



**JERUSALEM LEGAL AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER
(MOAADA)**

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



From the Honorable Annual Ceremony for Volunteers from the right: The Minister of Justice Dr. Ali Khashan, the Governor of Safit Brigadier General Muneer Al Abboushi, the Mayor of Ramallah Municipality and Member of JLAC's General Assembly Ms. Jannet Michael, and Chairman of JLAC's Board of Directors Dr. Tayseer Aruri.

Background

The Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC), was founded in Jerusalem in 1974 by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) formerly known as the Quaker Service Information and Legal Aid Center, JLAC was operated by the AFSC until October 1997, where the Center's governance was transferred to a local Palestinian body. JLAC is governed by an independent Board of Trustees consisting of 21 members of lawyers, university professors, and social activists. The Center's most valuable asset is its enthusiastic, dedicated, and highly motivated volunteers, and staff, which includes two Arab Israeli lawyers licensed to function within the Israeli court system, two licensed Palestinian lawyers, two paralegals, and a well-equipped management team, comprised of the general manger, project manger, administrative and financial assistant, accountant, and an office support person.

In mid-1996, in response to the changing political context, the Center, as a Palestinian entity, has evolved and expanded its scope of work as a public interest law center, aiming in providing qualitative legal services to all victims of political persecutions, enhancing the formulation of a just legal system in Palestine, and enforcing the rule of law.

The Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center was established as an independent entity in Jerusalem. In 1998, due to the Israeli closure of Jerusalem, an auxiliary office opened in Ramallah, to allow access to JLAC's legal services for Palestinians in the West Bank who are banned from entering Jerusalem (the majority of West Bank residents), is currently serving as the Center's main office .

Vision and Mission

Vision: Contributing to the formulation of a Palestinian society governed by the rule of law.

Mission

Defending Palestinian victims of human rights violations; in accordance to Palestinian laws and the International Law (The International Humanitarian Law and the Human Rights Law)

Strategic Goals

- A. To reduce the suffering, and ease the life of Palestinian victims.
- B. To establish a grassroots human rights movement.
- C. To widen JLAC's civic activities via networking, coordination, and cooperation.
- D. To build JLAC's capacity to achieve its mission professionally and institutionally.



60th Anniversary for the Human Rights Declaration

JERUSALEM LEGAL AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER (MOSAADA)

Introduction:

This report was written during the Israeli Aggression on the Gaza Strip, which committed grave breaches of the Hague Regulations, and which constitutes the laws of war in 1907, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the International Humanitarian Law.

The Israeli Forces did not distinguish between civilians and militants, and attacked civilian buildings such as places of Worship, educational institutions, health and media centers, police stations, and residential areas.

Although Hamas' missile attacks from the Gaza Strip towards Israeli civilians is also against war laws, Israel's military reaction was gruesome and beyond disproportionate power.

Even though Israel is a member of the United Nations, it violated all international laws with its military aggression on the Gaza Strip. Even though informal military groups carried out its missile attacks in response, Israel's collective punishment on the Gaza population is completely gruesome and brutal.

This report doesn't contain the results of the aggression and JLAC's efforts in this field, as it covers the period up to 31 /12/ 2008 .

Executive Summary

- JLAC witnessed more stability in its internal situation, as 2008 was the first year of implementing its strategic plan, and was endorsed after conducting a comprehensive external evaluation in 2007.
- We obtained more funds and funding partners which enabled us to deal with identified weaknesses throughout the evaluation.

- This financial stability enabled us to recruit more attorneys, increase the number of cases, beneficiaries, and improve the quality of work.
- This report reflects major successes and challenges in 2008, especially in protecting victims of human rights abuses through legal representations in both domains, Palestinian and Israeli.
- JLAC adopted or continued to work on 969 cases, 419 of them were closed positively during the report period. Some of the cases belonged to one family, and others belonged to various families.
- JLAC combines its work in individual and collective cases using media, coordination, and other pressuring methods, to support legal strategies, and merge the capacities of volunteers in order for the staff to obtain more efficiency.
- The report also indicates the negative impacts of the political dilemma between Hamas and Fateh, HR deteriorations, and new Israeli regulations; especially on movement restrictions, which severely affected the HR situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).



Violations from settlers on citizens' lands

A. The External Environment of JLAC's Work:

- The bloody attack at the end of 2008 in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), was a resounding declaration on the United States' lack of credibility and commitment of establishing a Sovereign Palestinian State in accordance with the vision of former U.S. president, George W. Bush. 2008 has also seen the failure of Annapolis in Israel's cessation on Jewish settlement expansions, and the achievement of significant positive changes on the lives of the Palestinians. Moreover, 2008 has witnessed further restrictions



Meeting with detained bodies of war victims' families in Tubas



Social and economic rights workshop in Jerusalem



Local council meeting in the Governate Office in Qalqiliya



Capacity building training workshop for the staff



Visiting one of the threatened-to-be-displaced communities in the Village of Aqraba located in the District of Nablus

on the free access of movement for Palestinians, the deepening of the political tension between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the geographical separation between both locations.

- All these developments confirm that the attempts to solve the Palestinian case outside the international framework and relevant United Nations resolutions, will only lead to more deaths, and create a never-ending vicious cycle of violence.
- The outcomes of the international community's negligence, the possibility of compelling Israel to comply with UN resolutions, Security Council decisions, and lack of emphasis from the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the first article of the First Geneva Convention and the Additional Protocol of 1977, reveals the international community's hypocrisy in its commitment on the values of justice, freedom, and the principles of international law.
- The capacities of international, non-governmental, and human rights organizations, are limited in reducing the damages resulting from the continuous occupation. Therefore, maximum support is needed to force Israel to compel with international law regulations. This objective will only be achieved by imposing sanctions on Israel, in the likes of the international community's prudent actions against South Africa's Apartheid System.
- There has been positive developments in the economic situation of Palestinian society during 2008, yet this development is still fragile and temporary due to its reliance on foreign aid. As a result, this will not establish a better investment atmosphere, lifting restrictions on the Palestinian economy, and its sources.
- In addition, this would also lead to financial drainages on donor countries unless they commence mobilizing financial and political support, and what Israel's potential military operations could demolish in one week, could cost donor countries to build in ten years.

- Internally, Palestinians are witnessing a strengthening of police rulings based on human rights violations, and especially in political arrests. This has resulted, in an increase on restrictions to associations' works and on freedom of expression.
- Moreover, the lack of management in recruiting appropriate sources to develop the infrastructure sector, and improve educational, medical, police rulings, and security services, have suppressed the lives of people.
- As a result, the status of Palestinian human rights will continue to deteriorate under the persistence of the occupation, and security remains connected with the policing system and current authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in order not to introduce democratic life.
- This has been proven by the latter incident. The expiration of the municipal councils' first batch mandate was elected without the presence of any schedule or talks on the election, as it was only directed for tactical purposes to serve competition and political tensions, such as focusing on the legitimacy of President Mahmoud Abbas' mandate. This resulted in a continuous disruption of the democratic life, liabilities from the legislative council, its complete absence of legislation, and its role of monitoring the performance of the Executive Authority.

B. Domestic Environment:

- In 2008, JLAC started the implementation of its new strategic plan for 20 /12 / 2008, which has been prepared based on the external evaluation of JLAC's activities. JLAC also began implementing the recommendations of the evaluation aiming at filling the gaps of the Center's activities, including monitoring the development of its branch in Jerusalem. In this context, JLAC rented a new office suitable for the working environment and its beneficiaries. Moreover, JLAC repaired damaged hardware, such as the server, other computers, and the recruitment of the Director of the Branch.

In addition, the Center's Jerusalem branch expanded its work on two specific projects: a legal clinic which provides services in the provinces of Abu Dees, Beit Hanina, and the Old City, and the second, funded by the Spanish organization, IEPALA, in implementing four additional areas, and where 2 attorneys were recruited for this development. One has replaced a previous prosecutor and the recruitment of a new project coordinator.

- Thus, the number of staff has reached 17 at the end of JLAC's 2008 fiscal year, consisting of 5 women and 7 lawyers. 13 of the employees are full-time based and 4 part-time based (compared to 2007 where out of the 13 employees, 2 of them are part time based).
- This reflects the greater stability of JLAC's work, and where the Center developed its website and improved media coverage of its events and activities. In addition, JLAC focuses on developing capacity building of its staff through training courses and workshops.
- Finally, the Center's branch in the Salfit District has been transferred to the center of the Salfit Governance, and where a new field worker has been recruited.

C. Comparison between Planned and Achieved Results:

- JLAC has planned to adopt and pursue 344 new cases, yet due to the increase of resources, the Center adopted 567 new cases, in addition to 402 cases compiled from previous period, raising the overall cases that JLAC is undertaking to 969 cases. JLAC have closed 533 cases, where 419 of them were positive, 28 were negative, and 86 were neither.
- The increase in the number of files is due to our achievement of additional funding after the approval of the plan.
- Specifically, the accomplished activities compared to planned are as follow:

C.1- Legal Representation:

C.1.1- Public Interest Cases:

- During 2008, JLAC planned to adopt 4 new cases and where 5 were adopted. These also included 20 cases compiled from previous years.
- 10 cases were closed, 2 were closed positively, 1 negatively, and 7 have been frozen temporarily due to various reasons, such as procedural changes, insufficient information, and a decree from the Israeli court. As a result, this had made it difficult to appeal to the same courts for the same case.
- JLAC was expected to deal with a water-related case, yet due to the nature of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on this matter, restricted any possibility of a legal follow-up. The political situation does not allow the pursuance of any case in an Israeli court where a Palestinian party is involved.
- JLAC adopted cases related to arbitrary dismissal of governmental employments, which resulted in human rights demands in the Palestinian Territories after the occurrence of an internal division. (Please See Annex 4).

C.1.2- Land Cases:

- JLAC planned to adopt 7 cases, which includes one case related to the increasing assaults from settlers. JLAC continues to work on 20 other cases accumulated from previous years. 5 cases were closed, 1 positively, 1 negatively, and 3 closed for clientele reasons.

C.1.3- Demolition of Houses, Agricultural Facilities, and Forced Displacements:

- During 2008, JLAC planned to adopt about 40 to 50 cases, yet due to the escalation of Israeli measurements concerning demolition orders, and the increase in the number of forced displacements to create a status-quo during the negotiations of the final stage, the

number of new adopted cases is 85 cases, in addition to 187 cases from last year. 10 were related to forced displacements of Bedouins in Area C according to interim agreements, and the remaining were related to houses and agricultural facilities demolitions.

- JLAC followed up 187 cases accumulated from previous years, half of which are pending at the Supreme Court. (Please See Annex 5).

C.1.4- Family Issues:

- JLAC planned to adopt 100 cases related to economic and social rights of Palestinian family holders of Jerusalem ID cards. 57 cases compiled from previous years were followed up.
- In total, JLAC adopted 300 cases in this field, including an approval to a project related to such issues. In addition, legal follow ups in courts and legal services were provided such as performing oaths, filling forms, conveying them to the Ministry of Interior and insurance companies, and submitting objections concerning the housing tax (Arnona).
- As a result, JLAC adopted a surplus of 200 additional cases in this field. The positive deviation results were due to several reasons:
 1. Increase in the need of such services in Jerusalem, specifically after the completion of constructing the Apartheid Wall.
 2. JLAC's grant from IEPALA for a special project to be implemented in Jerusalem enabled the Center to develop its work and provide legal and advocacy services.
 3. JLAC's supervision of 4 legal clinics in Jerusalem, providing various legal services in cooperation with the Civil Coalition for Defending Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (the number of those receiving services from the clinic are not included in this yearly report as issued separately).

C.1.5- Freedom of Movement and Mobility:

- JLAC planned to adopt 150 cases in this field such as entry permits to Israel for workers, traders, humanitarian cases, prison visits for families prohibited in visiting loved ones, and travel ban cases.

- JLAC adopted only 67 new cases, a decrease in the number of cases due to mobility restrictions from new Israeli measures. Those affected are deprived of their rights to submit any objections to prosecutors at Israeli legal consultants. (Please See Annex 6).

C.1.6- Arbitrary Dismissals of Public Employments:

- JLAC did not plan to adopt cases in this field, yet political developments and the status of human rights in the Palestinian Territories, obliged organizations to provide legal representations and prioritize in this field. Hence, efforts were diverted from freedom of mobility cases to arbitrary dismissal cases. Accordingly, JLAC adopted 40 cases in 2008 and planned to adopt another 50 in 2009. (Please See Annex 7).

C.1.7- Recovering Detained Bodies:

- JLAC started this campaign in the second half of 2008 to recover detained Palestinian bodies killed during military confrontations by the Occupying Forces in the first and second Intifada. The Israeli army detained their bodies, either locked up in refrigerators or buried in cemeteries known as the «Cemetery of Numbers».
- JLAC documented 206 cases and launched a website to gather and distribute the information.
- 49 cases were legally followed up by JLAC lawyers. JLAC intends to continue to follow up these cases in 2009. (Please See Annex 8).

C.1.8- A Variety of Cases:

- JLAC's vision has always been to strengthen its ties with surrounding communities, and widen the circle for beneficiaries to benefit from its services, especially in villages and neglected areas suffering from the impacts of the Apartheid Wall. JLAC also expanded its cooperation with several municipality councils, especially in the Jordan Valley such as Fasayel, Jiftlek, Farsia, and Aqaba. In the south, JLAC cooperated with the Izna municipality whose population exceeds 25,000 citizens, suffered from serious housing problems, led more than 50 families to build beyond the master plan, and face demolition threats of their houses.

- JLAC continues its activities with a large number of village councils, such as organizing public meetings in Ni'lin, Aqaba, Al Zawya, Kherbat Jabara, Tobas, Al Khodar, and Izna.
- JLAC organized a group of orientation sessions for its volunteers, which includes participations at workshops in the Jordan Valley, Hebron, Tulkarem, Salfit, Qalqiliya, and Jerusalem.

C.2- Coordination and Networking:

- JLAC maintains its strategy, interacting and networking with human rights, governmental, and non-governmental organizations.
- JLAC deployed its staff schedule, aiming to avoid duplication and repetition. In addition, the Center tried to benefit from its partners' strengths and signify the impact of merged capacities.

The main coalitions JLAC participates in are:

1. To be a member of the Steering Committee of PNGO and becoming an active participant in its activities and programs.
2. To be a member of the Civil Coalition for Defending Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, which had a vital role in the Legal Clinic project.
3. To activate JLAC's role in the Civil Coalition for Defending Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem.
4. To activate JLAC's role in its alliance with the Monitoring Public Freedom, which was established after Hamas' control of the Gaza Strip, and the formation of an emergency government in the West Bank. An effort should be developed in this coalition, in the form of a permanent alliance through revitalizing the idea of human rights council.
5. To coordinate with civil campaign to emphasize the right to enter the Palestinian Territories. These efforts led to a positive political climate, which resulted in issuing countless requests for family reunion and illegal residents according to Israel's allegations.

6. To take a role in the Palestinian alliance against the death penalty.
 7. To take a role in the alliance against the use of torture.
 8. To be a member in the Higher Committee, aiming to defend prisoners.
 9. To host the Legal Aid Fund for Palestinians.
 10. To work with the Israeli institution, Bimkom, to release a report objecting to house demolition policies, and practiced by the Occupation Authority in Area C.
- Furthermore, JLAC has a pioneering role in defending cases for recovering martyrs' bodies, determining the fate of missing persons, and cases in defending Bedouins.
 - JLAC participates in temporary coalitions such as the Human Dignity project, which was implemented by Birzeit University's Institute of Law, Civil Coalition's code of conduct, the Public Committee for Gaza Support, and many other initiatives for a limited duration and scope of work. This reflects JLAC's desire to cooperate with all initiatives aiming in improving the status of human rights, and providing services for victims.

C.3- Awareness and Training:

C.3.1- Volunteers:

- During previous years, JLAC recruited and trained a group of volunteers to carry out various programs. Their effort was an important factor in the success of JLAC's achievements, such as coordinating public meetings, aiding JLAC's beneficiaries in preparing necessary documentations for legal follow ups, and organizing solidarity events with other official organizations.
- JLAC'S volunteers played an important role in house demolitions, forced displacements, and land confiscations cases, and their role in the campaign for «The Recovering of Detained Bodies».

- JLAC rehabilitates and trains volunteers to carry out their activities professionally.
- Volunteers also participated in setting JLAC's annual action plan, where the Center organized an Open Day in Ramallah, and where more than 120 volunteers, non-governmental and official organizations, and members of village councils and municipalities attended. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Board and General Director of JLAC, and the Palestinian Minister of Justice have honored all attended volunteers.

C.3.2- Public Meetings:

- JLAC organized a series of counseling sessions for a number of volunteers and supporters of village councils. Specialized workshops were organized in the Jordan Valley, Hebron, Tulkarem, Salfit, Qalqiliya, and Jerusalem.

C.3.3- Training Courses:

- JLAC organized a series of educational and training sessions for volunteers in Hebron, Tulkarem, Salfit, Qalqiliya, Jordan Valley, and Ramallah, which included two training courses for the youth in the field of human rights.

D. Gratitude for Partners and Supporters:

- JLAC extends its gratitude to its strategic partners who not only continued to support its programs for 2008, but agreed to increase their support in assisting the Center's process in institutional development, and which is based on the external evaluation. This reveals the positive impact of JLAC's programs in the lives of families who are victims of human rights violations. These partners are:

1. Cafod.
2. Brot.
3. Ford Foundation.
4. Irish Aid.

JLAC also welcomes the new supporters who are:

5. Danish Aid.
6. NDC.
7. IEPALA.
8. Norwegian Representative Office, which supports the Legal Clinic project.

E. Annexes:

1. Result Indicator Matrix.
2. Quantity Development Indicator Matrix.
3. Efficiency Matrix.
4. Case Study: Public Interest Case (Forced Displacements).
5. Case Study: House Demolition Cases.
6. Case Study: Family Cases.
7. Case Study: Freedom of Movement.
8. Unfair Dismissals of Governmental Employments.
9. The National Campaign to Recover Palestinian Victim Bodies Detained in the Cemetery of Numbers and Israeli Mortuary Refrigerators.

E.1- Annex (1): Result Indicator Matrix

	Case Type	The Total Planned of Cases/New Cases	The Total of the Treated Cases through this Report Covering Period	New Cases	Accumulated Cases	Closed Cases	Positive	Negative	Others	On-Going	Petitions	Notes
1	Public Interest Case	4	25	5	20	10	2	1	7	15	3	
2	Land	6	27	7	20	5	1	1	3	22	0	
3	The Right of Houses Demolition	50 - 40	215	55	160	14	2	1	11	201	87	The increase of Accumulated Cases is due to escalation of Israeli measurements.
	Agricultural Facilities		37	20	17	0	0	0	37	5		
	Forced Displacement		10	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	
4	Family Economic Rights	50	183	158	25	166	156	0	10	17	0	The mounting rise is due to an extra project.
	Social Rights	50	173	141	32	154	140	2	12	19	2	
5	Freedom of Travel Ban	150	43	21	22	43	19	6	18	0	0	The decrease is due to the change in the Israeli instructions concerning freedom of mobility (details in report). These cases were adopted as an alternate for the freedom of mobility.
	Detainees Visit		89	34	55	79	67	4	8	10	0	
	Prison Visits		44	12	32	42	15	13	14	2	0	
6	Unfair Dismissal	—	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	40	2	
7	Bodies Recovery Campaign	—	49	49	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	
8	Various Cases	34	34	15	19	20	17	0	3	14	0	
	Total	344	969	567	402	533	419	28	86	436	102	
9	Legal Consultancies											
	Inclusive Total											

E.2- Annex (2): Quantity Development Indicator Matrix

Still in Progress	Other	Negatively (-)	Positively (+)	Closed Cases	Accumulative Cases	New Cases	Sum of Cases Approach during the Year	Year
81		19	31	50	*	*	131	1998
133		32	31	63	*	*	196	1999
103	30	131	44	175	133	188	321	2000
130		16	33	107	103	134	237	2001
127	42	45	203	260	71	358	429	2002
307	45	86	136	267	169	406	575	2003
454	74	105	243	422	307	569	876	2004
250	128	184	257	569	453	366	819	2005
351	60	140	217	417	250	518	768	2006
402	46	177	381	541	351	592	943	2007
436	86	28	419	533	402	567	969	2008

E.3- Annex (3): Efficiency Matrix

Case Type	Number of Files	File Expenses in the Private Sector	Sum of Files Expenses
Travel and Mobility Freedom	55	350	19,250
Visits of Prisoners Families	12	350	4,200
Land Cases	7	3,000	21,000
House Demolitions	85	2,500	212,500
Family Cases	299	1,500	448,500
Public Interest Cases	5	5,000	25,000
Various and Administrative Procedure Cases	15	1,500	76,500
Consultations	1,600	50	80,000
Total			886,950

E.4- Case Study: Public Interest Case (Forced Displacements):

E.4.1- The Campaign to Defend Bedouins:

- Since the mid-seventies, the Occupying Government started its arbitrary campaign against Bedouins, assembling them in an area called Al Ezaria (on the outskirts of East Jerusalem), in order to expand Maale Adoumim Settlement. In addition, the arbitrary campaign reached various areas such as the South of Hebron, Bethlehem, and consequently, the Jordan Valley and Jericho.
- The Occupying Government geared this campaign specifically to Area C, where a large number of Bedouins living on animal-raising inhabit there. It is clear that the target of the Israeli campaign is to evacuate Palestinian residents completely from Area C, in order to develop and expand settlements, create a political de-facto, and exempt the Occupying Forces from its duties implied by international charters and political agreements, with Palestinians under international patronage.
- JLAC considers this campaign, apart from its political impact, a serious violation to all international charters and conventions on human rights, a denuding of citizens' rights, and prevention in maintaining their lifestyles. This was considered a serious assault on property ownership rights, and where they are currently classified as state properties.

Based on all the mentioned above, JLAC conducted series of activities to help Bedouins confront Israeli displacement procedures. These activities can be summarized as follow:

E.4.2- Legal Aid:

- JLAC adopted a group of individual cases in the Jordan Valley, Jericho, Hebron, East Jerusalem, and Ramallah. These cases are related to demolition and displacement orders to Bedouins, given by the Israeli Civil Administration. JLAC succeeded in freezing these decisions except for one case.

- JLAC adopted cases for the Al Kaabneh tribe living in the West of Jericho, and have lodged petitions to the Israeli Supreme Court. After lodging these petitions, JLAC obtained interjunction commands to freeze displacement orders in favor of more than 30 Bedouin families.
- JLAC lodged petitions to the Israeli Supreme Court against displacement orders to more than 10 Bedouin families living in Al Jib, North of Jerusalem.
- JLAC obtained an interjunction order to freeze demolition and displacement orders.
- JLAC succeeded in preventing the demolition of the only Bedouin school in the Jordan Valley, which was built to serve Al Rashaydeh tribe.

E.4.3- Support and Advocacy:

- JLAC organized public meetings with Bedouins for solidarity reasons, and provided them with legal directions in order to confront forced displacements.
- JLAC had correspondences with several Palestinian official organizations such as the Palestinian Council of Ministers in order to encourage them to provide aids and assistances to the homeless, and pressure the Israeli side to halt their racist campaigns against Bedouins.
- JLAC participated in several meetings with the Palestinian Council of Ministers in order to draw their attention to the dangers Bedouins are confronting.
- JLAC launched a media campaign against Israel's racist campaigns against Bedouins.
- JLAC is currently publishing with other organizations a guidebook with simplified instructions for Bedouins on how to confront Israel's policies.

- JLAC held several meetings with representatives of international bodies, and provided part of this specific report to the United Nations Human Rights Council to confront Israel's violations of human rights.

E.4.4- The Public Campaign to Advocate the Forcibly Displaced:

- JLAC launched with Bedouin volunteers a public campaign to advocate Bedouins' rights in confronting forcible displacements threatening their existence.

E.4.5- Indicators of Success:

- Despite the intensification of the Israeli campaign against Bedouins the previous year, the number of families who faced compulsory displacements decreased significantly due to legal interventions.
- After reviewing the situation the last five years, despite the fact that there were interventions by lawyers from the private sector on the Bedouin case, there has been qualitative changes in Israeli decisions due to the intervention of JLAC.
- JLAC has become an essential source in obtaining information, and inquiring on the needs of most organizations and individuals interested in the displacement case.

E.5- Case Study: House Demolition Cases:

Ever since Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Authorities have practiced a systematic policy to pose pressure on Palestinians in all domains of life, and neglecting all international and humanitarian laws, and conventions that protect civilians under occupation.

Concerning the right of dwelling, the Israeli Authorities still pursue on Palestinians, continue to demolish their homes and facilities, and justify that constructions were built without a permit. This is a deliberate and planned policy used to locate vast areas of

Palestinian lands in the West Bank, for the purpose of establishing new settlements to transfer new colonials. These actions formed a major violation of the Geneva Conventions, which prohibits the Occupying Forces to transfer citizens to reside in the Occupying Territories. This is despite the establishment of military camps and the construction of new roads to serve settlers, where their population amounted to 500,000 according to recent statistics.

Furthermore, the Israeli Authorities fundamentally changed the legal system to serve its purposes. It also relies on the systems and master plans used during the British Mandate, which divided the West Bank to north, centre, and south. After almost 60 years of Israeli occupation, the Israeli Authorities are still continuing to apply these systems, to trial Palestinians on alleged reasons to build without permits, and neglect the population growth. Israel also issued many military orders concerning this matter; including the modification of the Jordanian construction law, using it to their own interests. In addition, Israel cancelled the participation of representatives of housing communities in the Master Planning Committees, where their activities are related to find solutions for its citizens, and to prepare master plans to accommodate citizens' needs in accordance with their regulations and rules.

After the signing of the Oslo Accords and dividing the land into areas classified as A, B, and C, the sovereignty on areas beyond the borders of Areas A, B, and C continues to be under the Israeli command cautiously and securely.

Furthermore, conditions became worse and more complex, as there were more than 150 residential areas, all of which were under Area C with a population of 150,000 citizens, and all of which were threatened with house demolition for building without licenses.

The same case applied to buildings located on the borders of Areas B and C. It is worth mentioning that Israel has kept Palestinian cities and villages within narrow master plans, before the signing of the Oslo Accords with the P.L.O. These densely populated areas suffered

from the lack of an inclusive master plan with no consideration to the population growth. This consequently led to the rise in land and house prices, which resulted in forcing the less fortunate to build in Area C. Al Aqaba village, located in the Jenin Governorate with an estimated population of about 350, is one example of the mentioned above.

E.6- Case Study: Family Cases:

E.6.1- M.K. Case:

M.K., a Jerusalem ID holder, traveled to study in Texas, USA in 1991 with a student visa. During her stay in the States, she got married to a Palestinian-American, originally from Gaza, and has 5 children. M.K. left Jerusalem with an exit visa which was extended until 1995. She returned to Jerusalem and extended her visa for another three years.

According to the Israeli residency law, if a resident stayed abroad for a period of more than seven years (not necessarily consecutively) he/she loses the rights of return, and can only come back as a tourist. Accordingly, the Israeli Ministry of Interior withdrew M.K.'s Identity Card and cancelled her residency rights to her home country. In 2001, M.K. went with her family to Jordan, and assigned an Israeli lawyer to handle her case and retrieve her identity. Unfortunately, the case did not succeed.

In 2002, with her husband abducting their five children, returned back to the States, abandoning his wife alone in Jordan, and carrying Jordanian travel documents, she could neither go to the States nor get back to her family in Jerusalem.

As a result, M.K.'s mental and physical health has seriously deteriorated. Since then, she has been treated in a mental clinic in Jordan, suffering from chronic schizophrenia. In 2004, her family assigned another attorney to aid her to get back home. Unfortunately, the case did not succeed.

JLAC's legal unit adopted M.K.'s case and lodged a petition against the Israeli Ministry of Interior (Number 8252 /8). As a result, the Israeli Ministry of Interior agreed to study the case, and allowed her to enter Jerusalem under the condition that she obtains a clean security record, and depositing 25,000 NIS to ensure her leave from Jerusalem in due time.

It should be noted that if M.K. returns to Jerusalem and resides for two consecutive years, she will be able to regain her residency rights. Hence, for M.K. to regain her residency rights will be only through obtaining a visit permit to her home land.

E.7- Case Study: Freedom of Movement:

The Israeli policy implemented on Palestinians in the Occupied Territories continuously restrict free mobility to Palestinians as a means of consistent collective punishments, since the Israeli occupation to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967.

E.7.1- Permits to Enter Israel:

- During the last three years, a new policy related to the freedom of mobility was implemented to grant entry permits to Israel, West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Such policies resulted in banning Palestinians to enter Israel permanently. It will also lead to a total separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, even though temporary conventions have stated that they are geographically unified.
- Before the recent attack on the Gaza Strip and Hamas' coup to take over, Israel allowed few Palestinians to travel between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and granted even a fewer number of permits to enter Israel under so-called «humanitarian cases».
- After the aggression on Gaza, movement restrictions were implemented on all Palestinians, except for few individuals obtaining special permits to travel between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Such special permits are issued from the Israeli military commander in coordination with the Palestinian Liaison

Office. The Palestinian Liaison Office granted the right to object and go to Israeli court. Some of the cases, Palestinians who have submitted through Israeli legal institutes were rejected by the Israeli Supreme Court, which ratifies the government's policies, bans students to travel from Gaza to the West Bank to continue their studies at Palestinian universities.

- Simultaneously, the Israeli military commander from the Israeli Civil Administration issued new regulations concerning «Entry to Israel» for West Bank residents.
- According to these regulations, Palestinians who desire to enter Israel have to submit a special application along with the necessary documents and papers to the Israeli Civil Administration. If the request is denied, a second application can be submitted to the same body that rejected the first application, through either an Israeli employer or the Chamber of Commerce, if the profession is a merchant. If rejected again, it will be closed permanently with no further chances to submit any legal objections.

In brief: The decision is left to the Security Authority and the same body that rejected the first application. This contradicts with the simplest agreed upon international regulations, which concludes:

1. Depriving Palestinians to submit legal objections, banning them from entering, and military officers' justifications.
2. Depriving thousands of students, workers, and patients their access to work, universities, and receiving treatments, resulting in the worsening of the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian Territories.

Major conclusion: These measurements in term of mobility restrictions do not correlate with Israel's national security. Therefore, this has a major implication on Israel abandoning its responsibility as an occupier according to International Human Law and other human rights conventions, and accentuating its occupying role.

E.8- Unfair Dismissals of Governmental Employments:

- After Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, the status of human rights in the Palestinian Territories has deteriorated significantly. This gave security services for both parties and greater power in the prosecution against their opponents for individuals and organizations. The Ministry of Interior (both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) adopted arbitrary procedures aiming at blocking the activities of some non-governmental and charity organizations, and a full closure of these organizations working in the Palestinian Territories. The Ministry has taken these procedures, arguing that these organizations work in violation of the charitable associations and civil society organizations law No. 1 of the year 2000.
- This has led to a phenomenal increase in political arrests, arbitrary procedures against employees in the public sector, and decisions issued to dismiss a large number of employees from their governmental employments.
- The arbitrary measures taken by Hamas and Fateh, being against each other, took the form of action and reaction to each other's behaviors.
- JLAC has confronted these procedures as a violation to Palestinian laws and international conventions on human rights, and specifically the articles of political, economic, and social rights in the basic international civil rights conventions. JLAC did this through some coalitions on human rights, such as the Palestinian Coalition for Public Freedom, the Palestinian Coalition against the Death Penalty, the Coalition against Torture, and PNGO.
- After the escalation of the conflict, JLAC adopted cases related to the arbitrary dismissal of governmental employments. In 2008, JLAC adopted 40 cases in this field, and developed a plan for 2009 to continue following up on them. Moreover, JLAC adopted

cases related to the closure of non-governmental and charity organizations.

- At this stage, these cases are dealt through the Palestinian Supreme Court, which has the right on administrative decisions.

E.9- The National Campaign to Recover Palestinian Victim Bodies Detained in the Cemetery of Numbers and Israeli Mortuary Refrigerators:

It has become clear that Israeli policies and practices have breached international laws on the treatment of dead bodies and their remains. The Israeli government detains unlimited number of Palestinian dead bodies in four cemeteries called the «Cemetery of Numbers», for various reasons:

1. To punish these dead bodies of their acts committed against Israel.
 2. Practice collective punishments on the victims' families.
- In many cases, the Israeli government detains these dead bodies as hostages, using them as bargaining tools in political solutions, and prisoner exchange deals.
 - The Cemetery of Numbers are graves surrounded by stones and metal plates installed over the tomb with engraved numbers, as a replacement for the victim's name. Each number has a specific file that is reserved by a security department.
 - The press sources and reports published on the Cemetery of Numbers indicate that the detention conditions are inappropriate and ill-treated to human corps. Moreover, victim bodies are buried at a depth of 50 cm. This dreadful detention process exposes dead bodies to various nature factors such as rainfalls and wind.
 - In addition, press sources indicate that the Israeli Authorities "conserved" dozens of corps in mortuary refrigerators for many

years, and have refused to return them to the victims' families. Occasionally, the Israeli Military Authorities refused the orders issued by the Israeli Supreme Court to hand over the bodies to their families.

- What makes victims' families suffer more is that the Israeli Authority issued lifetime sentences more than once on these bodies.
- The Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center launched a campaign in cooperation with Amen Net News on May 2008 to recover Palestinian and Arab martyrs' bodies, and aid the families' victims to bury their loved ones according to religious rites and national traditions.
- This campaign aims at binding the Israeli government to apply its commitments, especially towards the International Humanitarian Law and the Geneva Convention.

JERUSALEM LEGAL AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER (MOSAADA)

Financial Statements

Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center

Statement of Financial Position

As of 31 December 2008

	Note	31 December 2008	31 December 2007
		U.S \$	U.S \$
Assets			
Cash and Deposits with Banks	3	129,825	306,483
Restricted Bank Deposits	4	350,663	263,406
Grants Receivable	5	76,757	-
Staff Advances	6	16,462	14,880
Prepaid Expenses		13,475	10,624
Fixed Assets-Net of Accumulated Depreciation	7	30,561	15,875
Total Assets		617,743	611,268
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities:			
Payables and Accruals	8	58,500	88,633
Reserve for Staff Benefits	9	106,778	80,414
Total Liabilities		165,278	169,047
Net Assets:			
Undesignated Net Assets (Deficit) (Statement - B)		(15,032)	(28,903)
Unrestricted - Board Designated		229,470	216,826
Temporarily Restricted (Statement - B)		238,027	254,298
Total Net Assets		452,465	442,221
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		617,743	611,268

See Notes to Financial Statements

Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center
Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets
Year Ended 31 December 2008

	Note	Temporarily		Total	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	2008	2007
		U.S \$	U.S \$	U.S \$	U.S \$
Revenues and Supports:					
Grants	11	-	485,418	485,418	540,922
Other Revenues	10	12,644	-	12,644	13,094
Total		12,644	485,418	498,062	554,016
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	11	501,689	(501,689)	-	-
Total Revenues and Supports		514,333	(16,271)	498,062	554,016
Expenses:					
Salaries and Related Expenses		360,750	-	360,750	250,418
Court Fees		7,848	-	7,848	4,425
Office Supplies, Printing and Hospitality		21,915	-	21,915	7,530
Program Supplies / Workshops		8,635	-	8,635	9,916
Transportation		13,836	-	13,836	7,288
Communication		9,024	-	9,024	6,046
Audit Fees		9,996	-	9,996	5,725
Occupancy and Maintenance Costs		48,300	-	48,300	36,657
Evaluation and Development		1,678	-	1,678	9,962
Total Expenses		481,982	-	481,982	337,967
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues and Supports Over Expenses		32,351	(16,271)	16,080	216,049
Depreciation Expense		(5,021)	-	(5,021)	(7,047)
Loss on Difference of Currency		(815)	-	(815)	(565)
Excess for the Period		26,515	(16,271)	10,244	208,437
Releases to Board Designated Fund		(12,644)	-	(12,644)	-
Net (Deficit) Assets at Beginning of Period		(28,903)	254,298	225,395	16,958
Net (Deficit) Assets at End of Period (Statement-A)		(15,032)	238,027	222,995	225,395

See Notes to Financial Statements

**JERUSALEM LEGAL AID AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER
(MOAADA)**

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