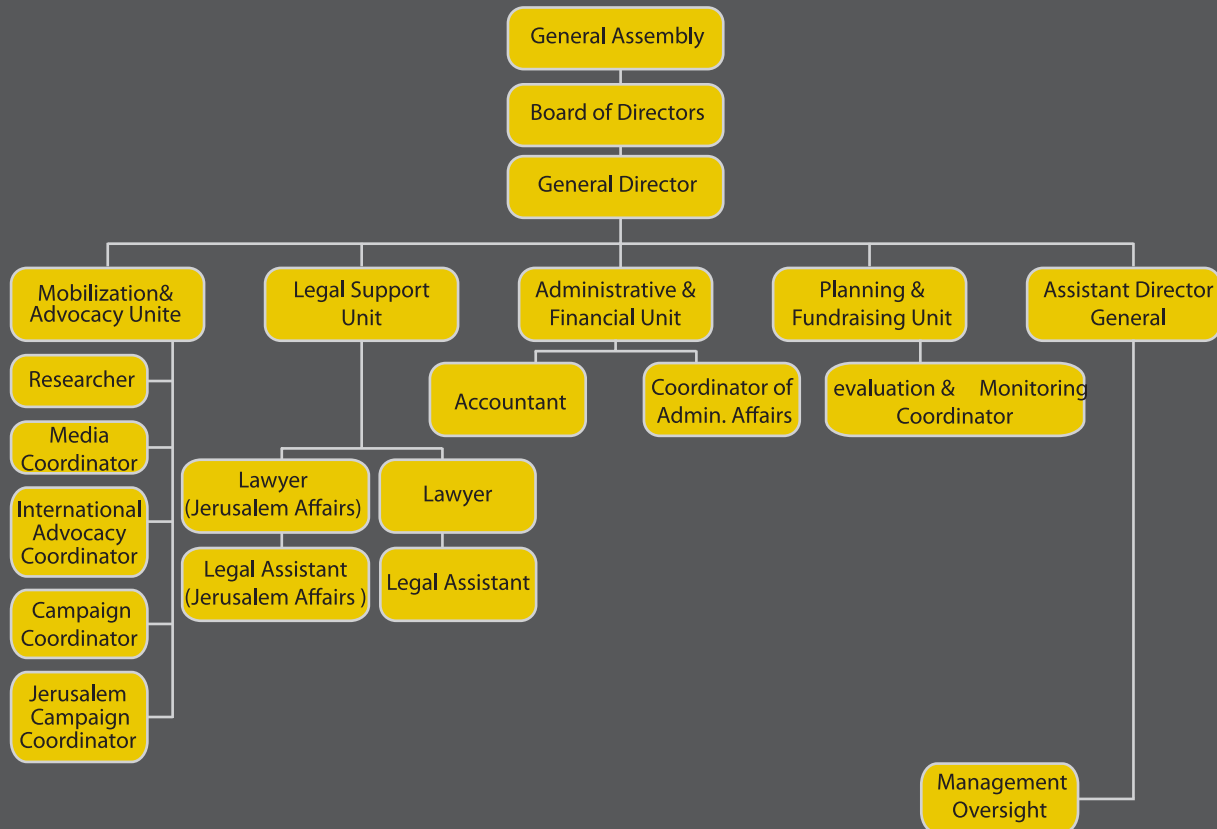
JLAC's working team grew by the end of 2011 to 31 employees and contracted persons (full and part-time), of whom 19 are full-time staffers, 15 are lawyers, and 14 are women of the total. The growth in personnel arose out of the need to expand the Center's services. The Jerusalem branch office witnessed comparatively significant growth with two lawyers and one coordinator recruited.

Capacity Building

Investing in human resources is a priority of JLAC's, with capacity building opportunities continually offered to its staff. Attorney Razan Muheisen began her career with JLAC as a trainee lawyer (as required by the Palestinian Bar Association). After completing her two years of training and passing her bar exams, Razan was employed by JLAC as a lawyer in the Legal Unit operating out of the Nablus branch office. JLAC has hosted two other trainee lawyers, in an effort to build the capacity of new lawyers. Further in this regard, JLAC held three workshops for new lawyers to enhance their knowledge in such matters as advocacy and legal defense of cases of house demolition. A number of staffers have likewise participated in workshops and specialized courses on domestic law, international law, and international humanitarian law held in Ramallah, Jerusalem and Amman.

New Organizational Structure

As a result of the diversification in JLAC's activities and the growth in its working team, coupled with direct recommendations from the Board and staff to reform the organizational structure, a private consulting firm was recruited to undertake this task. Towards this end the firm reviewed JLAC's internal regulations, staffers' job descriptions, systems in place, etc. and held meetings with members of the working team. Ultimately, the firm provided a modified organizational structure based on functionality rather than on geographic considerations. The new structure is subdivided among four main units; the Legal Unit, the Advocacy & Research Unit, the Planning & Fundraising Unit, and the Financial Management Unit.



Spatial Structure

In the Fall of 2011, JLAC opened a new branch office in the city of Nablus in the northern West Bank, as to urgently respond to the needs created by repeated violations against Palestinians' human rights (whether executed by the occupation authorities or the Palestinian Authority). In so doing, JLAC served to expand its geographic coverage in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly given the fact that attacks by settlers has emerged as one of the most prominent violations carried out predominantly in the northern West Bank. In an important step towards promoting JLAC's sustainable development, its Board of Directors considered the importance of buying a new headquarter for the Center. Accordingly, JLAC's Ramallah office relocated to a new headquarter in the first quarter of 2011. The new vicinity is more spacious and is equipped with the needed features to allow for a more conducive work environment. Further to this effect, JLAC has also procured a range of furniture and equipment.

Online Environment: Social Networking Space

In 2011, JLAC activated its Facebook account and began to actively post relevant news, updates on its various activities, upcoming events, and its achievements made before the various courts. The Facebook account may be visited at; <http://www.facebook.com/JLAC67>. Those who chose to "Like" the account will receive periodic updates and messages on pressing issues and upcoming events. Several additional specialized Facebook accounts have been created by JLAC and its beneficiaries





addressing particular campaigns or topics. One Facebook account was created to follow and discuss the distortions made by the municipality of Jerusalem to the Palestinian curriculum applied in schools. By the close of 2011, the account had recorded over 44 thousand views. Another Facebook account was created to follow-up the development made by the 'International Campaign against the Withdrawal of Residency Rights of Palestinians in Jerusalem'.

The campaign (and in extension the account) seeks to expose the racist policies of the occupation authorities within the city of Jerusalem (in terms of eliminating Palestinian from the city), before the international community. JLAC's volunteer base (comprised of over 300 young men and women) likewise manage a Facebook account entitled 'The Human Rights Defenders Movement in Palestine'. The youths volunteer in different localities throughout the West Bank addressing violations by the Israeli authorities and the PA, and through the account serve to raise public opinion in these regards. In addition, JLAC publicizes clips of its produced films on YouTube. The clips may be accessed through search or by following link; [YouTube.com \ JLAC1974](https://www.youtube.com/JLAC1974).

Re-Branding as JLAC.ps

In an effort to strengthen JLAC's sense of belonging to the Palestinian identity (even virtually), the Center took the decision to re-brand itself as JLAC.ps. This involves changing its website address to www.jlac.ps and converting the e-mail addresses of its staff to name@jlc.ps. During the transitional period (lasting though mid-2012), both the previous and re-branded website address and e-mail addresses will be functional.

Our Leadership

General Assembly

Mr. Ahmed Samarah – Social Activist.
Dr. Akram Daoud – Dean of the Faculty of Law at An-Najah National University.
Mr. Amin Al Bayed – Social Activist.
Mr. Amin Inabi – Director in the Ministry of Social Affairs.
Dr. Areej Odeh – Legal Consultant at Ramallah Governor's Office.
Dr. Basem Zubaydi – Professor at Birzeit University.
Mr. Daoud Talhami – Political Activist, Writer.
Dr. Faiha Abdul Hadi – Freelance Researcher.
Dr. Feras Melhem – Legal Expert.
Ms. Ghada Zughayar – Executive Director of AMAN Coalition.
Dr. George Giacaman – Professor at Birzeit University, Muwatin General Director.
Ms. Haneen Zeidan – Feminine Activist.
Ms. Intisar Salman – Feminine Activist in Tulkarem.
Ms. Jannet Michael – Mayor of Ramallah Municipality.
Mr. Khaled Al Batrawe – Businessman, Activist in Defending Human Rights.
Dr. Mohammad Jadallah – Monitoring Member at the Physicians Bar Association.
Dr. Mudar Kassis – Assistant Director at the Institute of Law in Birzeit University.
Mr. Nasfat Al Khofash – Social Activist (Representative Elected by JLAC's Volunteers).
Dr. Na'el Taha – Law Professor at An-Najah University.

Ms. Nibal Thawabteh – Director of the Media Development Center at Birzeit University.
Mr. Sam Bahour – Entrepreneur.
Mr. Samih Khalil – Insurance Expert.
Mr. Tayseer Arouri – Lecturer at Birzeit University.
Mr. Walid El Sheikh – Attorney at the Independent Commission for Human Rights.
Dr. Zaki Hasan – Professor at Birzeit University.

Board of Directors

Mr. Tayseer Arouri – Chairman; Lecturer at Birzeit University.
Mr. Nasfat Al Khofash – Vice Chairman; Social Activist (Representative Elected by JLAC's Volunteers).
Dr. Mudar Kassis – Treasurer; Assistant Director at the Institute of Law in Birzeit University.
Mr. Amin Inabi – Secretary; Director in the Ministry of Social Affairs.
Dr. Areej Odeh – Member; Legal Consultant at Ramallah Governor's Office.
Mr. Ahmed Samarah – Member; Social Activist.
Mr. Amin Al Bayed – Member; Social Activist.
Ms. Intisar Salman – Member; Feminine Activist in Tulkarem.
Mr. Samih Khalil – Member; Insurance Expert.

Our Working Team

Executive Level

Issam Aruri – General Director.
Rami Saleh – Deputy Director General
(Jerusalem Branch Office).

Legal Support Unit

Bassam Karajah – Legal Support Unit Manger.
Othman Hamdallah – Attorney.
Wa'il Qut – Attorney.
Razan Mouhsen – Attorney.
Suleiman Shaheen – Attorney.
Haitham Khatib – Attorney.
Mohammad Abu Snineh – Attorney.
Mou'een Odeh – Attorney.
Fadia Al Qawasmi – Attorney.
Ahmed Safadi – Legal Consultant.
Abdullah Abu Qutaish - Engineering
Consultant.
Lubna Al-Ghoul - Trainee Lawyer.

Planning & Fundraising Unit

Mai Farsakh - Planning & Fundraising Unit
Manager.
Rifk Ebied - Advocacy Officer.
Roula Said - Programs & Projects Coordinator.
Salem Khillah - Media Officer/ Campaign
Coordinator.
Ghalib Nashashibi - Project Coordinator.

Mobilization & Advocacy Unit

Abdullah Hammad – Mobilization & Advocacy
Unit Manager.
Saher Sarsour – Field Coordinator.
Jalila Irshaid – Field Coordinator.
Thourayya Hamid – Field Researcher.
Jihan Mansour – Paralegal (Salfit Branch).
Nabil Abdallah – Researcher and Fieldworker.
Abeer Hidmi – Paralegal (Jerusalem Branch).
Maisa Abu Ghazaleh - Media Coordinator.

Administrative & Financial Unit

Amin Dawabsheh – Accountant.
Ikhlas Qur'an - Financial Assistant.

Our Sources of Support

Core Donors



Irish Aid: JLAC began its partnership with the Irish Representative Office (Irish Aid) in 2007, with a grant for core funds. This grant has since been renewed on an annual bases, with 60,000 Euros granted in 2011 towards core funding.



Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World): BftW is one of JLAC's original donors whom funded the Center since its separation from the Quakers back in 1997. BftW's current grant is in the amount of \$ 180,000 starting from 2008 through 2011. The fund is devoted to the defense of victims of violations of human rights, as per Palestinian and international laws.



The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD): JLAC's partnership with CAFOD likewise dates back to 1997, with a current fund being provided in the amount 30,000 British Pounds over the course of two years (ending in 2011). The funds are geared towards strengthening community institutions that seek to promote the principles of human rights and democratic reform, and providing legal defense to Palestinian victims of abuse and injustice.



The NGO Development Center (NDC): In 2008, JLAC began its partnership with the NDC, with the secretariat funding a portion of JLAC's core programming over a period of 1.5 years. A new grant has since been awarded to JLAC for the amount of 170,000 USD over the course of 2.5 years towards the defense of human rights and promotion of good governance.



The United Nations Development Program (UNDP): A new addition to JLAC's partnered donors is the UNDP, which provided JLAC with core funding in 2011 in the amount of 99,941 USD over a period of one year. The funding is designated for core activities involving the defense of victims of settler violence in Areas "C" and the protection of public freedoms. JLAC hopes to renew this fund on an annual basis.

Project –Based Donors



Instituto de Estudios Políticos para América Latina y Africa (IEPALA): JLAC has been engaged with IEPALA since 2007. The current fund provided by IEPALA is for a period of four years and for the total amount of 160,000 Euros. The project aims to raise the awareness of Palestinians in Jerusalem in regarding to their social, civil and economic rights, and secure their liberties therein.



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): The NRC has been a main donor of JLAC's since 2009, with two projects currently being funded by the intuition. The West Bank project is for the duration of one year and for the amount of 222,000 USD. The East Jerusalem project is likewise for one year and is for the amount of 166,460 USD. Both projects are geared towards securing Palestinians' right to housing and livelihood.



The American Bar Association (ABA): The ABA funded the implementation of a project which aims to build upon JLAC's efforts to recruit and train a volunteer base of young men and women (of 300+ volunteers). This project complements the efforts begun through the Ford Foundation funded project, in the amount of 300,000 USD implemented over a period of two years (2009-2011). The total amount of the support provided by the ABA amounts to 18,600 USD over a period of 6 months.



Windsor University, Canada: During the second half of 2011, JLAC began a partnership with the Institute of Law at Birzeit University, and the Institute of Law in Windsor University in Canada, towards implementing a joint project entitled "Promoting the Integration of the Concept of Human Dignity in Litigation before Palestinian Courts". The project is part of the initiative for judicial independence and human dignity "Karama", funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in 2005. The total amount of funding obtained through this project was 32,700 USD.

Statement Sources and Uses of Funds
January to December, 2011
in USD

Sources of funds		
	Grants Revenue	912,829.00
	Application fees Income	2,150.30
Total Sources of funds		914,979.30
Uses of funds		
Salaries & Staff Related Benefits		
	Staff Salaries	497,198.05
	Prov. Fund	27,438.38
	Severance Pay	36,240.08
	Health Insurances	10,670.00
	National Income & National Insurance	13,479.48
	Adv. Association Bar & professional ins.	1,412.45
	Currency differences on wages	50,779.21
Salaries & Staff Related Benefits		637,217.65
Office & Operation Expenses		
	Rent Exp.	22,054.30
	Utilities (water, Elect., Gaz ,Bank Charges)	10,801.41
	Offices Supplies & Stationary& hospitality	10,791.95
	Repairs and Maintenance	11,953.36
	Communications	9,490.78
	Transportation	15,575.94
	Professional fees /Auditors	6,074.94
Office & Operation Expenses		86,742.68
	Office Furniture	10,800.36
	Office Equipment	7,204.95
Capital Expenditure		18,005.31
Planned Activities/Program supplies		
S01: Reducing the suffering of the Palestinian victims of human right violations.		
	High Court Fees	22,248.62
	Court Fees	334.39

	Cadastral Maps	8,137.49
	Researcher	7,050.50
	Translation	2,942.19
	Newspaper Advertisements	2,508.89
S01: Reducing the suffering and improving the livelihood of the Palestinian victims of human right violations.		43,222.08
S02: Influencing public policies and laws and their execution to be in tune with international human rights and good governance standards		
	Membership Coalitions Networks	443.87
	Newspaper Advertisements	375.00
	Hall Rent	997.55
	External Legal Consultants	19,640.00
	International Interns	2,869.65
	Brochure	2,790.77
	2 Reports	9,042.06
	Volunteers	1,850.00
	Food	4,948.65
	Transportation	7,490.17
	Hall rent	3,771.63
	Stationary	3,531.50
	Training for Trainers	1,837.10
	Trainers	605.04
	Documentary	8,303.00
S02: Influencing public policies and laws and their execution to be in tune with international human rights and good governance standards		68,495.99
S03: Building the capacity of JLAC towards meeting its mission professionally and institutionally		
	Books	3,748.74
	Consultancy fees	5,000.00
	Database & Website re-designed..	350.00
S03: Building the capacity of JLAC towards meeting its mission professionally and institutionally		9,098.74
Planned Activities/Program supplies		120,816.81
Total Uses of funds		862,782.45
Sources less Uses		52,196.85

Thanks

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