BADIL Resource Center was established in January 1998

BADIL’s Board and Oversight Committee were elected by the first General Assembly convened on 10 March 2000 and affirmed in their position by the second General Assembly convened on 4 May 2001.

BADIL General Assembly; Members:


Board:

Head of Board: Salem Abu Hawwash (Doura/Hebron)
Deputy Head: Tayseer Nasrallah (Balata Camp/Nablus)
Board Secretary: Adnan Ajarmeh (‘Aida Camp/Bethlehem)
Board Treasurer: Bassam Abu Aker (‘Aida Camp/Bethlehem)
Faisal Salameh (Tulkarem Camp)
Ahmad Ass‘ad (al-Far‘ah Camp/Nablus)
Afif Ghatashe (al-Fawwar Camp/Hebron)
Dr. Adnan Shehadeh (al-Arroub Camp/Hebron)
Dr. Nayef Jarrad (Tulkarem)

Oversight Committee:

Rajeh al-Til (Dhahariyya/Hebron)
Samir Odeh (‘Aida Camp/Bethlehem)
Wissal al-Salem (Nur Shams Camp/Nablus)

Executive Committee:

Director: Ingrid Jaradat Gassner
Admin-Finance Officer: Najwah Darwish
Coordinator/Campaign Unit: Muhammad Jaradat
Coordinator/Resource Unit: Terry Rempel
Coordinator/Legal Unit: Gail Boling
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INTRODUCTION

BADIL's Environment in 2001

Against the background of the higher than average level of general community mobilization in the context of the al-Aqsa uprising, the Palestinian refugee community continued to mobilize for their right to return and restitution in 2001. This mobilization was especially intensive the first two months of 2001, when Israeli-Palestinian negotiations were still being held in Taba, and in the month of May, when the Palestinian people commemorated the 53rd anniversary of its forcible displacement in 1948. Palestinian refugee community organizations and the Emergency Committee of National and Islamic Forces, representing the Palestinian popular uprising in the 1967 occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, organized numerous local right-of-return marches, rallies and cultural events to which BADIL provided material and financial support within the framework of its limited means.

Israel's attempt to suppress the new Palestinian uprising by massive use of force, and the lack of prospects for political change in the short term, have had a devastating impact on the Palestinian community in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in general, and its refugees in particular. Refugees and their community organizations have had to accomplish an extremely difficult set of tasks: to maintain the public demand and pressure for recognition and implementation of their right of return on the one hand, and cope with the tremendous new need for emergency relief of the particularly vulnerable population of the refugee camps on the other. By December 2001, 75 percent (UNRWA data) of camp refugees lived under the poverty line, suffering from restrictions on access to health and education services. Prolonged unemployment, moreover, also had a negative affect on access to adequate food. Rapid impoverishment, deaths and injuries, as well as destruction of homes and properties, triggered large-scale international emergency aid programs. Local refugee organizations and emergency committees have struggled to come to terms with often bureaucratic procedures of international aid programs and contributed from their own scarce resources. BADIL, as an institution lacking both the mandate and the financial resources for substantial emergency aid, contributed to the local effort mainly through small scale in-kind contributions and a special project for medical services.

Palestinian community mobilization, as well as concerted Palestinian advocacy and lobbying directed at international organizations, especially the United Nations, the European Union, and the League of Arab States, were instrumental for the creation of increased awareness of, and interest in, Israeli violations of Palestinian rights and the quest for international protection. BADIL contributed to the broad lobbying effort by raising the special protection needs of Palestinian refugees, both in the short term and in the context of a durable solution based upon UN Resolution 194. The broad support for Palestinian rights, including the rights of Palestinian refugees, among the vast majority of civil society organizations in the world was illustrated by the solidarity provided by the some 3,000 NGOs present at the 3rd World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa (27 August -8 September 2001). The final NGO Declaration and Plan of Action issued by the WCAR criticized the over 50-years-old discriminatory and apartheid-like practices of Zionist Israeli governments, and affirmed the legitimacy and urgency of concerted action for the Palestinian right to self-determination, including Palestinian refugees' right of return. An increase of international awareness and readiness to assist in the development of new strategies for the protection of Palestinian refugee rights was reflected also in UN reports and resolutions issued in 2001 and observed by BADIL during its missions abroad.

By mid-2001, however, the United States - with the complicity of Europe - had successfully marginalized Palestinian, Arab, and Non-Aligned states' political efforts to intervene for Palestinian rights through the UN system. The report of the UN Commission of Inquiry ("Falk-
is cynically held responsible for the escalation of violence in the Middle East.

A balance of the Palestinian achievements in 2001 suggests that the current popular uprising will fail to bring about the desired fundamental changes of international policy in the short term. A long-term effort aimed at affirming the legitimacy of Palestinian resistance and rights is therefore the only alternative option for the Palestinian people, its leadership and community organizations. In this context, BADIL dedicated its efforts, in the second half of the year, to urgent research required for the formulation of a rights-based Palestinian model for the solution of the Palestinian refugee question, strategizing with expert partners and the global right-of-return advocacy network, and continued advocacy and lobbying directed at the Arab and international community.
Restriction of movement and the general situation of emergency created by Israel’s massive repression of the Palestinian uprising (Al-Aqsa Intifada) continued to obstruct institutional management, especially active involvement in administrative and program planning and supervision by the Board and members of BADIL’s General Assembly.

In 2001, only four regular Board meetings including members from the northern and southern West Bank could be held. A temporary Board Secretariat, composed of the Head of Board, two Board members and one member of the Oversight Committee living in the Bethlehem and Hebron area, was mandated to guide BADIL’s work in regular meetings. While BADIL was thus enabled to operate more smoothly, the physical exclusion of many Board members from regular participation in the meetings has had a negative effect on Staff-Board integration and institutional development.

On 4 May 2001, BADIL’s General Assembly convened for the second time in the spirit of defiance of the Israeli repression and restrictions of movement imposed on the 1967 occupied Palestinian West Bank. 42 members and guests convened in two sessions held parallel at BADIL’s offices (Southern West Bank) and at Yafa Cultural Center/Balata Camp (Northern West Bank). The General Assembly discussed and approved BADIL’s 2000 annual report and issued recommendations for BADIL’s new three-year plan 2002 - 2004. In particular, the General Assembly recommended to upgrade BADIL networking and cooperation with partners in the Arab world and called for the expansion of BADIL community support projects, in order to assist refugee community organizations in coping with the difficult circumstances caused by Israeli violence and repression. Moreover, BADIL’s General Assembly approved the membership of additional ten right-of-return activists, thus enlarging its size to 51 members.

Against the background of the logistical difficulties in convening the General Assembly meeting, it was decided to extend the mandate of BADIL’s current Board and Oversight Committee for a second period (see membership lists on the inside cover), and to postpone elections of a new Board until the third General Assembly meeting in 2002.

In summer, BADIL’s Board and Executive Committee drafted BADIL’s new three-year plan (2002 - 2004), based on the recommendations of the General Assembly and the mid-2001 program evaluation. The draft was shared and discussed with expert advisors and partners and completed in October 2001.
BADIL Program and Administrative Units, Staff (2001)

In January 2001, BADIL was able to staff all its vacant positions (secretary-receptionist, research officer, lawyer/coordinator BADIL Legal Unit). Thus, in 2001, BADIL was fully staffed for the first time since its establishment with 9 professional staff members operating in four BADIL units:

**Administrative Unit and Management:**
Ingrid Jaradat Gassner, director; 
Najwah Darwish, admin-finance officer; 
Lama Ramadan, program secretary (on maternity leave, June-August 2001); 

**Volunteers/interns:**
Bushra Darwish, secretary (June-August)

**Resource & Information Unit:**
Terry Rempel, coordinator; 
Nihad Buka’ee, project officer/research; 
Atallah Salem, project officer/technical support; 

**Volunteers/interns:**
Lama Habel, research assistant (January-August) 
Maren Zerrifi, resident researcher (June-August)

**Al-Majdal Editorial Advisory Board** (17 researchers and right of return activists in 10 countries); 

**Campaign Unit (Refugee Rights):**
Muhammad Jaradat, coordinator; 
Ibrahim Abu Srour, assistant coordinator; 

**Contracted Personnell:**
Shaheer Bedawi, field coordinator/Northern West Bank (January-December); 
Daoud Badr, coordinator/National Society, Internally Displaced (May-December); 

**Volunteers/interns:**
Jamal Ferraj, journalist (January-December) 
Ata Mana’, journalist (April-May) 
Naj ‘Odeh, activities coordinator (January-June) 
Lama Habel, English teacher (February-March; June-August) 
Maren Zerrifi, English tutor (June-August) 
Hisham Zerrifi, computer trainer (June-August)

**BADIL Friends Forum** (some 40 volunteer community activists);

**Legal Unit/Refugee Rights:**
Gail Boling, lawyer/coordinator; 

**Volunteers:**
5 legal expert advisors (cooperating on a regular basis);

**BADIL’s Executive Committee** (director, admin-finance officer, unit coordinators) met approximately bi-weekly for staff management, program planning and supervision.

**Organizational Capacity Building and Training**

In February-March 2001, the Executive Committee undertook a renewed and detailed analysis of BADIL administrative and program needs/tasks, in order to ensure coherence between BADIL by-laws, institutional needs, and job descriptions. The final recommendations were presented to the Board, and 2001 BADIL job descriptions were prepared based on the results. External professional evaluation of BADIL’s performance, scheduled for the summer of 2001, could not be undertaken due to the ongoing violence and crisis in the area.

BADIL’s member of Board, Mr. Afif Ghatasheh participated in the Special Graduate Diploma Programme on Human Rights offered by the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, Netherlands, between 25 May to 6 July 2001.

**Community and Expert Participation, Partnerships**

BADIL efforts to recruit voluntary participation of local grass-roots activists and local, regional, and international experts and advocacy partners are motivated by our vision of BADIL as a community-based organization, and by our firm belief in the effectiveness of collective action.

In the year 2001, BADIL community projects/Refugee Rights Campaign continued to be implemented with the voluntary assistance of members of BADIL’s General Assembly and Board, Palestinian local radio and TV stations, and international volunteers/interns. A BADIL field coordinator/Northern West Bank hosted by Yafa Cultural Center in Balata Camp/Nablus, and the BADIL Friends Forum, an informal network of some 40 West Bank refugee community activists formed in 1998, continued to assist BADIL in planning and implementation of awareness-raising activities among the local refugee community. Links with refugee organizations in the Gaza Strip were maintained through coordination with the office of the Union of Youth Activity
Moreover, BADIL research efforts greatly benefited from regular advice and assistance provided by a growing number of local and international independent expert partners, the dialogue with experts working in official Palestinian institutions (PLO Department for Negotiation Affairs, PLO Department for Refugee Affairs, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics), and the new and fruitful cooperation established with the Geneva based Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE).

In appreciation of UNRWA's important role for Palestinian refugees - and of the support provided to BADIL, especially in the field of research - BADIL successfully nominated UNRWA for two awards in 2001 (King Hussein Humanitarian Prize, received by UNRWA on 14 November 2001; Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to be announced in the fall of 2002).

BADIL's ability to deepen and expand partnerships with professional human rights NGOs on the local, regional, and international level, as well as with old and new right-of-return initiatives launched outside Palestine in the Middle East, Europe, and North America, was less effected by the situation of insecurity and violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thus, in 2001, coordination of global right-of-return advocacy efforts could be improved with the establishment of a permanent coordination committee composed of a dozen key-partners, participants at the annual Right-of-Return Strategy Workshops (Cyprus, 2000; Brussels, 2001). Concerted advocacy and lobbying at the 3rd World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) and UN fora resulted in stronger cooperation between BADIL and other Palestinian, Arab, and international NGOs and NGO networks (e.g. PNGO, Ittijah, NGO Forum-Lebanon, Arab NGO Network, SANGOCO/South Africa, Habitat International).

BADIL Fundraising and Finances
BADIL's proposed 2001 budget was US $355,000. Unfortunately, fundraising for refugee rights advocacy proved extremely difficult in 2001, as the donor community remained reluctant to support rights-based efforts for Palestinian refugees and channeled the majority of its funds into large-scale emergency aid and relief programs operated by international NGOs and UN agencies. As a result, BADIL remained some US $85,000 short of its 2001 target budget. This budget deficit required painful cut-backs in spending in the second half of the year, as well as a revision of BADIL's budget framework proposed for the coming three-year period (2002 - 2004).
BADIL Services to Visitors and Delegations

As a result of the violent crisis, the number of foreign visitors to Palestine in general, and BADIL in particular, reached an unprecedented low in 2001. BADIL nevertheless received some 350 individual visitors and delegations, who were briefed on political developments, the situation of Palestinian refugees and their rights, and taken on guided tours to Palestinian refugee camps in the area. Among the visitors were international journalists (BBC, Le-Monde Diplomatique, Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Austrian TV, a.o.); researchers, solidarity groups and NGOs; representatives of international organizations (e.g. Danish Refugee Council; UNRWA High Commissioner Peter Hansen); legal experts (e.g. National Lawyers Guild, United States); and, representatives of foreign governments (e.g. Canada, Sweden, United States).

BADIL Participation in Regional and International Conferences/Workshops


Right-of-Return workshops and seminars in the framework of the “Week of Palestinian Culture and Identity” (1-7 March 2001) organized by Sanabel, a Palestinian NGO based in Lausanne, Switzerland (Ingrid Jaradat Gassner, BADIL Director).

International seminar: "Palestinian Return Migration: Socio-economic and Cultural Approaches” organized by Shaml Center, Ramallah, 12-14 June 2001 (Terry Rempel/Coordinator, BADIL Research & Information).

3rd World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), Durban, 27 August - 4 September 2001 (Salem Abu Hawwash/BADIL Head of Board; Terry Rempel/Coordinator, BADIL Research & Information; Muhammad Jaradat/Coordinator, BADIL Refugee Rights Campaign).

International Seminar: "The Emergence of the German, Palestinian, and Jewish Refugees' Problem” organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Istanbul, 8-10 November 2001 (Gail Boling/Coordinator, BADIL Legal Project).


2nd World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), Durban, 27 August - 4 September 2001 (Salem Abu Hawwash/BADIL Head of Board; Terry Rempel/Coordinator, BADIL Research & Information; Muhammad Jaradat/Coordinator, BADIL Refugee Rights Campaign).


3rd World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), Durban, 27 August - 4 September 2001 (Salem Abu Hawwash/BADIL Head of Board; Terry Rempel/Coordinator, BADIL Research & Information; Muhammad Jaradat/Coordinator, BADIL Refugee Rights Campaign).

International Seminar: "The Emergence of the German, Palestinian, and Jewish Refugees' Problem” organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Istanbul, 8-10 November 2001 (Gail Boling/Coordinator, BADIL Legal Project).


 Hundreds of additional information requests were handled via the internet, and some 50 interviews with foreign press were provided via phone (BBC, ABC, National Public Radio/USA, Austrian Public Radio, a.o).
II. PROGRESS REPORT: BADIL Program and Projects - 2001

INTRODUCTION: Program Development (2001)

Program Organization

In 2000, BADIL re-adapted its program outlined in its three-year plan (1999-2001), in order to guarantee better coherence and stronger focus on Palestinian refugee rights advocacy. In 2001, three core projects were implemented by BADIL’s three program units:

- Campaign for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights (Campaign Unit);
- Research and Information Project (Resource Unit);
- Legal Project for the Promotion of Palestinian Refugee Rights (Legal Unit): a new unit and project, which started operation in 2001.

The three BADIL projects/units operated in an integrated fashion, with the Research/Information Project and the Legal Project providing support and additional professional capacity to the basic advocacy agenda set by BADIL’s Refugee Campaign project.

Program/Project Focus and Impact

BADIL Refugee Rights Campaign (2001):

Local Community Awareness-Raising and Empowerment

- Contributed to sustained public awareness-raising and mobilization for the right of return by the local refugee community in the context of Al-Aqsa Intifada, and especially on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of al-Nakba. The additional target of launching a community debate about principles and mechanisms related to refugee return and restitution had to be abandoned and postponed to 2002, as the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip permitted neither organization of public workshops in the refugee camps nor the implementation of refugee study tours to their villages/towns of origin in Israel.

- Responded to the drastic increase of local need for rapid emergency aid and relief among the Palestinian refugee camp population by offering immediate aid, within the narrow margins of its mandate and resources, and by raising "relief gaps" to international NGOs, the solidarity movement and professional relief agencies.

Regional/International Networking and Advocacy

- Expanding networking and improved coordination with Palestinian, Arab, and international partners. Significant progress was achieved on the level of regional/international coordination with the formation of a formal right-of-return coordination network ("Coalition for the Palestinian Right of Return") composed of outside the camps could not be tackled seriously, due to the devastating restrictions of movement and the emergency situation caused by Israeli military attacks and occupation. Community coordination, networking and strategizing on the local level in Palestine has therefore remained informal, unsystematic and fluctuating, with ups and downs mainly determined by the political and military situation on the ground.
a dozen key organizations and advocacy initiatives from Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, North America and Europe, participants in two annual strategy workshop (Cyprus, October 2000; Brussels, November 2001). This, and the formation of numerous new right-of-return initiatives by Palestinian communities in exile, have led to a situation where global networking and coordination around the right of return have become self-sustainable.

- Set a first step towards a Palestinian debate about international principles and mechanisms guiding refugee return and property restitution, as well as comparative experience and lessons to be learned. An expert presentation by Paul Prettitore, legal advisor, Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the 2nd Annual Right-of-Return Strategy Workshop (Brussels) was received with much interest, especially by Palestinian activists in Europe, who are planning to follow-up on this debate in 2002.

- Initiated and participated in regional/international advocacy efforts directed at Arab, European, and international political and human rights fora (United Nations, European Union, Arab League, WCAR/Durban, international human rights and solidarity movement), in order to ensure that the Palestinian demand for immediate international protection and a new, rights-based framework for Middle East peace is received by policy makers, media, and the solidarity/NGO community abroad.

BADIL Research-Information Project (2001):

Production/Dissemination of Research and Information

- Responded to immediate research and information needs resulting from the current crisis in the 1967 occupied territories by highlighting the special vulnerability of Palestinian refugees and immediate protection needs of Palestinian refugees in the broader context of international protection of the Palestinian people in the 1967 occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

- Continued systematic research towards a rights-based model for the solution of the Palestinian refugee question (e.g. comparative study on refugee return and real property restitution; the role of international agencies/UNHCR), and initiated new research projects/information tools, which will serve to illustrate BADIL’s rights-based approach in 2002 (e.g. Survey: Palestinian Refugees 2001; map project: refugee return).

- Produced advocacy tools required by BADIL’s community-based Refugee Campaign (Info-Packet, stickers, press releases, Occasional Bulletins, memoranda).

Developing Quality and Impact of BADIL Research/Information

- Consulted and strategized with Palestinian and international experts through participation in conferences and regular research dialogue.

BADIL Legal Project (2001):

Legal Research

- Initiated professional legal analysis of the core-rights of Palestinian refugees under international law (return, real property restitution, compensation).

Professional Advocacy and Lobbying

- Initiated a systematic advocacy effort directed at the United Nations, both with regard to immediate protection needs of Palestinian refugees and their rights in the context of a durable solution. These efforts showed some initial results, such as: the adoption by the UN Special Commission of Inquiry of BADIL’s recommendation that Palestinian refugees are entitled to protection by the 1951 Refugee Convention; and, a first-ever call for protection measures for the population of the 1967 occupied territories issued by the UN Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (CESCR) to the president of the highest UN Human Rights Forum (ECOSOC).

- Initiated a systematic dialogue with UN agencies, international organizations, and relevant PLO departments, in order to clarify principles, which are to guide protection and a solution for Palestinian refugees under international law. This initiative was successful, and resulted in a dialogue, which will be continued by BADIL in 2002.
One year of systematic and intensive reporting to, and lobbying of, UN human rights fora and strategizing with UN and international agencies has shown clearly that BADIL will have a more sustained impact if it can secure permanent professional lobbying assistance in Geneva. A request for such assistance was sent to a series of BADIL partners in October 2001, and discussion of a joint UN lobbying project with the Geneva-based Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) was launched in December 2001.

**Conclusion: 2001 Impact of BADIL Advocacy (Refugee Rights Campaign, Research and Information, Legal Project)**

The combination of BADIL’s community-based campaign with professional research and advocacy has proven a powerful mechanism for the promotion of Palestinian refugee rights. By 2001, the quality of BADIL research and information has become widely respected, a fact which is reflected in a steadily growing number of request for advice and information, as well as positive feedback provided by Palestinian, Arab, and international professionals and experts. BADIL’s lead role in dissemination and coordination among right-of-return initiatives and NGOs worldwide was explicitly recognized in 2001 by the global Coalition for the Palestinian Right of Return and the Rabat Conference on the Future of Palestinian Refugees. Sustained information dissemination by BADIL about events organized with, and demands raised by the Palestinian (refugee) community has, moreover, contributed to a more extensive coverage of the Palestinian refugee question and the right of return by the international and Israeli media, and has led - for the first time in BADIL’s history - to sincere interest in a rights-based solution for Palestinian refugees also among representatives of several foreign governments.
CAMPAIGN FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEE RIGHTS

a project implemented by
BADIL’s Campaign Unit

Statement of Purpose (BADIL 3-Year Plan and 2001 Project Proposal)

Long-term aim:
Implementation of a durable solution to the Palestinian refugee question in the framework of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict, which meets the standards set by international law as affirmed in UN resolutions (especially UN Resolution 194/right of return), and is accepted as just and adequate by the refugees themselves.

Objectives:
- Protect Refugee Identity in order to encounter the negative effects of marginalization on individual and collective memory and self-esteem;
- Promote Refugee Unity in order to assist refugees to overcome their isolation in the respective countries of exile; facilitate coordinated action between refugees in 1967 occupied Palestine, in Israel, and the diaspora;
- Empower Initiatives of Refugee Self-Organization in order to support community-based structures which can speak out for and defend refugees’ rights via the Palestinian Authority, the PLO, Israel, and the international community.

Project Activities and Beneficiaries

Community Awareness Raising and Empowerment

Public debates and workshops

The initial plan to launch, in 2001, a more in-depth community debate about principles and mechanisms to guide implementation of Palestinian refugee return and restitution could not be implemented. A series of public workshops with international experts on refugee return and real property restitution had to be postponed three times, due to the severe restrictions of movement and the lack of personal security. Finally, in September 2001, BADIL decided to introduce this subject at the 2nd annual strategy workshop of the global right-of-return network (see 1.2 below), and to postpone the launching of the public debate in Palestine until 2002.

One public debate and one workshop were finally held at the end of the year:

Public debate: "The Right of Return from the Refugee Perspective vs. the Palestinian Intellectual Debate:"

Based on the strong demand among the local refugee community to discuss appropriate ways of response to the challenge of Palestinian refugees’ right of return represented by statements of Palestinian intellectual and PLO official Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, BADIL and Yafa Cultural Center/BADIL Friends Forum organized a public meeting and debate in Balata refugee camp/Nablus on 14 November 2001.

Some 40 refugee community activists were joined by members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and National Council (PNC) and academics, in order to formulate steps for an effective public response. The meeting decided to launch a series of activities, which will serve to challenge the political environment that opens the gate to Palestinian individuals who do not reflect the public consensus and official position of the PLO. The Balata camp meeting decided among others, to activate and improve coordination among grass-roots organizations and Palestinian institutions, especially those operating among Palestinian refugees; to hold a series of rights awareness raising activities during the month of Ramadan; to launch a renewed media effort aimed at clarifying the Palestinian consensus on the right of return; to convene a popular refugee conference at the earliest date possible; and, to submit a memorandum of protest to the official Palestinian leadership against the suggestions promoted by Dr. Nusseibeh.

Refugee Activist Workshop:
"Networking and Coordination among Refugee Grass-roots Initiatives in the West Bank in the Context of Israeli Repression; Stocktaking of 2001 and Recommendations for 2002:"
Media Projects

BADIL and community partners conducted two media projects with Palestinian radio and TV stations reaching a Palestinian audience of more than 100,000.


BADIL TV Project "Nakba Memorial 2001": A media series produced and broadcast in cooperation with local Palestinian TV stations included:

- Video spots featuring refugees and their demands broadcast on 10 days prior to 15 May (Nakba Day) by some 13 Palestinian TV stations in the West Bank;

- A series of five video clips, entitled "Shawq as-Sabbar" (Cactus Thorn), featuring refugee life in the camps of Deheishe, 'Aida, Azza/Beit Jibrin, 'Arroub, and Fawwar located in the southern West Bank. These video clips were broadcast by al-Rou'ah (Shepherd's) TV, Bethlehem, and al-Manar TV, Hebron. The video clips were copied on CD, and continue to be available for the public.

- A five-day live call-in program and debate with studio guests about the past, present, and future of the Palestinian refugee question. This program included a unique debate with Palestinian and Arab artists and politicians in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. The program was organized and broadcast by BADIL and al-Rou'ah TV in cooperation with the Popular Committees-West Bank and Gaza Strip, Union of Youth Activity Centers - Palestine Refugee camps, the Union of Women's Activity Centers-West Bank, and the National Society/Internally Displaced.

Audience of the Nakba Memorial series: some 100,000 persons in the West Bank.

Refugee study tours to towns and villages of origin in Israel

scheduled as a focal point of BADIL community awareness-raising in 2001 had to be cancelled due to tight and ongoing military closures imposed by Israel.

This workshop, facilitated by BADIL and organized/hosted by Yafa Cultural Center in Balata Camp on 11 December 2001 convened some two dozen activists in refugee community organizations (e.g. Committee for the Defense of Refugee Rights, Popular Service Committees) and members of the PNC and political parties. It was the first of a series of similar workshops to be initiated and facilitated by BADIL in 2002 in other areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the aim of re-building grass-roots networking and coordination for local refugee rights advocacy and lobbying.

The workshop concluded with the following recommendations: to organize a public rally to affirm Palestinian refugees' right of return; to call on BADIL to launch an intensive public information effort directed at the refugee community; to coordinate activities between refugee community organizations and their political leadership; and, to hold a series of meetings with all relevant institutions, initiatives, and individuals in the Nablus area, in order to examine the option of establishing a permanent coordination committee for the city and its surrounding camps.

Some 2,000 BADIL Information Packets and some 260 copies of BADIL video documentaries were disseminated among the (refugee) community organizations in Palestine (West Bank, Gaza Strip, 1948 Palestine/Israel).
Community Training

BADIL organized nine training courses for 160 refugee women, youth, and children in partnership with three local refugee organizations.

Six Informal English courses intended to complement formal language training received in school and improve participants’ verbal and conversational skills: children’s course, Aida Camp (partner: Shahida Amal Center; 19 hours, 2-2 to 16-3, 2001); three courses for children, Aida camp (partner: al-Rowwad Children’s Theater; 18-6 to 31-8); a basic course for refugee women and girls; and, advanced refugee rights/media awareness course for refugee women, al-Am’ari camp (partner: Union of Women’s Activity Centers; from 19-6 to 31-8). Beneficiaries: 96 children; 28 girls and women.


Facilitation and Support of Community Initiatives

Based on recommendations made by the BADIL Friends Forum, BADIL provided office equipment, volunteers, logistic, material and small-scale financial support, as well as assistance in planning and media dissemination to more than 80 community initiatives serving a constituency of thousands of Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and in 1948 Palestine/Israel. Initiatives were selected based on their ability to contribute actively to concerted efforts at lobbying for Palestinian refugee rights and/or their urgent need for one-time assistance for the operation of community services. In addition, BADIL provided limited emergency relief services to more than 2,000 refugees in the Bethlehem area and the wider West Bank.

BADIL Support of Community Advocacy and Lobbying:

Right-of Return March organized by the Emergency Committee of National and Islamic Forces/Bethlehem, 9-1-2001. BADIL provided information materials, logistical support, and media dissemination.

Right-of Return Rally organized by the Emergency Committee and refugee organizations/Bethlehem in A’ida Refugee Camp, 13-1-2001. BADIL provided information materials, logistical and financial support, and media dissemination.

"Al-Awda Week" organized by the Palestinian National Institutions in the Nablus area and the BADIL Friends Forum-Northern West Bank, 5 to 12 February 2001. Activities include a photo exhibition ("Refugees and Al-Aqsa Intifada") and "Al-'Awda Tent" in al-Far'ah camp, and an "Awda March" in Nur Shams camp.

Palestine Community Events in the Framework of the World Wide Right-of-Return Marches and Rallies on 7 April 2001 (Al-Awda network) BADIL served as a liaison between the international organizers and local community organizations, provided information materials and financial support to the right-of-return rally held in Hebron, and ensured coordinated media dissemination.
The April 7 Rallies were launched on the occasion of the 52nd anniversary of the Deir Yassin massacre and all other massacres committed against the Palestinian people by the Zionist forces and the governments of the Israeli state. Rallies and marches were held on this day in: New York/USA; Vancouver/Canada; Sidney, Melbourne and Perth/Australia; Madrid/Spain; Amsterdam/Netherlands and other European capitals; Osaka/Japan, Malaysia and Hong Kong, as well as in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine 1948/67.

In the 1967 occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip refugees were unable to launch large public events due to the severe restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by Israel. Palestinian community organizations thus joined the worldwide right-of-return rallies with a series of decentralized activities in the city of Hebron and in the camps of the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Activities included children's marches, exhibitions featuring the history of Palestinian refugees and Palestinian martyrs of the current uprising, theater and dance performances, and public debates about issues related to the Palestinian right of return.


**2001 Nakba Commemorations:** BADIL provided material (information materials, photographs, stickers) and financial support to the following initiatives:

- al-Nakba memorial program organized by Yafa Cultural Center/Balata camp, Nablus;
- Children's festival organized by the Social Welfare Society in al-Far'ah camp, Nablus;
- Human chain from the Nur Shams camp to the Tulkarem camp and exhibition "al-Nakba and the Refugees" in Tulkarem refugee camp organized by local popular committees and the BADIL Friends Forum;
- al-Nakba - Al-'Awda cultural event/Hebron organized by BADIL and the Palestinian Children's Arts Center.
- BADIL networked with Nakba memorial initiatives in other Arab countries, Europe and North America and coordinated media dissemination of activities in Palestine.
- BADIL also facilitated a letter-writing campaign of refugee community organizations to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the European Union and European governments, and participated in public debates (Qalqilya, 10-5; Nablus, 13-5) and in a study day on "The Future of the Palestinian Refugee Question and Return" organized by the PNC in Nablus (13-5), and presented BADIL's program to students and staff of Al-Najah University, Nablus.

Palestinians, including refugees and internally displaced Palestinians held an unprecedented week of activities in the occupied homeland and in the diaspora in commemoration of the 53rd anniversary of their displacement and expulsion by Zionist/Israeli forces in 1948. Under the theme, Al-Nakba - Al-'Awda, (The Disaster - The Return), national marches, called by the High Committee for the 53rd Anniversary of al-Nakba formed by the intifada leadership, were held in all districts in the 1967 occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The May 15 marches reiterated the Palestinian national consensus - i.e., the right of return, self-determination, and a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. At 12:00 p.m., sirens, churches, mosques, and the honking of car horns signaled the start of a three-minute moment of silence in memory of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces, followed by a speech to the nation by President Yasser Arafat and Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, broadcast by all Palestinian media.

**Public Commemoration/1982 Sabra and Shatila Massacre (16-17 September):** among the memorial events organized by the National and Islamic Forces/Bethlehem District, BADIL facilitated the launch of a children's wall-painting project depicting Palestinian history (conducted by al-Rowwad Children's Theater in Aida refugee camp).

**Public Statements of Protest against Renewed Delegitimization of the Right of Return:** In the wake of the massive
Bethlehem were attacked especially severely by the Israeli occupation army, and BADIL was called to participate in immediate community efforts to care for the civilian victims. BADIL contributed blankets and clothing for families who had to leave seriously damaged homes, basic food supplies for camp residents under military siege, and medicine for the injured.

**BADIL Emergency Relief: A Series of Six Medical Health Clinic Days in Palestinian refugee camps and areas of refugee concentration:**
- Deheishe refugee camp and the adjacent neighborhood of al-Doha, Bethlehem; 23 February 2001 (430 patients);
- Aida and ‘Azza refugee camps, Bethlehem; 9 March 2001 (170 patients);
- Al-Fawwar refugee camp, Hebron; 13 August 2001 (250 patients);
- Al-Arroub refugee camp, Hebron; 24 August 2001 (135 patients);
- Al-Fara’a refugee camp, Nablus; 26 August 2001 (160 patients).

Professional NGOs (Elehssan Society; Union of Health Work Committees) were contracted to provide medical teams composed of gynecologists, pediatricians, dermatologists, ENT and GP, as well as commonly required drugs and medication. The clinic days were advertised to the camp public and hosted by Palestinian refugee community organizations at each site. Some 1,150 patients, most of them children and elderly unable to obtain medical services elsewhere, received treatment and medication. The health clinic days also resulted in referrals to hospitals or specialist in several cases of patients, who had forgone timely medical treatment due to economic hardship and required special attention.

**BADIL Support of Community Infrastructure and Services**

**In kind contributions** (use of BADIL office equipment, stationary, printer toner, painting and drawing materials, notebooks, etc.) were offered to some 35 refugee grassroots organizations and Palestinian institutions, including the Monitoring Committee formed by refugee organizations in the southern West Bank, the Popular Committee of Jelazoun camp, the Palestinian Prisoners’ Society, the Palestinian Workers Union, Beit Jala Boys’ Elementary School (Aida refugee camp), children summer camps and projects organized by community organizations in the camps of the southern and northern West Bank during the summer vacation, a.o.

**Financial contributions:** Al-Laji Center in Aida camp (sports equipment); Welfare Care Society in al-Far’ah camp (children’s festival); Aida Camp Girls School (outfits/ Dabka dancing team); Yafa Cultural Center (school equipment for orphan students); Al-Anqa Society/Hebron (publication of oral history collection); Yafa Cultural Center (training and outfits, Aidun Children’s Choir).

**Ad-hoc Support during Military Attacks against Refugee Camps:** Twice, in the spring of 2001 and in late September 2001, the refugee camps of Aida and Azza/Bethlehem were attacked especially severely by the Israeli occupation army, and BADIL was called to participate in immediate community efforts to care for the civilian victims. BADIL contributed blankets and clothing for families who had to leave seriously damaged homes, basic food supplies for camp residents under military siege, and medicine for the injured.

**Regional-International Networking and Advocacy**

Significant progress was achieved on the level of regional/international coordination with the formation of a right-of-return coordination network composed of some one dozen key-initiatives from Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, North America and Europe, participants in the first annual strategy workshop (Cyprus, October 2000). In this framework, and in cooperation with numerous Arab and international NGOs, BADIL undertook the following activities in 2001:

**Dissemination of BADIL Information among the Partner Network:**
In addition to information and advocacy materials regularly disseminated via the internet (BADIL partner list/Refugee Rights Campaign: some 400 subscribers, individuals and organizations worldwide), some 1,000 print copies of BADIL’s advocacy oriented Information Packet/Right of Return and additional publications were regularly shipped to the
members of the right-of-return coordination network in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Europe, Canada and the United States.

Facilitation/Participation in Activism-oriented Conferences, Advocacy and Lobby Activities:

- BADIL participation in the conference "The Future of Palestinian Refugees under the Current Settlement Process" organized by Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) in Al-Rabat (Morocco), 10-12 February 2001: The Rabat Declaration issued by the Conference urged Arab and western governments to work for a just solution of the Palestinian refugee question in accordance with UN Resolution 194 (right of return) and called for international and regional financial support of UNRWA, Palestinian NGOs and community organizations, and the Palestinian National Authority. The final resolution also called upon BADIL to continue its role in networking and information dissemination for Palestinian refugee rights.

- Right-of-Return workshops and seminars were conducted by BADIL in the framework of the "Week of Palestinian Culture and Identity" organized by Sanabel, a Palestinian NGO based in Lausanne, Switzerland (1-7 March 2001): Meetings with the Swiss Human Rights Forum Israel/Palestine, AVPJP-One Land for Two Peoples", Socialist Alternative-Solidarity, the World Council of Churches, and the Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) gave evidence of new interest in and concern about the requirements for a just solution for the plight of Palestinian refugees among the local and international solidarity and human rights community, progressive Jewish activists and Christian organizations in Switzerland. These meetings resulted in the establishment of regular cooperation between BADIL and COHRE, and set the ground for a series of seminars and workshops on the Palestinian right of return organized by the Swiss Human Rights Forum Israel/Palestine in December 2001 (see below).

- 3rd World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), Durban (27 August - 7 September 2001): BADIL was actively involved in all stages of the WCAR, which was to become the major Palestinian NGO advocacy event of the year 2001. In the preparatory stage led by the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) and LAW in summer 2001, BADIL contributed to the joint Palestinian NGO Declaration and to the international NGO-drafting process conducted from Geneva, and successfully promoted the adoption of "End the Ongoing Nakba" as central WCAR slogan by all Palestinian and Arab NGOs participants. At the WCAR in Durban, BADIL was represented by a small three-person delegation, which was nonetheless able to make a significant impact on the final drafting of the NGO Declaration; to engage in efficient lobbying and networking with other NGOs, caucuses, and officials; to take an active role in the preparation of Palestine solidarity demonstrations (with 50-80,000 participants at the main demonstration); and, to make numerous presentations about the Palestinian refugee question at workshops. Some 160 BADIL information
packets/Right of Return and 1,500 post cards and stickers were distributed. Maps illustrating the history of Palestinian displacement were presented for further use to BADIL’s host in Durban, the Media Review Network. During the Conferences, regular updates and bulletins issued by the Arab Caucus in Durban were disseminated via internet from BADIL’s offices in Bethlehem. BADIL continues to be involved also in the ongoing WCAR follow-up process coordinated by PNGO in Palestine, i.e. strategizing for a new Palestinian anti-apartheid campaign based on the NGO Plan of Action issued by the WCAR - a process which has been severely obstructed by the unfavorable balance of powers in the wake of the 11 September terror attacks in the United States and the rapid deterioration of the situation on the ground in Palestine.

- Public lectures, debates and workshops series: “The Palestinian Right of Return, A Human Right?” organized by the Swiss Human Rights Forum in Israel/Palestine in Basel, Berne, Geneva, Zurich, and Lucerne, 4-11 December 2001 (BADIL, Susan Akram/Associate Professor, Boston University School of Law, and Ya’el Stein/Director of Research, B’tselem): presented the history and scope of the refugee problem, the Palestinian position, Palestinian refugee rights under international refugee law, and the Israeli debate on the right of return to an audience, which included solidarity activists, professionals in the field of asylum/migration, academics, journalists and members of the liberal Jewish community in Switzerland. (The Swiss Human Rights Forum Israel/Palestine, operates as a coalition of Amnesty International/Switzerland, Christian Peace Service/CFD, Centrale Sanitaire Suisse/CSS Zurich, OeME/Reformed Churches, Society for Threatened Peoples Switzerland, and Society Suisse-Palestine.) The speakers also met with Swiss parliamentarians to discuss the status of Palestinian refugees, including their status as refugees in Europe under international refugee law. The parliamentarians responded positively to the initiative, and the possibility of holding a Europe-wide legal conference on the status of Palestinian refugees will be explored in 2002. BADIL also met with representatives of the Swiss Foreign Ministry, a major contributor to humanitarian aid for Palestinian refugees, and urged them to formulate a clear, rights-based position regarding the solution of the Palestinian refugee issue.

- BADIL-MAP (Media Alternatives on Palestine) Appeal to the UN Special Commission of Inquiry and UN Commissioner on Human Rights (Mary Robinson) calling for intervention of the United Nations to protect the Palestinian right to self-determination and Palestinian refugees’ right of return. The appeal was presented to the Special UN Inquiry Commission on 16 February (52,000 signatures) and to the 57th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in March 2001 (more than 60,000 signatures).

- Coordination of Joint Memoranda and Statements for Palestinian Refugee Rights and International Protection issued by the Global Right-of-Return Network, such as: open letter to the 27 March summit of the Arab League in Amman (signed by 10 refugee organizations and right-of-return initiatives in Palestine and Jordan); “Land Day” media statement (endorsed by 11 refugee unions and organizations in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Europe, 30 March 2001); public statement against the proposals of Dr. Sari Nusseibeh (endorsed by 19 Palestinian popular institutions and unions, 20 November 2001).
2nd Annual Strategy Workshop for the Palestinian Right-of-Return Network (Coalition for the Palestinian Right of Return):

The global coordination network Coalition for the Palestinian Right of Return successfully concluded its second annual coordinating meeting in Brussels, 27-30 November 2001. The meeting was organized by BADIL in cooperation with OXFAM/Belgium and the ten participating organizations: Committee for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights & Yafa Cultural Center - Palestine; Union of Youth Activity Centers - Palestine Refugee Camps; National Society for the Rights of the Internally Displaced - 1948 Palestine/Israel; High Committee for the Defense of the Right of Return - Jordan; 'Aidun Group - Syria; 'Aidun Group - Lebanon; Forum of NGOs in Lebanon - Lebanon; Palestine Right to Return Coalition (Al-Awda Network) - North America; Al-Awda-UK; Palestine Right to Return Coalition Europe - Europe; and, BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights - Palestine.

Over the course of four days, the participants evaluated the achievements of the right of return coalition in 2000-2001, discussed agenda and priorities for 2002, developed a joint plan of action, and held stocktaking discussions with representatives of European solidarity and human rights organizations. International principles, mechanisms and experience with refugee return and real property restitution in Bosnia were introduced by guest expert Paul Prettitore, legal advisor to the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia. Four papers were presented outlining prospective future activities in various regions.

Participants also held a one-day stocktaking and planning session with the European Solidarity movement represented by the European Coordinating Committee on Palestine (ECCP), the Belgian-Palestinian Association (ABP), the Flemish Palestine Committee (VPK), Oxfam Solidarity, the French NGO Platform on Palestine, and the Comite Inter-Mouvements Aupres Des Evacues (CIMADE). Following the session, participants attended a public meeting marking the annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November), which included a panel on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the inalienable right of return of Palestinian refugees.

Achievements of the Global Palestine Right-of-Return Coalition

- Reviewing the achievements of the previous year, all participants at the 2nd annual right-of-return workshop/Brussels agreed that the first annual meeting/Cyprus (2000), as well as information disseminated by BADIL during 2000-2001 gave a push to the formation of new right of return initiatives and the regrouping of existing ones. In general, 2001 witnessed the expansion of the right of return network, which succeeded to develop more efficient lobbying strategies with politicians (especially in Europe and in the US). Several right of return conferences were held in Europe, including Denmark, Norway, Germany and France, in order to form a Europe-wide coalition. A conference held in Copenhagen just prior to the Brussels workshop in November elected a Steering Committee for the Palestinian Right of Return Coalition/Europe. In Sweden 18 Palestinian institutions formed a new Coalition of the Palestinian Community residing in the country.

- In North America and in the UK, the al-Awda network has provided a new platform for identity and expression since its establishment in the spring 2000. Media and lobby work were evaluated especially positively, along with several large annual demonstrations in support of the right of return in Washington, DC and New York. The al-Awda network also organized the delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (in coordination with the NGO Forum Lebanon). Membership in al-Awda continues to grow (now standing at 1,800 active members).

- Participants noted that the participation of the NGO Forum Lebanon in the annual coordinating meeting this year was a particularly positive step towards the broadening of coordinated right of return activities in the Middle East.

- Participants agreed to maintain the existing structure of the global umbrella network "Coalition for the Palestinian Right of Return", which includes all current member organizations. Additional NGOs, committees and centers working for the right of return will be invited to join the coalition. It was agreed that the Coalition should be broadened and strengthened, both within the Palestinian community and also by building networks with solidarity organizations and groups outside the Palestinian community (in a south-south type of international approach). The participants agreed that the general principles on return, which were part of the Concluding Statement of last year’s workshop (See, www.badil.org/Campaign/principles.htm), remain the unified basis for the Coalition. BADIL will continue to serve as a coordinator for this coalition-broadening work in the year 2002.
RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

a project implemented by
BADIL’s Resource Unit

Statement of Purpose (BADIL 3-Year Plan and 2001 Project Proposal)

Long-term aim:
BADIL’s Resource Project is a tool in the service of BADIL’s community-based Campaign for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights. It investigates, analyses, monitors, and documents issues of concern and relevance to BADIL’s target communities and communicates their message to the international community in the quest for a just solution based on international law and UN Resolutions, especially UN General Assembly Resolution 194. BADIL’s information and media work is thus not motivated by academic or journalistic interest, but aims to develop innovative resources which can advance the Palestinian refugees’ right to return, restitution and compensation.

Objectives:
- Produce and disseminate information required for the progress of BADIL campaigns;
- Develop BADIL’s capacity to provide innovative research input into the strategic Palestinian debate on Palestinian refugee rights;
- Inform and raise awareness of Palestinian refugee rights among the Palestinian and Arab societies, the international community and Israeli society;
- Compile and archive Palestinian, Arab and international documents related to Palestinian refugee rights;
- Prepare and develop BADIL information facilities and services accessible for the interested public as well as provide professional guidance.

Project Activities and Beneficiaries

Research, Information, and Media Services

Print Publications (also published on www.badil.org)


Number of copies printed: 1,200 per issue; Distribution: 610 subscribers (mailing list); 100 copies reserved for bound collection; remaining copies by hand sale and distribution free of charge;

BADIL’s English language quarterly, previously issued in newsletter format, was upgraded to magazine format starting from issue no. 9 (March 2001). A new editorial advisory board was composed of 17 experts and right-of-return activists in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Europe and the United States in order to guarantee quality of content. As production costs increased slightly due to these improvements, the number of free subscriptions was limited to relevant institutions and partners, reducing the mailing list from more than 800 addresses previously to 610.

BADIL Information and Discussion Briefs (English and Arabic)

BADIL Briefs is a publication series launched in 2000 (nos. 1-6), in order to enrich the local and international debate about strategies for the defense of Palestinian refugee rights. Briefs are written by BADIL research and legal staff, interns and expert partners. Briefs are designed in language and scope (24 pages) as easy-to-read booklets for activists.

Reprints of Briefs No. 1 and 2: (500 copies each);

Brief No. 8: “Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return: An International Law Analysis” (Gail Boling, coordinator of BADIL Legal Unit, January 2001; 1000 copies);

Brief No. 7: "UNHCR and a Durable Solution for Palestinian Refugees" (Terry Rempel, coordinator, BADIL Resource Unit, December 2001); draft copies were distributed to a dozen Palestinian and international experts for comment.

Additional Briefs currently under production are: Internally Displaced/Legal Framework; Refugee Children’s Rights; Refugee Women’s Rights; Case Study: Return-Restitution in Bosnia.
Distribution: Electronic copies of the Briefs are disseminated via special BADIL email lists (Partner List/Refugee Rights Campaign, some 400 subscribers; Arabic Media list, 120 subscribers); hard copies are disseminated as part of BADIL's Information Packet/Right of Return.

BADIL Occasional Bulletins (English and Arabic)

BADIL Occasional Bulletins (four-page format) was launched in November 2000 (Bulletins 1-3) as a means to address urgent issues raised by the Al-Aqsa Intifada. The series was continued in 2001:

Bulletin 4: "The Right of Return and the Meaning of Refugee Choice"
Bulletin 5: "The Right of Return - An Analysis of Recent Israeli Debate"
Bulletin 6: "Physical Protection for Refugee Populated Areas"
Bulletin 7: "The World Conference Against Racism - Overview and Analysis"
Bulletin 8: "A Climate of Vulnerability - International Protection: Palestinian Refugees and al-Aqsa Intifada One Year Later"

Number of copies printed: 1,000 each;
Dissemination: Electronic copies of the Bulletins are disseminated via special BADIL email lists (Partner List/Refugee Rights Campaign, some 400 subscribers; Arabic Media list, 120 subscribers); hard copies are disseminated as part of BADIL's Information Packet/Right of Return.

BADIL Information Packet/Right of Return (3rd revised edition, Arabic and English)

The Information Packet includes key advocacy material produced by BADIL and is regularly distributed to visitors and partners in the framework of BADIL's Refugee Rights Campaign. In addition to Briefs and Occasional Bulletins, maps and advocacy post cards, the following materials were produced for the Packet in 2001:

Advocacy Guideline/The Right of Return (English: 500 copies, March 2001; Arabic: 2,000 copies, June 2001);

BADIL Public Relations Brochure (English and Arabic; 1,000 copies, May 2001);

Stickers/Right of Return (10 stickers/10,000 copies for the 2001 Nakba memorial).

BADIL Legal Papers (English and Arabic)

Legal Papers are written by BADIL's legal staff in order 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) and are published in English and Arabic by BADIL's Resource Unit. Legal Papers are published on BADIL's website, print copies are distributed among visitors and partners upon request. The following legal resources were published in 2001:

Legal Paper No. 1: "The 1948 Palestinian Refugees and the Individual Right of Return: An International Law Analysis" (Gail Boling, coordinator, BADIL Legal Unit; 50 pages, January 2001; 500 copies/language edition);

Submission to the Committee for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR): "Follow-up Information Regarding the Committee's 1998 Concluding Observations Regarding Israel's Serious Breaches of its Obligations under the ICESCR;" a print copy of this submission presented in November 2000 was prepared in order to allow wider dissemination (64 pages; January 2001, 500 copies/language edition).

Workshop Report (Arabic)
Based on the request by partners in the right-of-return coordination network, BADIL has taken on responsibility for documentation and dissemination of the final report of the network's annual strategy workshops. In 2001, BADIL produced:

Proceedings of the 1\textsuperscript{st} Annual Right-of-Return Strategy Workshop, Cyprus, October 2000 (Arabic; 1,500 copies, June 2001). Some 1,300 print copies of this report were disseminated among partners in Palestine and the Palestinian exile.

BADIL Annual Report 2000 (June 2001)
Number of copies printed: 250 copies/English, 750 copies/Arabic;
Dissemination: English copies among donors and international partners; Arabic copies among local and regional partners.

Additional Research in Production
(postponed due to budget constraints and scheduled for release in 2002)

Survey: Palestinian Refugees (2001): A new BADIL project aiming to present comprehensive data and analysis of the situation of Palestinian refugees in the context of a framework for durable solutions (return, restitution, compensation), in order to challenge common mis-representations of the Palestinian refugee case in surveys issued by international organizations and NGOs.

Research Report: Comparative study of international principles and mechanisms guiding refugee return and restitution, with focus on the relevance for the Palestinian case.

Mapping Palestinian Refugee Return:
This project aims to illustrate visually and in concrete terms using (a) maps and, (b) supplementary written material the return of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin.
Research was begun towards the preparation of maps showing among other: location of Palestinian refugee villages in relation to current built-up areas in Israel; location of Palestinian refugees after the Nakba and today; case study of return of a single village. Maps will be designed by a professional cartographer; existing historical maps (e.g. Israeli update of the last British map of Palestine; UNCCP map illustrating land ownership in Palestine) will be included.

Electronic Information
BADIL Website (www.badil.org; English and Arabic). Both websites were completely redesigned in 2001 in a more professional format for improved user access. BADIL websites were updated regularly, and special sections were added according to need (e.g. Al-Aqsa Intifada and International Protection; international law and mechanisms for the adjudication of war crimes).

Number of beneficiaries since November 1999: 31,000 (i.e. 40 hits/day).

BADIL Press Releases
Between January - December 2001, BADIL disseminated 67 English language press releases to over 1,200 subscribers. 40 Arabic language press releases were disseminated to 150 subscribers, approximately half of them were published/reported by the local Palestinian press.

Networking and Advocacy

Expert Consultation:
Project staff participated in a series of meetings with experts and professionals in international organizations and UN agencies in Geneva in May 2001, and in the systematic consultation of relevant PLO departments launched in December 2001 (for details see: 3. Legal Project).

BADIL Contributions to Conferences, Seminars:
- "Die palästinensische Flüchtlingsfrage: Zeit für einen internationalen Neuansatz?" (The Palestinian Refugee


Documentation

Library and Archives Development

Some 30 new books and periodicals were purchased for BADIL's research library. Library purchases were discontinued in the second half of 2001 due to the need to cut back on project expenses. Systematic library development could not be begun due to the heavy research workload of unit staff. Systematic library maintenance and development will require assistance by a professional librarian.

Oral History Documentation

Oral history recording in the framework of BADIL’s Oral History Project was discontinued during the al-Aqsa Intifada. Systematic computer archiving of the some 50 interviews with eyewitnesses of the 1948 displacement gathered in the past will be completed in 2002, in the framework of the construction of a new oral history section on BADIL’s website.

Reconstructing a Palestinian Village: LUBYA

This project aims to publicize the extensive documentation of village life in pre-1948 Luby, as well as displacement and exile of this Palestinian community compiled by Palestinian researcher Dr. Mahmoud Issa (Denmark) over several years. The documentation includes some 700 oral history interviews, photographs, as well as documents (a total of some 1,500 pages). The project will be implemented in two stages:

Stage 1: Publication (English and Arabic) of a 200 Page Summary Report (including photos and documents): This summary was prepared by Dr. Mahmoud Issa and will be published in Danish language in Copenhagen. Production of the English and Arabic language summary report was begun by BADIL in 2001, but not completed due to budget constraints. The summary report is scheduled for release in 2002.

Stage 2: Publication of Additional Documentation (interviews, photographs, documents) in two additional volumes (English and Arabic).

Guidance and Research Assistance

Hundreds of requests for information and research assistance were handled via the internet. BADIL also assisted visiting researchers and Palestinian NGOs with the conceptualization of their research reports relating to Palestinian refugees (e.g. Refugee Children Rights - The Palestinian Case: A BADIL Briefing Memo prepared for DCI-Palestine, March 2001), and facilitated international fact finding and research missions. Among others, such assistance was provided to the British Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry on Palestinian Refugees who had traveled through the Middle East in September 2000, and issued its 200-page report on Palestinian refugee choice in March 2001. BADIL provided assistance with editing and the Hebrew translation.
Legal Project: Palestinian Refugee Rights

A project implemented by BADIL’s Legal Unit

Statement of Purpose (BADIL 3-Year Plan and 2001 Project Proposal)

Long term aim:
BADIL’s Legal Project provides professional, legal support to BADIL’s community-based Campaign for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights, in order to place Palestinian refugee rights, especially the right of return and restitution (UN General Assembly Resolution 194) on the agenda of international, regional, and domestic human rights fora.

Objectives:
- To obtain maximum support for Palestinian refugees' right of return and restitution from international, regional, and domestic human rights fora (declaratory rulings, missions of inquiry, reports, etc.) by means of preparation and submission of reports and actual litigation of Palestinian refugee claims.
- To work for international protection, in addition to assistance, for Palestinian refugees according to international laws and standards applied to other refugee groups in the world, in order to guarantee that their rights of return and restitution are respected in the framework of a future solution of the Israeli-Palestinian/Arab conflict.

2001 Activities and Impact

Due to the fact that this project is a new BADIL project, which began operation only in January 2001, major efforts were dedicated to the exploration of effective legal advocacy and lobbying strategies in the most immediate target fora, i.e. UN treaty-based bodies and the UN Commission on Human Rights. Considerable effort also was dedicated to networking and the establishment of cooperation with Palestinian and international NGOs, partners in BADIL’s legal advocacy effort.

One year of systematic and intensive reporting to, and lobbying of, UN human rights fora and strategizing with UN and international agencies has shown clearly that BADIL can have greater sustained impact if it can secure permanent professional lobbying assistance in Geneva. A request for such assistance was sent to a series of BADIL partners in October 2001, and discussion of a joint UN lobbying project with the Geneva-based Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) was launched in December 2001.

BADIL Submissions to/Lobbying of United Nations Human Rights Fora

UN Commission on Human Rights (Israeli human rights violations/al-Aqsa Intifada):
- BADIL Report to the Special Inquiry Commission/UN Commission on Human Rights: Palestinian Refugees and the al-Aqsa Intifada - The Impact of the Lack of International Protection: The report, including BADIL field data on deaths and damage incurred by the refugee community in Palestine was presented to the Dugard-Falk-Hossain Commission in Ramallah on 16-2-2001. BADIL’s recommendations were adopted in the Commission’s final report presented to the 57th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva in March-April 2001.

Memorandum to the UN Commission on Human Rights, 57th Session: BADIL, unable to send a delegate to this session in Geneva, highlighted urgent issues of international protection for Palestinian refugees in a memorandum sent to NGO and state participants on 13 March 2001.

Submissions to/Lobbying the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR):
- BADIL’s November 2000 submission to CESC had identified three main Israeli violations of rights of Palestinian refugees
protected by the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, i.e. obstruction of the right of return, obstruction of the right to restitution, and obstruction of the right of self-determination. It was argued that by violating these “core, foundational” rights of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced (i.e. private property ownership rights, the right to citizenship in one's country of origin, and the right to self-determination), Israel completely violates the remaining set of Covenant-enumerated social, economic and cultural rights of this large population group of over 5 million in their entirety.

Follow-up Submission for CESCR's April-May 2001 Session: General Item: Follow-up Procedure Israel: In this follow-up submission BADIL requested the Committee to:

- Strengthen its 1998 Concluding Observations regarding Israel (observations 11, 13, 25, 39) by clearly identifying Israeli violations of the three "core, foundational" rights of the Palestinian refugees as breaches of the Covenant.

- Identify appropriate remedies required for Israel to come into compliance with its Covenant obligations, namely: annulment/amendment of Israel’s discriminatory Nationality Law (1952) in order to grant effective right of return and citizenship status to all Palestinians exiled from areas under Israel's sovereign control; annulment of all illegal Israeli land confiscation laws and restitution of properties to their rightful Palestinian owners; return and restitution, as well as the immediate cessation of Israel's military occupation in the 1967 occupied territories, as a condition for the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination enshrined in Article 1 of the Covenant.

- Identify specific Covenant mechanisms for implementing the above-mentioned remedies, namely: to inform other UN organs, especially ECOSOC and the Commission on Human Rights, about the graveness of Israel's Covenant breaches; and to request UN organs with an enforcement mandate to take action for the international protection of Palestinian rights enshrined in the Covenant.

Lobbying the CESCR April-May Session (Geneva, 3-5 May 2001): Given the fact that this was BADIL's first-time presence and lobbying effort of a treaty-monitoring UN body, its outcome was extremely positive. Productive working relations and cooperation were established with Palestinian and international NGOs (e.g. CESR, Habitat, Adalah, LAW), and joint lobbying of CESCR members had a positive, concrete impact on the Committee's decisions concerning follow-up procedures with Israel:

In its April-May session, the CESCR decided to take two concrete actions. It sent a letter to Israel announcing that an extraordinary session in August would examine Israel's performance, and it alerted, for the first time in CESCR's history, the president of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the urgent need for protection measures for the population of the 1967 occupied territories.

Lobbying the CESCR's Extraordinary Session/General Item "Follow-Up Procedure (Israel)" (Geneva, 17 August 2001): In this session, the Israeli representative walked out of the conference room after an angry verbal attack on Committee members. The CESCR failed to issue substantive Concluding Observations on Israel. It did note, however, the Committee's ongoing concern about Israel's denial of the right of return to Palestinian refugees.

Lobbying the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

BADIL Letter and Joint Appeal to ECOSOC: In order to add emphasis to the earlier call for ECOSOC action issued by the CESCR, BADIL submitted on 3 July a letter to ECOSOC, calling for immediate international protection for the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and for the commission of a study on the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. BADIL's letter was consequently endorsed by 53 NGOs, networks, unions and concerned individuals and re-submitted to ECOSOC on 17 July. BADIL applied for ECOSOC "consultative status," in order to gain better and more direct access to this important UN body in the future.
The 54 member states of ECOSOC failed to address the issue of protection during its session (New York, 2-27 July 2001). It approved visits of Special Rapporteurs/UN Human Rights Commission to the occupied Palestinian territories, and issued a resolution on Palestinian women calling, inter alia, upon Israel to protect the right of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to return to their homes and properties. The resolution was voted against by the United States.

Reports to UN Special Rapporteurs:

Joint NGO Appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food: Based on a decision among NGO partners involved in joint lobbying of UN human rights fora, and as part of BADIL’s efforts to gather experience with the UN Commission of Human Rights’ mechanism of Special Rapporteurs, BADIL took the lead role in the preparation of this joint appeal calling for an urgent country visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food to the 1967 occupied Palestinian territories. The appeal was signed by 12 Palestinian, international and Israeli NGOs and submitted in June 2001.

Report to the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories:

BADIL Report to the UN Special Committee: Palestinian Refugees and the al-Aqsa Intifada - The Legal Obligation to Provide International Protection and to Work for a Durable Solution: the report was presented to the Committee in Amman in July 2001, as part of the evidence gathered for the Committee’s annual report to the UN General Assembly.

Strategizing for Protection of Palestinian Refugee Rights: Networking with UN Agencies, international organizations and the PLO

In a first informal meeting between BADIL and UNHCR (Geneva, March 2001), it was agreed that BADIL would prepare an initial agenda for a structured and informal follow-up debate with UNHCR at the earliest possible date. A memorandum outlining BADIL’s agenda and suggestions was consequently prepared in cooperation with legal expert partners and presented to UNHCR and UNRWA.

BADIL Exploratory Meetings with International Organizations (Geneva, 5 - 10 May, BADIL legal and research team and expert partners Susan Akram/Boston University School of Law and a legal expert of the PLO Negotiation Support Unit): exploratory consultations and discussions about how effectively and efficiently to advance Palestinian refugee rights in various UN and international fora were held with numerous organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Organization for Migration, the UN Claims Commission, and the World Council of Churches. Issues of mandate were examined, and potential roles of international agencies in a rights-based mechanism for durable solutions for Palestinian refugees, as well as various legal and political obstacles, were discussed.

First Structured Debate with UNHCR (held in the framework of BADIL’s exploratory meetings in Geneva on 10 May): the meeting resulted in a decision to cooperate for the following aims: a) exchange of information and data, especially about Palestinian refugees in areas outside areas of UNRWA operation; b) identification of specific protection gaps with negative effects on specific Palestinian refugee population groups; c) formation of an international expert working group/task force which will develop a model for multi-agency involvement for the protection of Palestinian refugees’ rights to return and property restitution.

International Seminar: The Emergence of the German, Palestinian, and Jewish
Refugees' Problem organized by the Friedrich Nauman Foundation in Istanbul, 8-10 November 2001: BADIL presented a paper on Historical Legal Aspects of the Palestinian Refugee Situation. Based on the conference, the F. Nauman Foundation decided to publish conference papers and proceedings, and to organize a follow-up conference on Palestinian refugee rights in 2002, in which BADIL is expected to participate.

Legal Strategy Consultation with the PLO and PNA: In October 2001, BADIL submitted a memorandum to the PLO Department for Refugee Affairs (DORA), the PLO Negotiation Affairs Department (NAD), and the PNA Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), outlining key-issues (principles and mechanisms) to be addressed in the context of a rights-based Palestinian vision and strategy for refugee return and real property restitution. A first consultation session with DORA was held on 29 December 2001, and a joint agenda for further research and debate was prepared. Legal consultations with PLO and PNA institutions will be continued in 2002.

Legal Research and Resource Development

Legal Research:


Legal Paper-2: Detailed analysis of international law and UN resolutions pertaining to refugees’ right of real property restitution was started in November 2001 and will be completed in 2002.

Legal Research/Submission on Israel’s Confiscation of Private Palestinian Land (1948 - 2001), including presentation of relevant Israeli law and illustrative case documentation, Israeli court rulings, and a legal argument based on relevant international law: Mechanisms for the selection of appropriate cases, Israeli law and court rulings were examined with Palestinian lawyers in the spring of 2001. A closer examination of the strategic options for submission of this research to powerful UN human rights bodies led to the conclusion that an extensive research project of this kind merits greater professional lobbying and advisory assistance at the UN at key stages of this project. Consequently, research was halted temporarily, until such assistance can be achieved.

Legal Opinion, Advice, and Information:

Upon Request, Legal Opinion and Advice on the rights and status of Palestinian refugees in international law and human rights conventions, as well as applicable domestic law, was presented to immigration and asylum boards, Palestinian and international NGOs, and individual Palestinian refugees in search of help.

WCAR Durban: Contributions to the Language-Drafting Process for the NGO draft declaration and program of action were made to the International NGO Steering Committee in June-July 2001;

(Open) Letters Clarifying BADIL’s Legal Analysis and Opinion were sent to: Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, PLO Jerusalem portfolio (clarification of the relationship between Palestinian collective and individual rights); and, to UN Secretary Kofi Annan, UN member states and UN agencies/ organs on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (“Call for Full and Immediate Implementation of UN Resolution 194: Prerequisite for a Just and Durable Peace in the Middle East”).

Legal Resources and Library Development:

Basic equipment (computer, programs) were purchased for the set up of the new legal project. Purchase of legal resources for BADIL’s library were postponed to 2002, due to the need to cut back on project expenses. Systematic library development could not be begun due to the heavy research workload of unit staff. Systematic library maintenance and development will require assistance by a professional librarian.
Institutional Development

In the period of 1999 - 2001 BADIL was successfully established as an independent, community-based Palestinian NGO officially accountable to a General Assembly, led by an elected Board, and registered with the Palestinian National Authority. In this context, BADIL's first three-year plan (1999 - 2001) provided a useful framework for setting out the goals of institutional growth and budget planning - although by 2001 BADIL remained some US $85,000 short of the budget targeted initially. The shortage of funding, however, did not require a proportionate cut-back of activities, as BADIL has been able to recruit substantive community contribution to and voluntary assistance in program implementation.

Development of Program and Projects

BADIL’s first three-year plan was less useful as a tool for program planning. It was designed at a time when awareness and knowledge of Palestinian refugee rights were at a substantially lower level than today, both among Palestinians/Arabs and the international human rights and solidarity community. Coherent strategies for the promotion of refugee rights were absent among the Palestinian community and its leadership, and research and advocacy agenda were undefined. In the absence of networks providing dialogue and coordination, Palestinian refugee communities in Palestine and in exile were isolated and marginalized by the "Oslo process," which was designed to bring about a political settlement of the 50-years old Palestinian/Arab - Zionist conflict at the expense of Palestinian refugees' right of return, property restitution and compensation. A series of popular conferences of refugees (1967 occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip) and internally displaced Palestinians (Israel) held in the mid-1990s had concluded with much popular determination to defend their rights as enshrined in UN General Assembly Resolution 194, but provided little strategic guidance and no mechanisms for efficient professional advocacy and lobby work.

Looking back over the past three years, therefore, it seems no surprise that the advocacy agenda defined in BADIL's first three-year plan was rather vague and undefined, and - based upon BADIL projects and activities existing at that time - suggested various areas of focus (residency rights in Jerusalem and other 1967 occupied/PNA administered areas, legal aid services, and refugee rights). Numerous factors have since contributed to the rapid development of BADIL's program and projects, among them mainly the following:

- creativity and patience shown by grassroots and expert partners, and BADIL staff, in jointly clarifying and defining the agenda of BADIL as a professional research and advocacy NGO in the service of the refugee community;
- the launch of final status negotiations between the PLO and Israel in 1999, leading to heightened public awareness of, and media attention to, the refugee issue, and the professional upgrading of PLO departments involved in the political negotiations and refugee affairs;
- the rapid response by Palestinian exiles in the Middle East, Europe and North America to BADIL networking and advocacy efforts, and the strong support provided by numerous independent experts.

Due to the above, BADIL outgrew its initial 1999-2001 program by the year 2000. BADIL's 2001 program was adapted to this reality. The adaptation resulted in the closure of BADIL's legal aid department, the addition of a new legal research and advocacy project, and the streamlining of BADIL's program focused on the advancement of a professional advocacy strategy for Palestinian refugee rights (see BADIL Annual Report 2000).

By the end of 2001, BADIL had accomplished most objectives defined for its research, information, and advocacy effort in 1999 - 2001. In some areas, achievements went significantly beyond initial targets and expectations.
Achievements: BADIL
Campaign for the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights

Community Awareness-Raising and Empowerment: Over the past three-year period, general awareness of, and community mobilization for, Palestinian refugee rights have increased dramatically among the local Palestinian community and its institutions, and in particular among refugees. This development is reflected in sustained community-organizing and lobbying, an ongoing Palestinian media debate, and the affirmation of the Palestinian consensus about the centrality of the Palestinian refugee question and individual refugee rights (return, property restitution, compensation) in the context of any future political settlement with Israel. An additional indicator is the fact that historical events symbolizing the Palestinian displacement and expropriation, especially "Nakba Day" (15 May), have become permanent components of the Palestinian public calendar. While not attributable solely to BADIL’s efforts, we consider that sustained BADIL awareness-raising and support of refugee community initiatives have contributed to this development.

Networking among Palestinian Refugee Communities and International Advocacy: While in 1998 dialogue and coordination among the scattered refugee communities in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Europe and North America were virtually absent, joint strategizing and advocacy efforts via the internet, as well as annual coordination meetings organized by BADIL, have become routine by 2001. While BADIL networking and information dissemination have been instrumental for triggering the global Palestinian right-of-return network, it could not have become sustainable without the enthusiasm and voluntary effort shown by hundreds of right-of-return initiatives launched in this period by Palestinian exile communities worldwide. Political developments, but also joint Palestinian awareness-raising and advocacy for refugees’ right of return, have led to a significant increase of attention to Palestinian refugees’ rights and demands among international solidarity and human rights groups, experts, policy makers, and the international and Israeli media.

Achievements: BADIL Research and Information Project

Production/dissemination of Advocacy Tools: Timely production and dissemination of high quality advocacy tools (e.g. Information Packet/Right of Return, website, press releases) have contributed substantially to the success of BADIL’s refugee rights advocacy campaign, a fact which was explicitly recognized by BADIL’s regional and international partners in 2001.

Innovative Research and Expert Networking: The ability of BADIL’s research team in the past three-year period to translate the general guidelines received from the refugee community into a coherent agenda for professional research and right-of-return advocacy based on international law and UN resolutions has allowed BADIL to provide significant new input into the Palestinian debate on the one hand, and to receive respect, recognition, and support from among the Palestinian and international expert community for its rights-based approach to the Palestinian refugee issue on the other.

Achievements: BADIL Advocacy

While it is yet too early for a conclusive assessment of the achievements of this BADIL project, there is no doubt - after one year of project operation - that professional legal analysis, networking and lobbying of the UN system have further increased the impact of BADIL’s advocacy efforts. Permanent lobbying assistance within the UN system is required, however, for systematic networking and activation of UN fora and international organizations.
Towards the New BADIL Three-Year Plan (2002-2004)

According to the new three-year plan proposed to BADIL's General Assembly, BADIL's program and projects will focus on the following priorities in the period 2002 - 2004:

Refugee Rights Campaign Project:

- Improve coordination of community-based right of return initiatives in Palestine; expand membership (women initiatives, refugees residing outside the camps); develop new tools for debate and coordination (e.g. Arabic newsletter, encouragement of use of email/internet);

- Launch of a public debate about principles and mechanisms to guide implementation of refugee return, real property restitution and compensation, in order to advance the Palestinian consensus and strategy towards a rights-based solution of the Palestinian refugee question.

- Continue systematic dialogue, advocacy and lobby support among European policy makers (European Union and governments).

- Search for constructive dialogue with individuals/groups in Jewish-Israeli society who are willing to support and advocate for a solution of the Palestinian refugee question as provided by international law and UN Resolution 194.

Research and Information Project:

- Develop and publish research and advocacy tools, which illustrate a coherent model (principles and mechanisms) for the implementation of a rights-based solution of the Palestinian refugee question (e.g. comparative research; research of concrete options for return, real property restitution and compensation that are supported by international law and practice);

- Continue networking and expand cooperation with Palestinian, Arab and international experts towards the formation of a rights-based strategy and international mechanism for the protection of Palestinian refugee rights (day-to-day rights and rights in the context of a durable solution).

Legal Project:

- Continue to prepare legal analysis and submissions, which clarify and highlight the basic rights of Palestinian refugees under international law and challenge Zionist Israeli law and policy (return, real property restitution, compensation);

- Strategize for and present submissions to international human rights fora, especially within the United Nations; obtain resolutions which affirm - and prepare the path for enforcement of - Palestinian refugees' right of return, real property restitution and compensation.

- Continue consultations, networking, and advocacy for a rights-based model of international refugee protection, both on a day-to-day basis, and in the context of a durable solution (with Palestinian, Arab, and international experts/organizations and UN agencies).

- Develop a network of legal expert support, and establish permanent lobbying assistance for targeting the UN system;

Note: For additional details about BADIL's new three-year plan (2002 - 2004), please request a copy of the draft document.