

Al-Haq

2006 Narrative Report

Al-Haq has been serving Palestinian society for twenty-eight years, and each year we look back to see what we have contributed to the quest for human rights and the respect for the rule of law. What difference have we made as an organization? Operating under occupation does not lend itself to having "typical years" and 2006 definitely has been no exception. The year has challenged Al-Haq's organizational capacity to function under severely deteriorating external conditions as well as significant internal changes. Al-Haq has resiliently met these challenges by adapting its resources and areas of focus to make 2006 a strong year for the organization and its partners. This report aims to provide a review of the significant impacts of Al-Haq's activities in 2006 as well as an assessment of the organizations shortcomings.

Organization Background

About Al-Haq

Al-Haq is an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in Ramallah, West Bank. Established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the organisation has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Al-Haq documents violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians in the OPT, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, and seeks to end such breaches by way of advocacy before national and international mechanisms and by holding the violators to account. The organisation conducts research; prepares reports, studies and interventions on breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law in the OPT; and undertakes advocacy before local, regional and international bodies. Al-Haq also cooperates with Palestinian civil society organizations and governmental institutions in order to ensure that international human rights standards are reflected in Palestinian law and policies. The organisation has a specialized international law library for the use of its staff and the local community.

Al-Haq is the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists - Geneva, and is a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), and the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO).

Al-Haq's Vision

Al-Haq's vision is to see the rule of law and standards of international human rights and humanitarian law implemented and adhered to, so that Palestinians can enjoy equal treatment with respect to their human dignity, free from occupation and with the full realization of their right to self-determination.

Al-Haq's Mission

Al-Haq is a Palestinian non-governmental, independent human rights organisation that works in the OPT to uphold the rule of law and respect for human rights. Al-Haq focuses on monitoring, documenting and advocating against the violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians under international law, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, using both national and international mechanisms with the intention of promoting respect and adherence to the rule of law and remedying violations.

Al-Haq is an equal opportunity employer and prides itself on the diversity of its staff. The staff consists of personnel covering numerous nationalities, both Muslim and Christian. Females make up 69% of our office staff, including three legal researchers and the heads of two of three of Al-Haq's departments. Al-Haq works to ensure equal protection of all people and starts at home by ensuring equal treatment for its entire staff.

Al-Haq's Goals for 2006

- Influence policy at the national and international levels
- Hold accountable perpetrators of international human rights and humanitarian law in the OPT
- Improve and enhance Al-Haq's organizational capacity.

I. The Challenge

A. Internal Political Changes

Al-Haq began 2006 by preparing for the January 25 Palestinian Legislative Council Elections. The Al-Haq staff and 50 volunteers were trained as local observers during the campaigning and polling processes. Furthermore, Al-Haq held two one-day training workshops for 43 high-ranking law-enforcement officials, including police officers, from throughout the West Bank. The workshops engaged officials regarding their duties in preserving law and order more generally, and providing them with an understanding of the relevant provisions of the Palestinian Election law regarding their duties and responsibilities during the electoral process more specifically. In addition, an Arabic-language manual was developed to detail the duties and rights of voters, candidates, and campaigners, and the rules and regulations governing the campaigning period and Election Day. An estimated 2,000 copies were disseminated throughout the West Bank. Al-Haq also drafted and disseminated a newsletter covering important issues such as the overview of the Palestinian electoral system, the

rules and regulations governing campaigning, and challenges that may occur during the process.

The elections were to be a confirmation of the progress towards democracy by the Palestinian people and their readiness for statehood by having all parties participating and providing mechanism for change by the people. Al-Haq was very happy to help the elections succeed. The repercussions from these successful democratic elections, however, have been quiet far from this vision leaving Palestinians scratching their heads as to the value of democracy. The elections have been followed by economic sanctions from the international community, the withholding of taxes and customs revenues by Israel, entry denial to foreign passport holders, government employee strikes, and factional fighting bringing Palestine to the edge of civil war. These results have greatly damaged Palestinian faith in the value of expressing their voice democratically, which may take a very long time to repair.

B. Continued Israeli Violations

Over nearly 40 years, the Israeli occupation has been characterized by, amongst others, the practice of extra-judicial executions, land confiscation, arbitrary arrest and detention, and house demolitions. Over the past year, not only have these violations persisted with alarming tenacity, but the economic boycott of the elected Palestinian government has crippled the Palestinian economy, and severely damaged the provision of education and health services. The resulting violations of the rights to education, health and employment are more severe than they have ever been, deepening poverty and destroying social cohesion.

Of the numerous human rights violation to which Palestinians are subjected, none is more pervasive than the severe restrictions placed upon Palestinian movement within the OPT. Movement restrictions limit access to education, employment, health services, and agricultural land, and have economic and social consequences beyond simply hindering travel. Movement restrictions are most commonly enforced through permanent and 'flying' military checkpoints, which are often the location of the ill-treatment, assault and, in some instances, killing of Palestinian civilians. Since 2002 the construction of the Annexation Wall in the OPT has increased land confiscation within the draconian regime associated with movement restrictions in the OPT.

C. Staff Turnover

Two of Al-Haq's legal researchers and two members of the administrative staff left the organisation in 2006. All left on excellent terms to pursue further career opportunities or for personal reasons. Al-Haq's fieldworker in the Bethlehem area, Ziyad Hmeidan remained in administrative detention, despite numerous advocacy activities carried out by Al-Haq on his behalf, and a member of Al-Haq's international staff, Maureen Murphy, was denied entry to Israel and deported, by the Israeli authorities, to the United States.

II. Monitoring and Documentation

First-hand documentation by Al-Haq's Monitoring and Documentation Department (MDD) constitutes the backbone of all other projects and activities undertaken by the organisation. Al-Haq's fieldworkers gather information and affidavits from victims of, and eyewitnesses to, human rights violations throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Department continuously documents violations of all sorts, including comprehensive coverage of killings, house demolitions, curfews, and deportations. The information gathered is channeled into Al-Haq's advocacy at the local and international levels, including its interventions, legal research reports and campaigns. Through the efforts of Al-Haq's MDD staff and fieldworkers, Al-Haq's Legal Research and Advocacy Department (LRAD) is able to attach human stories to the violations making Al-Haq's work better in quality and impact.

In 2006, the unit gathered 565 affidavits from victims and eye-witnesses of human rights violations in the West Bank. Of these affidavits, 45 pertained to violations associated with the Annexation Wall; 228 to killings; 24 to settler harassment; 98 to attacks by Israeli soldiers; 21 regarding checkpoints; 7 specific to violations of women's rights; 15 regarding vigilantism and lack of the rule of law; and 7 regarding violations specific to East Jerusalem. Furthermore, Al-Haq documented 126 cases of killing during the year 2006, as well as 40 cases of house demolition for military reasons and 70 house demolitions for lack of building permit; 16 instances of curfew imposition; 2 cases of expulsion; and 69 cases of Palestinian-on-Palestinian killings.

A. Impacts

The MDD was approached by a variety of people in order to benefit from the quality of documentation. Numerous journalists have requested information from the department. For example, a Japanese journalist came to Al-Haq in order to gather information on violations through the use of Apache helicopters. Also, the Arab Bank requested Al-Haq's assistance in providing documentation for the legal proceedings in the United States. Al-Haq's documentation is also serving to support a case against the UK government and has laid the foundation for a case to be brought before the Israeli High Court regarding the Al Nu'man village.

Al-Haq was also approached in 2006 to provide documentation for litigation against a Palestinian of American citizenship held in the United States. In relation to his trial, the fact that the man had been arrested and tortured in Israel was brought up. In order to support his claims of torture, Al-Haq was asked to provide affidavits on the issue of torture which occurred during the mid-nineties. Al-Haq's strong database made the information easily accessible and we were able to provide the requested documentation as needed.

In addition to being commended for the quality of their documentation, Al-Haq's fieldworkers have also been requested to provide presentations to other organizations on proper documentation techniques and procedures. Al-Haq's documentation has been called upon and utilized by numerous international organizations including Amnesty International and the United Nations. Specifically, Al-Haq has provided Special Rapporteurs with documentation on different issues which have aided in

supporting intervention by the Rapporteurs to Israeli authorities supporting both the goals of policy influence and accountability.

Al-Haq fieldworkers have also provided field tours to visiting delegations in order to provide a first hand look at the situation on the ground, especially to Hebron and Nablus. Trips were provided for journalists, as well as officials from the offices of foreign representatives.

B. Shortcomings

In pursuance of our objective to ensure adherence to the rule of law and remedy violations, Al-Haq sought to engage internal violations with increased resolve in 2006. Despite the fact that numerous Palestinian-on-Palestinian killings were documented indicating great improvements on the matter, Al-Haq was unable to satisfy the need to document sufficient violations by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Al-Haq attributes this shortcoming to the difficulty in overcoming the fear and lack of faith citizens have in the PNA and fear from any backlash that may result from coming forward. It is a cultural constraint that Al-Haq will continue to try and overcome. Al-Haq fieldworkers in some cases also have to overcome the same constraints and be better able to question Palestinians on internal issues as well.

III. National Advocacy

An important part of Al-Haq's work is pointed towards internal issues. The change in the make up of the PLC did not result in the severing of dialogue by Al-Haq. The position of Al-Haq is to advocate for the shaping of policies being adopted and applied to the Palestinian people, regardless of who is responsible for originating these policies. In this respect, Al-Haq sought to maintain dialogue with the newly elected members of the PLC by drafting and disseminating an open letter to the members of the PLC outlining Al-Haq's vision of policies it recommended the newly elected PLC renew.

A. Influencing Policy and Legislation

Al-Haq plays a dual role with regard to Palestinian policy makers. It seeks to establish a direct relationship with them in order to guide legislation in coordination with acting as a watchdog ready for action when legislation runs counter to international standards of human rights.

1. Impacts

In 2006, Al-Haq immediately sought to strengthen its relationship with the newly elected PLC by disseminating a memorandum to PLC members of all parties that stated the vision of Al-Haq towards Palestinian legislation and the need to adhere to international human rights standards. Through this mechanism Al-Haq stood ready to advise on any legislation to be drafted. This memorandum met with great acceptance and many legislators expressed agreement with Al-Haq's position. Al-Haq was approached to provide workshops for legislators on legislation strategy.

Unfortunately, prior to the implementation of these workshops, the lack of cooperation within the government brought the PLC function to a standstill delaying Al-Haq's ability to discuss legislation with the legislators.

In its role as a watchdog, Al-Haq was very active in monitoring and intervening on any legislative activity. In early 2006 President Abbas issued a decree amending the judiciary law. Al-Haq reviewed this decree and found it to be in violation of the independence of the judiciary founded in the Palestinian Basic Law. In response to this decree, Al-Haq launched a campaign to have the decree nullified. First, Al-Haq sent a memorandum to the President and the head of the PLC explaining the impropriety of the decree. Second Al-Haq organized a workshop which included civil society organizations, PLC representatives, and the head of the PLC legal committee, the Justice Minister, and journalists in order to advocate against the decree. After the workshop, participants from both Hamas and Fatah agreed as to the illegality of the decree. When the decree was brought before the PLC legal committee, Al-Haq's comments were used as starting points to argue against the decree. Aziz Dwaik, the head of the PLC specifically pointed out Al-Haq's role in the striking of the decree. Despite Mr. Dwaik's kind comments regarding Al-Haq, we stated to him that we wish to see these standards put into practice. If so, then we will cooperate and assist, but if the standards are violated we will also be ready to criticize. Even advisors of the President asked to be approached for future issues prior to the launching of any public criticism campaign.

Al-Haq did not pull back in the need to criticize other branches of government. When the Hamas controlled Council of Ministers attempted to issue a freeze against the registration of new non-governmental organizations, Al-Haq was the first NGO to intervene and voice its disagreement with this draft legislation and again managed to have the draft withdrawn from consideration. Regardless of where the legislation originated and which party was behind it, Al-Haq proved it was ready to step up and advocate for the respect of human rights values.

Al-Haq has shown that it puts the rule of law ahead of political correctness and reminded Palestinians on numerous occasions as to the appropriate means of meeting increased Israeli violations. In July 2006, Al-Haq issued an appeal to Palestinian political parties and armed factions demanding that all members of Palestinian resistance movements act according to the principles of international humanitarian law, which regulate the rights and duties of belligerent parties.

Al-Haq delivered the appeal to both Fatah and Hamas officials and both parties responded positively to the appeal. Al-Haq intended to move further and provide leaders with IHL workshops but the internal political situation did not allow the initiative to progress. The appeal did meet with great acceptance, however, and numerous actors, both local and international commended Al-Haq on its work. Specific examples of the impact of this appeal are requests for opinion editorials by the Daily Star and the Wall Street Journal. The submissions were not accepted however. While Al-Haq hoped to achieve an op-ed in the 2006, it is the feeling of the organization that these newspapers were seeking view inconsistent with that of Al-Haq.

2. Shortcomings

In 2006, Al-Haq aimed to conduct a study on vigilantism in the OPT. Although a great deal of work has been done, the study was not completed for two main reasons. The first was the inability to gather sufficient information on vigilantism activity from law enforcement. This is due in part to an inadequate system of collection such information on the part of law enforcement. However, Al-Haq could have made a stronger effort in documenting the violations and coordinating with law enforcement to gather the information. This inability to engage sufficiently is due to the second main reason for this shortcoming, which was the overextension of Al-Haq's legal staff. The constant requirement for reactive work took away from the staff's ability to focus sufficiently on this study. Al-Haq will aim to ensure such overextension does not reoccur in 2007 with better planning. Despite the delay, Al-Haq has made progress and will have the study ready to be released in early 2007.

B. Networking

Al-Haq understands that achieving human rights and respect for the rule of law cannot be achieved working alone and has maintained a good working relationship with other NGOs throughout the OPT both Israeli and Palestinian. These relationships range from simple networking to the establishment of coalitions, request for assistance, exchange of information, and the releasing of joint press releases on different issues addressed to EU, UN, and Palestinian leaders.

1. Impacts

In 2006, our cooperation with other organizations was exemplified in an Israeli Supreme Court decision to change the scope of law that denied Palestinians harmed by Israeli Military in the OPT compensation from Israel. The decision granted Palestinians who have been killed, or injured, or who have sustained property damage the right to submit tort claims for compensation in Israeli courts against the Israeli government. The petition for this case was submitted on 1 September 2005 by Adalah, HaMoked, Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Al Haq, Palestinian Center for Human Rights, B'Tselem, Physicians for Human Rights, The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI), and Rabbis for Human Rights. Al-Haq also published a study on the issue which the organization began working on in 2005.

Al-Haq is a member of the Palestinian NGO network (PNGO) and has also begun working with a coalition of Palestinian human rights organizations in order to form a Palestinian Human Rights Council. Al-Haq also provides support to groups such as the Jerusalem Coalition, and the Campaign for the Right of Entry/Re-Entry to the OPT. Al-Haq also provides its publications to municipalities and other NGOs for use as a resource in their own libraries.

Many civil society organizations requested Al-Haq to provide training sessions on advocacy on legislation and the drafting of interventions. After a seminar presented by Al-Haq on influencing policies and advocacy strategies to civil society organizations, leaders specifically from organizations in Tulkarem created a Human Rights commission in their community and asked Al-Haq for training.

Al-Haq also invites other NGOs to attend training sessions provided by Al-Haq. For example representatives from B'tselem and DCI attended a workshop on IHL organized for Al-Haq fieldworkers.

Organizations such as WCLAC and the Palestinian Counseling Center have incorporated Al-Haq's analysis in their work expressing thanks for Al-Haq's input and participation. PNGO took a formal decision to have Al-Haq involved in the review of any issues involving international humanitarian law and human rights. Ian Guest, a Georgetown University professor, also came to Al-Haq in order to obtain information for a report on Human Rights NGOs in the West Bank. Al-Haq was used by Mr. Guest as a prime example of the work that a human rights organization is capable of.

UNICEF specifically requested Al-Haq to be a part of the Juvenile Law drafting committee. This is a tribute to Al-Haq's work. Al-Haq's ability to have access and provide input into draft legislation is one of the strongest impacts Al-Haq has achieved as an organization. Human Rights Watch and the Cairo Center for Legal Studies have both requested Al-Haq's input as well. Furthermore, the UNRWA labor union asked Al-Haq to prepare an analysis on UNRWA's policy to not rehire employees jailed by the Israeli Occupation Forces. Al-Haq's points were used by the union to have the policy changed.

Al-Haq's limited capacity does not allow for us to participate in every possible engagement, but one of Al-Haq's primary activities in 2006 was the cooperation with the Al Quds University Legal Clinic in Abu Dis. The cooperation with the clinic began when representatives of the university approached Al-Haq for assistance in starting the clinic. Al-Haq offered guidance throughout the process by helping to design the program and volunteered its staff to provide lectures in areas of human rights and international law as well as training in monitoring and documentation. Al-Haq has also provided workshops on International Humanitarian Law to various members of civil society including those located in marginalized areas of the West Bank, such as Jenin. Al-Haq was also one of the few NGOs to provide training for law enforcement officials.

Al-Haq's work on the national stage did not only impact locally, but internationally as well. The American Bar Association incorporated Al-Haq memorandums and interventions into training material used in a workshop held in Amman, Jordan for the training of lawyers, judges, and different Arab bar associations on addressing legislation. The British Bar Association met with Al-Haq in preparation for training in the OPT on legislation as well. PA foreign consultants, including the EU coordinating offices for Palestinian police support (EUCOPPS) also met with Al-Haq after hearing about our work in order to hear our suggestions on issues of judicial and legal reform. An official from the International Labor Organization requested our comments on their report regarding the OPT.

In 2006, the House of Commons International Development Committee conducted research for its report on development assistance and the OPT. Al-Haq was one of the organizations in the OPT that submitted a background memorandum to the

Committee. Copies have been placed in the House of Commons Library where they may be inspected by Members, while other copies are in the Parliamentary Archives and are available to the public for inspection.

Al-Haq was also active in the Metagora project, aimed at measuring democracy, human rights, and governance in the OPT. Al-Haq is a member of the advisory committee and has provided documentation in support of the project in addition to assisting the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics in preparing questionnaires. In 2006 Al-Haq helped to prepare a report on the issue of education in the OPT. Al-Haq will continue to support the project and has been approached for participation in a report in 2007 on the issue of health in the OPT.

IV. International Advocacy

Al-Haq continued to be very active on the international level in 2006 with the understanding that justice will come only with a concerted effort from the international community. This effort will only come with an increase in the political will of members of the international community and Al-Haq targeted its advocacy efforts in an attempt to inspire this political will to emerge. The quality of work and reputation of Al-Haq has brought visits from delegations around the world. Al-Haq also worked hard in its advocacy efforts to the United Nations as well as individual states, specifically in the European Union.

A. Third-party States

1. Impacts

In 2006 Al-Haq organized a speaking tour of the UK and Ireland as part of its international advocacy efforts. The speaking tour was of value for a number of reasons. Perhaps the most important was the opportunity to meet a variety of audiences and present Al-Haq's positions and work face to face. This was particularly significant with various Members of Parliament (UK and Ireland) and government officials (Irish mainly), who, from initial responses, now view Al-Haq as a credible and reliable source of information and analysis. We have already been contacted by contacts from the speaking tour asking if Al-Haq has any specific questions that we would like MPs to raise in the UK Parliament, and have been contacted by The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) to put our materials into their newsletter. It was also useful to hear the thoughts of civil society in the UK and Ireland in relation to Palestine. In addition, the tour was also an educational opportunity on how to organize such events in the future.

Considering the role of the government of Switzerland as the depository of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Al-Haq issued a letter the Swiss representative's office calling for the reconvening of the Conference of High Contracting Parties to address the deteriorating situation in the OPT. Al-Haq's letter met with a positive response from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, which acknowledged mutual concern over the situation and instructed Al-Haq on the need to advocate for a formal

request from the UN General Assembly. The response to Al-Haq's letter is another indicator as to Al-Haq's international efforts and the willingness of foreign governments to hear what Al-Haq has to say.

Al-Haq was also actively involved in the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). For the second time, Al-Haq was voted to the executive committee of EMHRN as the Palestinian representative. Through its work in EMHRN Al-Haq was engaged in advocacy tour of the Netherlands and Germany in order to address members of EU parliament on the need for upholding the human rights requirement in the EU-Israel Association Agreement and advocating for its compliance.

2. Shortcomings

Al-Haq also had planned a networking trip to the United States in an attempt to develop stronger relationships with American civil society. The tour did not take place, however, due to the Israeli travel restrictions imposed on Al-Haq's General Director. Al-Haq's advocacy efforts toward the US did not with this set back. While the speaking tour did not take place as planned, Al-Haq has been able to maintain contacts in the US and has used previous members of the Al-Haq team living in the US to advocate on its behalf. Ms. Maureen Murphy will be participating in panel discussion on the Israeli/Palestinian issue in Atlanta in 2007. Furthermore, Al-Haq issued interventions to the US Ambassador to Israel. In particular an intervention was issued on 4 November 2006 regarding the most recent Israeli incursion into Gaza. A response, although weak, was received from the Charge' d'Affaires of the US Embassy acknowledging Al-Haq's concerns.

Al-Haq's objective of completing three studies on violations in East Jerusalem fell short in 2006 as well. Two have gone to print, while one has been delayed to early 2007. While a great deal of research was conducted relating to our study on family reunification we failed to complete the study. This was primarily due to a lack of staff resources forcing the organization to cut back on the time allotted to the study. Two studies were completed that addressed the Atarot Arab Orphan School and the village of Al Nu'man discussed below in the publications section.

B. UN Advocacy

1. Impacts

One of Al-Haq's major activities is working with the various UN human rights mechanisms. In 2006 our work in this respect was hindered due to staff turnover and the reform of the UN human rights primary supervising mechanism (the Commission on Human Rights became the Human Rights Council, which is still in a period of transition.) Despite a certain amount of confusion, we managed to attend the 2nd Session of the Human Rights Council. In addition to the valuable lessons learned in terms of the functioning of the Council, and the networking with various organizations present in Geneva, Al-Haq made a three minute intervention during the discussion of John Dugard's report. While this may not seem important, it is more so when put into context. Of the five NGOs that made oral statements on the report, 3

were firm supporters of the Israeli position. Al-Haq was the only civil society voice for the Palestinian position in the debate. A number of individuals, including the Palestinian delegation and a senior Swedish diplomat, thanked the Al-Haq speaker for the contribution privately after the session, and expressed support for Al-Haq's position.

In November 2006, Louis Arbour, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the OPT for the first time in her tenure. In anticipation of her visit, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Ramallah requested Al-Haq and other organizations' participation in providing topic briefings for her visit. Al-Haq provided a brief on the UN Register of Damage for damage caused by the Wall which will be discussed below, as well as a report on extrajudicial killings. Ms. Arbour specifically acknowledged Al-Haq's work when presented with a joint letter on her visit. She said: "[I] *read many things that Al-Haq has written and that [Al-Haq] does really excellent work.*

Initially, the register of damage brief was supposed to be one of the briefings submitted to the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights for the Louis Arbour visit. The work of Al-Haq's LRAD team, however, made it much more than a simple briefing. On 17 October 2006, the UN Secretary-General submitted a report proposing an institutional framework for the Register of Damage as called for in the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the Construction of the Wall in the OPT (ICJAO). The analysis of Al-Haq demonstrated that the proposed framework for the Register of Damage did not fully take into account the ICJAO. The brief was sent to all General Assembly members and the Arab League. Ministries and NGOs adopted the brief as their official position. The brief was well received by numerous organizations including Diakonia, which included our brief on their website. Specifically, the PLO mission in New York requested the brief to use in preparation for addressing the UN General Assembly in the matter. Subsequently, the General Assembly passed a resolution in December that addressed many of the concerns mentioned in our brief.

John Dugard, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the OPT, came to visit the OPT in December 2006 and had a meeting with members of civil society. His visit also included a special trip to the office of Al-Haq for a meeting with members of LRAD. The meeting allowed for Al-Haq to discuss one-on-one numerous issues with the Special Rapporteur. Al-Haq also presented Mr. Dugard with a package of affidavits, translations of recent military orders and our briefing paper on the UN Register of Damages. Al-Haq has considered it honor to work with Mr. Dugard and hope that our work will gain the respect of the next special Rapporteur as it did Mr. Dugard's. Al-Haq has also been in contact with the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary executions, and on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism.

2. Shortcomings

Through Al-Haq's relationship with United Nations Association International Service (UNAIS), one of our staff members is provided which focuses on the activities of the UN. Unfortunately, due to a slow process in replacing the previous member, Al-Haq spent much of 2006 short one staff member. This forced the organization to cut down

on one of the activities of monitoring UN reform. Al-Haq was able to move the process forward and has ensured the arrival of a new team member in 2007.

C. Accountability

1. Impacts

In 2006 Al-Haq saw the efforts of the Al-Haq fieldworkers bare judicial fruit on an international level. Al-Haq is cooperating with UK solicitor Phil Shiner of Public Interest Lawyers firm (PIL) as part of its efforts to secure the implementation of the July 2004 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion that found Israel's construction of the Wall in the OPT to be contrary to international law. Al-Haq has provided PIL with documentation on numerous cases regarding the impact of the Wall. On 15 November 2006, PIL lodged a complaint against the UK government in the High Court in London on behalf of Palestinians suffering as a result of the construction of the Wall.

Al-Haq believes that the action taken by PIL provides hope for the Palestinian people by bringing attention to the lack of respect for international law in the OPT. By holding the UK accountable for its failure to meet its obligations as a third-party state, Al-Haq hopes that the UK and other states will become more mindful of their own international legal obligations with regard to violations carried out in the OPT.

This case is just one of the verifications of the quality of Al-Haq's fieldwork through the Monitoring and Documentation Department. The fact that a foreign lawyer would use documentation collected by Al-Haq to lodge a suit on behalf of Palestinians against his own government is another solid impact of Al-Haq's activities in 2006.

In furtherance of Al-Haq's objective of holding individual perpetrators accountable before national courts, Al-Haq participated in a conference organized by FIDH and Redress titled "Fostering an EU Approach to Serious International Crimes" in Brussels. The two-day long conference hosted speakers from various areas of international criminal law, including judges and prosecutors of the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia as well as governmental representatives, international investigators and private attorneys. The conference focused on the effort of the EU to implement the principle of universal jurisdiction for international crimes at regional level. This venue represented for Al-Haq a valuable occasion to strengthen the relationship with old partners, such as FIDH, and approach new ones, such as TRIAL, Redress and the Coalition for the ICC, on the basis of the common interest on accountability for international crimes. New contacts were created mainly with advocates, NGOs, prosecutors and investigators. The renovated network is expected to support the effort of Al-Haq in succeeding with lodging a case before a domestic court. The trip to Europe, in particular to the Netherlands, has also widened the group of Al-Haq's advocacy partners, to include "A Different Jewish Voice" and the "International Forum for Justice and Peace."

2. Shortcomings

While Al-Haq incorporated emergency activities into its 2006 plan, the actual amount of reactive work was much greater than anticipated. Due to a strain of the Al-Haq staff, the organization was forced to limit its accountability goal. This was primarily due to the delay in replacing of the UNAIS researcher. As a result, the output of legal memorandums on divestment, boycotts and sanctions were put on the shelf. The progress of developing files on individual perpetrators was also slower than expected due primarily to the difficulty in identifying individual perpetrators for specific incidents. Al-Haq has dedicated increased resources in its plan for 2007 to achieve its accountability goal and has expanded the scope of accountability to include civil actions and corporate responsibility. Al-Haq has also been forced to delay the release of our “From Theory to Practice” volume due to the delay in participants submitting the required papers.

D. Reactive Interventions

1. Impacts

In 2006 Al-Haq issued over 50 interventions, press releases, and appeals as part of its advocacy efforts. One of the primary advocacy efforts of Al-Haq in 2006 was focused on one of Al-Haq’s own family members. Ziyad Hmeidan, an Al-Haq fieldworker, human rights defender, and father of two continues his nearly two years of administrative detention. The Israeli authorities have extended Ziyad’s detention four times on the basis of secret evidence that has not been disclosed to either Ziyad or his lawyer, effectively rendering it unchallengeable in judicial proceedings and denying Ziyad his right to a fair trial.

Despite the overall lack of success in securing Ziyad's release, many of the advocacy activities carried out on his behalf met with a positive response. Al-Haq has succeeded in having a foreign lawyer, representing FIDH, as well a representative of the Dutch government present at his hearing before the Israeli High Court. Al-Haq also succeeded, through a partner organization, to set up a meeting with diplomats in Tel-Aviv. Importantly, the outgoing presidency of the EU (Finland), the incoming president (Germany) and the Head of the EU office were at the meeting. The issue of administrative detention was subsequently raised by the EU during a political dialogue with Israel around a week later. It did fall short of raising specific cases as we had asked, but it was nonetheless progress. Furthermore, the Netherlands office was the first office to take the initiative to set up a committee on human rights defenders based on Al-Haq’s advocacy efforts.

In March 2006 Al-Haq issued an intervention to Israeli Major General Yair Naveh of the Central Command regarding the harassment that Palestinians were being subjected to during Israeli raids into the city of Jenin. The following is an excerpt from the intervention based on affidavits collected by Al-Haq fieldworkers through the MDD:

During the raids, which take place nearly on an almost daily basis, usually between 11:00 pm and 5:00 am, the Israeli forces fire heavy weaponry into the air and sound bombs, producing prolonged frightening noise. Through loud speakers, the soldiers insult and curse using obscene expressions. Also, the military forces have been entering houses, seemingly chosen at random and in several cases have destroyed household property.

The systematic nature of these raids and the conduct of the soldiers are keeping the civilian population in a state of fear and anxiety. The civilians are frightened to be in the streets after dark and lock themselves in their homes. Children are the most seriously affected - the loud and prolonged gunfire causes them to scream and lose sleep. They live in constant fear of having soldiers enter their homes.

The Israeli General issued a response to the intervention and more importantly some of the harassing activity ceased. This may seem like a small drop in the bucket of combating the violations of Israeli occupying forces, but for the families in the areas where this harassment occurred, it was a very important step.

Interventions were also made in 2006 to specific groups like USAID for their funding of checkpoints and Human Rights Watch for its support of conditioning aid to the PNA after Hamas' victory in the elections. Both interventions received responses and the positions of both organizations were clarified.

Al-Haq has also continued to follow up on the case brought by Al-Haq on behalf of families in Hebron that have been forced from their homes. This case has yielded a decision allowing for the families return but the lack of enforcement of this decision has forced Al-Haq to continue pursuing the matter. The most recent decision allowing for the families return occurred on January 17th 2007 meaning that Al-Haq will continue to monitor the enforcement of this decision.

2. Shortcomings

While Al-Haq was very active in its reactive interventions in 2006, it did fall short in following up with the recipients of these interventions. This was primarily due to the need to issue interventions rather than follow up on those issued. The organization does understand the need to develop its follow up procedures in order to better assess the impact of its interventions and has incorporated such procedures in its 2007 plan.

V. Publications

1. Four MDD quarterly reports:

Al-Haq's field reports cover human rights abuses committed by the Israeli Occupying Power and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Each field report highlights a particularly important and disturbing trend observed by the MDD during the reporting period.

The MDD reports provide an English language summary of the affidavits collected by our fieldworkers and are one of the most valuable outputs we have. The reports are sent to our mailing list, including diplomats and journalists, putting a face to the violations occurring everyday. Information in our reports was regularly cited in national and international news sources in 2006 as providing first hand accounts of violations on the ground.

2. The Right to Education Under Occupation: A Case Study on the Atarot Arab Orphan School in East Jerusalem

Located in 'Atarot, which Israel illegally incorporated within its municipal boundary of Jerusalem, the school has been isolated from its students and staff, the majority of whom live in surrounding villages, by the completion of the Annexation Wall in the area and the establishment of Qalandiya checkpoint as the only channel of access to the school. As holders of West Bank IDs, students and staff members need special permits to cross the checkpoint, which only a relatively small number of them have obtained, and currently only on a temporary three-month basis. Similar temporary permits issued for the first three months of the 2005/06 academic year were not renewed by the Israeli civil administration, compelling the students to sneak into illegally annexed East Jerusalem in order to exercise their fundamental right to education. Al-Haq also coordinated with the Jerusalem Legal Aid Center and submitted the issue to them for help.

The study was released in late 2006 with a corresponding intervention. It was well received and has already had an impact on contacts within our mailing list. The Australian group, "Justice for Palestine Matters," utilized our study and accompanying intervention to develop an appeal to various international representatives. Furthermore, former British MP, Claire Short responded to our study by raising the issue with the British Minister of State, asking him to take action in order to protect the school. Subsequently, the UK consulate met with Al-Haq and intervened with Israeli authorities which led to the issuance of the required permits. The UK Save the Children organization also brought the issue to the UN Education Sector Working Group.

3. Israel's Deportations and Forcible Transfers of Palestinians out of the West Bank during the Second Intifada

This occasional paper examines the legality, under international law, of two forms of deportations or forcible transfers of Palestinians out of the West Bank adopted by the Israeli government since the outbreak of the second intifada in September 2000. The two case studies are the Church of the Nativity siege in April-May 2002 and the "assigned residence" policy of expelling West Bank Palestinians to the Gaza Strip since August 2002.

This study also drew the attention of our contacts. One of our partner organizations, Diakonia, requested the use of the study on their website. This is a significant accomplishment, considering the nature and quality of Diakonia's own work in the area of International Humanitarian Law. The paper will also server as a tool for

advocating the right of return and show the political implications of accepting deportees by third-party states.

4. Rights without Remedies: Israel's Compensation Law

A legal commentary on Israel's recently-amended Civil Wrongs (Liability of the State) Law 5712-1952 (the Compensation Law), legislation which raises a number of concerns in regards to its compliance with international law. The amendments to this law, which narrow the eligibility of Palestinians to submit claims for compensation as a result of illegal actions carried out by the Israeli military (including acts of negligence), were overwhelmingly passed by the Israeli Knesset (parliament) in July 2005. The Compensation Law seeks to preempt the Palestinians' right to a remedy, in this case compensation, a right which is deemed customary under international law. Further, it is a blatant example of discrimination formalized into law, as in effect, it will deny compensation to Arabs in general, and Palestinians in particular.

5. Al Nu'man Village Case Study

The case study provides an analysis of one example of the Israeli policy of isolating Palestinian villages near illegally built settlements and the annexation Wall and the severe movement restrictions imposed on its residents in an effort to force them from their lands. The Wall's construction results in the severing of the village from both Jerusalem and the West Bank, and confiscates further village lands. In May 2006 a permanent checkpoint was established and became the only entrance to, and exit from, the village. Only Al-Nu'man residents with West Bank IDs can cross the checkpoint. The checkpoint has also prevented the delivery of gas to the village and refuse collection vehicles are no longer allowed to enter the village. Al-Nu'man is now bordered on three sides by the Wall.

The petition to the Israeli High Court has been delayed due to information missing from an Israeli monitoring organization, but the case will hopefully move forward in 2007.

6. IHL Training Manual

The 263 page IHL Training Manual is the culmination of more than a year of hard work by LRAD as part of its IHL project with Diakonia. While the manual was not published until late 2006 which makes its impact minimal, the manual will have great impact in the future and is expected to be used in numerous IHL training workshops. It has already been requested by numerous civil society organizations.

VI. Media

Media plays an important role in Al-Haq's work, and in 2006 that role grew immensely with the hiring of a fulltime media coordinator. Through active media coordination we have been able to establish a network of media contacts based in the OPT and across the globe. A prime example of this was getting Al-Haq to be the first organization to be featured on EMHRN's website in its "focus on members" section.

In 2006 Al-Haq released over 50 press releases. The press releases themselves are an accomplishment, but it is their quality and the network to which they are spread that made Al-Haq have a great deal of success gaining the attention of media sources. This impact can be measured by the vast array of news sources that incorporated Al-Haq's work into their publication or website.

All press releases sent to the three main newspapers in the OPT, (Al Quds, Al Ayam, and Al Haya) were published. A wide variety of Palestinian sources also utilized our press releases. Three articles, based on Al-Haq's quarterly MDD reports were published on the Al Jazeera website, the most widely read Arabic news website in the world. On the international level, Al-Haq was cited by the London based Guardian and the Dutch based deVolkskrant.

Al-Haq's reputation has made it a "go to source" for information on issues in the West Bank. Many journalists and filmmakers contacted Al-Haq in 2006 for information. Al-Haq has given five different interviews for documentaries covering the human rights situation in the OPT. The BBC has twice come to Al-Haq for material on human rights issues, once on BBC World Service Radio, and once on BBC TV during the summer campaign in Gaza. The new Al Jazeera international also came to Al-Haq for an interview on the denial of entry issue. Arab language news, including Al-Arabia, also regularly contacted Al-Haq for analysis on various issues.

While a gap still exists with international media, the media coordinator has made an effort to close the gap by contacting over 250 new media contacts including the Los Angeles Times, Reuters, and Newsweek. With the launching of a new website and developing mailing list Al-Haq hopes to make even better use of the media through its expanded network of media contacts in 2007.

VII. Administration

In 2006, Al-Haq hired six new employees in order to meet the demands of the organization. They include a media coordinator, program assistant, translator, two legal researchers, and an MDD technical assistant. Despite this apparent growth, Al-Haq has managed to maintain a budget surplus and consistent staff size thanks to strong and creative management in addition to a spirit of volunteerism by Al-Haq guests.

Shawan Jabarin became general director in 2006. After the resignation of former director Randa Siniora, the Board of Directors issued a job announcement for the position and Shawan applied. Coming from within Al-Haq, Shawan was able to help the organization make a very smooth transition. During the transitional phase, Shawan filled the roles of both the general director and head of LRAD. Al-Haq was able to fill the role of the head of the legal research department by rotating members within the department to fill the role. While Al-Haq's staff carried an additional workload through much of the year, the staff met the challenges of the work of 2006 by working as a team and making decisions in an inclusive and democratic manner.

In addition to Al-Haq's staff going beyond the call of duty, visiting experts like Paul Troup, a British barrister, and Ray Murphy, an Irish IHL expert, provided workshops to Al-Haq staff without accepting compensation for their services. This is a testament to the reputation of Al-Haq internationally. The shift from merely monitoring to investigating is a drastic one but Al-Haq's fieldworkers have greatly improved and continue to do so, in order to compile the evidence necessary to hold perpetrators of violations accountable in the future.

Al-Haq's internship program continued to be very active in 2006. Interns in Al-Haq are treated as a part of the team and incorporated immediately into the organization. Al-Haq seeks to give as much as it receives from its interns in order for them to have a memorable experience and serve as ambassadors for the organization in the future. The organization hosted 8 interns throughout the year adding to our capacity and building relationships that will extend into the future. Interns continued to support Al-Haq by undertaking legal research, regularly drafting interventions, press releases, short memos, as well as monitoring the English-language press, and editing affidavits translated into English.

The continuation of an active Board of Directors further improved the organization in 2006. The Board met every three months, in addition to emergency sessions that were held throughout the year. Al-Haq's Board is an active part of the organization.

In 2006, Al-Haq also planned on establishing The Al-Haq Award for Service in Human Rights. This idea has been pushed to 2007 because of the need to focus more resources on the internal situation in 2006. Al-Haq hopes to establish this award as a regular part of the organization's activity.

A. Capacity Building

Al-Haq also worked hard in 2006 to ensure our staff is well equipped to handle the rigorous workload and develop their skills.

- The organization's administrative department participated in communication skills training and various computer software training workshops, while the library assistant participated in communication and administrative skills training. Furthermore, Al-Haq supported the head of the administrative department's desire to pursue a diploma in NGO operations while continuing to serve the organization.
- Workshops were also held on stress management, and gender awareness for all staff members. The staff expressed appreciation for the stress management workshop considering the nature of the organization's work. Also, the MDD noticed an increase in affidavits from women after the gender awareness workshop.
- A ten day English language program was given to Al-Haq's Arabic speaking staff in order to develop staff capacity given by the British Council.
- Two staff retreats
- Staff sessions on 2006 evaluation and 2007 planning
- Upgraded financial reporting system

- Developing administrative regulations and procedures manual that was made available to the organization's Executive Committee and the members of its board.
- Design of Arabic version of website to be launched in 2007
- Community outreach through donation of \$1,500 of Ramadan Iftar budget generally allocated for the staff and the board to have a group Iftar during Ramadan. The donations were given to three worthy female students in Bir Ziet University in order to support them in their education.
- Two week course on international criminal law for one of the Al-Haq legal researchers in Ireland
- Al-Haq also planned an evidence gathering workshop in 2006, but increased restrictions on entry and internal tension discouraged participation of international experts. The workshop was rescheduled for early 2007.

B. Al-Haq Library

The Al-Haq library continued to expand its resources making it a central location for information to our staff and the public. Approximately 30 university students visited our library each month to conduct research on human rights and international humanitarian law. Al-Haq further developed its relationship with Bir Ziet University and continued to develop its online catalogue to be made available to the public in 2007.

C. Transparency

In an effort to lead by example in the relationship with our partners and the public, Al-Haq made a decision to increase organizational transparency by including many normally private documents on our new website. The documents include Al-Haq's strategic plans, financial reports, and external evaluations. Al-Haq will continue to make itself fully accessible to anyone interested in the functioning of the organization and is confident in its ability to withstand any scrutiny ensuring the continued professional reputation of the organization. Internal transparency is also an important part of Al-Haq's culture, with minutes from Executive Committee meetings held regularly made available to Al-Haq's staff.

VIII. Concluding Remarks

In 2006 Al-Haq has continued to address the violations committed through the Israeli occupation while responding to a greater need to engage in those committed by Palestinians. The internal changes have not been entirely unexpected and Al-Haq took this risk into consideration at the beginning of the year, which allowed for a stronger ability to adapt our efforts. The year reinforced the importance of operating through core-funding rather than project-based funding, which gave the organization the flexibility to adapt to changes much more easily and ensure our work impacts the situation on the ground. Al-Haq has also seen the importance in cooperating with our sister organizations in order to confront the challenges presented. In 2006, Al-Haq became a primary reference to national as well as international stakeholders. Despite some setbacks, like documentation of PNA violations and a cutback on proposed

studies, we have succeeded in adapting to the changing circumstances on the ground while maintaining the course set out in our action plan. This is primarily due to the team effort by Al-Haq's staff in sharing the workload, showing that through teamwork, anything can be accomplished. In 2007, Al-Haq, with the support of its numerous partners from around the world, will continue to monitor, document and advocate against the violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians under international law, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, and use both national and international mechanisms with the intention of promoting respect and adherence to the rule of law and remedying violations.