www.badil.org
What is BADIL?

• Established 1998; non-profit, NGO

• Vision: BADIL is guided by a firm commitment to the principles of international law, in particular International Human Rights Law, including a role for the people in bringing about social and political change for freedom from racism, foreign occupation and colonial domination, and for self-determination.

• Mission: To empower Palestinians, in particular refugees and IDPs, and assist local, regional and international actors to achieve a situation where international law and best practice are applied so that forcible displacement of Palestinians will end, and durable solutions and reparations for the displaced can be implemented.

• Special Consultative status with UN since 2006 (ECOSOC)
BADIL’s Strategic Plan

Building Local Capacity to Participate & Engage
1. Youth Education & Activation Project
2. Intensive Leadership Training Summer School
3. Strategy Forum
   ● Academic Activists Trainees
   ● Engaging Local Actors
   ● Summer School Graduates
   ● BADIL-Zochrot Joint Action
4. Al Awdha Award

Outreach, Support & Alliance Building
1. Ongoing Nakba Education Center
   ● Resource Library, Interactive Exhibition & Learning Space
   ● Production & Dissemination of Publications & Promotional Materials
   ● www.BADIL.org
2. Mobilization of Popular Initiatives
   ● Facilitation of Popular Initiatives
   ● Membership in Coalitions
   ● Networking, Media & Outreach
   ● Briefing of Visitors & Electronic Outreach

Research, Mobilization & Intervention with Duty Bearers
1. Research Papers & Briefs
2. Mobilization
3. Legal Advocacy
   ● UN Bodies
   ● Others
   ● Palestinian National Authority / Palestinian Liberation Organization
Definitions

- **Refugee**: people who fled their country of origin because of persecution, acts of external aggression, occupation, domination by foreign powers or serious disturbances of public order.

- **Internal Displaced Person (IDP)**: person who left his/her place of origin but did not cross an international border.

- **Occupation**: a temporary measure that maintains law and order in a territory following armed conflict—tolerated.

- **Colonialism**: annexation or other unlawful taking of control over territory thereby denying self-determination to indigenous population—prohibited.

- **Apartheid**: systematic racial discrimination & oppression for the purpose of domination—prohibited.
  - inhumane acts committed through institutionalized discrimination by one racial group over another with the intention of maintaining systematic oppression and domination—Rome Statute of the ICC; Apartheid Convention (1973).

- **Ethnic Cleansing**: (population transfer) rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove from a given area persons of another ethnic or religious group—prohibited—UN definition.
Refugee & IDP Facts

- The Palestinian refugee issue is the largest and longest-standing case of displaced persons in the world today.
- Approximately 70% of the Palestinian population is refugees.
  - 6.6 M refugees
  - 427,000 IDPs
- UN assistance and protection to the Palestinian refugees:
  - UNCCP (1948), “provide” international protection, which includes durable solutions
  - UNRWA (1949), provide humanitarian aid, relief protection
  - Palestinian refugee descendants are granted refugee status by UNRWA.
Largest Waves of Displacement

• British Mandate (1922-1947)
  • 150,000 displaced within and beyond the borders of Palestine
• Nakba = Catastrophe (1948)
  • More than 500 Palestinian villages depopulated and destroyed
  • 750,000 Palestinian refugees were displaced beyond the borders of the new state to the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and beyond
  • 130,000 remained in what is now the state of Israel; 40,000 of these were IDPs
  • 85% of the Palestinian population
• Naksa (1967)
  • 450,000 (1/3 the population of the oPt)
Zionist Movement

• 1920s, typical of movements in 19th century Europe

• Colonial, imperial, elite and secular

• Argentina vs. Palestine
  – Link between Zionism & the Jewish Diaspora
  – Jewish as an ethnicity, not a religion

• Mandate: “to establish a home for the Jewish people in Palestine”
3 Obstacles

1. Indigenous population
2. Land ownership
3. Colonizing the territory
Solution to Indigenous Population

• Ethnic cleansing via 3 mechanisms (Plan D = Dalet):

1. Depopulation and subsequent razing of villages
2. Massacres in key areas (examples, Deir Yassin, Ein al Zaytoun)
3. Round up and relocate indigenous population
Unknown village

Najd

Lifta

Al-Majdal
Solution to Land Ownership

• Absentee Property Military Order (1948) and Absentee Property Law (1952)
  – “Present Absentee”
• Planning & Zoning Law aka Land Law
• Prevention of Infiltration Law (1954)
Solution to encouraging settlement

• “Land for a people for a people without a land”
• WZO
• JNF
• Law of Return
Sustainability of the Israeli Regime

• Nationality vs Citizenship
  – 22 laws distinguish between the rights of Jewish nationals & Israeli citizens

• Israeli Nationality Law

• Definition of who is a Jew and what is Jewish?

• Filling quotas:
  – 1 M Russian “Jews” (1990s)
  – Ethiopian “Jews” (1991)
    • 85,000 total; 20,000 born
Ongoing Ethnic Cleansing

- The Palestinian/Village Files & “unrecognized Palestinian villages”
- Al Araqib, Negev
- Seam Zones
Right of Return

• Guaranteed by:
  – International & Regional Human Rights Law
  – International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
  – Law of Nationality and State Succession

• Affirmation and Re-affirmation Of the Right of Return for Palestinians
    3236 (1974)
  – Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13 (1948)
  – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
  – Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 49 (1949)
Where are we headed?

Standing here, staying here, permanent here, eternally here and we have one goal one, one: to be.

Mahmoud Darwish