

BADIL Annual Report 2018



BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights is an independent, non-profit human rights organization working to protect and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Our vision, mission, programs and relationships are defined by our Palestinian identity and the principles of international humanitarian and human rights law. We seek to advance the individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people on this basis. BADIL's latest General Assembly convened on 17 May 2018.

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for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

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A Message from BADIL

On the political front, 2018 signaled significant deterioration in the positions of third party states, particularly the US administration, concerning Palestine. The accumulation of the following developments severely impacted the human rights situation of the Palestinian people: the relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem, the excessive and illegal use of force to crush Palestinian resilience and resistance, an acceleration of Israeli population transfer and annexation policies, financial and demonizing attacks against the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the passing of apartheid legislation and the intensification of unwarranted smear campaigns against Palestinian organizations. With the US spearheading a significant portion of these developments, Israeli violations and crimes reached new and substantial heights, unchecked by the lukewarm responses of the international community at large. The consequences of the lack of accountability and respect for international law are multipronged and detrimental, particularly for Palestinians and the struggle for their rights.

On the institutional front, BADIL experienced one of the most difficult periods to date. In response to the above, the international donor community intensified program and project restrictions and reduced and terminated funding, resulting in crippled budget deficits. This year also signaled the conclusion of BADIL's five year strategic plan, Advancing a Rights-based Solution. The last half of 2018 was ripe with strategic planning meetings with Palestinian and international stakeholders. A new strategic plan was developed, entitled Keeping Viable the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people, reflective and responsive to the current and anticipated situation. BADIL took quick and resilient actions to weather this current storm while maintaining its integrity, credibility and existence as a Palestinian human rights organization dedicated to realizing the rights of the Palestinian people.

BADIL would like to thank all its friends and partners around the world for their support and solidarity, for 2018 was also a year rich in achievements. This report details those achievements in spite of monumental challenges and provides an over view of what BADIL has accomplished in the last 5 years.



About Us

BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights was established in 1998 to defend and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons regardless of where they reside or when they were displaced. BADIL believes the only feasible and durable solution is a rights-based solution; one derived from and built upon the international law, mainly; international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law.

Our vision, mission, programs, and relationships are defined by our Palestinian identity and the principles and values of the organization: integrity, partnership, equality and respect for international law and human rights. We seek to strengthen the resilience of the Palestinian people and the viability of their collective and individual rights on this basis.

BADIL is registered with the Palestinian Authority and

legally owned by a General Assembly composed of human rights defenders and activists in Palestinian civil society, national institutions, and refugee community organizations.

BADIL has special consultative status with UN ECOSOC (a framework partnership agreement with UNHCR), and maintain active memberships in the PHROC (Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council), PNGO (Palestinian NGO Network), GPRN (Global Palestinian Refugee Network), ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies), and the ECCP (the European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine).

To advance a human rights-based solution, BADIL employs a variety of mechanisms. We believe that it is necessary utilize the combination of empowering rights holders and influencing decision makers to



encourage a rights-based solution. Empowerment of rights holders is carried out through awareness raising, training, educational, cultural, and mobilization actions and programs. Influencing duty bearers is conducted through networking, campaigning, and legal advocacy activities. BADIL implements its own rights-based campaigns and participates in joint campaigns with its partners and through its memberships in various coalitions and networks.

In addition, BADIL legally advocates in the international arena with duty bearers to defend the rights of the Palestinian forcibly displaced population, particularly calling for adherence to the rights of reparation (return, property restitution, and compensation) and self-determination. BADIL has non-profit (charity) status under local (Palestinian Authority) law. Membership in the organization and the respective roles of governance and management bodies are regulated by BADIL's Basic Law.

BADIL is guided by a firm belief in the principles of equality, justice and human rights as enshrined in international law and in the role of collective action by civil society in bringing about social and political change through: a participatory and inclusive approach; realization of a rights-based approach to the Question of Palestine, and a bottom-up strategy for policy change.

Organizational Updates

BADIL reduced its human resource capacity and streamlined its programs in response to significant financial deficits in 2018. A total of 6 staff members (both permanent and contracted) were released from their contracts. The closure of historic programs (such as the Al Awda Award and the Nakba commemoration) as well as reductions in printed materials allowed BADIL to persevere and continue to function at almost normal levels. These modifications occurred in parallel to increased efforts to reach out to additional partners and submit applications to calls for proposals. BADIL was successful in both renewing current partnerships and establishing new ones.

During the strategic development process, BADIL determined that its existing organizational structure continues to be relevant and appropriate to both the context and the priority areas of the organization. It was however necessary to redistribute responsibilities and tasks to allow for the coverage of core programs and projects. In addition, BADIL choose to contract fulltime, temporary staff to alleviate work burdens on remaining core staff and reduce financial commitments. BADIL has also terminated its office in Geneva. While we will continue to be engaged with the UNHRC and other mechanisms of the UN, we have closed our office space there and have transformed the Geneva liaison contract to a per intervention basis. In other words, we will contract the Geneva liaison during the UNHRC sessions and for other specific interventions as per our Action Plan 2019 and as deemed necessary.



BADIL's Global Outreach

OUR MEMBERSHIP AND ONLINE ENGAGEMENT SPANS EVERY CONTINENT



24,835 Visitors
58,800 Sessions
in 2018



7.440.000 Palestinian Refugees
635.000 Palestinian IDPs
World Wide



20,000
Facebook Users
from 112 Countries

The 2014-2018 Strategic Plan

BADIL has firmly established itself as a human rights organization, specializing in the refugee issue, committed to international law. Our overall objective; ‘To contribute to the achievement of a situation where International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) are respected and implemented with regards to the Palestinian people, particularly the forcibly displaced’ had been the cornerstone of our past three strategic plans. Where this plan diverged from the others, however, is that the first two were rooted in the potential of an imminent just solution or improvement of the status quo, while this one reflects the

current reality of Israeli impunity and its continued systematic violations of international law.

The overall objective of the 2014-2018 strategic plan is divided into two specific objectives: Empowering Rights Holders to act collectively through campaigning and networking in order to influence public opinion for a rights-based solution, and Influencing Duty Bearers to address the protection gap faced by Palestinians in general and the forcibly displaced in particular through legal advocacy based on accurate and timely research.

Pillar 1: Empowering Rights Holders

This pillar focuses on providing the training, skills, opportunities, tools, and means for Palestinian youth, women, and CBOs that operate in marginalized areas (such as Area C, Jerusalem, and refugee camps) to raise their voices and concerns and engage in their communities and with coalitions, networks, and stakeholders to demand and realize their rights.

Outcome 1: Palestinian rights holders particularly women and youth have the means and opportunities to influence public opinion.

During 2018 alone, BADIL engaged with 331 youth, ages 18-25 within its Youth Empowerment Program. Four Al Awda Schools were implemented, including one in Lebanon, and 5 meetings of the Youth Forum.

Al Awda Training School is BADIL's institutionalized 1st Phase of the Youth Empowerment Program. The school's methodology is based on BADIL's two pronged approach to empowerment: education and knowledge on international law and human rights, including the principles and best practices, how the former applies to Palestine and the



practices and policies of Israel that deny and violate these rights; and skill building in various fields such as documentation of human rights violations, production of advocacy tools and leadership and life skills, and community mobilization.

The Youth Forum, the 2nd Phase of the Youth Empowerment Program, is the organic and youth driven progression arising from the Al Awda Schools. Youth alumni from the Al-Awda School can continue to engage with BADIL to further enhance their knowledge and skills and implement youth led initiatives and campaigns to raise their voices and advocate for their rights.



Outcome 2: Palestinian individuals, communities and networks are active on multiple levels promoting human rights and international law.

On 6 April, in partnership with members of the GPRN and the newly established Youth Forum, BADIL organized a youth-led volunteer day. The initiative took place in Jab'a, a small Palestinian village in Area C, facing the threat of the Israeli policy of land confiscation and denial of use. One hundred youth participants, from both sides of the Green Line, assisted 10 farmers to prepare their land for cultivation and worked to clear and open up an agricultural road that would enhance access to land for approximately 50 families of the village. The youth also participated in other activities to enhance social cohesion between the youth and re-inforce their Palestinian identity. For additional details, see the short report and short video both in Arabic.

The Global Palestinian Refugee Network (GPRN) on 11 December 2018 (the 70th anniversary of United Nations Resolution 194) initiated the implementation of the “UNRWA is Our Right until Return Campaign” (that is still ongoing in 2019), with the launching taking place in multiple geographic locations.

The Global Palestinian Refugee Network (GPRN): The Global Palestinian Refugee Network, established in 2015, is a coalition of 45 community-based organizations of diversified expertise and focus that serve the Palestinian refugee and internally displaced communities around the world. The network's aim is to provide a unified, collective and strategic framework for the engagement and participation of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons to raise their voices, achieve

their rights, and be steadfast in the face of Israeli policies of displacement, colonialism and apartheid. BADIL provides support, legal expertise including the implementation of bilateral and multilateral initiatives in partnership with the GPRN and/or its members.



The 70th Memorial of the Nakba: Breaking from its traditional Nakba commemoration activities, during the 70th anniversary of the Nakba, BADIL launched its new approach and program: Practicalities of Return. The new approach looks to develop and promote attainable and realistic solutions grounded in international law rather than highlight the historic events of the Nakba. Rather than looking back, the new approach is to look forward, in order to develop scenarios for durable solutions and enhance Palestinian resilience in the face of the ongoing Nakba. This approach was reflected in the production of the Nakba t-shirt which carried the slogan “To be Palestinian is to live, love, resist and return”. This approach was mainstreamed into BADIL's empowerment programs, so that the trainings contain a workshop on practicalities of return and encourages the youth participants to develop a vision for remedy and reparations, including return.



Civil Society Initiatives within the “UNRWA is Our Right until Return” Campaign

Partner (GPRN Member)	Date of Implementation	Initiative Description	Number of beneficiaries	Description
Lajee Center, Aida Camp		Workshops to raise awareness on the UNRWA situation, using BADIL’s publications	25	Ages 18 – 25, ½ female
Ibdaa Cultural Center Dheisheh	1 August 2018 – June 2019	Designing posters that shed light on the campaign targeting UNRWA and the decrease in UNRWA’s services		
Aida Youth Center, Aida Camp	22 September 2018	Workshops to raise awareness on the UNRWA situation, using BADIL’s publications	30 ppl	Ages 20 – 35
Laylac Center, Dheisheh	29 October 2019	Rap Song by Palestinian Refugees that highlights their rights to the services that UNRWA provides		
Lajee Center, Aida Camp	10 December 2018	To create and draw publically displayed graffiti to express concerns, demands and rights	14 children	Ages 12-15, 7 males and 7 females
Ibdaa’ Cultural Center, Dheisheh	21 November 2018	A walking tour on the Battir-Makhrour hiking trail, with lectures and discussions along the way to highlight policies of displacement and the denial of fundamental rights	300 ppl	Children and youth over 8 years old; ½ female
GPRN and Adaleh Coalition	11 December 2018	The launch of the campaign in Dheisheh Camp through a press conference and release of the <i>joint statement</i> ; artistic activities for children and youth, creating drawings, posters and a large signature banner	Approximately 600 ppl	Refugee families, CBOs, and popular committees from all 3 camps in Bethlehem
LayLac Center, Dheisheh	11 December 2018	Recruited local youth budding artists to train children in drawing and to create rights-based canvasses/drawings	12 ppl	Amateur refugee youth artists, ½ female
Al Awda Center, Tulkaram	10-17 December	A series of workshops, lectures and discussions to raise awareness and inform refugee youth on the UNRWA situation, using BADIL’s publications	50 ppl	Youth ages 18-25, ½ female

Beneficiary Quote on the campaign to support and maintain UNRWA:

“When we reach the point where we need to take measures to defend that which is supposed to be defending us, know that it is a very shameful time in history indeed and that something is truly wrong with the world. But we are here and we are raising our voices because UNRWA is our right until we return.”



Pillar 1 Highlight:

Increasing Palestinian Access to Land through Alternative Human Rights Based Approaches

This project is designed to increase the resilience of Palestinian communities in the south-west of Bethlehem district, based on recent participatory needs assessments within four villages: Wadi Rahhal, Al-Walaja, Jab'a, and Beit Skaria. In partnership with the village councils and civil society, BADIL implemented a needs assessment to determine priority-based initiatives to challenge the coercive environment created by Israel. The community initiatives subsequently implemented in the four villages are: 1) Installing water pumps in the community of Thabra in Wadi Rahhal village, in order to provide access to water for 500 Palestinians there who have been suffering from the lack of access to water for the past 7 years. BADIL has installed water pumps at the last access point that water can reach, while the village council has renovated the water pipe network. 2) Providing solar panels to the Women's Cooperative, which facilitates producing and marketing agricultural products of 40 women in Beit Skaria village. 3) Opening an agricultural road in Al Walaja village, to increase access for 30 families to their lands, which are under the threat of confiscation by Israel. 4) Opening agricultural road in Al-Jab'a village, which gave access to over 50 families to reach their lands, that are also under the threat of confiscation. The project is accompanied by evidenced based legal research and the production of tools to highlight the human rights violations and crimes the villagers are exposed to that result from Israeli population transfer and annexation policies. The project is a direct consequence of the transformation of BADIL's methodology from knowledge and legal empowerment and skill building to creating facts on the ground that enhance Palestinian presence, resilience and cohesion.

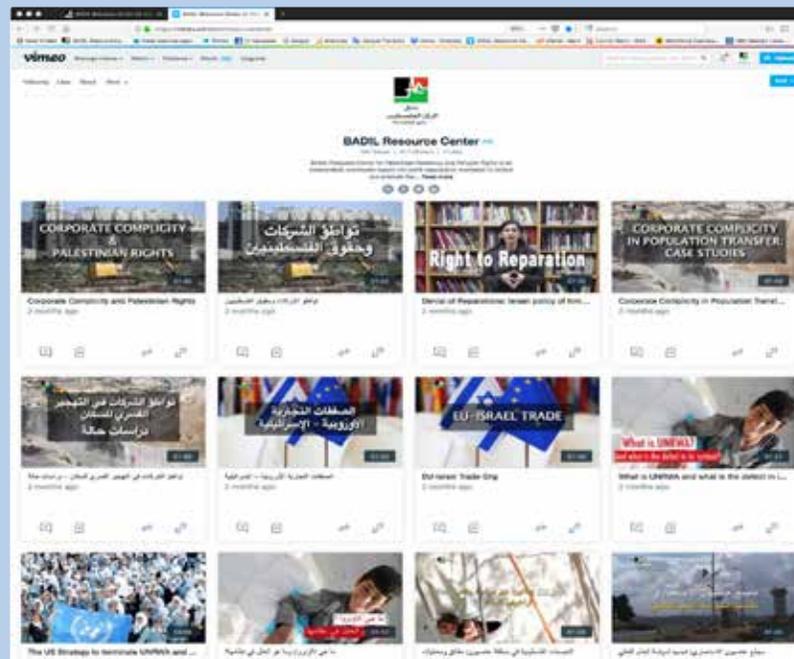


The tools produced by BADIL, its CBO partners/members of the GPRN and the youth empowerment program participants include:

- Short video, [Increasing Palestinian resilience in Area C](#)
- Info-spot, [Forcibly Displaced Palestinians](#) in Numbers
- Info-spot, [Why should we return?](#)
- Info-spot, [Palestinian Refugees and IDPs in Numbers](#)
- Brochure, 70 years of ongoing Nakba, 70 years of ongoing resistance, [in English](#)
- Brochure, 70 years of ongoing Nakba, 70 years demanding our rights, [in Arabic](#)
- Infographics in Arabic: [Wadi Rahhal](#), [Beit Skaria](#), [Al Jab'a](#) and
- Infographics in English: [Wadi Rahhal](#), [Beit Skaria](#), [Al Jab'a](#), and [Al Walaja](#)
- Short video, Etzion Colonial Bloc: [Embodiment of De-facto Annexation](#), in English
- Short video, Etzion Colonial Bloc: [the human impact of the main forcible transfer policies deployed by Israel](#) in English
- Short video, Etzion Colonial Bloc: [Embodiment of De-facto Annexation](#), in Arabic
- Infospot, [What is UNRWA?](#)
- Infospot, [The US strategy to shut down UNRWA and terminate the refugee issue](#)
- [The Q and A brochure, what you need to know about Palestinian Refugees and IDPs](#) in French
- Haq Al Awda Newspaper (in Arabic):
 - Issue #70, [Palestinian Identity and Rights within two-state or one-state solutions](#)
 - Issue #71: [Popular Movements and the Return Marches](#)

Through its website and social media venues BADIL promoted and distributed all of the above resulting in:

- 1570 new follows on Facebook;
- 565,235 video views (Facebook and Vimeo)
- 78169 engagements with BADIL's posts
- 386 new Twitter followers;
- 448 Twitter mentions;
- 63496 Tweets;
- 6274 visitors to BADDIL's website;
- 87380 page views;
- BADIL's largest demographic group falls between the ages of 18-34 years old (male and female);
- People are visiting the BADIL site mainly from Palestine, USA, Israel, China and Egypt.



Within its networks and coalitions, mainly PHROC and PNGO, 12 statements (see the annex at the end of this report for the list) on a variety of issues were produced in 2018.

- Encouraging the [release the UN corporate database of companies complicit in human rights violation](#) in the occupied territory signed by 81 Palestinian organizations;
- Highlighting [Israeli aggression against Christian holy sites in occupied Jerusalem](#) issued by PHROC and other Palestinian organizations;
- Addressing the [shrinking civil society space for Palestinian human rights organizations and defenders](#) through a joint position paper by PHROC and PNGO.
- Calling on the international community to fulfil its obligations to stop the ongoing Nakba via the 2018 Nakba Statement, in [Arabic](#) and [English](#), endorsed by PHROC;
- Calling on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to [condemn the excessive use of force and support an independent investigation](#) in light of the mass civilian casualties in Gaza issued by PHROC;
- Calling for a [strategic and joint response from the UN Special Procedures](#) in an allegation letter issued by PHROC;
- Calling on the [UNHRC to launch an independent investigation concerning the events in Gaza](#) in a statement issued by 95 civil society organizations;
- Condemning the intended [Israeli deportation of Human Rights Watch director](#) issued by PHROC;
- In a [joint statement](#), condemning the punitive measures on the Gaza Strip and suppression of Palestinian demonstrations in Ramallah implemented by the Palestinian Authority.
- Palestinian support and encouragement for the [Irish Occupied Territories Bill](#)

- Calling on the [ICC to open an investigation](#) into the human rights violations and crimes in Palestine
- Condemning the [deportation of Dutch human rights defenders by Israel](#).

Outcome 3: BADIL becomes a more transparent, accountable and effective human rights organization.

BADIL looks to institutional agency from the lens of downward accountability (to remain answerable to its constituency), learning (to enhance its capacities, programs and projects) and transparency (to uphold its credibility as a professional human rights organization). This year a number of initiatives enhanced BADIL's institutional capacity:

- Adherence to all of BADIL's existing operational and financial manuals, as well as the Code of Conduct.
- Implementation of an external participatory evaluation of its organizational programs and strategy spanning the last three years (2015-2018) that was concluded in August 2018 and culminated in the production of a report. The contents and finding of the external evaluation report were foundational for the development of the new strategic plan.
- Development of a new strategic plan entitled Keeping Viable the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people through two specific objectives, enhancing Palestinian resilience and mobilizing international accountability and solidarity.
- BADIL was successful in partnering with 3 new international donors, and renewing contracts with existing donors. BADIL continues its endeavors to diversify

its donor portfolio and develop alternative modes of fundraising.

- Achieving USA Equivalency Determination: through [NGOSource](#), a US-based agency that facilitates the equivalency determination process. This means that BADIL is as institutionally sound as US-based and registered charitable organizations. The determination enhances the credibility of BADIL (with other partners) and encourages and paves the way for fundraising in the US.
- Staff capacity building initiatives and annual staff evaluation.

Gender parity and mainstreaming:

BADIL endeavors to mainstream the inclusion and active participation of female participants in all its empowerment and community mobilization activities. The Al-Awda Schools and Youth forum enjoy over 57 percent female engagement overall. Further, the principles of inclusion, democracy, equality and respect for the other constitute staples in BADIL's training programs and community initiatives and requirements for participation of CBO partners and youth participants.



Pillar 2: Influencing Duty Bearers

This pillar is characterized by the production of research and legal analysis for the purpose of advocacy. The productions are varied in nature, but utilize two essential elements: first hand documentation of human rights violations and crimes, coupled with legal analysis arising from the frameworks of international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law. The research and legal analysis is then utilized in all of BADIL's programs (especially advocacy and youth empowerment) to raise awareness and acknowledgment of the root causes of the conflict, the protection gap faced by the Palestinian people, and to provide remedies within the aforementioned frameworks for a just and durable solution created with the participation and engagement of the rights holders. To this end, BADIL has special consultative status with the United Nations, through a framework partnership agreement via ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council). Further, BADIL leverages its partnerships and membership in coalitions and networks to reach and advocate with wider target groups.



Outcome 4: Focused Interventions with legal analysis of the protection gap targeting UN and political actors to influence them to take steps to fulfill their obligations towards Palestinians.

Platform	Date	Intervention(s)	Outcome
United Nations Human Rights Council regular sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March/April (37th) • June/July (38th) • September/October (39th) 	2 written and 3 oral statements, 1 side event 1 written and 5 oral statements 1 written and 3 oral statements	4 Resolutions on Palestine addressing colonies (settlements), accountability, and forcible transfer
United Nations Human Rights Council special session	May (28 th)	2 oral statements, 4 joint written statements (#5, 6, 7 and 9 in the annex)	Formation of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the illegal and excessive use of force
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	April	Written submission (see below)	Adoption of BADIL's (4) recommendations in the Committee's public statement
UN Commission of Inquiry	May	Written Submission (not published)	Highlight the case of Dheisheh Refugee Camp for the consideration of the Commission
EU Statement	October 2018	3 statements, 2 short videos, 2 position papers and the public campaign	The statement highlighted the necessity for continuing to support UNRWA financially and politically
Statement by the Head of the Arab League	September 2018	Republication of BADIL's letter to the Arab League on Ma'an News Network	The statement highlighted the need to preserve and support UNRWA

Outcome 5: International civil society promotes the rights-based approach and solutions in statements.

63 mentions in alternative online media sites in Arabic English, Italian, French and Spanish.

Palestinian Return in the Media: BADIL puts forth considerable efforts to highlight the situation of Palestinian refugees, IDPs and the ongoing Nakba year round. And intensifies its efforts during the month of May, which signals the anniversary of the Nakba. In 2018 and in line with its new approach, BADIL published [A Practical Look: the Palestinian Right of Return](#) in the May issue of This Week in Palestine (TWIP) entitled "[Nakba, 70 years on](#)". During this month also, international awareness and attention to the situation of Palestinian refugees also increases. During May 2018, 44 articles on Palestinian return were published by sources other than BADIL: only 2 approached return negatively, the rest approached return as a necessity for peace and justice. Nine were written by Arab authors, 4 by Hebrew authors and the rest in English.



BADIL was invited to participate in 12 international conferences and events (including 2 parliamentary lobbying days) at which its rights-based approach and solutions were presented to international civil society, members of the UN, EU parliamentarians, and academics. BADIL participated in six:

- [Palestinian Freedom Conference](#), May, Ireland
- [United Nations Forum on the Question of Palestine](#), May, New York, USA
- [The Question of Palestine 70 Years On: Priorities for Action](#), October, Jordan
- EU Lobbying Day, November, Belgium
- [UK Lobbying Day and Speaking Tour](#), November, UK
- Friends of UNRWA Annual Meeting, November, UK

In addition, BADIL hosted 74 international delegations, briefing 1237 people from a variety of backgrounds; academics, students, political party and union members, activists, lawyers, social workers, parliamentarians and representatives of international NGOs.

In an effort to reach a more diversified audience and transform BADIL’s research into more user friendly and appealing formats, the following short videos were produced base on existing research:

- [Corporate Complicity in Population Transfer: Case Studies](#) (English and Arabic)
- [Corporate Complicity and Palestinian Rights](#) (English and Arabic)
- [EU-Israel Trade](#) (English and Arabic)
- [Denial of Reparations Israeli policy of forced population transfer](#). (English)

Outcome 6: Accurate and timely research that analyses human rights violations and crimes against the Palestinian people is made available to rights holder and duty bearers.

Title	Released	Distribution	HRVs and Crimes Documented
Understanding the Political underpinnings of UNRWA’s Chronic Funding Crisis (English and Arabic)	July 2018	Print: 200 Online: 2529	N/A
Confronting the Campaign targeting UNRWA: A Palestinian Strategic Plan (English and Arabic)	October 2018	Print: 200 Online: 2272	N/A
Denial of Reparations (English)	October 2018	Print: 500 Online: 673	9 cases (2 from women)
Denial of Reparations (Arabic)	December 2018	Print: 1000 Online: 523	Same cases
The Nation State Law: the Culmination of 70 years of Israeli Apartheid and Colonization	October 2018	Print: N/A Online: 693	N/A
Unlawful and Excessive Use of Force by the Israeli Military in Dheisheh Refugee Camp: Information for the Consideration of the Commission of Inquiry established under UNHRC Resolution S-28/1	Submitted to Commission October 2018, not yet released	N/A	2 cases (11 testimonies)
Annexation and Colonization: The case of Etzion Bloc (working title)	To be released in 2019	N/A	questionnaires 1001 Palestinian surveyed from 24 Area C villages 15 cases (8 from women)

Pillar 2 Highlight 1: Ongoing Submissions to the Treaty Bodies of the UN

On 23 April, BADIL submitted a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) through the early warning and action procedures highlighting the illegal and excessive use of force against civilians in Gaza. The Committee responded with a statement on 8 May condemning Israeli actions in Gaza as well as adopting all four of BADIL's recommendations.

Pillar 2 Highlight 2: Influencing the Terminology of UN

BADIL's terminology continues to permeate the international discourse among duty bearers, with BADIL's language found in numerous resolutions of the UNHRC that were issued in the 37th session (27 February – 24 March 2018):

- [On the Right of the Palestinian People to Self-determination](#) which (in Article 6) called upon “all States to ensure their obligations of non-recognition, non-aid or assistance with regard to the serious breaches of peremptory norms of international law by Israel, in particular of the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force, in order to ensure the exercise of the right to self-determination, and also calls upon them to cooperate further to bring, through lawful means, an end to these serious breaches and a reversal of Israel's illegal policies and practices;”
- [On the human rights situation in the oPt, including East Jerusalem](#) detailing many policies of forcible transfer including but not limited to the permit regime, denial of residency, discriminatory zoning and planning and land confiscation and denial of use which culminate in “a coercive environment that leads to the forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”;
- [On Israeli settlements](#) urging all states and international agencies not to take any actions (including the provision of assistance) that would recognize as legal the illegal situation arising from Israeli colonization of the oPt. Articles 5 and 7 of the resolution highlighted the issue of the creation of the coercive environment through Israeli policies and practices that result in the forcible transfer of the Palestinian population. In addition, the resolution focused on the potential complicity of corporations and called for more stringent application of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Article 15).
- And [on accountability and justice](#) (Article 6) calling on all states “to promote compliance with international law, and all High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to respect, and to ensure respect for, international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions, and to fulfil their obligations under articles 146, 147 and 148 of the said Convention with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches, and the responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties, including by ensuring that their public authorities and private entities do not become involved in internationally unlawful conduct, inter alia the provision of arms to end users known or likely to use the arms in the commission of serious violations of international humanitarian and/or human rights law;”



Challenges

One of the greatest challenges faced by the Palestinian human rights sector and its allies in 2018 is the increasing restrictions imposed on CBOs, NGOs, and iNGOs by funders in response to lobbying efforts and Israeli governmental pressure to suppress Palestinian freedom of speech and expression, resistance and resilience. A concerted effort to implement a strategy of discrediting and maligning reputable Palestinian human rights organizations with charges of incitement, terrorism, and anti-Semitism has impacted a number of our partner organizations, as well as BADIL. A significant amount of time and energy has had to be devoted to refuting the false accusations. The vast majority of international funders have bowed to this pressure by imposing a variety of restrictions and/or reducing or discontinuing funding.

International duty bearers continue to skirt their responsibilities to hold Israel accountable for its human rights violations and crimes, offering only insipid statements at best, with no practical measures to bring Israel into compliance with the law. As a direct result of the lack of accountability, human rights violations and war crimes continue to be perpetrated by Israel with alarmingly increasing intensity and scope. Israel's brazen disregard for the law may be partially explained by the recent decisions of the US administration that may constitute an attack on the international legal order. In other words, the recognition of Jerusalem as a capital of Israel and relocation of the embassy, colonial expansion, annexation, the defamation and defunding of UNRWA and the lack of response from US administration regarding new Israeli apartheid legislation (the Nation State Law) have cracked an already fragile framework of international law and human rights. Further, it seems that Europe and its member states are content to "wait and see" what the Trump administration will do next and are unwilling to oppose or take steps to counteract US foreign policy.

For example, the European community did step forward to lessen the UNRWA funding crisis resulting from the US withdrawal of financial support. However this does not tackle the root causes of that particular issue but rather only address the consequences of a flawed structural make-up and ignores the potential to resolve the situation with the implementation of durable solutions.

Meanwhile, Palestinian resilience and resistance is weakened by the absence of a unified national strategy. The international community sites this and the ongoing internal fragmentation, mainly between Fateh and Hamas, as justification for nonfulfillment of its obligations. A situation which has prevented addressing the root causes of the conflict and implementing measures such as rebuilding PLO and unifying all political parties, and/or reviewing the Oslo peace process and its consequences. This situation renders Palestinian people rights more vulnerable in light of the so-called 'Deal of Century'. Consequently, international and Palestinian human rights organizations and defenders experience even more pressures and obstacles to their work.



Looking Back, Looking Ahead

LOOKING BACK: 5 YEARS OF ADVANCING A RIGHTS-BASED SOLUTION

Despite considerable challenges, BADIL has not only managed to maintain its existence but has persevered, enhanced its institutional capacity, and met its strategic specific objectives – without compromising its integrity, identity and commitment to the Palestinian people. The last five year period was fraught with financial, political and institutional obstacles that challenged BADIL’s human resource and program capacities. These challenges were approached with the dignity and professionalism becoming of sound human rights organization that is reflected in BADIL achievements over the last five years which are numerous and varied. The highlights of those achievements are present below.

- Within the Youth Empowerment Program 1486 youth benefited from BADIL’s training and skill building activities.
- Within the Community Mobilization Program 9394 people directly engaged in campaigns and community initiatives.
- BADIL advocated its rights based approach to 7665 internationals both in Palestine and abroad.
- 352 cases of human rights violations and crimes against Palestinians were documented, in addition to 3 questionnaires/surveys that incorporated data collection from 4385 people.
- The cases and surveys were translated into 21 evidence-based research publications, 13 brochures, 4 al-Majdal’s, 15 Haq Al-Awda, and 34 multimedia tools reaching 1000s of people around the world. This means that on average over the last 5 years, BADIL produced and released over 17 publications per year.

- BADIL’s legal advocacy interventions spanned 15 regular and 2 special sessions of the UNHRC, 6 submissions to UN treaty bodies, 13 submissions and/or briefings to the UN Special Procedures (including 2 submissions to UN Commissions of Inquiry) and 2 submissions to the ICC.
- It is remarkable - and impressive - to note the quantity of BADIL’s activities, irrespective of which program. However, the numbers above are not just indications of the quantity but also provide an indication of perseverance and strength with regards to raising the voice of the Palestinian people and maintaining BADIL’s presence and visibility as a resource center. Not only that, but in the face of significant obstacles, BADIL did not reduce neither the quantity or quality of its activities.
- The variety of publications produced whether it’s an evidence-based legal research, a tool for training, awareness raising and advocacy, or a short video, is a strong indication of BADIL’s breadth of production and its ability to transform its research into user friendly and multipurpose tools.
- Through its publications and tools, BADIL has addressed the Ongoing Nakba, the nine Israeli policies of forcible transfer, the accountability of states and international bodies, secondary displacement and transfer, corporate complicity, colonialism and apartheid – in essence leaving no Israeli violation or crime untouched.

Further, BADIL has grown and developed as an organization by:

- Integrating the programs within each other and connecting them to the mission and vision of the organization;
- Reviewing and updating manuals;

- Producing new manuals and operations for upward and downward accountability
- Enhancing its scope, both in terms of target groups and variety of activities and publications;
- Increasing staff capacities and skills;
- Increasing national and international partnerships;
- Maintaining a robust and engaged Board of Directors and General Assembly.

LOOKING FORWARD: KEEPING VIABLE THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

As mentioned above, accountability for Israel remains elusive, and consequently the human rights situation for the Palestinian people continues to deteriorate swiftly and exponentially. It is based on this premise that BADIL formulated its new strategic plan, Keeping Viable the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people covering the period 2019-2023. This will be achieved through programs and projects that serve two specific objectives: Promoting the resilience of the Palestinian people; and Activating global accountability and solidarity with the Palestinian people. The new plan provides a detailed analysis of the current context and predictions for future expectations, developed utilizing a highly participatory approach with multiple sectors of Palestinian and international civil society and duty bearers. The main changes within the new strategic

plan can be capsulated in the following:

- Increased support to marginalized Palestinian communities to enhance their resilience and resistance through community initiatives that contribute to access to land, resources and services. Essentially this entails the implementation of small infrastructure and development projects to enhance the quality of life, social cohesions and understanding of the rights-based approach for those communities. The geographic scope is currently focused on Area C villages.
- Maintenance of research and documentation with the purpose of enhancing and focusing advocacy initiatives through the creations of more accessible, concise and attractive tools. While BADIL will continue to produce its core research and use it for advocacy, it will adapt that research and analysis into more digestible tools that appeal to a wider audience.
- Empowering Palestinian youth through both generalized IHL/IHRL and topic specific training and skill building. This is manifested in the Al-Awda School, the Youth Forum and the Practicalities of Return programs.



“We will continue to carry out all activities bringing us closer to return to our homes and properties. The return marches by Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and in other places around the whole world are an expression of our deep commitment to our right to self-determination. Our rights are not granted from anyone, they are basic rights guaranteed by all international laws and legislations.”



Beneficiary Quote, W. Hassanat, 32, Dheisha Refugee Camp, Bethlehem
Right of Return Public March, West Bank, 15 May 2018.