



Annual Report 2013

How to Contact Us

Ramallah Office

Millennium Building, 6th floor
Kamal Nasser Street, Ramallah
Tel: +970 2 2987981
Fax: +970 2 2987982

Jerusalem Office

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

Nablus Office

Al-Aloul & Abu Salha Building, 5th floor
Sufian Street, Nablus
Telefax: +970 9 2386550

Salfit Office

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

www.jlac.ps

www.facebook.com/JLAC67

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Executive Summary

The following report presents a summary of efforts made by the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC) in 2013. Through its Board of Directors, consisting of nine members, its General Assembly, consisting of 26 members, its staff, composed of 24 full-time 4 part-time female and male employees, two legal advisors and two trainees, in addition to 400 volunteers (female and male) working across the country. The services provided by JLAC spanned across 120 localities and benefited thousands of Palestinians, mostly in Jerusalem, its peripheries, and areas classified as “C”. Indeed, the more than six thousand households benefited from the adoption of 3,174 individual and collective cases followed up before Israeli and Palestinian courts.

Many of JLAC’s interventions served to benefit entire communities, as with efforts to expand community master plans and undertake cases of public interest. Moreover, the legal awareness and readiness of 2,300 citizens was enhanced through trainings and awareness raising sessions organized by JLAC. An additional 2,750 beneficiaries received legal consultation through JLAC’s four branch offices in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus and Salfeet, as well as the two liaison offices in Qalqilia and Tubas. The Center had also worked to address forced displacement campaigns that targeted 265 Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley, areas surrounding Jerusalem and the eastern hillsides of the West Bank. More specifically, 1,205 households were protected from house demolition and agricultural facility demolition, though such protection was permanent for some families and temporary for others. JLAC also contributed

to the liberation of dozens of dunums of land as well as protection against confiscation. Tens of Jerusalem ID holders were likewise provided with legal aid towards defending their social and economic rights

In 2013, JLAC received support from 9 donors, with a total amount of US \$ 1,056,545 in funding received, of which; 33% had been allocated for supporting programs, 59% for supporting ongoing projects, and 8% allocated for supporting short-term activities. The Center’s expenditures in 2013 had amounted to US \$ 1,065,000, of which an amount of nearly 1,500,000 were spent on legal services. This however, excluded services that cannot be measured or cannot be valued as they are emotional, human, political or national inputs.

The Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center, with all its bodies, extends its gratitude and thanks to its partners in the field, volunteers, local governments and committees, government departments and agencies facilitating its operation, sister institutions, Palestinian and international human rights NGOs, partners in coalitions, Palestinian and international civil society activists, stakeholders, donors, and all supporters of its programs. To them and to our beneficiaries, we vow to continue defending human dignity with the same persistence, consistency and high spirit of commitment, as ever, and in accordance with the human rights approach, human rights covenants and charters as our fixed reference.

JLAC’s Staff and Executive Body

Letter from the Chairman & Director

2013 marked another poor year in terms of Palestinian human rights. Although peace talks between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Israeli government resumed in July of 2013, under the rigorous auspices of the USA, with the accompanied assumption of creating a positive atmosphere, yet, the reality was the opposite. Extremist movements and parties in Israel, whether ruling or non-ruling, revealed their arbitrary and repressive practices against the Palestinian people. In a hectic effort to pre-empt final status negotiations, facts on the ground are being imposed towards preventing the establishment of an independent, sustainable, and viable Palestinian State capable of ensuring sufficient features of a stable life for the Palestinian people. Such is creating a sense of uncertainty in the two-state solution in terms of it being realistic and viable, especially with the continuous siege imposed on the Gaza Strip as well as the continued shelling and the inclusion of civilian targets.

The following indicators, derived from JLAC's work, serve to further reflect the human rights situation;

- **Forced Displacement:** The campaign to ethnic cleansing areas "C" of Palestinian was intensified, particularly in the Jordan Valley and the eastern slopes of the West Bank and Jerusalem. The total number of cases of forced eviction of Bedouins and herders adopted by JLAC grew by 6 folds in 2013, with 160 new cases adopted in 2013 as compared with 28 cases in 2012.
- **Land Confiscation:** Land confiscation and land seizure also increase in 2013, with 18 land cases adopted in 2013 as compared to 9 cases in 2012.
- **Settler Violence:** The number of attacks by settlers increased from 393 attacks in 2012 to 455 attacks in 2013 (as published by the Land Research Center).
- **House Demolition:** The number of cases of house, agricultural facilities, and equipment demolition increased from 189 cases in 2012 to 296 cases in 2013.
- **Jerusalem:** The isolation of the city of Jerusalem from the remainder of the West Bank, was furthered property confiscation policies (resulting in the annexation of 741 acres of al-Issawiya and al-Tur lands for the establishment of a national park, preventing Palestinian construction on these lands, resulting in the demolition of 69 facilities, and the displacement of nearly 3000 Palestinians).

2013 showed no indication of improvement to the quality of life of Palestinians living under the control of the Palestinian Authority. To the contrary, internal and external debt grew, internal growth back-tracked, and levels of poverty and unemployment increased. The political division persisted, along with violations of human rights and the on-going disconnect of legal and political unity of the Palestinian territory. Most devastating, is the loss of confidence that efforts will achieve reconciliation and negotiations will bring a solution offering the minimum of Palestinian's aspirations. The following are among the most prominent indicators of the deteriorating internal situation of human rights;

- Deepened legislative gap between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with the continued paralysis of the function of the Legislative Council and the issuance of presidential decrees in the West Bank (some of which being inconsistent with the provisions of legislations passed by the Legislative Council, on which the condition of necessity did not apply), and the continued issuance/ amendment of legislations in the Gaza Strip by the Legislative Council (without legitimacy and needed quorum).
- Continued deterioration of the Palestinian judiciary and predominance of the executive authority; as evident in the phenomenon of failing to execute judicial rulings (particularly those issued by the Supreme Court of Justice in administrative matters), lack of effectiveness in the function of the judiciary, and consequent decreased

confidence of lawyers, experts and legal centers in it. Such have resulted in adverse impact, in terms of hesitation to approach the judiciary.

- Death of nearly 150 persons from the misuse of weapons, the execution of death penalty with any consideration to the law, physical altercations and negligence in terms of safety. 49 of those victims were children under the age of eighteen, with females comprising almost a third of the victims.
- Documentation of hundreds of complaints involving the failure to follow legal procedures during arrests, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment in both parts of the Palestinian territories, in addition to the continued withholding of personal identity cards, travel bans, and property confiscation.
- Continued infringement on the right to peaceful assembly and the right to assemble and the arrest and detention of individuals (for political opinions and beliefs).

The above mentioned were among the most prominent indicators signifying the deterioration of the human rights situation and, in turn, affecting JLAC's work. The following sections will server to further elaborate on these indicators.

*Chairman of the Board
Director General*



Who We Are?

Since its inception over 37 years ago, the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC) has formed a specific and specialized niche for itself; that of rendering legal aid to vulnerable communities in combating human rights violations. JLAC has since become a key and major player in certain interventions; undertaking pro-bono legal cases related to house demolition, forced displacement, land confiscation, and more recently settler violence. Without JLAC's services, victims would face costly private sector fees compelling them to forfeit their claims.

JLAC more recently, has coupled its legal aid rendered to individuals with; public interest cases, legal reform, community awareness, advocacy, among other interventions.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our Objectives

1. Empowering vulnerable Palestinians challenge violations made to their human rights, through:
 - Raising at risk communities' legal awareness of violations.
 - Outreaching victims of human rights violations through field visits.
 - Strengthening local community ties and mobilizing social capital.
 - Preserving the dignity of victims of human rights violations.
 - combating violations imposed by occupying forces and settlers towards promoting the achievement of legitimate national objectives.
 - Exposing existing human suffering through publicized reports and mobilizing local and international action.
2. Creating an institutional, legislative, and policy environment that enables the mobilization of social capital and international support towards the respect of human rights, through:
 - Reporting violations as they happen towards mobilizing public opinion.
 - Cooperating with related organizations.
 - Encouraging public participation.
3. Enhancing JLAC's capacity and preparedness to achieve its strategic objectives, through:
 - Investing in available capacities within the Center.
 - Providing equal opportunities.
 - Strengthening the sense of commitment to the Center's mission and identity.

Our Areas of Interventions

JLAC's legal and advocacy interventions center and revolve around the following thematic areas:

Right of Dwelling and Living

House Demolition

Land Confiscation

Forced Displacement

Social and Economic Rights of Jerusalemites

ID Confiscation

Family Reunification

Child Registration

Social Insurance and Taxation

Advocacy Campaigns

Retrieval of War Victims' Remains

Freedom of Movement (KARAMA)

Residency Rights of Jerusalemites

Public Freedoms

Arbitrary Detention

Unfair Dismissal

NGO Closure

Settler Violence

Public Interest Cases

Freedom of Movement





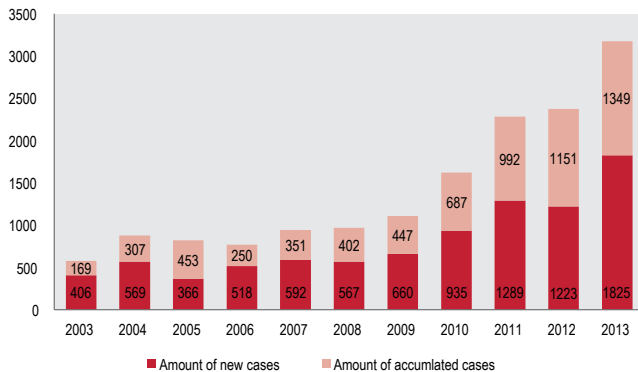
Cases brought before Israeli Courts & Military Committees

Case Type		New	Accumulated	Undertake in Annum	Closed	Positively	Negatively	Other	On-going	Petitions	
1.	Public Interest	3	7	10	1	0	0	1	9		
2.	Land Confiscation	18	33	51	0	0	0	0	51		
3.	Settler Violence	6	17	23	3	0	0	3	20		
4.	Right to Housing and Living	House Demolition	98	807	905	10	3	2	5	895	26
		Agricultural Facility Demolition	184	116	300	38	5	23	10	262	
		Forced Displacement	160	105	265	43	3	24	16	222	
		Confiscation of Equipment	14	0	14	14	10	0	4	0	
5.	Rights of Jerusalemites	Social Rights	32	52	84	26	17	4	5	58	
		Social Legal Services	283	0	283	283	283	0	0	0	
		Economic Rights	29	21	50	19	13	2	4	31	
		Economic Legal Services	966	0	966	966	966	0	0	0	
Communications directed to Israeli official institutions based on the Freedom of Information Act		5	0	5	0	0	0	0	5		
6.	Freedom of Movement	Travel Bans	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	
		Prison visitations	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	
		Permits	18	3	21	7	2	2	3	14	
7.	War Victims' Remains	0	53	53	2	2	0	0	51	1	
8.	Miscellaneous	4	11	15	6	2	0	4	9		
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Legal Counseling		2750			0						
Grand Total		1823	1226	3049	1419	1307	57	55	1630	27	

Cases brought before Palestinian Courts

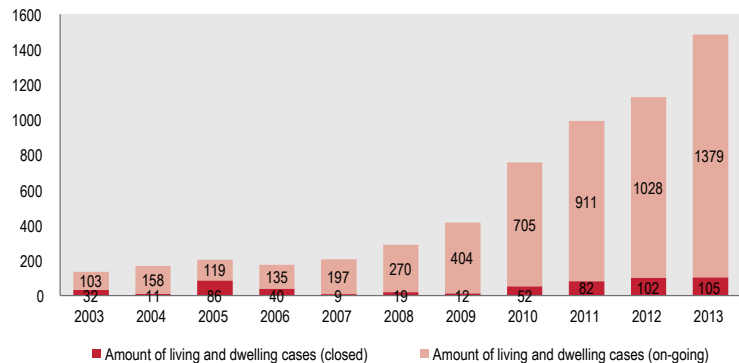
Case Type		New	Accumulated	Undertake in Annum	Closed	Positively	Negatively	Other	On-going
1.	Public Interest	1	9	10	9	1	0	8	1
2.	Arbitrary Dismissal	1	110	111	111	109	0	2	0
3.	Political Arrest	0	4	4	4	0	0	4	0
4.	Shutdown of Societies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Legal Counseling	1200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		2	123	125	124	110	0	14	1

Amount of New Cases Vs. Amount of Accumulated Cases



Annual Case Load (New & Accumulated)

Vs. Dwelling and Housing Cases (New & Accumulated)



Efficiency Indicators

Comparing the cost JLAC's 2013 caseload with "conservative" costs in the private sector

	Case Type	Number of Cases	Cost/ Case in the Private Sector (US Dollars)	Total	
Israeli Courts	Public Interest	3	10,000	30,000	
	Land Confiscation	18	5,000	90,000	
	Settler Violence	6	2,000	12,000	
	House Demolition	98	1,500	147,000	
	Agricultural Facility Demolition	184	1,500	276,000	
	Forced Displacement	160	3,000	480,000	
	Confiscation of Equipment	14	1,000	14,000	
	Social Rights	32	4,000	128,000	
	Social Legal Services	283	Average 250	70,750	
	Economic Rights	29	Average 300	8,700	
	Economic Legal Services	966	Average 100	96,660	
	Travel Ban	1	5,00	500	
	Prison Visitation	2	300	600	
	Permits	18	300	5,400	
	War Victims' Remains	1	5,000	5000	
	Miscellaneous	4	7,00	2,800	
		Total	1819	-	1,367,410
	Palestinian Courts	Public Interest	1	10,000	10,000
Arbitrary Dismissal		1	1000	1000	
Total		2	-	11,000	
Petitions in Israeli Courts		27	3,000	81,000	
Total		27	-	81,000	
Grand Total		1848	Grand Total	1,459,410	





Access to Justice

Strategic Objective One

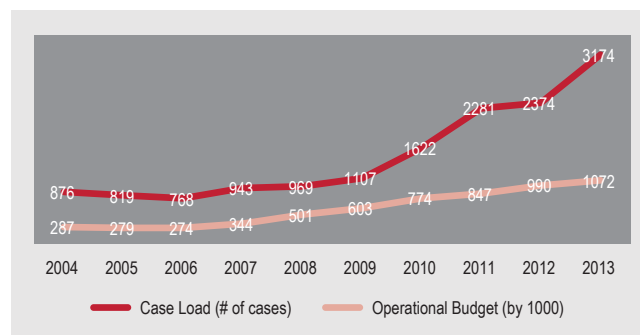
Empowering vulnerable Palestinians to challenge violations made to their human rights, through

Legal Aid

Individual and collective legal representation continued to be the core component of JLAC's work throughout its various areas of intervention. In 2013, JLAC undertook a total of 3,174 legal cases and services provided 2,750 different individual legal consultations through its four branch offices. Such is compared with 2,405 legal cases and services provided in 2012, representing an increase of 32%. The bulk of this growth was among cases of forced displacement, house and facility demolition, and encroachment on livelihoods. For instance, the number of such cases increased in 2013 from 1,484 as compared to 1,130 in 2012. Moreover, 966 legal services were offered in the field of Jerusalemites' economic rights in 2013, as compared to the 686 such services rendered in 2012.

On the other hand, the year 2013 marked a state of recession in the number of lawsuits brought before the Palestinian judiciary, partly due to the exhaustion of JLAC's resources for interventions in Jerusalem and areas "C", on one hand, and the deterioration of confidence in this authority, on the other. Indeed, there is a need to conduct an in-depth internal research in this regard.

Case load vs Operational Budget



Forced Displacement, Demolitions, and Loss of Livelihoods

As previously mentioned, the majority of the human rights violations faced regarded forced displacement, house and agricultural facility demolition, and confiscation of equipment. Such resulted in an increase in the cases adopted and addressed by JLAC, with 1,484 cases undertaken in 2012 as compared to 1,130 cases in 2013. Although, these type of cases represent half of JLAC's total caseload, they consumed 80% of the center's financial and human resources to treat them due to related complexities. Moreover, changes made by the occupation forces to policies and procedures (as a result of acquiescence of the Supreme Court of Israel to pressure by Israeli settler lobby groups) served to restrict legal protection available for housing case, particularly involving Bedouin communities. Such is evident in the number of cases negatively closed (ended up with partial or total demolition of some facilities), which jumped from zero in 2012 to 24 in 2013.

Al-Rashayda Bedouin community is composed of three extended refugee families who had been displaced from the area of Ein Jedi in the early fifties. For almost twenty years, these families have been residing in the area of Fasayel. A number of other families, who have been previously displaced from the nearby area of Ein al-Qouja, likewise reside in the same area on seasonal basis. As a result of the arbitrary measures imposed by the occupation authorities, vis-à-vis the Civil Administration, al-Rashayda Bedouin structures have been demolished on four consecutive occasions between the years 2000 and 2007. Community members have been given orders demanding their immediate eviction without even allowing enough time to file objections as guaranteed them by the law. Moreover, the Civil Administration is attempting to evict them under the pretext that the land they inhabit is an archeological area registered as State ownership.

Since 2008, with JLAC decision to expand its scope of operation to include cases of displacement, the total number of stop-work and evacuation orders issued to the community has amounted to 43 orders in total. In response, JLAC sought to obtain injunction orders, as to temporarily halt the execution of the orders issued over the past years. In total, JLAC served to represent 43 families from the areas of Fasayel al-Wosta and Fasayel al-Fawqa, including the case of Fasayel al-Fawqa School. The cases are distributed over 10 petitions. An additional 15 cases were undertaken from the area of Fasayel al-Tahta, a Bedouin gathering community situated in an area under PA control, but features buildings and barracks outside of the approved master plan.

The injunction orders served to prevented the Civil Administration authorities from executing demolition through January 2012. However, starting from January of 2012 through 2013, the injunction orders were terminated, placing JLAC's undertaken cases at risk for being re-opened. Indeed, although JLAC succeeded in attaining the injunction orders and freezing demolition procedures, the Israeli Supreme Court decided to

re-open a number of case files. This decision came after a submission by the Israeli General Prosecution, representing the Civil Administration, in which their intention to execute demolition orders was declared. As a result, the affected communities were proposed the alternative of moving to the area of Fasayel al-Fawqa, to the north of their community, which although is a “recognized” gathering, is inadequate for the accommodation of its current Bedouin communities. In this regard, the Civil Administration submitted a proposal for relocating al-Rashayda community to Fasayel al-Fawqa during 2013. According to the plan, the community will be allocating an area of half a dunum for each family (this includes family dwellings and facilities annexed to the dwelling for use by livestock). However, the area of half a dunum is inadequate to accommodate agricultural facilities (i.e. storage of hay, water, and sheep barracks of different types), let alone adequate enough for residents. Today, this proposal is threatening the fabric of Bedouins indigenous way of life. In response, the communities of the Fasay area submitted a proposed master plan unifying the areas of Fasayel al-Fawqa and Fasayel al-Wasta into one local council. JLAC is offering its legal supervision to ensure the plan is aligned with the needs and considerations of Bedouin communities.

Among the rare instances when JLAC’s legal intervention face negative final rulings was that involving a widow from the area of Mazmouriyyah in Jerusalem (near the town of Nu’man). This vicinity is precarious, as the Palestinian land owners and residents in this vicinity, which is now under the control of the Jerusalem municipality, predominantly hold West Bank identities. The beneficiary’s husband, had built their modest home on a plot his land prior to his death. Several years later, in 1999, the widow was surprised to come across a demolition order hanging on the wall of her house. Then the woman had sought the legal aid of a private attorney. Later, in 2010, after claims that her attorney could not make any more progress in her case’s regard, the beneficiary approached JLAC for legal aid. JLAC went on to bring the case before a

number of relevant courts (from the Local Affairs Court and the District Court to the Israeli Supreme Court) and succeeded in deferring the demolition order for another 3 years. However, in July 2013, a final ruling was issued ordering the demolition of the house. The beneficiary is currently awaiting for her home to be demolished at any moment.

The following is a summary of the legal efforts and vigorous follow-up provided by JLAC towards securing the beneficiary’s home;

- An appeal demanding to deferral of the enforcement of the demolition order, from a humanitarian perspective, was filed before the Jerusalem Local Affairs Court. As a result, a decision to defer the execution of the demolition order until January 2013 was issued. In the same month, another appeal demanding to defer enforcement of demolition order, as to enable the beneficiary to obtain the needed building permit for the home, was filed before the same court. Also, a plea of urgency demanding to halt demolition until the said petitions are ruled, was also filed, but was dismissed by the Jerusalem Local Affairs Court.
- As a result of the dismissal, JLAC approached the Jerusalem District Court with an appeal on this decision. Also, a plea of urgency demanding to halt demolition, until a final ruling on the appeal was issued, was filed there as well.
- A summary judgment halting the demolition of the house, until a decision regarding the appeal is issued, was obtained.
- On February 12, 2013, a hearing regarding the appeal was held, and a ruling to dismiss the appeal was issued.
- On February 14, 2013, JLAC approached the Supreme Court requesting permission to appeal the ruling of the District Court. Also, a plea of urgency to halt the execution

of the demolition order, on temporary basis, until the appeal's approval is determined, was filed there as well. The Center succeeded in obtaining a summary judgment to halt the demolition of the house until the permission to appeal is determined.

- *After less than 30 days, on March 2, 2013, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal.*
- *Moreover, the Local Affairs Court issued a ruling, on March 3, 2013, dismissing the request to defer the enforcement of the demolition order, until the beneficiary could obtain a building permit.*
- *On the same day, the JLAC approached the District Court to file an appeal of this ruling. An appeal of urgency to halt demolition of the house was filed, until a final ruling on the appeal is issued. In fact, a summary judgment to halt the demolition of the house, until a decision on the permission to appeal is issued, was granted.*
- *Also, on May 2, 2013 a hearing was held to determine the appeal.*
- *A final verdict to dismiss the appeal was issued by the District Court in July 2013.*



Land Protection

The Center planned to adopt 5 cases pertaining to land and land seizure orders in 2013. However, with the increased frequency of such orders issued over the last year, JLAC ended up adopting 18 new land cases. In parallel, the occupation forces disclosed that more than 20 real estate transactions involving land registration by settlement companies were carried out during the year. Indeed, JLAC needed to re-consider its priorities in order to respond to this growing need and adopt additional land cases. Moreover, land cases require extensive investment of time to process, in terms of preparing reports, maps, and attending court hearings. Nevertheless, JLAC was able to achieve a number of successes in the land confiscation cases undertaken.

One such case of land confiscation involves Yousef Ishtewi, from the village of Kafr Qaddoum in the District of Qalqilia. Yousef, along with several other heirs, owns a plot of land 36 dunums in size, which he subsides off. The land is located adjacent to the entrance of the Israeli settlement Adumim, which erected on the lands his village Kafr Qaddoum. Several attempts have previously been made by Israeli settlers to pressure Yousef (and the other heirs) towards abandoning his land. Such involved continued harassments and obstruction to his ability to access/cultivate his land.

In early 2013, Yousef was handed a notice, issued by the Central Inspection Unit at the Israeli Civil Administration, demanding that he halt his agricultural activity in the land as it has become the possession of the State of Israel (i.e. State Land) due to its abandonment. Yousef approached JLAC for legal aid and the center promptly petitioning the evacuation order before the Military Objections Committee at the Israeli Military Base, Ofer. JLAC's legal intervention proved successful, with a decision obtained that the Israeli Civil Administration was obligated to abolish the evacuation order issued.

Eman Rabah, a woman from the village of Saffa, faced similar threat to her livelihood. Eman, her children, and ill husband subsided off the small plot of land (4 dunums in size inherited from her deceased father) which she diligently cultivates with grains and field crops. The land's proximity to the Annexation Wall, erected on the village's land, placed it under threat of confiscation. Indeed, in 2013, Eman received a notice, issued by the Central Inspection Unit at the Israeli Civil Administration, demanding the evacuation of the mentioned land.

Eman approached JLAC for legal aid in this regard. JLAC's attorneys filed a petition against the evacuation order before the Military Objections Committee at the Israeli Military Base, Ofer, and succeeded in obtaining a decision to abolish the order. In turn, Eman's land ownership was affirmed and her right to cultivate her land was maintained.



Settler Violence and Complicity by Occupation Forces:

Settlers' Violence has become the term signifying organized and individual violent acts undertaken by settlers residing in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, namely, in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Nevertheless, such acts have also actually affected some private and public property belonging to Muslims and Christians residing in Arab towns and villages beyond the Green Line. Statistics indicate that this phenomenon, though witnessing ebb and flow in intensity throughout the years, has been increasing, in particular against Palestinian farmers in the occupied West Bank during the olive harvest season each fall. The number of documented attacks increased from 393 attacks in 2012 to 455 attacks in 2013. Settler attacks were also focused in certain geographic locations in the West Bank, such as in the southern Nablus district among the villages surrounding the settlements of Yitzhar and the outpost of Esh Kodesh (near the village of Qusra) that are under constant exposure to settler attack. The old city of Hebron and its southern region, as well as the region between the cities of Ramallah and Nablus, witnessed continuous attacks.

Settler violence takes many forms, such as blocking of roads, attacking Palestinian agricultural lands, homes, and vehicles, as well as physical assault. Such attacks often take place within sight of occupation forces and police, without any positive intervention on their part despite their international duty to protect the population (and property) of the occupied territory.

Moreover, persons under occupation are classified under International Humanitarian Law as protected persons. In reality, however, there is a complete absence of any legal deterrent to reduce these violent and prejudice attacks. This has materialized in the closure of most investigations into

settler violence closing without any serious investigation, indictment, arrest or prosecution of any suspects. Statistics indicate that more than 97% of complaints of settler violence filed with Israeli police were closed without indictments against any of the suspects.

JLAC's interventions in this regard include measures starting with; raising awareness of the importance of victims filing complaints, through the provision of legal counseling and adoption of cases to follow-up the progress of investigations by the Israeli police. Also involved is the documentation of these attacks and the undertaking local and international advocacy in this regard.

Among the major obstacles facing JLAC in addressing settler violence include; the presence of a dual legal system, with one set of laws enforced for Israeli settlers and another for Palestinians, the complicity of occupation forces, and their lack of seriousness in investigating complaints of settler violence (and lack of indictments therein). The lack of confidence among Palestinian citizens in this legal system is also an issue, along with the ambiguous role of the Palestinian Liaison Office and the Palestinian police. Moreover, the presence of Israeli police stations within Israeli settlements or military bases imposes further restrictions on the process of filing complaints.

Though JLAC chose to increase its scope of intervention in terms the number of settler violence cases adopted (with 23 cases adopted in 2013 compared to 18 in 2012), it is still in need to develop its strategies in facing the escalating violence. For what is taking place is far worse than the state of apartheid in South Africa. Two case studies are currently being published on the different forms this violence takes, the legal systems which facilitate and perpetuate them, and JLAC's intervention therein.

According to international law, Occupation authorities are responsible for the protection of civilians under their control; such is not limited to ignoring complaints filed by Palestinian civilians for violent acts committed by settlers. Worst yet, administrative and legal means are being employed towards legitimizing the practices of trespass, vandalism, looting, physical assault and murder carried out by settlers. This includes the constant extension of military orders, by the Civil Administration, aimed at to keeping Palestinian lands under Israeli control for the benefit of settlers and illegal settlements. For example, the occupation authorities had recently notified residents of the villages of Yatma, Aqraba, Beta, Za'tara and Qabalan of a number of land confiscation orders involving 10 dunums of agricultural lands belonging the villages, under the pretext of establishing a "security wall" between the villages, Route 60 (also known as "Trans- Samaria road"), and the illegal settlement of Eli. This indeed highlights the role of the occupation authority in ensuring protection and expansion of the Settlement of Eli. JLAC went on to file objections in the land cases' regard.

Additionally, an objection was filed by JLAC against the Civil Administration for the proposed master plan No. 237 for the settlement of Eli, erected on lands from the villages of Qaryout, Al-Sawiya and Al-Lubban al-Sharqeh. This master plan will allow for an addition area of 1,002 dunums of privately owned Palestinian lands to be annexed to the Settlement of Eli, as

well as for the construction of an additional 350 housing units (doubling the current number of housing units, bringing the total to 650 units). New construction in Eli had previously been undertaken illegally even in accordance to procedures in-force by Israeli law. In the event that the master plan is endorsed, it is expected that the number of settlers residing in the Settlement of "Eli" will reach 3,500 settlers.

Master plan No. 237 for the settlement of Eli, includes 300 dunums of green space. In contrast, 4,000 persons living in Al-Sawiya (whose lands the settlement is partially built upon) are allotted by their master plan only 800 dunums (out of its 13,000 dunums) to live upon and use without constraint (i.e. Area B). Efforts by residents to expand the limited scope of their master plan have been rejected. Resulting in 60 homes and facilities, owned by residents of Al-Sawiya, to be under threat of demolition by occupation authorities, under the pretext of unlicensed building

Conversely, the construction of Eli was initiated in the eighties without the possession of needed building permits. According to an architect of the Israeli High Planning Council, it wasn't until 1992 that the Council of Settlements at the Israeli Civil Administration (in cooperation and coordination with the Israeli Ministry of Housing) legitimized the randomly and illegally established settlement through the endorsement of its master plan.





Jerusalemites' Social, Economic, & Housing Rights

By expanding its range of outreach and mobilization activities in Jerusalem, JLAC was able to increase the number of beneficiaries approaching the center for social and economic services from 988 cases to 1,359 (out of which 91 were brought before court) in the course of one year).

The National Park Project: A project to establish a national park on the foothills of Mount Scopus, on an area of 741 dunums, owned entirely by the towns of al-Issawiya and al-Tur, was announced in July of 2009. The project was consigned at the Israeli planning committees on behalf of the municipality, the Jerusalem Development Authority and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. However, this plan discounted the basic need of the population of al-Issawiya and al-Tur for urban development and expansion, let alone heir full ownership of the land.

In April 2010, the District Committee for Planning and Building ratified and approved the project proposal. Towards further expanding this project, the mentioned Committee employed a set of insubstantial pretexts and justifications as; the area will serve as the eastern entrance to the city of Jerusalem, the presence of archeological sites and tombs, among others. The plan also noted the importance of this area as it houses a variety of reptiles, birds and desert plants.

In November of 2011, JLAC objected this plan, with the aim of impeding it as much as possible. From the time this plan was announced, JLAC worked on two parallel levels. One the first level, JLAC petitioned the Israeli District Court and the Israeli Supreme Court to translate all documents related to this plan into Arabic. Such a petition before Israeli courts had been unprecedented. The second level, involved gathering individual objections for presentation before the Objections Committee. JLAC succeeded in collecting 258 individual objections from residents of al-Issawiya and al-Tur.

2013 witnessed two major developments in this regard. The first regards the decision by the Israeli District Court in Jerusalem to fine JLAC 10,000 NIS, as court expenses, in response to the center's petition demanding the translation of the National Park Plan documents. However, the court dismissed the fine after JLAC appealed the matter before the Israeli Supreme Court. The second development involved an 8-hour hearing to present the 258 resident objections. However, the District Committee had already issued its decision, approving the National Park Plan and discounting the objections. Two hours after the conclusion of the hearing, this injustice was leaked to the Hebrew media and went on to receive extensive media coverage. Nevertheless, JLAC intends to file a petition to the District Court to challenge the decision of the Committee.

Among the many cases of Jerusalemites' economic rights is that of a divorced woman residing in Jabal Al-Mukabber with her daughter's family. Two years ago, the beneficiary approached the National Insurance Institute on several occasions to apply for income support. However, each of her applications were rejected under the pretext that her divorce is not recognized by the National Insurance Institute, despite having submitted all supporting documents affirming the divorce and refuting claims of the National Insurance Institute.

In mid-2012, the beneficiary approached JLAC for assistance. The centers attorneys promptly filed a new income support application for the National Insurance Institute on her behalf. The application, however, was rejected once more. JLAC's attorneys then approached the Administrative Court in Jerusalem to file a lawsuit against the National Insurance Institute. A hearing was convened and testimonies were presented in writing to the court. After several requests submitted the court, demanding re-investigation into the beneficiary's case, a decision was finally obtained recognizing her divorced status and her rights as a divorced woman. The beneficiary has since been retroactively paid two years' worth of due economic rights, as well as current installments.

A second case involves a forty year old man from Jerusalem whom was aided in both securing his economic rights (by way of receiving due disability allowance) and social rights (by attaining residency permits for his previously unregistered children). The beneficiary suffer from many medical problem, most debilitating is his mental illness. His wife, a Palestinian holding a West Bank ID, is also mentally ill. Moreover, her presence in Jerusalem is unlawfully (according to Israeli laws) as she does not possess a residency permit. The couple's unfamiliarity with the law, resulted in their children going unregistered by the Israeli Ministry of Interior; in turn being denied access to such public services as education and health.

The beneficiary first approached JLAC in May 2012 in aiding him to attain disability allowance from the National Insurance Institute. He had previously applied on several accusations for the allowance but was rejected each time for an assortment of reasons. JLAC adopted the beneficiary's case, requiring a number of different intervention, and proceed in aiding him. After a number of correspondences directed to the National Insurance Institute, it was found that the grounds for refusal of the disability allowance applications had been the lack of needed medical reports, particularly the documentation from the mental hospital.

As it is not permitted for such documentation to be handed over to a third party (i.e. JLCA), the center coordinated the matter of the hospital submitting the needed documentation

directly to the National Insurance Institute. This matter required several weeks of attention, correspondence, and reminders, directed both to the hospital and the National Insurance Institute. After receiving all the needed medical reports, the National Insurance Institute now claimed that the beneficiary owed payments to the Collection Department at the National Insurance Institute. JLAC went on to convince the National Insurance Institute to write off the beneficiary's debts as he was eligible to obtain disability allowance. Such was no easy feat, but nearly a year and a half after initiating the case the continuous follow-up paid off. A letter was received by the National Insurance Institute stating that the beneficiary was in deed eligible for obtaining a 100% disability allowance. Consequently, an amount of NIS 58,950 was deposited in the beneficiary's bank account covering a three-year period of retroactive payments. The beneficiary is also receiving monthly deposits for current payments due.

JLAC's attorney also aided the beneficiary in applying for child registration with the Israeli Ministry of Interior. The beneficiary was accompanied to the Interior office in order to clarify reasons for earlier failure to register his children, and to confirm the residency of his family in the city of Jerusalem. Another group of communications and sending supporting documents proving the residency of his family in Jerusalem. In 2013, JLAC was also contacted by the Ministry of Interior and informed of their willingness to register both children. Both children have since been registered and have gone on to receive health services, among other rights.

Litigation Before Palestinian Courts:

Towards the end of 2012 and through the beginning of 2013, deliberations concerning a collective case brought by JLAC before the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice came to a conclusion. The lawsuits were filed on-behalf of over a hundred governmental employees arbitrarily dismissed from their positions on illegal grounds (i.e. failing to meet security clearance). At that time, two different bodies of the Palestinian High Court issued two contradictory rulings, one of which had dismissed the lawsuit all together under the pretext of the court lacking needed jurisdiction.

JLAC's legal unit went on to request the collective case be brought before the High Court in its entirety (composed of nineteen judges) in order to issue a single legal principle for the cases as a whole. JLAC succeeded in obtaining a positive ruling by the full members of the court, with the majority of its members ruling represented to annul the decisions dismissing the governmental employees, in turn ordering their reinstatement into their posts. Following this ruling, the number of governmental employees dismissed from public office under the pretext of failing to meet security clearance dropped to zero. Consequently, this led to a sharp decline in number of beneficiaries approaching JLAC regarding arbitrary measures taken against them by administrative bodies, with regard to their right to equal opportunity employment in public office.

The number of cases of political arrest referred to JLAC likewise witnessed a sharp decline in comparison with prior years; 2009, 2010 and 2011. Such prompted JLAC's Legal Unit and senior management to reconsidered its involvement in violations by the PA, in terms of the types of legal aid provided. As a result, JLAC decided to shift its focus in the Palestinian territory to cases of public interest. In this regard, JLAC commenced in its involvement in cases of medical malpractice through the formation of a special coalition to study medical related laws addressing the function of medical

professionals and patients' rights. A number of meetings were convened by the coalition, with by representatives from JLAC, the Medical Association, and concerned university professors in attendance. JLAC likewise adopted a case of medical malpractice, involving a Palestinian woman suffering from malpractice during surgery. The case against the hospital is being brought before Palestinian courts. JLAC's Legal Unit is also working on developing public interest interventions involving people with disabilities and the review of different types of taxes imposed on citizens by the Ministry of Finance and/or municipalities.

Additionally, JLAC is currently preparing a study addressing decrees issued by the President of the PNA, as restrictively permitted by Article 43 of the amended Basic Law. This is the first study into this matter and it is expected to serve as a reference baseline for concerned parties. The study is currently in its final stages of review prior to publishing. JLAC's Legal Unit likewise works with other related civil society institutions in addressing domestic concerns related to integrity and transparency (i.e. in regards to security forces, police, and relevant laws therein).



Outreach & Awareness

With human rights violations escalating across various areas of life, JLAC's legal burden growing by more than 32% in 2013, and staff limitedly growing; JLAC opted to expand its outreach programs and voluntary base to unprecedented levels. In this regard, a total of 91 training meetings were held, as well as public meetings and training courses in which 2,262 beneficiaries were outreached in total. Outreach efforts were conducted in 120 localities in various Palestinian governorates, as follows;

- 5 training sessions targeting new graduate lawyers and law students in Jerusalem, with 75 young men and women participating,
- One intensive training session targeting 15 youth leaders aimed at broadening the human rights defenders base,
- 28 awareness workshops in Jerusalem city neighborhoods,
- 28 public meetings and lectures with Bedouin communities in localities within areas "B" and "C",
- 6 training courses addressing documentation and follow-up of complaints of settler violence in the governorates of Nablus, Qalqilia and Salfeet,
- 15 training sessions addressing forced displacement and house demolition in the Jordan Valley and the six northern governorates of the West Bank.

Bilateral meetings were also held with 71 municipal and village councils in the central and northern governorates of the West Bank. The meetings regarded the development of master plans, house demolition, and land-grabbing by settlers. The meetings were also the venue for collecting objections against settlement expansion master plans, such as that for Eli settlement in the south of Nablus.

A new training project was launched in cooperation with MAP Foundation financed by the Australian Government targeting ten Bedouin communities. The two-year project included training and documentation of Israeli violations for 10 Bedouin communities located in Area "C" in the Jericho area. During the first phase of the project, which is close to completion, JLAC organized field visits to the communities towards identifying their most prominent needs. This was followed by a two-day training session for each community to empower the formulated community committees (comprised of both men and women) in promptly dealing demolition notifications receive by the Israeli Civil Administration. The second phase of the project, which will be implemented over the coming 11 months, will include training in the documentation of violations, as well as the production of documentaries for use in prospective advocacy activities.



Networking & Advocacy

Strategic Objective Two

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

Advocacy Campaigns

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

The National Campaign for the Retrieval Palestinian and Arab War Victims' Remains and the Disclosure of the Fate of Those Missing achieved a qualitative achievement in 2013. This achievement was manifested, during the last quarter of that year, with the Israeli Government and its occupation authorities approving the return of over 36 persons' remain to their families. This approval came as acquiescence to political, legal and media pressures resulting from efforts made by the victims' families whom support the Campaign. This qualitative legal achievement, laid the groundwork for the legal successes realizing by the Campaign in 2014.

Moreover, the Campaign published the second edition of the book entitled "We Have Names & We Have a Homeland", which served to document 65 missing persons and 381 male and female war victims (93 of which have since been retrieved and 288 continue to be withheld, with 27 still under documentation). The Campaign also continued its efforts to raise the issues of withheld bodies and the fate of the missing to an Arab and international level, as to solicit third

party support in compelling the Israeli government to fulfill obligations set forth in International Humanitarian Law, the Geneva Convention of 1949, and its annexed protocols. In cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Human Rights Council of the Arab League, and a number of international human rights organizations and media outlets, along with the leadership of the Campaign, undertook measures to pressure the Israeli Government to take concrete steps towards uncovering the fate of 65 missing persons as well.

The Campaign's legal and diplomatic efforts also focused on the case of Anees Abu Doleh, who died in Ashkelon Prison in August 1980. Although the Israeli Supreme Court had issued a decision by which the body should be handed over to his family, the military command has denied having any knowledge regarding the whereabouts of the body of Anees Abu Doleh. A case was also brought before the Israeli Supreme Court regarding the establishment of a DNA bank to match the identities of the victims' remains with their families. This constituted an additional point of pressure for Israel. Moreover, the Campaign also sought international alternatives to establish the DNA bank of the victims' families, such as with the Anthropological Autopsy Institute in Argentina which had worked with 30 countries around the world over several decades. The institute and the Campaign have established a cooperative relation in working towards such ends.

Until the immediate release of all remaining withheld victims' is realized, the Israeli government must submit official data disclosing the number and locations of the graves in which remains are held, as well as listing of the victims' names, dates and locations of their death. Family visitations to the graves, under the supervision and organization of the International Committee of the Red Cross, must also be permitted.

Medical Malpractice Campaign

JLAC started addressing cases of medical malpractice and medical negligence in the latter half of 2012. In this regard, a special committee was formed, initiated by members of JLAC's General Assembly. The committee has set for itself the goal of enhancing the level of medical service in the country though; raising awareness, filing lawsuits aimed at reforming existing legislation, and holding medical professionals and institutions accountable for their actions. In 2013, the committee studied the legal environment, as well as, the legal and professional references governing the health sector. It also considered the issue of deception in physicians' posted specialization and misdiagnoses. Efforts towards initiating an outreach and lobbying program were undertaken towards creating a state of balance in information and legal follow-up of medical errors and medical negligence cases in the West Bank.

The committee likewise worked on its ongoing outreach program through 2013. The program aims to protect the rights of citizens and members of the health sector in Palestine. This will be realized through enhancing community awareness on the rights and duties of patients and the health sector and building trust therein. Such will involve committee members initiating local-level meetings with citizens (at local councils, universities and women's groups) and organizations working in the field of patient care (i.e. Abu Rayya Rehabilitation Center, Thalassaemia Patients Friends Society, Dunia Center,

etc.). Moreover, plans are underway for JLAC to publicize announcements in the local presses regarding its initiative to adopt cases of medical malpractice; shortly followed by a media campaign aimed at raising awareness of medical right vis-à-vis local radio stations and social networking sites.

Among the main goals the committee intends to achieve through the Campaign include;

- Building beneficiary trust in JLAC as a resource for victims of medical malpractice.
- Publishing reports documenting cases of medical malpractice and medical negligence.
- Adopting a number of pilot cases.
- Increasing citizens' awareness on their medical rights and duties.
- Networking with relevant bodies towards influence policies and legislations in this regard.

The International Campaign for the Freedom of Movement for Palestinians – KARAMA

The KARAMA Campaign (which means “dignity” in Arabic) is a national, independent, and public campaign operating for benefit of the Palestinian people. The Campaign was established in the summer of 2008 with the aim of alleviating the suffering of Palestinians and preserving their dignity during movement and travel within and outside of Palestine. JLAC contributed to the establishment of this Campaign, which it also hosts, and it has since been registered with the PNA under the association number of RA- 22878 – HR.

The Campaign recognizes that ending the occupation and realizing a free and sovereign Palestinian with control over its borders, land, water and airspace is the ultimate solution for

the issue of freedom of movement and travel for Palestinians. Nevertheless, in the interim, the efforts of the Campaign go in line with JLAC's work towards alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people and preserving their human dignity.

Upon its commencement, the Campaign first tackled the issue of travel from Palestine through King Hussein Bridge or Allenby Bridge (known as the Karama Crossing) to Jordan and vice versa. Efforts made by the Campaign in this regard aimed at ensuring the freedom and dignity of Palestinians traveling to and from Jordan, as well as, ensuring reasonable travel costs, minimizing the bureaucratic procedures and improving travel conditions. Such involved working on ensuring the following aspects:

- Traveling to and from Jordan in new public buses directly from Palestinian and Jordanian city centers without having passengers and their luggage descend from buses at all, switching buses, or wait for long hours.
- Traveling by private cars directly to and from Jordan at the lowest possible fees and with minimal procedures.
- Traveling round the clock without being bound by specific times and/or days, as well as, scheduled buses, regardless of the numbers of passengers.
- Returning bridge responsibilities as they were prior to 2002.

After succeeding to upgrade the Jericho Stop (in cooperation with the presidential committee), the Campaign continued in its efforts through 2013 as to address the challenges facing the Jordanian and Israeli sides. The Campaign's General Assembly also grew, with new volunteers joining, and a new administrative body was elected. Moreover, a film, directed by Ra'ed al-Hilo, was produced in partnership with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. The film is subtitled in Arabic, English, German and Hebrew and is scheduled for debut in several countries during the first quarter of 2014.

Media & Events

JLAC continued to communicate its work, legal opinions, progresses and hindrances, as well as provided guidance and informative material through such platforms as local media outlets and social networking sites. JLAC's media strategy is to provide instant accurate information to media outlets and the public, to provide story element details to journalists, and to provide needed information in guiding victims of particular human rights offences. This is done with two intertwined aims; to raise public awareness and to publicize certain stories/cases towards advocating for needed reforms. . JLAC has become a prominent source of information to local media and journalists in regards to the Israeli authority violations of such rights as; rights to dwelling and living, social and economic rights (in East Jerusalem), retrieval of war victims remains, settler violence and land related violations.

The following is a listing of JLAC's coverage in the media in 2013;

- Radio show (لنا كلمة وبعرف حقي).
- 3 short videos on Settler Violence.
- Raya FM TV show – 7 weekly with Ahla Sabah.
- Film Interview Salem Khilleh, Fatima AbdulKarim and Haytham Khatib by Samuel.
- Settler Violence campaign with local media: Palestine TV, Voice of Palestine, weekly hosting on Falasteen ALGhad morning show (20 interviews).
- Interview with Bassam Karaja for a film by Maurice Jackobsen as part of the film he did for Al Aqaba village.
- 17 Press releases.
- TV hosting and newspaper pieces on family reunification of Jerusalemites.
- 6 Tours; (2 Diplomats, 2 International Organizations, 2 study tours for Press and Human Rights volunteers).



Coalitions & Alliances

JLAC's involvement in specialized coalitions allow the center to forge cooperation and networks in tackling particular issues, while effectively using its resources, maximize its results, and minimize duplication among peer NGOs, especially those operating in the field of human rights. However, the roles and activities JLAC undertaken depend on the coalition it is acting within. The following are among the key activities fulfilled by JLAC within its various coalitions:

- The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council-PHROC: JLAC's role in PHROC is growing and its methods are evolving, with plenty of room for further development in terms of its role. The work of PHROC is characterized by taking joint positions and issuing statements and position papers on major issues affecting Palestinian human rights or collective rights of the Palestinian people, such as the negotiations and their grounds. Moreover, PHROC holds joint press conferences to announce positions on serious human rights issues. However, there is still room for developing indicators that would enable monitoring and evaluating the state of human rights and publishing a joint annual report in this regard. Despite differences among the various institutions, the coalition member also benefited from collective negotiations with service providers, particularly with large service providers as insurance companies and banking services. Among the points which JLAC (and several other organizations) felt could be improved, was the appointment of a focal person to coordinate and improve coalition follow-up methods.
- The Palestinian NGO Network - PNGO: Although the JLAC did not run for membership of PNGO's Coordinating Committee for this session, it continued to play a significant role in; the Steering Committee of the Strategic Framework

for Civil Work, the newly established framework or the Coordinating Council for Palestinian Civil Work (which includes three Palestinian unions and NGO networks), and overall sectoral policy formation.

- The NGOs Code of Conduct Coalition: JLAC continued its work on the level of encouraging transparency and strengthening structures of NGOs. This is being realized through developing a system to verify commitment to the principles of the Palestinian NGOs' code of conduct, through this coalition which includes representatives of five relevant networks and unions.
- The Coalition for Jerusalem: The center continued its role in the Coalition for Jerusalem and coordinated some campaigns emanating from this Coalition. However, the need might exist to review the role of the Coalition towards better activating it.
- The Coalition for Awareness of Medical Malpractice: JLAC took a number of steps towards the establishment of a national coalition for raising awareness on the matter of medical malpractice. The center also worked towards unifying efforts aimed at raising the level of medical services (see page X for more details).

A few coalitions witnessed a decline in activity, such as: the Committee for the Defense of Public Freedoms (role now partly played by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council), the Palestinian Coalition against Torture, and the Coalition against the Death Penalty (considered by some parties as a projects ending with completion). Membership in such coalitions requires reconsideration, as their functions and themes might be addressed by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council.



Internal Environment

Strategic Objective Three

Enhancing JLAC's capacity and preparedness to achieve its strategic objectives, through:

The year 2013 saw significant changes to the internal working environment at JLAC, most prominently:

- Completion of the external evaluation of JLAC's programs and review of its vision, mission statements, and sub objectives and formations of the Strategic Plan for the coming five years (2013-2017).
- Endorsement of the financial and administrative reports for 2012.
- Completion of the JLAC's electronic database system and training staff in its use.
- Recruitment of an employee in the field of international advocacy, two field researchers and an accountant.
- Development staff capacities through a series of trainings and workshops, held locally and internationally.

The General Assembly

The number of members of JLAC's General Assembly for the current year reached 26 members in total, with women comprising 34% of the group. The Assembly held its annual meeting on June 1st, with the agenda for discussion including the endorsement of financial and administrative reports, the results of the external evaluation, and the adoption the new five-year strategic plan.

The Board of Directors

JLAC's Board of Directors, elected in 2012, remained 9 members, with women comprising 22% of the total membership. The Board of Directors held 3 meetings in 2013, in addition to other ad hoc meetings in which members reviewed particular undertakings of the center and took necessary decisions therein. Among the main items undertaken by the Board include; the signing of administrative and financial reports and discussion of the external evaluation report and five-year strategic plan (with recommendations submitted for their endorsement by the General Assembly), as well as, work progress, achievements made, and challenges faced by JLAC.

Staff Size & Distribution

By end of 2013, the size of JLAC's working team reached 32 persons, 29 of which working on part or full time basis 2 working under services contracts and 1 lawyer in training. The working team is sub-divided among members four units, as follows: the Administrative Unit (including financial and administrative affairs), the Legal Unit, the Advocacy & Mobilization Unit, and the Planning Funding Unit. The distribution of staff by gender is 18 males to 14 females, or 56% to 44% respectively.

Staff Changes

In line with the development and expansion of the JLAC's operations, some changes in the working team, in regards to the recruitment of new staffers, took place. An international advocacy officer was recruited to help enhance JLAC's presence international forum. The new colleague commenced her duties in mid- September. Additionally, a full-time accountant was appointed in November to help take on the growing workload. Two field researchers were also recruited involving a two- year project with MAP Foundation aimed at raising awareness of Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley. Also, during 2013, JLAC's part-time accountant resigned his post. The center likewise terminated its contract with one of its legal advisors who had been working with JLAC since September 2013.

Evaluation & Strategic Plan

During 2013, the JLAC finalized the external evaluation of its programs and the development of its new five-year Strategic Plan, a process initiated in 2012. The outcomes of the external evaluation fed the development of the strategic plan, and allowed for more efficient use of time and resources. Once endorsed by the Board of Directors and General Assembly, the center went on to base its 2013 action plan on the two documents.

Development of JLAC Database

Work on establishing and developing an electronic database to enable electronic archiving and follow-up of JLAC cases was initiated in 2012 and continued through 2013. The system was completed in July of 2013 and a training workshop was conducted to train the staff on using the new database. JLAC will commence data-entry and activate the database in 2014.

Capacity Development of Staff

In an effort to further empower JLAC's working team and refine their capacities, and contribute to the quality of their performance, a diverse group of development programs were provided in 2013. Most notably, 2 lawyers participated in specialized legal training, Hebrew Language training was provided to two lawyers and 1 paralegal, and 1 paralegal received computer skills training. Additionally, JLAC's Planning & Fundraising Unit Manager, participated in a training course provided by Harvard University's Kennedy School on the subject of strategic planning among civil society organizations, held in Istanbul, Turkey in May of 2013.

Participation in International Conferences

In August 2013, the International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, commissioned by a UN resolution 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, along with a community representative from the village of Yanoun, was in attendance in Amman and delivered both an oral and written statement on the subject of the settler impunity and lack of legal accountability taking place, with the incidences occurring in Yanoun as a case in point.

Moreover, JLAC's Director of the Jerusalem Branch Office partook in Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network's (EMHRN) annual workshop on European Advocacy, Rome in November. The workshop focused gathered Israeli, Palestinian, European and International organizations to discuss advocacy strategies aimed at enhancing the EU's role in the promotion of accountability and the fight against impunity in the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The event was

organized by EMHRN's Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP WG).

JLAC's International Advocacy Officer likewise traveled to Madrid in October in an effort to promote municipal agreements or twinning collaborations between municipalities in Spain and local government councils in promoting and defending of human rights in the territory. The premise of the collaboration is that the Spanish State could somehow become the voice of the Palestinian municipalities before the Israeli State, through the various networks and platforms Spain works within. Secondly, the formal agreement between these institutions will contribute in the international field to legitimize and empower the local governments in the oPt, especially in Area C. Both municipalities met with responded positively. JLAC's International Advocacy Officer will continue in building twinning collaborations through 2014.



Core Donors



The Irish Representative Office (Irish Aid):

JLAC's partnership with the Irish Aid began in 2007, with a grant for core funds. This grant has since been renewed on an annual bases, with 78,000 USD granted in 2013 towards core funding.



EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst) / Brot für die Welt:

Brot für die Welt is one of JLAC's original donors whom funded the Center since its separation from the Quakers back in 1997. Following its merger with the EED, the duo continued in its support to JLAC with 179,415 USD in core funds provided in 2013. 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 47,100 USD in 2013. 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, with the amount of 48,000 USD allocated for the year 2013.



The United Nations Development Program (UNDP):

In 2011, JLAC began its partnership with the UNDP. The UNDP provided JLAC with funding in 2013 in the amount of 98,188 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.

Project-based Support



Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):

JLAC began its relationship with the NRC in 2009, with project phases continuing through 2013. Currently, the NRC is funding two projects in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, respectively entitled: 'Legal Assistance for the protection of Palestinians Affected by Forced Displacement,' and 'Providing Legal Representation on House Demolition in East Jerusalem'. The total funding amount for the two projects totals 527,284 USD for the year 2013.



The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid):

In April of 2013, JLAC signed a two year project with AusAid, in cooperation with Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). The project entitled; 'Strengthening the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms for Human Rights Violations of Marginalized Bedouin Communities in Area C', aims to facilitate the continuation of Bedouins' indigenous way of life through helping to secure them in their lands (via awareness, advocacy, and community empowerment efforts). The grant award was in the amount of 104,070 USD, with 29,808 USD was allocated for 2013.



Welfare Association:

Welfare Association funded an initiative to improve the economic and social situation of marginalized groups in Jerusalem and to promote their steadfastness in their city. The grant award was in the amount of 120,000 USD, of which 40,955 USD was allocated for 2013.



Euro Neighbourhood Partnership Initiative (ENPI):

In 2013 JLAC implemented and completed a project funded by ENPI aimed at intensively training a core group of Human Rights Defenders on advocacy and lobbying skills. The grant award was in the amount of 16,795 USD.

Statement of Revenue & Expenditure (01/01/2013 - 31/12/2013)

Description	Account.Name	Amount (USD)
Revenue		996,952
	Release from TRC \ Grants Revenue	960,931
	Defferd Revenue Realized	18,554
	Other Revenue	17,467
Expense		
Staff Cost		662,253
	Salaries Staff	571,077
	Provident Fund	35,350
	Severance Pay	35,992
	Staff Insurance (health, national, workermen, etc.)	16,069
	Other Staff Exp.(Association Bar, etc.)	3,765
Operational & General EXP.		104,093
	Rent & Related Services Exp.	21,484
	Utilities Expenses	15,021
	Admin & General Exp.	15,868
	Repair & Maintenance	13,163
	Professional Expenses	10,594
	Communication & Internet	10,856
	Transportation	12,573
	Bank Charges & Diff. of currency	4,533
Depreciation Expenses		27,553
	Furniture Depreciation Exp.	2,611
	Equipment Depreciation Exp.	8,273
	Vehicles Depreciation Exp.	6,800
	Software Depreciation Exp.	868
	Buildings' Depreciation Exp.	9,000

Description	Account.Name	Amount (USD)
Legal Aid		232,790
	Court Fees	29,490
	Survey, Cadastral Maps	108,510
	Ariel Photographs	143
	Radio Series & Spots	3,300
	Newspaper Advertisements	4,155
	External Legal Consultants	74,771
	Printing & Publications	12,422
Advocacy		26,308
	Hall Rent & Workshop Exp.	9,910
	Advocacy Transportation	9,000
	Books & Magazine	571
	International Travel	4,278
	Membership coalitions Networks	403
	Documentation	1,700
	Events Expenses	447
Capacity Building		2,988
	Staff Training	2,988
	Total Expenditure	1,055,985
	Net Surplus / Deficit	-59,035

