

ANNUAL REPORT | 2012

Jerusalem Legal Aid & Human Rights Center





CONTENTS

CONTENTS

4 **A Message from the Chairman & the Director**

8 **Who we are**

8 Our Objectives

9 Our Vision

9 Our Mission

10 **Localities of Intervention**

10 Area "C"

26 Occupied Jerusalem

38 Palestinian Authority

52 Outreach & Advocacy

74 **JLAC's Internal Environment**

80 Our Leadership

82 Our Working Team

84 Our Sources of Support

86 **Financial Report**

A Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Director General



Mr. Tayseer Aroui
Chairman of the BoD

2012 was a difficult year in regards to the human rights situation facing Palestinians in the oPt. Though (on the insistence of the Israeli government) the horizon of the political process stayed in focus, they continued in their open assault against Palestinian presence in the city of Jerusalem and in areas classified "C". In addition, the pace of settlement activity continued to escalate, as well as, measures on the part of Israel to put racial discrimination in practice (as evident by occupation forces' bias when dealing with incidents of violence by Israeli settlers). In 2012, Israel also launched a wide military attack against the Gaza Strip and continued imposing a siege on the territory, as well as, strict restrictions on movement between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including Jerusalem). Such is in clear violation of Israel's political obligations to consider the West Bank (including Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip as one geographic area.

Israeli policies resulted in catastrophic and devastating humanitarian impacts, most notably the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians whose houses were demolished and/or identity cards were withdrawn. For the fifth consecutive year, Israel has continued to demolish Palestinian houses at an increasing rate, with demolition rates jumping to 52 demolitions a month in 2011 (and continuing in 2012) compared to an average of 25 demolitions per month for the years prior.

Such prompted JLAC to allocate more of its resources towards cases involving the right to housing in an effort to confront measures of ethnic cleansing. In 2012, nearly 60 percent of JLAC's resources were allocated to housing rights with more than 1,130 such cases treated during the year. Of this total, 137 cases involved forced displacement of Bedouins in ethnically cleansing them from areas classified as "C". This year likewise witnessed the announcement of plans to concentrate Bedouin communities in camps. The plan claims to allocate half a dunum (50 sq meters) for each household, relatively tight quarters for maintaining their herding way of life, their own food security, and the consistent supply of over five thousand tons of red meat annually which they produce for the Palestinian society at large.



Mr. Issam Abu Al-Haj
Director General

Internally, the human rights situation remained hostage to the volatility of the reconciliation process. Most dangerous was the utilization of human rights violations as tools of political pressure between authorities; with continued arbitrary arrests, torture, degrading treatment, and infringement of fundamental rights and freedoms (i.e. right to demonstration and peaceful assembly, freedom of the press, freedom of expression, political affiliations, etc.).

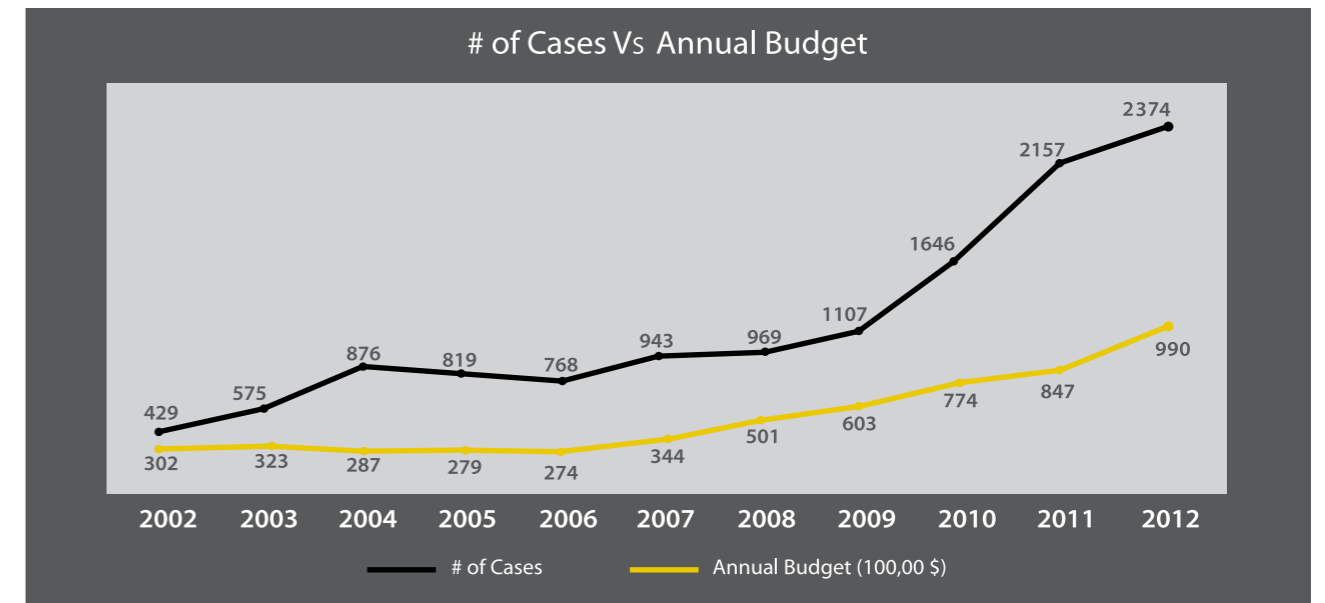
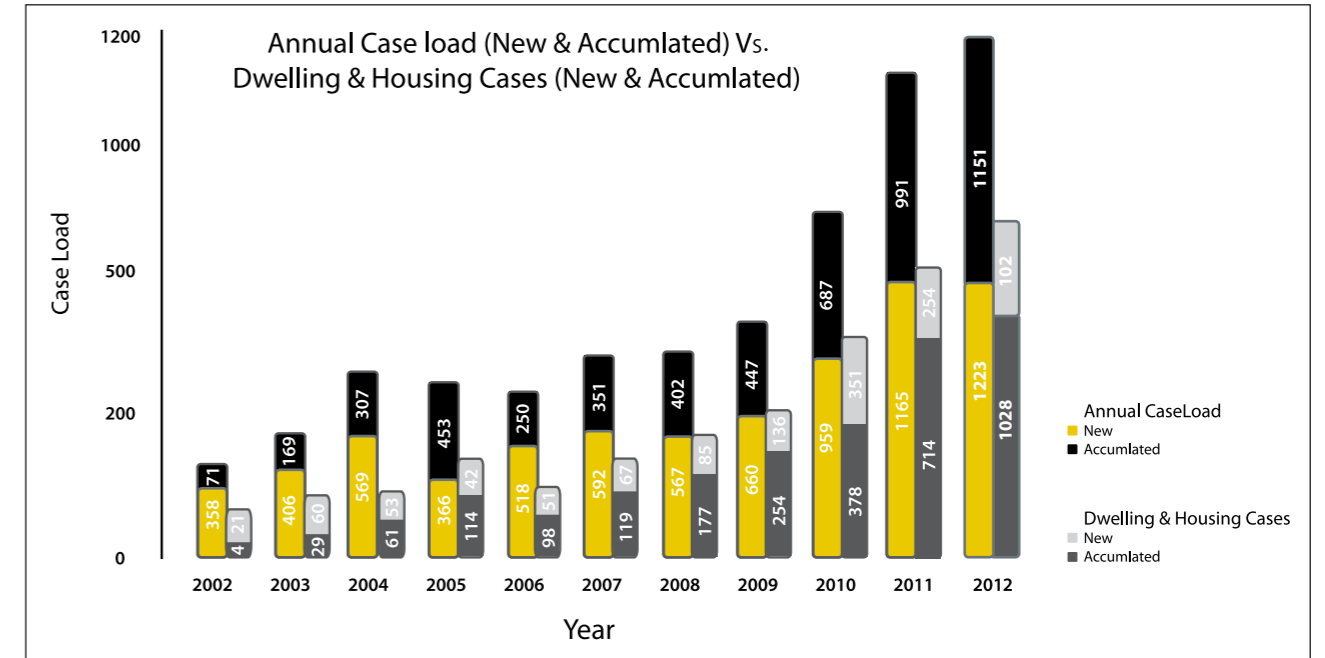
Political separation is strengthened by acts coming to separate between the two legal systems of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, for instance, the President continues to issue decrees that change the legal system. Many of the decree contradict the Basic Law and other laws in force, exceeding the limits of absolute necessity that allow the temporary issuance of some presidential decrees. In parallel, the Legislative Council in the Gaza Strip continues the issuance of laws disregarding the required quorum for its meetings (and for the adoption of the laws without the President). Further complicating any future effort towards the realization of reconciliation. Obtaining the status of a non-member state in the United Nations was the only positive outcome emanating out of 2012; allowing Palestine to join a number of international treaties, including the Rome Statute of Tribunal War Crimes as well as the Fourth Geneva Conventions. The Palestinian Authority has not taken this step yet, however we urge it do so in order to open more political and legal windows in addressing crimes committed by the occupation.

By issuing this report, we conclude another year noting the great effort made by JLAC's staff, as represented by its administrative and general management as well as executive management, staff, and volunteers. To all those we extend our thanks and wish them further development and progress. We also thank JLAC's partners and supporters, whether supporters of main programs or supporters of projects emanating from these programs. This support enabled JLAC to achieve results in 2012, more than any year prior, as reflected in this annual report. We thank all those mentioned and promise them, as well as our people, that JLAC will hold fast to its commitment to defend human rights and dignity and will abide to its principles. JLAC likewise vows to continue operating with a high level of professionalism so as to maintain the Center's resources and commit to using them effectively, as these resources are meant to be public funds for which citizens have the right to hold us accountable for their best means of utilization.

We enter this new year having completed the evaluation of our plans and action for the years 2008-2012, and at the threshold of planning a new phase built on previous successes, strengths, sound experience and standing and confidence we have built with our partners.

The below table serves to illustrate JLAC's efficiency in managing its various donor grants and its "optimal use" of resources. As made evident by the figures, JLAC's entire budget for 2012 was far less than the cost that would have otherwise been charged by private sector law firms in addressing the same legal issues.

	Case Type	of Cases #	Cost of Case in Private Sector/ USD	Total
Israeli Courts	Public interest	7	10000	70000
	Land	9	5000	45000
	Settler Attacks	8	2000	16000
	House Demolition	121	1500	181,500
	Agricultural Facilities	68	1500	102000
	Forced Displacement	28	3000	84000
	Social Rights	243	700	170100
	Economic Rights	686	700	480200
	Travel	3	500	1500
	Prisoner Visitation	1	300	300
	Permits	11	300	3300
	Bodies Campaign	2	5000	10000
	Miscellaneous	36	700	25200
	Sub Total	1223	-	1594100
	Palestinian Courts	Public Interest	9	10000
Arbitrary Dismissal		9	1000	9000
Miscellaneous		4	1500	6000
Sub Total	22	-	105000	
Petitions	Israeli Courts	38	3000	114000
	Sub Total	38	-	114000
	Total			1422100



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 Objectives

Empowerment of vulnerable Palestinians at risk of violations of their human rights towards challenging imposed violations:

- Vulnerable Palestinians at risk of violations of their human rights are able to access legal aid.
- Victims of human rights violations are aware and have knowledge of the available means in challenging violations.
- Local human rights institutions are able to deal with procedures involved in challenging violations of human rights.

Creating an institutional, policy and legislative environment that enables the mobilization of social capital and international support towards respect of human rights.

- Coalitions and working groups are capable and empowered to manage advocacy campaigns.
- Policies enforced ensure the respect of human rights.
- Justice system effectively addresses and halts offences of human rights.
- The public is better aware of and participatory in addressing risks of violations.

Increasing JLAC's preparedness and capacity to achieve its strategic objectives.

- JLAC's institutional, administrative and human capacities meet the needs for realizing its strategic objectives.
- JLAC has the technical capacities and appropriate experience needed to move forward with the adoption of public interest cases.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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



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”.



Introduction

During the last three years, Israel formulated the worst governing coalition of its history, throwing out obligations of Israel as an occupying power and failing to heed international diplomatic pressures in this regard. Well represented by extremist settlement movements, the current government has endorsed a mix of policies prioritizing efforts to strengthen Jewish settlements in the West Bank while facilitating measures that forcefully displace Palestinian inhabitants. Indeed, the most prominent features of Israeli politics have aimed at consolidating control over Jerusalem and large segments of the West Bank (i.e. areas classified as “C”) through the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian residents.

Though Israel has urged the Palestinian Authority to hold on to efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement, no moratorium has been offered by the Israeli side rather a rush to augment existing facts on the ground is transpiring. Such only serves to contradict Israel’s alleged commitment to peace negotiations; as existing geographic discontinuities are only further perpetuated and worsened, countermanding the viability of a two-state solution with an independent state of Palestine.

The following policies have significantly impacted JLAC’s scope of intervention in Area “C” of the West Bank;

Fore and foremost, the past several years have witnessed an unprecedented escalation in the demolition of homes, forced displacement, and land confiscation. Second, organized actions by Israeli settlers have come to impose pressure (through their ministers in the government) on the Israeli Civil Administration towards accelerating and expanding settlement activities; as translated by the implementation of discriminatory

policies in Area “C” and consequently increased house demolitions and forced displacement of Bedouin communities. Worse yet, the pro-settler Israeli NGO, Regavim, has been permitted to join the Israeli Supreme Court in considering cases of house demolition and forced displacement. This development has served to impact the decisions of the Court in the favor of settlers, as well as to accelerate the pace of implementing decisions of demolition/ displacement. The emergence of the so-called policy of “relocation” of Bedouin communities to concentration camps predesignated by the Civil Administration, serves to threaten the Bedouin way of life if implemented. Past experience of Bedouin relocation sites has proved that eventually, small alternative plots afforded do away with herding livelihoods and ultimately turn the sites into slums in which Bedouins have either become a source of cheap settlement labor or are aid dependent. Recent statistics published indicate that Bedouin contribution to the Palestinian GDP has already suffered, with contributions to red meat and dairy supplies to the market Palestinian falling from 25% to 13% over the past five years.

Third, acts of organized violence by settlers against Palestinians in areas classified as “C” have intensified, with aggression (ranging from physically assault to the destruction of properties and sources of livelihood) being carried out under the nose and protection of the Israeli army and police (contradicting all international norms). Last, the Israeli Civil Administration as headed by the Israeli Military Commander, has renewed the majority of the military orders (otherwise expired) involving the closure (and de facto annexation) of large areas of land on account of alleged security or military purposes. Such was done without reevaluating new developments on the ground (as the presence of the Annexation Wall, closure of Military camps in the vicinity, closure of settlements/out-posts). Worse yet, this has rewarded and encouraged settlers to persist in their violent activities and thrown Palestinians into a worse state of despair concerning an eventual peaceful resolution.

Over the span of the past 5 years, JLAC served to undertake; 1,127 cases of house (and agriculture facility) demolition, 161 cases of forced displacement, 49 cases of land confiscation, 46 cases of public interest, and, more recently, 16 cases of settler violence.

Forced Displacement



Over the past five years, the construction of the Annexation Wall came to completion in Area C as well as efforts to connect settlements with each other and with major cities in Israel through road networks, in addition to the drastic expansion of settlements themselves. Such served to further isolate and constrict the localities in which Bedouins are situated (i.e. southern Hebron, eastern Jerusalem periphery, areas between the Dead Sea and Jericho, among other groupings sprinkled throughout the West Bank). Moreover, the Occupation's policy during this time changed from immediate Evacuation Orders that fail to give JLAC time to intervene in the Bedouins' regard, to giving Stop-work Orders that require submitting building permits in combating the orders.

This change in policy proved to be detrimental, for applying for a building permit (for temporary/movable tents, water tanks, animal barracks, etc.), even in the case of transient Bedouins, requires proof of land ownership. Bedouins, however have historically resided on public lands (i.e. State Land). Thus, this new policy amounts to a forced displacement done silently, without drawing public condemnation as it is achieved through "legal means". According to OCHA reports, nearly all Bedouin communities in the West Bank have received such Stop-work Orders and, thus, are under immediate risk of displacement.

Further devastating this already dire situation, is the Israeli High Court's ruling favoring an Israeli pro-settler organization (Regavim) petition against the Israeli Civil Administration's alleged leniency in demolition of Palestinian homes/structure. As a result, the Israeli Civil Administration offered a listing of its prioritized areas for demolition; in which structures built on State Land, in proximity to settlements/ military bases, or in way of planned settlement infrastructure were listed.

Tending to meet these priorities, JLAC anticipates Bedouin communities to be the first targets in Israel's agenda to ethnically cleans large segments of the West Bank towards its annexation. Moreover, the Israeli Civil Administration is failing to provide basic services; such as education, health, water, and electricity in the areas under its administration (i.e. Area C), with Bedouin communities particularly marginalized. Such serves as another form of pressure towards having communities abandon their homes and lands they inhabit and relocate to areas under PA administration.

During the past several year, the Israel Civil Administration initiated relocation plans for particular Bedouin communities in identified areas (in close proximity to PA administered areas) and offered the targeted communities the option of opting for the relocation plans after they had exhausted all legal channels in maintaining steadfastness in their current localities. The relocation plans offer the very enticing opportunity to live free from threat of displacement and to poses land. However, past precedence of such plans has proved that they come to group Bedouins in proximity too close for maintain their herder lifestyle, eventually turning into slums housing former Bedouins who now find themselves cheap laborers in Israeli settlements. One plan in particular, relocated Bedouins from the Jerusalem periphery to Azeria in close proximity to the garbage dump. Bedouins being offered such plans are mostly situated in proximity to settlements itching to expand, with expansions brining about such developments in opposition to the peace process as; the further isolation of Jerusalem, materialization of E1, severing of access to the Jordan Valley and its de facto annexation, etc.

Over the course of the past 5 years, JLAC undertook 161 cases of forced displacement, 28 of which were adopted in 2012.

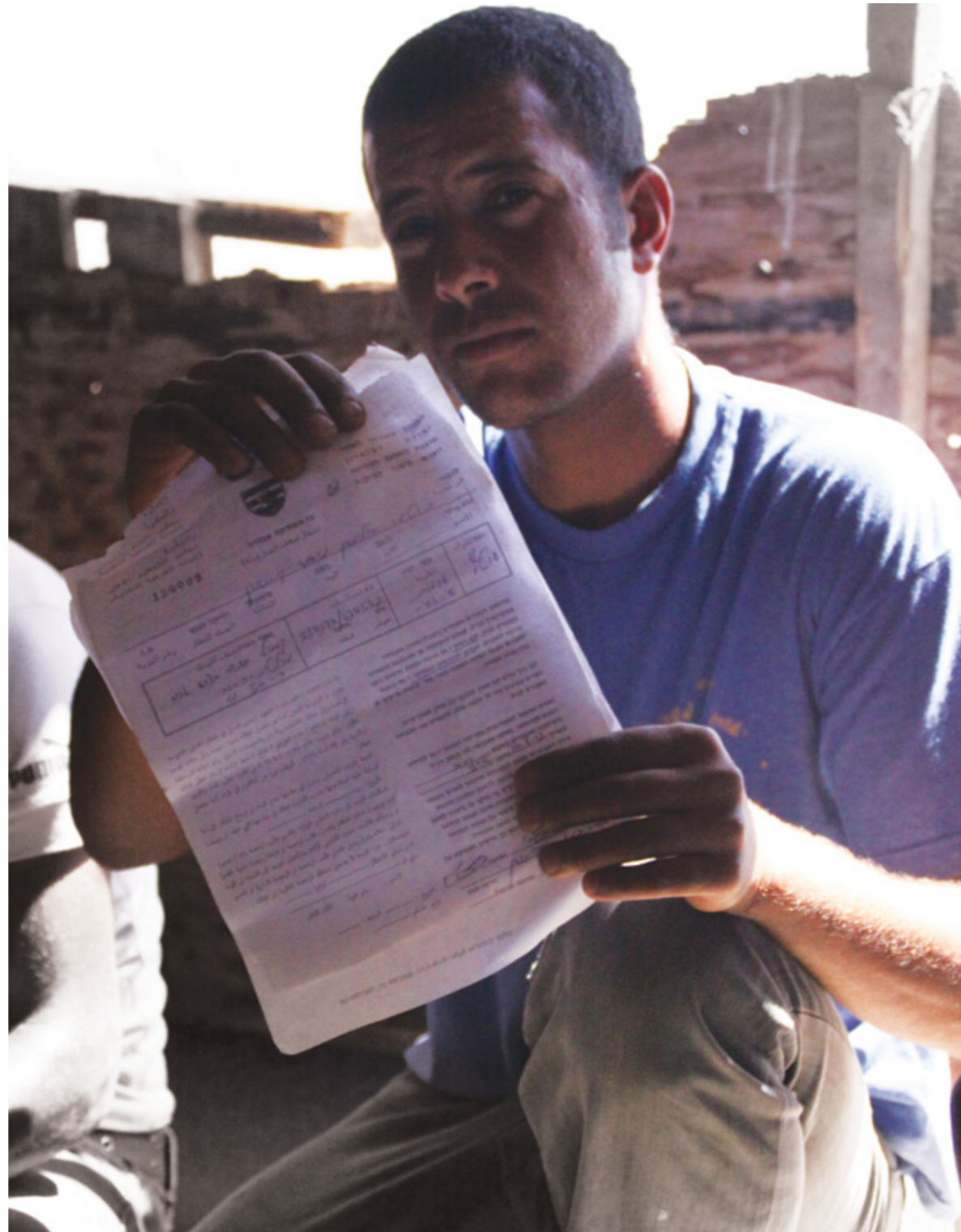
House Demolition

A devastating development in regards to house demolition in Area C is the stipulation of proof of land ownership as a prerequisite for submitting a building permit.

According to this policy, land must be solely owned by one person and only one home is to be situated on a given plot (in a specified ratio of building to land).

Given the nature of land ownership and construction in the oPt, i.e. majority of land is unregistered (as Israel halted land registration within the occupation of the West Bank in 1967). Such, coupled with restrictive master plans which have rendered much of villagers' land with area "C" or reclassified as "State Land" (and thus either inaccessible and/or under the planning authority of the Israeli Civil Administration which rarely issues building permits) have made the possibility of building legally upon one's own land nearly impossible for rural Palestinians. Despite this difficulty in building 'legally' (i.e. attaining permits) Palestinians persists in building upon the lands they own as there is no other solution for them given their limited means and lack of alternatives. Indeed, unregistered construction, and in turn house demolition, will persist as long as Israeli policies regarding Area C remain as they are.

Towards defending Palestinians from the illegal measures that threaten to demolish their homes and livelihood, JLAC adopted 942 cases of house demolition over the span of the past five year, with 189 new cases adopted (and 722 ongoing cases followed-up) in 2012 alone



Success Story

Amneh from the village of Doma in the outskirts of the Nablus District struggled to build her modest home on the only plot of land she owns, in the area of the village classified as "C". Owning no land within the village's restrictive master plan, and scraping by in supporting her children as a widow, Amneh was not in the position to acquire more land (as buying land within the village master plan has become quite expensive).

In 2006, 6 years after she laid her home's first stone, Amneh received a demolition order from the Israeli Civil Administration. She was advised by her village council to approach JLAC for legal aid, whose attorney Basam Karajah & Suliman Shaheen promptly went on to put Amneh's case through the necessary legal channels. JLAC continued to follow-up her case over the years and in September of 2012 received a final ruling in Amneh's regard.

JLAC was pleased to learn that the High Court had in fact cancelled the demolition order. This is a rare occurrence as most cases are merely frozen and not closed, subject to being reactivated at any time. However, given the apolitical nature of Amneh's case (i.e. the home's distance from surrounding settlements, settlement facilities, or any other matters of strategic significance) she was among the fortunate 22 such cases closed positively in 2012.

Land Confiscation

According to an Ottoman land laws dating back to 1852, if a plot of public land is cultivated for 10 consecutive years by an individual, he or she has the right to register the land in their name. The law also stipulates, if a plot of privately owned land goes uncultivated for 3 consecutive years, it may then be confiscated by the government. This law had been legislated in an effort to encourage cultivation of land (as agriculture was the major source of national income at the time). The later aspect of this law has found itself in the laws Israel applies in Area C of the West Bank, now manipulated (via military decrees) to serve its own expansionist interest rather than to encourage the productivity of the local population, as had been the original law's intent. The manipulation of this law for such interests is in violation of IHL. Moreover, Israel, as an Occupying Power, is prohibited from appropriating or pillaging occupied lands for self-interest (only for the interest of the local community).

The stipulation of continuously cultivating one's private land has increasingly been harder to meet by communities whose land has been rendered inaccessible by the Annexation Wall, Israeli settlements, closed military zones, fences, road closures, and numerous other obstacles put in place by occupation forces (i.e. Israeli Civil Administration). Though these factors are beyond the control of local citizens, the Civil Administration places the responsibility of 'continuous cultivation' on citizens and bases much of its confiscation efforts on this argument. Moreover, many of the beneficiaries whom approach JLAC for legal aid regarding their cases of land confiscation were failed to be notified formally of the confiscation orders, but came across notifications in their fields long after the allotted time for objection. Others were prevented by military forces from accessing their lands, whom accused them of now trespassing.

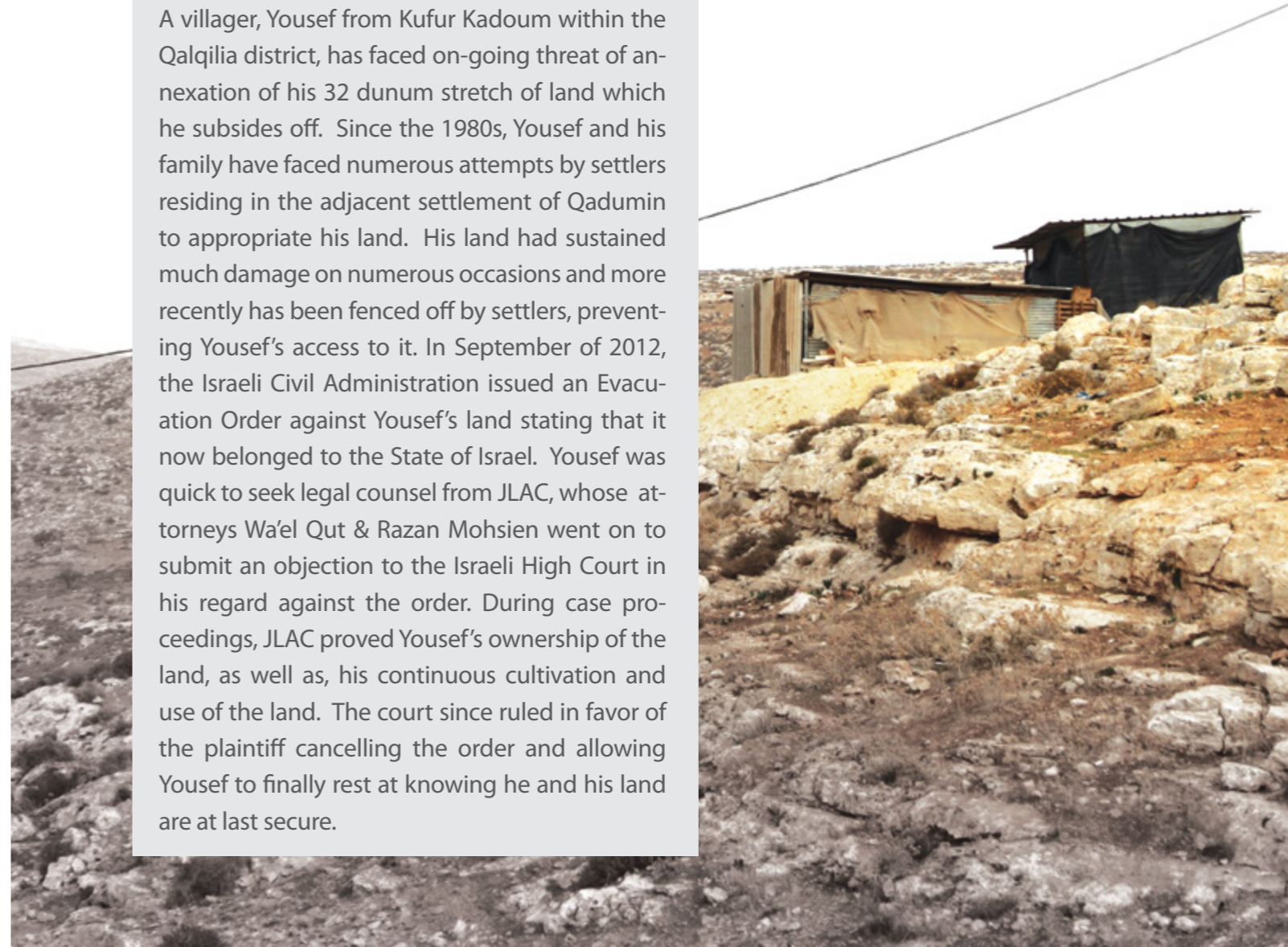
JLAC takes such cases before the Israeli military court to challenge the means of notification and to request a new official date of notification. An appeal is then submitted to the military court against the confiscation order (annexed to it documents proving ownership of the land in question). The appeal is followed by a suit being raised against the State of Israel. This involves several sessions held in court, during which the major objective is to determine the land's continuous cultivation or the inability to access the land (on account of Israeli imposed obstacles).

Eye-witness accounts, aerial photos, and expert opinion are heavily relied on during the sessions. One case was won by arguing the aerial photos submitted by the Israeli Civil Administration were taken at too great a distance to distinguish the cultivation of wild herbs.

Over the course of the past 5 years, JLAC served to adopt 49 cases of land confiscation, 9 of which were adopted in 2012.

Success Story

A villager, Yousef from Kufur Kadoum within the Qalqilia district, has faced on-going threat of annexation of his 32 dunum stretch of land which he subsides off. Since the 1980s, Yousef and his family have faced numerous attempts by settlers residing in the adjacent settlement of Qadumin to appropriate his land. His land had sustained much damage on numerous occasions and more recently has been fenced off by settlers, preventing Yousef's access to it. In September of 2012, the Israeli Civil Administration issued an Evacuation Order against Yousef's land stating that it now belonged to the State of Israel. Yousef was quick to seek legal counsel from JLAC, whose attorneys Wa'el Qut & Razan Mohsien went on to submit an objection to the Israeli High Court in his regard against the order. During case proceedings, JLAC proved Yousef's ownership of the land, as well as, his continuous cultivation and use of the land. The court since ruled in favor of the plaintiff cancelling the order and allowing Yousef to finally rest at knowing he and his land are at last secure.



Settler Violence

Violent attacks by Israeli settlers, as perpetrated against rural Palestinians; began with the establishment of settlements in the early 1970s, took a systematic character in the 1980s, escalated with the second Intifada that erupted in the occupied territories in 2000, and increased significantly in intensity over the past five years. Violence (which ranges from physical assault up to murder, to destruction of private property, burning of crops, and the defacement of places of worship) is used as a tool by settlers to intimidate Palestinians, whether towards gaining footholds in more land or as penalties for the dismantling of illegal outpost by order of the State (i.e. price tag).

Today, settler violence is predominantly concentrated in the northern West Bank, specifically by settlers residing in the settlement of Yezhar, which houses the most extreme settlers and settler youths. Yezhar has a religious center preaching hatred and enticing hate crimes against non-Jews. The southern West Bank, likewise faces daily assaults of violence from settlers mostly in and around the old city of Hebron, perpetrated by settlers from the settlement of Keriat 4. In Hebron, violence has paralyzed the city and facilitated the annexation of much of its lands and homes.

The Israeli military and police are mandated, as per international humanitarian law concerning responsibilities of Occupying Powers, with protecting Palestinians and ensuring security. Israel has not only failed in this regard, but has served to physically protect settlers during such acts and fail to investigate crimes after the fact. Moreover, authorities place obstacles before victims in raising complaints. First and foremost, police stations are situated in the same settlements housing the perpetrators, which causes hesitance on the part of petitioners in filing complaints, as well as, physical obstacles (as Palestinians seeking to enter Israeli settlements must undergo intensive security checks and are often barred from entering). Military orders have also limited the window in which



Palestinian victims can raise complaints concerning assault on private property by Israelis, with the window beginning after the incident took place rather than beginning with the knowledge of the assault. Families are also fearful of retribution (i.e. further attacks) or of loss of rights/privileges (such as working permits) if they proceed with raising complaints. Victims who can gain access to police stations to file their complaints of settler violence face the reality that the majority of such cases close without indictment, due to alleged lack of evidence, defenders being unknown, absence of criminal culpability, lack of public interest, exception from criminal liability, among other purported reasons. According to reports by an Israeli NGO, 91% out of the 627 cases of settler violence reported since 2005 closed without indictment.

JLAC intervenes in this regard by raising at risk communities' awareness of the importance of filing complaints and in methods of documenting such incidents in their occurrence. The Center intensifies such outreach efforts during times of anticipated high risks of violence, as during the olive harvest season, as well as renders consultations and legal representation in office (along all stages of the complaint process; from gathering information and needed documents, to submitting the complaints and providing needed legal follow-up) throughout the year. Ordinarily such victims should be provided with representation from the government or the Occupying Power, in the case of Palestine. The police should likewise investigate the case and raise them before the appropriate courts. JLAC (along with other players) is filling this gap and aiding victims in accessing due process.

If the policy of closing cases without indictments being served against suspects persists, JLAC intends to proceed with raising a Test Case against the Israel police's failure to investigate reported crime. In 2012, JLAC documented 32 assaults by settlers and provided 8 cases with needed legal aid.

Public Interest Cases (Against the Civil Administration)

JLAC has recently felt the need to intervene in reforming the Israeli Civil Administration's discriminatory planning and zoning policies in Area C of the West Bank. JLAC sought to file a petition against the Civil Administration in an effort to expose the strategic nature behind such policies in Area C, and in turn alleviate the policies that perpetuate housing/displacement cases under the guise of building without a permit. The petition seeks to prove this claim through gathering pertinent information. This effort began two years back with correspondences sent by JLAC to the Head of the Israeli Civil Administration, requesting the number of building permit applications approved in the past 5 years. The correspondences also requested the activation of the Jordanian Law (Planning Law of 1966) which stipulated the involvement of local communities in the planning process. Failing to receive any response to its inquiries; JLAC decided to petition the Israeli High Court (in coalition with the following human rights organizations; Society of St Yves, Rabbis for Human Rights, and ICHAD) in demanding the cancellation of Israeli Military Order 418 which cancelled the Jordanian Planning Law of 1966 and restricted planning in Area C to the Civil Administration, and thus eliminating the role of the local community in planning. The petition also requested that current village master plans be expanded; with the involvement of the local communities. JLAC anticipates that this petition will take much time in deliberation, with the ruling dependent on such variables as political changes, outcomes of Israeli elections, among other external factors.

Master Plans

JLAC likewise undertakes the development of new or revised community master plans, as a form of public interest. Within the framework of alleviating house demolition in at risk communities, JLAC undertakes the development of new master plans for communities that lack such schemes, or works to expand existing plans to cope with the natural growth of certain gatherings. In so doing, JLAC



attempts to extend the scope in which the communities may legally build within. Such also serves to secure existing structures having received demolition orders, until the final master plan has been negotiated and decided (at which point orders involving structures falling within the new plan would be null and void). JLAC's intervention likewise restores communities with a voice in planning, robbed of them by the various military orders that restricted planning of Palestinian communities in Area C to the Israeli Civil Administration.

The following are among JLAC's master plans initiated (and still in process) over the past several years, by community;


Al Aqaba: is rural farming and herding village situated on private Palestinian lands in the northern West Bank which has many homes constructed prior to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967. For years, the community has faced blanket demolition orders as it is considered unrecognized by the Civil Administration, with nearly all of the 40+ homes (as well as agricultural facilities) in the village having received orders of demolition. After much consideration, JLAC's attorneys (in discussion with local community leaders) decided to develop a master plan for Al Aqaba in mitigating the demolition orders. The first time the plan was submitted, the Civil Administration responded that the population of the community was less than 400 persons and for them to relocate to the adjacent village (leaving their lands and homes they own behind). In response, JLAC reduced the space proposed in the plan for development and resubmitted the plan. The second response received from the Civil Administration was that the population was minimal and the plan does not meet the Civil Administration's standards and regulations. Once again, JLAC revised the plan to reduce the allotted area some more and resubmitted the plan. JLAC is currently awaiting the Civil Administration's response in this regard. Although JLAC had to alter the proposed master plan several times, JLAC is pleased to have secured the community in their homes and lands until the final form of the master plan is agreed upon (as no action may be taken by the Civil Administration in terms of demolition in the interim).

Khirbet Jabra: is likewise an unrecognized community whom fell behind the Annexation Wall until the route of the wall was objected by JLAC (in coalition with other organizations) and rerouted as to have the village center fall within the Palestinian side of the wall. While behind the wall the community was isolated from the outside world, with its children crossing military checkpoints on their way to and back from school each day. Though now residing primarily outside the wall, the majority of the community's land continues to fall behind the wall and rendered inaccessible, making the possibility of natural

expansion even more restricted. Three years ago, JLAC and the village committee took the decision to develop a master plan for the community in an effort to alleviate the blanket demolitions being issued by the Civil Administration due to the community's unrecognized standing. During the submission of the new master plan, and the security it allows the community, a new school was legally built through JLAC's legal support in facilitating the legal registration. JLAC is currently awaiting the Civil Administration's response to the submitted master plan; to which their granting the school legality is a positive indicator in its regard.

Additional Master Plans: for the villages of Bruquin, Al Sawyeh, and Ithna are likewise currently in the process of back-and-forth submission and resubmission. The communities which collectively exceed 200 homes remain safe from demolition until the final conclusion regarding the master plans is negotiated. In so doing, over 1,000 persons have been made secure in their homes and lands for the time being.



A young girl with curly hair is looking through a metal fence. The fence is made of vertical bars and has a chain-link pattern. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a street or a public area with some structures and possibly other people. The lighting is natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

East 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"



Introduction

According to figures released by the Jerusalem Municipality, Palestinian residents of Jerusalem are in need of 1,500 house unit per annum to meet their natural growth. However, collectively since 2008, only 500 housing units for Palestinians were awarded building permits. Such is evident of the discriminatory policy at play by the Israeli government to push Palestinian Jerusalemites out of the city due to congestion and lack of space for natural growth. Indeed the planning and zoning policies applied to Palestinians have been designed in a way to create hurdles to building as opposed to facilitating it. The permit application process takes between 2-3 years and is very costly, with fees at times amounting to/exceeding the cost of the construction itself (up to 100,000 USD).

Several taxes are also charged after receiving a permit which must be paid in cash (i.e. property tax). The collective amount ranges between 50-200 thousand NIS, depending upon the size of the construction to land ratio in question. Jewish residents of the city, on the other hand, enjoy governmental subsidies as opposed to debilitating fees and regulations. Moreover, the ratio of construction to land in the case of Palestinians is 50%, while it is 120% for Jewish residents.

This discriminatory, restrictive, and costly building permit regime has compelled many Palestinian residents of Jerusalem to undergo

construction without required permits, risking demolition in continuing to live in the city. For in succumbing to the alternative to such construction, that of living outside the bounds of the city, Palestinian residents would in effect fall under a greater risk, that of losing their residency permits (as living in the city is an essential stipulation to maintaining the Jerusalem ID). In turn, all civil, social, and economic rights, the ability to access the city, or travel out of the country with formal papers, would be lost as well.

The land zoned by the Israeli government for development by Palestinians in East Jerusalem is solely 11% (according to OCHA figures), with the closer on goes to the city core (the Old City) the less space for development there is. This has resulted with a shortage of available homes and costly rent for young families to make a life in. Coupled with low income capacity, Palestinians in East Jerusalem are facing a serious housing crisis. As it stands today, 28% of Palestinian construction in East Jerusalem was done without required permits, placing approximately 60,000 Palestinians at risk for displacement from the city (according to OCHA figures). Since 2010, with the launching of JLAC's right to housing program in East Jerusalem, the center served to adopt 61 cases of house demolition in the city, with 21 new cases being adopted in 2012 alone. In so doing, JLAC supported nearly 500 persons in continuing to safely reside in the city and maintain their Jerusalem IDs.

JLAC legal interventions in Jerusalem span to cover the various violations at play, from house demolition to ID confiscation, family reunification and reinstatement of due economic right. In total, JLAC served to provide 1,220 legal services through its Jerusalem branch office. In 2012 as families are often the beneficiaries of these services, JLAC's services in effect came to alleviate the living conditions (in social and economic regards) of more than 7,320 Jerusalemites. This figure does not include the number of people whose living conditions improved due to JLAC's public interest interventions. Most notable where JLAC's achievements made in objecting to the performance of the municipality towards Kufr Aqab (in terms of waste collection) and obtaining an order to freeze the decision on land confiscation (involving the National Park Plan in the neighborhoods of Tur and Issawiya). Outreach efforts were also continued during the year, with the Center providing awareness sessions in nine different neighborhoods of the city of Jerusalem.

House Demolition

The policy of house demolition constitutes one of the tools utilized in the fierce Israeli onslaught for the Judaization of Jerusalem and the displacement of its Palestinian inhabitants. Recent figures indicate that during the year 2012, 102 establishments in the city had been demolished, including 14 residential houses. Moreover, it was reported that occupation authorities had issued 212 demolition orders within the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem during the year 2012. The Jerusalem Municipality has argued that the owners of these establishments did not obtain the needed building permits. However, the municipality is the one negligent in failing to architecturally plan Palestinian neighborhoods. Moreover, the high associated costs for obtaining a building license (which could amount, in some cases, to tens of thousands of shekels) is a further restriction in this regard. Jerusalemites also face "improvement taxes" (allocated for the improvement of the city; a benefit of which the share of the Palestinians is negligible) which are calculated comparatively according to the land area built upon. The amount of this tax is often times very high and is required to be paid in cash in one installment.

In light of these forced majeure conditions, JLAC steps in with services aimed at alleviating the suffering of Jerusalemite citizens whom hold medium to nil income. Such has been realized through the provision of pro-bono legal aid. In this regard, JLAC served to follow-up more than 60 house-demolition cases in the city. The Center also succeeded in protecting more than 500 Jerusalemite citizens from being displaced through securing their rights and promoting their steadfastness in the city.

Social Rights

Pursuant to the decision of the Israeli Minister of Interior freezing the acceptance of applications by Palestinian families for family reunion, the number of such pending applications has exceeded 100,000. In 2012, JLAC treated 199 cases relevant to obtaining family reunification, as well as 50 cases related to application for child registration at the Israeli Ministry of Interior. Children face many considerable



problems in the event that one of their parents was not a Jerusalem- ID holder, the most serious among them is refusal by the Israeli Ministry of Interior to register the child, in turn denying him/ her of their due social and economic rights as Jerusalemites (i.e. ability to reside in the city and access education, health care, allowances, etc.).

Along the same effort, the Israeli Ministry of Interior continued practicing its policy of stripping Jerusalemites of their right to reside in the city of Jerusalem through withdrawing the identity cards (in accordance with their discriminatory protocols) of those who acquire residency/citizenship in a foreign country or have resided beyond the municipal bounds of Jerusalem for more than seven years. Between January and November of 2012, the occupation authority had denied the residency rights of 101 Palestinians, bringing the total of persons having lost their right to reside in Jerusalem to more than 14,232 Palestinians since the city was occupied in 1967. In 2012, JLAC treated 39 cases related to withdrawal of Jerusalem identity cards.

Success Story

“Finally.... I can move freely” were the words uttered by 25 year-old Shireen after a life-long struggle to obtain a permit for residency in Jerusalem. Unlike her siblings, Shireen, the daughter of a Jerusalem ID holding mother and West Bank ID holding father, came to hold a West Bank ID making her life in Jerusalem one of constant restriction and anxiety at Israeli crossings and checkpoints. For the past 4 years, JLAC worked to have Shireen’s permit issued, as to enable her to legally reside with her family in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal al-Mukabber and, in so doing alleviating the suffering she has endured since childhood.

JLAC (attorney Mohammed Abu Sneineh) undertook the matter of obtaining a residency permit for Shireen. Initial efforts to obtain a residency permit were rejected, prompting JLAC to direct its demand to the Humanitarian Committee at the Ministry of Interior. The Commission, in turn, demanded more explanation as to Shireen’s need to reside in the city. JLAC went on to send several correspondences in explaining her standing as a university student, the humanitarian situation she and her family were in (i.e. her mother’s illness) , and Shireen’s consequent need to move freely without restriction. In September 2012, a response from the Ministry of Interior was provided to JLAC stating that Shireen is to be issued a residency permit.



Economic Rights

Another tactic in depopulating Jerusalem of its Palestinian inhabitants is the imposition of economic pressures against Palestinian citizens, through burdensome fines and taxes. Proportionally high Arnona taxes (or property taxes) are charged to Palestinian residents of Jerusalem when compared to Jewish residence who are eligible for various tax exemptions, though Palestinian neighborhoods receive significantly fewer services. To illustrate this approach of the municipality, JLAC submitted in April of 2012 a request for information to the municipality regarding the distribution of the municipal budget in the northern neighborhoods of Jerusalem (primarily Palestinian neighborhoods). According to the information received, less than 1% (0.61%) of the total budget allocated for the health sector is allotted to the northern neighborhoods of Jerusalem. Moreover, Palestinian residents are subject to high fines when failing to meet stringent/discriminatory regulations (i.e. fines issued against buildings erected without building licenses).

In response to the difficult economic times facing Jerusalemites, JLAC has intensified its provision of legal services relevant to economic rights, with 47% more legal services provided in 2012 in this regard as compared with the year 2011. 213 legal services related to property taxes (Arnona)



were provided in 2012. In this regard, JLAC's attorneys submit sworn affidavits on behalf of those burdened by the tax (attesting to the reality of their living conditions) along with applications for tax reduction. Also in 2012, 431 legal services were treated involving the National Insurance Institute of Israel, with cases ranging between applications for obtaining disability allowance to child and widow allowances (among others). In total, JLAC provided 719 legal services towards realizing Jerusalemites' economic rights, attesting to the significant economic burdens facing this already marginalized community.

Success Story:

From Creditor to Debtor

In late August 2012, Mr. Hamidi approached JLAC for legal assistance in arraigning payment installments for the debt imposed on him by the National Insurance Institute in the amount of 15,000 NIS. While following-up his, JLAC attorney Fadia Qawasmi discovered that Mr. Hamidi was in fact the one whom was owed money, as the National Insurance Institute had failed to pay him allowances for his two little daughters (an amount totaling 25,000 NIS). After further correspondences, Mr. Hamidi is now being reimbursed for all due economic rights.

Public Interest

JLAC couples its legal aid to disenfranchised individuals in Jerusalem with cases of public interest alleviating the living conditions of entire communities. In 2012, among the most notable case of public interest adopted by JLAC involved the discriminatory municipal services provided to the northern Palestinian neighborhoods of Jerusalem (i.e. Kufur Aqab, Qaladia, and Samiramis), particularly in terms of waste collection. Accumulation of waste which the citizens personally incinerated, had turned the neighborhoods into a health hazard, resulting in the spread of diseases and insect and rodent infestations. JLAC's attorneys petitioned this case before the Israeli Central Court in April of 2012, seeking to oblige the municipality of Jerusalem to carry out its duties towards the residents of the affected neighborhoods (noting that these citizens pay their tax dues owed to the municipality, especially the Arnona tax). The first hearing to examine this case, after several postponements by the court, was scheduled for June. The hearing was concluded with court compelling the municipality to increase its service provision to the neighborhoods, as follows:

Service Provided	Previous Allocation	Revised Allocation
General Budget	2,030,000 shekels	3,000,000 shekels
Amount of waste collected/ per month	350 tons	840 tons
Amount of waste collected/ per day/ per capita	0.430 Kg/capita/day	0.800 kg/capita/day
Number of working days per week	4 days	6 days
Collection of junk (i.e. scrap metal)	Unavailable	One day per week
Availability of a pick-up trucks to collect waste from alleyways	Unavailable	3 days per week
Nature of the contract	Second contractor	Direct contractor
Submission of monthly reports	Inapplicable	Applicable
Right to go to court	-	JLAC is entitled to return to the same court in the event of the municipality's failure to comply with the court ruling.



A woman wearing a white hijab and a dark brown garment is shown in profile, looking out from behind a set of grey metal bars. Her hands are resting on the bars, and she has a ring on her finger. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Palestinian Authority

Palestinian Basic Law

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



Introduction

2012, as the six consecutive years prior, has witnessed a record share of human rights offences perpetrated against Palestinians by their own governing authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The human rights situation has been reduced to a mere political bargaining chip in talks of reconciliation, with its deterioration being among the worst things that has marked this year. In turn, citizens have become hostages to the political division, as opposed to citizens acquiring rights derived from the Basic Law and prevailing legislations. In May of 2011, a reconciliation agreement, known as the Doha Agreement was signed with a number of positive developments emerging during the last quarter of that year as a result. However, reconciliation efforts soon witnessed deterioration during the first half of 2012, with slight progress in the last quarter of the year. Nevertheless, this progress remained temporary and retractable dependant on the standing of reconciliation efforts. Talks have since resumed in Cairo, with the parties agreeing to the provisions stipulated in the Doha Agreement. Nonetheless, these talks remain on-off.

Among the most serious manifestations of political division is the continued cease in function of the Legislative Council, in which Israel has played a pivotal role in having continued to detain 14 members of the Legislative Council. However, the largest two blocs in the Council bear the additional responsibility of continuing to disrupt the Council's operations, among other non-

retractable violations as the violation of citizens' legal rights. The Change and Reform Block, founded by Hamas, issued 4 laws during 2012, adding to the 28 other laws issued by Hamas during previous years in the name of the Legislative Council. Of the 32 laws in total, 15 were new laws and 10 were amendments to laws passed in previous years. The Block issued these laws without the necessary quorum required for convening Council meets in order to discuss/ratify the laws and without the President's approval. On the other hand, the Palestinian President continued passing laws in the West Bank, utilizing his powers in accordance with Article 43 of the Basic Law in contradiction to its intent. In 2012, the President passed 9 laws, bringing the total laws passed by the President while under the state of division to 68 resolutions (23 new laws and 23 resolutions for the amendment or annulment of previous laws). Article 43 of the Basic Law, is intended to accommodate urgent and necessary decrees, and not to postpone the issuance of resolutions on laws.

Moreover, violations against the right to life continued in 2012, with 54 citizens killed due to the misuse of arms and the state of lawlessness (as compared with 50 citizens killed in 2011). Of those killed, 43 were from Gaza and the remaining 11 from the West Bank. The most serious offense among those had been the killing of 7 citizens by masked men before TV cameras in the Gaza Strip, without anyone being held accountable despite a decision by the de facto government to launch an investigation into the incident. Misuse of weapons claimed many lives as a result of revenge for family and personal feuds, or crimes in the name of (so-called) "family honor". In addition, 2012 witnessed the persistence of complaints of torture and maltreatment during detention, among other violations to the rights of suspects. Most notably, laws governing Criminal Procedure were severely breached. In 2012 alone, four citizens died while in detention centers (two in the West Bank and another two in the Gaza Strip) as a result of suspected torture and maltreatment (as compared to 3 deaths of similar nature occurring in the Gaza Strip in 2011).



Adding to these incidents is the imposition of death sentences and consequent extrajudicial executions carried out in the Gaza Strip in violation to the law. Those issuing the orders of execution should be subjected to criminal justice for the profanation of human life outside the law. During 2012, six death sentence orders were issued and executed in the Palestinian territories, all of which were in the Gaza Strip. Four of those sentences were issued by military courts, out of which three were in cases involving civilians illegally brought before military courts. Such is compared to the 9 death sentences issued in 2011 (6 in the Gaza Strip and 3 in the West Bank), bringing the number of death sentences issued by the various Palestinian courts since the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994 through the end of 2012 to 131 death sentences. A total of 14 death sentences have been executed in the Gaza Strip since the control of the Hamas movement in the summer of 2007, all of which had been executed without the approval of the President and, therefore, illegal and considered murder. During the same time period, no death sentence were executed in the West Bank. Other forms of infringements on human rights also persisted, such as infringements upon; freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, and formation of associations. In regards to the later, the independence of associations has been violated with unlawful interferences being made into associations' affairs. Though some violations have temporarily lessened, such continues to be intertwined with reconciliation efforts.

Faced with the absence of political will to respect the rule of law, manipulation of legislation, and absence of parliamentary accountability and oversight over government performance; control by the judiciary and civil society exist as the only available option in restoring balance between the executive branch and citizens. Such is particularly the cases regarding citizens lacking in political, economic or even tribal power. So, what is the status of the judiciary then? Lack of respect for judiciary decisions by the executive branch has become common practice in the West Bank, which has a track record of non-compliance with court decisions by the executive authority. Records of the Independent Commission for Human Rights show that 181 complaints relevant to violations of court rulings were received in 2010, 131 complaints in 2011 and 40 complaints during the first half of 2012. Those violations constitute a contravention of Article 106 of the Basic Law, which stipulates that non-execution of court rulings is a crime punishable by imprisonment

and dismissal from public office, in case the disruption occurred by a public officer. In spite of all these violations, none of the responsible parties for the incompliance had been imprisoned or dismissed from their post. Such substantially affects the standing and independence of the judiciary and hinders the efforts of judicial reform. If we add to this the presidential decrees, which aim at reducing legal protection and unleashing the executive branch, one can fathom the size of the chasm growing between the executive authority and citizens. The cause for weak existing mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable and un-influential individuals and groups can also be clearly seen. Most recently to this effect, a Decree was announced taking an administrative decision to develop a body for civil action, in contravention of the Basic Law and incoherent with the provisions of the Associations Law number 1 for the year 2000.

As for the Gaza Strip, all appointments that had been made in the judiciary during the period of division are unlawful appointments. The appointment of judges, the Attorney General, and members of the prosecution shall be made by a decision from the President and upon recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council as stipulated in Articles (18) and (63) of the Judicial Authority Law for the year 2002. Such appointments shall not be based on political loyalty and ideological affiliation. Therefore, the current judicial system in the Gaza Strip is de facto and lacks legitimacy, with its rulings subject to being challenged in case that the de facto situation ends, with all the consequent repercussions.

The general situation of human rights, as summarized above, impose the need to develop means and methods combining between lobbying, building coalitions, strategic litigations and challenging of this state of arbitrariness on the part of JLAC and other human rights organizations. In so doing, a balance for citizens among the arbitrariness of the authority may be attempted to be created, in light of the absence of legislative oversight and adequate safeguards for the protection of human rights defenders.

In this regard, and as JLAC's work is restricted to the West Bank, the following interventions have been made in addressing the complex situation at hand;

Political Detention

Political detention by the PA arose as a result of the Political rift in 2007. Soon after, Presidential Decree 28/2007 issued in July of 2007, which froze and took the place of Article 101 of the Palestinian Basic Law, gave the military prosecution the authorities of the civil prosecution. Additionally intelligence forces (among other military bodies) were given the authority to arrest civilians. Moreover, the main functions of the Criminal Pinal Code was halted. The Decree likewise did not frame itself within a bound timeframe (as is required by the emergency nature of President Decrees); thus in it of itself it served to violate the law.

Moreover, the procedures followed by these bodies (i.e. intelligence, national security, etc.) were no longer those explicitly described in the Criminal Pinal Code, but were based on the emergency regulations of the Revolutionary Criminal Procedures Law of 1979 utilized by the PLO while operating in various host countries. In the aftermath of this decree, hundreds of civilians began to be detained on political grounds by military forces for having expressed conflicting political views or affiliation, or just the suspicion of such. The arrests were done in a manner in violation to the law in terms of the bodies conducting the arrests, the procedures undertaken, and the courts the victims were subjected to. Arrests were carried out without declared reasons for arrests and victims were denied legal counsel; leaving it up to the victims' families to give over power of attorney. Moreover, many accounts of torture were documented since this lapse in protocol.



JLAC, witnessing these grave violations committed by the PA on many levels (both in terms of legislation and procedures) and was prompted to intervene by adopting individual cases of political detention. JLAC requested the immediate release of the beneficiaries, on the grounds that their detainment was done illegally. Such was often met with the prosecution responding that the presidential Decree has cancelled the Constitutional Law in question. The significant problem faced by JLAC, however, was when the High Court concluded that it is not specialized to rule in this regard, without referring the case, leaving detainees without any avenue in seeking due process and being released. JLAC (in coalition with other human rights NGOs) persuaded the High Court to form an alternate committee to examine the pending cases, to which favorable rulings were made.

Though today detainment procedures are still being carried out in violation to the law, detainees have become to be subjected to civil court instead, as though now persons holding opposing political views are criminals. JLAC continues to intervene in political prisoners' regard against the illegality of the detainment procedures followed. Cases tend to end with the defendant being released on bail, an indicator that there was never any real evidence against them.

Over the course of the past 5 years, JLAC undertook 90 cases of political detention, 78 of which were positively closed.

Success Story

A citizen, whom has asked to remain anonymous, was arrested by PA military forces in 2010 on the grounds of his political affiliation. Two weeks passed without any knowledge of the man's whereabouts, as he was prohibited from accessing legal counsel and from communicating with his family. His wife approached JLAC for legal aid on his behalf, at which point JLAC promptly raised a petition on account of the illegal manner in which he was arrested and held (i.e. without warrant for arrest, without indictment, arrest by military forces, etc.). Within one week of JLAC's intervention, the man was released and was free to go. Regretfully, he was arrested once again in June of 2012, again detained without being notified of the reasons for his arrest. This time however, he was brought before civil court. JLAC attorney Othman Hamdallah still petitioned the manner in which he was arrested (i.e. lack of clear/stated accusations, etc.); at which point the man was promptly released. JLAC hopes this will be the end of this man's turmoil.

Unfair Dismissal

The political rift of 2007 between Hamas and the PA brought with it the immediate dismissal of hundreds of governmental employees, though they were legally recruited and contracted by creating a new procedure called "security clearance" which involved obtaining a recommendation from all of the PA's security bodies in the appointment of any governmental employee. Such was immediately followed with a number of discharged employees approaching JLAC for legal aid. JLAC began to undertake their cases, focusing on staffers employed by the ministries of health and of education. JLAC filed administrative lawsuits before the Palestinian High Court against the decisions of the relevant ministers and the chairman of the Civil Service Bureau to terminate the appointment of the public servants for not having met security requirements. Initially, JLAC's at-

torneys succeeded in obtaining an interim decisions from the court, committing the ministers and the chairman of the Civil Service Bureau to respond to the lawsuit submitted.

According to the Palestinian judicial system, the court considering such cases should be composed of three judges. However, due to JLAC's suit involving more than 130 cases and the fact that such cases had been previously filed by other organizations and lawyers, a judicial body composed of five judges had been formed. The court later ruled that the High Court of Justice lacks jurisdiction to examine this type of case. The decision was issued by a majority of three judges versus two (whom had considered the court competent and the resolution of the ministers to terminate the appointment of the public servants unlawful). JLAC's attorneys (along with attorneys from among other legal and human rights institutions) denounced this decision, stating that it opposed Article 33 of the Law on the Formation of Regular Courts enforced in Palestine which provides that the High Court of Justice is competent to examine administrative cases. Moreover, similar cases filed by JLAC had received verdicts, both positive and negative, by the quintet, resulting in a conflict in verdicts issued by the same judicial body.

JLAC's attorneys (Bassam Karajah and Othman Hamdallah) went on to follow-up the case legally, demanding in their legal arguments that the Palestinian High Court convene in its full general assembly comprised of all sub-committee member (19 judges in total) to diminish discrepancy between verdicts issued by the same body on the same type of cases and to issue a final ruling in regards to the 130+ open dismissal cases. The court accommodated JLAC's request, and in its first session the assembly selected 3 cases from among the 130 as test cases in investigating the dismissal cases. On September 4, 2012, after much deliberation the assembly ruled that the dismissal orders were null and void. Moreover, the reasons for the dismissal were considered illegal and were accordingly cancelled; with those dismissed ordered to be reinstated in their original posts. So far, this ruling had enabled the majority of JLAC's involved beneficiaries to return to their posts. However, in prior incidents of closed dismissal cases, the relevant ministries, despite the positive rulings, refused to either reinstate the employees in their appropriate positions (i.e.

a senior teacher being assigned to a teaching assistant post) or being denied their due economic rights. JLAC is ready to provide legal consul to its represented governmental employees is such instances were to reoccur. On a relevant side note; in September 2012, slightly before the High Court ruling regarding JLAC's dismissal cases, the Palestinian Prime Minister (Dr. Sallam Fayad) cancelled "security checks" as a prerequisite for employment (which has political affiliation dimensions to it). JLAC considers this a subtle message of the government's will to return the dismissed persons to their posts.

Public Interest

As part of JLAC's mandate to promote legal reform and rule of law, in 2005 the Center began to undertake a new legal approach before Palestinian courts, that of adopting cases of public interest impacting large segments of the Palestinian society or its entirety. So doing has allowed JLAC to have a larger impact, beyond the individual. The first effort in this regard involved obliging the Ministry of Local Government and municipalities to enforce handicap ascendible building regulations on public buildings back in 2005, which resulted in JLAC receiving a positive ruling in its regard. In 2007, JLAC adopted the case of security clearance as a precondition for employment in the public sector and won the case.

JLAC went on to successfully challenge the Ministers' Cabinet "clearance" policy in 2008 which integrated unrelated matters in being provided with governmental documentation/ procedures. Prior to JLAC's intervention, renewing something as simple as a driver's license required the applicant to provide proof that he/she did not have any outdated eclectic bills, among a list of other clearances. In 2010, JLAC adopted a public interest case against the decision of the Ministers' Cabinet to cancel local elections without stipulating a re-schedule date. The decision served to violate the rights of all Palestinians to elect their representatives. JLAC raised the matter before the High Court (in coalition with Al-Haq and Al-Dameer) as a matter of urgency.

The case was well received and the court's ruling highlighted the unconstitutionality of the decision, the right of Palestinians to elect their representatives (every 4 years), without delay, and in an efficient and transparent manner.



Cases Taken Before Israeli Courts 2012

	Case Type	Undertaken		Closed			On-Going	of Petitions #	Notes
		New	Accumulated	Positively	Negatively	Other			
1	Public Interest	17		9			8	0	
		7	10	4	0	5			
2	Settler Attacks	18		1			17	0	
		8	10	1	0	0			
3	Land Confiscation	34		1			34	0	
		9	25	1	0	0			
4	House Demolition	843		36			807	37	
		121	722	26	3	7			
		150		34					
4	Agricultural Facilities	68		25			116	37	
		82	25	3	6				
4	Forced Displacement	137		32			105	37	
		28	109	23	0	9			
5	Social Rights	297		245			52	0	
		243	54	234	0	11			
5	Economic Rights	719		698			21	0	
		686	33	688	1	9			
6	Travel Ban	10		9			1	0	
		3	7	0	0	9			
		17		17					
6	Prision Visitation	1		3			0	0	
		16	3	0	14				
6	Meducal Treatment	23		18			5	0	
		11	12	8	0	10			
7	Retreval of Bodies Cam- paign	55		0			55	0	
		2	53	0	0	0			
8	Miscellaneous	54		43			11	0	
		36	18	40	0	3			
Total	Total	2374		1143			1176	37	
		1223	1151	1053	7	83			
	Legal Consultations	.Consultations provided rgarding the various violations by the Israeli authorities 2,689							

Cases Taken Before Palestinian Courts 2012

	Case Type	Actual Cases		Closed			On-Going	of Petitions #	Notes
		New	Accumulated	Positively	Negatively	Other			
1	Public Interest	10		1			9	-	
		9	1	0	0	1			
2	Unfair Dismissal	113		3			110	-	
		9	104	3	0	0			
3	Political Detention	4		0			4	-	
		0	4	0	0	0			
5	Miscellaneous	4		0			4	-	
		4	0	0	0	0			
Total	Total	131		4			127	-	
		22	109	3	0	1			
	Legal Consultations	consultations provided concerning issues related to the Palestinian Authority 1,000							

Outreach & Advocacy



Outreach Efforts

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).



Outreach

JLAC's outreach efforts involve four main outreach groups; 1) local government officials in raising their capacity to pass on sound legal knowledge to their subsidiaries, 2) local communities in enhancing their legal awareness towards combating violations of their human rights, 3) lawyers in raising their legal capacity in new procedures, and 4) volunteers in empowering their standing as barriers of information and leaders within their communities. The following provides more in this regard;

Training of Community Leaders

JLAC engages local government officials mostly in the northern West Bank along the eastern region of the Nablus District and within and around the Salfit district, as communities in these areas are facing intensified orders of demolition, land confiscation, settler violence, among other violations to their human rights. Since local governments are victims' first resource for information and solutions, JLAC seeks to raise the knowledge of officials in dealing with demolition/confiscation orders and documenting attacks of settler violence. Local government officials also come to refer victims to JLAC for legal aid and to a number of other bodies providing complimentary services (i.e. humanitarian aid, women's institutions, etc.). In 2012, JLAC provided 6 training targeting local governments in the West Bank, collectively benefiting 90 persons.

Community Awareness

In 2012, JLAC delivered legal awareness raising sessions to at-risk communities in the West Bank on topics vital to their security (i.e. house demolition, settler violence), with certain topics added to sessions as requested by the community, such as women's inheritance. Local governments engaged by JLAC through prior outreach efforts were vital in hosting the community awareness sessions, identifying the subject matters of the trainings, and in ensuring attendance. The communities targeted were located in the Nablus, Salfit, and Qalqilia districts of the northern West bank, with 6 sessions held and 120 persons.

Likewise in East Jerusalem, JLAC conducted a number of awareness sessions for at-risk communities as to raise their awareness of methods in mitigating and/or combating orders of demolition. In this regard, 4 community awareness sessions were held in 2012, targeting the Jabal Mukaber, Beit Hanina, Sur Baher, and Imlaysoun communities suffering from intensified demolition orders. Approximately 80 persons were collectively outreached through this intervention. Community awareness sessions were likewise held addressing Jerusalemites' social and economic rights (i.e. reducing burdensome taxes, child registrations, etc.). During the year, JLAC provided 9 workshops and awareness sessions targeting 180 persons from among nine different neighborhoods of the city (the old city of Jerusalem, Tur, Beit Hanina, Shu'fat, Issawiyah, Jabal al-Mukabber, Sal'aa, Sur Baher and Um Laysoon).

Capacity Development of Lawyers- Jerusalem

The matter of addressing house demolition cases in East Jerusalem is no easy feat, particularly given the limited Palestinian legal capacities in this regard. In fact, JLAC had to raise its own capacity before launching its right to housing program in East Jerusalem in 2010. In an effort to strengthen the legal capacities of Palestinian lawyers (holding Israeli bars) in house

demolition matters within East Jerusalem, JLAC sought to train fresh graduate lawyers in the Israeli laws applicable in such cases. In this regard, 4 training sessions were delivered in 2012.

Volunteerism

The Defenders Movement

JLAC's Defenders Movement, initiated in 2009, has come to comprise 300+ youth from across the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Through various specialized projects, the youth have been trained in various topics on human rights and have emerged as active members of their local communities passing on their new-found knowledge. In continuation of these prior efforts, JLAC provided 2 specialized trainings in 2012 to a group from among its volunteers. The focus of the trainings was settler violence as it is an emerging key issue growing in frequency and in severity. During the sessions, the volunteers received in-depth training in documenting settler violence attacks and became familiar with complaint procedures. The trained volunteers have since become a vital resource for JLAC in documenting settler violence offences, as well as in coordinating/implementing local advocacy efforts, collecting needed data from the field, and maintaining certain social media forums (i.e. Facebook accounts, websites, etc.).

Volunteers in East Jerusalem

Through a Quakers' funded project (Public Achievement Project in the amount of 3,500 USD), JLAC was able to provide intensified training to 90+ active volunteers from within



Jerusalem. The training covered a range of subject matters; from IHL and use of social media, to specific legal awareness on house demolition and other due rights. The volunteers were subdivided among 3 groups with different thematic focuses; relayed to the volunteers through 15+ training sessions over the 6 month course of the project. In each group the importance of outreaching local communities (in identifying needs and in delivering community projects) was adamantly emphasized. In fact, sub-group members were allocated 500 USD each to develop and implement community projects. One particular project which drew JLAC's attention was the development of a short documentary aimed at shedding light upon the human rights situation in Silwan.

Advocacy

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

2012 brought many significant achievements for the "National Campaign for the Retrieval of Arab & Palestinian War Victims' Bodies and the Disclosure of the Fate of those Missing". The year witnessed the release of 91 bodies in May, amounting the total number of bodies released to 93 bodies (equivalent to 26.5% of the total number of documented cases). This achievement had been made possible due to the Campaign's perseverance and continuity, as well as the political and diplomatic efforts made by the Palestinian leadership, whom capitalized on the timing and favorable circumstances created by the Campaign (through political, diplomatic and media efforts made on regional and international levels).

In parallel, JLAC's legal department submitted petitions for the release of another 4 bodies, while continuing vigorous efforts to uncover the truth behind the fate of Anis Doleh's remains. Doleh, a Palestinian detainee held by Israeli occupation forces between 1968-1980, died in Ashkelon prison due to deliberate medical negligence. His body is believed to have been dissected later on at the Israeli Institute of Forensic Medicine in Jerusalem (Abu Kabir) by medical students. Israeli authorities have denied any knowledge in regards to Doleh's fate after that point.

JLAC's legal department is likewise following-up its initial petition before the Israeli High Court demanding that the Israel government establish a DNA bank in order to facilitate the DNA testing of family members towards the identification and eventual release of their loved ones' remains. The Center aims, through this petition, to prevent the reoccurrence of the tragic situation resulting during the release of the remains of 91 victims in May of 2012, during which 9 other unidentified victims' remains were included. Such occurred despite the Campaign's leadership having refused an Israeli offer to release 70 unidentified persons' remains, in order to avoid the transfer of the remains from the Israeli cemetery of numbers to a Palestinian cemetery of numbers. This became the fate of the 9 unidentified bodies however, with the leadership of the Campaign and the concerned parties in the Palestinian National Authority temporarily housing the remains in a cemetery in Ramallah until favorable conditions allow for their identification and return to their families.

Major Achievements

139 new cases were documented, bringing the total documented cases of withheld bodies and persons missing to 442 (including 64 missing persons), broken down into classification as follows;

- The majority of victims, approximately 261 persons or 68.9%, are youth between the ages of 18-25, with 6.8% under the age of eighteen, 18.7% between the ages of 26-35, and 6.4 % above the age of 35.
- The majority of the victims, approximately 63.7%, are from the time period of the second uprising Intifada, 1995-2006, 62 (or 16.4%) are from the period between 1972- 1994, and 77 (or 20.4%) of the victims are from the time period between 1967-1971.



- Preparations are underway to publish the second edition of the Campaign book entitled: “We Have Names & We Have a Homeland”, which represents the first Palestinian document addressing the file of the dead and missing whose bodies are withheld in Israeli custody. This edition is scheduled to be published by June of 2013.
- The emergence of concrete outputs towards Arabizing and globalizing the cause, as reflected in activities undertaken by the Palestinian ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, and Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, in cooperation and coordination with the leadership of the Campaign. Additionally, political and diplomatic interventions were undertaken by a number of international unions, political and parliamentary organizations, whom took it upon themselves to pressure Israel to immediately release withheld remains and to disclose the fate of the missing.
- Local campaign committees strengthened their membership and organized well-executed popular and media events and activities. Such was positively reflected in the overall performance of the National Campaign, with regular and periodic meetings held and successes achieved in the Campaign’s work.

The achievements in the Campaign thus far, have pushed those involved (forces, institutions and cadres) to make even greater efforts towards closing this tragic file, and bringing this ugly violation of the human dignity of the dead and collective punishment of their families to an end. Such will be achieved, through: 1) Ensuring a united Palestinian national position, in the face of the attempts made by the government of Israel to close this file by returning victims in an unidentified manner (i.e. by name, dates, and locations of death), to not replace the Israeli cemeteries of numbers with Palestinian ones and, in turn, continuing to violate the sanctity of the dead. 2) Considering the cause of withheld victims’ remains a matter of national priority like the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

This would mean demanding the release of withheld bodies in conjunction with the demand of freeing prisoners. 3) Reviving and activating the resolutions of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the decisions of the relevant ministerial councils, (i.e. decision Council of Arab Ministers of Justice as stated during a legal symposium held on May 19, 2011) particularly those related to presenting the cause before judicial, legal and human rights forums and demanding holding

Israeli officials accountable for these crimes, which amount to war crimes. 4) Following-up on established relations with international organizations and UN agencies, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross, towards intensifying their efforts to demand the immediate release of the Palestinian and Arab war victims’ remains (in an identifiable manner, i.e. by their real names and the dates and places of death). Until such is achieved, the following matters are of urgent concern;

- Identification of the amount and names of victim remains held, as well as the locations of gravesites.
- Visitation by victims’ families of gravesites and practice of religious rites and traditions, under the organization and supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Follow-up of JLAC’s legal efforts to establish a DNA bank, in order to take DNA samples from victims’ families towards identifying victims’ identities and returning remains to their families.
- Continuing legal and diplomatic efforts to free more victims’ remains, especially those withheld for many years and whose first-degree relatives now suffer from life-threatening conditions.



Freedom of Movement (KARAMA Campaign)

KARAMA (which means 'dignity' in Arabic) is a public and national campaign aimed at promoting the independence of Palestinians, alleviating their suffering while travelling within and outside of Palestine, and ensuring their freedom and dignity. On the 19th of April 2012, the KARAMA Campaign became an official registered Palestinian non-governmental organization under reference number RA-22787-HR of the Palestinian Authority. The Campaign is aware that the fundamental solution to the freedom of movement and travel for Palestinians is for the Israeli occupation to cease, and for Palestinians to achieve freedom and sovereignty over their borders, land, water, and air; towards which the Campaign likewise aspires. As a first phase the Campaign has focused on Palestinians' right to travel to and from Jordan (via the Karameh Bridge in Jericho) with freedom and dignity, devoid of financial burdens. Exhaustive routine procedures must also be reduced and an immediate improvement must be made to existing traveling conditions. In this regard, the Campaign has raised demands to the relevant Jordanian and Israeli authorities, as well as the PA, concerning the following matters;

- Travel to and from Jordan in modern, adequate busses from Palestinian city centers to and from Jordanian city centers without humiliating treatment, redundant waits, and burdensome financial expenses.
- Free travel via private cars directly driving through crossing bridge.
- Opening of bridge 24 hours a day, with scheduled bus timings.
- Reclaiming PA jurisdiction as it was prior to 2002.



KARAMA's advocacy targets in this regard include;

- Palestinian Authority: KARAMA addresses the Palestinian Authority in order to enhance the conditions on the Palestinian side, starting from Jericho reception stop. The President's office has been very cooperative in this regard, with a special committee formed to follow-up on travel needs. Within a 6 month time-frame, many tangible changes have been made to travel conditions on the Palestinian side. However, the Palestinian segment is just the beginning part of a costly journey in terms of the few kilometers traveled, services provided, and time taken.
- Jordanian Side: Knowing that Jordan is the sole exiting passageway for Palestinians residing in the West Bank to access the outside world, the KARAMA Campaign addresses the Jordanian authorities through the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Palestinian National Authority. Responses have been very limited and can be described as negative. The campaign issued a plea to King Abdullah II of Jordan via Jordanian newspapers but with no avail. The Campaign attempts to work now with The National Center for Human Rights in Amman, Jordan via its Palestinian counterpart, the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine in achieving desired improvements on the Jordanian end.
- Israeli Side: The Campaign targeted the Israeli occupation authorities, considered as the most essential front, particularly PA presence at the bridge was terminated following the outbreak of the second Intifada. KARAMA has targeted pressure groups that can influence the Israeli authorities to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian travelers by shedding light on the real humanitarian needs of Palestinians. Such groups have included Israeli peace groups, Arab Knesset Members, as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- A documentary is currently be developed on the hardships endured by Palestinians while traveling through the bridge to Jordan and back.

Residency Rights of Jerusalemites

The Campaign was forged in an effort to highlight the Israeli violations aimed at stripping Palestinian Jerusalemites from their residency rights (and in turn their ability to live in the city and contribute to its demographic make-up). The Campaign's main interventions in this regard include media campaigns, workshops, community awareness sessions, as well as, diplomatic mission meetings aimed at soliciting country support in pressuring Israel to cease its discriminatory practices. In 2012, the Campaign received funding from the European Union and Oxfam towards supporting its efforts, allowing for the development of the Campaign and the recruitment of a Campaign Coordinator and an Advocacy Officer. In November of this year, the Campaign was invited to partake in the World Social Forum held in Puerto Allegro, Brazil in which both a Campaign Coordinator and JLAC staffer participated in panel discussions on the violations being imposed upon Jerusalemites (including those threatening their residency rights).

Advocacy Interventions

Publications & Media

Training Manual "Human Dignity in Judicial Practices: Theoretical Study and Case Studies":

In 2012 JLAC issued a training manual, entitled: "Human Dignity in Judicial Practices: Theoretical Study and Case Studies". The development of this manual was achieved in cooperation with the Institute of Law at Birzeit University and the University of Windsor in Canada. The manual examines the concept of human dignity and its applications, which is considered now the essence of human rights. This release is considered significant and new of its kind both in the area of human rights and in Palestine. For readers of Arabic language; there is no such manual specializing in the use of the concept of human dignity and its applications in judicial proceedings before Palestinian or Arab courts.

The manual is divided into three sections; the first section provides a detailed introduction on human dignity in international and regional instruments and treaties and Palestinian laws. The second section presents 20 cases from the global context in which the principle of human dignity had been used in judicial proceedings before courts. Lastly, the third section presents 3 cases from the Palestinian context in which the principle of human dignity had been used before the Palestinian judiciary.



Defenders Magazine

JLAC's Defenders Movement (comprised of 300+ youth volunteers) contributed to the development of one new issue of the Defenders Magazine during the year, which was released in May. The issue highlighted various thematic human rights issues, most notably reconciliation efforts between the PA and Hamas. The magazine provided the arena for the youth to put their thoughts to paper and debate issues of concern. The magazine was disseminated to local universities, institutions, and organizations. JLAC's volunteers are currently preparing for a new issue scheduled for release in May of 2013.

Awareness Brochure

An awareness brochure was developed this year specifically addressing attacks launched by settlers. The brochure illustrates in detail the legal steps that can be taken by citizens in the event of being exposed to such attacks, among them how to document the incident and approaching JLAC for legal aid. In an effort to outreach a larger number of at risk communities, JLAC developed a radio spot summarizing the content of the brochure and broadcasted it through a number of local radio stations in the central and northern areas of the West Bank. JLAC has since been approached by a number of victims of settler violence seeking restitution for the crimes perpetrated against them.

Short Movies

JLAC produced 3 short movies in 2012 which were utilized in its advocacy efforts. The first movie highlighted issues concerning youth, in general, and issues concerning Bedouin youth, in particular. Interviews were conducted with a number of Bedouin youth, who expressed the economic, social and political issues they face in their own words. The other two movies were released during the holidays of Christmas and New Years as JLAC's holiday message. Two families, one Bedouin and the other Jerusalemite, congratulated the world on these occasions explaining through the movies their difficult living situation under repeated Israeli violations of their human rights. The movies were distributed and disseminated through JLAC's mailing list, which includes consulates, embassies, international and local organizations, and activists in the field of human rights, among others. The movies were also publicized through YouTube (which may be viewed by visiting the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/jlac1974>).



JLAC in Local Media

JLAC communicates its work, legal opinions, progress made and hindrances faced, as well as public information through such open channels as local media outlets, and social networking sites, and public meetings. Over the years, JLAC has become a prominent source of information to local media and journalists seeking to tackle such societal issues as; Israeli authorities' violation to the rights of dwelling and living, social and economic rights (especially in Jerusalem), and the national campaign addressing detained war victims' remains and the fate of missing persons (dating back to the 1967 war). JLAC's media strategy is to provide instant and accurate information to media outlets and the public, to provide story element details to journalists, and to provide guidance and announcements to the public towards combating violations faced. This is done with two intertwined aims; to raise public awareness and to publicize certain stories/cases towards enlisting support and creating an advocacy clout in lobbying for needed reforms.

Moreover, local media (i.e. local radio, press, and television) is the main outlet through which JLAC outreaches the public and comes to learn of pressing community legal needs. JLAC has introduced its services to the various local radio, press, and television outlets operating in the West Bank, in order to refer persons with related violations to the Center. JLAC is currently preparing for a series of call-in radio shows in which a JLAC attorney will be available to answer listeners concerns both on and off the air, as well as later in-house at JLAC's offices. JLAC hopes to develop a similar series on local television later in 2013.

Field Visits

JLAC carried out 36 field visits in 2012, 28 of were to the Jordan Valley and the northern West Bank and the remaining 8 carried out in Jerusalem. The goals of the visits varied from: documenting violations of human rights to informing diplomatic missions and human rights activists of the human rights conditions in the visited areas. Of the field visit carried out in Jerusalem, one particular visit involved 35 persons from among diplomatic bodies, international institutions, and media agencies operating in the city of Jerusalem. The visit served to shed light upon planning dangers and consequent land confiscation in the towns of Al Tur and Issawiya, where 741 dunums (74,100 sq meters) of land are at risk of confiscation. For the second consecutive year JLAC has provided briefing and field visits to new EAPPI volunteer in acquainting them with the realities (legal and pertaining to

human rights) facing Palestinians in Jerusalem at the hand of occupation authorities. Such involved both an in-office briefings and field visits to various areas of the city of Jerusalem, i.e. the old city, outposts, marginalized neighborhoods, etc.

Coalitions & Working Groups

JLAC pays considerable attention to coordination and cooperation among human rights institutions and relevant civil society organizations and government departments, particularly in terms of building specialized coalitions. Such allows for the maximization of programmatic results, minimization of duplication and gaps, and opportunities for mutual learning and forming a collective voice. The following are the coalitions which JLAC partakes in and/or leads on a permanent basis;

The Palestinian Human Rights Council

The Council includes eleven human rights organizations at the level of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, working in a variety of fields adhering to a human rights principals (based on international conventions and human rights principles). JLAC holds the position of a member of the Council's secretariat, partaking in periodic meetings and contributing to joint statements and position papers (addressing both domestic and international public opinion, competent international bodies, UN Special Rapporteurs, the UN Human Rights Council, diplomatic bodies and mission, and the media).

Among the Council's achievements in 2012 included its independent inquiry of the PA's violence against peaceful demonstrators protesting the visit of former Israeli Minister of Defense, Shaul Mofaz (for his suspected involvement in war crimes during aggression on the Gaza Strip and the wide invasions of the West Bank in 2002). The Council announced its findings in a joint press conference, emphasizing the right of citizens to peaceful assembly. The Council has likewise begun to collectively negotiate private sector service providers towards securing better rates for staff benefits (i.e. medical insurance) and communication fees.

The Palestinian NGO Network

The Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) is the only coalition for Palestinian NGOs. PNGO represents an important part of the Palestinian civic action at the level of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and

includes the most important organizations working in fields such as human rights, health, agriculture, education, culture and women empowerment. PNGO works on strengthening civic action, protecting its independence, coordinating its efforts, influencing public policy, contributing to reform efforts and enhancing the resilience and steadfastness of citizens.

The Coalition for Jerusalem

The Coalition for Jerusalem is a coalition comprised of civil institutions and other segments of civil society. The Coalition specializes in the implementation of advocacy and lobbying activities for issues concerning Jerusalem and the coordination of special activities in this regard. Through this Coalition, JLAC has sought the formation of campaigns to defend various human rights issues in Jerusalem.

The Coalition against Torture

The Coalition against Torture is a Palestinian coalition specializing in monitoring, documenting and following up the crimes of torture. The coalition likewise works to raise awareness on such crimes, conducting lobbying and advocacy activities to end torture and all forms of treatment that degrades human dignity regardless of the entity or authority exercising such crimes.

The Coalition against the Death Penalty

The Coalition against the Death Penalty is also a specialized coalition comprised of human rights organizations working towards abolishing the penalty of death within Palestinian law. The coalition likewise works to halt execution until this abolition is achieved and to raise awareness on its impacts, as well as, its contradiction with the principle of the right to life.

The Code of Conduct Coalition

The Code of Conduct Coalition is comprised of the four Palestinian NGO networks and unions operating in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as representatives of the NGO Development Center (NDC). The Code of Conduct Coalition aims at strengthening civic action, improving its governance and promoting transparency and accountability among its actors. The Palestinian NGOs' Code of Conduct was developed by the NDC which works on building a system of commitment to this Code to enhance the

reputation, position and role of the Palestinian civic action.

Committee for the Defense of Public Freedoms

This Committee is a political human rights coalition that includes human rights organizations, parliamentary members, political figures and other civil society organizations. The coalition was established following the political division in 2007 to address the massive and blatant violation of human rights that followed the division and escalated continuously. The coalition tries to pressure political authorities to stop violations and to not make respect of human rights dependent upon progress or setbacks in national reconciliation efforts. Rather the coalition wants political authorities to consider the legal and constitutional rights at stake and how infringement of such constitute a crime.

In addition to the above memberships, JLAC is likewise an active member in certain specialized legal committees, providing support and legal counseling and participating in periodic meetings as needed. These committees include: the Committee for the Defense of Lands in the Salfit Governorate, the Legal Committee on Medical Malpractice, the Inde-



pendent Commission for Citizens' Rights, and the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) in regards to integrity, transparency and accountability.

Working Groups

JLAC served as a focal organization of the OCHA led Displacement Working Group (participated in by NRC, Red Cross, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNRWA, etc.) since early 2010, on matters related to legal aid and legal needs of communities at-risk for displacement. The group has also come to refer persons in need of legal aid (in such matters as house demolition, land confiscation, and forced displacement) to JLAC. Further in this regard, JLAC is part of the group's Legal Task Force, a platform for legal organizations working in Jerusalem to discuss pressing issues of concern and possible methods of intervention therein. JLAC participates in the working group's northern, central, and southern meetings.

Going before UN Bodies


JLAC partook in three significant events related to the United Nations during 2012. The Planning & Fundraising Unit Manager (Ms. Mai Farsakh) participated in a field mission of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, Mr. Richard Falk, held in Amman Jordan on February 19. The staffer aided the Special Rapporteur in gathering information regarding the general human rights situation in the oPt, and the denial by Israel of Palestinian self-determination through delivering a presentation and providing a short report



on the key offences which JLAC tackles and details in their regard.

Ms. Mai Farsakh likewise participated in the 19th Session of the United Nations Human Rights held in Geneva, Switzerland during March of 2012. JLAC sat in on Item 9 of the session discussing the oPt and endorsed the oral statement read during the event on behalf of a coalition of Palestinian NGOs. The session concluded with a resolution to formulate and dispatch an independent investigation committee to investigate settlement activity in the West Bank (entitled; International Fact-finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory). Following the session a special side event was held during which JLAC spoke in a panel of Palestinian NGOs on the human rights situation in the oPt.

In November 2012, the International Fact-finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, commission by a UN resolution back in March 2012 went to Amman, Jordan as to receive statements and materials from Palestinian individuals and organizations on the matter. JLAC's attorney whom handles the settler violence cases (Mr. Wa'il Qut) was in attendance in Amman in November and delivered both an oral statement/ presentation and material on the subject of settler violence escalation in the northern West Bank (particularly surrounding the Yetzhar settlement).



JLAC's Internal Environment

2012 at Glance

2012 witnessed significant internal developments for JLAC. The Board of Directors and General Assembly held elections and grew in number, respectively. The working team likewise witnessed the addition of new colleagues; a Financial & Administrative Manager and Local Advocacy/Media Officer. Given the many programmatic achievements and successes accomplished in 2012, the Board of Directors decided to honor JLAC's working team, holding a reception and distributing financial bonuses in this regard. Towards aiding JLAC's internal development efforts, an external evaluation and new strategic plan were commissioned and undertaken by a consulting firm. More in this regard, the development of a data base was initiated in an effort to more efficiently and effectively manage JLAC's cases.

The background of the page is a photograph of ancient stone ruins in a desert landscape. The ruins consist of several walls and structures made of large, rectangular stone blocks, some of which are partially collapsed. The ground is sandy and covered with smaller stones and debris. In the distance, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear, bright blue sky. The lighting suggests it is daytime, with shadows cast on the ground.

The General Assembly

JLAC's General Assembly grew in number this year, with membership reaching 27 persons. The new recruits included; Ms. Hanan Al-Ramahi, Mrs. Fida Touma, and Mr. Atef Sa'd.

Two members resigned their membership due to personal reasons (Mr. George Giacaman and Mrs. Nuha Barghouthi).

The General Assembly met twice during the year, in June and in November to discuss JLAC's achievements and obstacles faced. The later meeting discussed the Center's administrative and financial reports, which were both approved, and assigned Ernst & Young as JLAC's auditing firm for 2012. A new board of directors was also elected.

The Board of Directors

During 2012, the Board of Directors held four meetings, during which JLAC's achievements were discussed and many necessary decisions were taken.

JLAC's administrative and financial reports and recruitment of a new auditor were among the key issues addressed in the meetings, with the recommendations that emanated raised to the General Assembly

for endorsement. In July of 2012, JLAC's Board participated in an open meeting discussing progress made by the Center and ways forward. The meeting also served to honor the staff for their tireless efforts in this regard, with bonuses provided to the staffers with the closing of meeting.

Our Working Team

By the end of year 2012, JLAC's working team reached 31 persons, including 25 employees with full or part-time contracts, 3 retainers, and 3 interns distributed among the Center's four units (i.e. Administrative & Financial Unit, Legal Support Unit, Mobilization & Advocacy Unit, and Planning & Fundraising Unit). The gender distribution of JLAC's staff is 12 females and 19 males, ratio of approximately 40 to 60% respectively.

Changes in Staff

In line with JLAC's expanding scope of work and new structure, Mr. Amjad Batta was recruited in April to serve as JLAC's Administrative and Financial Unit Manager. In addition, Ms. Fatima Abdul Karim joined the Mobilization & Advocacy Unit as the Media/Local Advocacy Officer.

Attorney, Mr. Mo'een Odeh took a one-year leave of absence to pursue graduate studies in the United States. He is scheduled to rejoin JLAC's staff in the summer of 2013. Attorney, Mohammed Al-Abbasi was recruited in July to fill in for Mr. Odeh. Likewise pursuing graduate studies in the United States, was attorney Wa'il Qut whom rejoined JLAC's staffers in August after earning a master's degree in constitutional law.

Capacity Building

External Evaluation & Strategic Plan Formation

Partners in Creative Solutions, a firm specialized in external evaluation and planning, was recruited by JLAC to review and assess the Center's programmatic achievements (for the period 2008-2012 covered by its last Strategic Plan) and formulate a new Strategic Plan (for the period of 2013-2018).

The firm went on to meet a number of JLAC's beneficiaries in various locations in which the Center operates. These meetings allowed for the beneficiaries' to evaluate and express remarks concerning the services provided by JLAC. The firm also met with key JLAC staff, particular member of the Board of Directors, and a few of JLAC's donors. Moreover, the firm went on to review (through desk research and interviews) JLAC's vision, mission, sub-objectives, programs, and plans towards the development of a strategic plan.

The firm compiled their findings and recommendations in the form of an External Evaluation Report (covering the period 2008- 2012) and Strategic Plan (to cover the period 2013-2018), to be reviewed and endorsed by JLAC's Board of Directors and General assembly, respectively.

Development of Database

The increase in JLAC's scope of operation and resulting large caseload adopted and followed-up by JLAC, required the development of a database to archive cases electronically and facilitate their efficient access and follow-up by attorneys (operating in Ramallah, Jerusalem, Salfeet, and/or Nablus, as well as from any other vicinity). JLAC announced a tender in this regard and selected a firm to implement the project. The company has since commenced work (in coordination with JLAC staff) and it is scheduled to finalize the system by May of 2013.

Development of Staff Capacities

Over the past year, staff development programs focused on raising lawyers' and paralegals' capacities relevant to cases of house demolition and forced displacement in Area C and house demolition in Jerusalem. Moreover, JLAC invested in equipping its volunteer base with the needed legal knowledge to document acts of settler violence and in preparing cases for further legal assistance.



The 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.
Mr. Atef Sa'd	A Journalist.
Dr. Basem Zubaydi	Professor at Birzeit University.
Mr. Daoud Talhami	Political Activist, Writer.
Dr. Faiha Abdul Hadi	Freelance Researcher.
Dr. Feras Melhem	Legal Expert.
Mrs. Fida' Toma	Director of Riwaq Centre for Architectural Conservation
Ms. Ghada Zughayar	Executive Director of AMAN Coalition.
Mrs. Hanan Ramahi	Headmistress.
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. 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.
(and the deceased, Mr. Samih Khalil, whom passed away in January of 2013)	

The 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.
Mr. Amin Al Bayed	Member; Social Activist.
Mr. Ahmed Samarah	Member; Social Activist.
Mr. Atef Sa'd	Member; Journalist
Mrs. Hanen Abu Fares	Member
Ms. Hanan Ramahi	Member; Headmistress of Secondary School.

Our Working Team

Executive Level

Mr. Issam Aruri – Director.

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

Legal Support Unit

Mr. Bassam Karajah – Legal Support Unit Manger.

Ms. Fadia Al Qawasmi- Attorney.

Mr. Haitham Khatib – Attorney.

Ms. Lina Sarawan- Attonery.

Mr. Mohammad Abbassi– Attorney.

Mr. Mohammad Abu Snineh – Attorney.

Mr. Othman Hamdallah – Attorney.

Ms. Razan Mouhsen– Attorney.

Mr. Suleiman Shaheen – Attorney.

Mr. Wa'il Qut – Attorney.

Mr. Ghassan Abu Khdair- Attorney and Project Coordinator.

Mr. Ahmed Safadi – Legal Consultant.

Mr. Khaled Suleiman- Trainee Lawyer.

Mr. Fatemah Naser Al-Den- Trainee Lawyer.

Planning & Fundraising Unit

Ms. Mai Farsakh - Planning & Fundraising Unit Manager.

Ms. Roula Said - Programs & Projects Coordinator.

Mr. Ghalib Nashashibi - Project Coordinator.

Mobilization & Advocacy Unit

Mr. Abdullah Hammad – Mobilization & Advocacy Unit Manager.

Ms. Fatima Abdulkarim- Media/Local Advocacy Officer.

Ms. Jalila Irshaid – Field Coordinator.

Ms. Jihan Mansour – Field Coordinator.

Mr. Nabil Abdallah – Researcher and Fieldworker.

Mr. Saher Sarsour – Field Coordinator.

Mr. Salem Khilleh - Campaign Coordinator.

Ms. Thourayya Hamid – Field Researcher.

Administrative & Financial Unit

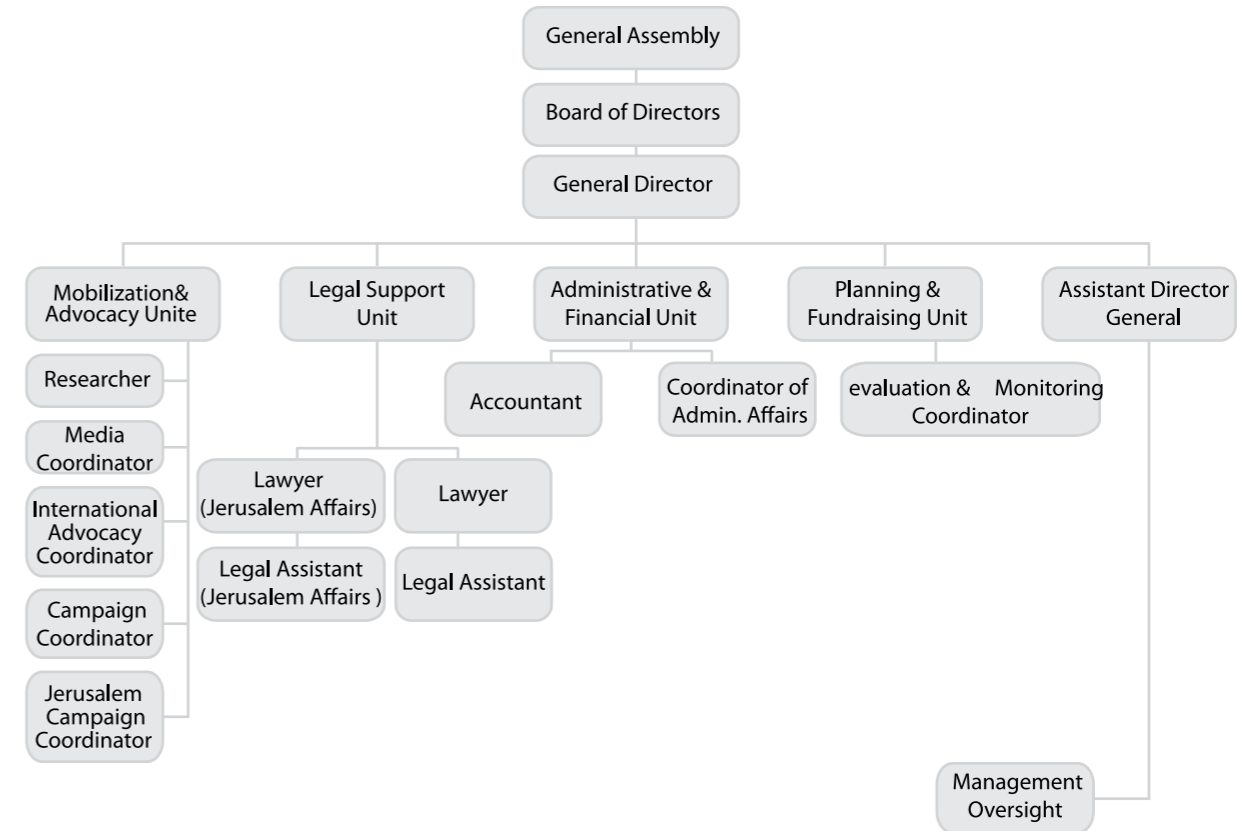
Mr. Amjad Batta- Administrative and Financial Unit Manager.

Mr. Amin Dawabsheh – Accountant.

Ms. Abeer Hidmi – Administrative & Legal Assistant (Jerusalem) .

Ms. Ikhlas Qur'an - Financial Assistant (Ramallah).

Mr. Husien Abu Arra- 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 basis, with 76,614 USD granted in 2012 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 grant covering 2012 is in the amount of 54,909 USD. 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 of 45,990 USD in 2012. The funds are geared towards strengthening community institutions that seek to promote the principles of human rights and democratic reform, and to provide 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):

In 2011, JLAC began its partnership with the UNDP, which provided JLAC with funding in 2012 in the amount of 178,771 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 and a fund for institutional development. JLAC hopes to renew this fund on an annual basis.

Project- Based Donors



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, one in the West Bank and the other in East Jerusalem. Both projects are geared towards securing Palestinians' right to housing and livelihood. The funding amount in 2012 was 518,722 USD.



French Consulate General in Jerusalem:

The French Consulate General in Jerusalem funded during the second half of 2012 a initiative to protect the residents of Ithna village from being displaced due to house demolition orders issued against the community. This protection involved the development of a master plan for the village and the provision of legal defense before relevant Israeli courts. The grant award was in the amount of 24,670 USD.



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, ending in 2012. The project aimed to raise the awareness of Palestinians in Jerusalem in regards to their social, civil and economic rights, and to secure their liberties therein.

Sources & Uses of Funds 2012 (1/1/2012- 31/12/2012)

Source of Fund	990,386.00
Grants Revenue	976,642.00
Other Revenue	13,744.00
Capital Expenditure	9,119
Office Furniture	1,710.76
Office Equipment	7,408.14
Salaries & Staff Related Benefits	640,677
Salaries	540,752.00
Provident Fund	33,642.00
Severance pay	38,972.34
Staff Insurance	20,740.62
Professional and other	6,570.00
Office & Operation Expenses	102,921
Rent	18,842.44
(Utilities, electricity, water)	15,741.06
Office Supply & Stationary	11,539.23
Repairs & Maintenance	24,744.63
Communications	8,554.03
Transportation	15,106.74
Professional Fees / Audit	8,393.18

Programmatic & Activity Expenses	135,640.43
Court Fees	26,846.55
Maps	42,481.10
Training Material	1,429.65
Researchers	5,988.52
Translation	3,715.50
Radio Spots	2,079.94
Newspaper Advertisement	2,983.21
Hall Rent	4,175.95
External Legal Consultants	31,103.00
Printing & Publications	7,283.84
Transportation	4,238.00
Travel Expenses	2,293.75
Networking	303.75
Mail	717.67
Capacity Building	13,647.39
Training	347.39
Evaluation & Strategic Plan	13,300.00
Total Uses of Funds	902,005
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues	88,381

THANK YOU

How to Contact Us

Ramallah Office

Melinium Building, 6th Floor
Al Irsal Street
Tel: +970 2 2987981
Fax: +970 2 2987982

Jerusalem Office

kamal Building, 1st floor
14 Ibn Batoota Street- Jerusalem
Tel: +972 2 6272982
Fax: +972 2 6264770

Nablus Office

Al-Aloul & Abu Salha Building, 5th floor
Suffian Street- Nablus
Tel/Fax: +970 9 238 6550

Salfeet Office

Salfeet, 17 Street
Tel: +970 9 2517101
Fax: +970 9 2511701

www.jlac.ps

www.facebook.com/JLAC67

Photos taken by:

Fadi Aruri (cover, pages; 2,10,12,20,26,38,52)

Mohamed Abu Haj (pages; 9,28,40,54,74)

Fatima Abdulkarim (page; 76)