



JERUSALEM LEGAL AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

From **Displacement to Replacement**

Annual Report 2016



Special thanks to the following photographers who donated their photos:

Fadi Aruri (Cover, pages: 2, 22, 35, and 45)

Iyad Al-Taweel (page: 24)

Maram Abdo (pages: 30, 31, 38)

As well as, to our colleagues:

Mai Farsakh (pages: 42, 49, 51, 54, 55, 59, and 64)

Hussein Shejaeya (pages: 46, 47)



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Annual Report

2016



Table of Contents

Letter from the Chairman of the Board of Directors	7
External Environment	8
Areas Classified as “C”	10
East Jerusalem	30
Palestinian Authority	40
International Advocacy, Coalitions & Campaigns	46
Internal Environment	54
Sources of Support- Donors	58
Financial Report	62

Who We Are?

Over the past 42 years, 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 to 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.



Bennett, who has long set out his political stall as a nationalist, settlement-supporting and pro-annexation opponent of such a two-state solution, told supporters he saw Trump's inauguration as a "small window of opportunity" to annex Area C, starting with Maale Adumim.



This issue of our annual report is dedicated to our dear late Chairman Mr. Tayseer Arouri, whom was a committed member of JLAC's Board of Directors.

Tayseer passed away in 2016. He will surely be missed.

Letter from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

This section of our annual report has historically been dedicated to the thoughts and analysis of our Chairman of the Board of Directors. His inspirational messages both motivated the executive team and helped us in foreseeing what's to come. Sadly, this year, we lost a leader, a teacher and a friend; with the loss of our Chairman Tayseer Arouri at the peak of his giving.

We will honor his legacy by continuing to walk in his footsteps, his path; through servicing to the maximum of our energies and being careful with our resources, as they are considered public money to which we must be accountable. His was an approach of belonging to the poor and vulnerable groups, holding on to human dignity and the values of justice and eternal longing for freedom. An approach of brotherhood, tolerance, and acceptance and denouncing of violence, extremism, fanaticism and terror. An approach which valued the self-determination of women and strove to maintain those rights, which saw women and youth as key activists and considered the human rights movement to be dynamic rather than made up of an elite fixed

few. Tayseer not only contributed his ethics, but also built sound institutional systems and procedures, which have come to form JLAC's foundation.

Tayseer was among the first to conceptualize the 50-70 advocacy campaign (50 years since the occupation and 70 years since the United Nations' Resolution 181 on the two-state solution) and to urge us in its regard. 70 years later, the resolution has remained mere ink on paper, with half of the Palestinian populous since being displaced and continuing to live in the diaspora, deprived of right of return and self-determination. Therefore, without an end to the occupation, any intervention will only work to alleviate symptoms.

Our promise to the memories of Tayseer and A'tef Sa'ad (a member of our Board whom we lost last year), our promise to all those who placed their trust in us, our volunteers, supporters, General Assembly, Board of Directors, partners and allies, is to continue on our path until all our legitimate rights are realized.

With special gratitude to all those whom have supported us throughout the years and continue to do so,

JLAC's Staff and Executive Management.

External Environment

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

The end of the year brought with it contradicting indicators; though UN Security Council resolution 2334 (reached by unanimous vote) condemned settlements (including those in Jerusalem) and called on countries to take measures of non-cooperation with settlement activities and demanded the United Nations Security General provide quarterly reporting of settlement activity; yet the international body is not yet able to oblige Israel to commit to principles of international humanitarian law. As a backlash and in an effort to show unyielding US support for Israel, newly elected American president, Donald Trump declared

his intention to move the American embassy to occupied Jerusalem. These words of encouragement were directed to the most extreme Israeli governing coalitions in the country's history. In the same tone, discussions and plans for annexing Area C, starting with Ma'ale Adumim settlement and the implementation of E1, were made as a means of putting the last nail in the coffin of the Two-State Solution. The alternatives offered, through varying, all exceeded the dangers of the defunct apartheid system in South Africa.

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

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

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

While just a few years ago, courts mostly dealt with cases involving land and financial disputes, now the courts mostly consider issues related to divorce, fights, and other cases of violence, followed by traffic-related cases. Such is an indicator that citizens are resorting to other means of solving disputes, while courts are dealing with the cases of internal violence emanating from such efforts. Such was confirmed by 43% of the study sample, whom indicated that they do not seek out the judiciary for solving their disputes as they lost faith in it. Half of the studied sample considered the judiciary system to be slow, at best. These are indicators of the deterioration of the Judiciary system

despite the vast investments in it. We all know that the deterioration of the judiciary pushes people to take matters of justice into their own hands, and in so doing threatening civil peace, social stability, and vulnerable groups whom lack power and privilege. Indeed, such fosters chaos and the establishment of gangs who play the role providing protection in return for collecting bribes, a situation which only brings further instability.

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

Areas Classified as “C”

Demolition and Displacement



2016 witnessed significant escalation in Israeli violations inflicted in area “C”, with the largest wave of demolitions ever recorded carried out in the West Bank and Jerusalem. A total of 1,089 establishments were demolished in 2016, leading to the displacement of 1,593 people (according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs- OCHA). This is considered the highest number since 2009, the year OCHA started documenting demolitions. This number has also been confirmed by the annual report of the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission. The number of demolition cases followed- up by JLAC for the same period was 266, with 21 cases cancelled and entirely protecting the homes and livelihood structure.

In 2016, the Civil Administration (through its Inspection Committee under the Higher Organization Council and the Jerusalem Municipality) issued 774 demolition , out of which Jerusalem’s share was 124. JLAC undertook 266 of the orders in the West Bank; 45% of the total number of demolition orders issued in the West Bank (according to the Colonization & Wall Resistance







Demolition Orders Issued vs. Actual Demolitions:

Year	Demolition Orders	Actual Demolitions
2012	930	585
2013	1090	662
2014	864	577
2015	700	535
2016	774	1089

Land Confiscation

With the close of 2016, both the second and third readings of the settlement regulation bill were approved by Israel's legislative committee, and are currently being approved by the Israeli Knesset. This law, according to the Israeli Minister of Education Naftali Bennett, will pave the way for the annexation of the largest area of land with the least number of residents. Literally translated, such is the very definition of forced displacement and land confiscation. This is a serious violation of international humanitarian law (IHL) which applies to the occupied territory. It is also a violation of United Nations resolutions concerning lands occupied in 1967, including the latest Security Council decision concerning settlement activities, which was unanimously affirmed by 14 member states (the US choosing to abstain) on December 24, 2016.

Six other bills also work towards annexing Palestinian lands and enforcing Israeli law on Israeli settlers residing illegally in occupied lands, as follows:

-  Bill applying Israeli sovereignty over settlements.
-  Bill applying Israeli zoning and development to Ma'ale Adumim settlement.
-  Bill especially for Ariel settlement.
-  Bill imposing Israeli laws on settlers, as issued by military order.
-  Bill prohibiting evacuation of Amona settlement.
-  Bill completing construction of Wall along the Jordan Valley and south west of Hebron.

During the reporting period, JLAC adopted 6 cases related to land confiscation which are still under follow up, in addition to 45 cases which are being followed from prior years.

Theft of Drinking Water

Israel's policy of exerting control over natural resources persists with drinking water being no exception. Palestinians' share of water has remained the same, and in several areas it appears that Palestinians are receiving even less than what protocols dictate (in accordance with transitional agreements i.e. Oslo). Such has led to aggravation of the water crisis in localities which had not previously suffered from shortages in the past, due to further decrease to the already low share of drinking water and water for agriculture use. Israeli shares, however did not decrease, including settler consumption. Rather, settlements expanded water use, related concerns, while Palestinian districts were left to suffer. The district of Salfit, for instance, endured a severe water crisis during the summer of 2016. It was discovered during a meeting with the Salfit Governor's office that most municipalities and village councils in the district suffered from reduced monthly shares of potable water. This problem has been exacerbated

by restrictions imposed by Israel, wherein the digging or rehabilitation of any artisan wells or use of other water sources in areas classified as "C" requires the approval by a joint committee (Israeli-Palestinian). This committee, according to the Palestinian Water Authority, has not convened in 11 years. Most of the districts suffer from the same issue, with Bedouins in Area "C" suffering the most.

As for rainwater harvesting, wells built by Palestinian farmers for agricultural purposes (to collect marginal rain-water which otherwise would be lost as run-off for reuse in dry summer months) are considered illegal structures by the ICA (Israeli Civil Administration) and are issued demolition orders. Legal follow-up in their regard requires the same procedures and associated costs as a case involving the demolition of a house. Such is in violation of the Jordanian Law allegedly enforced in Area "C" and the said water protocols which do not require permits for digging rain-water harvesting wells. In 2016, JLAC adopted 12 cases related to rainwater harvesting wells.

Protection of Water Storage Tank - Ein Al-Baida'

In August of 2015, JLAC took on a case involving a group of farmers from Ein Al-Baida' area in the Jordan Valley. A 500 m3 water tank utilized by the farmers had been issued a demolition order, the excuse being the construction was done without the needed permit. The farmers rely on the tank in irrigating their agricultural lands, with agriculture being the only means of livelihood available to these beneficiaries. The first sessions convened with the relevant ICA committees, rejected all legal claims and a verdict was issued for the demolition of the water tank due to lacking a permit.

It is well known that Israel has controlled most of the West Bank's water resources, from underground aquifers to springs and artisan wells. Palestinians are only allowed to utilize a few of their own water resources, leaving Palestinians with a fraction of the share Israeli citizens (including settlers) are afforded.

The matter was raised before the Israeli High Court with the petition focusing on the right of Palestinians to benefit from their available water resources for the purposes of drinking and irrigation. Legal arguments highlighted the obligations and failures on the part of the military commander of the ICA as per International Law and related human rights covenants (namely the Geneva Conventions) which task the military commander in the occupied territory with ensuring the interests of local residents. Rather, there is a discriminatory use of power involving Palestinian citizens. Finally, after over a year and a half of legal follow-up, JLAC succeeded in gaining a positive verdict, we managed to acquire a verdict from the Israeli High Court cancelling the demolition order against the water tank.

Protection of Water Storage Tank - Froush Beit Dajan

The ICA backed down in its intent to demolish the main and only water tank for the village of Froush Beit Dajan, after an objection was raised before the Israeli High Court. The ICA committed before the court to abstain from demolishing the tank for the time being. If this position is reconsidered in the future, the community will be given the chance to object again. Froush Beit Dajan's village council had received the demolition order concerning the 500 m3 tank in February of 2015, threatening the over 1,000 inhabitants of the village whom rely on the tank for potable water. The excuse given was that the tank lacked the needed permit.

During its first stages, the case was raised before the relevant ICA committees, with the nature and need of the structure articulated. The committee ruled that a building permit must be requested. JLAC's legal unit filed a permit request, which as expected was rejected. The reason given was that the ownership of the land in question could not be proved as the tank was built on state land. JLAC went on to file a petition before the Israeli High Court, addressing the people's need for water and contesting that state land should be used for public interest. Also argued was the military commander's obligation to ensure the interests of local residents, as per The Hague and Geneva Conventions, and the residents' grave need to access drinking water. The ICA eventually backed down and informed the High Court of its decision to not demolish the tank.



Confiscation of Equipment

A number of international organizations active in the occupied territory, work in partnership with some developmental Palestinian institutions towards providing emergency humanitarian assistance to victims of Israeli policies, such as those involving demolition and displacement, namely against Bedouin communities in area "C". The Israeli Civil Administration requires prior approval in allowing the provision of humanitarian aid to reach affected communities, however such a stipulation is a clear violation of IHL which stipulates that the prevailing authorities in cases of conflict must facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. These organizations are choosing to reject the occupations forces' conditions, as provision of humanitarian aid is at the core of their work and serves as a way of standing in solidarity with Palestine as members of the international community. In accordance with IHL, Israel is obliged as an occupying power to protect Palestinians and to provide necessary humanitarian aid. Instead of being protected, Palestinians are being victimized with the demolition of their homes and livelihood structures. International organizations, many of which are affiliated with the United Nations and funded by the European Union, are filling a necessary vacuum by providing aid. Yet the Israeli military often confiscates aid materials before they have had the chance to arrive to their destination. In addition, the vehicles transporting the supplies/ materials are often confiscated. In 2016, JLAC adopted 17 cases related to the confiscation of vehicles transporting aid, with the cases mostly involving both the vehicles and their loads.

In addition to confiscation of aid, the Israeli Civil Administration likewise demolishes structures related to humanitarian projects such as schools, water wells, water tanks, and electrical networks, all of which service Palestinians in area "C".

Settler Violence

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

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



Settlement Expansion / Settler Violence:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Case of Qaryout

Settlement expansion and violence, as perpetrated by illegal Israeli settlers, has devastated not only the viability of a two-state-solution but the ability of rural Palestinians to maintain presence and livelihood in areas classified as “C”. Indeed, the settlement enterprise is created to push out Palestinians from their homes and lands towards further annexation of land, vis-à-vis house demolition, land confiscation, and violence and intimidation. There is no better example of this phenomenon than that of the village of Qaryout. Centrally located between Nablus and Ramallah, Qaryout’s land falls in the midst of three large illegal settlements (Shilo, Eli, and Shivot Rahal) and four outposts considered illegal even by Israeli standards (Yes Kodesh, Adi Ad, Yehya, etc.). Consequently, Qaryout is a friction point in Israel’s quest to expand and connect these illegal settlements in the area. After the Israeli Knesset ratified the bill retroactively legalizing illegal settlements and settlement outpost, Israel intends to promptly initiate the construction of 4,000 settlement units in 55 settlement outposts throughout the West Bank. In the event of the implementation of this law, 128 settlement units will be added to Eli settlement, which is built upon the on the private lands of the villages of Qaryout, Al Sawyeh and Al Luban. However, on the ground, 650 new settlement units in fact will be built. Thus, collectively these new units will come to confiscate an additional 1,002 dunams from the said villages. JLAC has established a plan to legally challenge confiscation of Palestinian land before relevant Israeli courts, as such confiscation is illegal even by Israeli laws, not to mention the breach of international humanitarian law.



Land Confiscation and House Demolition

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

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

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

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

Violence & Intimidation

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

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

Case of the Child Mayasara

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

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

Military Brutality

This past year, brutality by settlers and military resulted in the murder of two young men (both aged 18) from Qaryout. The young men whom were shot by settlers for being “too close” to the settlement, tortured, and their bodies defiled and run over repeatedly by a military jeep. Such was a very ugly and inhumane crime, aimed at instilling fear in the greater community. Adding insult to injury, is the complete impunity the settlers enjoy as protected by the military. The military itself, itself is the largest perpetrator of violence. The army enters the village nearly daily in an effort to intimidate the community through raids of homes (involving sound and gas canisters being thrown inside the homes) and arbitrary arrests of youth. Bashar, a member of the Qaryout village council and activist against the wall and settlement expansion, told JLAC of the many arrests he has endured and of his most recent one earlier this year. Young active men intending to resist occupation are often targeted by the military, but so is the entire

community indiscriminately. This was his fourth arrest, amounting to 3 years of his life (and 7 injuries) in total. He has also been physically harmed by settlers while farming, and by the military while demonstrating and while just being at home during arbitrary raids. The way in which he was detained also served to brutalize his parents and siblings, with private property destroyed in a form of collective punishment.

JLAC’s Interventions for the Community

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

Collective Punishment

The Israeli government continued practicing the policy of collective punishment on a larger scale than it had in the past. This policy can be seen in several fields:

Violating Freedom of Movement

Families of victims of extra-judicial killings are being deprived from; travel, obtaining work permits, or any kind of permits provided during religious and social occasions.

Additionally, the city of Jerusalem is permanently closed to Palestinians of the West Bank, as it is encased by the Annexation Wall and associated military permit regime, with access to the city being a feat that is an impossibility for many. Such has resulted in two entire Palestinian generations that, for the most part, have never entered Jerusalem even once in their life.

The wave of unrest which erupted across the West Bank in October 2014, brought with it renewed military road closures and other forms of Israeli violation of Palestinians' freedom of movement. Reoccurring closures of Palestinian villages, towns, and entire districts are being enforced by a system of fixed checkpoints, surprise flying checkpoints, physical obstructions, roads on which Palestinians are forbidden to travel, and gates along the Annexation wall. According to a rapid survey carried out by OCHA, Israeli security forces have deployed 91 new obstacles (checkpoints, roadblocks, earth mounds, etc., excluding ad-hoc "flying" checkpoints) on West Bank roads since the 2014 unrest. Such is in addition to, 452 pre-existing obstacles. Raising concerns about collective punishment, main routes to the villages where suspected perpetrators lived have more recently been blocked by Israeli forces. The imposed restrictions have split the area into six geographical areas: North, Center, South, the Jordan Valley and northern Dead Sea, East Jerusalem, and 13 enclaves resulting from the Annexation wall. Movement is also severely restricted within each area, with checkpoints staffed by Israeli forces subdividing the areas, separating villages from the urban centers, and detaching villagers from their farmland. In 2016, JLAC undertook 4 cases of road closure in the Nablus area.



Karama Campaign

Palestinians' freedom of movement and travel is considered one of the major rights violated by occupation forces. For they control Palestinian travel over the passages which link the occupied territory with neighboring countries (and the outside world) and axes of main roads within the West Bank. Such is in addition to the separation of the West Bank from Gaza, the suffocating siege of the Gaza Strip, and isolation of Jerusalem from the remainder of the West Bank. In 2016, the Campaign decided to expand its scope of work to include the re-opening of closed roads, internal movement, and travel bans imposed by occupation forces.

Furthermore, occupation forces re-activated bans from travelling abroad for those previously banned. Such has resulted in hundreds of Palestinians losing jobs and scholarship opportunities in universities abroad. For many, studying abroad is the only means of securing a scholarship or access to distinguished majors or post graduate opportunities. JLAC worked to address freedom of movement violations through its adoption of 22 cases of travel bans and permits for detainee visitation, as well as through its continued efforts in the campaign for free movement in dignity for Palestinians- Karama.

Punitive House Demolition

One of the most brutal forms of collective punishment enforced by the Israeli military, is punitive house demolition. Such involves the demolition or sealing off of the family homes of those extra-judicially killed or detained in military prisons. Some of these homes shelter extended families; which results in a major humanitarian crisis. The crisis is furthered by the fact that the majority of the families victimized are lower income or poverty stricken, impacting their ability to acquire new living arrangements. The number of houses punitively demolished in 2016 reached 25 (as documented by JLAC). JLAC undertook 5 of these cases, managing to positively close one of the cases thus far. Such may be the only case among the 25, to result in a positive ruling (i.e. cancelation of the demolition order) during 2016. Punitive demolition, however, continues to threaten approximately 100 houses, since inspected and measured by surveyors (a routine procedure preceding demolition) though demolition orders had not always been issued.

Withholding of Victims' Bodies

Moreover, occupation forces are still withholding the bodies of hundreds of war victims, either in morgue refrigerators or within the military cemeteries known as "cemeteries of numbers", some of which since decades. So doing not only deprives the victims the right to a dignified burial, but dually deprives their families of the right to close their wounds and have a place to grieve for their dead.



I don't think Israel's becoming more religious, I think its politics is becoming more religious. There's a difference.

Yair Lapid

Cases Treated within Israeli Courts and Objection Committees during 2016

Case Type	Treated Cases		Closed			On-Going	# of Petitions	Notes	
	New	Accumulated	Positively	Negatively	Other				
Public interest	20		6			14			
	7	13	4	0	2				
Land Confiscation	51		5			46		On-going status means that the legal procedure undertaken has secured the families' presence in their homes/lands until court orders otherwise.	
	6	45	1	1	3				
Settler Attacks	51		0			51			
	5	46	0	0	0				
Right of Dwelling	House Demolition	1062		13			1049	21	
		121	941	0	2	11			
	Demolition Jerusalem	109		5			104		
		23	86	3	0	2			
	Agricultural facilities	439		42			397		
		90	349	6	9	27			
Punitive Demolition	4		0			4			
	4	0	0	0	0				
Forced Displacement	310		34			276			
	28	282	12	16	6				
Jerusalemites	Social Rights	90		32			58		This includes humanitarian aid for displaced people
		36	54	23	3	6			
Economic Rights	54		23			31			
		30	24	18	0				5
Freedom of movement	Travel	13		12			1		
		7	6	8	0	4			
	Prison Visitation	6		1			5		
		4	2	1	0	0			
Permits	24		16			8			
	11	13	4	1	11				
Confiscations of Equipment/ Goods	20		7			13			
		17	3	6	0				1
Bodies Campaign	157		24			133	5		
	39	118	23	0	1				
Miscellaneous	12		6			6			
		4	8	2	0				4
Total	2422		226			2196	26		
	432	1990	111	32	83				

Services provided in the Ramallah and Jerusalem Branch Offices

Social Services in Jerusalem	Economic Services in Jerusalem	Correspondences Jerusalem	Petitions	Legal Consultations Jerusalem	Consultations in Ramallah, Nablus, Salfeet, and Qalqilia	Total
505	3080	3	21	274	1800	5,683

Case of Arab Al Ramadeen

Behind the wall severing Qaliqilya's countryside from the city, lies the small Bedouin community of Arab Al Ramadeen whom are struggling to maintain their herder way of life. Legal restrictions have eradicated the transient nature of the Bedouin lifestyle, and more recently are serving to threaten the presence of those Bedouins whom have gone against their nature and settled in remote areas. For even in this settling, Bedouins are facing threat of demolition due to failing to own the land they inhabit. The Arab Al Ramadeen community (comprised of 300+ persons) took it upon themselves to buy the stretch of land they inhabit (323 dunams), but such has only been met with demolition orders being received due to their inability to acquire building permits (in the likes of all communities situated in areas classified as "C" or State Land). The land which the community privately owns and inhabits, is earmarked for expansion of Israeli industrial areas in that geography, adding to the vulnerability of the community in way of the strategic placement of the Wall and targeted demolition orders.

Indeed, Israel's Annexation Wall, which does not follow the green line, but weaves in and out when it is more opportune (i.e. going further into Palestinian agricultural land and further out in areas densely populated with Palestinian Jerusalemites), is among its many tactics of systemically depopulating wide expanse of Palestinian land towards its annexation. The wall in the case of the Arab Al Ramadeen has served to further isolate and marginalize the community and to add to the challenges of daily life under occupation. The community and those whom may seek to visit it must acquire specialized military permits and cross through guarded gates, intimidated and dehumanized along the way and placed at risk of

settler violence. Furthermore, the wall, its associated access restrictions, and looming threats of demolition of homes and livelihood structures are subjecting the community to the existential threat of losing their identity as Bedouins and the open space and mobility that demands.

Originally from Bir el-Sabe, in the southernmost region of historic Palestine, the community holds refugee status. They are also rights holders as Palestinian citizens under the PA and as occupied persons under Israel. Regretfully, they are marginalized by all three institutions, lacking piped water, connection to electrical grids, and access to health and secondary education facilities in their vicinity. Moreover, what limited resource are available to the community often fall under threat of demolition. The community's only elementary school is one such facility. The school faces threat of demolition with an order served and currently being defended by JLAC. As a public school, the PA provides the local school with teachers and basic supplies, with the simple infrastructure funded by an Italian institution.

The school has helped to create equal opportunity in education for the 100+ boys and girls (aged 5-12 years of age) who attend through mitigating the discrimination felt by Bedouin children while among villagers outside their community and the threat of physical harm in crossing in and out of military checkpoints and nearby settlements. Indeed, the school is a safe haven for young children up to 7th grade, after which students must cross on foot out of the military check point back into villages within the remainder of the West Bank that falls beyond the Wall. The logistics and security risks involved have pressured many families and children to choose to discontinue basic education. The vast majority of the community's young adults work as cheap

laborers in nearby Israeli settlements in supporting their families. The community's one mosque likewise faces threat of demolition and was hastily constructed in mitigating that end, with prayers raised under a thin metal sheet roof.

Their historically transient nature had allowed for Bedouins to ensure their protection from the elements despite the fragility of their structures; as communities would spend their summers in lush pastures of northern mountainous areas and their winters fortified in the valleys of the south. However, withstanding Palestine's harsh winters as felt on open mountaintops is an arduous feat with only canvas to shield you. This reality was brutally understood by the family of Abdallah in October of 2015 which witnessed a record high storm and consequently much devastation of housing and livelihood structures. Abdallah a young man starting out his life, along with his parents (and younger siblings), and married older brother and his family, personally lost their three homes in the storm. Although, international organizations and the PA provided some humanitarian aid, in way of tents and food supplies, efforts to rebuild were mostly financed by the community. This time Abdallah, as much of the community, chose to rebuild his simple two room makeshift house using reinforced block and zinc, a feat that took up all the money he had saved laboring for years in Israel to marry. Unfortunately, Abdallah and 8

others in his community have since received stop work orders for the rebuilt structures, which JLAC has since provided legal aid towards.

In addition to the provision of legal aid, JLAC's recent engagement with the community served to provide much needed legal awareness. An initial inquiry revealed that 3 demolitions were carried out in the community in 2012 (prior to JLAC's involvement) due to the community's lack of knowledge in legal procedures towards securing their rights. JLAC's awareness sessions in Arab Al Ramadeen strive to encourage beneficiaries to finalize land documents, as their private land ownership is their strong point in legal defense. Model stop work and demolition orders are also shown to attending community members and explained in regards to what to do and what information to gather in the event they are issued. Community members are also encouraged to quickly build the outer-shell of their home first and then to complete inside, towards working around the restriction of "stop work" orders while the case is being challenged in court. Once JLAC intervenes legally, neither the home owner (in continuing construction) nor the ICA (in demolishing) can take any action on the house, until a final ruling is reached. Therefore it's advisable for new constructions to be built swiftly and to be lived-in as soon as possible, as such has legal bearings.

Success Stories

Protection of Land from Confiscation- Al-Zawyeh

Five villagers from the Raddad and Shqair families in the village of Al-Zawyeh within the district of Salfit approached JLAC in 2002 after receiving an evacuation order involving 50 dunams of land in the village. The reason given was that the ownership of the land belonged to an Israeli settlement company; a company which tries all available means to disenfranchise Palestinians of their land in service of settlement projects. Back then, JLAC undertook the case and followed it up through all stages of litigation. Fourteen years later, in 2016, JLAC finally was able to secure a verdict by the primary committee for the registration of immovable property relinquishing the 50 dunams of land back to their rightful owners in Al-Zawyeh village. Such involved a fierce battle during which JLAC was able to prove that the ownership documents submitted by the settlement company had been forged. The settlement company objected to the verdict, which was rejected. Instead, the court fined the company with 50000 NIS.

Protection of Land from Confiscation- Bruqin Village:

After two years of legal follow-up, JLAC succeeded in securing a decision by the military complaints committee cancelling a land evacuation order against a villager from Bruqin, in the district of Salfit. The order involved two dunams of land within a larger plot, of over ten dunams, also belonging to the beneficiary since

decades. The occupation forces claimed that the land in question had been abandoned for ten successive years without any continuous use or utilization by its owners. Once announced as abandoned, it was reclassified as state land through military order. Its management then fell under the jurisdiction of the military commander within the occupied territory.

Cancellation of Road Demolition- Nabi Samuel

During the first half of 2016, JLAC succeeded in freezing a demolition order involving the main street of the village of Nabi Samuel, west-north of Jerusalem city. The entire village has been classified as Area "C", with Israeli forces exerting pressure on village residents towards pushing them out of the area. The Annexation Wall has severed the village from the remainder of the West Bank, only granting access to the village for those with physical addresses there. Authorities succeeded in limiting the number of Nabi Samuel's residents down to 350 people. The Wall served to de facto annex the village's land, with a national part only benefiting settler populations established on Palestinian land.

Towards the end of 2015, in the midst of a renovation project on the main road built prior to 1967, the ICA issued a stop-work order followed by a demolition order. The road was left in complete ruin, with the use of the street becoming a danger to village residents. After restless legal follow-up, JLAC succeeded in freezing the demolition order and allowing for the renovation work of the road to proceed, which concluded in 2016.

Demolition & Displacement

Demolition rate in 2016 the highest since OCHA began records in 2009. (1)

10,000 of Palestinians endure fear and insecurity due to outstanding demolition orders, with an estimated 13,000 structures, including homes, facing pending demolition orders in Area C. (3)

One third of the outstanding demolition orders (4,325) affect Palestinian Bedouin and other herding communities, mainly concentrated in the Hebron (1,442), Jerusalem (1,040) and Jericho (622) governorates. Sep 2015. (4)

Between 2010 and 2014, Palestinians submitted 2,020 applications for building permits in Area C, of which 33 were approved. (5)

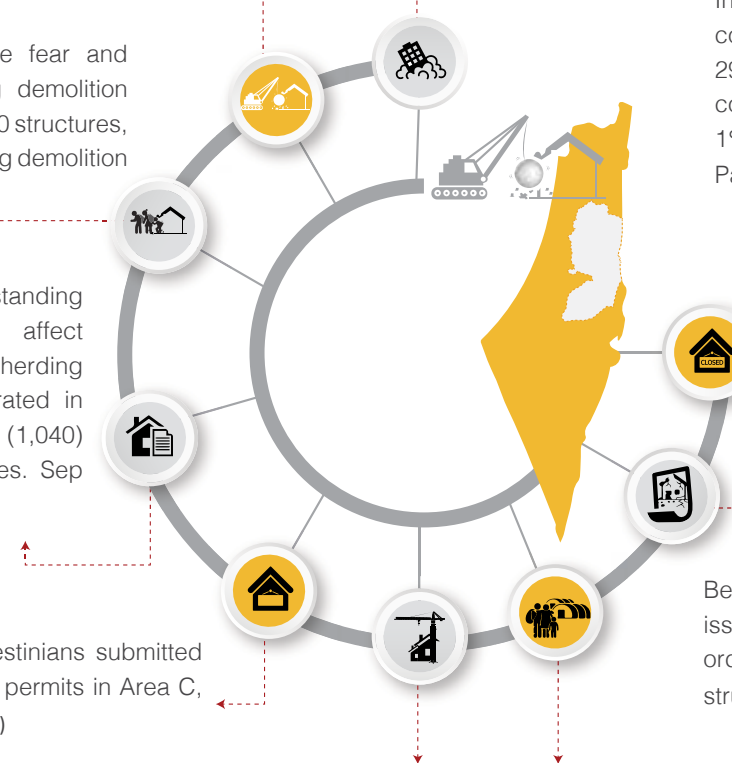
In East Jerusalem only 13 per cent of the municipal area zoned for Palestinian construction, most of which is already built up. (6)

Until 28 of December, 2016; Demolished structure: 1089, Displaced people: 1593. (2)

In 70% of Area C Palestinian construction is prohibited. In 29% of Area C Palestinian construction is heavily restricted. 1% of Area C is planned for Palestinian development. (9)

Between 1988 and 2014 the ICA issued a total of 14,087 demolition orders against Palestinian-owned structures in Area C. (8)

Most Bedouin and herding communities across C (total population estimated at 30,000) are at risk of forcible transfer. (7)



1. OCHA.

2. OCHA

3. OCHA. June 2016. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/2015-overview-forced-displacement>.

4. Sep 2015. https://www.ochaopt.org/documents/demolition_orders_in_area_c_of_the_west_bank_en.pdf

5. OCHA. June 2016. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/2015-overview-forced-displacement>.

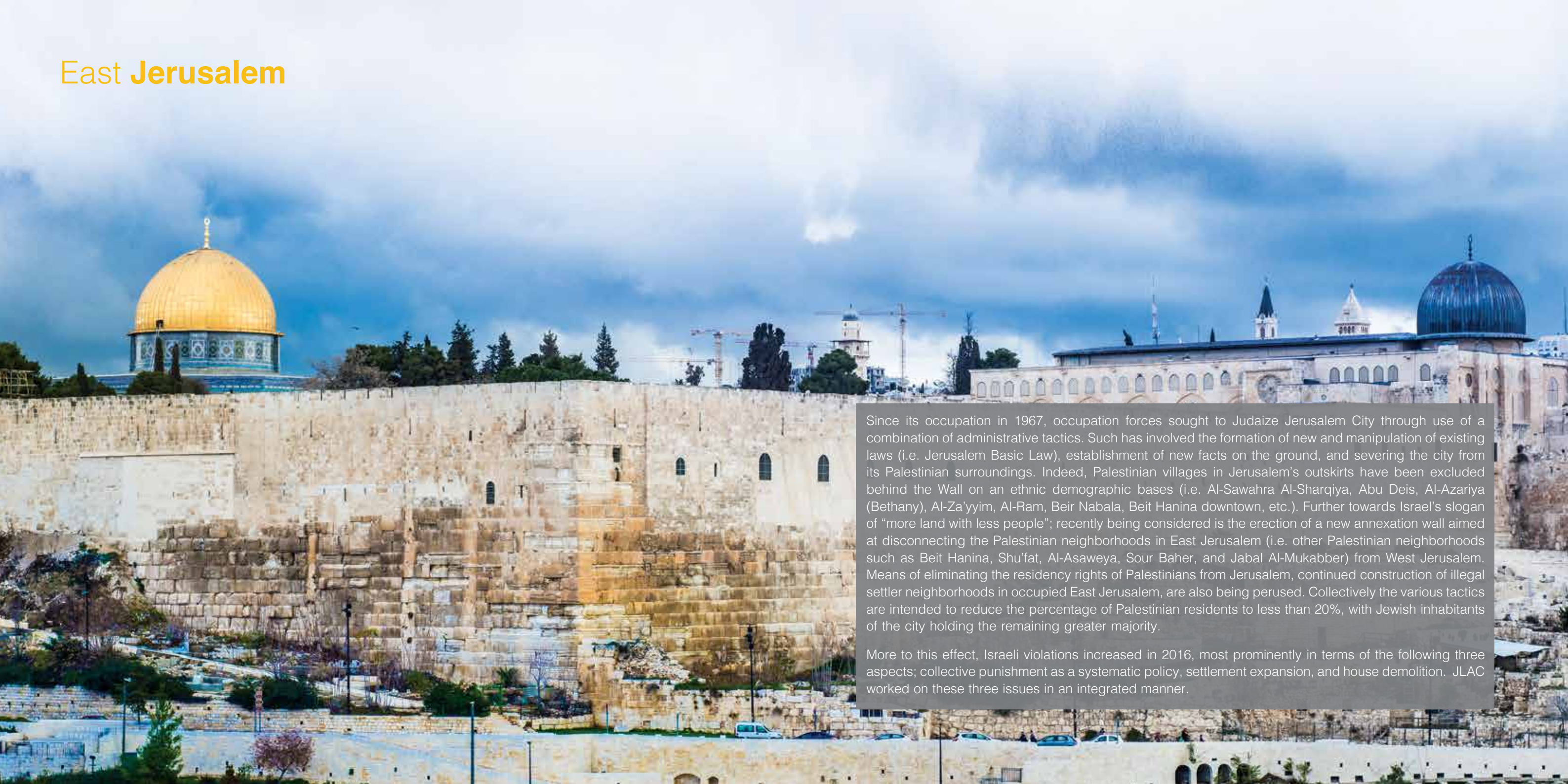
6. OCHA. June 2016. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/2015-overview-forced-displacement>.

7. OCHA. June 2016. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/2015-overview-forced-displacement>.

8. OCHA. March 2015. <http://www.ochaopt.org/content/over-11000-outstanding-demolition-orders-against-palestinian-structures-area-c-west-bank>.

9. OCHA. Sep 2015 https://www.ochaopt.org/documents/demolition_orders_in_area_c_of_the_west_bank_en.pdf.

East Jerusalem



Since its occupation in 1967, occupation forces sought to Judaize Jerusalem City through use of a combination of administrative tactics. Such has involved the formation of new and manipulation of existing laws (i.e. Jerusalem Basic Law), establishment of new facts on the ground, and severing the city from its Palestinian surroundings. Indeed, Palestinian villages in Jerusalem's outskirts have been excluded behind the Wall on an ethnic demographic bases (i.e. Al-Sawahra Al-Sharqiya, Abu Deis, Al-Azariya (Bethany), Al-Za'yyim, Al-Ram, Beir Nabala, Beit Hanina downtown, etc.). Further towards Israel's slogan of "more land with less people"; recently being considered is the erection of a new annexation wall aimed at disconnecting the Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem (i.e. other Palestinian neighborhoods such as Beit Hanina, Shu'fat, Al-Asaweya, Sour Baher, and Jabal Al-Mukabber) from West Jerusalem. Means of eliminating the residency rights of Palestinians from Jerusalem, continued construction of illegal settler neighborhoods in occupied East Jerusalem, are also being perused. Collectively the various tactics are intended to reduce the percentage of Palestinian residents to less than 20%, with Jewish inhabitants of the city holding the remaining greater majority.

More to this effect, Israeli violations increased in 2016, most prominently in terms of the following three aspects; collective punishment as a systematic policy, settlement expansion, and house demolition. JLAC worked on these three issues in an integrated manner.

Escalation of Collective Punishment

Occupation forces continued the policy of collective punishment in the city, which took new forms. Earlier in 2016, Palestinian neighborhoods in the city were isolated behind barriers. The bodies of those extrajudicially killed are being withheld as a means of punishing their families, whom are being denied the right to burying their loved ones. The burial of those bodies which are returned were restricted and done under stringent conditions. Tens of families of deceased have also faced punitive demolition of their homes. Others had their Jerusalemite IDs withdrawn by the Israeli Ministry of Interior due to accusations of executing attacks against the state of Israel. Occupation forces also closed shops in the vicinities of stabbing attempts in the Old City and Al-Sultan Suliman Street. Collectively such serve to contradict IL and IHL banning ban collective punishment.

Settlement Expansion

The verdict issued by the Israeli Supreme Court concerning the dismantling of the settlement Amona (built over Palestinian privately owned land) showed Israel's true face. This lack of respect for the law and legitimization of crimes is what allows them to emerge and continue to be perpetuated.

Despite the ruling to dismantle the settlement by January 2016, the Israeli government continued to stall the process. The Mayor of the Jerusalem Municipality (Nir Barkat) did, however, announce that the dismantling of the settlement block of Amona will be met with the implementation of hundreds of demolition orders issued by the municipality against Palestinian houses in Jerusalem. The municipality also approached what is known as the Treasurer of Israel's Land to request a

registrar of land in East Jerusalem with claims of Jewish ownership prior to 1948. Indeed, the Local Affairs Court rejected requests for extension involving tens of houses erected on lands with Israeli parties claiming its ownership prior 1948. On the other hand, hundreds of Jerusalemite families are denied the right to reclaim ownership of properties within the western side of the city (where they were displaced from in 1948) despite having proof of ownership.

2016 witnessed settlement expansion at its finest, with data indicating that permits granted for implementation of settlement projects in Jerusalem multiplied by three folds as compared to 2015, and by twice as compare by 2014 (which saw the approval of 775 new units). What space comes to be occupied by settlements is at the expense of Palestinian existence and growth.

House Demolition

As an extension of the collective punishment policy, the Deputy Mayor of the Jerusalem Municipality announced in September of 2016 the he will refuse the issuance of house construction permits in East Jerusalem. This announcement came after an attack by a Palestinian was carried out in Jerusalem. The Deputy Mayor added in his announcement that the municipality will not grant construction permits as long as Palestinians continue to execute actions in Jerusalem against Israel. But this has been the case all along, as Jerusalemites know all too well, the Israeli policy in place is to not grant permits towards limiting urban growth in East Jerusalem. The announcement is merely a justification for existing policies. In 2016, 130 houses were demolished in the East Jerusalem, 2.5x more than in the years before (47 houses demolished in 2015 and 52 in 2014).

Social Economic Rights

The city of Jerusalem is under threat of colonial attack aimed at Judaizing the city by pushing out its Palestinian inhabitants. One such tactic towards this end is the imposition of burdensome taxes, such as high Arnona/ housing taxes, income taxes, and national insurance fees. Such has pressured many young families and those on limited incomes to leave Jerusalem and live in West Bank areas, putting their residency rights at risk. Such is a real threat, one that has bearing on all other associated social and economic rights. Consequently, JLAC attorneys correspond with relevant authorities towards mitigating such burdens: either through decreasing the Arnona tax, filing applications for complete income (income guarantee), or collecting other due payments from the national insurance institute towards improving beneficiaries' economic standing.

The most direct threat to Jerusalemites presence in the city is the withdrawal of their Jerusalemite ID/ residency when suspected by the Ministry of Interior of not centering their life within the borders of the Jerusalem Municipality¹. Additionally, the decision to freeze requests for family reunification and stalling responses therein², in cases of couples where one holds a Jerusalem ID and the other is a West Banker. Challenges are also faced by couples when registering newborns, as the process of proving they have centered their life within the boundaries of Jerusalem is a complex and lengthy process³.

1. Namely if he was in the West Bank.

2. The time dedicated to studying the reunification application ranges between 12-18 months before starting the processing phase.

3. The process of proof is not easy, as the parents are requested to present certificates proving place of residence such as renting lease, a paid Arnona bill, electricity, water and landline bills, in addition to salary slots.

JLAC's Interventions

JLAC works to respond to the discussed tactics employed against Jerusalemites through the provision of legal aid and outreach. Our data indicates an increase in the number of legal services provided by JLAC during 2016 (3,585) for the year compared with (2,525) in 2015, in an increase of 42% and (1,627) in 2014 (an increase of 55% over the past year). This significant increase may be attributed to increased awareness among the general public in East Jerusalem of their rights and being informed of the services provided by JLAC.

House Demolition

“Case Study”

The family home of Mrs. Sana Atiyeh is under imminent risk of demolition by the Israeli forces, as a direct consequence of Israel's discriminatory permit regime. The house is located in the village of Mazmura, in Arabic called Al Nu'man, in southern East Jerusalem, behind the Annexation Wall. This area is located in the West Bank but it is under the jurisdiction of the Jerusalem Municipality. Most of its inhabitants hold Palestinian IDs (akin to West Bankers). However, the house is considered to be within the Jerusalem Israeli municipality, where Israeli law is applicable. Nearby the home, sits the illegal settlement of Har Homa, officially Homat Shmuel, located on Abu Ghneim Mountain. The house of Mrs. Sana Atiyeh is among the only ones in the village under risk of demolition. The reason behind this is that the other structures were built before Israel had control over the area in 1967.

Sana's house was built in May 2000 by her husband, Mr Raddy Atiyeh, on land owned by his family since 1932. In 2003, Sana received a demolition order for her home and was fined 60,000 NIS. Soon after this point, Sana lost her husband and became the sole provider for the household, despite being unemployed. She and her 3 children (now aged 18,16, and 14 years old) suffered over the years, although her 70-year-old father-in-law made an effort to help support the family on his minimal pension of 800 NIS every 6 months. The three children are students and Sana is concerned that they may be compelled to discontinue their education if their home is demolished. Sana is adamant that her eldest, a daughter finish her higher education so that

she doesn't become stuck in the cycle of poverty as Sana has been.

Over the years, JLAC took over the case and challenged the demolition orders before different Israeli Courts and Committees. However, the Israeli authorities have rejected the different legal arguments presented before them. In 2013 JLAC brought the case of Sana's house before of the Court of Local Affairs. JLAC claimed that the house demolition order issued against her was invalid because it had been issued against her deceased husband, and it did not pass to her upon his death. Her husband passed three months after the order was issued. This claim was rejected as the Court stated that the demolition order was not a punitive measure and it is effective upon the owner of the house, which passed to her upon her husband's death. Currently, an engineer is working on the case to prove the progress of obtaining the Israeli building permit. However, this is a lengthy process that has gone 13 years.

On August 15th 2016, the Inspection Unit of the Israeli Ministry of Finance took photos of Sana's house and measurements of the plot as preparation for the actual demolition of the house. On the same day, JLAC sent an application to the Israeli Court of Local Affairs to stop the demolition procedure. The Court approved this application to stop the demolition procedures until the 11th of September. Thus, from the 11th of September onwards Sana's house has fallen in a precarious state under risk of demolition at any time. Due to the lack of progress in legal procedures, JLAC now seeks to pursue the case through alternative means such as through gaining attention and support through advocacy and media campaigns.



«It is the duty of Israeli leaders to explain to public opinion, clearly and courageously, a certain number of facts that are forgotten with time. The first of these is that there is no Zionism, colonization, or Jewish State without the eviction of the Arabs and the expropriation of their lands».

Ariel Sharon,

Israeli Foreign Minister,

addressing a meeting of militants from the extreme right-wing Tsomet Party, Agence France Presse, November 15, 1998.

Center of Life

Among the various tactics employed by Israel in displacing Palestinian inhabitants from the City of Jerusalem, is the violation of their due social and economic rights (i.e. family reunification, child registration, burdensome taxation, disability, unemployment, etc.) and the resulting division of families and infliction of economic pressures. For as resident, and not full citizens, their status and associated rights may be revoked if stringent measures are not met in proving that one has “centered” their life in Jerusalem. The first step in securing social or economic rights involves the submission of a Multi-Year Detailed Form; a detailed curriculum vita of a person’s life from the age of 18 onwards (i.e. address of various residences, where traveled to and how long, places of employment, associated bills, etc.) Although rights (i.e. registering children or guaranteeing medical insurance) cannot be secured without this prerequisite application, its submission opens up a Pandora’s Box of up to 7 years’ worth of retroactive penalties and financial obligations. For mixed couples (Jerusalemites married to West Bankers), this often opens unneeded doors concerning their residency status if living outside of Jerusalem’s bounds. In such cases, investigators come and make sure that family truly resides within the Jerusalem municipality area and documents their findings in video, photo, or audio form. Investigators count tooth brushes, look through the trash, and interview neighbors in all hours of day and night. The application process takes from a month to over a year to complete. Indeed, the threat of bringing upon one’s self more problems than benefits is prompting many residents to forgo requesting due rights.

Family Reunification

Palestinian couples holding Jerusalem and West Bank IDs face a significant challenge in finding a way to live together in the same vicinity. If the Jerusalem ID holder were to live in a PA area, he or she may face the loss of the Jerusalemite ID. Similarly, for a West Banker to live in Jerusalem legally, he or she must go through a rigorous processes of seeking family reunification and being approved, a matter which is not always a guarantee. Only women after 25 years of age and men after 35 can even begin this process, causing many couples to be divided unnecessarily for additional years. The family reunification process is a very lengthy and arduous one. The detailed application in Hebrew language asks for a complete curriculum vita of the couple and each of their extended family (i.e. relationship, dates of birth, contacts, current/past places of residence, jobs held, studies, travels, military/police history, security clearance, two detailed references, related documentation, etc.). Security clearance takes between 8- 18 months to attain. However, what is the likelihood of a Palestinian not having and activist or political prisoner in the family? Other challenges along the way also often arise with the Ministry of Interior.

Ibraheem from Jerusalem is among JLAC’s many beneficiary seeking family reunification for his wife Fatima. After 5 years of marriage and two children, Fatima is finally old enough to begin the process of acquiring legal status to live with her husband in Jerusalem. Although Ibrahim has a family house in Jerusalem and works in the city, he has rented a home in Kufr Aqab (a neglected no-man’s land area on the

periphery of Jerusalem) so his family can live together at minimal risk. An electrician with a growing family, nearly all of his minimal income has been consumed by rent and transportation. What aggravates him more is all the extra time in commuting which he feels is amounting to years being spent away from his wife and kids. When Fatima was able to acquire a temporary entry permit into the city over the years, Ibraheem could not even drive her there directly in their car. She had to exit the vehicle and present herself before the armed guards at the gate while he and the kids drove past and waited for her on the other side. Even being in active labor did not garner any sympathy. In fact, Fatima nearly had her first child at the gate while stressfully waiting for 2 hours to cross. Their children have been registered as Jerusalemites and receive medical care and attend schools in the city, but such are a solitary experience for Ibraheem with he alone staying overnight in the hospital during his son’s tonsillectomy and attending his school plays. Fatima sadly enough, has been deprived of such. For they are a family divided; even in times enjoyment such as holidays and family trips. Fatima was unable to attend Ramadan dinners with Ibraheem’s family in Jerusalem, attend weddings, and graduations. They are hoping now their application for family reunification will go through smoothly without any glitches or delays, so that they can final be united in all aspects of life and family.

Child Registration:

Couples holding Jerusalem and West Bank IDs often face challenges in registering their children and in securing their due rights, such as health care and education. Kawthar, a Jerusalemite mother of 4 married to a West Banker, has struggled for years to register her children. She first approached JLAC for legal aid in this regard after having her first child in 2010. However, she encountered stumbling blocks from the Israeli Ministry of Interior which went on to require that she provide legal land surveys to prove that she indeed lived within the Jerusalem municipal bounds. Kawthar and her family live in Ras Al-Amoud, a neglected area of East Jerusalem falling behind the Annexation Wall. This unjustified demand cost Kawthar 3000 NIS, and amount she had to borrow from friends as her and her husband suffer from economic problems. The process of surveying the land and gathering other needed documentation in proving that she is centered in Jerusalem (water bills, electricity bills, Arnona, etc.) took two and a half years. The Ministry of Interior has recently processed Kawthar’s request and provided the children with temporary ID numbers, until final approval is granted. Such was a welcome relief for Kawthar, as her oldest will be starting school in the autumn.

ARNONA (housing tax)

Housing Tax or Arnona tax (which is based on level of income and square meters of home) can be a handicap for impoverished families and may lead to their displacement. Some families pay up to 25% of their salary towards Arnona. The process of seeking to reduce burdensome Arnona taxation involves submitting an application and associated documentation attesting to one's financial and housing state.

The process is time consuming and rigorous, with even proving where one lives requiring a map to check if the address does indeed fall within Jerusalem's bounds. JLAC's attorneys are available to help beneficiaries navigate this complex and otherwise expensive process. Amira, a mother of 7, is among the hundreds of beneficiaries annually approaching JLAC in reducing burdensome taxation. She is a homemaker, and her husband is a laborer holding a low income job. Despite having a large family, a low income, and small home (90 sqm) they were being charged approximately 1000 NIS per month (50% of their family income) in Arnona tax. She sought to apply on her own in reducing the taxation, but was rejected due to her unwittingly failing to claim her eldest son as a contributor to the family income. With JLAC's assistance, Amira is expected to save 500 NIS month in Arnona taxes. Moreover, the pro bono legal assistance provided saved her an additional 500 NIS in private sector legal fees.



Social and Economic Rights in Jerusalem

The number of family reunification applications which were submitted to the Israeli Ministry of Interior since 2002- until March/2015 were **10,848**, **4,797** were approved, and **6,051** were rejected or still no reply was given, which means that the **6,051** person/family remain stateless.⁽¹⁾

Israeli Ministry of Interior **60,000** Palestinian in Jerusalem are under threat of displacement due to the demolition orders which were issued, and the number of the needed residential units to keep up with the natural growth of the Palestinians is **43,000** units.⁽³⁾



Israeli Ministry of Interior The number of children registration applications which were submitted to the Israeli Ministry of Interior since 2002- until 2016 were **25,125**, **17,909** child were registered, and **7,216** application were rejected or still no reply was given, which means that the **7,216** children remain stateless.⁽²⁾

The cost of getting a building permit for a residential unit (200 square meters on half dunum) in East Jerusalem is **110,000** NIS, and the construction cost is **140,000** NIS which does not include the cost of the land itself.⁽⁴⁾

75.4% of the Palestinians in Jerusalem live under the poverty line.⁽⁵⁾

1. Israel's Interior of Ministry. 2016

2. Israel's Interior of Ministry. 2016

3,4,5. "Facebook" page of the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center.

<https://www.facebook.com/JLAC67/photos/a.10150698347066989.398971.101734836988/10154291396791989/?type=1&theater>

Palestinian Authority



JLAC continued its work pertaining to the Palestinian National Authority, through a set of legal interventions; involving both individual and collective (i.e. public interest) cases. Lobbying, advocacy, and cultivating alliances are also other means in which JLAC works to strengthening rule of law and respect of private and public freedoms by the PA.

Cases of Public Interest:

This type of case undertaken by JLAC involves legal defense for the interest of the public, where the violation challenged is not limited only to a direct client, but affects larger groups. Cases of public interest generally include legal defense before the High Court and other relevant courts in combating the unconstitutionality or illegality of an administrative decision which may come to inflict harm on a wide group of citizens. Palestinian Law limits the extent to which one can resort to the Judiciary regarding administrative decisions. The ability to have an appeal accepted by the High Court relies on proving direct damage/ violation. Proving immediate damage can be difficult. Even if proved, the court may try to evade considering major violations by the executive authority by ruling lack of jurisdiction, as was the case in many of the public interest cases adopted by JLAC.

In 2016, JLAC followed up 13 public interest cases, among which 8 were newly adopted during the year and 5 were carried over from 2015. JLAC's attorneys managed to close 8 cases, 3 positively. The cases which closed positively involved; violation of the Civil Service Law, the Ministry of Interior's refusal to grant "Certificates of Good Conduct" necessary for applying to governmental posts, and against the electric company. Of the other cases, two closed negatively; one was against the Cabinet and Ministry of Finance, and the other against the Lands Department and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for rezoning public land to private (See Page 43). The weakness of the Judiciary and its deterioration and the deterioration of its independency, was discussed earlier in the report's analysis of the external environment. Negative verdicts are an output of this dilemma and the extent of intervention permitted therein. Three other cases closed due to "lack of jurisdiction" or due the held opinion that they are not worth being followed-up in front of the High Court at this stage.



Political Arrests:

Despite continuous denial by the Palestinian government and security forces of any political arrests being made in Palestinian Authority areas, the reality says otherwise. Statistics on the number of detainees due to political affiliation, opinion, or opposition are not available, but personal accounts attest otherwise. JLAC undertook 9 cases related to arrest on basis of political affiliation or opposition/ political activism; 8 of the cases were closed, 7 of which closed positively with the release of the detainees and one case remains ongoing.

Illegal Detention of Individuals at the Governor's Disposal:

Among the various cases adopted by JLAC in 2016 was the illegal detention of individuals at the disposal of a governor. This type of detention is considered illegal, as it violates the Palestinian Basic Law and the Criminal Law (3) of the year 2001. JLAC took one such case against the governor of Qalqilya involving one detainee, with attorneys corresponding with the governor stating the urgency of releasing the detainees as they have been detained illegally. The governor failed to respond to the correspondence, prompting JLAC to submitted pleas to the High Court in Ramallah. The court issued an order of releasing the detainees, with the victims since released.

Medical Malpractice:

Despite the continuation of JLAC's efforts in following up this file and opening it up to a larger ownership by a wide coalition on the subject; legal intervention in this matter continues to face major challenges. Most notably, lacking a specific law regarding medical malpractice has posed a challenge. Proceedings are therefore based on the Professional Errors Law which was valid before 1967. Regardless, JLAC followed up 6 cases of medical malpractice during 2016; 5 of which had been carried over from 2015. Five of the cases were closed, due to victims choosing to seek criminal responsibility. This is a matter addressed by the private sector and not JLAC attorneys.

Confiscation of Public Property by Influential People:

Among the public interest cases adopted by JLAC in recent years was the so called "Jericho Case" involving an agreement between the Jericho Municipality and "Samid Company". The agreement stipulated that the Municipality granted Samid lands in the Jericho area, approximately 12.5 dunams within it an artisan well. This agreement was completed under what is known as a "gift contract" at the land registration department in Jericho, and the land was registered under the name of the Jericho Municipality Council. The municipality was later surprised to learn that the ownership of the land was transferred to the Fatah Movement, without the municipality council being notified. The council approached JLAC in filing a case against the Fatah

movement, President Abbas, and the directors of the land registration department in both Jericho and Ramallah. JLAC filed an appeal to the High Court of Justice, as the measures taken were a flagrant violation of the Palestinian Basic Law. Regretfully, the High Court of Justice rejected the case and stated that it falls under the jurisdiction of civil rather than administrative judiciary. JLAC has gone on to renew its power of attorney with the Jericho Municipality,

and is now preparing a civil suit to address the civil judiciary with the intention of requesting the revocation of the registration records issued in the name of Fatah movement. This situation is a clear result of the legal situation faced in the Palestinian territory, which is that of clear domination of the executive authority over the reins of all authorities.

Case Type New	Actual Cases		Closed			On-Going	# of Petitions	Notes
	Accumulated	Positively	Negatively	Other				
1 Public interest	13		8			5		
	8	5	3	2	3			
2 Medical Malpractice	6		5			1		
	1	5	0	0	5			
3 Political detention	9		8			1		
	8	1	7	0	1			
4 Miscellaneous	4		0			4		
	2	2	0	0	0			
Legal Consultations	1,000							
Total	32		21			11		
	19	13	10	2	9			



International **Advocacy, Coalitions & Campaigns**



JLAC believes that working within alliances and joining coalitions is one of the most important strategies in unifying efforts, avoid duplication, and strengthening the spirit of integration and cooperation among organizations working in the same field. The following coalitions are among the important and influential ones partaken in by JLAC regarding the internal human rights situation:

Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO): The network aims to protect and strengthen the role of civil society through; unifying efforts aimed at impacting governments and combating policies therein which perpetuate violations of human rights and the undermining of civil society. In 2016 JLAC once again held a membership role in the network's board of directors, and was later elected as chair of the joint board of directors for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The network is on the verge of completing its four-year strategic plan, which is focused on; the role of civil society during critical circumstances faced by Palestinian communities, challenging risks faced by civil society, and working towards ending occupation and Palestinian participation in public life towards enhancing internal democracy and protection of human rights.

Human Rights Organizations' Council (PHROC):

A coalition comprising of 12 Palestinian human rights organizations from across the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to the Independent Commission for Human Rights, as an observing member. The council works towards unifying the voice of Palestinian human rights organizations, and is gaining increasing presence and credibility. Efforts are under way to improve and develop the council's work in accordance with a work plan, as to promote more proactive leadership as opposed to reactionary responses.

The Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process:

The coalition was founded to monitor the Palestinian legislative process, towards filling the vacuum left by the Legislative Council's inactivity in this regard and the President's excessive issuance of decrees. Collectively, these two factors are deepening the division and strengthening the control of the executive authority over the other branches of power. The coalition plays a role in raising awareness regarding the risks certain legislations pose upon citizens' rights and building public opinion in calling for the discontinuation of legislatively deepening the division.

Public Freedoms Committee:

A committee comprised of public figures, specialized organizations and political bodies, which collectively work on combating violations related to public freedoms emanating from the political division. In addition, the committee monitors serious violations of human rights by both governments (in the West Bank and Gaza) despite the political division.

The Coalition for Monitoring the Execution of Courts Verdicts:

A coalition founded as a result of the dominating phenomenon of court verdicts failing to be executed. Several interrelated factors have contributed to this reality, most notably the political division, absence of accountability and separation of powers, and weakened Judiciary. In 2016, JLAC in coordination with the coalition members, worked on building a collective case involving restitution for losses incurred by governmental employees arbitrarily dismissed from their posts due to their political affiliation. An additional compensation case was filed involving a case of torture.

JLAC intends to work through its other member coalitions as well; Coalition for Jerusalem, Palestinian Coalition against Torture, Palestinian Coalition against the Death Penalty, and Campaign for Combating Violence against Women.

Advocacy Campaigns

Certain matters are best addressed by JLAC through the formation of national campaigns that combine legal litigation, lobbying and advocacy, such campaigns include:

The National Campaign for the Retrieval of Palestinian and Arab War Victim's Remains & the Disclosure of the Fate of Those Missing

We have Names... We have a Homeland

The campaign realized many qualitative achievements in 2016. Most prominently, four different appeals were filled before the Israeli Supreme Court and initial correspondences were sent regarding 155 victims' cases whose remains continue to be withheld in Israeli morgues and cemeteries. Three of the appeals submitted involved a total of 113 victims withheld in Israeli military cemeteries known as "cemeteries of numbers" and 11 of the correspondences involved new files from the Gaza Strip. Through these efforts in 2016, JLAC sought to hold Israel accountable to its commitment to release the 119 victims they admitted to withholding in prior years, to its discontinued detainment policy, and to initiate the establishment of a DNA bank towards facilitating the identification of victims' remains. Moreover, JLAC adopted 28 new files of victims extra-judicially killed during the year. The close of the year saw the release 23 victims. An appeal including 10 cases, whose procedures were exhausted without handing the remains over to their families. JLAC obtained a verdict from the prosecution to release 7 of the 10. In total, 5 files of recent victims continue to be withheld in Israeli morgue refrigerators as of the writing of this report.

In addition to following-up of individual and collective cases involving the retrieval of the victims' remains, JLAC lawyers also demanded investigation into the recent victims' extrajudicial killings and the failure on the part of the Israeli



military to subdue and/or arrest the victims if they had been suspected of being dangerous.

The legal efforts exercised this year coincided with community activism in the streets; which took the form of holding meetings with victims' families, protests, and demonstrations. This year, the national day for the commemoration of the victims whose remains are withheld in the "cemeteries of numbers" (August 27th) saw wide popular and official participation in demonstrations across the various districts of the occupied territory.

The Campaign will continue to demand of Israeli occupying forces, through legal actions, the following through the coming year;

- Cease detaining victims' bodies and to release those detained without any restrictions or conditions involving their funeral and burial.
- Speed-up the establishment of the DNA Bank.
- Hand over the 119 bodies admitted to being withheld,
- Track other bodies claimed to be lost and to identify locations of burial (including locations of site dealt with my contracted specialized burial companies).
- Disclose the fate of the 69 missing persons.

Campaign for Disabled-Accessibility of Public Spaces:

The campaign was launched on November 28th, 2016 in collaboration with the General Union of People with Disability towards adapting the environment in a manner that allows people with disability to use all public spaces, contributing to their true integration in society. Adaptation and harmonization is considered one of the most important articles of the People with Disability Law, as it helps people with disability to leave their house and secure their right to school, university and technical education, find a suitable job that allows them to establish a family and to live a dignified life. This inspired the center's interest in launching this campaign out of its eagerness and care for the rights of people with disability to practice their normal lives. In 2017, the campaign aspires to achieve real change in the city of Nablus in particular, and intends to expand its scope of work to include all areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Training & Awareness Raising

Awareness Raising Events

Further toward facilitating due process, JLAC also works towards raising community awareness of legal procedures in combating human rights violations. In 2016, 16 awareness raising sessions were held in 2016 in different areas of the West Bank and especially in Area "C", such as Froush Beit Dajan, Yasouf, Aqraba, Kufr Allabad, Beit Dajan, Salfit, Tulkarem, Arab AlRamadin, Jayous, Al-Zbeidat, Al-Mghayer, Al-Sawyeh, Shofeh, Azzon, and Majdal Bani Fadil. Attendance ranged between 11-20 beneficiaries per session. Target groups included local councils, members of at risk communities, JLAC volunteers, etc. Among the most important topics addressed included, follow-up of demolition notices, necessary legal procedures, settler violence, land confiscation and newer cases such as medical malpractice.

Training

Specialized trainings are carried out by JLAC towards fostering community leaders able serve as a resource for their communities. Six specialized trainings were carried out by JLAC in 2016, involving around a hundred activists and member of local councils. The trainings sought to enhance participants' knowledge of mechanisms and means of documentation, in addition to activating the role of youth in documentation and community activism (i.e. methods of lobbying/ campaigning on social issues of concern). Several local councils were also trained in mechanisms of handling demolition notices, land confiscations, and settler attacks and means in combating them.



Advocacy Activities

Field Visits

Seeing violations first hand through field visits carries more influence than any briefing or statement can. In 2016, JLAC undertook 20 field visits exposing the press, foreign delegations and individuals in solidarity with the Palestinian people to the violations facing communities serviced by JLAC. The communities visited this year included; Doma, Bart'a, Al-Khan Al-Ahmar, Azzon, Froush Beit Dajan, Beit Dajan, Zbeidat, Nwaima, Al-Mghayer, Jaba', Anata, Qalqilya, Aqraba, Kufr Allabad, Majdal Bani Fadil, Yasouf, Jayyous, Jensafotd, Arab Al-Ramadin, and Al-Sawyeh.

Two field visits, in particular, served to target local youth in an effort to raise their awareness of the human rights violations being enacted around them and the means they have in contributing to combating them. JLAC's volunteer base (joined under the titled; the Human Rights Defenders' Movement) lead and partook in a field visit to the villages of Tawil, Yanon, Aqraba, and Qusra, with 25 activists in attendance. The second field visit was conducted in collaboration with the Media Club of Birzeit University. The group, comprised of 27 journalism and media students, visited the village of Beit Skaria in Bethlehem and got to know the unique challenges facing that community.

Human Rights Defenders Movement

Two trainings were organized for the Human Rights Defenders under the title: "Methods of mobilization and advocacy campaigns, human rights violations documentation, and community journalism." The trainings were held between April 14th-16th and August 25th-27th of 2016, with 25 and 30 trainees in attendance, respectively, from different areas of the West Bank.

Open Day:

Volunteer Participation in Planning

JLAC seeks to adopt a participatory approach in consulting with its partners and beneficiaries of its services across various sectors. Recommendations and opinions regarding JLAC's operational policies are reflected in its programs and plans. In this regard, JLAC held an Open Day on November 27, 2016 in Nablus city which was attended by 300+ members of JLAC's volunteer base, activists, local authorities, former beneficiaries, partners, and distinguished figures. Many of the attendees come from communities exposed to ongoing violations by Israeli forces; from demolition and displacement to land confiscation and other offences. Those who did not benefit from our legal representation, may have partaken in training and outreach efforts, as in the case of JLAC's volunteer base and local authorities. Such allow for the first hand insight needed in giving constructive input on both community needs and the betterment of JLAC's programming in meeting them.

JLAC also took this opportunity to launch a new campaign for ensuring handicap accessibility of public places. The campaign is formed in collaboration with the General Union of People with Disabilities under the slogan "Nablus is a friend to people with disabilities". During the day, the participants were asked to join one of three discussion groups; human rights issues facing Jerusalem, Area "C", and areas under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority. The group discussions resulted in really meaningful recommendations which will be raised to JLAC's Board of Directors during their next meeting. Among the identified key assets for improving and developing JLAC's programming towards becoming more responsive to community needs, was JLAC's wide volunteer base.

Testimonials from the Open Day

Reverend Yousef Sa'adeh

Despite the state of despair and chaos dominating discourse in the Palestinian street, I feel optimistic due to the existence of such an organization as JLAC; as it managed to organize a festival of a caliber which the largest of factions has not.

Ahmad Kilany- Jenin (Human Rights Defender)

With regards to the open day, it is one of the best events which the center organizes each year, as it is a day through which to present to society the achievements made by JLAC during year. This day is characterized by awarding old volunteers and recruiting new ones, as to ensure that there are defenders in each vicinity. It is also characterized by youth participation and involvement, organizing the open day itself, and in contributing to JLAC's programming. We call this day, the doctor's day; as JLAC works to study the human rights situation, identify the problem, and begin treating it with available capacities and resource. We can say that JLAC is in a sense a community center since it works through the community and for the community. The community itself cherishes JLAC's annual work. And, we the community, will continue to work with a spirit of volunteerism alongside this amazing administration and creative working team. Each annual open day towards the end of a year is the starting point for the new year to come.

Mada Shabak - Journalist

As a freelance journalist, I found the gathering to be significant on account of the close link between journalism and media to law and human rights. The gathering was well organized and the time was well divided as to allow time for both presentations and dialogue. I found the information provided to be useful, especially concerning the status of Jerusalem and dangers surrounding the judaization of the City.

JLAC Publications and Media Contributions:

The following is a listing of JLAC's main publications and media contributions for 2016:

- Fact sheets: Two fact sheets were developed, printed, and disseminated; highlighting methods of leading legal arguments in cases of settler violence, and introducing the campaign to ensure the handicap accessibility of public places.
- Animations: Three animations were developed; addressing legal guidance on settler violence, achievements of the National Campaign for the Retrieval of War Victims' Remains, and an invitation to partake in the national day for commemorating victims whose remains are withheld in the "cemeteries of numbers".
- Radio spots: Two radio spots were produced and aired; tackling settler violence (aired on 2 radio stations), and an open invitation to partake in the national day commemorating victims whose remains are withheld in the "cemeteries of numbers".
- Statements: 32 statements were issued related to the detainment of extrajudicial killing victims' bodies and cases of public interest; as issued independently or in partnership with other human rights organizations.

Internal Environment

JLAC's main changes and developments to its internal environment can be summarized as follows:

The General Assembly

The center's General Assembly held two meetings during the year; on an emergency basis and the other regularly scheduled on May 11th, 2016. The first meeting, which had been unanticipated, was held as to discuss and approve the amended clause of JLAC's internal bi-law governing honorary membership and its conditions and the clause concerning the terms of the Board of Directors prolonging the period from to three years. The second meeting, which was regularly scheduled, served to; discuss work progress and developments, review policies and priorities which should be reflected in annual plans, approve technical and financial reports, and elect a new Board of Directors

The Board of Directors

Following its first meeting, the Board of Directors suffered a major set-back due to the sudden loss of its late chairman Tayseer Arouri. The board convened for three meetings after its election, and prepared for a transitional period in adjusting to the loss of its chairman. The vice-chairman, Mr. Nesfat Al-Khuffash, was appointed as the acting chairman; whom went on to raise many issues, supervise JLAC's work, and to organize a pivotal meeting with the team to listen to their concerns and integrate them in the agenda.

The Working Team

During 2016, 38 employees were employed by JLAC as distributed over four units (legal, advocacy, programs, and administrative units). Among them, 29 of the employees held full time positions, 6 with were part-time or held short-term contracts, and three were trainees (76%, 16% and 8% of the working team respectively). Based on gender, 17 of the team members are female and 21 are males, 45% and 55% respectively. Two employees also held consultancy contracts. Joining the team during 2016 were; Shoula Abd El Hadi (Project Coordinator), Muna Saleh (Legal Unit Coordinator), and Hussein Shejaeya, Ali Hamdallah and Wisam Abedrabo (Field Researchers and Coordinators).

Investment in Human Resource

As part of JLAC's policy of investing in its human resources in a way that contributes to the development of their capacities, motivation, and the achievement of personal and institutional goals; the following are among the most prominent individual and collective training opportunities partaken in by the team:

Stress Management and Team Building:

JLAC organized a two-day training session for its entire team on the subject of stress management and team building. Such was a response to employees' expressed need to learn methods of alleviating the pressures resulting from dealing with beneficiaries' various devastations and ways of better communicating. The training also sought to foster an atmosphere for colleagues to get to know each other more and to solidify the interdependent culture of JLAC.

Meeting with the Board:

management and team building, an open meeting was organized between the Board of Directors and the team. The meeting allowed for employees to be in close touch with the members of board as to directly communicate views and challenges and to better understand board expectations, in way of continuous improvement and achievement of goals. The team also raised recommendations to the board regarding the betterment of the working endowments and incentives towards fostering motivation.

Planning Workshop:

In October of 2016, a workshop for developing the 2017 work plan was held. The team and some members of the board participated in the workshop which was held over the course of a full day. This was the first time the entire team was engaged in planning. The workshop began with achievements made in 2016, highlighting items still needing to be implemented during the final quarter of the year. A first draft of the 2017 plan was then presented, and the working team was divided into three groups, each tackling one of the Center's objectives and refining associated activities. The groups discussed the draft activities and suggested changes therein. Afterwards, the groups presented to the team their modified sections. Later on the various section were compiled and edited to formulate the 2017 annual plan.

Volunteer Participation in Planning

JLAC seeks to adopt a participatory approach in its planning, one that engages partners and beneficiaries from different sectors and takes into consideration their recommendations and opinions of JLAC's policies and programming toward their continued improvement and relevance. In November of 2016, an open meeting was held in Nablus city to this effect. Heads and members of local village council and communities exposed to ongoing violations by Occupation forces (i.e. demolition, displacement, land confiscation, etc.), in addition to former beneficiaries of JLAC's legal services, public figures, partner organizations, and JLAC's volunteer base organized under the title of Human Rights Defenders were all in attendance. Participation exceeded 300 attendees.

Individual Training:

JLAC team members participated in 7 different specialized courses, during the year, based on their positions and needs. In the field of project management, our colleague Shoula Abd El Hadi (Project Coordinator) participated in a training course regarding human rights approach to project management. Roula Said (Programs Officer) expanded her understanding of projects' outcomes, in collaboration with the Swedish Consulate, and mechanisms of project evaluation, with Bread for the World. In the field of human rights, our colleague Amjad Batta participated in Anabtawi's 26th course in Tunisia entitled "Eradicating Discrimination

to Strengthen and Respect Human Rights". Our colleagues Mai Farsakh and Wa'il Qut participated in a training course on international humanitarian law mechanisms towards defending human rights, held in Florence Italy. Salwa Hamad and Wa'il Qut also participated in a course on transitional justice and human rights, held in Istanbul Turkey. Salwa Hamad also partook in a course on writing shadow reports, with colleagues Hussein Shejaeya and Othman Hamdallah partaking in a training course on the Convention against Torture.

Individual Performance Appraisals:

The team, relying on its own resources, developed a tool to evaluate individual performance and self-participatory evaluation, in an effort to achieve the following four main goals; measuring employees' level of satisfaction, mitigating obstacles, improving internal working relations, and meeting logistic needs and maximizing resources. We hope that committing to these ends will be reflected in an improved internal environment and a more motivated working team.

Expansion of Main Office:

With growth in JLAC's team, and expansion in its activities and working relations, the need for having a bigger office has emerged as a pressing matter. JLAC's administration is keen to solve the matter in the most efficient way possible.

Sources of Support- Donors

Core Donors



The Irish Representative Office (Irish Aid):

JLAC's partnership with the Irish Representative Office began in 2007 with core funding support. Core funds have been renewed annually since, with 81,668 USD provided in 2016.



EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst) / Brot für die Welt:

Brot für die Welt has been a key partner of JLAC's since its inception, with core funds regularly provided since 1997. Following its merger with the EED, the duo continued in its support to JLAC with 156,233 USD in core funds allocated for 2016.



The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD):

CAFOD has provided consistent support to JLAC since its inception. 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. JLAC was granted (41,700) USD in 2015.



The United Nations Development Program (UNDP):

JLAC began its partnership with the UNDP in 2011. The funding is designated for core activities involving the defense of victims of human rights violations and public freedoms. JLAC was granted (97,344) USD in 2016.



Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat:

A new partnership was formed in 2014 between JLAC and the HR & IHL secretariat. The Secretariat has awarded JLAC core funding in the amount of 410,000 USD (for 2014-2016) towards the achievement of its core programming (with 150,000 USD in funds allocated for 2016).

Project-based Support



Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):

JLAC's partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council began in 2009, and has continued through today. The NRC has renewed its two project agreements with JLAC (in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem), respectively entitled: 'Legal Assistance for the protection of Palestinians Affected by Forced Displacement,' and 'Legally Challenging Displacement in East Jerusalem, Combating House Demolition'. The total funding amount for the two projects totals 576,431USD for the year 2016.



The European Union:

Over the following three years (2016-2019), JLAC will be implementing a project funded by the European Union. The project aims to contribute to strengthening the steadfastness of Palestinian communities marginalized in East Jerusalem and the areas classified as "C" of the West Bank and who are subjected to human rights violations. The total project grant amounts to 561,100 euros over three years.



JLAC's Leadership

General Assembly:

Mr. Ahmad Samarah - Social Activist.

Dr. Ismail Badran - Lecturer at Bir Zeit University.

Dr. Areej Odeh - Legal Consultant at the Ramallah Governor's Office.

Mr. Amin Al Bayed - Social Activist.

Mr. Amin Inabi - Director in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Ms. Intisar Salman - Women's Activist in Tulkarem.

Dr. Basem Zubaydi - Professor at Birzeit University (honorary member) *.

The Late, Mr. Tayseer Aroui - Lecturer at Birzeit University (deceased summer, 2016).

Ms. Janet Michael - Former Mayor of Ramallah Municipality.

Mrs. Hanan Ramahi - Headmistress.

Dr. Zaki Hassan - Professor at Birzeit University (honorary member).

Mr. Sam Bhour - Businessman consultant, writer, and activist.

Mr. Salem Khileh - Social and political activist.

Ms. Ghada Zughayar - Consultant at Transparency International (honorary member).

Mrs. Fida' Tuma - Women's activist and active in civil society.

Dr. Mohammad Jadallah - Monitoring Member at the Physician's Bar Association.

Dr. Mudar Kassis - Assistant Director at the Institute of Law at Birzeit University.

Mr. Nasfat Khufash - Social activist and elected representative by JLAC's volunteers.

Dr. Na'el Taha - Law Professor at An-Najah University.

Ms. Haneen Zeidan - Women's activist.

Mr. Daoud Talhami - Political activist and writer.

Mr. Walid al-Sheikh - Lawyer at the Independent Commission for Human Rights.

Mr. Khaled Hamdan - Head of the Investment Department of the Arab Bank.

Mr. Kamal Mousa - Mayor of Deir Balout.

Mr. Mohammed Nzemi - Volunteer at the Center.

Ms. Areej Hawwari - Volunteer at the Center.

Dr. Rana Barakat - History professor at Birzeit University.

Ms. Maysa Salem - Researcher in the field of human rights.

Dr. Hanadi Kharmah - Professor of philosophy, cultural studies, and languages at Birzeit University.

Board of Directors

The Late, Mr. Tayseer Aroui - Chairman; Lecturer at Birzeit University (deceased summer 2016).

Mr. Nasfat Al Khofash - Vice-Chairman; Social activist (representative elected by JLAC's volunteers).

Mr. Amin Inabi - Treasurer; Director at the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Mr. Salem Khileh - Secretary; Social and political activist.

Mr. Ahmad Samarah - Member; Social activist.

Ms. Haneen Zeidan - Member; Women's activist.

Ms. Maysa Salem - Member; Researcher in the field of human rights.

Dr. Na'el Taha - Member; Law Professor at An-Najah University.

Working Team:

Executive Staff

Executive Level

Issam Aruri - General Director.

Rami Saleh - Deputy Director in Jerusalem Affairs.

Legal Support Unit

Bassam Karajah - Legal Unit Manager.

Othman Hamdallah - Attorney.

Wa'il Qut - Attorney.

Razan Mouhsen - Attorney Suleiman.

Mohammad Abu Snineh - Attorney.

Mohammad Abbassi - Attorney.

Fatimah Naser Al-Din - Attorney.

Ghassan Abu Ikhdair - Attorney.

Lina Sarawan - Attorney.

Muna Saleh - Legal Unit Coordinator.

Suleiman Shaheen - Legal Consultant.

Ahmed Safadi - Legal Consultant.

Trainee Lawyers

Amina Qanbar - Trainee lawyer.

Mohammed Adkidk - Trainee lawyer (through October 2016).

Dalal Zananiri - Trainee lawyer (from November 2016).

Planning & Fundraising Unit

Mai Farsakh - Planning & Fundraising Unit Manager.

Roula Said - Programs and Projects Coordinator.

Razan Stiban - Project Coordinator, Jerusalem Branch.

Shoula Abd El Hadi - EU Project Coordinator.

Nuria Perez Cuso - Advocacy Intern.

Mobilization & Advocacy Unit

Abdullah Hammad - Mobilization & Advocacy Unit Manager.

Saher Sarsour - Nablus Office Manager.

Jalila Irshaid - Field Coordinator.

Hussein Shejaeya - Field Researcher and Coordinator.

Thourayya Hamid - Field Researcher, Qalqilia.

Jihan Mansour - Field Researcher, Salfit.

Nabil Abdallah - Field Researcher, Jerusalem.

Wisam Abedrabo - Field Researcher, Jerusalem.

Salwa Hammad - Campaign Coordinator.

Ali Hamdallah - Field Researcher and Coordinator.

Murad Bustami - Advocacy Officer (through February 2016).

Administrative and Financial Unit

Amjad Batta - Financial and Administrative Manager.

Fouad Hrob - Accountant.

Ikhlas Qur'an - Financial and Administrative Assistant, Ramallah.

Abeer Hidmi - Administrative & Legal Officer, Jerusalem.

Husien Abu Arra - Administrative Support, Ramallah.

Financial Report

(01.01.2016-31.12.2016)

Name	USD (\$)
Revenue	
Grants Revenue	1,074,930
Deferred Revenue	57,105
Deferred Revenue Recognized	20,789
Other Revenue (Court Fee, Applications, Bank Interest..etc)	62,574
Subtotal (\$)	1,215,398
Admin Staff Salaries & Diff, Currency	109,716.01
Provident Fund	47,435.28
Severance pay	53,602.23
Staff Insurance	20,355.97
Other Staff Exp.	6,507.57
Prgram staff Salaries & Diff, Currency	558,316.26
Subtotal (\$)	795,933
Rent Offices	26,496.86
Utilities	13,563.50
Admin & General Expenses	23,047.57
Repair & Maintenance	10,375.49
Professional Expenses	9,162.49
Communications & Internet Expenses	11,784.21
Transportation & Travel Expenses	2,575.38
Bank Charges	3,503.18
Subtotal (\$)	100,509

Furniture	2,108.92
Office Equipment	14,099.05
Vehicles	40,897.10
Subtotal (\$)	57,105
public awareness announcements	4,555.05
Court Fees, Maps, Application, Expert Reports,..etc.	56,847.86
Public Awareness Sessions	8,473.55
Public Awareness Informative Material	103.63
External Legal Consultants	65,427.45
Subtotal (\$)	135,408
JLAC's volunteer base maintained and expanded	528.39
Local & International Advocacy(case , Events, Conf	8,665.21
International Interns, Networking & Collations	8,039.44
Printing & Publications	5,532.35
National Campaign for Retrieving Palestinian & Arab	1,204.05
Transportation for Advocacy Activities	13,836.96
Subtotal (\$)	37,806
Staff Training Expenses	2,376.61
Institutional Development	2,897.30
Subtotal (\$)	5,274
Difference Currency Exchange	49,782.23
Depreciation	26,204.00
Subtotal (\$)	75,986
Total Expenses (\$)	1,208,021
Change in Net Assets (\$)	7,377



Contact Us

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lbn Batota Street 14

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Nablus Office

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