



JLAC

JERUSALEM LEGAL AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER
مركز القدس للمساعدة القانونية وحقوق الإنسان

Annual Report

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A Message from JLAC's Chairman and Director

During the drafting of this report (on January 28, 2020), the US administration presented its Middle East peace plan after two years of preparation and other facilitative measures (i.e. moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, closing the PLO mission office in Washington DC, withdrawing aid from UNRWA and the USAID mission to the West Bank and Gaza, etc.). Equated to “duress” (a contractual agreement which does not allow the other party any other choice but to agree by force), the “Deal of the Century” is being marketed as a plan for peace, while merely serving to consolidate Israel’s illegal expansionist aims and offering Palestinians an entity devoid of sovereignty, territorial contiguity and economic viability. Moreover, the plan unilaterally decided on issues left pending final status negotiations (i.e. settlements, borders, Jerusalem, refugees, water resources, etc.) in obstruction to IHL, past agreements and peace processes, and prior US administration guarantees to the Palestinian people.

After ethno-national land swaps, population transfers (separating Palestinians from one another), and the maintaining of all existing Israeli settlements; the deal will come to confine Palestinians within truncated enclaves of disconnected lands akin to the Bantustans “black homelands” of apartheid-era South Africa. While the US plans to recognize Israeli sovereignty over all settlements in the West Bank (including the application of Israeli law therein and their annexation to Israel); Palestinian areas will be reduced to operating as glorified municipalities,

with movement between Palestinian enclaves and borders (including the Jordan Valley which Netanyahu declared will be annexed) controlled by Israel. In fact, the Trump administration has already dropped the term “occupied” and refuses to refer to settlements as a contravention of international law.

In the plan, Jerusalem is described as a “shared capital,” but the city would be headed by a unified Israeli-run municipality as opposed to a Palestinian east and an Israeli west half of the city as had long been envisioned. Rather, for Palestinians, Jerusalem will mean Abu Dis. Mention of refugees is also restricted to the provision of financial compensation to those Palestinians residing abroad who concede their legitimate right of return. This demilitarized political entity called “New Palestine,” would be expected to pay Israel for the provision of military security.

In effect, much of the billions in aid pledged by the US to the Middle East (50 billion USD pledged in total) could end up in the Israeli military’s pockets. The Gulf is pledging nearly 30 billion to New Palestine over five years as an incentive for forfeiting national aspirations, the right to self-determination, and integrity as a single people. However, given how the Palestinian Authority and international agencies in the OPT spent 35 billion USD since the Oslo Accords without much tangible outputs to show for it, its anticipated that only aid-dependency and the continued status-quo will persist with new US and Gulf funds as well. Indeed, aid would only be financing a system of control and oppression and administering the false facade of a Palestinian State, given that the plan negates the needed agency of Palestinians over their own resources, borders, sea and air ports in developing a genuine economy.

This end to any possibility of a just and equitable solution where all parties can exist in dignity, coupled with Israel’s relentless expansionist drive and consequent continued violations of human rights (i.e. demolition, displacement, confiscations, incarcerations, brutality, collective punishment, dual legal systems, de jure annexation, siege, etc.) have placed Palestinians (according to political analysts) in the worst position they have faced since the Nakba in 1948. A situation further exhausted by the withholding of a portion of owed taxations (which Israel is obliged as per the Oslo Accords to channel to the Palestinian Authority) in the sum which the PA is transferring as stipends to the families of political prisoners and those killed and maimed by the Israeli military. Combined with the economic constraints and unemployment rates resulting from being a captive market, this lack of hope will only further fuel internal tensions, violence, and deaths “under mysterious circumstances”.

Mandated with challenging these various occupation-related and internal pressures from their various specialized angles, Palestinian civil society has increasing had new obstacles being placed before them and their essential work. Smear campaigns, efforts to criminalized BDS and other forms of peaceful resistance, and to equate any criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism (as led by the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs, the NGO Monitor, and other actors) have yielded significant implications on funds with more and more donors and countries folding under such pressure. Despite these grim conditions, JLAC intends to persist along the following four tracks: 1) to minimize the damage caused by the various authorities to the possessions, livelihoods, and resilience of the Palestinian people, through legal aid and outreach 2) to influence internal policies as to be more responsive to the peoples’ needs, 3) to continue demanding of the international community to fulfill their obligations under international law regarding accountability and the two state solution, and ultimately 4) to help preserve hope.

Amin Inabi
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Issam Aruri
General Director





Who We Are

The Jerusalem Legal Aid & Human Rights Center (JLAC) has been tirelessly working to secure Palestinians' human rights, since its establishment by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in 1974. While the specific violations addressed shifted over the years to accommodate the most pressing concerns, over the last decade JLAC has been focused on safeguarding vulnerable communities in their homes and lands (in East Jerusalem and Area C) and securing their public freedoms. To these effects, JLAC provides pro bono legal aid, outreach and advocacy efforts in hold Duty Bearers, the Israeli government (in East Jerusalem), its military (in Area C) and the Palestinian Authority to account.

Vision

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

Mission

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



Analysis by Area of Intervention

Settlement Expansion

Israel's expansionist aims (both in Jerusalem and the remainder of the West Bank) are exerted, in part, through settlement expansion and their related activities. Nearly 43 percent of the occupied Palestinian territory is now being controlled by 130 government-authorized settlements and over 100 illegal outposts (collectively housing 651,000 settlers; 413,000 in Area C and 238,000 in East Jerusalem) in violation of international law (i.e. the Fourth Geneva Convention) explicitly prohibiting the transfer of an occupying state's population into occupied territory. Moreover, such has been facilitated through the enactment of further human rights violations (i.e. house demolition land confiscation, forced displacement of Bedouins, settler violence, etc.) denying Palestinians' their right to self-determination and enjoyment of natural resources, private property, tenure of housing, freedom of movement and personal security.

Settlement expansion, for instance, has rendered the governorate of Qalqilya completely severed and enclaved; with a similar fate looming over the governorate of Tulkarm. Falling along the green line (bordered by Israel along its entire western boarder), the Tulkarm governorate is fertile grounds for Israeli expansion into the West Bank, with efforts underway to ensure the contiguity of Israeli settlements within Palestinian bounds to each other and to Israel, at the expense of Palestinians' security, livelihood and larger rights to a viable homeland and self-determination. In addition to serving as close suburbs for Israeli urban hubs as Tel Aviv and Netanya, settlements in the area also provide industrial zones for Israel and the ability to evade environmental/ labor laws, monopolize pillaged natural resources, and exploit the local population as cheap laborers.

If planned settlement expansion efforts are implemented (along with associated bypass roads, checkpoints, and fences/walls) the settlements will serve to form a bloc enshrouded by the Annexation Wall, which will enclave the city of Tulkarm, bisect the governorate and sever it from the governorate of Qalqilya; annexing lands and pillaging resources along the way and strangulating the villages in the area, by rendering them with small access points in which their residents may come in and out of.

One recent component of this manifestation is the settlement of Avnei Hefetz (established by an Israeli governmental decision in 1984, initially allotting 1,300 dunams of mostly Shufa village lands and later expanding into surrounding villages) and the various expansion plans it has underway within its bounds. To the north east of the settlement, a residential area is being developed (erecting 108 housing units) and being marketed by developers as a separate settlement using a construction plan from 1998. Kedem settlement is to operate autonomously and consequently will have the capacity to infringe more upon Palestinians than if it had expanded as part of Avnei Hefetz (Peace Now 2018 Annual Construction Report).

More threatening still is the planned industrial zone to the south east of Avnei Hefetz ("Bustanei Hefetz" plan no. 158-T), which allocates 788 dunams (of Shufa, Khirbet Jubara, Far'un, and Ar Ras lands) for the commercial and industrial expansion. 130 establishments are planned, with a revenue cycle of hundreds of millions of shekels. The Bustanei Hefetz plan was approved by the ICA (Israeli Civil Administration) on December 26, 2018 and deposited

for public objections on November 7, 2019, giving 60 days from that date to file objections. The plan was published on-line (November 11, 2019 on the ICA site), in the Israeli press (Maariv newspaper November 14, 2019 and Maariv Boker November 15, 2019) and Arab-Israeli press (Sawt El Arab November 18, 2019), all mechanism relatively unknown/inaccessible to the local population harmed by the plan (Israeli Civil Administration official site).

The Israeli press (Israel Today Newspaper, "Palestinians delay the establishment of an industrial zone in Samaria"; by Gilead Zwick, August 31, 2019 (<https://www.israelhayom.co.il/article/687645>) reports efforts on the part of pro-settler Israeli groups to push the implementation of the Bustanei Hefetz plan. In October of 2018, a tour was held by the Samaria Regional Council Chairman Yossi Dagan to the area for the Minister of Economy Eli Cohen, whom later said "Bustanei Hafetz" was a priority of the Ministry of Economy. This was followed by an urgent letter being sent by Regavim in cooperation with the Samaria Regional Council to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to the Civil Administration, the Supervisory Unit and the Israel Police, calling for the implementation of demolition/eviction orders against Palestinians in the vicinity towards implementing the Bustanei Hefetz plan. A senior official in the Prime Minister's Office told Israel Today that; "enforcement agencies in Judea and Samaria are guided by law enforcement in recent months. We are working to advance the development of the Avnei Hefetz industrial zone in March. The issue is currently undergoing administrative proceedings and will be addressed as soon as possible by the relevant factors". The

Civil Administration dually responded; "The case is known to the civilian enforcement agencies, and the structures in question are undergoing administrative proceedings. When a decision is made on them, the Civil Administration will act in accordance with the decision." JLAC infers from these statements, that "administrative proceedings" have no intention of ensuring the application of justice but are just a procedural step in providing a "legal" cover to existing ulterior expansionist motives.

JLAC has felt this intension through Israeli practices on the ground, in preparing for the implementation of the plan, with tens of demolition/eviction orders from the vicinity pouring into JLAC in recent months (96 cases of demolition/displacement undertaken in the vicinity in total). The plan had also been referenced by the military court during proceedings involving demolition/eviction cases from the village of Khirbet Jubara. Preceding recent demolition/eviction orders, Israel announced much of the area as "State Land" leaving little room for legal intervention in protecting the individual cases. As a result, JLAC attorneys are employing a two-fold legal approach; 1) taking individual cases through available legal channels (although room for success is extremely limited) as to exhaust them and 2) lodging a major objection against the plan itself. The petition was lodged before the Supreme Planning Council of the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) at Beit El on January 9, 2020 against the planned Bustanei Hefetz plan no. 158-T (aimed to annex 788 dunams) on behalf of over 20 individual land owners and three local councils (Shufa, Khirbet Jubara, and Ar Ras in the Tulkarm governorate).

The below is a summary of JLAC's legal arguments submit in the petition:

- Developers intentionally prohibited the public objections process by publishing announcements in newspapers relatively un-known/inaccessible to the rights holders (land owners and local councils involved in the plan); i.e. the Israeli newspapers of Maariv on November 14, 2019 and Maariv Boker on November 15, 2019 and Arab-Israeli press Sawt El Arab on November 18, 2019. Such was done in bad will towards consuming the 60 days allotted for objection.
- The ICA stipulated that persons seeking to petition the plan must submit needed ownership documents and survey maps, a costly (when involving 788 dunams) and even unfeasible endeavor (involving lands in close proximity to the Wall and the existing settlement of Avnei Hefetz, rendering areas inaccessible/dangerous).
- Use of State Land is intended to serve a public benefit. The proposed settlement will pose a detriment to the villages involved and to their sources of livelihood. A better use of the land earmarked for the planed settlement would be the expansion of the villages' outdated master plans. JLAC noted that tens of demolition/eviction cases have been undertaken by its lawyers involving structures situated on privately owned Palestinian lands outside of the villages' master plans, indicating a need for their expansion.
- In response to the lands being allegedly previously designated as "State Land", JLAC argued that it is not the ICA's Blue Line Department (as had been the case in question) that is authorized to classify an area as State Land or not. The department is

merely mandated with recommending to the ICA's State Land Department areas for State Land designation; whom then is to go on to initiate an announcement/public objections process, with the Israeli Supreme Court making the final ruling/designation (as per the existing legal framework, i.e. Ottoman and Jordanian laws and Israeli Military Orders). This process was not followed in the case in question.

- As per the Oslo Accords, authority over areas classified as C was to transfer to the PA within 18 months of the signing and a Palestinian Planning Council was to be formed. Neither commitment has been fulfilled since 1995.
- Violations of international humanitarian law in regards to the denial of property rights and transferring citizens of the occupying state to administered territories (the Fourth Geneva Conventions, banned pillage, confiscation of private property of protected persons, transferring citizens of the occupying state, and other acts engrained in Israel's settlement enterprise).
- Plan consistent with prior efforts to evade Israeli environmental laws by relocating Israeli industries (i.e. chemical gas, fiberglass, heavy metals, etc.) to occupied territory, with emissions degrading the Palestinian environment and the illegal dumping of hazardous waste affecting Palestinian farmlands.

A hearing was scheduled for March 9, 2020, an indicator of the ICA's urgency in moving forward with the plan. The session, has since been postponed by the ICA, stating their need for additional time to translate JLAC's submitted documentation.



Land Restrictions and Confiscation

Land annexation and control of natural resources has been the cornerstone of Israel's practices in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) since its annexation, with such measures taken towards facilitating the confiscation of Palestinian land as; freezing the land registration process, establishing "military zones" under the guise of military necessity, continuously issuing military orders, reclassifying privately owned land, establishing Jewish-only settlements (and their associated roads and public infrastructure) and the constructing of the Annexation Wall.

Such is in violation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Hague Convention of 1907 (Article 26), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, and the Treaty of Rome of 1957 (Article 47) which address the confiscation of private property by an occupying power with the latter stating that "pillage is formally forbidden". Consequently, with more than 60% of the West Bank designated as Area C and under full Israeli control, and the ICA prohibiting construction in nearly 70% of these lands and imposing a broad range of restriction in the remaining 30%; Palestinians are effectively left with 1% of Area C and 13% of already heavy populated area of East Jerusalem for its use and natural expansion, as per OCHA figures.

**The village of Shuqba, in the north west of the Ramallah governorate and home to 4,200 + persons, is among the many villages in the West Bank harmed by settlement activity. Situated between and restricted by three Israeli settlements (Beit Arye to the north and Nili and Na'ale to the south) and their associated bi-pass roads and check-point, nearly 92% of Shuqba's lands (12,352 dunams out of 13,490 dunams) have either been annexed for settlement use or been rendered unusable for development, livelihood, and enjoyment purposes (due to its classification as area "C"). No longer feeling*

**The below accounts of success stories shared throughout the report reflect a sample of those persons protected (through the help of JLAC) from the various human rights offences which they faced. However, not all at risk persons face such happy endings.*

safe to enjoy their countryside, in November of 2015, the village's Head of Council at the time (Ramadan Masri) commissioned the work on a small park on donated privately owned lands to serves as a respite for the villagers and their children. Amal (a young mother of three sons ages 2,5, and 7) frequents the park often and reported that it has given her sons a secure place to take out all their energy, which she is thankful for.

Regrettfully, the park soon received a stop-work order in November, with JLAC's attorneys immediately taking up the case through the often lengthy "legal" channels of the relevant committees of the ICA in attempting to freeze the decision. A permit application was submitted to the High Commission for Inspection (at Beit El Military Base) in September of 2016, which was denied and then later appealed. This was followed by the submission of a detailed outline, which was also rejected. After having exhausted the ICA level, JLAC took the matter before the Israeli Supreme Court. Several intensive legal proceedings later, on May 25, 2019, JLAC's lawyers were able to reach a successful decision with the prosecution to cancel the petition and the looming threat of demolition for the park to the relief of the community.

While this case is representative of the restrictions imposed on Palestinians to enjoy their lands and resources through orders of stop-work and demolition for the structures situated on the land, often times the privately-owned land itself is directly seized (through such means as re-zoning into "closed military zones", "state land", etc.). In 2019 alone, JLAC worked to secure the ownership of 62 families (14 new and 48 on-going cases), with cases currently in various stages of legal proceedings.



Demolition of Houses, Livelihood, & Public Facilities

In those limited areas remaining viable for Palestinian expansion (1% in Area C and 13% in East Jerusalem), a complex range of restrictions effectively preclude Palestinians from obtaining and/or affording building permits. This “non-planning policy”, in which Palestinians in Area C are excluded from the planning process, face outdated/inadequate master plans, and denial of building permits and Jerusalemites suffer from limited highly populated areas and inflated building permit fees; has served to create and perpetuate demolition and to deny adequate due process therein. In turn, violating the right to adequate housing as reaffirmed in numerous international instruments ratified by Israel (i.e. UDHR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, and CRC, among others). Moreover, by threatening public facilities as places of worship, health facilities and school, Israel serves to violate other inalienable human rights as freedom of religion or belief, right to health and education respectively as vested in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), with the right to education additionally stressed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). In 2019, 623 structures were demolished in the West Bank, displacing 914 persons (of which 214 structures were demolished and 347 persons were displaced in East Jerusalem), as per OCHA figures. Of the 221 demolition/displacement orders issued in JLAC’s serviced areas; 204 orders were undertaken by JLAC; amounting to 92% of all issued orders with all other actors undertaking the remaining 8%. Such is in addition to the 2,254 accumulated demolition/displacement caseload JLAC continued to follow-up from previous years. Moreover, restrictions on building have caused shortages in available housing

for Jerusalemites, raising the prices of apartments and rentals up to 4 doubles compared to close neighborhoods in the remainder of West Bank; creating a coercive environment of forcible transfer.

Home and Livelihood Demolitions:

Demolition Orders Facing Home and Carpentry Business

While the demolition of homes carries tragic consequences for individual families, the demolition of a single livelihood resource/structure often comes to impact the ability of tens of families to carve out a dignified life while continuing to endure worsening conditions. A carpenter from the village of Duma, Nablus governorate (whom prefers to remain anonymous) was faced with both dilemmas; a demolition order for his home (sheltering his family of eight) and a second for his carpentry business (employing thirty people from among the surrounding communities, four of whom have disabilities).

It was in 2008, that he received the demolition orders, as part of a larger campaign to demolish 20 structures in Duma for posing an alleged “threat” to Israel’s security (despite neither being in close proximity to a settlement or settler road). For although he owned the plot of land upon which his home and carpentry business were situated, the classification of the land as “C” (and consequent inability to acquire a building permit) is what made him, and the others involved, vulnerable to demolition. The blanket demolition

orders were issued towards clearing as much of the village's Area C from its Palestinian inhabitants. Such was reiterated by the Israeli civil administration officer whom delivered the order, when he said: "These lands belong to the state of Israel, and you can't build on it. Go buy land in some other county and build there."

The carpenter promptly approached his village council. However, upon the recommendation of other rights holders in his community, he decided to have JLAC take on the case. By the time he approached JLAC, there were only 2 days remaining until the demolition would be implemented. JLAC quickly worked to prepare the case file and submit it before the relevant ICA committees at the Bet El Israeli military base. Despite the time constraints faced, JLAC succeeded in freezing the demolition decision in a timely manner.

Upon hearing the news, the carpenter was quoted in saying: "Without JLAC's protection of our home, we would have surely been displaced, my wife, children, and I and would be living in a tent by now". He went on to highlight the financial burden of otherwise taking the case to a private lawyer, and how he may have been compelled to forfeit his rights. He also expressed his gratitude for JLAC's diligence and attention during the case follow-up (i.e. in office and through mobile clinic visits to Duma) and stressed the importance of awareness-raising workshops which build local capacity in strategies of dealing with threats of demolition.

JLAC's lawyer continued to provide needed legal follow up, maintaining continuous contact with the family towards building the carpentry business case and legal procedures therein prior to submitting the

case to the Israeli Supreme Court for consideration. The carpenter and his family, and those employed by his business, remain secure in the home and livelihood resource in the interim, with a positive outcome anticipated for the business in the long run as well.

A Women-Headed Cooperative

Another example of a livelihood demolition case yielding successful impact during 2019 involved a woman-headed cooperative poultry farm in Barta'a Ash Sharqiya in the north west Jenin governorate. Enclaved behind the Annexation Wall, the village is beset with numerous restrictive and disenfranchising measures (from the checkpoints that only open at certain times of the day to the lands and livelihood resources that have been directly confiscated behind settlement fences). In such a strangulating environment, Amna (and the 10 other families her cooperative facilitate a livelihood for) faced a new set of struggles in March of 2012 upon receiving a demolition order for the simple steel barracks (situated on her privately-owned land) of the farm. JLAC's attorneys immediately began to take the necessary legal measures to safeguard the farm until a final ruling is reached (i.e. submitting a permit application, filling an appeal, etc.). And although in the interim, the farm had been technically safe from demolition, Amna and her colleagues (and their families) could only breathe a sigh of relief when the case came to an official positive end (for "lack of intention to demolish") in February of 2019.

Demolition and Confiscation of Public Facilities:

Dhar Al Maleh School

The communities enclaved behind the Annexation Wall of the north west Jenin governorate (i.e. Dahr Al Maleh, Wadi al Khazrak, Umm ar Rihan, Barta'a Ash Sharqiya, etc.), where the Wall delves far into Palestinian lands towards facilitating the continuity of the Tal Menashe, Hinanit, Shaked, Reihan settlements with Israel at the expense of the Palestinians, live on the margins of the margin. They face those same "push factors" by occupation forces as does the majority of the West Bank (i.e. house demolition, land confiscation, and settler violence) as well as challenges unique to being enclaved behind the wall. Such include: gates being open only from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, limiting the free movement of the community especially its students and employees (whom have more daily need for transportation) and severely restricting the visitation of friends and family from outside the community (whom must acquire a permit similar to that for a prison visitation); community members humiliated and intimidated (through psychical searches at gun point) while crossing electronic check points; community members prevented from entering their villages in the cases of expired permits; relatives of community members from the West Bank prevented from visiting on social occasions such as marriage or death, except with permits (with most requests for permits denied); employees and students delayed to work/school

outside the Wall, as well as teachers working in schools within the Wall; Palestinian medical staff and ambulances prevented from entering through the gates in case of emergency; right to education negatively impacted, as reflected in reduced female university enrollment; restrictions in carrying in daily essentials such as meat and produce, plants, animals, and household furniture freely, except through coordination with the civil administration, etc.).

However, among the most pressing concerns of the families in these communities is how to protect their young children from the daily trauma of crossing in and out of the military checkpoint on their way to school each day. An initiative was launched by the PA, aimed to meet this challenge by establishing schools within remote/inaccessible localities towards supporting Palestinian communities' steadfastness especially in areas earmarked for settlement expansion. Approximately 17 "Resilience Schools" have been established since 2016 throughout the West Bank. Despite this noble intention, the majority of the schools (as they are located in area C) have faced threat of demolition.

The Dhar Al Maleh school is one of these schools seeking to resist occupation measures. Built in 2018, the makeshift school (comprised of 5 portable steels cabins) allows for 38 students (from pre-school through 7th grade) to enjoy a healthy and safe learning environment. While on a tour of the school, guided by their young dedicated principle, it was clear for JLAC to see

both the critical service the school is providing for the children, on one hand, and its severely lacking condition in terms of basic infrastructure (i.e. unpaved gravel leading up to the school and within the school grounds, no coverage for movement between classrooms, lack of outdoor facilities as playground equipment, shortage of book and stationary, etc.), on the other. More apparent still were how smart and cared for the children were, and the thriving environment the simple school was able to afford for the children. The principal also recounted the struggles she (and the community as a whole) faced in getting the school on its feet, from building in the night to avoid the watchful eye of settlers to soliciting donated books and toys.

Regretfully, despite being erected on privately owned donated land, the school was subjected to three different confiscations (between November of 2018 and October 2019) involving construction materials and equipment in the first two occasions and a caravan used as a cafeteria and its contents (i.e. tables, closets, stove, etc.) in the later. JLAC raised a single claim for the three separate confiscations to the ICA in the Beit El military base, with no response yet ascertained. Given recent changes in ICA procedures in cases of confiscation, in which all claims must go through Beit El (as opposed to the actual bodies withholding the items e.g. military storage facilities whom used to be more receptive); JLAC anticipates the matter to take several more month but to eventually have the items returned at a fee (calculated based on the alleged expenses incurred in the transportation

and storage of the said items). JLAC has also highlight the need for easing the conditions of the school among relevant international relief organizations operating in the area, whom have gone on to prioritize assessment/intervention for the school.

Wad Salman School

Equally isolated and in dire need of a community school towards ensuring the protection and continuous education of its young children, is the small Bedouin community of Wad Salman situated in a remote mountainside in the south-west Ramallah governorate. The school was established to alleviate the otherwise arduous and often dangerous route to school for the community's young children (walking by foot in the mountainside 8km to reach schools in the village of Beit Liqya or crossing through checkpoints to reach the village of Beit Ur al Fauqa). The makeshift school (comprised of thee metal barracks, covered with zinc corroded metal and artificial grass in the common area) serves the community's 7 families by offering 1st- 6th grade for their 40 young children within the safety and easy of the community.

Regretfully, in December of 2018, the school received a stop-work order (a first-step towards demolition proceedings), with community leaders soon reaching out to JLAC for legal aid therein. JLAC went on to build the case, submit needed documentation, and attend scheduled sessions towards its protection. While in initial phases of litigation (i.e. before specialized ICA committees) JLAC was informed that the community must

prove their "residence" (their actual and historic presence in the land and their need for the school). JLAC held a field visit to the community and school, during which the community leaders provided over a decade's worth of documentation proving their residence in the area, which was later utilized in the case's defense. JLAC went on to freeze the stop-work order until a final ruling is reached.

Maysa, a 10-year-old girl with dreams of one day being a school teacher, has greatly benefited from the presence of the Wad Salman school being so close to her home. Her first few years of primary school were spent crossing in and out of the Beit Horon settlement checkpoint as to reach a school in the village of Kharbatha (along with her two brothers ages 8 and 12). This route was very emotionally and physically draining and was often met with her book bag being searched at gun point. She would often have nightmares and had difficulties in concentrating (as reported to her family by her teachers at the time). Many of the families of older girls in her community have increasingly chosen to discontinue their daughters' education, a fear which still looms over Maysa as her current resistance school only goes up to the 6th grade. Until then, the family reports improved academics for all three of their children with Maysa among the top of her class.



Forced Displacement of Bedouins

Evicted from Al Naqab between 1948 and 1950 and becoming refugees, Palestinian Bedouin communities have since resided throughout the West Bank prior to its occupation in 1967 or the designation of certain lands as “C” following the Oslo Accords. Regardless, Bedouins have been targeted by the State of Israel for their very nature (as small Palestinian communities presiding over large expanses of countryside) being at odds with the ambition to confine Palestinians within tight ghettoized slums. Indeed, Bedouins’ presence in such key areas as the Jerusalem periphery and the Jordan Valley remain the final obstacle before Israel in the areas’ effective annexation. Nearly all Bedouin communities, as reflected in OCHA figures and affirmed by JLAC’s field documentation, are facing blanket eviction orders (accompanied violence and confiscation of livestock and equipment); with many (46 Bedouin communities comprised of 1,358 households) being directly coerced to concede to inequitable forceful relocation plans aimed at eradicating their way of life. Forcible removal of indigenous peoples on any grounds (military or security necessity) is a measure prohibited under international law (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2017).

The Bedouin community of Wad Al Siq in the Jordan Valley is facing this very grim reality of blanket demolition orders and looming threat of forcible displacement, with all 16 families (200+ persons of which 50 are children) receiving stop-work orders for their housing and animal shelters (mostly metal poles with stung canvas material for walls for homes and animal shelters alike).

Following their initial displacement from Al Naqab in 1948, the community first settled in the area of Deir Dibwan (in the Ramallah governorate) and again forcibly evicted in 1997 by Israeli authorities to finally settle in Wadi Siq. As refugees, Palestinian citizens, and occupied persons, the community (as most Bedouins in the oPt) are in affect being failed by three different duty bearers (i.e. UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, and the State of Israel) in terms of service provision and protection from settler violence.

The community’s vulnerability has recently been further augmented by policy changes stipulating land ownership as a prerequisite of petitioning eviction orders. Despite having acquired a Supreme Court ruling back in 1997 to be situated in their current locality, along with permission from the Palestinian land owners to reside there in exchange for annual rent; the community received the first batch of orders in October and November of 2018 and the second in May of 2019. JLAC has since been working to undertake individual cases on the community’s behalf in combating efforts on the part of the Occupation to collectively displace them. Such has involved holding field visits and collecting the needed documentation in building the cases and attending scheduled sessions; during which JLAC argued the community’s human right to housing and violations of IHL therein. Currently, the community’s cases are at the final stage of litigation. JLAC is optimistic that the community will not be displaced once more.

Sara, a 62-year-old woman from Wadi Siq whom heads her 9-member household, raised her three sons and five daughters (2 of which are still minors and attend the local Resilience School #6) through her ability to herd goats and sell her dairy products and wool in the local markets. Her family resides in two makeshift metal and canvas structures (one for her and her daughters and another for her sons) and an outdoor wood stove; along with three similar structures for the goats. She earns a humble yet dignified living and worries if forcibly displaced, she will lose the capacity to shelter and maintain such a source of livelihood. Such a fate befell Bedouin communities previously displaced to tight quarters, where loss of livelihood and living conditions soon turned the localities into slums and the communities into cheap laborers in adjacent settlements. JLAC is currently following up the cases of Sara's housing and livelihood structures and are awaiting a decision from the ICA committees.

Sara's cases are among the 392 forceful displacement cases (44 new in 2019 and 348 accumulated from prior years) being followed up by JLAC towards securing Bedouins' way-of-life in the West Bank.





Confiscation of Goods & Equipment

Pillage (theft under the cover of war) against “all persons who do not take a direct part or who have ceased to take part in hostilities” is prohibited under Article 33 of the 1949 4th Geneva Convention. According to guidelines used by the International Criminal Court (ICC), pillage occurs when a perpetrator takes property from the legitimate owner, without consent. The Israeli Occupation has manufactured two modes (i.e. confiscations reinforcing military order 1651 article 60-65 of 2006 and those reinforcing Israeli Supreme Court ruling no. 1651) each having different sets of targets and procedures) for creating criminal/civil grounds for pillaging Palestinian goods and equipment. More recently, the ICA has focused its attention on the confiscation of humanitarian aid donated by the EU or its member states.

Israeli military order 1651 article 60-65 of 2006 stipulates that any item may be confiscated on-the-spot from Palestinians if its use is considered suspicious; giving authority to any army personnel to confiscate vehicles or items situated in a vicinity considered off limits (i.e. Area “C”, in proximity to the Wall, bypass roads, flying checkpoints, military zones, etc.). Or utilized in transporting any item “without permit” (i.e. tents, humanitarian aid, etc. or infrastructure related items utilized in supplying water/electricity). Although done so under the guise of “security”, the confiscation of goods and equipment is

a further means of restricting communities. Confiscations carried out under reference to military order 165 are raised by JLAC to the ICA and involve composing correspondence formally requesting the items confiscated. There is a high success rate among this type of confiscation, although penalties in the form of fines are usually imposed (ad hoc cost estimates based on a rough calculation of the cost of transport and storage with fees ranging between 3,000-6,000 NIS, 1 US\$ equaling 3.45 NIS) The penalties incurred are paid by the beneficiaries themselves. Some cases, however, require being raised before the court, particularly those faced with allegations of having caused “environmental damage” (i.e. confiscation of tractors used by Palestinian in their privately-owned land, rezoned as environmentally protected areas as a first-step in land annexation for settlement use).

Jamal (a 54-year-old farmer and father of 4) from the village of Kafr Qaddum was subjected to the confiscation of the essential heavy machinery (bagger) he relies on in earning a living. In July of 2019, while working his neighbors’ land (classified as “C”), the Israeli military stopped him and exclaimed that he cannot be working in this area without further explanation. Military personnel drove the bagger to the main road, at which point it was towed by a truck to the military base. Jamal was given a confiscation order and promptly approached JLAC in requesting the ICA to relinquish it. The ICA responded in August with the estimated fee of 5,000 NIS. Although the

machinery was returned later in that month, Jamal endured the loss of two months' worth of work and the cost of the fee, a significant setback for a simple farmer as Jamal.

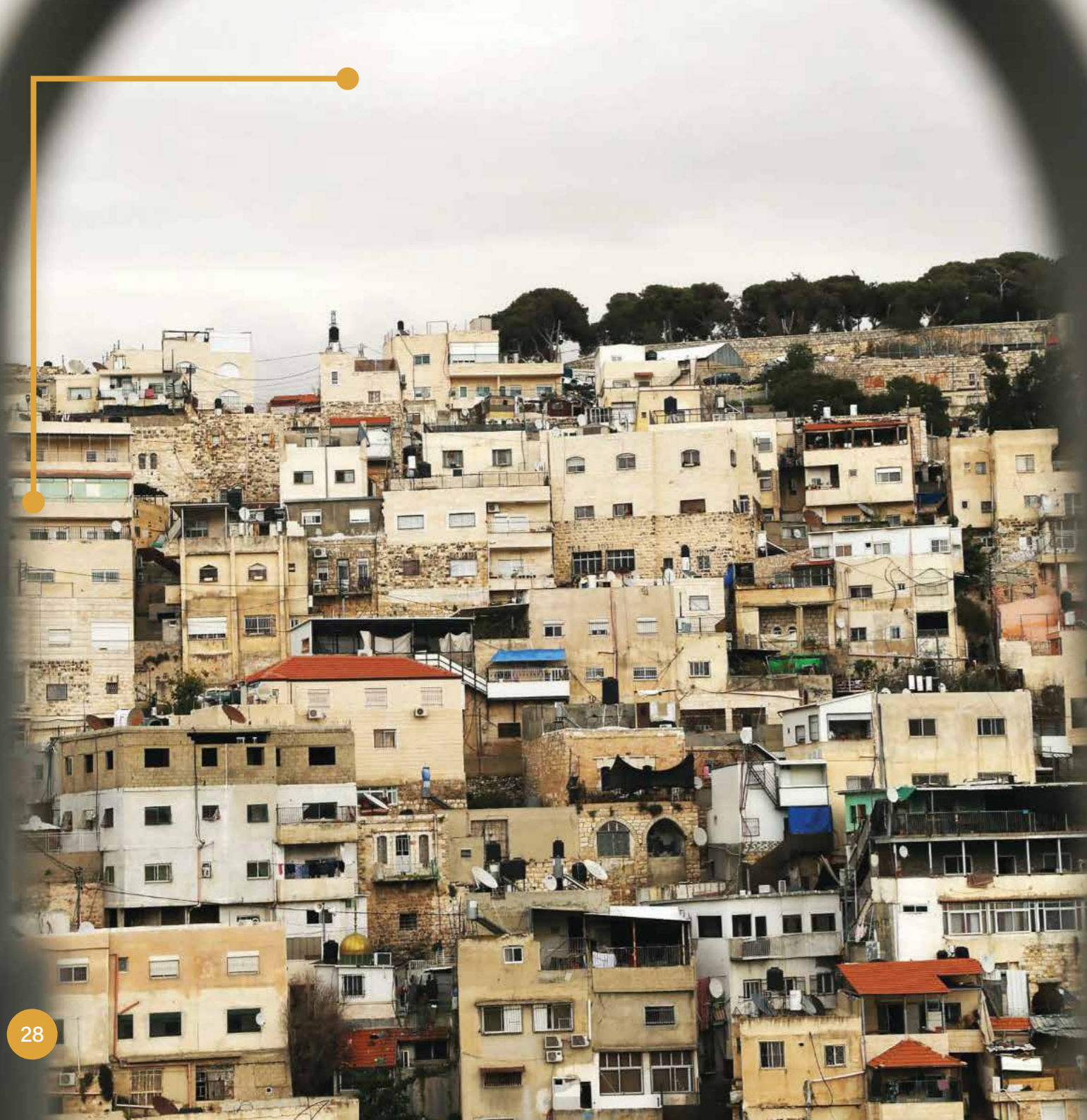
Israeli Supreme Court ruling no. 1651 of year 2017 (following a petition raised by a human rights group requesting clarity in procedures involving confiscations based on military order no. 1651) has come to be referenced in confiscations for alleged counter "terror" purposes. The ruling determined that the military must form a committee to review confiscations (under the Judicial Advisor for the military, a branch of the military rather than the ICA). Confiscation orders issued under this committee (designated/differentiated by the order received) usually involve confiscations of cash, computers, personal vehicles, etc. and take place during raids of homes or office, at military checkpoints, during physical checks/searches, at border crossings, etc.). Petitioning the confiscation involves submitting a correspondence within 30 days to the committee, with a session scheduled for the person or their lawyer to go before the committee within 30 days of the submission. The committee then has 30 days to reach a final ruling and the petitioner is given 30 days to appeal before the Israeli Supreme Court. As our experience has shown, rulings tend to be either: 1) the return of the item, 2) an initial ruling pending further investigation, or 3) denial (i.e. confiscation). No penalties/ fees are involved in such cases.

Nour a young teacher from the village of Sinjil (in the Ramallah governorate) was aided by JLAC in retrieving 6,490 NIS confiscated from her during an Israeli military raid of her brother's home in

January of 2019. The Army asked her if she was carrying money, to which she responded yes. The money was a cooperative amount of revenues she and a group of primary teachers generated while offering tutoring services, an initiative she heads and hence had the money. The army was not convinced the money belonged to her, and alleged that she was concealing the money on behalf of her brother (a former detainee). In fact, the confiscation report provided by the army was made out to her brother. Nour and her family approached JLAC a few days later for legal assistance, with JLAC's attorney promptly addressing a correspondence to the mandated committee. JLAC attended two committee hearings in this regard (in March and July) during which needed documentation was submitted (i.e. listing of students receiving private tutoring and teachers involved in the cooperative, tutoring rates, etc.). Following the last session, the committee informed JLAC in a correspondence that the money will be returned in full. The money was finally wired during the writing of this report (in January of 2020).

In 2019, JLAC served 28 cases of confiscated items, of which 17 cases were new and 11 were accumulated from prior years.





Push Factors Facing Jerusalemites

The permanent residency status of Jerusalemites makes them subject to a range of social and economic push factors, in addition to those they also share with their brethren in Area C and Hebron (i.e. discriminatory planning, home seizure and demolition, restrictive movement and access restrictions, settler violence, etc.), creating a coercive environment serving ethnic cleansing. This complex apparatus of control, dispossession and displacement of Jerusalemites is comprised of residency revocation, the denial or restriction of family unification and child registration (along with restrictive building) implicitly protected under IHL (i.e. Article 7(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ICESCR, etc.). JLAC works to combat these push factors faced by Jerusalemites through providing legal aid for cases of house demolition and social-economic rights. In 2019 alone JLAC served to provide 2,810 legal service (654 involving social rights and 2,156 involving economic rights, among other issues of concern), and to provide legal representation for 249 cases of house demolition and social-economic rights (73 new and 176 accumulated from prior years). The following are a few accounts from among the right holders whose cases yielded positive outcomes in 2019:

House Demolition

A man from the Sur Baher area of East Jerusalem (whom prefers to remain anonymous) was first introduced to JLAC in 2014 by chance, as he came across one of the Center's attorneys in the courthouse while the beneficiary was going to a hearing for charges brought against him in regards to his home. Living with his wife and 7

children in a single room in his parent's 2-bedroom 100 m house, the beneficiary took the decision to build his own flat. Given his limited resources, and physical and mental health challenges (which include diabetes and four strokes which have rendered him unable to speak properly, walk without the assistance of a cane, and use one of his hands, as well as cognitive effects on reality perception) which have limited his ability to secure steady employment, building a small flat adjunct to his family was his only option. Accordingly, he submitted an application for a license to the Jerusalem Municipality in 2001, which was refused on the pretext that he did not match the requirements and conditions of the license (a common response given to Palestinian applicants). The beneficiary proceeded with building the flat anyways and received a notice for demolish and was fined 50,000 shekels (approximately 14,600 USD) in 2008. As he could not comply with that amount, a second penalty in the amount of 30,000 shekels (approximately 8,700 USD) was tacked on in 2012.

JLAC's attorney asked the beneficiary to provide her with his medical reports and sent him to a certified medical committee to verify and document his physical and mental conditions and their bears on his financial circumstances and ability to stand before a court. The committee verified the physical, neurological, and psychological impacts which his various strokes have had and recommended that he not go before a court. This information and his financial standing were used in the arguments made by JLAC's attorney for freezing

the decision to demolish the beneficiary's home. Five years of diligent follow-up (accompanying him to medical committees, undertaking needed correspondences, and attending scheduled sessions) on the part of the attorney finally paid off in mid-2019, when she was able to secure a ruling to freeze all procedures against the beneficiary and exempt him from paying earlier penalties. Upon delivering the good news to he and his family, they expressed immense relief at having this heavy burden of uncertainty lifted after looming over them for so long.

A similar case was also won in 2019, for a man (whom also prefers to remain anonymous) from the area of Ras Al-Amud in East Jerusalem and his wife and six children. The beneficiary approached JLAC in 2016 in quest of securing his humble 78m home that is facing eminent demolition (demolition orders dating back to the year 2000) and several penalties (amounting to nearly 25,000 USD). JLAC undertook needed legal procedures and was able to freeze the case and waive the accumulated penalties; securing yet another Jerusalemite family from displacement. Equally significant is the impact JLAC had on the family itself unknowingly. While informing the home owner of the good news that his home is now completely protected, the beneficiary shared the dark time he and his family had gone through while anticipating demolition. Indeed, he had even contemplated suicide. Thankfully, he and his family can rest assured. JLAC has since referred the beneficiary to entities that can help he and his family process that traumatic time in

their life.

Child Registration

Safaa, a Jerusalemite mother of two, has been struggling since the birth of her daughters (born in 2013 and 2017) to register them with the Israeli Ministry of Interior. An all too familiar struggle for couples when one is a Jerusalem resident and the other holds a West Bank ID (in the case of Safaa's husband). Registering her daughters, in affect guarantees their recognition by the State of Israel as Jerusalemites and all associated rights therein (i.e. registration in schools, medical insurance, travel documents, etc.). Over the years, Safaa has gone to the Ministry of Interior over a dozen times to register her daughters, to no avail. She approached JLAC in 2019 and was promptly provided with necessary legal consultation and services. A case was opened, needed documentation was gathered and correspondences issued over a period of ten months. JLAC succeeded in obtaining identification numbers and health insurance for the two girls, the oldest of which is looking forward to starting school in the City.





Freedom of Movement

The institutionalized system of administrative, bureaucratic and physical impediments to Palestinian's freedom of movement jointly serve as a form of collective punishment. While in Gaza impediments (*i.e. continued siege, use of force in access-restricted areas, and permit regime*) are designed to severely restrict the movement of people and goods in and out of the territory; West Bank impediments (*i.e. imposed permit regime and Annexation Wall, closed military zones/restricted areas, checkpoints and physical obstacles as road closures, fencing off of privately owned lands, and more recently roadside settler violence*) restrict internal movement (*with the ability to travel out of the West Bank through Jordan completely controlled by Israeli security, and even oftentimes arbitrarily denied West Bankers as well*). Pertaining to the freedom of movement, JLAC takes on individual cases of travel bans (West Bankers denied exit out through Jordan), those denied the right to visit detained family members, and those (holding both West Bank and Gaza IDs) seeking access to medical facilities in Jerusalem or out of the oPt. During 2019, JLAC undertook 47 new and on-going cases of freedom of movement (*i.e. 15 travel bans, 1 permit for prisoner visitation, and 31 permits for medical treatment*).

Access to Medical Care

In addition to jointly amounting to collective punishment for their indiscriminate and unproportioned denial of freedom of movement (as stipulated in Article 12 of the ICCPR); individually each practice of prohibiting the enjoyment of freedom of movement amounts to violations of international law in their own right. For instance, the fencing off of land has additional bearings on the enjoyment of private property (as vested in the Charter of the United Nations) as does the denial of permits when accessing medical treatment additionally violate the right to health. The World Health Organization defines the right to health as "a state of complete

physical, psychological and social well-being, which cannot be achieved simply by the absence of disease or infirmity", with countries obliged to guarantee both freedoms and rights therein. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "every person has a right to a standard of living sufficient to guarantee health and well-being for himself and his family, especially in terms of food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services". The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Comment No. 14 (on Article 12 of the ICESCR) forms a normative framework from which states are obliged to respect, protect and fulfill the right to health across all conflict settings; where by attacks on and interference with health care services, providers, facilities, transports, and patients in situations of armed conflict or civil disturbance are prohibited.

Such has been the lived reality of many Gazans, unable to leave the area for medical treatment even in the most humanitarian of cases. Hussain, a 17-year-old boy from Gaza, was among those being denied medical treatment abroad. Given the dilapidated medical system in Gaza, after his 4-story fall (which crushed his skull and damaged his liver and pancreas) Hussain (along with his mother) was initially sent to Nablus for brief medical treatment. Back in Gaza, Hussain's medical condition grew less life threatening, but hopes of ever walking again unassisted would require him to undertake follow-up treatment in either the West Bank or Jordan. However, efforts on the part of the family to secure travel permits for Hussain's critical follow-up care were denied. It was then that they reached out to JLAC. The case of Hussain and his mother's travel bans were promptly undertaken by JLAC, whose lawyers wrote several correspondences and raised a petition before the court on their behalf. Hussain, in the company of his mother, has since safely gone to Jordan and is on his way to recovering.



Violations by the Palestinian Authority

Palestinians living in the OPT are in the precarious position of having various authorities enact violations of human rights upon them to various extents. While the State of Israel has actively worked to undermine the territorial integrity and continuity of the State of Palestine, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has ensured its internal demise. Since the absence of PLC in 2007, the current administration has undermined the separation of powers and good governance (as enshrined in the Palestinian constitution or the “Basic Law”) and perpetuated a slew of human rights violations (ranging from unconstitutional presidential decrees, appointment of the judiciary and un-implementation of court rulings by security personnel to arbitrary dismissal of governmental employees due to their political affiliation, political arrest and torture). In so doing, violating both the Basic Law and the various international treaties the State of Palestine has ascribed to (i.e. CEDAW, CRC, ICCPR, ICEFRD, CAT,CRPD, etc.).

Forceful Retirement

Recent consequences of presidential decrees (whose issuance themselves are an abuse of the State of Emergency Regulations of Article 43, of the Palestinian Basic Law) are the issuance of the Law Decree of Early Retirement of Security Forces No. 9 and Law Decree of Early Retirement of Civil Servants No. 17 of 2017. Contradicting earlier legislations, these decrees have created a foundation for human rights violations by legitimizing the early retirement (and in affect the arbitrary dismissal) of government employees for such undeclared reasons as political affiliation, activism in unions, or other expressions perceived as “threatening” to the current

administration. These decrees have seen a wave of forceful retirement decisions being issued, with JLAC alone taking on 56 cases (33 of which were undertaken in 2019).

Dr. Wail Abu-Isneneh (a 48-year-old medical doctor from Hebron) is among those recently arbitrarily pushed into retirement. Specialized in digestion (a rare specialty in the southern West Bank), Dr. Abu-Isneneh was stationed in Yatta Public Hospital and serviced a number of other public hospitals in the Hebron governorate. In February of 2018, Dr. Abu-Isneneh was notified by the administration of the hospital that he has been forcefully retired without notice or reason by the Minister of Health. He sent a letter to the Minister expressing the injustice of this act (with a response provided in March 2018). In April 2018, Dr. Abu-Isneneh reached out to JLAC in taking on his case before the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice. JLAC’s attorney highlighted the illegality of this act given his job evaluations consistently being excellent and that he has yet to reach 15 years of employment (a criterion of early retirement as stipulated by the Public Retirement Law of 2005). Dr. Abu-Isneneh’s case was won, he was reinstated to his position in February of 2019, and was provided with back pay for the year he was cut off from his post. However, the true cost was paid by the hundreds of patients (especially the more impoverished ones) who had relied on his specialization being afforded by governmental facilities, and had to pay either out of pocket of travel to facilities in other governorates for treatment.



JLAC's Methodology

JLAC's Legal Strategy:

JLAC's legal aid strategies across all its targeted geographies first begin with monitoring legal developments. New legislation, amendments to laws, administrative / procedural regulations, and all new court decisions are continuously monitored, with legal strategies fine-tuned accordingly. Such macro-level analysis is also coupled with community-level profiling of legal needs (particularly in the event of entering a new locality). JLAC then goes on to address various violations imposed under each jurisdiction through legal consultations and undertaking individual, collective, and public interest cases as below described:

Violations in Area C

JLAC's established referral systems (i.e. field presence, active volunteer base, trained local councils, relations established with governmental bodies, international agencies and organizations, etc.) brings thousands of persons seeking consultation from JLAC annually. Consultations are provided through various means; JLAC's portal, in the field (i.e. through field workers or JLAC's mobile legal clinic which involves weekly field visits by lawyers to various affected communities), and in-house (personally or via phone) in JLAC's various branch offices. In 2019, 3,730 legal consultations were provided by JLAC across its targeted geographies and areas of focus.

Cases requiring further intervention often involve representation before various Israeli committees and courts. Initial stages of litigation often involve

going before organizational committees of the ICA, depending on the type of case, and the legal track and plan of the defense (in accordance with the laws and military orders imposed). If no positive response is received, a petition is then made before the Israeli Supreme Court to enact its administrative rule over the ICA and to consider all legal defenses involving Israeli laws or regulations or international humanitarian law (since Area C is pursuant to international law as an occupied territory).

For instance, cases of housing and agricultural facility demolition (JLAC's largest area of intervention) are followed up before the ICA's secondary inspection committees, subcommittees, and the supreme planning council, and if still insisting on the demolition the case is then raised before the Israeli Supreme Court.

These particular cases also call for the strategy of "buying time" for beneficiaries given the inherently discriminatory nature of the legal mechanism afforded and the consequent rare ability to fully cancel demolition orders. As long as cases remain in the legal channels and continuously under deliberation, they remain safe from demolition/displacement. Therefore, the status of "on-going" is deemed a success by JLAC, despite the fact that it serves to augment JLAC's burdensome accumulated caseload.

JLAC began the year with 2,620 on-going cases and emerged with 2,771.

Violations in Jerusalem

In addition to providing its share of legal aid, JLAC dedicates three days of the week in its Jerusalem branch office to opening its doors to those needing legal services in completing necessary forms towards overcoming inherent language barriers therein (2,810 legal service were provided in 2019; of which 654 addressed social rights and 2,156 economic and other rights). As a further step, certain forms of assistance will require sending legal correspondences to official institutions (i.e. Israeli Ministry of Interior, Jerusalem National Insurance Institute, etc.) having jurisdiction over the particular cases. In the event of a negative response to correspondences, cases are brought to court before official bodies. In regards to public interest cases, such are initiated through field research as to gather as much information as possible, including testimonies of other affected persons and searching for potential partners before initiating legal procedures. In 2019, JLAC treated 141 cases involving Jerusalemites social and economic rights (111 cases involving social rights and 30 economic rights) of which 55 were new, in addition to 108 cases of house demolition in the City of Jerusalem (18 of which were new in 2019).

Violations by the PA

JLAC's legal interventions involving human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority, similarly involve the provision of legal consultation, as a first step in accessing legal needs/ the validity of the case in question. Such is often times followed with the submission of legal correspondences to the relevant governmental or private entities. In some cases, these correspondences are the basis for legal proceedings brought before the Palestinian courts, each according to their jurisdiction. In the absence of a response or in the event that a negative response is received, JLAC lawyers raise the cases before the competent courts, proceeding until adequate results are achieved.



Legal Aid Provided by JLAC in 2019

Addressing Israeli Violations

Case Type		Treated Cases		Closed			Ongoing	#of petitions
		New	Accumulated	Positive	Negative	Others		
1	Public Interest	5		3			2	
		2	3	1	0	2		
2	Land Confiscation	62		3			59	
		14	48	0	0	3		
3	Settler Violence Documentation	60		0			60	
		7	53	0	0	0		
4	Demolition/ Displacement	1,337		14			1,323	4
		61	1,276	1	2	11		
		108		19			89	
		18	90	2	2	15		
		621		34			587	
		81	540	1	7	26		
392		12			380			
44	348	1	3	8				
5	Jerusalem	111		46			65	
		39	72	26	7	13		
		30		8			22	
		16	14	6	0	2		
6	Movement	15		15			0	7
		9	6	5	1	9		
		1		1			0	
		1	0	0	0	1		
		31		28			3	
20	11	10	2	16				

7	Confiscation of Humanitarian Equipment	28		15			13	
		17	11	9	2	4		
8	Bodies Campaign	144		9			135	4
		18	126	7	0	2		
9	Miscellaneous	6		3			3	
		4	2	2	0	1		
10	Legal Representation Total	2,951		210			2,741	15
		351	2,600	71	26	113		
		2,810 legal services provided through JLAC's Jerusalem branch office (654 social rights, 2,156 economic rights)						
11	Legal Services/EJ	2,810 legal services provided through JLAC's Jerusalem branch office (654 social rights, 2,156 economic rights)						
12	Legal Consultations	2,350 through JLAC 4 branch offices						

Addressing Violations by the PA

Case Type	Actual Cases		Closed			Ongoing
	New	Accumulated	Positive	Negative	Others	
Public Interest	1		0			1
	1	0	0	0	0	
Public Freedoms	33		6			27
	14	19	6	0	0	
Political Detention	11		11			0
	11	0	11	0	0	
Miscellaneous	2		0			2
	1	1	0	0	0	
Legal Rep. Total	47		17			30
	27	20	17	0	0	
Legal Consultations	1,380					

Outreach & Mobilization

Community Awareness

Towards ensuring community preparedness in the face of the various human rights violations which JLAC addresses, JLAC works to equip Palestinians with the needed legal knowledge of discriminatory Israeli measures and the available legal mechanisms in confronting them. Such takes the form of raising community awareness through targeted sessions bringing in impacted/at risk community members and the key staff of their local councils (in Area C) and/or community-based organizations- CBOs (in East Jerusalem). Indeed, local councils and CBOs are often the first-place victims of human rights violations turn to for help. As first responders, the level of their legal knowledge is a critical component in ensuring protection. Moreover, their cooperation and facilitation help in streamlining referral systems and carrying out outreach activities (i.e. hosting outreach events, bringing in participants, hosting JLAC paralegals/lawyers permanently/weekly, etc.). Often times, JLAC also holds more public community awareness events as hosted by universities and other venues towards addressing specific issues of concern.

The community awareness sessions mostly address; in Area C the legal procedures to undertake when faced with demolition, displacement and land confiscation orders (i.e. different kinds of orders, building permit registration, proving ownership, etc.) and in East Jerusalem the social and economic rights of Jerusalemites (i.e. national insurance, disability, allowances for senior citizens, unemployment, birth and child allowances, family reunification procedures, residency, and child registration) and procedures in securing them. In 2019, JLAC held 30 community awareness sessions (16 in Jerusalem and another 14 in the remainder of the West Bank) outreaching 509 persons in total (36% or 183 of which were women).



Community Awareness Sessions held by JLAC in 2019:

Date	Location	Subject	Number of Attendees
1 February 2	Arab Al-Ramadin, Qalqilya	Legal procedures involving demolition/ displacement.	15 (13 male/ 2 female)
2 February 9	Al-WaljeH, Bethlehem	House Demolition	17 (17 males)
3 February 24	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Residency Rights	18 (5 male/13 female)
4 February 25	Jerusalem (JLAC office)	Residency Rights	12 (12 males)
5 February 26	Silwan, Jerusalem	Social and Economic Rights	18 (5 male/13 female)
6 February 27	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Social and Economic Rights	12 (4 male/8 female)
7 March 18	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Residency Rights	18 (5 male/ 13 female)
8 March 23	Khadouri University, Tulkarm	Scope of JLAC's work (with a focus on the accessibility of persons with special needs to public facilities).	40 (22 male/ 18 female)
9 March 26	Atouf, Tubas	Pertinent military orders and notifications.	15 (15 males)
10 April 8	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Residency Rights	16 (12 male/4 female)
11 April 11	Salfit	Demolition orders and legal procedures therein, as well as the documentation of settler violence.	18 (12 male/ 6 female)
12 April 17	Abna' Alquds Center, Jerusalem	Social and Economic Rights	12 (7 male/5 female)
13 April 17	Abna' Alquds Center	Social and Economic Rights	12 (12 females)
14 June 26	Qusin, Nablus	Prepaid water-meters and violation to the right to water.	10 (9 male/ 1 female)
15 July 1	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Briefing about rights of Jerusalemites.	4 (4 females)
16 July 29	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Social and Economic Rights	15 (8 male/ 7 female)
17 August 6	Ramallah	At NAWC targeting farmers from the Ramallah governorate at risk of receiving stop work or land confiscation orders.	26 (18 male/ 8 female)

18	August 10	Al Rashaydeh School	Social and Economic Rights	7 (7 males)
19	August 13	Al Rashaydeh School	Social and Economic Rights	31 (9 male/ 22 female)
20	August 15	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Social and Economic Rights	7 (2 male/ 5 female)
21	August 22	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Briefing about rights of Jerusalemites.	4 (1 male/ 3 female)
22	August 24	Izzbet Salman, Qalqilya	Applied Israeli military orders.	8 (8 males)
23	September 10	Nablus	Prepaid water-meters and violation to the right to water.	30 (23 male/ 7 female)
24	September 22	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Social and Economic Rights	19 (5 male/ 14 female)
25	October 16	Faraata, Qalqilya	Documentation of settler violence.	12 (12 males)
26	November 26	Salfit	Preparing lobbying and advocacy campaigns in combating violations.	25 (20 male/ 5 female)
27	November 26	Kufur Thulth, Qalqilya	Land related confiscations and closures.	20 (20 males)
28	December 1	Shufa, Tulkarm	Land confiscation orders.	30 (27 male/ 3 female)
29	December 19	Ar Ras, Tulkarm	Settlement expansion and consequent demolition/displacement.	13 (10 male/ 3 female)
30	December 26	Hebron	Prepaid water-meters and violation to the right to water.	25 (18 male/ 7 female)

Specialized Trainings:

Targeting Fresh Law Graduates & Students

JLAC held a legal training course between March 2 - April 28 (offering 40 training hours on 10 legal topics, targeting 12 prospective law professionals) in an effort to broaden the pool of available legal professionals able to challenge the set of human rights violations addressed by JLAC. Such involved delivering an intensive program targeting fresh law school graduates towards supplementing their education with the specifics they may otherwise not be taught in their formal education (i.e. applied military orders, case development, arguments utilized, windows for appeals, etc.).

JLAC additionally provided thematic lectures to university law students as to broaden their understanding of particular human rights issues facing Jerusalemites (i.e. house demolition, social-economic rights, and residency rights, retrieval of war victims' remains, etc.). Four such specialized lectures were provided in Al Quds University, Abu Dis (on February 25 and April 15) outreaching 73 law students (of which 41 were female). Two additional thematic training lectures were provided to female lawyers from WCLAC (Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling) focused on women's rights as owed to Jerusalemites (on August 28 attended by 13 female lawyers) and the second on taking cases before the Sharia Islamic Courts (on August 31 attended by 14 female lawyers).

Similarly, 3 other specialized trainings were provided in the Tulkarm and Nablus governorates of the northern West Bank; a lecture on the violations specific to

Area C and required procedures/documentation therein (held on April 30 outreaching 17 university students from Khadouri University, 13 of which were female), human rights based legal arguments (held on July 16-17, outreaching 33 law students from An-Najah University, 31 of which were female), and the use of social media campaign formation (held on October 30-31, outreaching 26 university students at Khadouri University, 22 of which were female).

A visual documentation training workshop was also provided in Jerusalem on March 24-26 (outreaching 15 students of various specialties, of which 11 were female); the last in a series of workshops aimed at equipping youth from among the most threatened communities with skills in documenting violations faced and advocating in their regard. Such included both theoretical (i.e. due human rights, significance of documentation as evidence in legal proceedings and in formulating public opinion, etc.) and practical (i.e. methods of documenting offences with professional and personal phones, how to upload information for its security, personal safety, etc.) training delivered by JLAC's lawyers/paralegals and an outsourced photo-journalist respectively, with many trainees since going on to serve as a resource for their community and even initiating protection committees in their vicinities.

Banan Dabash, a seventeen-year-old high school student partaking in the visual documentation training held in Jerusalem said that the experience was unforgettable for her. "I had the chance to walk around the Old City and take pictures of incidents or moments that I thought reflected human rights violations. When you walk around the city with a

camera, you feel empowered. You get the chance to capture important moments. There are things we have become desensitized to, like the harassment by the Israeli police, or the restrictions on movement, or the police outposts in Damascus Gate. However, when you think about it, you realize that it is not normal. And being able to document such violations and such restrictions is also a method to confront the normalization of our suffering.

Targeting JLAC Volunteers

JLAC maintains a volunteer base of more than 300+ persons, comprised mostly of former legal aid and outreach beneficiaries, community leaders, and activists across the West Bank (including Jerusalem). At minimum, JLAC has sought to equip volunteers with basic knowledge of case formation (i.e. documentation needed, processes, urgency of time, case referral systems in place, etc.) through specialized training, which has served to significantly impact the ease and speed in which JLAC is able to carry out legal aid and outreach. Moreover, the skills they have acquired has positioned the trained volunteers as resources for their local communities when faced with related human rights violations. In 2019, JLAC served to provide 3 specialized trainings to youth volunteer-groups towards refining their skills as community activists; one focused on violations specific to Area C and required procedures/documentation therein (on April 29 outreaching 38 volunteers, 23 of which were women) and two trainings sessions focused on campaign formation and the use of social media in human rights (outreaching 25 youth (15 of which were women) in two sessions held on September 5-7 and September 8-9).

Dalal Salman (25 years old), one of the participants in the specialized training courses targeting JLAC youth volunteers, from the Saffit governorate and a social science major at Al Quds Open University expressed; that the course provided her with the vocabulary and legal knowledge to put to words the daily indignities she is in fact living. Most importantly, it filled a gap in her education that otherwise may continue to go unfilled. She believed that with this new skillset, she will be a more solid community activist and leader. After reviewing the various post questionnaires provided by the course participants, JLAC noted similar statements by other trainees and concluded that human rights education is a cross cutting issue in such a reality as Palestine and thus must be integrated in different modes of community outreach toward enhancing community preparedness and steadfastness.

Specialized Trainings held by JLAC in 2019

Date	Location	Target group	Subject	Number of attendees
1 February 25	Al Quds University, Beit Hanina- Jerusalem	Students	Social Economic Rights	25 (13 male/12 female)
2 February 25	Al Quds University, Beit Hanina- Jerusalem	Students	Residency Rights	26 (12 male/ 14 female)
3 March 2- April 28	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Fresh Law Graduates	10 legal topics	12 (5 male/ 7 female)
4 March 24-26	JLAC Jerusalem Office	Students	Visual Documentation-Training	15 (4 male/ 11 female)
5 April 15	Al Quds University, Beit Hanina- Jerusalem	Students	Residency Rights	10 (4 male/ 6 female)
6 April 15	Al Quds University, Beit Hanina- Jerusalem	Students	Detention of Bodies	12 (3 male/ 9 female)
7 April 29, 2019	Al Quds Open University, Tubas	Students and Volunteers (legal training)	Areas C and Military Orders	38 (15 male/ 23 female)
8 April 30, 2019	Khadouri University, Tulkarm	Students	Area C	17 (4 male/ 13 female)
9 July 16-17, 2019	An-Najah University, Nablus	Law Students	Human Rights	33 (2 male/ 31 female)
10 August 28	JLAC Jerusalem Office	WCLAC Female Lawyers	Women's rights as Jerusalemites.	13 (all female group)
11 August 28	JLAC Jerusalem Office	WCLAC Female Lawyers	Petitioning before Sharia Islamic Courts.	14 (all female group)
12 September 5-7, 2019	Salfit	Volunteers	Use of social media in the service of human rights.	25 (10 male/ 15 female)
13 September 8-9, 2019	Salfit	Volunteers	Use of social media in the service of human rights.	25 (10 male/ 15 female)
14 October 30-31, 2019	Khadouri University, Tulkarm	Students	Use of social media in the service of human rights.	26 (5 male/ 21 female)



Media

In 2019, two documentaries were produced and launched by JLAC aimed at depicting the various human rights offenses endured by JLAC's serviced communities; "Here to Stay; the War Crime of Forcible Transfer" addressing demolition and displacement issues in Area C and "Jerusalem: A Story of Pain and Hope" addressing social-economic violations of Jerusalemites. The films were featured in screening events and other public forums (i.e. Open Day for JLAC's Volunteer Base, speaking engagements abroad, and in-office debriefs of visiting delegations).

National level media agencies were also engaged in raising Palestinian community's preparedness in challenging a range of human rights violations, through radio and television. Ten radio spots were broadcasted 2000x in 2019, covering ten human rights topics of concern (i.e. residency rights and family reunification, house demolition, settler violence, public freedoms under the PA, rights of people with disabilities, optionality of installing pre-paid water meters, etc.) and relayed messages of legal awareness therein to the public. The impact of the radio spots was felt in the increased number of individual legal consultations, phone calls and visits to JLAC's offices during the broadcasting period. For example, Shuqba's Head of Village Council, Mr. Ramadan Almasri, after hearing the radio spots on demolition, referred 7 beneficiaries receiving demolition orders to JLAC. Similarly, rights holders from Midya village approached JLAC in regards to 11 cases of demolition after hearing the same series of radio spots. The 18 cases went on to be adopted by JLAC, provided with necessary legal follow-up, and secured from demolition.

In 2019, JLAC also prepared and broadcasted a radio program under the title "You are Not Alone" or in Arabic "لستم وحدكم." The series of shows (14 shows) were broadcasted on Raya FM; with various JLAC lawyers and stakeholders providing consultations (on air) to audience call-in questions. The subjects ranged from social-economic rights of Jerusalemites and demolitions/displacement issues in Area C to arbitrary forced retirement by the PA and the optionality of pre-paid water meters. Certain episodes included guest speakers from among the PA, as highly welcomed by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission, and various heads of village councils in area C.

Three television talk shows were also produced and aired by JLAC during 2019. The objective of the talk shows was to bridge the gap between rights holders and duty bearers (i.e. PA Ministries) and Palestinian NGOs so as to facilitate an open and frank dialogue in which rights holders can share their accounts/needs and officials' can share plans/ agendas pertaining to various subjects at hand. The talk shows addressed; violations of public freedoms by the PA, the rights of people with disabilities, and the role of community monitoring of the courts in promoting the independence of the judiciary. All of the episodes were broadcasted twice Tuesdays after the evening news on Maan TV.

JLAC's key staff were themselves also outreached by national and international media outlets (across radio, television and newspapers) for interviews and comments in JLAC's areas of expertise. JLAC staff also employed media in outreach efforts in both

information-sharing and mobilization/organization of events. Such included social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter), JLAC's main website, and specialized websites (i.e. We Want Our Children, prepaid water campaign, etc.); as well as the issuance of press releases (26 issued in 2019), joint statements (7 issued in 2019), mass emails, and production of posters and publications.

Public Events

JLAC annually holds several special events towards bringing in the local community, peer organizations, and international partners around particular causes. In 2019, such events saw the discussion of a study on the human rights ramifications of pre-paid water meters, an open day for JLAC's volunteers (*see section on campaigns and volunteers*), photo exhibitions and screenings of a JLAC documentary, and a joint event in commemoration of the International Day of Human Rights (giving a special focus on the Wadi Al-Siq School at risk of demolition) as detailed below:

Photo exhibitions and film screenings:

JLAC organized two photo exhibitions in 2019. The first was held in Ramallah April 16 and the second in Tulkarm April 30 (in Khadouri University). Under the title "Here to Stay; the War Crime of Forcible Transfer", the exhibitions featured photos emanating from the various photo documentation training courses held by JLAC along with photos from prominent young Palestinian photojournalists towards highlighting Palestinian accounts of life under constant threat of demolition and displacement in Area C and East Jerusalem. The exhibitions also afforded the

opportunity to screen the documentary produced by JLAC (entitled; Here to Stay; the War Crime of Forcible Transfer) in both events. In Ramallah, the target audience were comprised of JLAC partners (both local and international, approximately 85 persons in total). In Tulkarm, JLAC's participation came more in the form of a public event under the larger theme of "Jerusalem the Intellectual Capital of the Arab World" as headed by Khadouri University's Faculty of Art. However, attendance was not limited to university students and staff, but likewise included prominent community leaders and members of the private sector (400+ persons attending in total).

Open Day for JLAC Volunteer Base

Annually, JLAC brings in its full group of volunteers (300+) for a day-long workshop, with the event held on December 12 in the ancient village of Sebastia, Nablus in 2019. The workshop sought to share with volunteers JLAC's plan for 2020 and solicit inputs and areas of interest therein. It also provided an opportunity for the larger group to get together socially, participate in an archaeological tour of Sebastia and be recognized for outstanding contributions in the human rights field (with 15 persons awarded plaques).

International Day for Human Rights Joint Event

JLAC, in partnership with the Ministries of Justice and Education, the Palestinian Commission for Human Rights, Al-Haq, and Shams, held a joint event on December 12 in commemoration of the International Day for Human Rights. The event included a field visit to the Bedouin community of Wadi Al Siq in the Jordan Valley and its local school established in

2017 towards protecting the community's younger children (first to sixth graders) from an otherwise arduous and dangerous/traumatic route to school. The Minister of Education (Dr. Marwan Awartani) and the Minister of Justice (Dr. Muhammad Al-Shalaldeh), representatives of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights, and a human rights delegation (which included many Palestinian civil society organizations active in the field) sought to launch the event in the heart of the Wadi Al Siq School as to highlight the displacement measures faced by the community, the situation of the school, and the right of children to receive quality education in a safe environment. On the second day, the event included an exhibition of drawings drawn by art students from the universities of Khadouri and Al-Najah and an exhibition of pieces produced by political prisoners. Participants were divided into three groups for discussion; group one- rights and freedoms in the Palestinian territory, group two- strengthening resilience in area "C" and Jerusalem, and group three- economic and social rights. Each group then raised their recommendations to the Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Shtayyeh through the Ministry of Justice.

Advocacy

Local Advocacy:

Coalitions

Working in coalition affords JLAC the ability to pool knowledge and resources, avoid duplication and minimize negative backlash. More significantly, it allows for multi-disciplinary discussion of and joint action towards dealing with the various challenges faced in the occupied territory. Among the more prominent national coalitions and networks JLAC engages in include; PNGO (Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network), PHROC (the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council), NGO Code of Conduct Coalition, the National Committee for the Defense of Public Freedoms, the National Committee for Monitoring Legislation, Popular Protection Coalition for the Judiciary, Coalition Against Torture, the National Coalition to Support Transparency, and the Jerusalem Coordinating Committee.

Campaigns:

The National Campaign to Retrieve Arab and Palestinian War Victims' Remains and Disclose the Fate of Those Missing

In 2019, JLAC persisted in its relentless effort to stop Israeli's abhorrent practice of withholding the fate of missing persons and the corpses of those killed in the conflict (currently standing at 78 missing persons and 254 withheld corpses). A practice in clear violation of the First Geneva Convention Articles (16) and (17) concerning the deceased and their identities and Article (34) providing for

the return of remains of the deceased in armed conflict to their home country. Though witnessing a lull following the second intifada of the early 2000s, the practice of withholding Palestinian corpses was renewed by the Israeli cabinet on October 13, 2015 as allegedly justified by Article 133 (3) of the Israeli Emergency Regulations. JLAC's petitions to retrieve victims' remains challenged this premise, with the Israeli Supreme Court ruling in July 17, 2019 that Article 133 (3) does not provide a legal basis for the withholding of Palestinian victims' corpses. In turn, the defense appealed the ruling requesting that a broader judicial committee preside over the decision. The Supreme Court complied to this request and held a second session on September 9 (overseen by 7 judges) whom ruled to revoke the earlier decision (if withholding corpses services prisoners/corpses exchange deals), thus sanctioning the military's authority to arbitrarily and illegally withhold victims remains in a clear and explicit violation of international humanitarian law and the provisions of the Geneva Convention. Indeed, another indicator of the court's complicity with the State.

In addition to JLAC's individual and public interest legal efforts in retrieving victims' remains for dignified burial (with thus far 190 victims remains retrieved), 2019 also saw continued community mobilization efforts as detailed below;

- Launching the campaign and associated social media pages (across Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Wikipedia) entitled "We Want Our Children" April 16. In so doing, JLAC sought to increase social media exposure/discussion pertaining to the matter of the withholding of victims' corpses and remains as

a means of reaching out to youth in this regard. The interaction by the users of the sites and by the Palestinian media has been excellent thus far, with JLAC continuously feeding the sites on a weekly basis. The only setback was the Wikipedia page being shut down the very next day it was opened (due to reports from Israeli lobby groups). JLAC is working on reactivating the page.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/makaberalarqam/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/makaberalarqa>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/makaberalarqam/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck95TX8_9cQibiVEmOy2kIlg/featured

- Holding periodic regional committee meetings (comprised predominantly of victims' families) towards ensuring that the larger campaign remains community-led. Discussions therein covered a range of matters, from legal updates on individual cases through larger campaign strategies and all the logistical matters pertaining to legal and outreach efforts (i.e. event organizing).
- Holding three larger centralized meetings in the northern and southern West Bank; the northern area meeting (covering Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, Jenin and Salfit regional committees) held April 8 and attended by 13 people, the southern area meeting (covering the Bethlehem and Hebron regional committees) held July 8 attended by 22 participants, and second meeting for Bethlehem (as to address a particular issue of concern in the area) held August 22 attended by 5 people.

- Organizing mass events focused around the National Day for Retrieving Victims' Remains, which falls on August 27th of each year (a nationally recognized day of remembrance). A press conference held on August 8th at the Government Information Center, followed by four concurrent events on August 27th (attended by approximately 100 persons in Gaza, by 220 in Ramallah, 200 in Nablus, and 100 in Hebron), well covered by national and international press.
- Standing in solidarity with related decentralized activities. In Hebron, such included demonstrations calling for the return of victims' corpses from the area and a Solidarity Tent held by the family of Wael al-Jabari in the center of Hebron. Similarly, in Beit Sira, the family of Youssef Anqawi held monthly events on the 4th of each month to demonstrate against the detainment of their son's corpse.

The Right to Water Campaign Challenging Pre-paid Water Meters

Since late 2018, JLAC has been laying the ground work for a counter campaign aimed at challenging the PA's policy of installing pre-paid water meters in an effort to "manage" the water crisis as opposed to demanding Palestinians' due water rights (i.e. their full quota). In so doing however, the PA has sought to limit the enjoyment of water to those whom solely can afford to pre-pay, in violation of both local and international law (i.e. Article 11.1 of the ICESCR). Towards mitigating this end, JLAC undertook the following in 2019;

Outreaching the local community through community

awareness, trainings, posters, informative pamphlets, and an intensive media campaign (involving 4 radio shows, 2 radio spots (aired 500x each), and a 25-minute documentary) towards increasing their awareness of due water rights and the optimality of water meters.

Engaging official bodies in dialogue towards reforming current practices as to meet their obligations as duty bearers as per local and international law.

Undertaking a research study (entitled; "Water Meters Prepaid in Law and Practice" aimed at analyzing the ramifications of prepaid meters on human rights and suggesting alternative solutions therein.

Holding a conference (entitled "Prepaid Water Meters: In law, Practice, and Ways of Development") held in Birzeit University on October 21st in cooperation with the Center for Development Studies; in which the findings of the research study were presented. Six other papers were presented during the conference; attorney Ammar Jamous (from the Independent Commission for Human Rights) presented a paper on the legality of the pre-paid water meters in local and international laws, Salah Hanieh (the Director of the Palestinian Society for Consumer Protection) and Ubai Abboudi (Director of Bisan Center for Research and Development) presented two papers on the effects of this policy on the economic and social situation of the Palestinian people and their steadfastness, and Amal Nazzal (Lecturer at Birziet University) and Hama Zeidan (Director of the Advocacy Unit at the AMAN Coalition) presented two papers on the possible accountability measures in this regard. More than 100 people participated in the conference from among a number of local councils, peer organizations, academia, official bodies, interested individuals.

Persons with Disabilities Accessibility Campaign

The Persons with disability Accessibility Campaign aims to ensure the accessibility of public facilities by persons with disabilities. First launched in Nablus back in 2017, the Campaign saw many public facilities rehabilitated in the City of Nablus towards ensuring their access by persons with disabilities over the years. In 2019, 12 high-level coordinative committee meetings were held in Nablus in continuing and expanding campaign efforts. Among the emanating achievements included;

- Rehabilitation of the commercial complex in Nablus following the transfer of the Local Government Directorate to the City.
- Producing and airing two television shows on the accessibility rights of persons with disabilities (featuring Rasha Suleiman- Director of Public Relations at the Ministry of Local Government and Muawiya Mona-Secretary of Persons with Disabilities).
- Launching an incubator for businesses headed by persons with disabilities at Birzeit University, in partnership with the Ministry of Labor, the Center for Development Studies, and EDUCAID.
- Leading a march in solidarity with prisoners of war and prisoners with special needs, delivering a memorandum and speeches to and before the Red Cross.
- Initiating a multi-sectoral dialogue of the drafting of a new Palestinian law for the disabled, with a number of meetings held (i.e. the Human Rights Institute, Institute of Law at Birzeit University, the Nablus governorate, Hamdi Center in Nablus, etc.) towards generating recommendations for the draft law.

- Holding an introductory workshop on the Campaign at Khadouri University which included an overview of the local laws related to persons with disabilities.
- Holding a design competition in partnership with the Department of Design and Arts at the Khadouri University for the design of the best Campaign logo. The winning design was chosen by a committee (comprised of Department members and JLAC staff) and presented in an awards ceremony held at the university.
- Implementing a training workshop for the Department of Political Science at An-Najah University focused on laws related persons with disabilities.
- Partaking in activities on the occasion of the International Day for People with Disabilities.

International Advocacy:

Given the discriminatory nature of the dual legal system imposed upon Palestinians, oftentimes available legal mechanisms are exhausted without remedying the situation. Consequently, JLAC has increasingly felt the need to couple its legal aid and outreach with international advocacy efforts. In this regard, JLAC utilizes its sound knowledge of and presence in the field to strengthen international actors' knowledge of the ramifications of Israel's expansionist aims. Such takes the form of compiling subject focused legal analysis, joint statements (directed at accountability bodies), debriefs and field visits (directed at visiting international delegation), and partaking in speaking engagements abroad when possible. The following were among the main international advocacy efforts undertaken by JLAC in 2019;

Thematic papers and statements

JLAC has historically undergone legal analysis of emerging legislative and policy developments (and their ramifications on JLAC's protection work) as a means of strategic preparedness. More recently, however, JLAC began formulating such analysis into documents for dissemination, in equipping the human rights sector (including international actors) with an understanding of developments as they unfold and their bearings on protection. In 2019, JLAC prepared 6 such statements and legal analysis (e.g. a statement on escalation in Israel's annexation efforts in Jerusalem and the remainder of the West Bank, brief legal analysis of Military Order 1797, a fact sheet and legal update on the planned Israeli industrial settlement Bustanei Hefetz plan no. 158-T, statement about the Abu Leila Punitive house demolition, a statement on withholding corpses as a form of collective punishment, and a letter on withheld corpses to the British Consul General.

Clusters & Networks

JLAC is engaged in international platforms for facilitating multi-disciplinary discussion of and joint action in addressing violations in the occupied territory, based locally and abroad. In this regard, JLAC attends the OHCHR's (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) protection cluster and associated working groups and has acquired membership in EMHRN (Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network). JLAC attended EMHRN's working group sessions focused on Palestine (held in Brussels in May and in Madrid in November), during which a host of issues were discussed, chief among them was the "shrinking space" faced by actors working for Palestine. JLAC, also hosted an EMHRN delegation to Palestine in June.

Debriefs and Field Visits

JLAC annually conducts field visits targeting duty bearers and other stakeholders (i.e. MPs, heads and staff of governmental missions, formal intuitions, INGOs, journalists, students, advocacy groups, etc.) towards debriefing them and having them witness first-hand the ramifications Israeli "facts on the ground" are having upon the Palestinian people. In so do, JLAC serves to raise the profile of the areas visited and issues raised, but also to equip participants with the necessary field information in strengthening their own messaging (whether internally back to their home offices or externally in the form of research, publications, or journalistic works). For instance, a field visit organized for film makers from the US and Columbia resulted in a documentary being produced regarding Bedouin communities serviced by JLAC. The film has since been screened in several international venues by the film makers, serving to raise awareness and solidarity with the plight of Bedouins in the Jordan Valley.

Such advocacy focused field visits are in addition to the tens of visits conducted by JLAC's field workers on a near weekly basis in following up service delivery. In 2019, JLAC held 26 such filed visits outreaching 234 (17 field visits taking 152 persons to sites in Jerusalem and 9 field visits taking 82 persons to sites in the remainder of the West Bank) outreaching 234 (152 taken to sites in Jerusalem and 82 to the remainder of the West Bank) heads of mission/ ambassadors, diplomats/ MPs, journalists, students and activists (from South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Norway, Brazil, the United States, Luxembourg, Spain, Turkey, Palestine, etc).

Presentations Abroad

Concomitant with its participation in the Euromed Human Rights Network in Madrid, JLAC's Advocacy Officer also engaged in speaking events presenting Israel's practice of withholding the corpses of those it has extra-judicially killed and the situation facing Jerusalemites. The engagements were held in the University of Madrid, in cultural centers in Madrid, and in the University of Malaga, as facilitated by groups previously having partaken in JLAC's field visits and debriefs in Jerusalem.

Moreover, JLAC's Director participated in key conferences held by regional human rights networks; a human rights conference in Amman, Jordan held by the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, a conference calling for the end of the war in Yemen held in Tunisia, a conference on collective punishment in Jerusalem and role of IHL held in Cairo by the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, as well as a submission before the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the OPT in Amman, Jordan.

A JLAC attorney (Wail Qut) also participated in a US based conference "Radical Imaging: Defining a Palestinian Vision & Strategy for the 2020 Elections" held in New York July 29- August 1 as part of Adalah's justice project. The conference sought to collectively assess political conditions, organizing/legal strategies, challenges & opportunities in the U.S. and Palestine towards identifying what concrete policy and narrative interventions could be made ahead or around the US 2020 elections. While in the US, the attorney also spoke at several engagements including a "Report Back" presentation on Area C on August 8 in New York (as facilitated by film makers having previously participated in a JLAC field visit and debrief to the Jordan Valley).



Achievements

Achievement in relation to Proposed Outputs and Indicators

Objectives	Outputs (Achieved vs. Planned for Annum)	Indicators
Palestinians' (rights holders) basic human rights and freedoms protected in accordance with the legal mechanisms available in national legislation and international conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 204*/180** Rights to living and dwelling***, 14/10 Land Confiscation, 17/10 Confiscations of goods/equipment, 7/5 Israeli Settler Attack, 30/30 Freedom of Movement (travel bans, prisons' visitation, permits). 55/50 Jerusalemites' Social, Economic and civic rights, 2,810/3,200 Legal services regarding Jerusalemites' Social, Economic and civic rights, 3/4 Public interest cases (2 before Israeli Courts, 1 before Palestinian courts) 26/20 PA Violations (public freedoms, forced early retirement, political arrest, medical malpractice, other). 18/10 cases of retrieving war victims' corpses adopted by JLAC. More than 2,620 cases are followed up from previous years, and 3,730/1,750 Legal consultations. 	70% of cases adopted by JLAC throughout the year are closed with positive results or remain on-going.
Legal awareness raised and culture of human rights promoted amongst "rights holders".	30/23 public awareness sessions, 14/8 training sessions and intensive training workshops for fresh law graduates in East Jerusalem, 26/4 meetings with diplomatic missions and international organizations, 3/3 round tables with duty bearer to hold them accountable to their obligations after ratifying international treaties, and legal discussion to monitor changes in the legal environment. 6/6 informative materials/ publications developed.	60% of targeted rights holders state that they received the legal knowledge and mechanisms that would assist them in claiming their rights.

Rule of law promoted, accountability mechanisms activated and accountability and prosecution urged at the local and international levels (relevant duty bearers, Israeli and Palestinian security forces, and third parties).	Membership in exciting coalitions maintained and membership in new local/ international coalitions/ networks attained. Current campaigns continued/ expanded. Advocacy plan developed and implemented. 26/3 advocacy tours for journalists, foreign delegations, diplomats, international organizations, students, activists. 2,000 radio spots, 14 radio shows, 3 television shows, 1 study, and 1 documentary produced.	Member coalitions and established campaigns have a clear agenda that includes specific actions to improve the status and conditions of human rights and good governance.
Institutional and professional capacities and factors that contribute to JLAC's sustainability enhanced, and local, regional and international partnerships developed.	Needed training provided to JLAC's staff (i.e. legal, programming, financial, etc.). JLAC's General Assembly expanded/ activated towards maintaining JLAC's good-governance measures and guaranteeing gender balance (i.e. at least on third of JLAC's staff, Board of Directors, and General Assembly should be female). For further explanation, see JLAC's Internal Bi-Law section VII). Needed equipment/physical resources procured by JLAC.	7 staff members participating in 3 capacity building programs. 1 pivotal meeting held by the General Assembly, and 4 meetings held by the elected BoD. Procured equipment included some furniture and office equipment (including 3 firewall units).

* of cases/actions conducted during reporting period.

** of cases/actions planned for 2019.

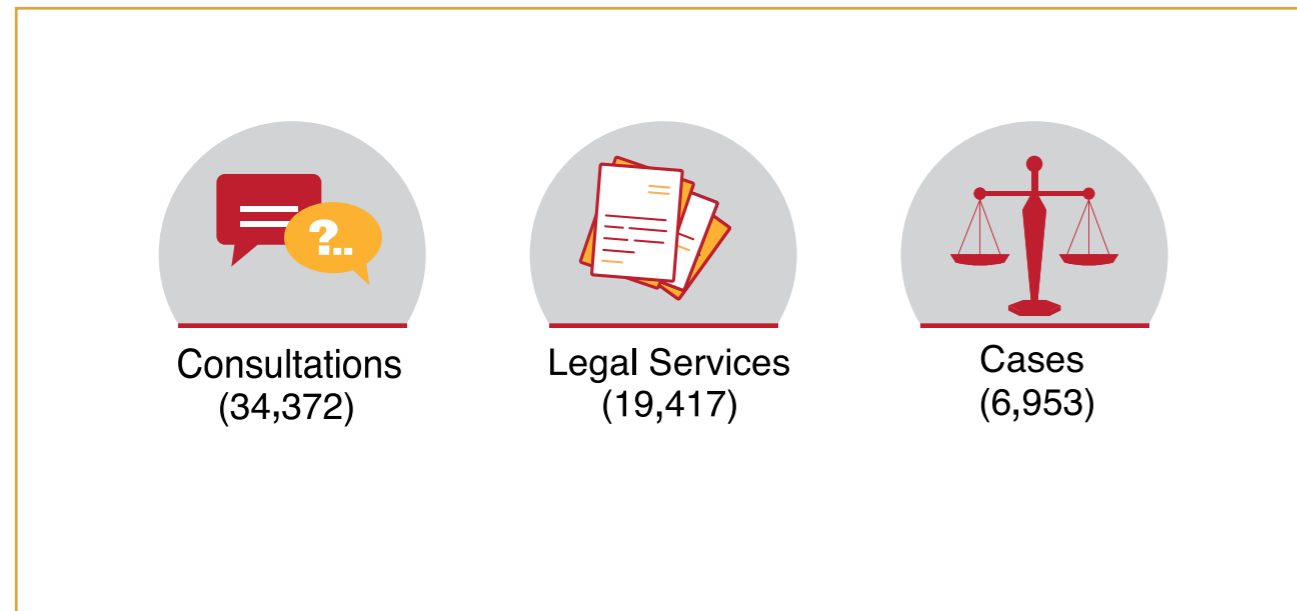
*** Case/action type.

Note: In 2019, more legal consultations were conducted and less legal services than planned, on account of the neighboring Israeli National Insurance Institute relocating further away from JLAC's Jerusalem branch office. Much of the daily foot traffic coming into the branch office was comprised of persons seeking assistance in filling-out legal Hebrew-language forms on their way to the institute. Additional resources were (secured after the development of the original plan) were mostly directed towards outreach efforts; reflecting a positive deviation in such activities as field visits and trainings. Moreover, increased violations were reflected in additional cases being undertaken than planned.

Analysis of JLAC's Legal Aid (2009-2019)

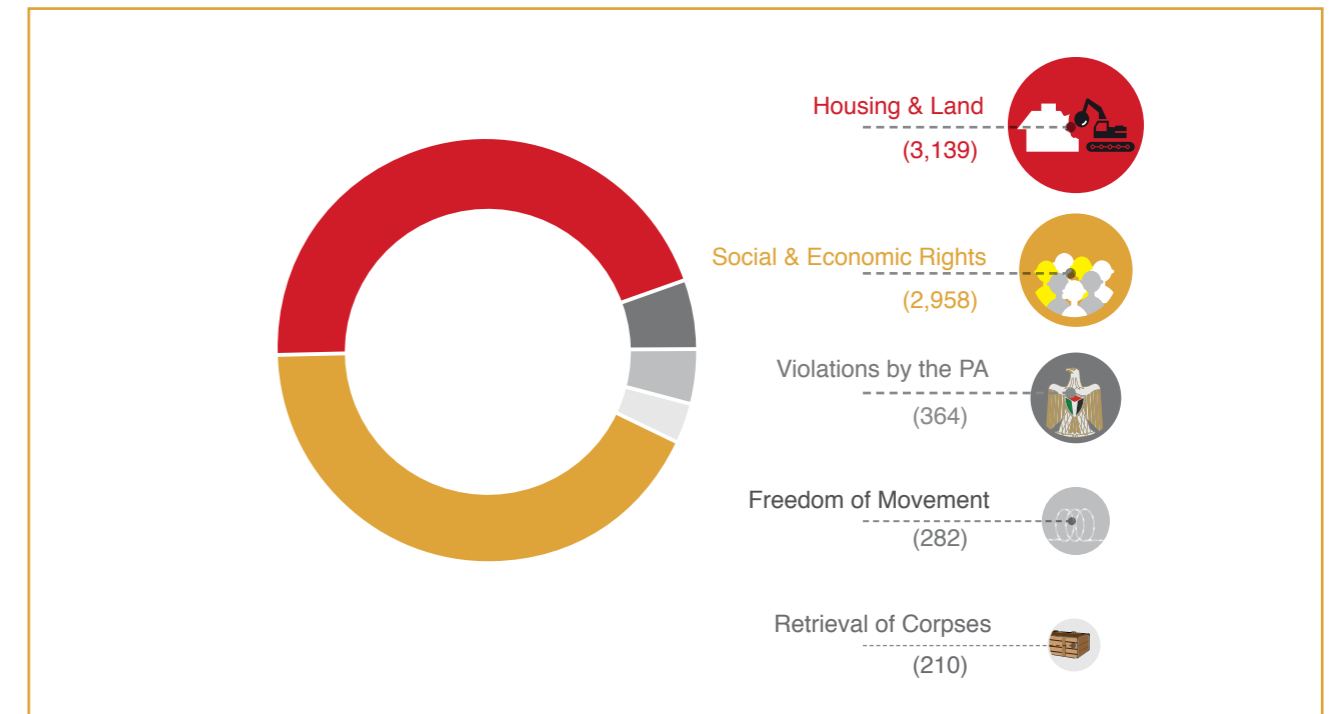
Legal Aid 2009-2019

Protecting 60,742 beneficiary families

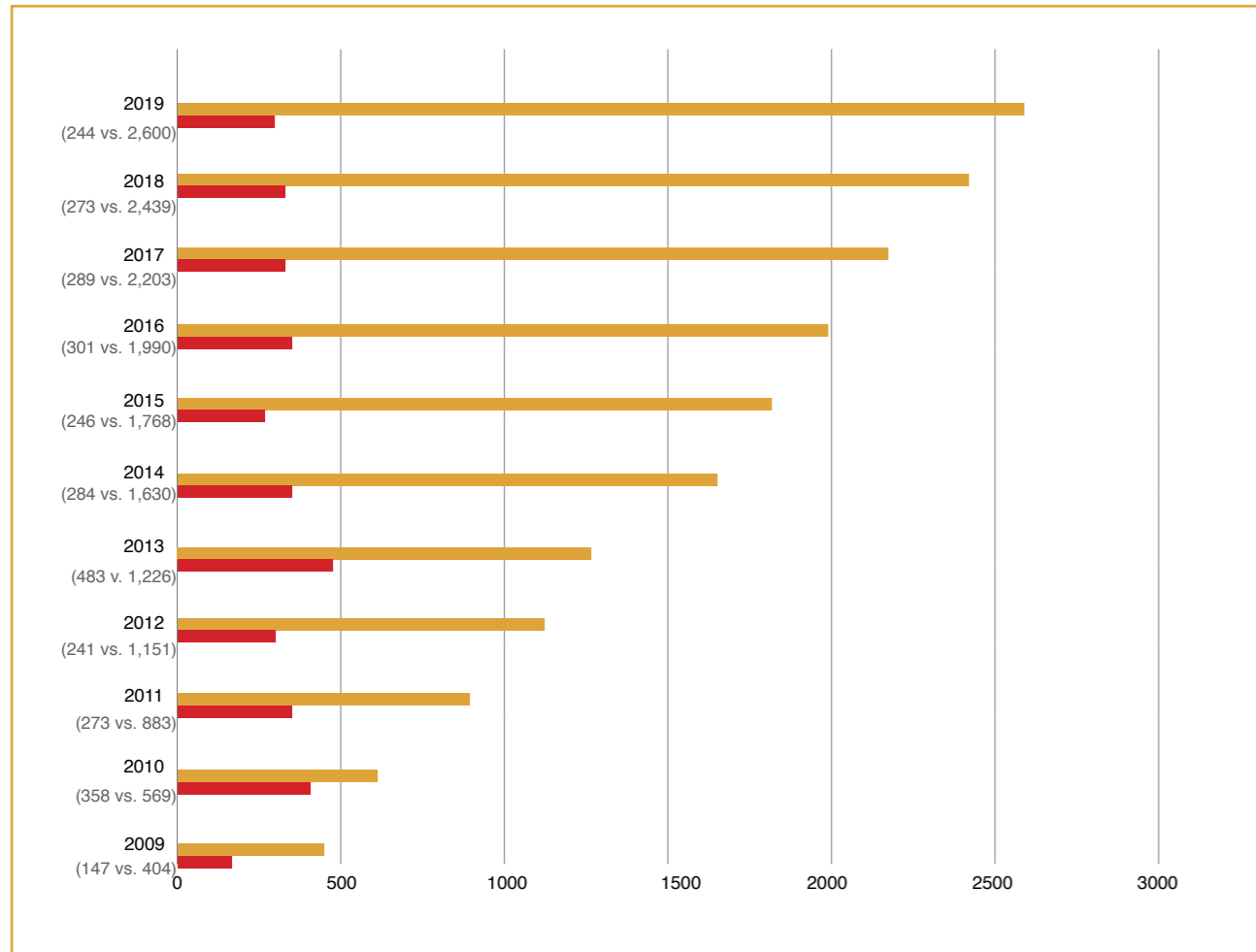


Cases Undertaken by JLAC (by type) 2009-2019

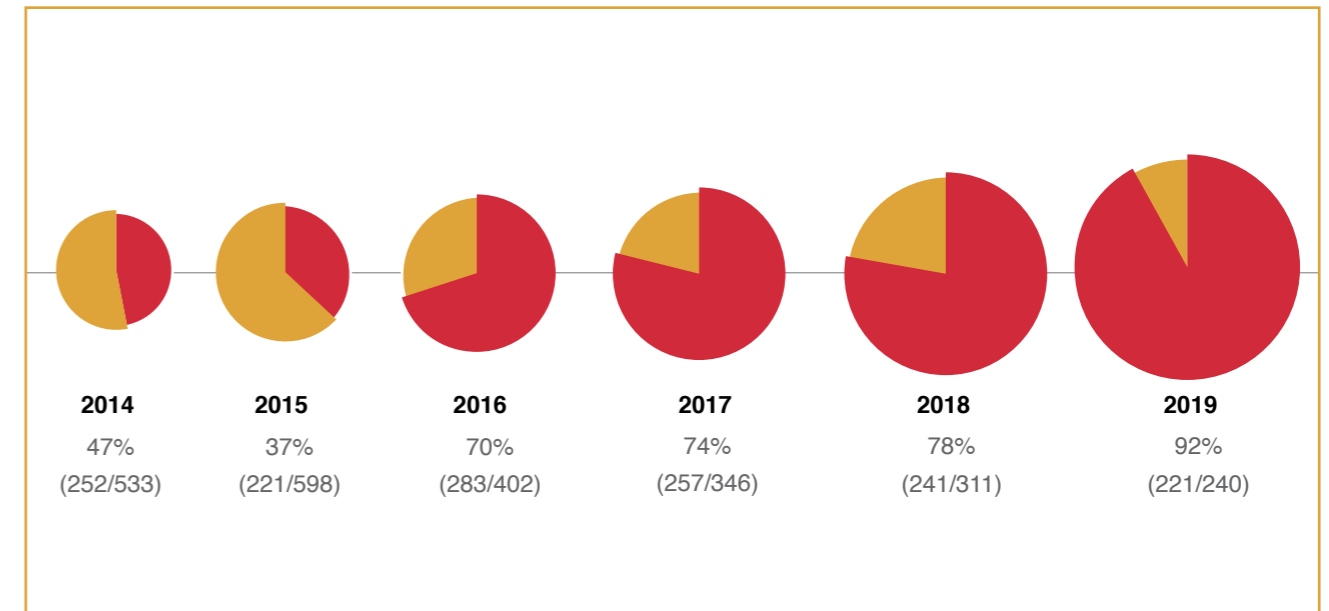
Securing the Rights of 6,953 beneficiary families



Housing & Land Cases New vs. Accumulated Cases (2009-2019)



% Demolition Orders Address by JLAC out of the Total Demolition Orders Issued by the ICA (within JLAC's targeted areas*)



*JLAC undertakes cases of demolition/ displacement in Jerusalem and the remainder of the West Bank, excluding the governorates of Bethlehem and Hebron (except for some limited cases).



Institutional Development

Supervisory Engagement

JLAC is headed by a multi-sectoral General Assembly that is tasked with providing final endorsements of JLAC's final administrative and financial reports, selection of auditing firms (Price Waterhouse selected in the last round) and election of the Board of Directors. A meeting was held in these regards April 6. Four Board of Directors meetings were also held towards fulfilling the Board's mandate of approving plans and budgets and overseeing JLAC's compliance therein, with 4 meetings held to this affect (March 20, April 20, September 14, and November 23). The Board's engagement however, is not solely limited to these periodic meetings, but members often also partake in such JLAC activities as diplomatic field visits, large JLAC led events, and internal staff-wide planning workshops.

Participatory Planning & Team Building

For the 5th consecutive year, JLAC has held a team weekend in the late autumn (in 2019 held on November 2-3) toward reflecting on the achievements and pending items of the current year and engaging the entire team (from across JLAC's branch and satellite offices and tiers of employment, including the Board) in planning for the year to come. Other matters of concern also discussed during the weekend included glitches in communication, appraisals and incentives, developed manuals, planning for upcoming large events, etc. By removing staff from the daily grind for two consecutive days, the weekend also allows the team to engage more socially with each other. Towards this end, JLAC recruited a psycho-social expert to lead relaxation and team building exercises and afforded evening and nature activities.

Continuous Education

The continuous education of JLAC's working team is an essential component of their quality of work. Towards this end, JLAC encourages and assists team members in identifying their training needs and securing training opportunities therein. In 2019, seven team members participated in training opportunities ranging from a specialized course on land related laws and regulations pertaining to Area C (in Al Najah University, Nablus) to a middle-east wide training course on the application of human rights in the region (held in Tunisia).

Manuals

In an effort to catalogue and systemize JLAC's operations, several quality manuals were identified in JLAC's strategic plan as of critical importance in streamlining operations. 2019 saw the materialization of a Legal Aid Manual cataloguing procedures to undertake and internal/external forms to utilize by case type, desegregated by consultation, legal service, individual and collective/public interest case. A manual was also developed for better systemizing JLAC's engagement with its volunteer base (comprised of over 300 persons). The manual discussed the functions of the volunteer base (vis-à-vis contribution to JLAC's efficiency of service), forms of recruitment/engagement, continuous outreach/training, and connectivity/mobilization. This year, JLAC also sought to review and enhance its appraisal procedures and formats used towards developing more quantifiable measures of evaluating staff performance and allowing for self, line-manager, and committee inputs therein.

Changes in Facilities and Personnel

JLAC relocated its Ramallah branch office from the 6th floor of the Millennium Building to the 3rd floor as to accommodate growth in staff. This move required some renovation works (i.e. networks, drywall/painting, etc.) and procurement of furniture/equipment. Additionally, in 2019, JLAC's Accountant submitted his resignation in June, which was followed by the announcement of the new vacancy in a local newspaper. Following a practical exam and interview by a selection committee, the top candidate was recruited, trained, and has begun her post.

Funds Contributed in 2019

Core Donors

- Irish Representative Office (Irish Aid): 155,000€ (January -December 2019).
- Brot für die Welt/ EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst): 450,000€ (2019-2021).
- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD): 38,000\$ (January - December 2019).
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP): 120,000\$ (October 2019- 2020).
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): 180,000\$ (January-December 2019).

Project- based Support

- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): various projects 390,675\$ (January -December 2019).
- European Union: 561,100€ (May 2016- April 2019).
- French Development Agency (AFD): 249,660€ (May 2019-November 2020).
- Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung: 40,000€ (January-December 2019).


Financial Report 2019


Category	Name	Total (\$)
Revenues		
1	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	390,675
2	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	60,564
3	European Union (EU)	154,235
5	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	180,000
6	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	38,100
7	Irish Representative Office (Irish Aid)	175,103
8	Brot für die Welt/ EED	212,235
9	French Development Agency (AFD)	52,214
10	Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung	46,100
11	Other Revenue	42,880
12	Differed Recognized Revenue	20,659
13	Unrestricted Donations	42,819
Subtotal		1,415,586
Expenses		
Personnel Cost (salaries & other related)		
1	Admin Staff Salaries & Diff. Currency	126,355
2	Programe Staff Salaries & Diff. Currency	670,629
3	Provident Fund	52,654
4	Severance Pay	60,402
5	Staff Insurance	27,227
6	Other Staff Exp.	5,203
Subtotal		942,470
Operational/ Admin. Cost		
1	Rent Offices	55,512
2	Utilities	20,121
3	Office Supplies, Consumables, Stationary & other	13,179
4	Repair & Maintenance	24,427
5	Professional Expenses	13,862
6	Communications & Internet Expenses	8,974
7	Transportation and Travel Expenses	2,684
8	Bank Charges	4,548

Subtotal		143,307
Legal Aid		
1	Public Awareness Announcements & Visual Material	26,591
2	Court Fees Maps, Application, Expert Reports, etc.	46,327
3	Public Awareness Sessions	7,639
4	External Legal Consultants	47,579
5	Legal Studies & Research	3,008
Subtotal		131,145
Advocacy		
1	Local & International Advocacy(cases, events, conf.)	4,834
2	International & Local Networking & Coalitions	5,152
3	JLAC Volunteer Activities	8,015
4	Printing & Publications	6,561
5	Transportation for Advocacy Activities	11,929
6	Awareness Raising & Media Campaigning	30,000
Subtotal		66,491
Capacity Building		
1	Staff Training Expenses	5,026
2	Institutional Development	12,645
Subtotal		17,671
Investment Cost		
1	Office Furniture	4,391
2	Office Equipment	3,753
Subtotal		8,144
Others		
1	Diff. Currency	25,811
2	Depreciation	26,747
3	Other (Tax Installment, Provisions, etc.)	3,795
Subtotal		56,353
Total		1,365,581
Change in Net Assets		50,005


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