

AL- MAQDESE FOR SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT



ANNUAL REPORT
2008

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Mr. Taher Al-Namari, Chairman

Al-Maqdese for Society Development “MSD”

MSD vision is focused on preserving the existence and stability of Palestinians in Jerusalem; and protecting all their rights. The only way to achieve this is by mobilizing efforts, energies and resources in order to protect social, economical, cultural, political and civil rights on the basis of international humanitarian law, human rights law, international legitimacy for Human Rights, (economic, social, and cultural rights covenant, civil and political rights covenant.

We also aim to create coordinating and networking with institutions that are working in the field of human rights, youth and social sectors inside Jerusalem. We are working to raise awareness and knowledge of all laws and procedures used by Israeli government; so as to prepare the Jerusalemites to confront the daily violations of their rights, the occupation authorities do.

Hence, Al Maqdese has made some remarkable achievements since its establishment. Despite the lack of potential resources, and the continuation in challenges in the region, Al-Maqdese was able to achieve (during the year 2007/2008) some of its strategic objectives and goals, whether its ability to continue offering services to individuals and

groups in the city of Jerusalem, or the maintenance of these services and developing their quality.

This ability to succeed in times of crisis, and the ability to continue, develops and expand the scope of our work and our service quality, came as a result of good planning, follow-up and attention showed by the Board of Trustees Chairman, members and the administrative and operational council.

This year, MSD put all its effort to expand the scope of its work and services, improve its management structure, working according to strategic program that is based on the five-year strategic plan.

We have witnessed the impossible!!!

We have seen families reunited, anger turned into love and hopelessness become motivation, the success of carrying on our work for this year couldn't be possible without MSD staff, volunteers, friends and supporters who continue to stand with us as we work to help those whose rights are violated by the Israeli occupation on a daily basis and its impact on their lives.

*Al-Maqdese for Society Development,
Jerusalem
December 2008*

MSD EXECUTIVE MANAGER INTRODUCTION

Jerusalem, the heart of Palestine, the conflict essence

Here, in the holy land, in the cradle of monotheistic religions, Palestinians are living a daily surviving conflict, where they have to confront a transferring policy used against them over years and years, where they stand and faced it without falling down.

The occupation authority aims through his policy to overload the Jerusalemites and deplete their energy.

All the world are witnessing the Israeli tries to Judaism the city of Jerusalem, changing its Arabic Identity, it's not tempts anymore, it is becoming behaves that we can touch it in the reality, through the complication, and obstacles the Palestinian have to face every day, not to mention demolition of the homes and confiscating properties for people living out of Jerusalem (and don't have the Israeli ID). All of us know that the aim of these behaves is to Judaism the city of Jerusalem, giving it Israeli nature and decrease the number of the Palestinian living in it as much as they can.

This is one of the reasons why Jerusalem is so special, precious and in real need for us, all of us what kind of problems the city passing through, and how complicated are these problems whether economical, social or political. The Palestinians inside Jerusalem are facing racism, ignorance for them and their rights, even the simplest rights, which is so hard to get because of the lack in legal skills and language. Having a dark future for them and their children was one of the reason why we established Al Maqdes Foundation for developing society in February 2007 which aims to defend the Palestinian rights (civil, political, social, cultural and economical rights), and giving them the ability to ask for their rights and defend it in front of all the Israeli departments.

We all believe in Jerusalem, in its strength, in its ability to stand and face all the obstacles regardless to all the circumstances we have their, or the different polices of transferring and Judaism, we are going to get our rights, give the youth their responsibilities toward our country. We established this foundation through the youths in Wadi al Joz and other neighborhoods as a reaction for the violation the Jerusalemites face, we started by giving our help to the people of Wadi Al Joz, then we became bigger because of the city needs and because of the success we achieved.

Al Maqdes believes in giving chances for all the Palestinians, without being bias because of race, political or religion party. We are aiming to improve the quality of the Palestinians life through increasing the awareness between the people about their rights, so they will be able to ask for it, defend it and never gave up, and to reach a better life standard under the bad circumstances. Our base is the International law, human rights law and international legitimacy, and so we are working through the law, defending our rights through the law.

Finally we can say that the foundation message is represent in keeping the Palestinian existence in the Palestinian city Jerusalem and protecting all their rights.

Who we are...

Al-Maqdese for Society Development (MSD) is a non-profit non-governmental organization which was formed in Jerusalem 2007 as a reaction to some academics, doctors, lawyers and many other individuals who are interested in improving Palestinians life's quality through empowering Jerusalem citizens to face, defend and demand their civil rights, which are violated by the Israeli occupation on a daily basis.

MSD had interpolated all legal procedures regarding authorization; MSD is a registered organization in both Palestinian Ministry of Interior and Jerusalem\ Israeli Non-Profit Organization Registrar as a social/ legal development organization.

MSD is not affiliated with any political parties, nor that are we a religious based organization. MSD believes that the ultimate weapon is knowledge; ignorance is what we're fighting.

MSD believes in providing equal opportunities to all, without any exception or preference. "Legal Clinic Program" aims to empower individuals, groups and local organizations through working on rights-based approach by using the power of advocacy and support technique to receive, protect and develop the citizens' rights to fit their social, economic, cultural and political needs.

MSD Vision

To be the voice for the voiceless and to spread knowledge in all available levels through all sectors in Palestinian society, as "*one blind person cannot lead another blind person*".

MSD Mission

- To maintaining the Palestinian existence in Jerusalem areas.
- To raise the voice of negligent Palestinian and demand justice.
- To empower the Palestinian in general and the Jerusalemites in specific to know, defend and demand their rights.
- To fight ignorant, in all level and to raise awareness through prevention, advocacy and support.

MSD Objective

- legally defend and support negligent Jerusalemites.
- Provide legal advice and consulting for Jerusalem residents.
- Empowering woman, children and youth through prevention and awareness programs.
- Increase the Palestinian society knowledge and awareness about their society issues.
- Increase youth participation and involvement in the society through social voluntary work.
- Improving (MSD) staff capacity building to fulfill its mission and goals.

MSD Location & Map

MSD –LCP, Legal Clinic Project is located on East Jerusalem, Wadi Al-joz, Al-Maqdese St. 59.

“Copy and Paste the link below to see Google map for direction”

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=wadi+al+joz&sll=31.78905,35.239785&sspn=0.008207,0.013733&doflg=ptk&ie=UTF8&ll=31.787883,35.239635&spn=0.008208,0.013733&z=16



Units & Programs

1. Legal Aid Unit:

- Legal Clinic Program.
- Legal Awareness Program.
- Documentation.

2. Social & Cultural Unit:

- Volunteers' recruitment Program –“يرنامج تطوع معنا” Volunteer with us program”
- National Human Rights workshops.
- Al-Maqdese 2nd annual summer camp “Zuhur Al-Mustakbal”.

3. Studies & research Unit:

- Witten & published Articles. “by Mr. Taher Al-Namari, MSD Chairman.
- Ongoing researches.

4. Improving life's quality for Jerusalemites:

- Wadi Al-Joz Flood disaster.
- Wadi Al-Joz Public Transportation bus-line.

5. Public Relations & Fundraising Unit.

- Networking.
- Publication Methods.
- MSD website.
- Future projects & programs.
- Networking & local coordination.

Legal Clinic Program

It has been written:

"All human beings, whatever their cultural or historical background, suffer when they are intimidated, imprisoned or tortured . . . We must, therefore, insist on a global consensus, not only on the need to respect human rights worldwide, but also on the definition of these rights . . . for it is the inherent nature of all human beings to yearn for freedom, equality and dignity, and they have an equal right to achieve that."

-The Dalai Lama

Starting 2008 with launching a new project titled: "Legal Clinic" was a very challenging yet joyful start, Al-Maqdese for Society Development "MSD" initiated this project in respond to the daily violation that the Palestinian are facing for their simplest rights; providing legal aid and consultation will not only help them to know and demand their rights but also will improve their life's quality by insuring that they are living on their land "PALESTINE" in dignity and equality inspire of the Israeli occupation.

MSD- Legal Clinic aims to maintain the stability of the Palestinian existence in Jerusalem by fighting the displacement procedures that the Israeli authorities are carrying out against Jerusalemites in different ways such as " building the separation wall, Palestinian home demolition, Jerusalem IDs invalidity.... Etc."

It has been highly revealed through a diary entry by Yosef Weitz, for December 1940:

“ Amongst ourselves it must be clear that there is no room for both peoples in this country. No development will bring us closer to our aim to be an independent people in this small country. After the Arabs are transferred, the country will be wide open for us; with the Arabs staying the country will remain narrow and restricted. When the war is over, and the English have emerged victorious and when the judging nations sit on the throne of law, our people should bring their petitions and claims before them: and the only solution is the land of Israel ,or at least the western land of Israel {i.e. Palestine },without Arabs .There is no room compromise on this point. The Zionist works so far, in terms of preparation and paving the way for the creation of the Hebrew state in the a land of Israel ,has been good and was able to satisfy itself with land purchasing but this will not bring about the state, that must come simultaneously in the manner of redemption (here is the meaning of the meaning of the Messianic idea).

Legal Clinic Program

The only way is to transfer the Arabs from here to neighboring countries ,all of them, except perhaps Bethlehem, Nazareth and Old Jerusalem .Not a single village or a single tribe must be left. And the transfer must be done through their absorption in Iraq and Syria and even in Transjordan .For that goal, money will be found – even a lot of money. And only then will the country be able to absorb millions of Jews and a solution will be found to the Jewish question There is no other solution”.

-*Ruling Palestine, COHRE & BADIL, May 2005. Sec. 4 (Page:32).*

“*There is no room for both peoples in this country*” he wrote, yes! It is a planned strategy, for more than 67 years the Israeli laws and procedures are only serving this purpose.

MSD at the beginning of 2008 and in respond to the Israeli occupation violation trying to provide Palestinian with free legal consultation, through launching the legal clinic program to help them in achieving their right to live in their home and land with dignity .

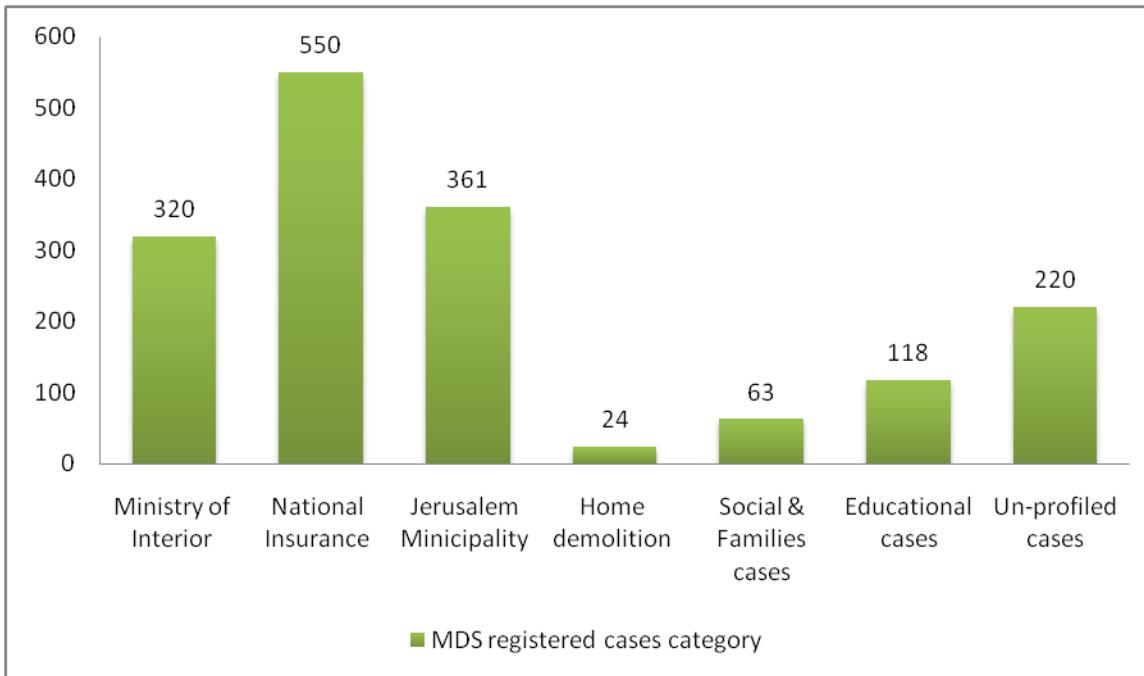


Photo: “Legal Clinic’s Beneficiaries standing in line for Legal consultation by MSD lawyer”.

Legal Clinic Program



Photo: "MSD Lawyer filling formal forms for a beneficiary".



Legal Clinic Program

Target Group:

Services were presented for beneficiaries on three levels,

Individuals:

the legal clinic provides information and techniques on a daily basis, for individuals regarding the low & citizens' rights, we supports our beneficiaries legally and defense them in courts especially those with "Demonstration House Case".

Groups:

"Women, Men, Youth "Females & Males", parents, children in Jerusalem benefited directly from our prevention and awareness programs, also through empowerment and development of their skills and abilities to improve living standards with focusing on joint problems and difficulties for negligent group.

Local organizations:

networking and partnership for voluntary abilities building, exchange of experiences which improve recruiting volunteers to serve the community.

The clinic provides legal guidance and engineering advocacy for Jerusalemites in various cases such as:

Ministry of Interior cases:

- Issuing Jerusalem Identity Cards.
- Families' Reunification.
- The Right of Residency.
- Proper Housing.

National Health Insurance cases:

- National Health Insurance for Children.
- Income security Allowance.
- Inabilities and Handicaps Allowance.
- Elders' income Allowance.

3. Municipal cases:

- "ARNONA" Housing TAX.
- Tax Accumulated.
- Construction Violation and Mulcts.
- House Demolition Mulct.
- Lack of Water.

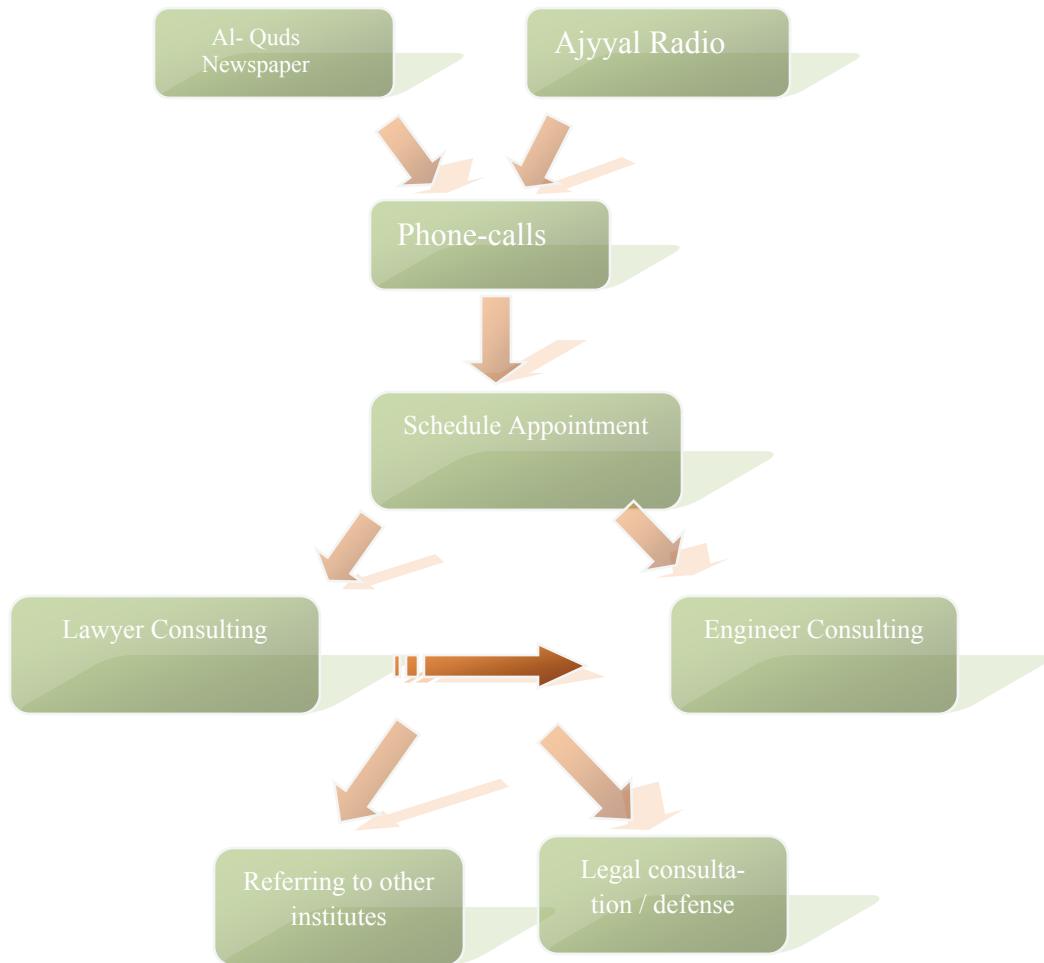
Education Cases:

- Class rooms shortage.
- School fees.



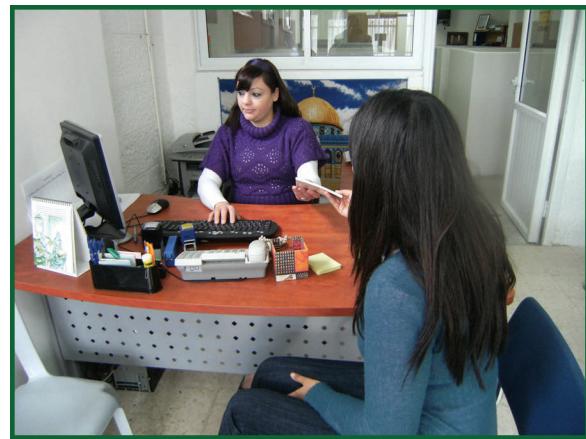
Photo: "Al-Quds newspaper published MSD opening of the Legal Clinic".

Providing consultation Process:

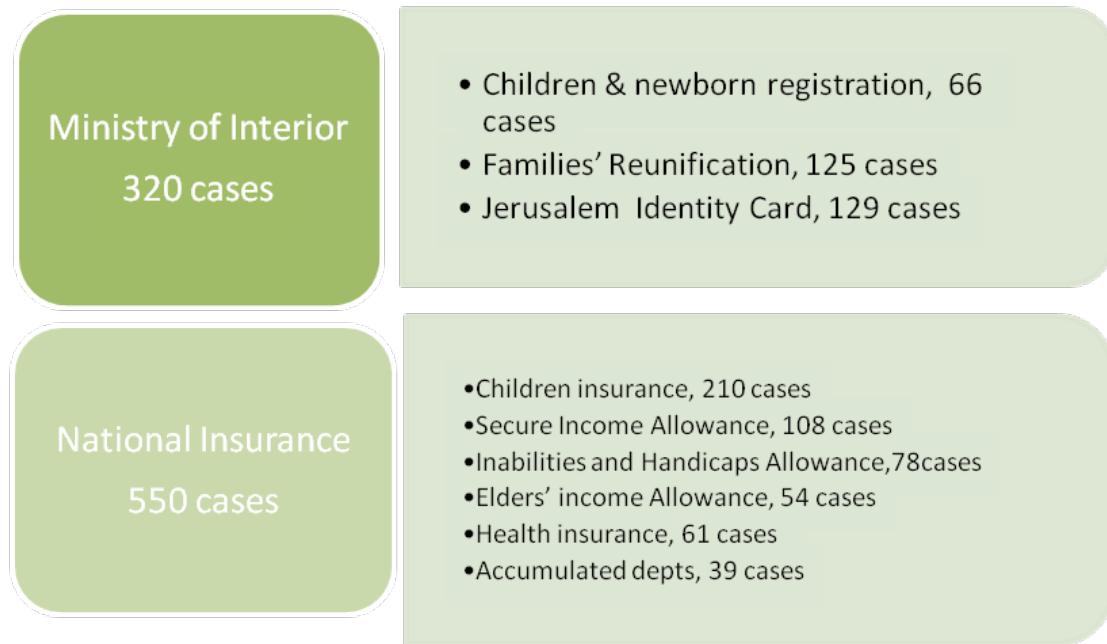


The clinic receives every day tens of phone-calls with inquiries about various subjects and problems, the calls transfer to a lawyer for legal consulting especially those who's living in west bank and cannot reach us, the lawyer provide them with legal information, answers their inquiries and contact other institutions if necessary.

Photo: "MSD receptionist handing "Know your rights" booklet to a beneficiary.



During 2008, 320 cases were registered by MSD lawyer this number broken down among the following segments:-



MSD lawyer during the reported period has provided 3094 services for the mentioned above cases as the following:

| # | Action | Total |
|----|---|-------|
| 1 | Provide information & answer public inquiries | 528 |
| 2 | Referral to other organizations | 320 |
| 3 | Legal defense for house demolition orders | 24 |
| 4 | Sending information by Fax | 76 |
| 5 | Filling forms | 110 |
| 6 | Translation | 39 |
| 7 | Writing letters | 21 |
| 8 | Referral to Engineering consultation | 28 |
| 9 | Legal Consultation | 217 |
| 10 | MSD Booklet request | 1600 |
| 11 | Un-profiled services | 131 |
| | Total | 3094 |

MSD Annual Summer Camp

MSD launched its second annual summer camp in July 2008. the camp was held six days a week during the whole month of July.

The camp combined 110 children of Wadi Al-Joz and surrounded areas. The months long summer camp program consisted of indoor as well as outdoor activities which included many recreational, educational and innovative events.

The camp's programs were supervised by MSD executives and twenty volunteers who worked scheduled shifts. The participating children were divided into 4 groups according to their age.



Photo: Children from MSD second summer camp after painting their faces “one of the has Palestine flag faint on his face”.

MSD Annual Summer Camp

Moreover, the program included indoor activities such as drama, art, pottery, playdough and coloring sessions. We also provided music session.

It's mentionable that MSD second summer camp though its new its considered to be the largest in number and activities and the most successful of all camps in Wadi Al-Joz area

The summer camp program also included two field trips far from Jerusalem, the children were taken to two swimming pools one in Lake Kinneret or Sea of Tiberius and the other one in Excal City.



MSD Annual Summer Camp Volunteers

The volunteers who implemented most of the camp's activities had previously participated in a program at MSD office to qualify them to work with children especially those in very young age.

The Volunteers' ages were between 17—20, the volunteers were trained to gain various skills through an extensive program that Al-Maqdese held, 16 sessions, the discussed subjects were about: "but not limited to"

- Indoors activities.
- Outdoors activities.
- Dealing with children in different ages.
- Leadership skills.
- Safety and security.



MSD Annual Summer Camp Ending Party



MSD ended its second summer camp with a party where all the participants children and their parents attended it, the children present a play titled "how we make happiness" also they presented songs, sketches, **Dabkeh*** dance and other more activities which they were trained on during the one month summer camp by MSD volunteers.

The volunteers were provided with certificates and small amount of money at the end of the party.



Dabkeh: is a national dance in Palestine, the meaning of "dabkeh" in Arabic is "stomping of the feet". It is a line dance widely performed at weddings and joyous occasions. The leader of the dabkeh heads the line, alternating between facing the audience and the other dancers.

MSD 2008 Major Achievements Public Bus-line to Wadi Al-Joz!

After 23 years of no public transportation to Wadi Al-Joz, MSD succeeded through a court order to force Jerusalem municipality to start running a public bus line to Wadi Al-Joz.

The bus line started on December 1, 2008 at 6:30 a.m.

جديد - خط باص إلى حي وادي الجوز وهي باب الساهرة

ابتداءً من يوم الإثنين الموافق 1.12.08 سيتم تدشين خط للمواصلات العمومية إلى حي وادي الجوز وباب الساهرة. سيقوم هذا الباص والذي يحمل الرقم 75(ب) بالسفر بشكل التفافي من حي وادي الجوز مروراً بشارع المقدسى وصولاً إلى باب العمود وباب الساهرة. ومن هناك يعود سالكاً شارع نابلس وير عن مستشفى سانت جورج وعيادة المرضى في حي الشيخ جراح ومفرق فندق "هابات".

فيما يلي مواعيد عمل خط النقل:



| نهاية العمل | 14:30-19:00 | 12:00-14:30 | 8:30-12:00 | 6:30-8:30 | الساعة | بداية العمل |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 19:00 | كل 20 دقيقة | كل 10 دقائق | كل 20 دقيقة | كل 10 دقائق | وتحدة اطلاق الباص | 6:30 |

على طريق المزيد من التحسينات لخدمة الجماهير



MSD 2008 Major Achievements Wadi Al-Joz Water Flood Relief

Al-Maqdese for Society Development succeed in forcing the Jerusalem Municipality to pay NIS 750.000 as compensation for effected families in Wadi Al Joz neighborhood after the water flood

Al-Maqdese for Society Development (MSD), had succeeded in forcing Jerusalem municipality and Jehon water company to pay compensation for 19 Jerusalemites' families from Wadi Al-Joz after the water flooded in 16/5/2007 and more than 19 houses had been sank and destroyed with 140 person residents.

As a result one pregnant women lost her child in the 5th months, and 140 person displaced and lost their houses and its contents, after MSD prepared an appeal for the Israeli courts, Jerusalem municipality was forced to provide a temporary accommodation for the displaced families in "Mont of Olive Hotel" for only two weeks while the Red Cross - Jerusalem provided NIS 6000 – 8000 for each family to buy "food, cloths, medicine...etc" and Bayt Al-Mal provided the displaced families with a small emergency grant (US\$ 6000).



MSD 2008 Major Achievements Wadi Al-Joz Water Flood Relief



MSD from the first moment worked to document all the details of the flood and the displaced families by hiring a specialized person who measured the losses and a lawyer "MR. Asa'ad Mazawe" had been assigned to follow up this case with the Israeli courts.

MSD held a conference in Al-Kazar hotel with the attendance of the displaced families, the lawyer and many other VIP Jerusalemites to create an emergency work plan.

The lawyer have been suing Jerusalem municipality for over the last two years seeking to compensate the displaced families and to rebuilt their homes, buying furniture and electrical machines and to live in their homes again, finally on June 7th, 2009 Jerusalem Municipality provided the amount of NIS 750.000 for those families.

It is mentionable that after 23 years of stopping the public transportation for Wadi Al-Joz area, the last year MSD had succeeded to force Jerusalem municipality and Ministry of Transportation to start running a public transportation bus line for Wadi Al Jouz residents.



الصليب الأحمر يقدم مساعدات عينية للعائلات المنكوبة في حي واد الجوز

القدس - مراسل اشتد الحاصل - قدمت اللجنة الدولية للصليب الأحمر أمس مساعدات عينية للعائلات المنكوبة في حي واد الجوز جراء الفيضانات الأخيرة وما جم عنها من أضرار جسيمة بالمباني وبلغ عدد المنازل المستهدفة ١٧ منزلًا يقطنها ١٤٠ شخصاً . وأفاد مدير جمعية واد الجوز معاذ الزعترى بأن المساعدات التي قدمها الصليب لكل عائلة شملت: "؛ فرشات ١٥ حراماً وعبوات مياه ومواد صحية ومستلزمات مطبخ وغطاء بلاستيكى وانابيب وطباطب غاز ونارنة وكراسي بلاستيكية . . وأوضح الزعترى ان الجمعية ستوزع المقدم صابون وافران غاز على عدد من عائلات الحي . وأشار إلى ان اعضاء الجمعية توجهوا مؤخرًا إلى هيئة الصليب الأحمر بعد مماطلة بلدية القدس ووقفوها تقديم المعونات للعائلات . وناشدت الجمعية المؤسسات والجمعيات الخيرية والمراكز الإنسانية وأهل الخير في مدينة القدس التحرك السريع لإغاثة العائلات المنكوبة .

MSD 2008 Major Achievements

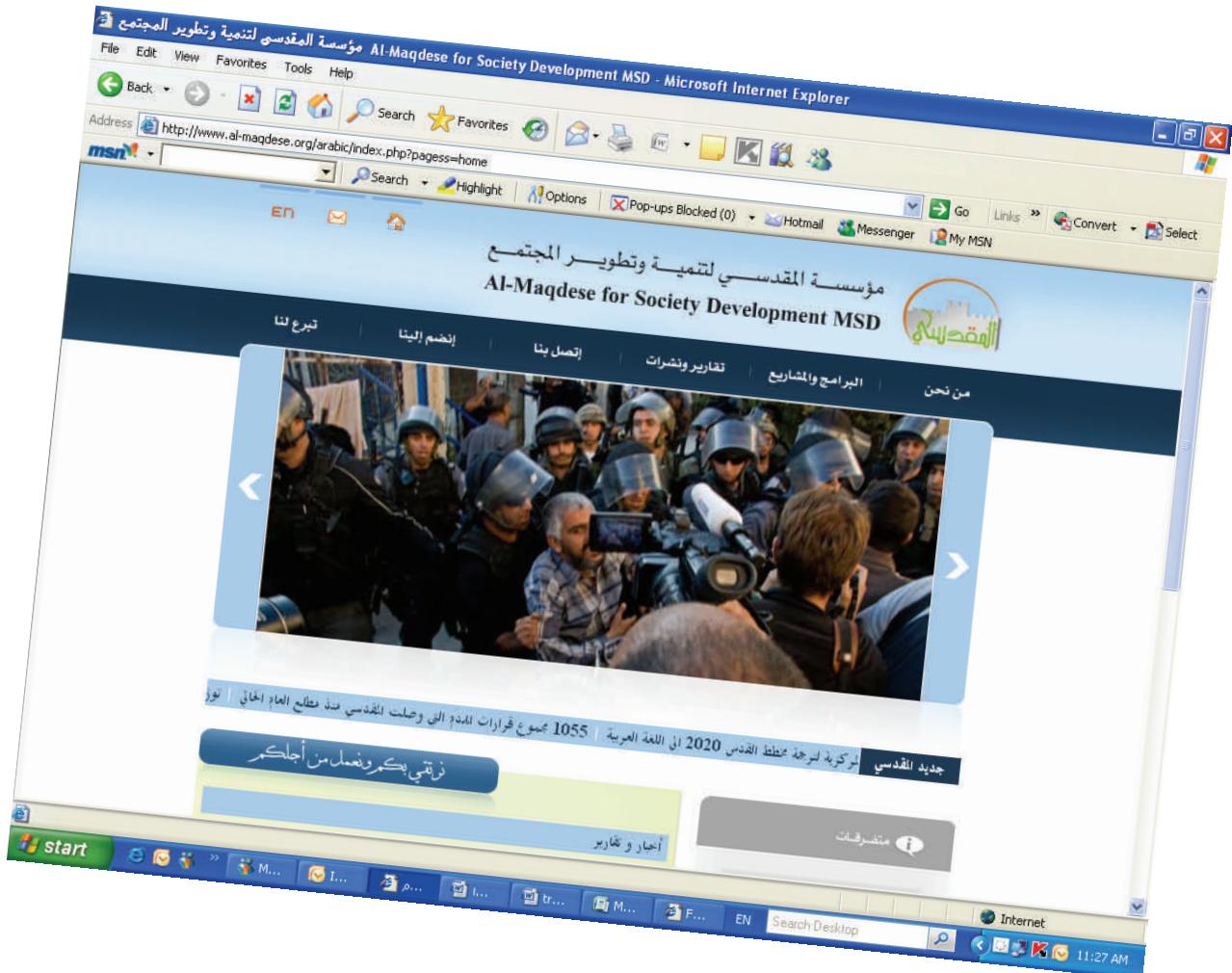
MSD lunched its Website

www.almaqdese.org

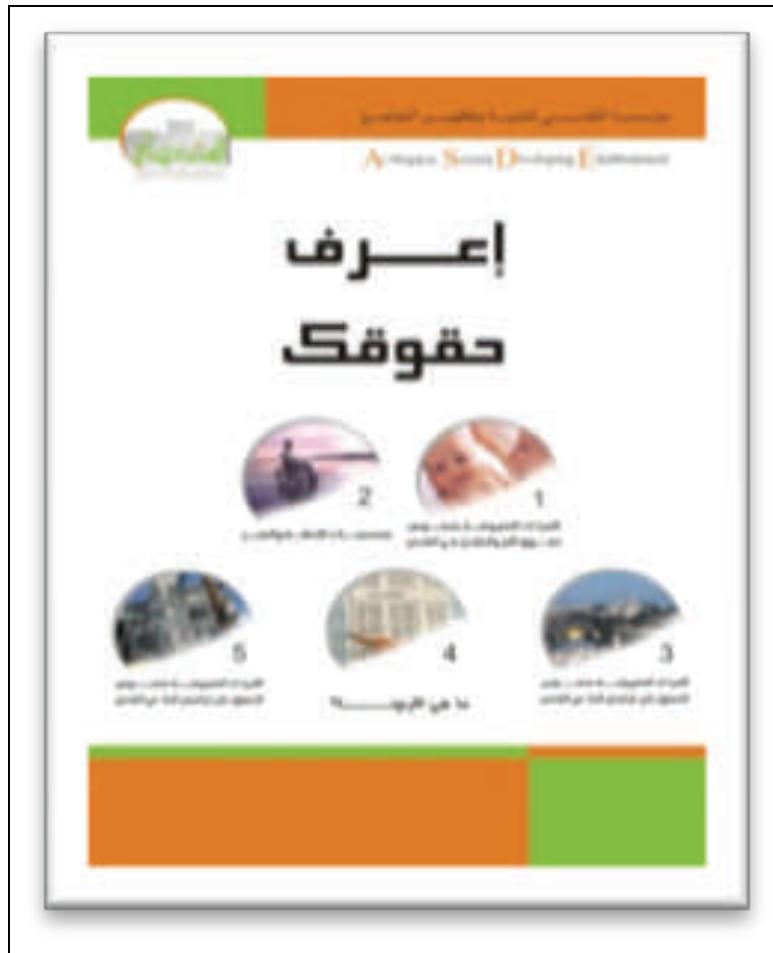
MSD lunched its website to providing online information and consultation for beneficiaries who couldn't arrived to our office especially those from the west-bank.

A lot of information are included about the Palestinian rights also the website are kept updated for home demolition orders.

MSD lawyer keep following the inquiries that we received through the website and provide legal advice and consultation.



MSD 2008 Major Achievements “Know your Rights” Booklet



“Know your Rights” booklet, was written by MSD lawyers, contains 104 pagers, discuss the Israeli laws concerning Palestinian who’s living in Jerusalem areas.

The booklet also discuss:

- Mother and child rights.
- Construction permits.
- Jerusalem ID and residency.
- Handicaps’ and disabilities rights.
- ARNONA* tax.

ARNONA Tax: is a tax imposed by Israeli law to the users of buildings and land.

*Al-Maqdese for Society Development would
like to present its sincere thanks and
appreciation for all those who helped us to
make our work easier and possible especially*

“The Spanish Cooperation”

THANK YOU!