



2005

BADIL Annual Report

Narrative Report & Financial Audit Report



BADIL Resource Center
for Palestinian Residency & Refugee Rights

BADIL Annual Report 2005
Narrative Report & Financial Audit Report
Approved by the BADIL Board (April 2006)

BADIL Resource Center was established in January 1998 and is registered as a non-profit association under the Palestinian NGO Law. BADIL's current Board and Oversight Committee were elected by the third General Assembly convened on 24 September 2004.

BADIL takes a rights-based approach to the Palestinian refugee issue. It encourages an understanding of this approach through research, advocacy, and support of community participation in the search for durable solutions.

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for Palestinian Residency and refugee Rights

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Institutional Structure

General Assembly

Adnan Abelmalik (Nur Shams RC/Nablus)
Adnan Ajarmeh (Aida RC/Bethlehem)
Afif Ghatashe (Fawwar RC/Hebron)
Ahmad As'ad (Al-Far'ah RC/Nablus)
Ahmad Muhaisen (Deheishe RC/Bethlehem)
Anwar A. Hamam (Balata RC/Nablus)
Ashraf Abu Kheiran (al-Arroub camp/Hebron)
Atallah Salem (Deheishe RC/Bethlehem)
Ayed Ja'aysah (Al-Far'ah RC/Nablus)
Bassam Abu 'Aker (Aida RC/Bethlehem)
Buthaina Darwish (Beit Jala/USA)
Dr. Abdelfattah Abu Srour (Aida Camp/Bethlehem)
Dr. Adnan Shehadeh (Arroub RC/Hebron)
Dr. Nayef Jarrad (Tulkarem)
Faisal Salameh (Tulkarem RC/Tulkarem)
Fayyez H. Arafat (Balata RC/Nablus)
Gail Boling (NY/USA)
Ghassan M. Khader (Balata RC/Nablus)
Hasan Faraj (Deheishe RC/Bethlehem)
Hussam M. Khader (Balata RC/Nablus)
Imad Shawish (Al-Far'ah RC/Nablus)
Ingrid Jaradat Gassner (Beit Jala)
Issa Qaraq'a (Aida RC/Bethlehem)
Jamal Shati (Jenin RC/Jenin)
Kamal al-Qeisi (Azza RC/Bethlehem)
Lama al-Habel (USA)
Muhammad al-Lahham (Deheishe RC/Bethlehem)
Muhammad Jaradat (Beit Jala)
Mustafa Y. Shahab (Nur Shams RC/Nablus)
Naji Odeh (Deheishe RC/Bethlehem)
Najwah Darwish (Beit Jala)
Nihad Boqa'i (Sha'b/Galilee)
Rajeh al-Til (Dahariya/Hebron)
Rifa' Abu al-Reesh (al-Am'ari Camp/Ramallah)
Salem Abu Hawwash (Doura/Hebron)

Samir Ata Odeh (Aida RC/Bethlehem)
Shaher J. al-Bedawi (Balata RC/Nablus)
Tayseer S. Nassrallah (Balata RC/Nablus)
Terry Rempel (Bethlehem)
Wajih Atallah (Kalandia Camp/Jerusalem)
Walid M. Ja'arim (Balata RC/Nablus)
Walid Qawasmeh (Ramallah)
Wisal F. al-Salem (Nur Shams RC/Nablus).

Board

Head of Board: Salem Abu Hawwash
(Doura/Hebron; 9/04-9/05)
Head of Board: Dr. Abdelfattah Abu Srour
(after rotation, 9/05 -)
Deputy Head: Tayseer Nasrallah (Balata Camp/Nablus)
Secretary: Naji Odeh (Deheishe Camp/Bethlehem)
Treasurer: Adnan Ajarmeh ('Aida Camp/Bethlehem)
Wisal al-Salem (Nur Shams Camp/Tulkarem)
Rifa' Abu al-Reesh (Am'ari Camp/Ramallah)
Anwar Hamam (Balata Camp/Nablus)
Dr. Adnan Shehadeh (al-Arroub Camp/Hebron)

Oversight Committee

Afif Ghatashe (al-Fawwar Camp/Hebron)
Fayez Arafat (Balata Camp/Nablus)
Mustafa Shehab (Tulkarem Camp/Tulkarem)

Executive Committee

Director: Ingrid Jaradat Gassner
Admin-Finance Officer: Najwa Darwish
Coordinator/Campaign Unit: Muhammad Jaradat
Coordinator/Resource Unit: Nihad Boqai
Assistant to the Coordinator, Resource Unit: Karine Mac Allister

Organizational Affiliations

BADIL is a member of:
the global Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition,
the Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights Advocacy Initiative (OPGAI),
al-Awda/Palestine Right-to-Return Coalition registered in the U.S.,
the Habitat International Coalition (HIC),
the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA),
Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) registered in the UK,
BADIL has a partnership agreement with UNHCR.



Israel's Wall near Abu Dis/Jerusalem (al-Ayyam. 2005)

Introduction

BADIL's Environment in 2005

A sense of optimism prevailed among the international policy making community with talk about possible revival of the 'peace process'. Palestinians in the OPT, however, experienced more violations of their fundamental freedoms; refugees in exile remained without effective protection. New civil society initiatives aimed to ensure that basic checks and balances, universal norms and international law remain relevant.

A sense of optimism appeared to prevail among the international policy making community with talk about a possible revival of the Quartet-led peace process. In the first half of the year, this optimism was triggered by the death of Yasser Arafat in November 2004, successful Palestinian presidential and municipal elections, the orderly transfer of power to the new PA President and Chairman of the PLO Mahmoud Abbas, and the February 2005 Sharm al-Sheikh summit. The latter resulted in a temporary ceasefire and a set of Israeli-Palestinian understandings. The withdrawal of Jewish colonies from and the redeployment of Israel's army around the Gaza Strip stirred additional international optimism in the second half of the year.

Focused on the successful Israeli redeployment from the Gaza Strip, international actors remained reluctant to pressure Israel for compliance with its obligations under international law, UN resolutions, the terms of the 'Road Map' and previous political agreements signed with the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority. Israel was rather awarded for its 'courageous withdrawal from the Gaza Strip' and embraced by the EU and the United States, who employed their political leverage to promote further integration of Israel in fora of regional and international cooperation, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the EU Neighborhood scheme. Israel was thus provided with a window of opportunity to unilaterally pursue its interests with impunity: it continued colonization of the West Bank and construction of the illegal Wall in blatant disregard of the July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and relevant UN resolutions, maintained its occupation of the Gaza Strip, and stepped up so-called development of the Naqab (Negev) and the Galilee for the exclusive benefit of the state's Jewish population. International disregard of the rapid and dramatic colonization of remaining Palestinian land, and its consequences for a two-state solution, can only be explained by the absence of international political will. Israel has thus become even less willing than before to abide by international law and to engage in substantial negotiations with the PLO and will try to maintain the current momentum also in the post-Sharon era.

In this context, Palestinians in the OPT witnessed further colonization and segmentation of their country and experienced more violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights, including forced displacement and dispossession. Political expression of the Palestinian people remained confined within the narrow margins of the non-sovereign Palestinian Authority and international diplomacy which failed to protect Palestinian fundamental rights and freedoms. In the absence of active PLO institutions, most Palestinian refugees in exile have remained excluded from the Palestinian body politics and without effective protection. As major international actors continue to pursue involuntary resettlement as the only solution for Palestinian refugees, national protection in Arab host states has remained a highly politicized matter to the detriment of the population concerned, irrespective of recent progress in Lebanon where Palestinians may finally be allowed to work in clerical and manual labor.

Some hope for the Palestinian people in this context derived from initiatives which aim to strengthen basic checks and balances on the diplomatic process and ensure that universal norms and international law remain relevant and in place. Among them are piecemeal efforts by UN agencies and NGOs for the enhancement of protection afforded to Palestinian refugees, Palestinian civil society efforts towards the political inclusion of the Palestinian exile, legal efforts for holding Israeli perpetrators accountable in courts abroad, and a growing global civil society campaign to isolate Israel until it complies with international law. Encouraged by the 2004 ICJ opinion on the Wall, faith-based organizations, unions, academic institutions and solidarity organizations adopted new initiatives calling for boycotts, divestment and sanctions. By mid-2005 Palestinian civil society, including Palestinian refugees, had become sufficiently coordinated and organized in order to play a key role in the building of an effective global campaign.



Nakba Commemoration, Central Retrun March, Ramallah (BADIL. 2005)

Part One:

Organizational Profile 2005

1. Organizational Structure

1.1 BADIL Management¹

The BADIL General Assembly (GA): the GA is the legal owner and supreme authority of BADIL. It is currently composed of 46 members active in Palestinian refugee community organizations in the West Bank. BADIL's GA meets annually and convened on 22-23 December 2005.

The BADIL Oversight Committee (OC): elected by the GA, in order to monitor and evaluate performance of the BADIL Board and Executive based on local law and BADIL by-laws. The current OC was elected on 24 September 2004 for a period of two years.

The BADIL Board: is accountable to the GA for implementation of the BADIL program. Board members are elected by the General Assembly for a period of up to two years. The current Board was elected on 24 September 2004 by the third BADIL General Assembly for the current two-year period. The position of Head of Board was rotated in September 2005 in line with the 2004 election results.

BADIL Executive Committee (EC): The EC monitors program implementation and assists the Board in organizational and financial planning and management. It is composed of the director, unit coordinators and the admin-finance officer.

A Special Committee, Community Emergency Projects is responsible for design, implementation and supervision of BADIL emergency projects benefiting Palestinian refugees in the 1967 occupied Palestinian territories. It is composed according to need from among members of the BADIL board and staff.

1.2 BADIL Units and Personnel

In 2005, BADIL staff was enlarged from seven to ten. Program activities were planned, implemented and assessed in cooperation with external experts and activists, members of BADIL partner and support networks. Additional local and international volunteers/interns were recruited to provide in-house and external assistance with program implementation.

Director:	<i>Ingrid Jaradat Gassner</i>
Admin-Finance Officer:	<i>Najwa Darwish</i>
Secretary:	<i>Hassan Faraj</i>
Consultants, Management Reform:	<i>Wisam Kutom, Hatem Turabi,</i> <i>Firas Absa (DataSet Consultancy)</i>
Consultants, Computer Configuration:	<i>Curtis Rempel (Engima Logic</i> <i>Inc., Canada; volunteer);</i> <i>Hussam Sa'di, Tel Aviv</i>

¹ For personal identification of members of BADIL management institutions, see page 7

Campaign Unit (Refugee Rights Campaign)

Coordinator: *Muhammad Jaradat*
Project Officer/Advocacy Training: *Mays Hamad* (6-12/2005)
Trainers: *Yaqub Hilal* (volunteer); *Nash'ad al-Aqtash*, *Raja' Awad*,
Abdelnasser al-Najjar, *Maram Awad*, *Hisham Abdallah* (Birzeit
University Consulting Company)
Field-Activity Coordinators (contracted):
Shaher Bedawi, northern West Bank (1-3/2005)
Walid Abdelhadi, northern West Bank (4-9/2005)
Ahmad Zayyat, northern West Bank (12/2005 -)
Wajih Atallah, central West Bank (1-12/2005)
Field Volunteers:
Naji Odeh/Deheisha camp
Ghassan Talab al-Atel/Kalandia camp
and: *some 50 volunteers*, members of the BADIL
Board/General Assembly, additional local
community activists, and members of the
Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition.

Resource Unit (Research, Information and Legal Advocacy)

Coordinator: *Nihad Boga'i*
Assistant coordinator: *Karine MacAllister*, (4-12/2005)
Senior researcher: *Terry Rempel*
Arabic Media Officer: *Nidal Kanaaneh* (5-12/2005)
Technical Support: *Atallah Salem*
Karim Khozaim (volunteer, US/Egypt, photo-database,
4-5/2005); *Mu'tasem Hammoudeh* (website construction,
6-12/05); *Nathalie Bardou* (volunteer, photo journalist, 6-8/05)
Translation (contract): *Khalil Touma*, *Rana Mousa*, *Nimr Awaini*
Design-Print (contract): *Al-Ayyam Publishers*, *Andalus Publishers*
Research-Information: (short-term volunteers, interns, consultants)
Isabelle Humphries, Palestine-U.K.
Elin Lundstrom (Sweden)
Ala' Zalloun (al-Quds University)
in addition: members of the *Al-Majdal Editorial Advisory Board*

Legal Advocacy (volunteers and contracted consultants)

Legal consultant/refugee law: *Susan Akram*, Boston University School of Law
Legal consultants/land rights: *Usama Halabi*, advocate, Jerusalem
Husein Abu Husein, advocate, Um al-Fahm
Legal consultant/advocacy: *Jeff Handmaker*, Reahmaba Advice, Netherlands
Consultants/legal research: *Michael Kagan*, NY State Bar
Victor Kattan, Director, Arab Media Watch
Zaha Hassan, National Lawyers' Guild, USA
(contract, 12/04 – 4/05)
Elna Sondergard, LL.M, independent consultant
Aliyaar Durrani (intern, National Lawyers' Guild, USA)
in addition: volunteer members of the *BADIL Legal Support Network*
(LSN).



1.3 Major Partners and Networks

In the 1967 OPT

Union of Youth Activity Centers (UYAC); Popular Service Committees; Women's Activity Centers; the Federation of Local Societies for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, and their respective local branches in West Bank refugee camps; Committee for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights and the Yafa Cultural Center, Balata camp (Nablus); the local TV Network MA'AN; al-Ayyam newspaper and local journalists; the Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights Advocacy Initiative (OPGAI); and, the Palestinian Campaign for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI). Regular information exchange is maintained with relevant official Palestinian institutions (PNC, PLC, PLO Negotiations Support Unit, PLO Refugee Department, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics).

In 1948 Palestine/Israel

Association for the Defense of the Rights of the Internally Displaced (ADRID); Zochrot Association; ITTIJAH – Union of Arab Community-based associations; Emil Touma Institute; Andalus Publishers; al-Ittihad newspaper.

Palestinian exile

Palestinian initiatives and organizations, members of the *global Palestine ROR Coalition* (see below);

International

Major partners in research and/or advocacy are the *ECCP-European Coordinating Committee on the Question of Palestine*; the *US Campaign against the Occupation, Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED)*, Geneva; Nuffield College, Oxford University; *Editorial Board, Forced Migration Review*, Oxford University Refugee Studies' Center; *Hoping Foundation*, U.K.; *Norwegian Refugee Council/IDP Database Project*; *UNRWA*; *UNHCR*; *Oxfam Solidarity*; the *Flemish Palestine Solidarity Committee*; *ICCO* (Netherlands); *Norwegian People's Aid*; and, *Danchurch Aid*.

Many of the above partners, individuals and organizations, have joined in formal and informal networks providing regular support to BADIL program implementation:



BADIL Friends: an informal network of BADIL members (General Assembly, Board) and refugee community activists contributing to planning and implementation of the community-based Refugee Rights Campaign;

Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition: a global network of Palestinian community organizations and right-of-return initiatives in Palestine and in exile coordinated by regional offices (Arab host countries; Palestine; North America; Europe) and a secretariat hosted by BADIL. The Coalition meets annually and coordinates refugee rights advocacy world wide. Current Coalition members include: *Aidun Group-Lebanon*, *Aidun Group-Syria*, ADRID, BADIL, the *Committee for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights* and Yafa Cultural Center (Nablus), the *Coordination Forum of NGOs Working among the Palestinian Community in Lebanon*, *High Committee for the Defense of the Right of Return-Jordan*, *Al-Awda Palestine Right-to-Return Coalition*, *Palestine Right-of-Return Confederation-Europe*, *Popular Committees* in the West Bank and Gaza Refugee Camps, *Union of Youth Activity Centers-Palestine Refugee Camps*, *Union of Women's Activity Centers-West Bank Refugee Camps*.

BADIL Legal Support Network (LSN): composed of 83 international and local legal experts, academic researchers and human/refugee rights activists. LSN is coordinated by BADIL and meets annually. Members provide professional advice and contribute to BADIL research, seminars and advocacy activities.

Al-Majdal Editorial Advisory Board: researchers, journalists and refugee rights activists contribute to editorial planning and writing of BADIL's English language quarterly. Composition of this Advisory Board is scheduled for revision and improvement.

1.4 Gender Dimension

Women take a lead-role in the BADIL executive (director, admin-finance officer), and four of the ten staff members are women. Efforts at increasing involvement of (refugee) women in the BADIL Board and General Assembly have been only partially successful: 8 of the 46 GA members are women, two of them are elected Board members.



Many women are, moreover, involved in BADIL research and advocacy as activists and experts, often on a voluntary basis. Past efforts at involving more refugee women have shown that many are interested in BADIL's community-based activities. However, they have less free time than men to join workshops and planning sessions. BADIL will continue to make efforts for stronger women involvement by: giving priority to women community organizations where possible (e.g. training, support of community initiatives); regularly raising the importance of women participation with community partners, and by recruiting additional women activists to the BADIL General Assembly.

2. Financing

BADIL's expected 2005 regular budget was revised in June to Euro 459,615, and the actual budget from grants and own income raised amounted to Euro 447,548, including funds earmarked for activities to be carried out in 2006. Financial resources were sufficient for implementation of the BADIL core program, in particular since personnel cost was lower than planned (one new staff was covered by Oxfam Quebec Volunteer Placement Program) and cost of the 2005 Community Advocacy Training Project was reduced due to a late start of project implementation. Total BADIL program and administration expenses in 2005 amounted to Euro 383,752.

No donor support could be found in 2005 for three additional BADIL project proposals: two proposals for joint projects with Zochrot and COHRE aimed at raising awareness for Palestinian refugee rights among Jewish Israeli society, and a proposal for a BADIL handbook on durable solutions for Palestinian refugees. The latter was resubmitted for the 2006 project cycle.

BADIL's 2005 – 2007 regular budget included outstanding liabilities (bank loan, final payment to constructor) of some Euro 40,000 deriving from purchase, construction and equipment of the new office in 2003-5. Although the 2005 special appeal for grants and donations led to only moderate results, BADIL will be able to cover the outstanding balance from its regular income in 2006.

In addition to the regular BADIL program, a cooperation agreement with Oxfam Solidarity, Belgium and the Belgian government for a second special emergency project ("Emergency job

² Additional details about these events are reported in Part 3: Activity Reports, BADIL Projects in 2005

creation – improvement and rehabilitation of social service infrastructure and housing conditions in the Western villages of Ramallah and in West Bank refugee camps and -communities”) was finalized in 2005 jointly by BADIL and the *Palestinian Medical Relief Service* (PMRS). The BADIL component of this project (Euro 319.135.54) will be implemented in 2006 by the BADIL Special Committee, Emergency Projects in 2006.

3. BADIL Public Relations and Services

3.1 BADIL Participation in International Conferences (2005)

The ongoing closure of the Palestinian airport, denial of access to the Israeli airport to holders of Palestinian travel documents, and Jordanian entry restrictions continued to obstruct BADIL participation in events organized abroad. Obligations in the context of the BADIL management reform further limited the availability of senior BADIL staff for participation in conferences and events abroad, while alternative expert speakers on the Palestinian refugee question remained difficult to find. Irrespective of these obstacles, BADIL was able to participate in:

- 2005 World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 26 – 31 January 2005
- Editorial Meeting, *Forced Migration Review* magazine, organized by the Center for Refugee Studies, University of Oxford, 16 April 2005
- International Expert Seminar on the UN Draft Guidelines on Refugee Housing and Property Restitution, coordinated by the Brown University, COHRE, UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council; Brown University, 21-22 April 2005
- Public Meeting, “Ruling Palestine: Legally Sanctioned Seizure of Land and the Refugee Question“, organized by COHRE and IUED, Geneva, 27 May 2005
- Conference, “Zionism between Ideology and Reality“, organized by The Campus Will Not Stay Silent and the Civil Forum, Tel Aviv University, 30 – 31 May 2005
- Annual Event, "The Struggle of Palestinian Refugees" organized by CEPAL (Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange) to launch the 2005 Overseas Summer Program, University of Ottawa, 31 May 2005 and Concordia University, Montreal, 1 June 2005
- International Seminar on Palestinian Refugee Rights organized by the Danish-Palestinian Friendship Association and the Palestine Right-of-Return Committee. in Copenhagen, 5-9 October



Second Right of Return Conference in Israel (ADRID, Dec. 2005)

- “Palestinian Refugee Protection in Host Countries”, 2nd international conference organized by Aidun-Syria and GAPAR, Damascus 12-14 December
- Second Right of Return Conference in Israel organized by ADRID, Zochrot, the Emil Touma Institute and Ittijah in Nazareth, 16 – 18 December.

3.2 BADIL Services to Visitors and Delegations

In 2005, BADIL again hosted more than 800 individuals and groups, including representatives of foreign missions, researchers and experts, journalists, international donors and partners, as well as fact finding and solidarity delegations. BADIL executive staff briefed visitors about political developments and rights-based work on the Palestinian refugee issue. BADIL members and community partners provided guided tours to refugee camps and arranged meetings with activists and organizations operating there.

ity Strategies: Overview

Key Advocacy Strategies



Part Two:

BADIL Plan of Action 2005-2007

Assessment of Progress in 2005

Long-term Aim:

Implementation - in the framework of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict - of durable solutions for Palestinian refugees in accordance with UN Resolution 194 and relevant international law, which are accepted as just and adequate by the refugees themselves.

BADIL Objectives 2005-2007:

Strengthen institutional capacity, sustainability and transparency of BADIL by means of **Management Reform** including admin-finance reform, activation and training of members and internal institutions; staff recruitment and training, completion of new office development, and expansion of sustained coordination with other organizations and networks.

Major Achievements in 2005

- Management reform proceeds as planned; institutional decision making and financial control have improved and positive feedback to BADIL financial reporting has been received from donors. Three new staff members were recruited to strategic positions (legal advocacy and media outreach); an income-tax settlement was negotiated with the local authorities and BADIL's tax status was cleared; and, a new BADIL salary-scale framework was adopted for implementation in 2006.
- A new Linux-based computer system was installed; most BADIL financial obligations deriving from purchase, construction and development of new office space are covered with Euro 10.685 remaining as outstanding obligations;
- BADIL intensified cooperation in/with local NGO networks (OPGAI, PACBI, Palestinian BDS Campaign) and signed new partner/membership agreements with ICVA and UNHCR.

Objective-2:

Strengthen Advocacy Capacity, Outreach and Impact by means of:

A Refugee Rights Campaign: which will strengthen the unity and advocacy capacity of Palestinian refugees in Palestine and in exile and result in increased understanding and support of a rights-based approach to the Palestinian refugee issue among local and international civil society and policy makers.

Major Achievements (results and impact)

- Principles to guide the new BADIL community advocacy training project were identified. A participatory approach with emphasis on learning-by-doing and integration of the youth trainees into the Refugee Rights Campaign were identified as cornerstones of the project in the long term. A 2005 pilot youth training project was designed and implemented in August with the help of an international volunteer trainer (stage 1). Follow-up in-depth advocacy skill training of a group of selected youth (stage 2) was undertaken with the help of a Birzeit University consultant team in November - December 2005. All of the 43 trainees

reported to have benefited from these training courses, and BADIL gained valuable lessons and insights for its activist advocacy education and training project in 2006-7.

- BADIL support of local and global Palestinian refugee and IDP community networking, capacity building and initiatives contributed to sustained community organizing and coordination, including Palestinian IDPs of ADRID, who made some progress in fundraising and institution-building. The local Palestine Chapter of the Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition is active, and the Coalition operates according to its by-laws. The 6th annual meeting of the Coalition was held in Vlaardingen, Netherlands, in November 2005. The meeting enhanced by the quality of participants and debates and the high level of responsibility shown by the delegates in planning joint future action. The Coalition decided, among others, to carry the Palestinian civil society campaigns launched in Palestine into the wider Palestinian exile.
- Sustained refugee community organizing and BADIL awareness-raising via publications and media projects resulted in heightened Palestinian public awareness and visibility of the Palestinian refugee question and refugees rights:
 - 2005 featured a first-ever centrally organized Nakba memorial rally in Ramallah on 15 May which attracted 10-12,000 participants from all over the West Bank. This rally and a public speech to the nation delivered by PA President and PLO Chairman Mahmoud Abbas represented an impressive success of local community organizing which is likely to encourage even broader public participation in the future;
 - The move of the Nakba memorial out of the narrow camps into the broader Palestinian public sphere, parallel memorials organized by Palestinian IDPs (ADRID) and the Jewish-Israeli Zochrot Association in al-Howsha and Kasayer (Haifa) and Tel Aviv, provided better visibility and resulted in unprecedented media coverage. In mid-May, the Palestinian Nakba and the refugee issue were reported widely not only by the local Palestinian media, but also by Arab satellite TV, Israeli TV, radio and press, and international media.
 - All public statements issued in 2005 by Palestinian civil society organizations and the political leadership on the requirements of a durable solution of the conflict include the demand for the right of return under international law. Examples for the above are: 'Cairo Declaration' of 13 Palestinian factions; the joint statement to the 2005 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre issued by the *Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights Advocacy Initiative* (OPGAI); statements



On the way to a
1948 depopulated
Palestinian village
(BADIL. 2005)

and calls issued by the *Palestinian Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel* (PACBI); and, the *Palestinian Civil Society Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel* (BDS).

- Numerous consultation and coordination meetings facilitated, among others, by BADIL resulted in the launching by Palestinian civil society at large of a broad advocacy campaign which includes Palestinian refugees and their right of return, i.e. the Palestinian Civil Society Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel until it abides by international law of 9 July 2005, endorsed by more than 170 Palestinian organizations and networks. The Call came to support similar campaigns launched by the solidarity movement and churches worldwide and has since served as a reference for the growing global campaign which includes several Jewish and Israeli organizations.
- BADIL efforts at engaging Jewish-Israeli society in debate over rights-based solutions of the Palestinian refugee question contributed to: a) the successful implementation of the 2nd Right of Return Conference in Nazareth; b) involvement of Zochrot and additional Jewish Israeli organizations (Bat Shalom, New Profile) in the preparations towards the 2008 Nakba public awareness-raising campaign; and, c) design of an in-depth study project for building Palestinian and Jewish Israeli expertise required for the promotion of a concrete model of refugee return. This study program will be implemented by BADIL, Palestinian community partners, and the Zochrot Association in 2006-7.
- Many more civil society organizations worldwide have adopted a rights-based approach to the Palestinian refugee issue, and numerous solidarity organizations, initiatives by students and academics, NGOs, communities, unions and political parties have included the right of return of Palestinian refugees in their 2005 calls and campaigns for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it abides by international law. Some civil society campaigns, in particular in Europe and North America, however, continue to fall short of adopting a consistent rights-based approach to the Palestinian refugee question. BADIL served as expert consultant to and reviewed policy papers of dozens of international NGOs and voluntary initiatives, and participated in conferences/seminars organized by them.

An Information and Media Campaign: which will improve visibility of information and campaigns of BADIL and its community partners, locally, regionally and internationally.

Major Achievements (results and impact)

- New means of promotion and publicity:
 - “Ruling Palestine”, a joint COHRE-BADIL study on Israeli land laws employed for the confiscation of Palestinian land since 1948 was released at a press conference organized in Geneva by COHRE on 11 May 2005. This experiment showed that international, Arab, and even local Palestinian **media are** more interested in reporting such information if it comes from a major city abroad rather than from a location in the OPT;
 - Hundreds of copies of key research publications (2003 Survey, Handbook on Protection) were disseminated via a worldwide list of academic institutions and policy makers with moderate results in the short term. An unplanned promotion campaign for the English-language magazine *al-majdal* was triggered by the release of issue no 26 (Summer 2005) reporting about the campaign for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel. Requests for hundreds of issues were received from numerous solidarity groups worldwide and resulted of the second re-print (1,000 copies) of the magazine.
 - Legal and logistic requirements for reproduction and dissemination by the Lebanese daily al-Safir of the Arabic-language bi-monthly Haq al-Awda were clarified and require follow-up in 2006
- Increasing outreach: During the 2005 Nakba anniversary, BADIL publications and activities of BADIL and partners were reported by the local (Palestinian, Israeli), regional (Arab) and international media in an unprecedented scale. For the first time in four years, the BADIL-MA'AN local TV awareness-raising campaign had to compete for audience with the official Palestinian TV and all Arab satellite TV stations all of which featured reports and documentaries about the Nakba in the first half of May. The COHRE-BADIL study “Ruling Palestine” received coverage in at least five



languages (English, Arabic, Spanish, French and Portuguese) and was reported in several radio and TV news bulletins, among them Radio Vatican, Radio Orient, BBC Arabic Service, Swiss TV TSR, and the Iranian National TV. News stories about publications and the 2005 Nakba memorial events were reported by Arab and international press and websites (e.g., Al-Jazeera; Daily Star, Beirut; Al-Quds, London; the Palestinian Government Press Service; the Electronic Intifada; and, the UN Reliefweb), as well as Israeli radio, TV stations and press (*Ha'aretz*, The Jerusalem Post).

Research and Legal Advocacy: which will contribute to the strengthening of the role of international law and the establishment of effective mechanisms for protection and durable solutions for Palestinian refugees and displaced persons.

Major Achievements (results and impact)

- Cooperation with the (legal) expert community was further developed; 13 new volunteer experts joined the BADIL *Legal Support Network*; 16 of the 83 member network participated in the 4th BADIL-LSN annual meeting convened in Vlaardingen, Netherlands, 24 – 27 November.
- Release of the BADIL *Handbook on Protection of Palestinian Refugees in States Signatories of the 1951 Refugee Convention* marked the end of three years of intensive research and networking and set a milestone in BADIL efforts for effective and rights-based international protection of Palestinian refugees. The Handbook was released in the context of the 2005 UNHCR NGO consultations in Geneva and received with much interest by international agencies and NGOs.
- Timely reports were submitted to UN fora and experts, among them CEDAW, the UN Special Rapporteur on the OPT John Dugard, and the UN Special Committee on Occupied Arab Territories. The *UN Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons* adopted in the summer of 2005 represent an important new instrument strengthening Palestinian refugees' right to restitution and compensation;

little other concrete measures were taken by the international community, including the UN, towards a rights-based solution of the Palestinian refugee question.

A comprehensive external evaluation of the BADIL program is currently conducted by *DanChurch Aid*, Denmark and *Trocaire*, Ireland. In 2005, the evaluators (Dr. Eileen Kuttab, BZU Department of Women's Studies, and Maja Sverderup, consultant) held focus group meetings with BADIL members and community partners in Palestine and attended the 2005 annual meetings, Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition and BADIL Legal Support Network in the Netherlands. The evaluation will continue next year, and the final evaluation report is expected to become available in the spring of 2006.



2005 Activity Report, BADIL Projects

1. Management & Finance Reform

Aims and Objectives:

Strengthen institutional capacity, sustainability and transparency of BADIL.

Implement Management Reform including admin-finance reform, activation and training of members and internal institutions; staff recruitment and training, completion of new office development and financial obligations, and expansion of sustained coordination with other organizations and networks.

The BADIL management and finance reform is implemented by the BADIL Board and executive staff. Professional guidance, training and evaluation is provided by external consultants.

Implementation: Modifications and Achievements in 2005

a) Activation of BADIL Members and Institutions

New mobile phones operating in a closed circle were purchased for BADIL Board members and the office to replace the old wireless network; new by-laws providing for per diems, transportation and accommodation of members participating in Board meetings were enacted; a dynamic Board secretary ensured participation of all Board members in regular monthly meetings, as well as Board participation in training and consultancy sessions related to the management reform.

The BADIL Board and the BADIL Executive Committee convened separately and jointly on a monthly schedule. In addition to the performance of routine management tasks, Board members played an active role in the implementation of the BADIL management reform, training and recruitment of new staff. Board and GA members were actively involved in the implementation of BADIL's activities among the local community, in particular, organization of the 2005 Nakba memorial, and meetings conducted in the framework of external evaluation of the BADIL program. A proposal for a second BADIL community emergency project was approved by Oxfam Solidarity, Belgium and the Belgian government in 2005 for implementation in 2006 ("Emergency job creation – improvement and rehabilitation of social service infrastructure and housing conditions in the Western villages of Ramallah and in West Bank refugee camps and -communities"). BADIL's General Assembly convened on 22-23 December. It received preliminary reports about BADIL's program and financial performance in 2005 and debated and approved the framework of activities and budgets, including the new BADIL salary/benefit framework, planned for 2006.

b) Management-Finance Reform

BADIL started the year 2005 as planned with a new institutional currency (Euro), new bank (Arab Bank) and a new external auditor (*Yussef & Co.*, a local affiliate of *Deloitte Middle East*). BADIL management, supported by the team of external consultants, proceeded in implementation of management reform as planned and accomplished the following steps:

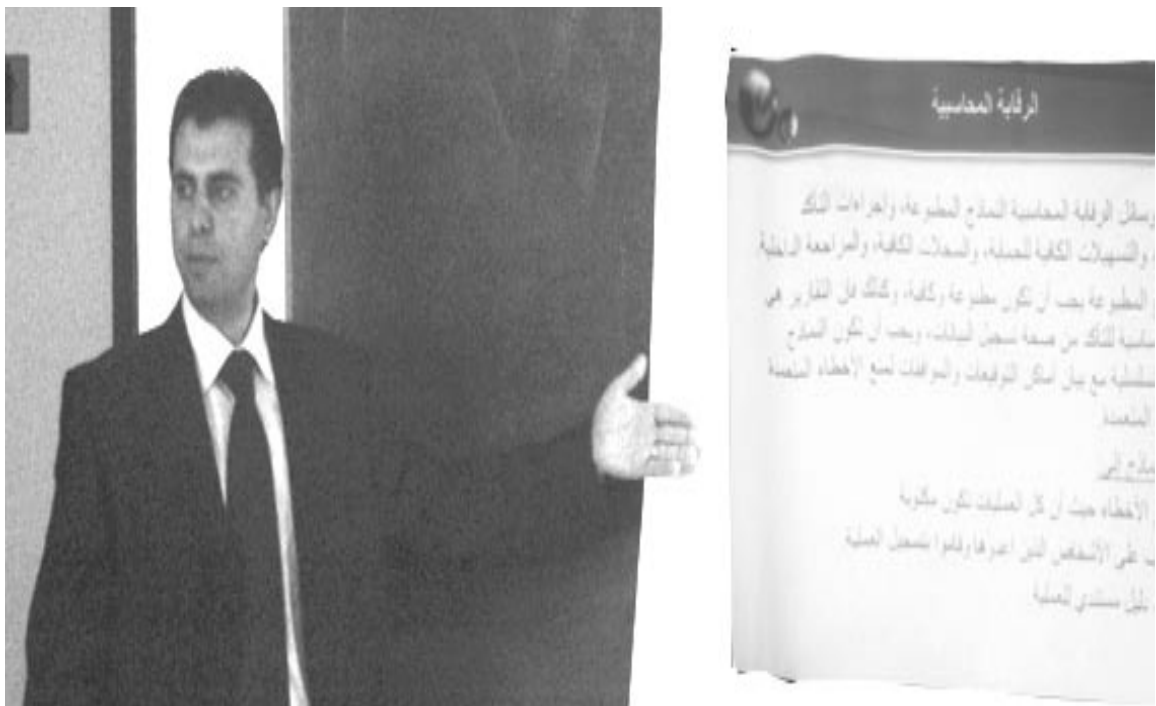
- Design of new institutional charts of accounts in Euro;
- Development of the computer-based financial planning and accounting system on accrual

basis (currently operative on a test-basis; a decision about purchase of new software will be taken based on evaluation of the current system);

- Settlement with the local tax authority over outstanding staff income tax, and opening of the BADIL tax file for 2006;
- On-the-job training of the admin-finance officer (ongoing); a two-day training session for Board and executive staff members (“Accounting for Non-accountants”) was held on 30 – 31 March.;
- Design of a new staff salary/benefit policy to become applicable in 2006: the new policy reflects a compromise between conflicting organizational needs, i.e. it will increase BADIL's competitiveness on the local and global labor market while maintaining a level of staff income which is in line with local standards, and it is feasible in terms of the BADIL fundraising capacity. Based on the new policy, BADIL reports the final gross salary cost of BADIL job positions, which is composed of basic staff salaries (calculated based on the average monthly income from labor/PCBS, 4th quarter of 2005 plus risk allowance, multiplied by the score of BADIL job positions under international job evaluation standards, i.e. responsibility, complexity, decision making, skill, scope) with taxes, insurances, and staff benefits added according to local law and BADIL by-laws. Evaluation of the BADIL positions was undertaken by the external consultant team. In addition, the new policy provides for an option of special and individually negotiated benefit packets for ex-patriate and international staff.

c) Staff Recruitment and Training

- The three program units in place previously were re-organized into two program units as planned (Refugee Campaign; Research, Information and Legal Advocacy);
- Coordination of BADIL Research, Information and Legal Advocacy was taken over as planned by young BADIL staff who replaced BADIL's senior researcher in this position;
- Three of the four vacant strategic positions were staffed (Media officer/Arabic; Media Officer/English; Assistant Coordinator, BADIL Research, Information and Legal Advocacy). Two of the three new staff began their work with BADIL in 2005, while the new media officer/English will start work in 2006. Oxfam Quebec's Volunteer Placement Program assisted in the recruitment of the new legal assistant and provided for her salary thereby reducing the burden on the BADIL budget. One additional project officer recruited for the 2005 pilot project/Community Advocacy Education terminated her employment upon completion of the project.
- Supervision and on-the-job training of new staff was provided by the coordinators, BADIL



Training session,
BADIL admin-finance
reform (BADIL, 2005)

program units, and the director. The director maintained a half-time position as BADIL program staff in order to ensure training and transfer of knowledge in this period of transition and staff building.

d) Development of the New BADIL Office

- Purchase and construction of missing office furniture was completed;
- Factory-new computer equipment for 13 workstations and a server purchased in 2004, as well as a new Linux operating system and programs were installed by BADIL's Canada-based computer consultant in January 2005, and BADIL's new computer system became operative. However, staff training and system fine-tuning could not be accomplished due to lack of time, and remaining problems were partially resolved with the help of a Tel Aviv-based Palestinian consultant and a local computer maintenance firm.
- A second appeal for special partner contributions to cover outstanding liabilities was issued on June and led to only moderate results. Available grants and donations enabled BADIL to reduce the outstanding liabilities to an amount that will be covered from regular grants and donations in 2006..

e) Establish New Institutional Affiliations

- BADIL joined the *Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Hights Adovacy Initiative* (OPGAI), a network of 10 local NGOs who decided to maintain and expand joint advocacy efforts beyond their collective participation in the World Social Forum in January 2005. In this context, BADIL intensified coordination and cooperation with the *Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* (PACBI) and the *Palestinian NGO Network* (PNGO). In the second half of the year, BADIL served local coalition and campaign building efforts as part of the acting Steering Committee, Palestinian Campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (BDS) until it complies with international law. Given the vitalization of local civil society coordination, coalition building and organizing in 2005, BADIL decided to abstain from pursuing formal membership with PNGO.
- BADIL's application for "consultative status" with UN ECOSOC was examined in May 2005 but the decision was deferred to UN Committee's January 2006 session. All professional preparations were undertaken in order to ensure success in the second round;
- BADIL applied for and was granted membership in the *International Council of Voluntary Agencies* (ICVA), a Geneva-based network of international and national NGOs coordinating with UN agencies for the development of human rights and humanitarian law standards and in implementation of humanitarian operations.
- BADIL also signed a partnership framework agreement with UNHCR.

Results and Outstanding Tasks

One-and-a-half year into the management and financial reform, BADIL institutional decision making, documentation, financial monitoring and reporting have already improved and positive feedback was received from several donor-partners. Still, financial management and control remained difficult in this period of transition, mainly because staff recruitment and growth (from 7 to 10 staff) and the start of new strategic projects included many factors beyond our control.

Remaining tasks to be accomplished in the context of the 2006-7 management and finance reform include: adaptation of BADIL job descriptions and evaluation of staff performance for application of the new BADIL staff salary/benefit scheme; preparation of organizational manuals (finances, computer system, program); training in budgeting; staff recruitment for one more strategic position (Assistant to the Coordinator, Refugee Rights Campaign), staff training and consolidation; and additional fine-tuning and maintenance of the new computer system.



al-Am'ari camp, Ramallah (Tineke D'haese/Oxfam. 2005)

2. Palestinian Refugee Rights Campaign 2005

Implementation: Modification and Achievements

This project was implemented by the BADIL coordinator, Refugee Campaign, and a project officer, Advocacy Training (recruited in June). Two part-time field coordinators, other BADIL staff and some 50 volunteers, including BADIL members from among the Palestinian refugee community in Palestine and the Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition in exile, assisted with project implementation.

2.1 Community Advocacy Training

Indicators for Success 2005-2007: At least 10-15 local community activists are trained and engaged in refugee rights advocacy on the local and/or international level.

In 2005 BADIL implemented its new advocacy training project based on a parallel, two-track approach:

- a) Sustained consultation with experts and integration of lessons learned from the 2005 pilot project, in order to develop a long-term model of a participatory and action-oriented education/training program that will fit the needs of BADIL and community partners.
- b) Implementation, in two stages, of 2005 pilot training courses in basic information, communication and advocacy skills for Palestinian refugee and non-refugee youth aged 16-24.

Stage-1 (June – September):

Implementation, Pilot-1 Youth Training, Basic Communication Skills

Two three-day courses were conducted in Bethlehem and Hebron with the participation of 43 female and male youth pre-selected in cooperation with local community organizations. Training concluded with a separate presentation and evaluation session held for both groups jointly in Hebron. Courses were held on 4 – 6 August (Bethlehem), 10 – 12 August (Hebron), joint session, 13 August (Hebron):

Program:

- Day 1: introduction and ice-breakers (importance of information and communication); different methods and mediums of communication; methods of selecting and extracting information;
- Day 2: forming an argument; presenting information; developing debating skills;
- Day 3: prepare individual projects; present individual projects.

Training material was prepared and sessions were led jointly by the BADIL project officer and a professional trainer who volunteered his services to BADIL. Training sessions were videotaped, and reports as well as preliminary evaluation of the outcome, were prepared by the trainers.



Stage-2 (October – December):

Pilot-2, Follow-up in-depth Skill Training

Between 11 November – 30 December, a group of 15 refugee and non-refugee youth selected in pilot-1 were offered a seven-session (42-hours) training course including general information on the Palestinian refugee issue, and training in public relations, communication and presentation skills, data gathering and journalism (reading, writing, editing). The course was conducted weekly in Hebron. Trainers were composed of a team of consultants, Birzeit University, contracted for this purpose.

Evaluation, Lessons Learned:

1. Participation was more successful and feedback more positive among high-school aged refugees active in camp community organizations than among university students, many of them 'veteran trainees' in NGO-run training programs;
2. Youth with an activist background seem to be better able to see the relevance of basic communication skills training than non-activists;
3. General skill training courses are abundantly available in the country, and they are expensive. At the same time, they are too abstract for many trainees. It may be better for BADIL to allocate its limited resources to skill training which is contextualized, i.e. built into concrete organizing/advocacy tasks which are meaningful to the participants and their organizations.
4. Professional consultants/trainers have difficulty with translating existing materials on refugee rights into practical and meaningful training activities.

A revised 2006 BADIL community advocacy training project was designed based on the lessons learned from the 2005 pilot (*see* 2006 BADIL Project Proposal).

2.2 Support of Networking, Awareness-raising and Advocacy Initiatives of Local Refugee and IDP Community Organizations

Indicators for Success 2005-2007: Local refugee and IDP community organizations are active, sustainable, and engaged in advocacy for their rights.

■ Support of Local Refugee Community Networking

Three BADIL-supported mobile phones and one wire-less set were stationed with core community partners. Two field coordinators and two field workers operated in the northern and central West Bank for the benefit of local organizations, BADIL, and the global Palestine ROR Coalition. Core BADIL community partners joined to form the Palestine Section, Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition and elected the secretary of the Union of Youth Activity Centers as its local coordinator. BADIL organized meetings between visiting experts and delegations and its community partners in the OPT and Israel and successfully encouraged donors to support their activities.

■ Support of Community Initiatives (Refugees and IDPs)

In total, BADIL assisted 42 community organizations to implement over 100 activities (advocacy, awareness-raising, educational and cultural initiatives) and maintain community facilities. Activities were organized mainly from local resources; BADIL provided in-kind assistance (information materials, speakers, logistical support) and/or small-scale financial support. Together, these community initiatives benefited tens of thousands of people, mainly Palestinian refugee and IDP youth.

2005 Nakba memorial: BADIL provided logistic, material and/or financial support for some 50 activities implemented by community partner organizations in seven West Bank districts, the Gaza Strip, and in Israel. Tens of thousands participated in these events.

Ramallah

- Union of Youth Activity Centers-West Bank: central Nakba rally, 15 May; (10-12,000 participants)
- Women's Activity Center, al-Am'ari camp: photo and cultural exhibition

Nablus

- Yafa Cultural Center, Balata camp: lectures and debates in schools, community centers, local radio and TV; theater performance and film screening; torch march and district memorial ceremony



Ibdaa' Children's
Dance Troupe,
Dheisha camp
(BADIL. 2005)

- Council of Palestinian Students' Unions, Al-Quds Open University, and Yafa Cultural Center: photo exhibition
- Local Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Ain Beit al-Ma' camp: theater and arts event
- Youth Activity Center, al-Far'ah camp: Night of popular culture (children's quizz, dabka dancing and theater performance); district memorial ceremony

Tulkarem:

- Aidun-Tulkarem camp: banners, brochures and TV advertisement; TV-debates; T-shirts; theater performance in Deir al-Ghassoun village; photo exhibitions; lectures in schools; travel to central memorial rally in Ramallah.

Jenin:

- Popular Committee, Jenin camp: rally; film screenings; political and cultural debates; oral history accounts of old generation of refugees; theater performance

Jericho:

- Youth Activity Center, Aqbat Jaber camp: 'Palestinian Heritage Day' and 'Children's Day'; public history quizz; lectures about the Nakba, memorial ceremony

Bethlehem

- Laji Center, Aida camp, Bethlehem: Popular Festival, 'Filastin Lana', including tour of the camp and Israel's Wall and a 5-day program at the Bethlehem Peace Center (dabka dance performances, film screening; workshop; debate about the psychology of exile)
- Ansar Center, al-Wallaja: film performance; debate about the right of return; distribution of posters, stickers and banners.
- Hiwwar Center, Deheisha Camp: public quizz, Palestinian Nakba.

Hebron:

- Al-Anqa' Society, Hebron: popular march and rally; sculpturing workshop; children's workshops "Living Memory".

Gaza Strip:

- Union of Youth Activity Centers and Women's Activity Centers: 13 workshops in Gaza strip refugee camps on the topic of grass-roots activation for refugee rights;

Israel:

- ADRID: annual return march to Hoshe and Kasayer, Acre (4,000 participants, 12 May).

Children and Youth Summer Camps: BADIL provided in-kind and financial support to 11 summer camps benefitting 1080 refugee children and youth, including:

*Ansar Center, Wallajeh (100 children); Youth Activity Center, Kalandia Camp (80); *Khaima Cultural Center, Deheisha Camp (100 girls); *Palestinian Children's Cultural Center, al-Fawwar Camp (110); Local Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Kalandia Camp (70); Youth Activity Center, Arroub Camp (100); *National Charitable Society, Deheisha Camp (80); *Palestinian Children's Center, Shu'fat Camp (50); *As-Sadiq Association for Child Care, Deheisha Camp (100); Youth Activity Center, Aida Camp (80); *Al-Doha Children's Cultural Center (60); Qaqun Charitable Society, Tulkarem (150).

Guided Visits by IDPs to Palestinian Towns and Villages Depopulated in 1948: BADIL provided financial support to ADRID for the organization of 14 visits benefitting 782 Palestinian IDP youth and adults in Israel:

Tirat al-Karmel and Wad al-Siyah, Haifa (48 participants, 29 January); Jaffa, Abdelnabi and

Abbassiya (60 participants, 19 February); al-Gabesiyya, al-Kabri, Suhmata, Iqrith and al-Bassa (50 participants, 19 March); Jerusalem area villages (48 participants, Hebrew University Students, 31 March/Land Day); Acre area (49 participants, 23 April); Jerusalem area (48 participants, 5 June); Emwas, Sar'a, Deir Rafat, Ain Shams (45 participants, 25 June); Jerusalem district villages (40 participants, 14 August); religious and historical sites, Jerusalem (45 participants, 27 August); Hitin, Qal'at al-Na'la (50 participants, 17 September); al-Karmel and costal district villages (50 participants, 1 October); Beit Jibrin (50 participants, 12 November); Nabi Moussa, Dead Sea (100 participants, 19-20 November); Deir Nakhas, Latroun are villages (45 participants, 31 December).

Activities in Education and Culture: Throughout the year, BADIL provided financial, logistic and material support for the implementation of some 20 community-initiated activities benefiting hundreds of Palestinian refugee children and youth in the West Bank:

- Aidun-Nablus (support of conference in commemoration the Deir Yassin Massacre, Jerusalem, 1948);
- Al-Awda Youth Center, Beit Sahour (purchase of sports equipment);
- Al-Anqa' Cultural Society, Hebron (sculpture exhibition, Palestinian Land Day);
- Palestinian National Swim Team (contribution to travel expenses of four team members from the Deheishe camp to the Arab Championship in Jordan);
- Yafa Cultural Center, folklore group performance, London (contribution to travel expenses);
- Yafa Cultural Center, book purchase for children's library (financial contribution based on special grant, Oxfam Solidarity)
- Popular Committee (Deheishe Camp: contribution to student travel expenses to Cairo for participation in UN conference)
- Youth Activity Center, Aqbat Jaber Camp, books and librarian for children's library (special grant, Oxfam Solidarity)
- Youth Activity Center, Balata Camp (financial contribution, theater performance)
- Laji Center, Aida Camp (contribution to cost of publication, "The Boy and the Wall")
- Amal al-Mustaqbal Center, Aida Camp: arts training course for youth aged 12-16 (30 participants, one month)
- Al-Doha Children's Cultural Center, Ramadan cultural program (69 participants)



Nakba Exhibition,
Yafa Cultural Center,
Nablus (BADIL.
2005)

- Al-Feniq Center, Deheishe Camp (support of advocacy travel to France, 5 children; twinning project, Deheishe Camp and CICP/France)
- Youth Activity Center, Nourshams Camp, football tournament
- Yafa Cultural Center, Balata Camp, educational workshops for members of children's centers in the northern West Bank (16 participants)
- Youth Activity Center, al-Far'ah Camp, basketball tournament
- Popular Committee, Tulkarem Camp, public information and awareness-raising events towards 2006 Palestinian legislative elections.
- MA'AN TV-Network, coverage of professional exchange visits, Palestinian youth, students and media workers in Israel and the 1967 OPT (broadcasting fees).

Emergency support required for the maintenance of community services was provided to four community organizations:

- Shams for Social and Health Work, Deheishe Camp (computer purchase)
- Al-Malha Charitable Society (repair of kindergarten)
- Union of Youth Activity Centers and Popular Committees, Gaza (communication support).
- Yafa Cultural Center, Balata Camp (purchase, fax machine)

2.3 Coordinate and Facilitate Activities of the Global Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition

Indicators for Success 2005-2007: the Coalition operates according to its by-laws; meets annually with 2/3 of the members present; implements at least five activities in line with the joint plan of action; recruits at least five additional members with priority to members from Latin America and Australia.

Background

Based on the statutes adopted by the 5th Annual Meeting (2004), the Coalition is a global network of Palestinian refugee rights organizations and initiatives in Palestine and in exile coordinated by four regional representatives and a secretariat currently hosted by BADIL. Regional representatives are Palestinian refugee community organizations elected/appointed in four regions: Palestine, Arab Host States, Europe, and North America. The Coalition meets annually and coordinates refugee rights advocacy world wide. In 2005 the Coalition was composed of the following 13 organizations and networks: *Aidun Group-Lebanon*, *Aidun Group-Syria*, *ADRID*, *BADIL*, the *Committee for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights* and *Yafa Cultural Center* (Nablus), the *Coordination Forum of NGOs Working among the Palestinian Community in Lebanon*, *High Committee for the Defense of the Right of Return-Jordan*, *Al-Awda Palestine Right-to-Return Coalition-North America*, *Palestine Right-of-Return Confederation-Europe*, *Popular Committees* in the West Bank and Gaza Refugee Camps, *Union of Youth Activity Centers-Palestine Refugee Camps*, *Union of Women's Centers-West Bank Refugee Camps*. See also: rorcoalition.org

2005 Plan of Action, Palestine ROR Coalition, 5th Annual Meeting (2004):

- Days for Joint Action: Nakba memorials (May), World Refugee Day (5 June), "International Day of the Camps and Palestinian Refugees" (11 December, UNGAR 194);
- Joint Activities adopted: Youth Summer Camp "The Generation of al-Awda" (July 2005); production of a Coalition Post Card for use by all members (March 2005); launch of the Coalition website; and, production of a children's book about the Palestinian Nakba and the refugee issue (2006);
- Annual meetings of the Coalition and the BADIL Legal Support Network should be coordinated for regular in-depth exchange also in the future.



Activities implemented

In the first half of 2005, Coalition members set up regional sections and elected their regional representatives in line with the by-laws:

Palestine-Israel:	<i>Union of Youth Activity Centers</i>
Arab host countries:	<i>Aidun-Syria</i>
Europe:	<i>Palestine ROR Committee, Denmark</i> (replaced by the ROR Committee-France at the 6th Annual Meeting in November)
North America:	<i>Steering Committee, Al-Awda</i>

BADIL in its role as the global Coalition Secretariat:

- disseminated large quantities of its publications (*Haq al-Awda* magazine, a.o.) for use by Coalition members;
- produced and disseminated Coalition activity reports and advocacy materials: *postcard*, “Refugee Rights are Human Rights”, and report, *Summary of Proceedings of the 4th and 5th Annual Meetings, Palestine ROR Coalition*, London, November 2003; Ghent, October 2004);
- coordinated release of joint Coalition statements (condemnation of a public call by Ziyad al-Assali, President of the American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP) to abandon the right of return, March 2005; joint statement, International Refugee Day: “No One is Exempt from International Law” (20 June); media report and final statement, 6th Annual Meeting, Palestine ROR Coalition (5 December);
- facilitated exchange of information and coordination of activities, in particular around the 2005 Nakba memorials organized by Coalition members worldwide;
- launched and hosted the new Coalition website: www.rorcoalition.org
- sent BADIL staff speakers to international conferences organized by Coalition members: Copenhagen (5-9 October; Nihad Boqa'i, coordinator, BADIL Research and Legal Advocacy); 2nd international conference, Aidun-Syria, Damascus (12-14 December; Karine MacAllister, assistant coordinator, BADIL Research and Legal Advocacy);
- provided logistic and financial support for the 6th Annual Meeting, Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition, Vlaardingen, Netherlands, 23-27 November: BADIL contributed to local preparatory meetings in Palestine and Lebanon, undertook program coordination, prepared a discussion paper: “Palestinian refugees right of return in the context of a two-

state and a one state solution”, and provided financial support for travel of Middle East delegates to and accommodation of participants in the Netherlands. The 2005 annual meeting, was hosted by the Palestinian community and ICCO, Netherlands. Participants were 26 Palestinian delegates of Palestinian right-of-return committees in the Middle East and Europe who represented 10 of the 13 member organizations and networks. While no new member organizations/networks were recruited in 2005, the Coalition gained additional strength as active chapters from Greece, France and Switzerland joined the *ROR Federation-Europe* and participated in the annual meeting. A joint session was held with Palestinian and international experts convening at the same time for the 4th annual meeting of the *BADIL Legal Support Network*. The 6th annual meeting (November 2005) affirmed participation by the Coalition in broader, Palestinian refugee and civil society initiatives and campaigns (see below, Palestinian BDS Campaign, Nakba 2008 Campaign), and asked BADIL to continue to host its secretariat in 2006. Specific tasks delegated to BADIL by the Coalition for 2006 include: maintenance of the Coalition's website; production of the Coalition's report/6th annual meeting (2005) and a public relations brochure; editing of a new special section of the ROR Coalition in the BADIL Arabic language magazine *Haq al-Awda*; and, supervision of production of the joint children's book on popular culture and return.

- Guided Exchange Visits and Networking: Palestinian community activists in 1948 Palestine/Israel and in the OPT: Three exchange visits in November-December represented a community awareness-raising and networking project implemented by BADIL to replace the earlier planned ADRID-led Youth Summer Camp/ROR Coalition which had to be canceled for logistic reasons. Visits were organized by BADIL in cooperation with Palestinian NGOs in Israel (Ilam media center, ADRID, Arab Human Rights Association, and National Union of Arab Students) for Palestinian IDP youth, high school and university students and journalists in Israel. Visitors were guided and hosted in cooperation with BADIL community partners in the OPT. They received BADIL information and advocacy tools, studied the situation in refugee camps, the impact of occupation and colonization (e.g. Israel's Wall, settlements), and discussed ways of possible cooperation with their counterparts in the OPT. 392 visitors and hosts participated in this activity. BADIL provided for transportation and hosting expenses.

2.4 Unify the Palestinian Message on Refugee Rights; Engage Jewish-Israeli and International Civil Society

Indicators for Success 2005-2007: Initiatives and statements launched by Palestinian civil society reflect a consensus about Palestinian refugee rights under international law; Jewish-Israeli and international civil society organizations respond with increased interest, understanding and support; a broad campaign for isolating Israel until it complies to international law is launched by the solidarity movement including in Europe and North America.

■ Unify the Palestinian Message – Towards Broad Advocacy Campaigns

Public Debates: Public lectures/debates were organized mainly in the first half of the year as, in the second half of 2005, BADIL became increasingly requested and involved in consultation, strategizing and coordination meetings for campaigns launched by broad Palestinian civil society networks. Seven lectures and debates with international experts, members of the BADIL Legal Support Network, were organized for some 200 participants:

- Two sessions: 'Beyond the ICJ Ruling: Perspectives of a Global Israel Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions Campaign', with Jeff Handmaker, Reahamba Advice, Netherlands (BADIL, Bethlehem, 17 March; Yafa Cultural Center, Balata camp, Nablus, 20 March).
- 'Housing and Property Restitution: the Case of Palestine Israel from an International Expert Perspective', with Scott Leckie, executive director, Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Geneva (BADIL, Bethlehem, 6 May).
- Participation of the Palestinian Exile (August 2005): four presentations, by Dr. Karma

Nablusi, of key findings from public debates with Palestinian refugees outside the 1967 OPT conducted in 2005 in the framework of the Civitas Project. Debate and recommendations of Palestinian refugee community organizations in the 1967 OPT (BADIL multi-activity hall, 3 August; also in Ramallah, Nablus and Gaza). Civitas aims to identify needs of exile Palestinians wishing to participate in shaping Palestinian agenda and decision making. Karma Nabulsi is the project leader and a fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford University.

Public Campaign towards the 60th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (2008):

Preparations were launched in 2005 by BADIL, UYAC, and the Palestine Right of Return Coalition towards a sustained 2006 – 2008 public awareness-raising campaign about the Palestinian Nakba and refugees' right of return. The campaign is planned to peak with the 60th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba in 2008 and aims to mobilize and pool local and global resources for a series of creative and media-effective events in the field of arts, sports and culture, politics and law. (An initial concept and discussion paper for this campaign was prepared by BADIL in 2005 and is available upon request.)

Palestinian Civil Society Campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (BDS):

BADIL was active in the *Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan Heights Advocacy Initiative* (OPGAI) a network of nine Palestinian and one Syrian-Arab NGO established in 2004, and – starting from mid-2005 – in the Palestinian Campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (BDS) until it abides by international law. BADIL, on behalf of OPGAI, is a member in the Acting Steering Committee of the Palestinian BDS Campaign which also includes the *Palestinian Campaign for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel* (PACBI) and the *Union of Palestinian Community Organizations in Israel* (ITTIJAH). Numerous coordination and public awareness raising activities undertaken in this context include:

- A joint OPGAI statement to and participation in the 2005 World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, Brazil (January);
- OPGAI consultation meeting about rights-based advocacy with staff of international NGOs members in the APRODEV network (15 April);
- OPGAI advocacy training workshop for members of Palestinian NGOs (20 – 24 June): the workshop was conducted as a two-day closed training session followed by a public session for presentation and debate of results and recommendations. The training was facilitated by Adri Nieuwhof (Samora Consultancy, Netherlands) and Bangani Ngeleza (Bangani & Associates, South Africa). Based on lessons learned from the South African anti-apartheid campaign, the some 20 local participants developed a vision, mission and plan of action towards a Palestinian civil society campaign. BADIL contributed to the expenses of simultaneous translation.
- Consultation towards a broad Palestinian civil society advocacy campaign for Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions: In May, OPGAI, PACBI and the *Palestinian NGO Network* (PNGO) joined forces for broader coordination of local advocacy efforts. A series of widely-attended coordination meetings in Ramallah resulted in a decision to launch a Palestinian civil society call for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law and universal principles of human rights on the occasion of the first anniversary of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice against Israel's Wall in the OPT;
- 9 July Launch, Palestinian civil society Call for Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS): The call was endorsed over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations and networks in Palestine and the exile. Addressed to organized civil society worldwide, it encompasses the rights and demands of three sectors of the Palestinian people: Palestinian refugees, Palestinians under occupation, Palestinian citizens of Israel. It was released via the internet and local press (Al Ayyam newspaper, full text, English and Arabic).
- Networking, Publicity and Recruitment for the Palestinian BDS Campaign: a series of meetings held in the period of September – December resulted in the formation of an Acting Steering Committee, evaluation of feedback to the BDS Call, preparation of joint advocacy materials (poster, brochure) and a 2006 program for local activation,

formation of a joint Palestinian delegation to attend the January 2006 World Social Forum in Bamako (Mali) and Caracas (Venezuela), as well as sustained networking and publicity locally and abroad. Local awareness-raising about the Campaign included presentations to the BADIL Board and General Assembly and the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) in the OPT.

■ Engage Jewish Israeli Civil Society on Palestinian Refugee Rights

Jewish Israeli society at large considers information coming from Palestinian NGOs as being inherently biased. BADIL therefore cooperates with and supports the efforts of Jewish Israeli initiatives which promote Nakba awareness, interest in the Palestinian refugee experience and refugee rights among the Jewish Israeli society.

Palestinian Nakba and Right-of-Return Awareness Raising: Regular coordination continued with the *Zochrot Association*. BADIL facilitated meetings between Zochrot and visiting international experts and delegations, featured reports about Zochrot activities in BADIL's Arabic and English language magazines, and attended the opening ceremony of the *Zochrot Nakba Information Center* in Tel Aviv (April).

BADIL accepted an invitation to the Conference, "Zionism between Ideology and Reality", organized by *The Campus Will Not Stay Silent and the Civil Forum at the Tel Aviv University* (30 – 31 May 2005). Nihad Boqa'i, coordinator, BADIL Research, Information and Legal Advocacy, presented an overview of current networks and debate on the question of Palestinian refugees and IDPs to an audience of 50-70 university students and staff, and Israeli peace activists.

BADIL provided logistic and financial support to a second Right of Return Conference in Israel held in Nazareth by ADRID, *Zochrot*, the *Emil Touma Institute* and *Ittijah* on 16 – 18 December. Following an earlier, 2004 conference in Haifa, the event provided a platform for debate and coordination among refugee and IDP rights activists in Israel and ensured continuity of civil society organizing. BADIL was represented at the conference by Nihad Boqa'i, coordinator, BADIL Research, Information and Legal Advocacy who presented an overview of the experience of the Palestinian right of return movement and BADIL's role in it.

In July, BADIL and Zochrot began consultation towards joint in-depth study courses for Palestinian and Jewish Israeli activists about a practical scenario of Palestinian refugee return to be launched in 2006. The course aims to build missing, rights-based expertise, in particular among Jewish Israeli society. BADIL will provide expert input, study materials and contacts to international experts in order to facilitate this in-depth learning effort. In this context, Hebrew and Arabic-language editions of the BADIL Working Paper-10: "Do Israeli Rights Conflict with the Palestinian Right of Return? Identifying the Possible Legal Arguments" (Michael Kagan) were prepared in 2005.

Public Campaign towards the 60th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (May 2008): Based on the proposal of BADIL, the Union of Youth Activity Centers-Palestine Refugee Camps (UYAC) and Zochrot, this initiative was adopted by a forum of nine Palestinian and Israeli NGOs, including *Bat Shalom* and the *New Profile*, meeting in the framework of a civil society advocacy forum supported by HECKS-EPER, Switzerland. The forum held several meetings in 2005, in order to explore ways and means in which organizations can contribute to this campaign from 2006 onwards.

Jewish Israeli engagement in the BDS Campaign: In 2005, several calls for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel were issued also by Jewish Israeli civil society organizations. Unlike the Palestinian civil society campaign, however, most of these initiatives tended to focus on the urgent need to end Israel's occupation and colonization of the 1967 OPT and did not include ending discrimination inside Israel and the right of return of Palestinian refugees among their explicit strategic objectives. Examples are a call by the *Israeli Committee against House Demolitions* (ICAHN) for selective boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel to end its occupation (www.icahd.org), and campaigns for boycott of Israeli settlement products and calls for sanctions and selective divestment issued by Gush Shalom (www.gush-shalom.org) and the *New Profile* (www.newprofile.org).



■ Garner Support among International Civil Society

Hosting Visitors, Consultation and Guidance: BADIL hosted more than 800 individuals and groups, including representatives of foreign missions, researchers and experts, journalists, international donors and partners, as well as fact finding and solidarity delegations. In addition, BADIL executive staff offered consultancy and briefings to visitors and civil society organizations abroad and undertook periodical shipments of its publications to core international partners. Upon request, BADIL reviewed policy papers and provided expert advice to several international civil society organizations, among them: Danchurch Aid (Lebanon Program); Danish Refugee Council; ICCO, Netherlands; Oxfam Solidarity, Belgium; Oxfam International; Palestine Action Platform, Belgium; the Swiss Human Rights Forum Palestine-Israel; and, the European Coordinating Committee of NGOs on Palestine (ECCP).

Participation in Advocacy Events Abroad: BADIL participated in advocacy-oriented events abroad which provided a platform for raising awareness of Palestinian refugee rights and the need to bring Israel into compliance with international law:

- 2005 World Social Forum (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 26 – 31 January 2005): BADIL (Ingrid Jaradat Gassner, director; Nihad Boqa'i, coordinator BADIL Research-Information-Legal Advocacy) participated as part of a Palestinian delegation formed by OPGAI, in order to raise awareness for Israel's ongoing colonization of Palestine and the need for a global campaign for boycott, divestment and sanctions. The delegation held workshops, disseminated print information, and participated in a three-day strategy and drafting workshop of the Anti-War Movement Assembly. The delegation made a substantial contribution to the the final statements issued by the *Assembly of Social Movements and the Anti-War Movement Assembly* which call for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law, including the right of return of Palestinian refugees. Evaluation of this first OPGAI



(and BADIL) experience with a World Social Forum affirmed the importance of collective Palestinian participation, recruitment of allies from regions beyond Europe and North America, and follow-up debate with civil society back home.

- Annual Event, "The Struggle of Palestinian Refugees" organized by the Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange (CEPAL) to launch the 2005 Overseas Summer Program (University of Ottawa, 31 May, and Concordia University, Montreal, 1 June 2005): Terry Rempel, senior researcher, BADIL, gave a key-note speech discussing BADIL's work with refugee grass-roots organizations and current issues facing Palestinian refugees.

■ Impact of BADIL Advocacy

- Many more civil society organizations active in the search for a just peace in the Middle East worldwide have adopted a rights-based approach to the Palestinian refugee question (see, for example, the final statements of the Assembly of Social Movements and the Anti-War Movement Assembly at the 2005 World Social Forum, and the 'Putraya Action Plan' adopted in March 2005 by 500 civil society activists from 24 countries). Many other civil society campaigns, in particular in Europe and North America, however, continue to fall short of adopting a consistent rights-based approach and fail to appropriately address the root-causes of the conflict (e.g., exclusive focus on the 1967 occupation and international humanitarian law at the expense of a historical context which includes the Nakba of 1948 and human rights law, leading to a misinterpretation of international law).
- By the end of 2005, respect of Palestinian refugees' right of return had been explicitly adopted by several Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions campaigns worldwide. Thus, for example, calls and campaigns with explicit reference to the Palestinian Civil Society BDS Call including the demand for the right of return were launched by:

Solidarity fora, organizations and networks, among them: *United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of Middle East Peace* (13 July 2005); ISM-France (www.ism-france.org); *Veterans for Peace* (6 August 2005, www.veteransforpeace.org); the November 2005 annual conference of Connecticut United For Peace (www.ctunitedforpeace.org); and, consumer boycott campaigns launched in

December by the *Palestine Solidarity Campaign UK* (www.palestinecampaign.org), the *Flamish Palestine Committee-VPK* (www.vlaampalestinakomitee.be), and the Quebec-based *Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine* composed of 20 organizations including two well established international NGOs active in the field of development cooperation (Entraide missionaire and SUCO), the Women's Federation of Quebec, the provincial union of CEGEP college teachers, the Jewish Alliance Against the Occupation, and PAJU-Palestinians and Jews United (www.cjpp.org).

Student organizations, staff and faculty members in numerous North American campuses, among them Harvard, Michigan, Wisconsin and the University of California, who had launched initiatives aimed to bring universities, colleges and communities to divest from Israel bonds and companies that do business with Israel, such as Caterpillar and Intel. Over 50 such initiatives were reported, many of them include the demand for the implementation of Palestinian refugees' right of return. (For examples, see www.al-awda.org).

Communities and Regional Councils: On 15 December the *Provincial Parliament of Sor-Trodelag*, Norway, voted in favor of a bill prohibiting the purchase and sale of Israeli goods in all municipalities of the province in order to bring about the end of Israel's apartheid regime. The bill was passed with the support of the ruling coalition composed of the Norwegian Labor Party, the Socialist Left Party, and the Center Party, as well as the Christian Democratic Party (see: www.al-awda.org).

Political Parties and Unions: On 21 November 2005, the *Green Party of the United States* endorsed a resolution for a comprehensive strategy of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel based on the Palestinian Civil Society BDS Call (www.gp.org/press/pr_2005_11_28.shtml). The *Norwegian Socialist Left Party*, a member of the center-left Norwegian government announced in December 2005 that it will launch a Palestine solidarity campaign in 2006 in line with the Palestinian Civil Society BDS Call. The campaign will focus on a boycott of Israeli goods and will push for a ban on arms trade between Norway and Israel. An announcement to the press in this regard was made by the Norwegian Minister of Finance, a member of the Socialist Left Party, in the first days of January 2006 (www.stopthewall.org).



فلسطين

مصطفى

منتخب

الكتاب النكبة ٥٠
The Nakba at 50

إما العودة أو العودة
It's either return or return

العودة
إمام علي
النكبة

3. Information & Media Campaign 2005

Implementation: Modification and Achievements

This Information and Media Campaign is a new project launched in 2005 in order to increase outreach and impact of BADIL information and concerted civil society advocacy campaigns. It is implemented jointly by the two BADIL program units. In 2005, BADIL undertook to recruit two professional media staff. BADIL Media-Arabic was staffed in the first half of the year, recruitment for BADIL Media-English was completed in October, and the project will become fully operative in January 2006.

3.1 Produce Information and Advocacy Tools

Indicators for Success 2005-2007: Timely production of BADIL Arabic and English language magazines (Haq al-Awda, 6 issues annually; al-Majdal, 4 issues annually) and advocacy tools.

■ Haq al-Awda (ISSN: 1814-9782)

BADIL Arabic-language bi-monthly magazine, Vol. III; issues no. 9-14

Circulation: 50,000

Editors: Muhammad Jaradat and Nihad Boga'zi, BADIL

www.badil.org/Arabic-Web/haq-alawda/haq-alawda.htm



Issue no. 9 (24 pages, February 2005) included a feature about UNRWA and reports from the 2005 World Social Forum, the Palestinian struggle over land rights in the Naqab (Negev), refugee voices directed at the new PA president/PLO chairman Abu Mazen, and a literary account of the Palestinian struggle by author and performer Salman Natour.



Issue no. 10/11 (36 pages, May 2005) was published as a special double issue on the occasion of the anniversary of the Nakba in May. 30 Palestinian writers from Palestine and in exile - politicians, journalists, authors and community activists - contributed views and analysis of the Palestinian struggle for their land and refugees' right of return, past, present and future.

Issue no. 12 (24 pages, July 2005) was dedicated to the debate of local integration and resettlement as forced or voluntary solutions along with – or as a substitute for – implementation of Palestinian refugees' right of return to homes and properties in Israel.

Issue no. 13/14 (36 pages, October 2005) captured the current Palestinian debate about perspectives and constraints of a two-state vs. a one-state solution of the protracted conflict with Israel, in particular in the light of the unfulfilled rights and claims of Palestinian refugees. The issue



also includes reports from Gaza Strip refugee camps following Israel's unilateral disengagement; and eye-witness account of the 1982 massacre of Palestinians and Lebanese citizens in Sabra and Shatila, Beirut; analysis of the current situation of Palestinian refugees in light of the political changes in Lebanon; and, a summary of the UN Guidelines on Refugee Housing and Property Restitution approved by the UN Human Rights Subcommittee in August 2005.

Issue no. 15 is scheduled for release in January 2006.



The magazine was produced by BADIL staff writers and editors. Numerous voluntary contributors of articles were recruited from among a broad spectrum of Palestinian writers, journalists, politicians and community activists from both sides of the 'green line' and the exile, as well as international activists and academics. Design and printing were handled externally by *Al-Ayyam* Publishers, Ramallah. Postive feedback to the magazine was received at the 6th Annual Meeting, Palestine Right of Return Coalition. Delegates proposed to establish a permanent section in the magazine reserved for activity reports and updates contributed by members of the Coalition in exile. This proposal was approved by BADIL and integrated into the editorial work plan for 2006.

■ **al-majdal** (ISSN 1726-7277)

BADIL English-language quarterly; Vol. VII, issue no. 25–28

Circulation: 1,200.

Editorial Team: Terry Rempel (editor), Karine Mac Allister, Nihad Boqa'i, Muhammad Jaradat, Ingrid Jaradat Gassner assisted by an Advisory Board.

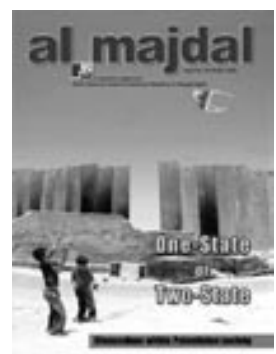
www.badil.org/al-Majdal/al-Majdal.htm

Issue 25 (Spring 2005, 64 pages) was released in May and focused on the impact on Palestinian displacement of Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip and the international community's disengagement from peacemaking.

Issue 26 (Summer 2005, 68 pages) covered local and international efforts at building a campaign for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law. It also included a special supplement about the 57th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba.

Issue 27 (Autumn 2005, 78 pages) revisited the Palestinian right to housing and property restitution in the context of Israel's Gaza disengagement, other restitution campaigns and new legal instruments (UN Principles on refugee housing and property restitution).

Issue 28 (Winter 2005, 58 pages), forthcoming, reflects the current Palestinian debate about perspectives and constraints of a two-state vs. a one-state vision for the Palestinian struggle for freedom and a just solution to the protracted conflict with Israel (see *Haq al-Awda* no 13/14). The issue also includes commentary in light of the January 2006 PLC elections and reports tackling current issues of forced displacement and dispossession.



A variety of guest writers contributed to *al-majdal*. Advocacy-relevant documents issued by official and civil-society actors were included in a special document section. Production time was reduced by article-sharing with the Arabic-language magazine and external design by *Al-Ayyam* Publishers.

■ Advocacy Tools



- Poster, stickers and banners for the 2005 Nakba memorial: 60,000 posters and 60,000 stickers were disseminated to all members of the Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition and local community organizations. 15 large banners were placed in central locations in West Bank towns.

- BADIL Calendar 2006: a photo calendar illustrating Palestinian displacement and dispossession and the quest for freedom in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (photographs by Nathalie Bardou, BADIL intern, 2005). 2,000 copies were disseminated in December among local and international partners and sold upon order.



- Basic advocacy tools, Palestinian Campaign for Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions BADIL contribution to production and costs of 10,000 posters and information brochures for the 2005/6 Palestinian civil society advocacy campaign.



- A'idun ila Kufr Bir'im (Returning to Bir'im, Arabic, 116 pages): A guide to community-

based right of return advocacy and campaigning for displaced Palestinian communities based on the example of the Kufr Bir'im displaced. The booklet includes an overview of more than 50 years of struggle for return by legal and political means, public awareness-raising and creative action in the field of arts and culture, which have maintained a direct link between the displaced community and their village of origin. The struggle of the Bir'im displaced is illustrated with maps, documents, a return plan presented to the Knesset and Israeli governments in the 1990s and personal testimonies.



3.2 Develop and Implement a Professional Media-Information Outreach Strategy

Indicators for Success 2005-2007: A mechanism for wide distribution of BADIL publications is in place; publications are available in book stores worldwide; a promotion campaign for *al-Majdal* magazine results in at least 50 new subscriptions; BADIL employs new means of publicity; publications and campaigns are reported by mainstream media and in relevant journals and magazines (at least three reports per publication).

■ Improve BADIL information outreach and dissemination

The launch of systematic efforts towards a new media-outreach strategy were postponed to 2006, when this project will be fully operative. In the meantime, BADIL publications and information were distributed/sold according to past practice, i.e. among visiting delegations and individuals, at public events, and in response to advertisement via email. In addition, hundreds of publications were shipped for free to core partners worldwide. Some technical problems with dissemination could be resolved in the course of 2005.

Distribution, BADIL Magazines

- Haq al-Awda: A total of 50,000 copies per issue continued to be distributed as: supplement to the Palestinian dailies *Al-Ayyam* (1967 OPT) and *Itihad* (1948 Palestine/Israel); via

direct delivery upon order to Palestinian refugee community organizations; and as shipments to members of the Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Europe and North America. Negotiations about possible distribution of the magazine by the *al-Safir* daily in Lebanon progressed in 2005 and are expected to be completed in next year.

- Al-Majdal: Technical problems with BADIL's subscriber database caused by the 2005 re-configuration of the office computer system were resolved in the second half of the year. The magazine was distributed to 615 subscribers (2004: 600 subscribers), however only some 10% of them were paying subscribers. Release of issue no. 26 (Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions) triggered an un-planned promotion campaign. Requests for hundreds of issues were received from numerous solidarity groups worldwide and resulted of the second re-print (1,000 copies) of the magazine. A worldwide list of academic institutions was prepared for use in a systematic promotion campaign in 2006.
- Other BADIL publications: major research publications (2003 Survey, Handbook on Palestinian refugee protection; some 500 copies each) were promoted via a worldwide mailing list of academic institutions, think tanks and policy makers.

On-Line Purchase of BADIL Publications:

An internet purchase program (PayPal) was installed on the BADIL website in September and over 20 orders for BADIL publications had been received by the end of the year.

Dissemination via external distributors:

Investigation of available external distribution mechanisms has not yet lead to conclusive results regarding their benefit for BADIL.

BADIL Website (www.badil.org):



The BADIL website, Arabic and English, was visited by 21,879 new visitors (annual number of new visitors in 2002: 16,000; 2003: 20,409; 2004: 21,406). The total number of visitors to the BADIL site since November 1999 is 110,534. This number does not include repeat visits. A website re-design completed in 2004 proved not completely satisfactory. BADIL therefore recruited the help of an external professional web-designer for additional improvements which have yet to be completed. In-house web-maintenance, moreover, will require training of the technical support staff in use of new software.

Press Releases (www.badil.org/Publications/Press/pressmainindex.htm)

BADIL issued 33 press releases in English and 22 in Arabic via its general email list. Until September, BADIL general email lists were operated as external listserves (badil-english: 1,311 subscribers; badil-arabic: 256 subscribers). In September, BADIL lists with the external operator were destroyed by hackers. They were partially replaced by new, in-house operated lists which will remain in use until a new mechanism is established by the BADIL media officers in 2006.

■ Engage the Public and Media with New Means of Publicity

BADIL - MA'AN TV-Campaign to Commemorate the 57th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (28 April – 18 May): Preparations for the fourth annual TV campaign were started early, but local TV time was difficult to obtain due to coinciding Palestinian municipal elections. Five video spots and 16 documentary films were broadcast daily by 10 West Bank TV stations members of the MA'AN network in order to raise public awareness of the anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba. For the first time in four years, however, the BADIL-MA'AN Campaign had to compete for audience with the official Palestinian TV and all Arab satellite TV stations all of which featured reports and documentaries about the Nakba in the first half of May. BADIL considers this a major step forward and may therefore replace this local TV media campaign with new means of publicity for the next Nakba memorial in 2006.

Paid Press Advertisement:

- Advertisement, BADIL publications in *Ayyam al-Kītab*, a periodical supplement of the Al-Ayyam daily for the promotion of books and studies published in Palestine. The BADIL advertisement included a one-page summary of current publications and order/subscription information.
- Palestinian Civil Society Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel, Arabic and English reprint of text and signatories, al-Ayyam daily, 9 July.

Geneva Press Conference, Release of “Ruling Palestine” (COHRE-BADIL, 11May): the joint COHRE-BADIL study on Israeli land laws employed for the confiscation of Palestinian land since 1948 was released at a press conference organized in Geneva by COHRE. This experience showed that international, Arab, and even local Palestinian media are more interested in reporting information coming from a major European city than from the OPT. BADIL will therefore consider this option also for the release of future BADIL publications.

■ Assessment of Outreach of BADIL Information

- In 2005, BADIL Arabic language press releases and statements of the Palestine Right of Return Coalition and the Palestinian BDS Campaign were reported by the local Palestinian press. Arabic and English language press releases continued to be published on the websites of local and international NGOs and non-official media outlets, such as the Palestine Monitor, the Palestinian Media Center, WAFA, Electronic Intifada, the Arab Media Watch, and the Israeli alef discussion list, as well as on the UN ReliefWeb. A “Google search” of “BADIL refugees” in November showed 38,900 references (English; June: 13,700 references) and some 10,000 (Arabic; June: 5,000).
- “Ruling Palestine”, a joint COHRE-BADIL study released in Geneva was reported more extensively than any other BADIL publication. It received coverage in at least five languages (English, Arabic, Spanish, French and Portuguese) and was reported in several radio and TV news bulletins, among them Radio Vatican, Radio Orient, BBC Arabic Service, Swiss TV TSR, and the Iranian National TV. News stories about the study were reported in at least 32 Arab and international press media and websites, among them Al-Jazeera; Daily Star, Beirut; Al-Quds, London; the Palestinian Government Press Service; the Electronic Intifada; and, the UN Reliefweb.
- BADIL executive staff gave some ten TV and radio interviews, including one interview with the Canadian Parliamentary TV Channel (CPAC) in June; an interview with BADIL about the Palestinian Call for BDS was published by Reuters in July.
- Several articles of the special Nakba memorial issue of Haq al-Awda were republished by the local Palestinian press on May 15 and 16.. One press release was partially reproduced with explicit reference to BADIL by the Israeli daily, The Jerusalem Post (“PA to sound siren on 'Nakba Day'”, Khaled Abu Toameh, The Jerusalem Post, 11 May 2005).

In general, however, BADIL outreach to and impact on the media/public opinion remain difficult to document and assess. Successful promotion of the issue of Palestinian refugee rights often requires that information and advocacy messages are conveyed by a collective, or – in the case of Israel – mediated by Jewish Israeli partners. We consider the success of such collective or mediated advocacy efforts also a success of BADIL, even if the media makes no explicit reference to the organization. The extensive and unprecedented coverage of the 2005 Nakba anniversary by mainstream Israeli, Arab and some international media serves as an example for this case.

Rights Based Approach

- 1) Preventing / challenging **violations** of human rights and humanitarian law

Implementing the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ: Preventing and
Enforcing Rights through International Law - Jeff Handmaker

4. Research and Legal Advocacy 2005

Implementation: Adaptation and Achievements

BADIL research and legal advocacy serves to support the community-based campaign for the inclusion of Palestinian refugees and respect of their rights under international law in all local and international peace efforts. Research and legal advocacy were undertaken by a small staff team assisted by the director, interns and external consultants, in particular experts members of the BADIL *Legal Support Network*.

4.1 Increase Support among Human Rights Professionals and Policy Makers of a Rights-based Approach to the Palestinian Refugee Issue.

Indicators for Success 2005 – 2007: Innovative research and legal analysis are produced; the BADIL-Legal Support Network is active and attracts new members; dialogue about the improvement of international protection and support of rights-based durable solutions for Palestinian refugees with relevant international organizations and policy makers is sustained.

■ Production of Research and Legal Analysis

Three major studies/research reports were released:

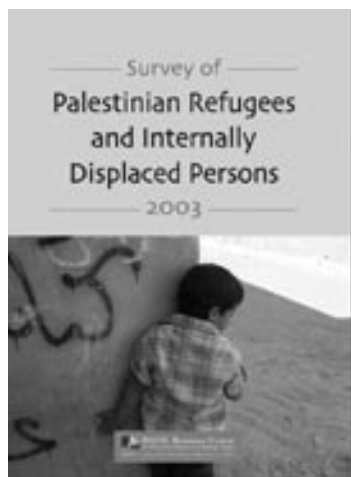
Annual Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

2003 Survey (198 pages)

ISSN: 1728-1679

Editors: Terry Rempel and Nihad Boqa'i

Publisher: BADIL (English and Arabic)



Annual BADIL Surveys (English and Arabic) aim to provide comprehensive and updated data and analysis about Palestinian refugees and IDPs for academic researchers, human rights activists, journalists and policy makers. Information is gathered from published and unpublished research produced each year and presented in six chapters (historical overview, population, living conditions, assistance, protection, durable solutions).

Compilation of information updates for the 2004 Survey was completed. In order that the release of future Surveys will coincide with the anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba in May, BADIL decided to publish a double-issue covering 2004-5 in May 2006.

Ruling Palestine: A History of the Legally Sanctioned Jewish-Israeli Seizure of Land and Housing in Palestine

ISBN: 92-95004-29-9

Author: Su'ad Dajani

Reviewed by: Mayra Gomez (COHRE), Terry Rempel (BADIL), Jeff Handmaker (Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University)

Editor: Rob Stuart (COHRE)

Publisher: COHRE and BADIL (English, 244 pages)



A resource book on Israeli laws and military regulations used for the seizure and confiscation of Palestinian land in Israel and the OPT. The study shows how the Zionist leadership pre-1948 and successive Israeli governments have manipulated Ottoman and British laws and the Israeli legal system to build a domestic legal regime which discriminates against Palestinian land rights and precludes restitution of Palestinian land owners. The study was commissioned by COHRE. BADIL was asked to join editing and publishing in the final stage.

The study was released as a joint COHRE-BADIL publication in May 2005 and electronic copies were published on the respective websites. Print copies (printed in Palestine) were published in September for dissemination by both partner organizations.

Closing Protection Gaps, Handbook on Protection of Palestinian Refugees in States Signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention

ISBN: 9950-339-00-6

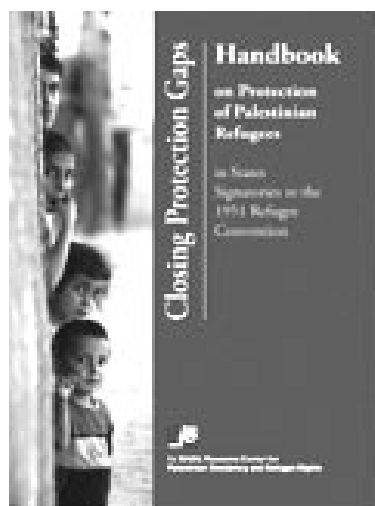
Lead author: Elna Sondergaard, legal consultant;

Editorial team: Susan Akram (Boston University School of Law), Birgitta Elfstrom (Swedish Migration Board), Lex Takkenberg (Director of UNRWA Affairs, Syrian Republic Field Office), Ty S. Wahab Twibell (McCrummen Immigration Law Group), and Ingrid Jaradat Gassner, Terry Rempel, Karine Mac Allister (BADIL)

Copy editor: Helen Moffett (freelance editor, South Africa);

Preface: Guy Goodwin-Gill, University of Oxford

Publisher: BADIL (English, 488 pages)



The *Handbook* is a practical guide for refugee experts, lawyers, judges, UNHCR staff and national authorities. It provides an overview of the case of Palestinian refugees under international law and promotes interpretations of the 1951 Refugee Convention as advanced by UNHCR and Prof. Susan Akram, Boston University School of Law. The Handbook aims to provide guidance towards better protection for Palestinian refugees in non-Arab host countries while preserving their right of return, restitution and compensation in the framework of durable solutions. It includes a survey of current law, practice and gaps regarding Palestinian refugee protection in 23 non-Arab countries of Europe, North America, Australia-New Zealand, Central and South America and Asia based on research conducted in 2003-4. UNRWA and UNHCR as well as numerous practitioners of refugee law contributed to this

research. Initial findings were presented to the 3rd BADIL Expert Forum (Cairo, March 2004). A draft manuscript was reviewed by the editorial team in Geneva in October and completed in December 2004. External copy editing was completed and additional expert feedback included in 2005. The Handbook was released in August and presented to the professional NGO community during the 2005 pre-UNHCR Excom NGO Consultations, Geneva, 27 – 29 September.

Additional research published:

Legal Papers, Working Papers

www.badil.org/Publications/Legal_Papers/L_Papers.htm

Legal Papers serve to promote Palestinian refugee rights among the expert community, policy makers and international organizations. They include detailed legal analysis of core issues of the Palestinian refugee question with extensive references (scope: 50-80 pages). *Working Papers* are similar but smaller in scope. Papers are published on the BADIL website. Papers of strategic value to the BADIL program are also published in print format. Special emphasis is given to publication of expert papers in Arabic due to the scarcity of up-to-date Arabic-language legal resources on key aspects of the refugee issue. Papers which can serve to advance the debate about rights-based solutions among the Jewish-Israeli public are published in Hebrew.

Mapping Current Israeli Boycott-Divestment-Sanction Initiatives

Author: Victor Kattan, consultant (director, Arab Media Watch)

Electronic copy, 114 pages, English.

Advocacy support research completed and released in May as electronic copy for limited circulation among partners engaged in strategizing for Israel boycott, divestment and sanction campaigns.

Working Paper-10, Do Israeli Rights Conflict with the Palestinian Right of Return?

(ISSN 1728-1660)

Author: Michael Kagan, consultant (NY State Bar)

Print publication; English, Arabic, Hebrew (28 pages)



a legal analysis of conflicting rights aimed at encouraging international law-based debate of Palestinian return and restitution rights with Jewish Israeli legal scholars and activists.

Comparative Analysis of Citizenship Law

a research paper written by Victor Kattan (TOKTEN consultant with BADILin 2003-2004) was published by the author in the *Nordic Journal of International Law* 74, 2005.

Additional research in various stages of production:

Lubya – a Palestinian Village in the Middle East (working title)

Author: Mahmoud Issa

Preface: Ilan Pappé

Editor: Terry Rempel, BADIL

Publisher, Danish edition: Tiderne Skifter, Copenhagen (2005)

Publisher, English, Arabic and Hebrew edition: BADIL

Production: Andalus Publishers

An oral history study: life in the Palestinian village of Lubya (Tiberias district), resistance against dispossession by Zionist and British Mandate policies, forced eviction in the Nakba of 1948, flight and lives of Lubyans in exile are described based on archived documentation and hundreds of interviews conducted by the author in the Middle East and Europe. The approximately 250-page study presents the story of Lubya as told by its inhabitants based on their memories and tainted by the experience of exile. It aims to serve as a tool for raising awareness of the 1948 Palestinian Nakba, exile, hopes and rights of Palestinian refugees among a variety of publics. The book will also accompany an ethnographic exhibition of pre-1948 Palestinian village life to open in Denmark in 2006/7.

Production of all three language editions is undertaken by Andalus Publishers and the study is scheduled for release in 2006.

Edited collection of Working Papers from the 2003-4 BADIL Expert Forum for the Promotion of a Rights-based Approach to the Palestinian Refugee Question (working title)

Editor: Terry Rempel, consultant (former senior researcher, BADIL)

Working papers were updated by the authors in 2005, and the collection is scheduled for release in 2006.

Handbook on Durable Solutions for Palestinian Refugees (working title)

Author: Terry Rempel, consultant (former senior researcher, BADIL)

Comparative research of refugee return and housing and property restitution in peace processes worldwide and materials gathered in this context have served as a database for BADIL publications since 2000. Draft research reports were revised several times as BADIL received valuable input from expert partners. In 2004, BADIL decided to publish the findings of this comparative research as a Handbook on durable solutions to accompany the *Handbook on Palestinian Protection of Palestinian Refugees* (2005). Additional research is required for this purpose, and publication is scheduled for 2007.

Information and Discussion Briefs

www.badil.org/Publications/Briefs/I&D_Briefs.htm

A series of briefs launched in 2000 to enhance public debate about ways to promote Palestinian refugee rights. *Briefs* are written and design as easy-to-read booklets (24 pages) for activists. A series of three *Briefs* was dedicated to analysis of the rights, under international law, of especially vulnerable sectors of Palestinian refugees, i.e. internally displaced Palestinians (Brief no. 9/2003), refugee children (Brief no. 10/2004) and refugee women (Brief no. 11).

Brief 10, *Palestinian Refugee Children, International Protection and Durable Solutions*. Renata Capella, BADIL research consultant) was completed in 2004 in form of a larger research paper (50 pages). A shortened and updated *Brief* is scheduled for release in 2006.

Brief 11, 'Palestinian Refugee Women, International Protection and Durable Solutions'. (working title): basic research was completed by interns in the past. Additional research assistance will be sought in 2006 for finalization and publication.

■ Activation and Expansion of the BADIL Legal Support Network (LSN)

Some two-thirds of the 83 network members were actively involved in BADIL's program throughout 2005 as authors of legal analysis and working papers, advocacy and legal advisors, resource persons, and as representatives of BADIL at expert meetings abroad. Two LSN members (Jeff Handmaker, Reahamba Advice; Scott Leckie, executive director, COHRE) served as international expert speakers in public workshops and debates organized by BADIL with the local community in Palestine. An annual membership update was undertaken in June, and 13 additional experts and core activist partners joined BADIL-LSN in the course of 2005.

The 4th BADIL-LSN annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 6th annual meeting, Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition in Vlaardingen, Netherlands, on 24–27 November. The meeting was hosted by the Palestinian community in Vlaardingen and ICCO. 16 LSN members, in addition to BADIL staff, jointly reviewed achievements and obstacles to BADIL legal research and advocacy and assessed project implementation. Strategic advice included recommendations to: maintain BADIL efforts for rights-based durable solutions for Palestinian refugees and IDPs; increase efforts at monitoring and documentation of ongoing forced displacement and dispossession in the OPT; promote existing BADIL analysis relevant to refugee protection; and, to abstain from further development of macro-strategies for Palestinian refugee protection in the Arab world, where



the scope of political obstacles is too big to justify investment of the scarce BADIL resources. A 2006 plan of action was drafted on this basis, and strategic advocacy campaigns (Towards the 60th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba 2008, BDS Campaign) were debated in a session held jointly with the *Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition*.

■ **Strengthen Dialogue and cooperation with International Organizations, Human Rights Experts and Policy Makers**

BADIL consulted, briefed, and/or organized field visits for staff of UN agencies and independent experts, among them:

- regular consultation with UNHCR-CASWANAME, UNHCR-DIP and UNRWA Policy and Legal Department (focus: improvement of international protection, rights-based durable solutions for Palestinian refugees);
- UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the 1967 OPT, Prof. John Dugard, OHCHR-Ramallah, and Prof. Cees Flinterman, University of Utrecht (focus: current situation of Palestinian refugees in the OPT, new displacement caused by Israel's Wall and protection needs);
- UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Hila Jilani (fact finding mission, October);
- Fact finding visits and meetings with Palestinian refugees in the OPT, internally displaced Palestinians and the Zochrot Association in Israel were organized for Jeff Handmaker, Reahamba Advice (14 – 24 March) and Scott Leckie and Fionn Skiotis of COHRE (30 April – 7 May).

BADIL assisted in drafting of the UN Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons (Pinheiro Principles) adopted by the UN Human Rights Subcommission in August 2005: Prof. George Bisharat participated, on behalf of BADIL in an expert drafting seminar organized at Brown University by COHRE, UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (21-22 April). BADIL staff commented on draft language and followed up with the lead expert, UN Special Rapporteur Paulo Sergio Pinheiro during his visit to Palestine (Jerusalem, 4 July).

BADIL initiated/facilitated professional NGO dialogue towards a common advocacy strategy for the promotion of Palestinian refugee protection and rights-based durable solutions:

- Consultation about a common and effective NGO advocacy strategy for enhancing protection and the right of return was launched in a series of bilateral and collective meetings with human rights NGOs working in Arab host countries (AMERA, Amnesty International, AUC-Forced Migration Studies Program, Danish Refugee Council-Lebanon, Frontiers Center) and resulted in a joint side-meeting on gaps in international protection of Palestinian refugees at the 2005 UNHCR NGO Consultations in Geneva in September (see below).
- Consultation was begun with the Norwegian Refugee Council about a possible joint NRC-BADIL pilot project in 2006 which will document forced displacement caused by Israel's wall in the OPT.

BADIL contributed to professional journals and conferences:

- Editorial planning meeting for the *Forced Migration Review* magazine, organized in Cairo by the Center for Refugee Studies, University of Oxford, 16 April 2005 (Nihad Boqa'i, coordinator, BADIL Research, Information & Legal Advocacy);
- Preparatory committee for an international law conference on the conflict in Palestine-Israel to be held at Exeter University in 2006 (Terry Rempel, BADIL senior researcher);
- Essay on Israel's family reunification policy regarding Palestinians in Israel and the OPT contributed to the forthcoming Encyclopedia of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Lynne Rienner Publishers (Ingrid Jaradat Gassner, BADIL director);
- Editorial assistance, Atlas of Palestine 1948, Salman Abu Sitta, Palestine Land Society (Terry Rempel, senior researcher, BADIL).

BADIL dialogue and coordination with the PLO and PA was maintained by means of briefing meetings held with the Palestinian Mission in Geneva (May, September) and the Refugee Coordination Group (DORA, NSU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in Ramallah (May), as well as regular coordination with legal staff of the NSU.

4.2 Undertake Professional Advocacy and Lobbying for a Stronger Role of International Law

Indicators for Success 2005–2007: advocacy and lobbying among the UN system, international organizations, NGOs and policy makers result in statements, resolutions and legal instruments which strengthen international law applicable to Palestinian refugees; Palestinian, Arab and international NGOs cooperate with UN agencies to make international law relevant for Palestinian refugees.



Workshop, "Beyond the ICJ Ruling" (BADIL, 2005)

■ Advocate and Lobby in the UN System

A parallel report to the official report by the state of Israel was submitted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in May for consideration in the July 2005 session. The BADIL report focused on Israel's violations against the protected rights of Palestinian internally displaced and refugee women who are defined as a vulnerable population by the Covenant. The Committee in its final report, however, failed to issue relevant recommendations.

BADIL complaint under the OHCHR 1503 procedure, “Petition on Massive Expropriation of Palestinian Land by the State of Israel”, was completed in April for joint submission by BADIL and COHRE in May. The petition featured the Committee of the Bir'im Uprooted and the Bedouin Community of Arab es-Subeih/Arab al-Shibli, Israel, as petitioners. Israeli laws and policies used to expropriate/confiscate their land are explained and analyzed under international law. Recommendations to the HR Commission focus on the need to declare these Israeli laws and practices as illegal under international law and affirm the petitioners' right to housing and property restitution. BADIL staff, BADIL-LSN members and consultants contributed to the timely completion of this project. The petition, however, was not processed for the 2005 cycle by the OHCHR for reasons which have remained unclear, and BADIL decided to use of analysis and testimonies for other advocacy purposes.

Additional BADIL submissions to UN fora included:

- Report on “The Ongoing Violation of the Fundamental Rights of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the 1967 OPT” to the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories for the 26 June – 7 July session;
- Contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on global efforts for the total elimination of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
- Preliminary report on available statistical data regarding a new category of Palestinian IDPs created as a result of Israel's illegal Wall in the OPT to UN SR John Dugard.
- Contribution to a joint NGO parallel report to the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) was launched in the summer with the help of a legal intern and completed at the end of the year. BADIL asks CERD to affirm the discriminatory character of Israel's land regime and Palestinians' right to housing and property restitution. The CERD review of Israel's official report was initially scheduled for February but subsequently postponed to August 2006. The joint NGO parallel report is coordinated by HIC.

BADIL advocacy at the 2005 UNHCR NGO Consultations (Geneva, 27–29 September)

- Public launch of the new BADIL *Handbook on Protection of Palestinian Refugees* in a side-meeting held during the 2005 pre-UNHCR Excom NGO Consultations: The Handbook was received with much interest and support by UNHCR, UNRWA and the NGO community. Some 50 complementary copies were disseminated and numerous orders were received from the participants.
- The side-meeting, co-organized with Amnesty International, AMERA, AUC-Forced Migration Studies Program and the Frontiers Center-Lebanon represented the first event dedicated to Palestinian refugee protection ever held in the framework of annual UNHCR NGO Consultations. Speakers were NGO representatives, Anja Klug, senior legal officer of UNHCR Department for International Protection, and Radhouane Nouicer, Deputy Director, UNHCR-CASWANAME who emphasized the right of Palestinian refugees to both protection and the right to return to their homes and properties.
- Contribution to the joint ICVA-coordinated NGO Statement to the official, state-level UNHCR *Excom* meeting following the NGO Consultations: since 2004, the joint NGO statement has featured a special paragraph on Palestinian refugees which reflects heightened NGO awareness of their special protection needs. Additional draft language for the 2005 NGO statement on the obligation of states to ensure respect Palestinian refugees' right of

return, however, was omitted for lack of consensus. The paragraph in the final 2005 NGO statement thus reads:

"We would like to draw the Executive Committee's attention to the unique position of forcibly displaced Palestinians. Millions of Palestinians fall into a gap with no access to any form of international protection. In this regard, we call on all actors to redouble their efforts at addressing this gap for Palestinian refugees. UNHCR, governments and other UN agencies should ensure Palestinian refugees' protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention in light of the inclusion clause of Article 1D. Of continuing concern is the lack of protection provided to Palestinians under UNRWA's mandate, as well as those new IDPs created by the destruction of refugee camps and the illegal wall under construction."

■ **Advocacy and Lobbying among International Academia, Policy Makers and Professional NGO Fora**

BADIL advocated for a rights-based approach to the Palestinian refugee question in:

- Hearing with the *Canadian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade* (Terry Rempel, senior researcher; June);
- Presentation of BADIL's *Handbook on Protection of Palestinian Refugees* to the annual meeting of the *European Council for Refugees and Exiles* (ECRE), Geneva, 1-3 October (Karine Mac Allister, assistant, Research and Legal Advocacy);
- Presentation on the legal status of Palestinian refugees in the OPT to the international conference on *Protection of Palestinian Refugees in Host Countries* organized by Aidun-Syria and sponsored by GAPAR in Damascus (Karine Mac Allister, assistant, Research and Legal Advocacy; 12–14 December).

■ **Impact of BADIL Legal Advocacy**

Both, the BADIL Handbook and the 2005 UN *Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons*, represent important new tools for strengthening Palestinian refugees' protection and durable solution rights under international law. Their impact on the practice of states, courts and international agencies remains to be assessed at a later stage.

In general, no significant action was taken in 2005 by the international community, including the UN, in order to affirm and enforce the rights of Palestinian refugees under international law. In fact, the international community, involved in diplomacy around the increasingly out-dated "Road Map" and in UN reform, abstained from tackling any of the core issues of the protracted conflict, including the ongoing colonization of Palestinian land by Israel in the OPT and new forced displacement and dispossession of the Palestinian people. The international community failed to take action based on the 2004 ICJ decision on Israel's Wall, and the UN Register of losses and damages caused has not yet been established. In this context, it may not come as a surprise that not only the advocacy efforts of local NGOs like BADIL, but also the carefully drafted and alarming reports issued by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the OP, have remained widely ignored.

4.3 Documentation, Archiving and Library Development:

Indicators of Success 2005–2007: BADIL annual reports are produced timely; the BADIL library includes all major resources in English and Arabic, press archives and photo archives are in place, and materials are accessible for the public; permanent library space and maintenance in place.

■ **BADIL Annual Reports**

www.badil.org/BADIL/Annual-Reports/

Print copies of the combined English-Arabic language 2004 annual report were released in the summer of 2005.



■ Library and Archives Development

Additional library space became available after the BADIL office move in June 2004, and the library was set up in a temporary and low-cost format. BADIL's research library is currently composed of more than 400 items – books, journals, historical documents and maps on the Palestinian refugee question (approximately two thirds of the available resources) - and related legal and political theory (approximately one third) published world-wide in English or Arabic. The BADIL research library is currently used mainly by BADIL staff as well as occasional local students and researchers. The library is located in BADIL's multi-activity hall which may cause damage to historical books and documents in the long term:

- BADIL purchased some 100 new resources in the field of law, political science and history.
- A comprehensive inventory of BADIL archives was completed.
- Progress was made towards construction of electronic BADIL photo archives, archives of oral history interviews collected by BADIL and community partners, and a library catalogue (in progress);
- Professional set-up and management of the BADIL library will require additional funding and librarian assistance. No such funding was available in 2005.

We Will Return

عائدون

2005

لجنة إحياء ذكرى النكبة ٥٧ - فلسطين

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Part Four:

Financial **Audit Report** 2005

BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

Auditors' Report & Financial Statements

December 31, 2005

With comparative figures for 2004

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Jerusalem
20 March 2006

To The Board of Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
Bethlehem

Auditors' Report

We have audited the Balance Sheet of *Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights* as of *31 December 2005* and the related Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets and of cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the institute's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with *International Standards on Auditing*. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of *Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights* as of *31 December 2005*, the results of its operations and changes in its Net Assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards.



Deloitte Touche Middle East
Peter Husarry
Certified Public Accountant

Badil Resource Center
Balance Sheet
As of 31 December 2005
With comparative figures for 2004

	Note	2005 EURO	2004 EURO
Assets			
Cash on hand and deposits with banks	3	83,535	16,100
Deposit Restricted for Staff Benefits	3	46,556	15,255
Office furniture, equipment net of accumulated depreciation	4	130,415	139,898
Total Assets		260,506	171,253
Liabilities and net Assets			
Liabilities:			
Payables and Accruals		5,225	25,660
Loans Payable		10,685	20,089
Reserve for Staff Benefits	5	57,174	15,255
Total Liabilities		73,084	61,004
Net Assets:			
Unrestricted / (Operating Deficit)		(26,834)	(47,168)
Temporary restricted		83,841	17,520
Investment in Fixed Assets and Building		130,415	139,898
Total Net Assets (Statement-B)		187,422	110,250
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		260,506	171,253



Chairman of Board



General Director

See Notes to Financial Statements

Badil Resource Center
Statement of Activities
Year Ended 31 December 2005
With Comparative Figures for 2004

	Note	2005			2004
		Temporary			
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
		EURO	EURO	EURO	EURO
Grants and Revenues:					
Grants	6		438,494	438,494	407,281
Other income		9,054	-	9,054	1,653
Total grants and revenues		9,054	438,494	447,548	408,934
Net assets released from restriction		372,173	(372,173)	-	-
Total Grants and Revenues		381,227	66,321	447,548	408,934
Administrative and Program Expenses:					
Administration and Management Reform		73,638		73,638	21,453
Campaign for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights		101,335		101,335	113,124
Resource and Legal Unit		158,708		158,708	177,221
	7	333,681	0	333,681	311,798
Provision for Severance pay and provident fund		38,492		38,492	19,695
Depreciation		11,579		11,579	8,455
Total expenses		383,752	0	383,752	339,948
Difference of currency (gain)		(1,104)	-	(1,104)	
		382,648	0	382,648	339,948
Net excess for the year		(1,421)	66,321	64,900	68,986
Net assets at the beginning of the year		(47,168)	17,520	(29,648)	41,264
Adjustment of loan Payable as of December 2004		12,271		12,271	
Transfer of net investment in fixed assets and buildings		9,483	-	9,483	(139,898)
Net Assets at end of year (Statement-A)		(26,834)	83,841	57,007	(29,648)

See Notes to Financial Statements

**Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency
And Refugee Rights
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2005**

1- Background:

BADIL was established in January 1998 to support the development of a popular refugee lobby for the right of return through professional research and partnership-based community initiatives. The center is registered with the Palestinian Authority.

BADIL actively encourages voluntary participation of grassroots activists, local and international experts, and regional and international partners based on the vision of BADIL as a community-based organization.

BADIL's work is guided by a Board, elected from a General Assembly composed of activists in Palestinian refugee community organizations and national institutions, and supervised by an elected Oversight Committee. BADIL's Executive Committee responsible for ongoing supervision, monitoring and adaptation of BADIL's regular program.

2- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards. The significant accounting policies followed are described as follows:

a- Net Assets, revenues, expenses, and gains and losses

Net assets, revenues, expenses, and gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified as unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted.

b- Temporarily restricted, and unrestricted net assets

Temporarily restricted net assets are those whose use by Badil is limited by donors to a specific time period or purpose. Unrestricted net assets are those whose use by Badil is not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

c- Contributions support and expenses

Unconditional promises to give cash and other assets to Badil are reported at fair value at the date the promise is received. Conditional promises to give and indications of intentions to give are reported at fair value at the date the contribution is received. Unconditional promise to give is a promise that depends only on passage of time or demand by the promisee for performance. Conditional promise to give is a promisee to give that depends on the occurrence of specified future and uncertain event to bind the promisor. The contributions are reported as either temporarily or permanently restricted revenue if they are received with donor stipulation that limits the use of the donated assets. When the donor imposed restriction expires, that is, when stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified as unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Expenses are recorded when incurred in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting.

d- Contribution receivable

Contribution receivable are considered current assets and carried at net realizable values.

e- Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The denominating currency of the financial statements is the EURO.

f- Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets at rates ranging between 6% - 33%.

g- Severance pay

In compliance with local labor law, Badil provides for severance pay by accruing for one month compensation for each year of service based on the last salary paid during the financial year.

h- Provident fund

Badil has a defined provident fund plan, which covers all salaried employees.

Total amounts funded, representing employer and employee share and interest earned, are presented in the Balance Sheet under both assets and liabilities sections.

Employers' share	10% of basic salary
Employee share	5% of basic salary.

i- Foreign currency statements transactions

The books of accounts are maintained in Euro. For purposes of presentation to donors and other foreign interested parties, however, the financial statements have been translated to EURO as follows:

- Transactions during the year, which are denominated in EURO, have been presented in the financial statements at the actual amount received or paid.
- Balances of assets (other than fixed assets) and liabilities, which are denominated in USD or NIS, are presented in the balance sheet according to the representative rate of exchange rate prevailing on the balance sheet date as follows:

	<u>31/12/2005</u>
US Dollar	0.845
NIS	0.184

- Fixed assets and their related statement of activities accounts are stated at historical rates.
- Revenues in USD are converted to EURO equivalent at the rate of exchange prevailing on the date of receipt while expenses in NIS and USD are translated at the prevailing rate at the date of the transaction.
- Exchange differences resulted from the translation are reflected in the statement of activities.

3- Cash on hand and deposits with banks:

Composition as at 31 December:

	<u>2005</u>
	<u>EURO</u>
Cash in Hand	533
Deposits with banks-Israeli Shekel	856
Deposits with banks-Euro	72,894
Deposits with banks-US Dollar	9,252
	<u>83,535</u>
Deposits with Banks restricted for Staff Benefits	<u>46,556</u>

4- Fixed Assets:

Composition:

	<u>2005</u>
	<u>EURO</u>
Office Equipment and Furniture	68,240
Buildings	95,107
Total fixed assets	163,347
Accumulated Depreciation	(32,932)
Total	<u>130,415</u>

5- Reserve for Staff Benefits

Details of balance are as follows:

	<u>Severance</u>	<u>Provident</u>
	<u>Pay</u>	<u>Fund</u>
	<u>EURO</u>	<u>EURO</u>
Balance at beginning of the year	15,254	-0-
Provisions and deductions for the year	31,624	10,296
Balance at end of year	<u>46,878</u>	<u>10,296</u>

6- Grants

Grants and donations by funding source are as follows:

	<u>2005</u>
	<u>Euro</u>
A- Operational Grants:	
Trocaire	17,666
ICCO (2006)	39,890
ICCO (2005)	70,570
Norwegian People's Aid	56,228
United Methodist Church 2005	8,376
Stichting Vluchteling (Legal Project)	38,396
Oxfam Solidarity (Action Plan 2005)	63,897
Swiss Inter church Aid (EPER 2005)	7,040
Swiss Inter church Aid (EPER 2004)	7,216
Dan Church Aid (Refugee Campaign)	38,911
Political Division MFA Switzerland 2005	20,712
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC 2005)	8,262
Political Division MFA Switzerland (2004 Deficit)	7,717
Broederlijk Delen (Resource Information Project)	9,964
Mennonite Central Committee – CIDA (2005 – 2006)	12,317
Total Operational Grants Received	<u>407,162</u>
B-Grants for New Office:	
ICCO 2005	9,230
Oxfam Solidarity (Action Plan 2005)	5,000
Private Donations earmarked for loan settlement	12,272
Norwegian People's Aid (Currency Exchange 2005)	4,830
Grants for New Office	<u>* 31,332</u>
Total	<u>438,494</u>

* The donations received for the new office were entirely used in 2005 to cover part of the 2004 loan and certain liabilities outstanding as of 31 December 2004.

7. Administrative and Program Expenses:

Classification of expenses by type of Activity is as follows

	Euro
Community Advocacy Training	10,871
Support Local Community Networking	14,022
Support Local Community Initiatives	22,776
Coordination, Palestine ROR Coalition	21,087
Workshops, Debates and Conferences	18,724
Campaign Salaries	13,886
Design, Print Information and Advocacy Tools	27,946
Dissemination and Public Relation	18,336
Nakba TV Campaign	6,122
External Consultants	457
Design, Print Research	15,277
External translation, Editing and Research	5,438
Badil – LSN Annual meeting	13,960
Legal Advocacy, Consultant Fees	10,971
Documentation and Archiving	4,300
Research and Legal Advocacy Salaries	50,108
Research and Legal Research Travel	5,792
General Assembly and Board	9,181
Management Reform	15,501
Management Salaries	20,563
New Office	1,311
Operation Expenses	27,052
Total	333,681