

Reclaiming youth at risk:
Critical voices of young Palestinian
refugees

*An analysis of the human rights situation in the
official refugee camps of the West Bank and Gaza
Strip as perceived by youth*

Sharek Youth Forum

Ramallah, May 2008

www.sharek.ps

I. Acknowledgements

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III. Introduction

This study was carried out by Sharek Youth Forum in Ramallah and Gaza City during 2007 and 2008 as one of the main activities of its Dynamic Human Rights project. It focuses on the human rights situation in the official refugee camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip *as perceived by youth*.¹

The main objective of the Dynamic Human Rights project was to contribute to the enjoyment of human rights for youth in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), and refugee youth in particular. As part of the project action a broad survey was conducted among these youth to identify their current socio-economic situation and awareness of human rights concepts in order to direct activities more efficiently and effectively.

During the survey, the staff became aware of two noteworthy issues: on the one hand, the results of the survey were striking and in some cases even alarming, and on the other hand, they detected a lack of existing research as to the current economic, social and political situation of Palestinian refugee youth. These revelations as well as other considerations prompted the staff to publish the main findings of the survey which was made possible with the financial support of the Open Society Institute & Soros Foundations Network.

Therefore the first aim of this publication is to fill the gap in research material pertaining to youth and human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip refugee camps. Secondly, the publication seeks to raise awareness of the human rights violations experienced by refugee youth on a daily basis. Thirdly, this publication was produced to provide a reference point for refugee youth, to help them gain an insight into the context of refugee camps, and how international human rights standards relate to their particular situation.

The reasons for the focus on refugee youth rights were twofold. First of all, one of the main constraints for the realisation of human rights of refugee youth is that in the oPt traditional beliefs and customs negatively affect the empowerment and development of youth. In turn this affects youth participation in social, political and economic life and restricts the development of the youth sector. This assertion is proved by the lack of a suitable legal framework that protects and provides for youth rights. Secondly, refugee youth can be categorised as a group in need of human rights protection because of their refugee status within Palestinian society and the ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territories.

To begin with, the reader is provided with details as to the methods employed by Sharek staff in collecting the data presented here in the publication. This is followed by an overview of human rights violations in the refugee camps and a summary of the main findings in relation to specific human rights. To provide some background information the reader is then presented with an overview of the West Bank & Gaza Strip and the social, economic & political situation in the refugee camps. Following on from this an in-depth analysis of specific rights will be presented which shows how various basic human rights of refugee

¹ For the exact locations of the refugee camps please refer to the map of the refugee camps on page 20.

youth are being violated in the West Bank and Gaza Strip refugee camps. Lastly, the conclusion will comprise a synthesis of the research study and alert the reader to the problems facing Palestinian refugee youth today.

Lastly, to provide an added value to the findings of the research, a set of recommendations have been formulated to provide practical solutions to the most pressing needs of the refugee camps and to enhance the overall human rights situation of refugee youth. These recommendations are directed towards the Palestinian Authority, UN agencies, the refugee camp committees, and other local and international development actors. The recommendations provide strong indicators for designing new projects and seek to provide temporary social, economic and cultural relief to ameliorate the situation of youth.



IV. Glossary

Community-Based Organisation (CBO)	Grassroots organisation established as a response to the lack of services in the refugee camps. CBOs come under the form of women's centres, youth clubs, disabled support centres, service clubs, cultural fora, etc. They are often run by a group of motivated volunteers and often do not receive any structural financial support
<i>Intifada</i>	Popular Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The first intifada began in 1987 and ended in 1991 (Madrid Conference). The second intifada began in September 2000 following the collapse of the Oslo Peace Process and is still ongoing. ²
<i>Nakba</i>	An Arabic term meaning "catastrophe", referring to the mass displacement and dispossession of Arab Palestinians in 1948.
Occupied Palestinian Territory	That part of former Palestine (22%) occupied by Israeli military forces in 1967.
Official Refugee camp	A plot of land placed at the disposal of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees by a host government in order to accommodate Palestinian refugees and set up facilities to cater to their needs. Unofficial refugee camps are camps that do not have UNRWA facilities within the camp boundaries.
Palestinian Authority	The body established under the 1993 Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements and the 1994 Agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area to administer those parts of the 1967-occupied Palestinian territory evacuated by Israel pending the negotiation of a final settlement.
Palestinian refugee/ refugee ³	Common language used to designate all those Palestinians who have become (and continue to be) externally displaced (with regard to 1948 refugees, outside the area that became the state of Israel, and with regard to 1967 displaced persons, outside the oPt) in the context of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as their descendants. The term refers to the following three groups: (1) 1948 refugees under UNGA Resolution 194(III) ("Palestine Refugees" in UNRWA terminology, including both registered and non-registered refugees); (2) 1967 refugees under UNSC Resolution 237 ("Displaced Persons" in UN terminology and used by UNRWA with particular reference to UNGA Resolution 2252); (3) Other Palestinians originating from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who have been forced to leave these areas owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and who are unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to these areas.

² This and some of the following explanatory terms were sourced from Badil, "1948-2008: 60 years of Palestinian Nakba, Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2006-2007", p 51, BADIL Resource Centre, Bethlehem, oPt, March 2007

³ In its needs assessment survey and other activities the staff concentrated on the official refugee camps which are almost exclusively home to "1948 refugees" and their descendants – as in those who are

Refugee Camp Committee	The Refugee Camp Committees or popular committees were set up by the PLO in 1996. Their mandate is to coordinate activities, develop the camp and liaise with UNRWA regarding local camp affairs. In some camps, members of the popular committees are elected but in general, members are appointed by grassroots organizations, civil society and political factions within the camp. Funding is provided by the PLO, albeit inconsistently, as well as by international and local NGOs for projects in the camp.
Registered refugee	The term does not indicate refugee status, but rather eligibility for assistance from the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (see below)
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The international organ established by the United Nations in 1949 to provide assistance to persons displaced during the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. The United Nations later requested the Agency to provide assistance to persons displaced during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

entitled to services provided by UNRWA. For more information see the following link:
<http://www.un.org/unrwa/refugees/whois.html>

V. Methodology: Details and Characteristics

A. Summary

This research publication is based mostly, but not exclusively, on the results of a survey carried out among 600 refugee youth. Some of the survey questions address a particular human right such as the right to health care or the right to education, while other questions have a more general character. However, to fully grasp the human rights situation of refugee youth and to provide a set of concrete recommendations, the project staff opted for the development of various dynamic activities. In view of this strategy a series of focus group discussions, interviews and other participatory activities were undertaken by the staff and volunteers to assess refugee youth's perception and awareness of human rights while at the same time empowering youth themselves.

B. Time Frame

This research publication is the result of information gathered from March 2007 until February 2008 during which the staff carried out various activities.

C. Target Areas

The survey, focus groups discussions, interviews and other activities were undertaken in 25 official refugee camps, 8 in the Gaza Strip and 17 in the West Bank. For the exact locations and names of the participating refugee camps please refer to the maps on page 20.

D. Target Groups

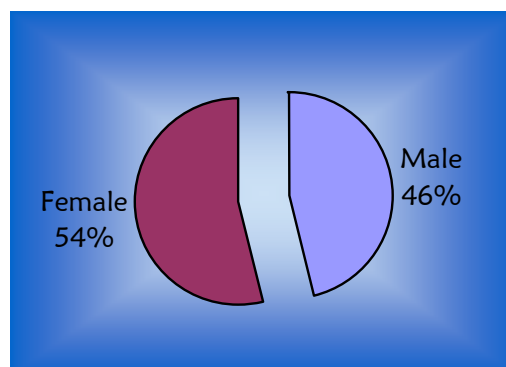
The research primarily targets refugee youth aged from 18 to 25. However, certain sections of the research have been finalised with the support of further actors, such as representatives of youth organizations, UN agencies and governmental institutions. Their involvement played an important role in developing a broader picture of the common human rights violations suffered by refugee youth in the oPt as well as understanding issues related to refugee youth needs in the refugee camps.

E. Core Principles

The project staff implemented its activities according to the following core principles:

- **Non-discrimination** - through including participants of different social status, religion, political background and age and those with a disability or at least people working with disabled people in the refugee camps
- **Gender equality** - through targeting an equal number of male and female in each location, in cooperation with both women's centres and youth clubs, and opting for single-sex activities whenever the social context did not allow for mixed group activities

Gender distribution of surveyed youth: West Bank and Gaza Strip



- ***Freedom of expression and opinion*** - through encouraging youth to express their views when it comes to human rights with no constraints or limits and by maintaining their anonymity when participating in the needs-assessment survey
- ***Freedom of participation*** - through providing youth with an opportunity to participate voluntarily in the activities organised by the staff

F. Methods of Data Collection

In order to carry out detailed research the staff used several methods for data-collection. Chronologically, the staff carried out the following research activities:

1) Research site visit and first approach to local CBO partners⁴

- Initial meeting with the local referral Community-Based Organization
- Survey of the refugee camp or the area of implementation for the activities

2) Focus group discussion + human rights situation survey of 600 youth⁵

- In line with the first data collected, the staff organised in each location of implementation a "focus group" with an approximate number of 15 girls and 15 boys aged from 15 to 25 followed by a human rights situation survey. The survey included questions on the human rights situation in general as well as specific human rights

3) In-depth interview

- In-depth interview of various refugee youth and other residents from refugee camps (representatives of youth clubs, CBOs, etc.)

4) Assessing other useful data

- Collection of useful data through assessing secondary information (i.e. UN documents, books, journal articles)

5) Further information

⁴ For a list of partner CBOs in each refugee camp please refer to the table on pages 59 and 60.

⁵ To see the distribution of participants on the focus group discussions and human rights situation survey please refer to the table on pages 59 and 60.

- Gathering any further information received by the staff during the period of project implementation as a whole from March 2007 to February 2008 (such as testimonies from victims of human rights violations)

G. Context of Research

In reading this study, one has to bear in mind that the participants of the survey come from both the West Bank and Gaza Strip refugee camps. Although there are common denominators amongst refugees of these two geographical areas, the complex reality respective to each region sometimes reveal striking differences. Also, comparing the socio-economic and political context of one camp to the other within the same geographical area showed significant differences depending on the location of the refugee camp, ie, rural versus urban areas and proximity to Israeli military bases, Israeli settlements or the separation wall all play a role.

Furthermore, as is the nature of a survey the data collected represents the *perspective* of the target group. The survey, focus groups discussions and interviews carried out provide subjective expression of a reality perceived by refugee youth and other actors.

In addition, the human rights situation of Palestinian refugee youth as presented in this study is the result of a process that was carried out within a defined time frame. It would be an interesting exercise to carry out similar research in the future, even more so since the situation in the oPt is extremely volatile and subject to sudden political and economic changes.



VI. Main Findings & Overview of Human Rights Violations

The needs-assessment survey carried out provided the staff with the bulk of the information regarding the human rights situation in refugee camps as perceived by youth as well as a wide variety of indicators on the economic, social and political situation faced by refugee youth in general. Below are the main findings of the survey in relation to human rights violations in general *and* specific human rights.

In regard to general human rights violations in the refugee camps the youth surveyed had this to say:

Which human right is mostly being violated in your refugee camp?

1st RIGHT TO LIFE

2nd RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY

3rd RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE

4th RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

5th RIGHT TO EDUCATION

6th RIGHT NOT TO BE TORTURED

7th RIGHT TO A CULTURAL LIFE

8th OTHER

Who suffers mostly from human rights violations in your camp?

1st children

2nd women

3rd youth

4th old people

5th men

Who is mostly responsible for violations within your refugee camp?

- 1st ISRAELI AUTHORITIES
- 2nd PALESTINIAN AUTHORITIES
- 3rd REFUGEE CAMP COMMITTEE
- 4th FAMILY AND RELATIVES
- 5th FRIENDS
- 6th OTHER



Who is responsible for protecting your human rights?

- 1st MY FAMILY
- 2nd MYSELF
- 3rd FRIENDS
- 4th UNRWA OR OTHER UN Agency
- 5th REFUGEE CAMP COMMITTEE
- 5th A LAWYER OR PALESTINIAN ORGANISATION
- 7th PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
- 8th POLICE
- 9th ISRAELI AUTHORITIES
- 9th OTHER

The main findings in relation to specific human rights were:

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

- Lack of sufficient financial resources

- Presence of military actions within or close to educational facilities
- Lack of adequate resources to ensure good quality education
- Presence of violence within the school environment

RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE

- Lack of sufficient number of medical personnel in UNRWA health clinics
- Scarcity or lack of basic medicines
- Lack of specialised medical centres economically accessible to refugees

RIGHT TO WORK

- Lack of job opportunities
- Lack of skills and training
- Gender and social discrimination in the working environment

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

- Lack of sufficient good quality water
- Lack of adequate sewage system
- Overcrowded environment and lack of privacy

RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL TO VISIT AND COMMUNICATE WITH IMPRISONED AND DETAINED

- Detention of individuals outside the occupied Palestinian territories
- Prevention of children to visit and communicate with detained relatives
- Additional consequences of imprisonment such as exacerbation of poverty, increase of child labour and deterioration of children's education

RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY AND NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE

- Normalisation of violence
- High Israeli military presence especially at night and phenomenon of armed Palestinian groups
- Psychological violence is suffered more often than physical violence
- Perpetrators of violence are likely to be family members or residents of the refugee camps

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- Specialised or emergency health care facilities cannot be reached in a timely manner
- Institutions of secondary and tertiary education are difficult to reach resulting in increased drop-out rates
- Psychological and social effects of closure and separation
- High unemployment due to difficulties in accessing employment opportunities

VII. Overview of the West Bank & Gaza Strip and the Social, Economic & Political Situation in the West Bank & Gaza Strip Refugee Camps

Overview of the West Bank & Gaza Strip

The West Bank covers an area of approximately **5,500 square kilometres** with an estimated population of **2.52 million**. Reports from the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) show that almost 40% of the West Bank is now taken up by Israeli settlements and infrastructure. It also highlights how roads linking settlements to Israel, in conjunction with an extensive system of checkpoints and roadblocks, have fragmented Palestinian communities from each other reducing the possibility of trade between Palestinians and also impeding the opportunities of people to travel for employment purposes, education purposes and for emergency healthcare.⁶ A December 2007 report counted 558 roadblocks or checkpoints in the West Bank and that 409km out of a projected 723km of the separation wall had been constructed.⁷



The Gaza Strip covers a tiny **360 square kilometres**. It is flanked to the north and east by Israel (51 km), Egypt to the South (11km) and the Mediterranean Sea to the west (40km). Its land borders (apart from Egypt) and coastline are under exclusive Israeli control and residents of the Gaza Strip have almost no opportunity to leave. Crammed into these confines are **1.5 million inhabitants**, making it one of the most densely populated places in the world. The residents of the Gaza Strip find themselves in an especially dire situation as they continue to suffer from longstanding movement restrictions and closures imposed on the Gaza Strip by the Israeli authorities. The result of the aforementioned closures has been that many vital foodstuffs, commodities and medicines are prevented from entering the Gaza Strip, resulting in an ongoing humanitarian crisis. Continued violent action by both sides has perpetuated this “grim and miserable” situation⁸.

Population, Distribution and Demographics of Refugees⁹

Today, out of the total West Bank population **approximately 780,000 residents (31%) are refugees**.¹⁰ Roughly one quarter of refugees (186,872) in the West Bank live in nineteen official refugee camps while the majority live in West Bank towns and villages.¹¹

Approximately 39% of the total refugee population in the oPt live in official refugee camps.

⁶ OCHA/UNRWA, *The Humanitarian Impact on Palestinians of Israeli Settlements and Other Infrastructure in the West Bank*, p 9, July 2007.

⁷ OCHA, *West Bank: Access and Closure*, December 2007. Retrieved 23 March 2008 from http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/WestBank_December_07_20080106_web.pdf

⁸ OCHA, *UN Humanitarian Chief: Situation in Gaza*, New York/Geneva/Jerusalem, February 2008

⁹ For a refugee definition please refer to the glossary.

¹⁰ PCBS: *The Special Report on the 59th Anniversary of the Nakba*, p 1, May 2007.

Many refugees live within 100 kilometres of their homes of origin now located in Israel. Some official refugee camps are located **next to major urban areas** such as Camp No.1 in Nablus and **others are situated in rural or not-easily accessible locations** such as Deir Ammar in the Ramallah Governorate.

More than 1,000,000 (67.6%) of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip are Palestinian refugees and 479,574 of these reside in eight official refugee camps. The rest, as in the West Bank, live in the outlying towns and villages or in urban centres such as Gaza City. Many of the Palestinian refugees who now reside in the Gaza Strip were expelled from nearby lands in present day Israel during the 1948 *Nakba*. While the West Bank has the largest number of camps in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), the largest camp in the West Bank, Balata (Nablus), has a similar size population to the smallest camp in the Gaza Strip (Deir al-Balah).

The average population density of the West Bank refugee camps is **32,415 persons per square kilometre** while the Gaza Strip refugee camps are home to an average of **90,486 persons per square kilometre**.

The demographics of the West Bank and Gaza Strip indicate a very young population. Children (under 15) and youth (15-29) together compromise almost **70%** of the population in the oPt. The ratio of male to females is 51% to 49%.¹² **The refugee population is also a very young population and will remain so** in the coming years due to an increasing fertility rate of 4.1 and declining infant and child mortality rates of 20.1 and 22.5 respectively in the West Bank. The figures for the Gaza Strip show an even higher fertility rate of 4.4 but also higher infant and child mortality rates of 31.2 and 37.3 respectively.¹³



Social Context

In the official refugee camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip services are provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) which focuses its efforts on providing services in the fields of education, health, relief and social services and micro credit (See box on UNRWA below). While refugees also have varying degrees of access to public sector health and education services provided by the Palestinian Authority (PA),

For the most part, the area of the refugee camps has remained the same over the last 60 years while the size of the population has increased four-fold. The lack of space to expand horizontally has led to the haphazard and precarious construction of extra floors onto existing buildings.

¹¹ Reference for adjacent box is Badil, "1948-2008: 60 years of Palestinian Nakba, Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2006-2007", p 51, BADIL Resource Centre, Bethlehem, oPt, March 2007

¹² PCBS: *Palestine Youth: Figures and Statistics*, p 1, August 2007

¹³ Badil, "1948-2008: 60 years of Palestinian Nakba, Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2006-2007", p 59, BADIL Resource Centre, Bethlehem, oPt, March 2007

UNRWA remains the main provider of basic health care and basic education.



Although this goes a long way towards ameliorating the difficult living conditions of refugees, chronic under-funding for UNRWA severely limits the assistance they can offer in the camps. As a result schools are overcrowded and dilapidated, health centres cannot cope with the vast number of patients, and most camps are characterised by poor water and sewage infrastructure, structurally unsound buildings and high population densities.

The individual camps are locally administered by a refugee camp committee which allocates any funding received and deals with any internal problems in the camps. In almost all of the camps, youth or women are under-represented on these committees. With many residents of camps feeling isolated, both socially and culturally, many local organizations have sprung up to provide services for its residents and most camps contain a youth centre and a women's centre or centres for residents with physical and intellectual disabilities.



Economic Context

The continuing occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has resulted in a dire socio-economic crisis that in turn has led to **deteriorating living conditions** for Palestinians and refugees in particular.

The impact of the current phase of the economic crisis has hit refugees in the oPt harder than the population at large with respect to employment and poverty. **Refugees are less likely to find work than non-refugees** and as a result they account for a higher ratio of those living in deep poverty.

For instance, the shortfall in income to public employee households in the first half of 2006 caused by the PA fiscal crisis was felt disproportionately by refugees. While 20 percent of employed non-refugees worked for the PA, 31.7 percent of refugees were so employed. **Thus refugees were 50 percent more vulnerable to the effects of the non-payment of PA salaries relative to non-refugees.**¹⁴

The unemployment rate in the refugee camps of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip reached **44%** and **41%** respectively in July 2005¹⁵ and is still rising – unofficial estimates at the time of writing would put the unemployment rates at around 50 - 60%. In addition, refugees rarely own agricultural land that could make them economically self-sustainable or provide them with a small

¹⁴ UNRWA, *Prolonged Crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: Socio-Economic Impacts of the New Phase on Refugees and Non-refugees*, p IV, Gaza, 2006.

¹⁵ Graduate Institute of Development Studies, *Palestinian Public Perceptions, Report IX*, p 74, April 2006.

income. Consequently, refugees are often dependent on third parties for employment.



The closures imposed by the Israeli authorities on the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the second intifada and the construction of the separation wall in the West Bank have had dire consequences on economic activity. Previously, many residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially refugees, relied on work in Israel to support their families but with this option now limited to only a few workers, and coupled with a general decrease in salaries, many refugee families are slipping below the poverty line. An UNRWA study found that **the burden of poverty, whatever the measure, was borne disproportionately by refugees**¹⁶ a fact confirmed by the statistic that approximately 39% of refugees are poor (living on less than \$2.4 per day) compared with 31% of non-refugees.¹⁷

Political Context

Many of the refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been targeted by large scale Israeli military invasions or subjected to curfews and movement restrictions, house demolitions or Israeli military air strikes. **Due to the targeting of refugee camps by the Israeli military refugees generally experience great hardship** in relation to access to education and employment, quality of life and enjoyment of human rights.

The desperate living conditions, poor economic situation, Israeli military actions and lack of opportunities for social and political participation takes its toll on the physical and psychosocial well-being of residents - **too often conditions in the camps sap the energy and optimism of refugee youth, fuelling discontent and disillusionment about their future.**¹⁸



In response to these dire circumstances, various resistance movements (both violent and non-violent) emerged from within the refugee camps, especially during the first and second *Intifada*. Youth often have no means to deal with the inevitable anger and frustration they feel at their situation and can turn to violent means to express their disenchantment. As a result there is a large presence of armed Palestinian groups to be found in certain camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip fuelling further Israeli military actions, perpetuating the cycle of violence and decreasing the possibility of refugee youth to claim and enjoy their human rights.

¹⁶ UNRWA, *Prolonged Crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: Socio-Economic Impacts of the New Phase on Refugees and Non-refugees*, p 37, Gaza, 2006.

¹⁷ Badil, "1948-2008: 60 years of Palestinian Nakba, Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2006-2007", p 62, BADIL Resource Centre, Bethlehem, oPt, March 2007

¹⁸ UNRWA, Commissioner-General's Statement to Council of Ministers of the League of Arab States, Cairo, 5 September 2007

UNRWA

After the 1948 war in Palestine the UN established the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to respond to the dire humanitarian needs of about 800,000 Palestinian refugees. Following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict the UN requested that UNRWA assist Palestinian refugees displaced for the first time in 1967.

Originally UNRWA was established with a temporary mandate but it has been repeatedly renewed since 1948 by the UN General Assembly and it has now grown into one of the largest UN agencies with a staff of over 27,000, most of whom are refugees themselves. Its purpose is to contribute to the human development of Palestine refugees in its five fields of operation until a just solution is found for the refugee issue.

In the refugee camps UNRWA focuses its efforts on providing services in the fields of education, health, relief and social services and micro credit. Education is UNRWA's single largest area of activity, accounting for half its budget and two-thirds of its staff. UNRWA's health programme aims to protect, preserve and promote the health of Palestine refugees and to meet their basic health needs. Since its establishment, the Agency has been the main health care provider for the Palestine refugee population.

UNRWA aims to ensure a minimum standard of nutrition and shelter for Palestine refugees and the Agency's relief and social services programme supports the poorest refugee families who are unable to meet their own basic needs. Finally, UNRWA launched its microfinance and micro enterprise programme (MMP) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to rapidly deteriorating economic conditions marked by high unemployment and spreading poverty amongst refugees.

However, due to lack of funds the Agency has been forced to implement austerity measures over the last few years: financial contributions have not increased sufficiently to keep pace with inflation and a rising refugee population. This has resulted in a reduction in services as is evident in the fact that average annual spending per refugee has fallen from about \$ 200 in 1975 to around \$110 now (based on General Fund cash and in kind budget 2007).

For more detailed information visit <http://www.un.org/unrwa/>

Because it is only human to have rights!

Every day, human rights violations occur in Palestine. **These violations are related to the occupation, but also arise within Palestinian society.** The right to education, the right to housing, the right to be protected from violence and the children's right to play are only some examples of rights that are violated on a daily basis.

The Dynamic Human Rights project was launched in March 2007 to actively address this deteriorating situation. **The main objective of the project is to contribute to the enjoyment of human rights for youth in Palestine, and refugee youth in particular.**

The first step towards this objective is to inform youth about their rights. In fact, the underlying concept of the project is that **if you don't know your rights you can not claim them fully.** In keeping with this idea, a series of training workshops have been held in several refugee camps to raise awareness on human rights and human rights violations in Palestine. These workshops were implemented by project volunteers after they had participated in extensive "Training of Trainers" workshops.

The project is part of Sharek's *Advocacy and Research Unit* and is located at the Sharek Youth Forum headquarters in Ramallah and Gaza City and **acts as a resource point for youth and youth organizations**, providing them with information and training materials. Additionally the project, with the input of its beneficiaries and volunteers, **advocates for youth-favourable policies within Palestinian legislation** and public institutions.

For more information on the project please visit:

www.sharek.ps or www.youth.ps



West Bank

Gaza Strip

Refugee Camps



Refugee Camps



Maps retrieved from UNRWA at www.unrwa.org



VIII. Analysis of Specific Human Rights

This section presents an in-depth socio-legal analysis of the results given by refugee youth that participated in the needs-assessment survey. A variety of questions pertaining to the following seven human rights were addressed during the survey:

- The Right to Education
- The Right to Health Care
- The Right to Work
- The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living
- The Right of an Individual to Visit and Communicate with Imprisoned and Detained Family Members
- The Right of Personal Security
- The Right to Freedom of Movement

These seven rights were chosen as their fulfilment appear to be particularly problematic. In the following section each one of the above-mentioned human rights will be analysed individually. The analysis provides the reader with a brief initial picture describing the general situation in the refugee camps in relation to each human right. Certain results of the survey will also be highlighted in graph format and will often provide a stark contrast to the international human rights standards and Palestinian legal framework presented alongside them.

Furthermore, spotlight cases and testimonies¹⁹ will provide youth with an opportunity to voice their opinions and highlight particular human rights violations. Finally a narrative conclusion will summarise the situation of Palestinian refugee youth with reference to each individual right.

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

¹⁹ The names of the youth in the testimonies have been changed for reasons of privacy.

Accessibility and availability of **primary education** within the occupied Palestinian territories refugee camps does not seem to be a major problem. UNRWA provides elementary and preparatory education free of charge to refugee camp children in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Nearly all camps have at least one boys' and one girls' school that ensures the attendance of the vast majority of children. Moreover, the Ministry of Education sometimes provides educational facilities within or near to refugee camps; such as a girls' secondary school at Jalazone refugee camp. However, due to the high number of students, many schools are overcrowded and they have to run a double-shift system to alleviate the problem²⁰. Furthermore, while UNRWA provides secondary education facilities free of charge in all camps in the Gaza Strip, such facilities are not free and are located outside the camps in the West Bank. As a result, it seems to be more problematic the availability and accessibility of **secondary and third-level education** in the West Bank as often secondary schools are not economically or physically accessible for refugee youth.

Legal Definition
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Art. 26 UDHR

See Also.....

- Art. 13 and 14 ICESCR
- Art. 10 CEDAW
- Art. 28 and 29,c CRC
- Art. 5 CEAFRD
- World Declaration on Education for All

Palestinian legal framework

EDUCATION IS FREE FOR ALL AND COMPULSORY UNTIL 15

Art. 24 Basic Law

See Also.....

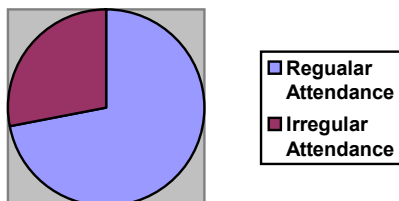
- Art. 6 of the Child Law
- Art. 3 from the Jordanian Educational Law

SPOTLIGHT CASE – WEST BANK

In Qualandia refugee camp 75% of youth surveyed said that they faced checkpoints or roadblocks on their way to school. Of those who did face a checkpoint or roadblock, 100% stated that they had been prevented from reaching their place of education on at least one occasion.

AVAILABILITY OF EDUCATION

School Attendance According to the Refugee Youth Surveyed



EDUCATION AVAILABILITY
in International Law

INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMMES HAVE TO BE AVAILABLE IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY

para 6 (a) of the **General Comment No. 13** of the ICESCR

and in Palestinian Law

- Art. 24 of the **Basic Law**
- Art. 5 of the **Jordanian Educational Law**
- Art. 37 of the **Child Law**

²⁰ 77% of UNRWA elementary schools are double-shifting due to the high number of pupils. UNRWA, *UNRWA in 2006*. Retrieved 24 February 2008 from <http://www.un.org/unrwa/publications/pubs07.html>

72% of youth interviewed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip stated that they regularly attended school from elementary school through to high school. The percentage is higher in the Gaza Strip (just over 80%), where UNRWA also provides secondary-level education.

UNRWA in the Gaza Strip provides **9 years of schooling to 195,156 youth in 193 schools**

67% is the percentage of UNRWA schools that had to establish a **DOUBLE-SHIFT system because of overcrowded classrooms**

The average number of students in UNRWA school classrooms in the West Bank is **50²¹**

ACCESSIBILITY OF EDUCATION

- *Physical Accessibility of Schools*

OF THOSE SURVEYED....

- **78%** stated that it takes **less than thirty minutes**
- **16%** stated that it takes **between thirty minutes and one hour**
- **6%** stated that it takes **more than one hour**

...TO REACH THEIR PLACE OF EDUCATION.

EDUCATION ACCESSIBILITY

in International Law

EDUCATION HAS TO BE PHYSICALLY

ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION

para 6 (B) of the **General Comment No. 13** to the ICESCR

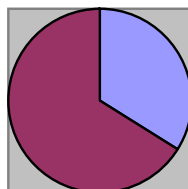
and in Palestinian Law

- Art 24 of the **Basic Law**
- Art. 38 of the **Child Law**
- Art. 3 of the **Jordanian Educational Law**

"I was arrested for the first time when I was 15 years old. I was accused of throwing stones. Shortly after my release from prison, I was arrested again.... In total, I spent 11 months in two different prisons. Before my imprisonment, I was attending high school. I was obtaining good grades and wanted to finish my education. After I was released the second time, I stopped going to school. I couldn't concentrate in the classroom and my mind was always elsewhere. I never obtained my high school degree and I lost all hopes to obtain a degree and find a good job",

Mohamed, 18 years old, Aida refugee camp, West Bank.

- *Economic Accessibility of Schools*



■ Provided with Grant
■ Not Provided with Grant

EDUCATION ACCESSIBILITY

in International Law

Primary education shall be

COMPULSORY and FREE FOR ALL

Art. 13.2 (a) ICESCR

States shall progressively introduce the progressive

FREE SECONDARY EDUCATION

Art. 13.2 (b) ICESCR

and in Palestinian Law

- Art. 37 of the **Child Law**
- Art. 11 of the **Jordanian Educational Law**

²¹ UNRWA, *West Bank Refugee Camp Profiles*, Retrieved 18 February 2008 from <http://www.un.org/unrwa/refugees/westbank.html>

According to the survey, **financial problems** are one of the main obstacles to the full enjoyment of the right to education for both West Bank and Gaza Strip refugee youth. For example, out of the youth surveyed **150** stated that they were **provided with a grant to study**. In only 9 cases the grant fully covered the cost of education.

...Why is Education NOT accessible for all???

While it is unsurprising that the main reasons cited by youth in relation to the inaccessibility of education are **FINANCIAL REASONS** and **DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING SCHOOL**, what causes concern are the 30 cases in which the non-attendance of school is due to either **EARLY MARRIAGE** or **IMPRISONMENT**.

134 youth surveyed did not regularly attend school... of these....

- 66 → FINANCIAL REASONS
- 32 → DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING SCHOOL
 - 14 → EARLY MARRIAGE
 - 16 → IMPRISONMENT
 - 4 → FAMILY REASONS
 - 2 → DISLIKE SCHOOL

SPOTLIGHT CASE – GAZA STRIP

When questioned about general attendance to school **80%** of those surveyed in Jabalia refugee camp stated that they regularly attended school from primary school through to high school. Of those who didn't regularly attend school from primary school to high school **all of them cited financial problems** as the main reason for lack of attendance.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH

What are the main problems affecting **EDUCATION** in the oPt according to refugee youth?

- 1st MILITARY ACTIONS IN OR AROUND SCHOOLS**
(Destruction of schools, shootings, arrests of teachers/students)
- 2nd OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS**
- 3rd LACK OF FACILITIES**
(No computers, no libraries at school, etc)
- 4th VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL**
(Among students and between students and teachers)
- 5th LONG DISTANCE FROM HOME TO PLACE OF EDUCATION**
- 5th LOW QUALITY OF EDUCATION**

...Did you know that...?

- UNESCO is the UN Agency devoted to promoting education as a fundamental human right and to improve the quality of education
- The elements of ACCESSIBILITY and AVAILABILITY of education apply also in relation to the *principle of gender equality*
- The *Palestinian Ministry of Education* is one of the most important duty-bearers in ensuring the fulfillment of education for youth in Palestine

“I got married at 14 years of age since my father preferred that my brothers completed their education so they could help him overcome our absolute poverty. He married me at that age to alleviate his financial burdens. Bitterly, I look to my friends who I was in school with in the preparatory stage; they have completed their education and currently they are working.”

Ahlam, 25 years old, Al Bureij refugee camp, Gaza Strip

The Right to Education of refugee youth: what to conclude???

The full enjoyment of the right to education at both the international and national level is achieved when educational facilities are **available, accessible and of a good quality**. The results of the survey have shown that for the majority of the youth surveyed, education from elementary school through to high school is both available and accessible thanks to **UNRWA** and the **Ministry of Education's** efforts.

Those who did face difficulties in attending and reaching their place of education attributed **financial reasons** as the main obstacle. However it is interesting to note that the cost of education itself is not the only reason that prevents refugee youth from attending school. As noted above, schooling is provided free of charge by UNRWA for at least primary level education in all refugee camps of the oPt. Therefore, when mentioning financial reasons refugee youth are also referring to the desperate economic situation of their families which often **requires children and youth to work from an early age to provide additional financial income for their families thus preventing them from attending school**. This situation particularly affects youth in the Gaza Strip.

However the provision of **good quality** education is generally lacking in the oPt. Overcrowded classrooms, double-shift systems, **lack of human resources and financial means to buy basic educational tools** are only some of the obstacles that jeopardise the fulfilment of the right to education of Palestinian refugee youth. A striking result of the survey is that youth state that **military actions** and incursions are the main problem affecting the Palestinian educational system and, as a result, the enjoyment of the right to education of refugee youth. Lastly, the data regarding the high **presence of violence** (not including Israeli military activity) in the school environment is cause for grave concern. In fact, from the interviews conducted with refugee youth, it would appear that violence is an accepted tool of punishment in schools. Due to the

high presence of violence activity in the school environment, **often students themselves end up repeating acts of violence against each other.**

**The Right to EDUCATION is
a HUMAN RIGHT**

...HELP US ADVOCATE FOR IT....

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE

Basic primary health care within refugee camps is provided free of charge by UNRWA²². The Agency has established a total number of 54 health care centres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, covering almost all of the 27 official refugee camps. However, the limited funding that UNRWA receives means that it cannot provide sufficient staff and adequate services in its health clinics and they generally struggle to cope with the large volume of patients. Besides the UNRWA services, other actors, both public and private, provide basic health care for refugee communities. Unfortunately, these additional clinics are established in only a few camps and usually are not free of charge. According to the survey, the availability and the accessibility of **specialised health care** is a problem to be found across both the West

Bank and the Gaza Strip refugee camps. In fact, both the high cost of specialised health care and the presence of physical barriers such as checkpoints, roadblocks and the separation wall have an extremely detrimental effect on the general health of refugees. The youth surveyed expressed a general discontent in terms of **availability of medical personnel and medicines, and accessibility of health care facilities**.

Legal Definition
Everyone has the RIGHT to enjoy the HIGHEST ATTAINABLE Standards of PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Art. 12.1 ICESCR

See Also.....

- Art. 25.1 UDHR
- Art. 5 CEAFRD
- Art. 11.1 (f) and 12 CEDAW
- Art. 24 CRC

Palestinian legal framework

- Art. 16 of the **Basic Law**
- Art. 4 of the **Health Law**
- Art. 6 and 8 of the **Child Law**

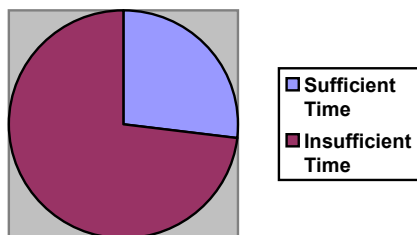
SPOTLIGHT CASE – WEST BANK

There is no UNRWA health centre in either Azzeh or Aida refugee camps in Bethlehem. Residents of these camps have to travel to Khamastha health clinic (operated by UNRWA) which is located outside the camps near to the centre of Bethlehem.

AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE

• Time Availability

Of the youth surveyed **73%** stated that the time dedicated to them in the health centres was insufficient.



QUICK FACT

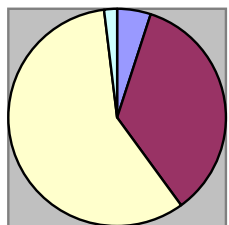
In the West Bank UNRWA clinics the **average number** of consultations per doctor **per day is 89**. In the Gaza Strip UNRWA clinics the average number of consultations per doctor **per day is 150**.

Statistics obtained from the UNRWA West Bank and Gaza Strip Public Information Offices

²² UNRWA, *Primary Health Care*. Retrieved 8 May 2008 from <http://www.un.org/unrwa/programmes/health/primary.html>

- **Availability Of Medicines**

According to the youth surveyed, **58%** stated that only basic medicines are available, **35%** answered that almost all medicines are available, **5%** of them stated that all medicines are available and **2%** replied that no medicines are available.



HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY

in International Law

THE FACILITIES, GOODS AND SERVICES SHALL BE AVAILABLE IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY

para 12 **General Comment No. 14** to the ICESCR

and in Palestinian Law

Art. 2 and 5 of the **Public Health Law**

Art. 22 and 25 of the **Child Law**

“I undergo dialysis twice a week. I never faced any problem in this matter before but since the closures imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip there has been an extreme shortage of equipment needed for the dialysis process.”

Mohammed, 27 years old, Al-Bureij camp, Gaza Strip

ACCESSIBILITY OF HEALTH CARE

- **Accessibility Of Hospitals**

OF THOSE SURVEYED....

- **45%** stated that it takes **less than thirty minutes**
- **38%** stated that it takes **between thirty minutes and one hour**
- **17%** stated that it takes **more than one hour**

... TO REACH THE NEAREST HOSPITAL.

HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY

in International Law

HEALTH CARE SHALL BE PHYSICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY **ACCESSIBLE TO ALL**

WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION

para 12 **General Comment No. 14** to the ICESCR

SPOTLIGHT CASE – GAZA STRIP

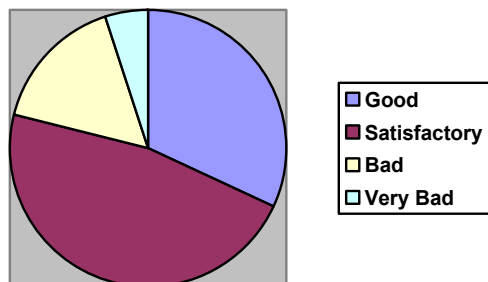
According to 66% of the respondents in Al-Bureij Camp in Gaza only **basic medicine** was available in the camp and **87%** of respondents stated that the time dedicated to them in the health centre was **insufficient**.

...Did you know that...?

- The Right to Health Care includes the presence of potable water and adequate sanitation
 - YOU have the right to **SEEK** and **RECEIVE** information related to health care
 - Doctors must respect your religious and cultural values and traditions

QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

- *Status Of Healthcare Facilities*



HEALTH CARE QUALITY

in International Law

HEALTH FACILITIES, GOODS AND SERVICES MUST BE APPROPRIATE AND OF GOOD QUALITY, WITH SKILLED MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

para 12 of the **General Comment No. 14** to the ICESCR

Almost **80%** of those surveyed considered the quality of health care facilities as either **GOOD or SATISFACTORY**. Of the remaining 20%, **15%** stated that the quality of health care facilities is **bad** and **5%** believe it is **very bad**.

The Right to Health Care of refugee youth: what to conclude???

According to human rights international standards, one's right to health care is fulfilled when health care facilities, goods and services are **available, in sufficient quantity, appropriate and of good quality**. Also the international law states that both basic and specialised health care should be **physically and economically accessible**. Whilst refugee youth **positively evaluated the status or quality of health care facilities** (almost 80% of those surveyed considered the quality of health care facilities as either *good or satisfactory*), it seems that the minimal standards of availability and accessibility of health care are not guaranteed in the context of refugee communities. In fact, due to a combination of the Israeli occupation and its associated movement restrictions, the lack of funding received by the primary health care provider in refugee camps, namely UNRWA, and the poor management of public hospitals or other health care centres, the right to health care of many refugee youth is becoming seriously endangered.

The most disturbing indicator of a high level of violations of the right to health care is represented by the **insufficient time** dedicated to refugees in the centres provided by UNRWA. Severe understaffing for the UNRWA health care centres leaves practitioners with little time to provide a complete check-up and extensive diagnosis of their patients, a fact confirmed by many youth who declared that the time dedicated to them was not sufficient for both explaining their medical problem and receiving a complete health check. To exacerbate this already worrying situation the majority of youth interviewed stated that **only basic medicines** are available at the local health care centre.

The lack of sufficient time available to practitioners to diagnose their patients coupled with a lack of basic medicines implies a serious violation of the right to health care. Furthermore, a lack of attention to and treatment of a standard ailment can often compound the condition resulting in the patient requiring

specialised treatment, which is more economically and physically difficult to access than primary health care.

**The Right to HEALTH CARE is
a HUMAN RIGHT**

.... HELP US ADVOCATE FOR IT

THE RIGHT TO WORK

Refugee youth are often denied their right to work. This mainly derives from the stagnant economy produced by the Israeli occupation and the established system of movement restrictions imposed on Palestinians that makes accessibility of employment extremely problematic. This unfavourable situation has led to an **extremely high unemployment rate amongst refugees in particular**²³. To compound matters, **refugees are often discriminated against within Palestinian society when seeking employment and in working environments outside refugee camps**. Youth refugees surveyed expressed their deep concern at the current economic situation and particularly highlighted how they experience **difficulties in finding a job**.

Legal Definition **EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO WORK**

Everyone shall gain his living by work that he freely chooses and accepts.
Art. 6.1 ICESCR

See Also.....

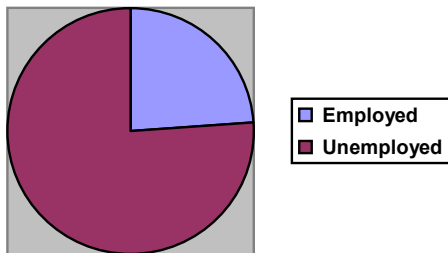
- Art. 20, 23 and 24 UDHR
 - Art. 22 ICCPR
 - Art. 11 CEDAW
 - Art. 5 CEAFRD
 - Art. 15 and 32 CRC
- PALESTINIAN DEFINITION**
- Art. 25 of the **Basic law**
 - Art. 2 of the **Labour Law**

SPOTLIGHT CASE – WEST BANK

In Nur Shams refugee camp in the West Bank (which is located near to the separation wall) **100%** answered that they have faced or are currently facing difficulties in finding employment.

REFUGEE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

• Current Employment



20% of those surveyed are **currently employed**²⁴. The majority is **self-employed or employed in a family/private business**, followed by a number of youth employed in **private companies** and only a small percentage **employed by the government**.

NUMBERS & STATISTICS

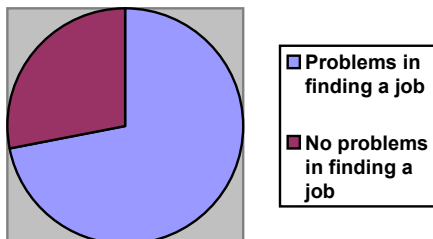
According to Badil, a leading Palestinian NGO in refugee matters the labour force participation for refugee men is **70%** while it is **9-19%** for refugee women

Girls over 25 are often not employed due to **FAMILY COMMITMENTS**

See Jacobsen, Laurie Blom. *Finding Means: UNRWA's Financial Crisis and Refugee Living Conditions* after school/college/university to help provide for their own education or their family and often face the same difficulties finding employment.

- **Search for Employment**

Of those surveyed **72%** declared that they have faced or are currently facing problems in finding a job.



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE: What are the main problems faced by youth in finding employment?

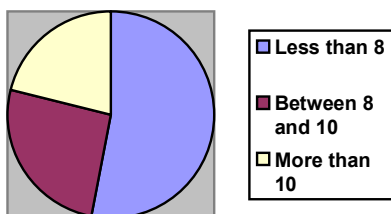
1. **LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES**
2. **LACK OF EXPERIENCE**
3. **GENDER DISCRIMINATION**

...Did you know that...?

- The right to work includes the right to **freely join trade unions** and **exercise strike** (Art. 8 ICESCR)
- The International Labour Organization [ILO] is the UN specialised Agency seeking the promotion of Human and Labour Rights (<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/about/mandate.htm>)
- The Palestinian Ministry of Labour provides an on-line service for job seekers: visit www.mol.gov.ps

WORKING CONDITIONS

- **Length of Daily Working Hours**



Of the youth interviewed **21%** stated that their daily working hours are more than 10.

WORKING CONDITIONS
in International Law

- EQUAL AND FAIR WAGES WITH NO DISCRIMINATION
- SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS
- REST, LEISURE AND LIMITED WORKING HOURS

Art. 7 ICESCR

and in Palestinian Law

- Art. 25, 2-4 of the **Basic law**
- Art. 16, of the **Labour Law**
- Art. 68-79 of the **Labour Law**
- Art. 90 of the **Labour Law**
- Art. 100-106 of the **Labour Law**

SPOTLIGHT CASE – GAZA STRIP

According to those surveyed in Nuiserat refugee camp the main reasons for not finding employment were, in order of prevalence: **lack of job opportunities, gender discrimination and lack of experience.**

“I have a BA degree in computer programming and I recently applied for a position in my field with a private technology company in Nablus. I fulfilled all the requirements as set out in the person specification and was called for an interview. Afterwards they told me that they had chosen another candidate for the position. When I asked them for the reason, they told me that they had given priority to a girl from the city of Nablus...”

The Right to Work of refugee youth: what to conclude????

One of the main international conventions on the right to work states that; “**everyone shall gain his living by work that he freely chooses and accepts**”. Due to the ongoing Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories the growth of the Palestinian economy is being severely hampered, particularly by the restricted possibilities for internal movement of goods and people for economic purposes. Thus refugee youth not only face great difficulties in “choosing” their job but more worryingly, in finding any sort of employment due to a severe lack of job opportunities in the occupied Palestinian territories in general.

The violation of the right to work due to high unemployment rates of refugee youth generates both short and long-term consequences. In the short-term, the lack of income-generating opportunities for refugee youth leads to an increase in the already high poverty levels to be found in refugee communities. In the long-term this can cause negative repercussions to other basic human rights such as education, health care, and adequate standard of living.

In addition to this, the majority of refugee youth that stated having a job often **work informally within a family business**. In the eye of the editorial team, there is a direct link between the percentage of youth employed as part of the informal labour force and the fact that almost 50% of those with a job work for more than 8 hours. In fact, in a small family business the legal conditions of work in terms of salary, working hours, rest and leisure are unlikely to apply.

Furthermore, the current scarcity of employment opportunities creates a sense of hopelessness amongst refugee youth as they find themselves powerless to contribute to their own personal development and the future economic, social and cultural development of their communities. In turn, this creates a cycle of poverty that is more and more difficult to break. It is important to stress that the violation of the right to work seems to be a worrying reality of almost all the **refugee youth from the Gaza Strip** who were interviewed by the project staff.

Of the reasons given by the surveyed youth for why they were not able to find a job, two deserve mention. Firstly, young refugees highlighted that once they terminate their studies they often lack practical work experience as there is often **no opportunity for them to receive trainings** or gain work experience through their formal education. As a result, even when a potential job becomes

available they are rarely considered as suitable candidates as they have no work experience. Secondly, refugee youth both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip lamented that **gender discrimination** is still well-practiced by employers in hiring people and is also to be found in the workplace.

One final important result of the survey to be highlighted is that youth also stated that **discrimination of refugee youth by fellow Palestinians** is a reality in the labour market. Many of the youth interviewed felt discriminated against for being refugees when seeking a job or while in the workplace.

The Right to WORK is a HUMAN RIGHT

.... HELP US ADVOCATE FOR IT

RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

One of the most critical issues in the eyes of refugee youth concerns the **living conditions** within camps. In almost all the camps, in fact, youth highlighted **poor sanitation and hygiene, and degraded housing conditions**. Furthermore, when describing the living conditions of their camps refugee youth also mentioned the lack of housing units, overcrowded living environment, structurally unsound and dangerous buildings, unpaved roads inaccessible to old and infirm people, poor sewage treatment and a lack of an adequate water infrastructure. Therefore, several violations of the **right to an adequate standard of living** represent a *status quo* of the life of the vast majority of Palestinian refugee communities. This in turn jeopardizes additional rights of refugee youth such as the right to health care, the right to water, the right to nutrition and the right to respect of one's privacy.

Legal Definition **EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING**

Art. 25 (1) UDHR

The *right to an adequate standard of living* includes **adequate food, clothing and housing and the improvement of living conditions**. para 1 of the **General Comment No. 4** to the ICESCR

See Also.....

- Art. 11 (1) **ICESCR**
- Art. 14.2 (h) **CEDAW**
- Art. 5 **CEAFRD**
- Art. 27 **CRC**
and in Palestinian Law
- Art. 23 and 33 of the **Basic Law**
- Art. 29 and 30 of the **Child Law**
- Art. 5 of the **Environmental Law**

SPOTLIGHT CASE – WEST BANK

The inhabitants of **Deir Ammar** refugee camp in the Ramallah governorate declared that there is **NO SEWAGE SYSTEM** in place within the camp. As a result, sewage runs constantly through the streets resulting in additional problems of health, hygiene as well as sanitation.

CONDITIONS OF THE WATER SYSTEM

WATER'S QUANTITY

per capita per day

- **7,5L** *normal conditions*
- **15L** *emergency situations*
- **20L** *including hygiene*
 - **3/4** DRINKING
 - **2/3** FOOD CLEANING
 - **6/7** HYGIENE
 - **4/6** LAUNDRY

WHO, *Water Sanitation and Health*. Retrieved 24 March 2008 from http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/emergencies/qa/emergencies_qa5/en/index.html

International Standards

Water shall be

SUFFICIENT

SAFE

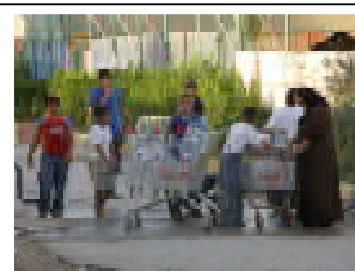
ACCEPTABLE

PHYSICALLY

ACCESSIBLE

AFFORDABLE

for **EVERYONE** with no **DISCRIMINATION**²⁵.



Children and women collecting water battles during a hot summer day in **Aqbat Jabber** refugee camp, Jericho

Palestinian Standards: Article 3 of the water law

The majority of the youth stated that in their communities there are problems related to **water availability, affordability, and safety**. The main concern of

²⁵ See General Comment No. 15 to the ICESCR (2002) on the right to water, para. 2. For more specific information on the elements of the right to water see also J. Bartram and G. Howard, "Domestic water quantity, service level and health: what should be the goal for water and health sectors", WHO, 2002. See also P.H. Gleick, (1996) "Basic water requirements for human activities: meeting basic needs", *Water International*, 21, pp. 83-92

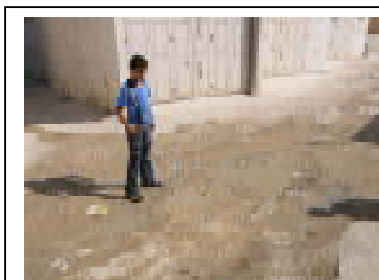
refugee youth is the **lack of clean water** that often results in the spread many diseases and infections.

CONDITIONS OF THE SEWAGE SYSTEM

According to the survey and interviews, almost all refugee camps in the West Bank face problems with the sewage infrastructure.

Youth voices on the major problems related to the sewage system:

1. **Sewage runs through the streets** (i.e. Jenin, Aida, and Al Arroub camps)
2. **Sewage system gets mixed with the water supply** (i.e. Al Fawwar camp, Camp No.1).



A child watches water mixed with sewage running through the streets of **Deir Ammar** refugee camp

SPOTLIGHT CASE – GAZA STRIP

Residents of Beach (Shati) Camp interviewed by project staff complained that the sewage services do not work regularly and that the quality of water available in the camp is poor. In addition, there are few recreational services for youth and children. As a result many children are forced to play in the street which has led to many traffic accidents.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

According to International Law **EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING**

"**Adequate House**" includes **Adequate Security, Space, Privacy, Basic Infrastructure, Lighting And Ventilation, Location With Regard To Basic Facilities** (work, education), and **COST**.

para 7 of the **General Comment No. 4** to the ICESCR

According to UN MDG Indicators

1. A house is considered to provide a "**sufficient living area**" for the household members if **not more than three people** share the same room.
2. A house is considered "**durable**" if it is built on a **non-hazardous location** and has a **structure permanent and adequate enough to protect its inhabitants from the extremes of climatic conditions**.

UN, *Millennium Development Goals Indicators*, Retrieved 6 April from <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx?IndicatorId=0&SeriesId=710>

and in Palestinian Law

Art. 23 and 33 of the **Basic law**
Art. 29 and 30 of the **Child Law**

...Youth describe their housing conditions...

JENIN CAMP

"There are nearly **16,000 residents** in the camp but not enough house units, everywhere is overcrowded".

DHEISHEH CAMP

"There is not enough space, people either leaves the camp or continued to **build upon existing homes**".

DER AMMAR CAMP

"There still exist old buildings nearly 60 years old. The kindergarten is falling apart and **everywhere houses have structural damages**"

NUR SHAMS CAMP

"House conditions are very crowded with up to **12 people leaving in each house unit. There is no privacy**"

"The water in Aqbet Jabber camp is provided by UNRWA, who get it from a natural spring, an Israel Jericho municipality. The natural spring dries up municipality does not always deliver enough water frequent water shortages in the camp. Families the the municipality at 60 NIS for 4 cubic metres. Th

Housing standards: Palestinian refugee camps *versus* England

	Der Ammar camp, West Bank	Northumberland, England
PERSON	Samah, 35	John Smith, 30
Numb of HOUSE UNIT	1	1
Numb of Room	6	6
Average of People per room	6	2
Numb of people	36	12

Borough Council, *Housing standard - overcrowding standar*, Retrieved 4 February from <http://www.berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk/housingandproperty/overcrowding.htm>

...Did you know that...?

1. **The UN-HABITAT** is the UN Agency that promotes the improvement of town and cities **SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY** with the goal of **PROVIDING HOUSING FOR ALL**.
2. According to the **Health Principles of Housing** prepared by the World Health Organisation (WHO), a degraded housing environment (limited access to water and improved sanitation, insufficient living area, lack of house durability and security) is frequently associated with one of the main causes of widespread disease.
3. In the occupied Palestinian territories, the **Ministry of Public Work and Housing** is in charge of public and private buildings while the households and other construction in refugee camps are the responsibility of **UNRWA**.

The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living of refugee youth: what to conclude????

According to international standards, enjoying the right to an adequate standard of living means having access to adequate food, clothing, housing, and living conditions, including the availability of a good quality of water and a basic sewage infrastructure. The survey shows how the standard of living for the vast majority of refugee youth falls well short of these standards.

One of the major problems highlighted by youth is the **lack of clean water**. The World Health Organization (WHO) considers 15 litres of good quality water as a minimum standard per person per day. Some refugee communities especially in hot areas like Jericho and Tulkarem suffer scarcity or complete lack of water during certain times of the year. As a result, they are not able to satisfy basic essential needs such as food preparation, safe drinking water and personal hygiene. Not only does this not meet the WHO standards, but sometimes it

might result in endangering the survival of young children as well as old people.

The second main concern of refugees is the **degraded and sometimes inexistent sewage infrastructure**. It happens, in fact, that the sewage runs through the streets or collects in certain areas. Also, in more than one case youth mentioned that the inadequate sewage infrastructure leads to water and sewage mixing together. In turn, this attracts insects and creates an even worse scenario for the health conditions of refugees. Illness and viruses easily spread causing extremely worrying health consequences, from gradual deterioration of health to lethal diseases. In the light of the above, the standard of living of refugee youth seems to be neither adequate nor acceptable.

A last key-point that the editorial team considers important to stress concerns the **extremely overcrowded environment** experienced by refugee youth both inside and outside their homes. Within the usually small and cramped houses, more than one family, from young children to the elderly, all live together. At night time both male and females have to share the same sleeping quarters that, during the day, function as a living room. There is no space for kids and youth to study or play, no privacy for young girls in the critical moments of their adolescence, and no suitable place for old people seeking to rest.

To compound the problem the general atmosphere in the refugee camps does not ameliorate the situation. Refugee communities are characterized by the presence of a very high number of people living in a very small area that does not offer many recreational opportunities. The scarcity of public spaces such as playgrounds, coffee shops and community centres where residents can enjoy their free time, results in a high concentration of people in the domestic environment.

One easily understands how this infringes **the right to privacy** of refugees creating unfavourable situations for residents where for instance religious women are not free to take their veils off, husbands and wives have few opportunities to spend alone together, brothers and sisters do not have any privacy to resolve arguments or exchange ideas. It has been noted by the project staff that these overcrowded living conditions and lack of privacy can greatly affect the psycho-social development of refugee youth and can often lead to increasing tension and anger amongst families and between families and their neighbours – sentiments which, owing to the lack of recreational opportunities, have no suitably constructive outlet and often manifest themselves in a violent manner.

**The Right to an ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING
is a HUMAN RIGHT**

.... HELP US ADVOCATE FOR IT

RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL TO VISIT AND COMMUNICATE WITH IMPRISONED AND DETAINED FAMILY MEMBERS

The number of Palestinians arrested, including men, women and children, since the beginning of the second Intifada in September 2000 is over 40,000²⁶. Israeli military regulations govern the process of arrest and condition of detention. Israeli authorities should allow the right of an individual to communicate with the members of his/her family who are imprisoned or detained. However, most of the youth surveyed claimed not to be able or not to have been able to communicate with or visit a member of their family detained in an Israeli prison. This creates difficult living circumstances for the remaining family members and it often requires youth to grow up in harsh conditions, often having to sacrifice their education to provide financial help for their families.

Legal Definition

The FAMILY is the natural and fundamental group of the society and is entitled to PROTECTION.

NO ONE shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, FAMILY, home or CORRESPONDANCE

Art. 17 and 23 ICCPR

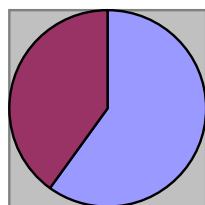
See Also....

- Art. 12 UDHR
 - Art. 9.3 CRC
 - UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1957)
- PALESTINIAN DEFINITION**
- Art. 17 and 32 of the **Basic Law**
 - Art. 13 and 19 of the **Child Law**

SPOTLIGHT CASE – WEST BANK

83% of youth surveyed in Al-Fawwar camp in the Hebron governorate stated that they have or have had a family member imprisoned

PERCENTAGE OF FAMILY MEMBERS IMPRISONED



- Youth who have or have had a family member imprisoned
- Youth who have not had or have a family member imprisoned

Of the youth surveyed **60%** have or have had a member of their family imprisoned.

...**Of the incarcerated...**

32% were in prison for less than 1 year, **37%** between 1 and 5 year, and **31%** for more than 5 years.

NUMBERS & STATISTICS

327 is the number of Palestinian children currently in detention

Defence for Children International, Palestine Section, *Statistics*, Retrieved 28 March 2008 from <http://www.dci-pal.org/english/home.cfm>

The number of prisoners sentenced for more than 20 years is **295**

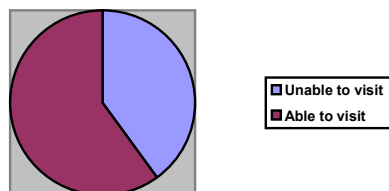
Addameer, *Current Statistics*, Retrieved 28 March 2008 from http://www.addameer.org/detention/current_stats.html

My brother was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment by an Israeli judge. He is kept in a prison inside Israel, which I cannot reach without a permit.

I haven't seen my brother in 7 years as it is very difficult to obtain such permission. The International Committee of the Red Cross coordinates and organizes the bus transport to Israeli prisons. Last month I finally got a permit, valid for one month to go to the prison. I was so happy to be able to see my brother after such a long time. I was also a bit nervous about the long trip to see him. The week before I had to leave, I heard that there was

a problem with the transportation: the bus that would take me to the prison had to be canceled for unknown reasons. The next bus would only

FAMILY VISITS TO IMPRISONED AND DETAINEES



Of the youth surveyed **40%** were **UNABLE TO VISIT** their family members while imprisoned.

The remaining **60%**, who had permission, stated that they were only able to visit

VERY INFREQUENTLY

- **60** ONCE A MONTH
- **25** TWICE A YEAR
- **27** ONCE A YEAR

RELATIONSHIPS between THE FAMILY AND IMPRISONED PERSONS

in International Law

- **PRISONERS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR FAMILY BY CORRESPONDENCE AND BY RECEIVING VISITS**

Art. 37 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

- **THE CHILD WHO IS SEPARATED FROM ONE OR BOTH PARENTS SHALL MAINTAIN PERSONAL RELATIONS AND DIRECT CONTACT WITH BOTH PARENTS ON A REGULAR BASIS**

Art. 9.3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

and in Palestinian Law

- Art. 52, 53, 55 of the **Prison Law**
- Art. 21 of the **Child Law**

One third of all the youth surveyed in the Gaza Strip declared that they had a family member in prison for **more than 5 years**

36 YOUTH from the Gaza Strip stated that they **NEVER** visited their family member in prison

SPOTLIGHT CASE – GAZA STRIP

In Rafah Camp in the Southern governorate **78%** of the youth surveyed are or were unable to visit their family members while imprisoned

...Did you know that...?

- The main Palestinian NGO dealing with Prisoners rights is **ADDAMEER**
- The Prisoners Club is a Palestinian Institution which provides relatives of imprisoned people with small amount of money as an allowance

PALESTINIAN DETAINEES AND INTERNEES IN ISRAEL

***VISITS of the FAMILY TO
DETAINEES AND INTERNEES
in International Law***

- **IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OCCUPATION, PEOPLE ACCUSED OF OFFENCE SHALL BE DETAINED IN THE OCCUPIED COUNTRY.**

Art. 76 of the 4th Geneva Convention

- **INTERNEES FROM AN OCCUPYING POWER SHALL BE ALLOWED TO RECEIVE VISITORS, ESPECIALLY NEAR RELATIVES, AT REGULAR INTERVALS.**

Art. 116 of the 4th Geneva Convention

The vast majority of the detainees and internees from the occupied Palestinian territories are **DETAINED WITHIN THE OCCUPYING POWER'S TERRITORY**. Palestinians holding a West Bank ID card need a valid permit to travel within the 1967 borders of Israel. **THIS PERMIT HAS RARELY BEEN ISSUED TO FAMILY MEMBER'S OF DETAINEES**. Moreover, since 2000, family members of Palestinian detainees have faced even greater difficulties in obtaining a permit and in many cases they often get cancelled without reason.

What is more is that, according to ADDAMEER - a leading Palestinian NGO dealing with prisoners, Israeli authorities also are more than likely to deprive Palestinian detainees of their rights to send and receive **MAIL and TELEPHONE CALLS**²⁷, leaving them basically cut off from the external world.

“I have 3 children; the youngest is 6 years old and has never seen her dad. He has been detained since 7 years ago in a prison in Israel. I myself am residing in the West Bank ‘illegally’ as I do not have a Palestinian ID, but only a Jordanian passport. This prevented me from obtaining a permit to go and visit him. I am currently living in Deir Ammar, with his family because I can not afford an adequate place for me and my children on my own. The family of my husband does not allow me to work and is keeping the monthly allowance from the prisoner club for all the family. I would like to go to Ramallah to check on the well-being of my daughter, I think she has some physical problem but the family of my husband does not allow me to even to leave my community. I feel I have no control over my own life and my children lives.”

Rania. 34 years old. Deir Ammar refugee camp. West Bank

Right Of Individual to Visit and Communicate With Imprisoned And Detained: what to conclude????

The number of Palestinian political detainees both as a consequence of a formal sentence by an Israeli military court or as a result of the so-called administrative detention²⁸ is extremely high. The survey reveals that the level

²⁷ Addameer, *Political detention*, Retrieved 28 March 2008 from <http://www.addameer.org/detention/background.html>

²⁸ Administrative detention is defined as a “lawful detention with no charge authorised by an administrative decree in order to prevent danger posed to state security by an individual”. For the potential high abuses that could result from the arbitrary nature of the measure, international law attached to the use of this measure places strict restrictions that the entity applying the measure has to

of violations of Palestinian detainees' rights and the rights of members of their family has reached extraordinary levels. Firstly, in clear violation of the basic article of the 4th Geneva Convention, which declares that people accused of an offence should be detained within the occupied territories, **most of the Palestinian detainees and internees are actually within the territory of the occupying power.** 24 is the total number of detention centres where Palestinians are held in Israeli detention, of these, less than 5 are based within the oPt.

Almost **300** of the youth surveyed by the staff stated that they have or have had a member of their family imprisoned by the Israeli authorities. Combining this fact with the **increasing difficulties faced by West Bank ID holders in obtaining a permit** to visit a detainee in Israel, it becomes apparent that the Israeli authorities are *de facto* applying a system that seeks to prevent wives/husbands, children and other close relatives from communicating with their detained or imprisoned relatives. The consequences go far beyond the emotional desire to be physically close to one's relations. The staff were informed of many cases in which families were not able to communicate emergencies or critical events to detained or imprisoned relatives.

Furthermore, keeping Palestinian detainees outside the occupied territories **violates the right of every child to maintain a personal relationship with his/her parents.** **100** of the youth surveyed were able to visit the member of the family in prison **less than twice a year.** Many are the negative psycho-social impacts that this might have on children and youth including the loss of trust in oneself, potential interior conflict with one's identity, and the development of a sense of revenge and desire of violence. Very often children with detained parents end up strongly embracing the armed resistance or other violent activities with all the consequences that this might lead to, including the possibility of been arrested and detained themselves.

A final worrying situation deserves our attention. When a father of a family is detained for a prolonged period, the traditional Palestinian society offers limited possibilities for his wife to work and to earn a sufficient living to provide for her children. It happens that if no other source of income is available to the wife, **women are forced to send their children to work.** It is well known that the phenomenon of child labour leads to plural violations of basic rights of children with consequences that affect the future years of children in terms of their psycho-social development.

**The Right to VISIT and COMMUNICATE with IMPRISONED and
DETAINED FAMILY MEMBERS is a HUMAN RIGHT**

.... HELP US ADVOCATE FOR IT

follow. By and large, in the context of the oPt these restrictions are hardly respected by the Israeli authorities. In turn, this has caused the normalisation of the use of arbitrary detention. On this topic see also <http://www.addameer.org/detention/background.html>.

RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY AND NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE

The environment faced by youth in refugee camps is marked by the continuous presence of Israeli military actions. Amongst others, **house demolitions, killings, arrest and imprisonment of residents, curfews, and incursions** are part of the daily life of refugees. Besides the innumerable acts of **physical damage**, these horrendous actions leave refugees scared and angry, and leads to **dangerous long-term psycho-social impacts**. Thus, because of the normalisation of violence within refugee communities, youth are likely to resort to violence themselves. The combination of an **Israeli military presence** within and outside the camps and the presence of **armed Palestinian groups** within camps results in a situation whereby the **personal security** of refugee youth is seriously jeopardised.

Legal Definition
**NO ONE SHALL BE
SUBJECTED TO TORTURE
OR TO CRUEL, INHUMAN
OR DEGRADING
TREATMENT OR
PUNISHMENT**

Art. 5 UDHR

See Also.....

- Art. 7 and 9 ICCPR
- Art. 37 CRC
- The Convention against Torture (CAT)

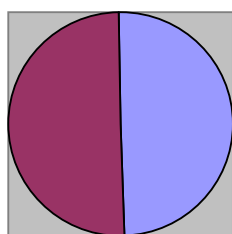
PALESTINIAN DEFINITION

- Art. 13 of the **Basic law**
- Art. 42 of the **Child Law**

SPOTLIGHT CASE – WEST BANK

72% of those surveyed in Balata camp in Nablus answered that they have suffered some form of violence in the camp at some stage of their life; intimidation, physical violence and humiliation were the most common forms experienced.

PRESENCE OF VIOLENCE WITHIN REFUGEE CAMPS



■ Suffered
Violence in
the camp

■ Have not
suffered
violence in
the camp

54% of those surveyed answered that **they have suffered** violence in the camp at some stage of their life.

LIMITATION OF VIOLENCE in International Law

**THE ILLEGALITY OF THE USE OF CRUEL,
INHUMAN AND DEGRADING
TREATMENT
HAS**

NO LIMITATION

para 3 of the **General Comment No. 20** of
the ICCPR

PALESTINIAN DEFINITION

- Art. 32 of the **Basic law**
- Art. 208 of the **Jordanian Criminal Law**
- Art. 37 of the **Prison Law**
- Art. 68 of the **Child Law**

...YOUTH PERSPECTIVES...

The main forms of violence that refugee youth declared to have experienced are:

INTIMIDATION
HUMILIATION
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Interestingly, the ranking was the same in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

For the refugee youth surveyed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

ISRAELI SOLDIERS

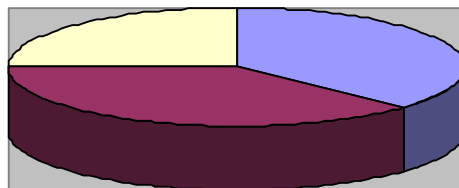
are the main perpetrators of violence. While the West Bank refugee youth considered **MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY** and **PALESTINIAN ARMED GROUPS** as the second and third perpetrators, youth in Gaza indicated **PALESTINIAN ARMED GROUPS** and **OTHER PEOPLE IN THE CAMP**.

“I am an activist in the university students' council and adhere to one of the political factions. I was abducted by a Palestinian armed group, blindfolded, beaten and maltreated by internationally prohibited means and was subject to electricity torture. As a result of the excessive torture, I was hospitalised. As soon as I had left the hospital, I was captured again and they said they would release me on a 1000 NIS ransom. They set me free when they realised I would not be able to pay.”

Emad, 22 years old, Rafah refugee camp, Gaza Strip

MILITARY INCURSIONS INTO REFUGEE CAMPS

Just under half of the youth surveyed stated that the Israeli military invade their camp. Of these, **37%** said once a month, **38%** said once a week and **25%** said once a day.



■ Once a month ■ Once a week
□ Once a day

**ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN
CASE OF ARMED
CONFLICT INCLUDING
OCCUPATION**
in International Law

**NO VIOLENCE, CRUEL
TREATMENTS, OUTRAGES
UPON PERSONAL DIGNITY,
IN PARTICULAR
HUMILIATION AND
DEGRADING TREATMENT
SHALL BE INFLICTED AGAINST
CIVILIANS**

Art. 3 of the 4th Geneva
Convention

PALESTINIAN DEFINITION

- Art. 46 of the **Child Law**

39% of those surveyed stated that the **Israeli military incursions** generally happen during the **NIGHT**

...What do the Israeli military do during an incursion into the camp???

According to the youth surveyed, the following are the most common acts that take place....

1st ARRESTS

2nd ENTRIES AND SEARCH OF HOUSES

3rd SHOOTING

4th HOUSE DEMOLITIONS

5th PATROLLING AROUND THE CAMP

6th OTHER

SPOTLIGHT CASE – GAZA STRIP

When asked to list those **most responsible for the execution of violence within Jabalia camp** the surveyed youth responded that the **Israeli military were mostly responsible** followed by **armed Palestinian groups and people from the camp**.

...Did you know that...?

- **Sawa Crisis Hotline (02-5822211)** has been providing aid and services to survivors of rape and sexual assault in the West Bank as well as working to reshape societal attitudes towards sexual violence.
- **Defense for Children Palestine Section** is a leading organization in the protection of children and juveniles across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip
- There is an international document called the “**Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Degrading and Inhuman Treatment**” entirely devoted to prevent all forms of cruel treatment. This was ratified by Israel in 1991 as well as endorsed within the Palestinian national legislation as provided by Art. 9 and 10 of the **Basic Law**.

The Right to Personal Security and not to be Subjected to Violence of refugee youth: what to conclude????

Both the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian Authority have endorsed within their territories key international conventions that condemn the use of degrading treatments towards every individual and identify the liberty and personal security of a person as basic human rights. Unfortunately, the results of the survey disclose a reality where **violence has been normalised** as a tool to resolve disputes or achieve particular objectives. More worryingly, it seems that violent behaviour such as aggression, fighting, and intimidation are not only widely used by the Israeli military in dealing with Palestinians, but are also becoming a more accepted way for refugee youth to relate to each other.

In fact, when asked to rank the main perpetrators of violence within refugee camps, both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip the youth surveyed considered the **Israeli military** as the **main perpetrators**. Additionally, more than **60%** of the surveyed youth stated that the Israeli military invade their

camp at least once a week and that usually the incursions happen during the night.

Whilst these results did not come as a surprise, it is interesting to note that **Palestinian armed groups** were classified as the **second** main perpetrators of violence by refugee youth in the Gaza Strip camps and as the **third** main perpetrators of violence by refugee youth in the West Bank camps. The continuous presence of either the Israeli military or Palestinian armed groups evidently **violates the right to personal security** and the **right not to be subjected to violence** of refugee youth. The continuous presence of violence in refugee camps results also affects the mental health of residents, particularly youth and children²⁹. Furthermore, a number of surveyed youth lamented that incursions during the night by the Israeli military often prevented them from sleeping which had affected their academic studies and daily productivity. This can be seen as a further **obstacle to the fulfilment of the right to education of refugee children and youth**.

Refugee youth in the West Bank also selected **members of their family** as the second main perpetrators of violence in the camps. From the interviews and case studies collected by the staff it would appear that there are many instances in which wives and children are victims of aggression, beating, slapping as well as intimidation and humiliation from husbands, fathers, older brothers and even other children. Therefore, **violence** appears to be a particularly acute problem even within the **community and domestic** environment. This has been confirmed also by the surveyed refugee youth in the Gaza Strip that listed **people within their refugee community** as the third main perpetrators of violence within the camps. A final issue to be highlighted is the fact that the youth refugees surveyed reveal that they are mainly experiencing **psychological violence** in the forms of **intimidation and humiliation**. If we correlate this result with the actual list of perpetrators it seems that youth suffer many verbal attacks, psychological harassments and humiliating situations at the hands of the Israeli military, Palestinian militants and even from members of their communities including relatives.

To conclude, there are many violent acts been perpetrated by a wide variety of actors within the camps creating a disturbing and aggressive environment for refugee youth to grow up in. The normalisation of violence in Palestinian society is a worrying development and one which is being reinforced by Israeli military actions and perpetuated by the presence of armed Palestinian groups in the camps and localised acts of aggression, a situation that will affect the long-term cultural and social development of Palestinian society as a whole.

The Right to PERSONAL SECURITY and NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE is a HUMAN RIGHT

.... HELP US ADVOCATE FOR IT

²⁹ To a large extent, in fact, children that experience a war environment are likely to suffer the so-called “post traumatic stress disorder” that manifests in traumatic re-experiencing of events and symptoms of “anxiety and development delays. For further details see G. Machel, Report on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children [hereafter Machel Report], UN Doc. A/51/306, August 1996, para 1167 ff.

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

The Israeli authorities have established a **system of movement restrictions and separation** that greatly limits the freedom of movement of Palestinians both within the West Bank and from the Gaza Strip to the outside world. Checkpoints, roadblocks, the separation wall and a permit system are only some of the many restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on Palestinians. To exacerbate this situation, refugee communities are not only more likely to face **physical barriers** when the camp is located in an isolated area, but also suffer from a regular **Israeli military presence** in their camps that **prevent their access to education, medical care and employment facilities**. The restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities heavily violate Palestinian's right to freedom of movement. Again, this has extended repercussions on the fulfilment of a number of other human rights of refugees. The surveyed youth particularly highlighted their frustration with the lack of freedom of movement in relation to **reaching their place of education, health care facilities** and in **entering or leaving their houses**.

Legal Definition
EVERYONE
has the right to
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT
and to freely leave and
return to any country,
including his own
Art. 13.1,2 UDHR

See Also.....

- Art. 12 ICCPR
- Art. 5.4 CEAFRD
- Art. 15.4 CEDAW

PALESTINIAN DEFINITION
• Art. 20 and 28 of the **Basic law**

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RIGHT TO EDUCATION

EDUCATION HAS TO BE
PHYSICALLY
ACCESSIBLE TO ALL
WITHOUT ANY
DISCRIMINATION

para 6 (B) General Comment No. 13
of the ICESCR

28 of the youth surveyed stated that they **did not complete** their studies because they faced **difficulties in reaching school**.

NUMBERS & STATISTICS

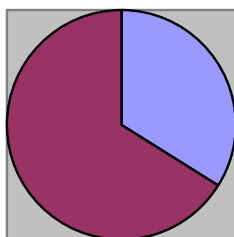
558 is the number of closures in the West Bank including checkpoints, road blocks, earth mounds, trenches and gates OCHA, *West Bank: Access and Closure*, December 2007. Retrieved 23 March 2008 from

http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/WestBank_December_07_20080106_web.pdf

Since September 2000, 70 Palestinian women have given birth at Israeli checkpoints. Source: Medical Relief

"I am a Master's student in the Institute of Educational Studies in Egypt. Since I am enrolled in this Institute by affiliation, I go there only for exams as I can not leave my employment. Unfortunately, I have missed two semesters and exam sessions already because of the closure of the Gaza Strip and all the border crossings. I lost the money which I had paid for my tuition fees; I did not expect that the Rafah crossing would remain closed for such a long time. I have no idea when it might open. In the meanwhile I can only wait and hope that I will be able to obtain my Masters' degree in the future. "

Haneen, 26 years old, Khan Younis refugee camp, Gaza Strip.



■ Facing a physical barrier
■ Not facing a physical barrier

HEALTH CARE
 SHALL BE PHYSICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY
ACCESSIBLE TO ALL
 WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION
 para 12 of the General Comment No. 14 to the
 ICESCR

34% of the youth surveyed stated that **they face a physical barrier** on the way to the nearest hospital.

SPOTLIGHT CASE – WEST BANK

When asked whether there was checkpoint or barrier on the way to the nearest hospital nearly 85% of those surveyed in Al-Arroub Camp in Hebron stated that there was. **50% of those who answered yes had been prevented from reaching hospital on at least one occasion**

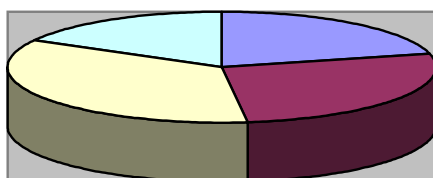
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RIGHT TO ACCESS TO HOUSING

Just under half of the youth surveyed stated that there is an **Israeli military presence** at or near to their camp **restricting youth from freely entering or leaving the camp.**

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT
 SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANY
 RESTRICTION
 Art. 12.3 ICCPR

PALESTINIAN DEFINITION

- Art. 20 and 28 of the **Basic law**



■ All of the Time ■ Often
■ Sometimes ■ Rarely

48% of the interviewed stated that there was **Israeli military presence** at or near to the camp **all of the time or often.**

...Did you know that...?

- ✚ The right to freedom of movement applies **equally** to men and women, in particular no person, including relatives, can subject with his/her choice, the free choice of residence and of movement of a woman.
See Para 6 GC HRC n.27
- ✚ **OCHA** is an international agency established in the occupied Palestinian territories in response to the deteriorating situation caused by the closures and mobility restriction.
www.ochaopt.org

SPOTLIGHT CASE – GAZA STRIP

Just under 45% of those surveyed responded that there was a military presence at or near to Al-Maghazi camp restricting residents of the camps from freely entering or leaving with 15% stating that it was present **often**. A further 62% stated that the military presence was **sometimes** at or near to the camps while the remaining 23% responded that it was **rarely** present.

The Right to Freedom of Movement of refugee youth: what to conclude?

As a result of the system of movement restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the right to freedom of movement of Palestinian refugee youth is being seriously violated. To begin with, the **border closures, separation wall and great difficulties in obtaining travel permits** mean that the right of each person to freely leave and return to any country, including his own, is being violated. Also, the presence of some **561 physical barriers inside the West Bank** further compounds the problem, making the movement of Palestinians around their own territories extremely difficult.

These restrictions create a situation of **permanent instability** in the life of Palestinian people in terms of quantifying the necessary time and discerning different routes to reach their destinations. One of the concerns of the project staff is that these physical barriers could lead to an increase of **psychological frustration** felt by both West Bank and Gaza Strip refugee youth due to the limited, if not inexistence, opportunities that they have to leave the occupied Palestinian territories or simply to visit family members and friends who they are separated from by the checkpoints or separation barriers.

According to the youth surveyed and through other research carried out, it would seem that refugee communities particularly suffer as a result of the imposed movement restrictions due to the high military presence at or near to certain refugee camps. For instance, **48%** of those surveyed declared that there was **military presence** at or near to the camp **all the time or often**. Moreover, refugees may also face a high number of checkpoints or physical barriers if their camp is located in an isolated area or near to an 'Area C'³⁰ zone further aggravating the problem.

Furthermore, the right to freedom of movement is directly linked to a number of other basic human rights such as the right to education, the right to health care, and the right to have a family. Therefore, the higher the level of violations imposed on one's right to freedom of movement the higher the repercussions on the fulfilment of other human rights will be. **The survey clearly shown how movement restrictions imposed on refugee youth consistently affect their right to education and health care.** For example, refugee youth in the West Bank attending high school have to leave the camps to reach outside educational facilities. As a result, they are more likely to face

³⁰ An 'Area C' zone is defined as a region inside the West Bank boundaries that is under full Israeli military and civil control.

barriers on their way that might delay their arrival to school and, in turn, affect their right to education. What is more, **28** of the youth surveyed stated that they did not complete their studies because they faced **difficulties in reaching school**.

Lastly, attention has to be paid to the dangerous link between movement restrictions and the right to health care of Palestinian refugees. Bearing in mind that UNRWA provides only basic medical services within refugee camps, it is worrying that over **34%** of the youth surveyed stated that **they face a physical barrier** on the way to reach the nearest hospital. The dangers and fatal results of people not been able to access emergency medical care have already been highlighted in this publication.

To conclude, the system of movement restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities jeopardises various aspects of the lives of Palestinian refugee youth as it affects many of their basic human rights. This is a very troubling situation, especially in light of the fact that according to international humanitarian law, clear legal responsibility lies upon the Israeli authorities, as the occupying power, to ensure the availability and accessibility of basic services within the occupied Palestinian territories.

**The Right to FREEDOM of MOVEMENT is
a HUMAN RIGHT**

.... HELP US ADVOCATE FOR IT

In this publication, the perception of youth regarding the human rights situation in refugee camps was portrayed, illustrated with testimonies, studied and analysed. In other words, human rights were used as a tool and standard to assess the socio-economic condition of youth growing up in refugee camps.

The final picture could be described as alarming: refugee youth feel denied in their most basic human rights such as the right to personal security, the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to health care. The denial of these rights can in fact be life threatening and has proven to be so. Although the Israeli occupation and Israeli military are often pointed to as the main perpetrators of human rights violations, the research reveals the existence of severe problems regarding the respect of human rights within Palestinian society such as domestic violence, discrimination of refugees and presence of armed groups in civilian areas. These findings suggest that violence triggers violence, and that internal levels of violence are perpetuated by a violent environment.

Another important conclusion of this research is that when it comes to the protection of human rights, a highly problematic situation emerges. While children were pointed to as the most vulnerable group within Palestinian society with specific exposure to violations, Palestinian youth feel that there is a lack of human rights defenders or realistic opportunities for claiming their rights. They refer to family, friends or themselves for protection, rather than human rights organizations, law-enforcement agencies or Palestinian or Israeli civil and legal authorities. A distrust of Palestinian and Israeli authorities by refugee youth also emerges from this research. This distrust is understandable as the Palestinian and Israeli authorities are also identified as some of the main perpetrators of human rights violations.

Additionally, what emerges from these findings is that there is a lack of referral points for refugee youth who have suffered human rights violations and a shortage of institutions providing services to individual cases. One can conclude that when it comes to defending human rights, refugee youth feel abandoned in a double state of lawlessness: *internationally*, as there is no concrete action by the international community in relation to human rights violations committed in the oPt and *internally* as the respect for human rights within Palestinian society is problematic.

While the refugee population is growing steadily and the refugee camps are becoming more and more overcrowded, the annual budget of UNRWA has decreased steadily over the past few years. This leads to further deterioration of already over-stretched services and leaves the current generation of under-served, under-represented and assailed youth at risk of sliding into deeper levels of poverty, violence and unemployment.

Sharek Youth Forum believes in the potential of these youth as agents of change and will therefore further invest in empowering and guiding refugee youth and Palestinian youth in general. If adequately stimulated and equipped

with the necessary tools, youth can play a decisive role in identifying their needs and problems and planning actions to address their critical situations.

In order to tackle the most stringent issues, the project staff have formulated a set of general recommendations on the one hand and camp-specific recommendations on the other. These recommendations have been designed on the basis of the research findings and in consultation with various actors in the refugee camps. The implementation of the suggested programmes and projects which aim to enhance and improve the socio-economic situation in Palestinian refugee camps can, if adequately funded and effectively implemented, have an immediate alleviating effect on the plight of refugees.

However, all the proposed improvements have a temporary character: the only manner to enhance the situation of Palestinian refugees in a sustainable and permanent way is by addressing the root cause of the refugee problem, created by the establishment of the Israeli state on Palestinian inhabited land in 1948 and the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967. In other words, as much as immediate action is required to enhance the socio-economic condition of refugees, one should continue to strive for a political and just solution to the refugee issue.



X. General Recommendations and Camp Specific Recommendations

General Recommendations for the West Bank and Gaza Strip Refugee Camps

We have already mentioned how differences exist between each refugee camp in relation to its location, population or urban/rural character. However, there are some general trends regarding the socio-economic situation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip refugee camps that can be identified. In light of these common trends, a list of general recommendations has been drawn up here which can apply to all the refugee camps, considering them an entity with characteristics that differ from non-refugee rural or urban populated areas in the oPt. A list of more detailed camp-specific recommendations follows in the next section.

1. Proportional distribution of services and development of quality standards

A large part of the difficulties in the daily life of refugee camp residents stems from the scarcity of available services. For example, the provision of free basic education by UNRWA is a major achievement. However, when 50 students are schooled in one classroom this undoubtedly affects the quality of their education and affects negatively on the service being provided. Nearly all camps have at least one boys and one girls school but the population of the camps varies wildly throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip which results in a large strain being placed on health and education services in camps where there are a high number of residents (i.e. Balata and Jabalia camps). The same applies for health centres and employment opportunity programmes. The development of a proportional system and basic quality standards in tandem with increased funding for service providers such as UNRWA would have a great impact on both the quality and availability of services to refugee residents which will in turn have a significant impact on the daily life of every single refugee.

2. Capacity building and support of CBOs

This research has been made possible thanks to the support of dozens of small community based organizations that operate within the refugee camps; be it women's centres, youth clubs, cultural fora, community centres or centres for disabled people. Operated by committed volunteers yet often in short supply of funding, they play a vital role in providing services to the refugee residents such as cultural, recreational, educational and sports activities benefiting thousands of children, women and men. Apart from the women's centres or in some cases the disabled centres, they receive no funding or technical support from UNRWA or the PA. Some of the organizations have managed to sustain themselves through external funding but the majority of them are at risk of closing down and can barely cover the rent and utilities of their premises. Therefore we suggest the set-up of a broad support programme to these CBOs to provide them with the technical and financial support to sustain their activities and build their capacity in terms of financial and administrative management which will enable them to provide a more extensive and higher quality of services to refugee camp residents.

3. Set-up of referral points for victims of human rights violations

As the human rights situation in the refugee camps has proven to be critical in many cases and as a high number of refugee residents have reported to have suffered some kind of violation of their rights, the question that arises is who can defend these rights and what possibilities there are for redress. The lack of referral points for refugee youth who have suffered human rights violations and the shortage of institutions that can provide adequate assistance to individual cases need to be addressed. The set-up of referral points within the refugee camps would contribute to increased coverage of human rights violations, promote the concept of human rights amongst the camp residents and increase the active involvement of human rights NGOs in the refugee camps.

4. Democratisation scheme

A further general trend in the refugee camps is the “under-representation” of youth and women in the refugee camp committees. The role of these committees as administrating bodies in the camp should not be underestimated. The project staff have discovered that they are often dominated by middle-aged or elder men and so increased representation of youth and women in the committees would undoubtedly contribute to more concrete action addressing their needs as vulnerable groups and more democratic governance at the camp level. The project staff would therefore suggest a large democratisation awareness campaign among the refugee population leading to better representation of women and youth. For example this could be achieved through the creation of youth councils within the camps.

5. Social inclusion programme: bridging the gap

Discrimination of refugees because of their status was a general trend identified by the refugee youth surveyed; be it in the professional, educational or social sphere. Thus the project staff proposes to tackle this issue through the creation of a broad social inclusion programme that would foster dialogue and increase interaction between refugee and non-refugee communities. CBOs inside the camps would benefit by including non-refugee residents in their activities and vice versa. At the political level, it is recommended that local bodies such as municipalities, village and city councils actively take into account the needs of refugees living in their respective constituencies by encouraging and implementing the proposed social inclusion programmes.

6. Further extensive research

The needs-assessment survey sought to present the human rights and socio-economic situation in the refugee camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as seen through the eyes of youth. The results presented here furnish us with a good illustration of the overall situation of youth, but in order to grasp the full consequences of human rights violations, additional, more in-depth research on abuses of specific rights is recommended. Additionally, in order to get a broader picture of the socio-economic situation in refugee camps it would be constructive to include other vulnerable groups such as children, women, disabled or elderly people in any further research undertaken.

Specific Recommendations for the West Bank Refugee Camps

Camp Name	Recommended Activities, Projects
Jenin	Conflict resolution workshops or alternative to violence programs to address the history of violence in the camp and provide youth with a forum to express themselves in relation to the violence they experience at home, at school and in the streets
Far'a	Ideally a small emergency healthcare clinic should be built but failing this more personnel for the existing clinic. Health education workshops to inform people about preventative methods and first aid courses are advised.
Tulkarem	Discrimination <i>within the camp</i> is a pressing issue so more involvement and representation of different ethnic groups in the Refugee Camp Committee as well as awareness raising workshops on social and racial discrimination.
Nur Shams	Workshops for women and support of local female entrepreneurs. Job creation schemes that are localised and relevant to the skills of the local population – possibly those focused on agriculture. Local markets etc
Camp No. 1	One of the big issues in the camp is the problem of internal violence. Alternative to violence programs are advised.
Askar	Academic counselling projects to encourage youth to continue their education – with high levels of students regularly attending school they should also be provided with grants to help them continue their education.
Balata	More involvement of refugee youth in civil society of Nablus through the creation of youth councils where youth can discuss the issues important to them and present them to local and national authorities.
Qalandia	Organisation of informational sessions on juveniles in Israeli detention in view of the high number of child arrests. Provision of regular sport and recreational activities for male and female youth.
Jalazoun	Due to the history of resistance (sometimes violent) in the camp I would suggest the formation of different initiatives to channel this resistance but in non-violent means such as resistance through a focus on education and cultural activities.
Deir Ammar	The sewage infrastructure is in immediate need of repair as is the children's kindergarten school which is structurally unsound; the rehabilitation of the playground is a priority for the community
Ein al-Sultan	Workshops on refugee rights and political participation to encourage youth to be more vocal with their opinions and feelings in Palestinian society to help eradicate discrimination against refugees.
Shu'fat	Due to the high number of family members who have been imprisoned the project staff recommends counselling services specifically for women and children. More leisure facilities for youth and children, playgrounds, theatre, etc and various workshops for youth dealing with human rights and social issues such as drugs, smoking and violence.
Aida	Construction of healthcare clinic is vital and of immediate concern. Continuation of workshops already implemented by project staff would be appreciated. Implementation of artistic and creative activities to embellish the camp and to give youth an opportunity to express themselves.
Dheisheh	More involvement of refugees (of all ages) in civil society in Bethlehem through better political representation. More attention given to the refugee question by authorities in Bethlehem through an inter-dialogue project.
Azzeh	Basic infrastructure seems to be a pressing issue for the camp and is affecting the quality of life of residents. A project for the rehabilitation of the main roads and sewage infrastructure and construction of healthcare clinic is vital and of immediate concern for residents.
Al-Arroub	Construction of a boy's secondary school to alleviate problems of overcrowding in Beit Umar schools and to relieve the boys from their temporary location which is not adequate for the number of students
Al-Fawwar	Further educational workshops on Human Rights would be beneficial to the youth of the camp so as to create awareness of human rights issues and to show how youth can address these violations when they occur. Internet café to support youth's ideas of refugee website

Specific Recommendations for the Gaza Strip Refugee Camps

Camp Name	Recommended Activities, Projects
Jabalya	Self-employment schemes through the support of young entrepreneurs and traineeships in local organisations to encourage youths' entry into the labour market. More staff for health care clinic
Beach (Shati)	A new healthcare clinic is vital and of immediate concern. With at least 80,000 residents and only one clinic there is an urgent need for more services. Construction of extra classrooms and/or creation of extra classroom space in CBO centres to alleviate overcrowding problem.
Nuseirat	Alternative to violence programs or conflict resolution programs for youth in the camp. More staff for the healthcare clinic and increased availability of basic and specialised medicine
Bureij	A new youth activities centre or more youth-orientated programs to provide better extra-curricular activities for youth. More in-depth human rights training workshops for youth in the camp on reporting human rights violations and how to report them to the relevant authorities.
al-Maghazi	A sewage infrastructure system needs to be developed for the camp. Owing to the high levels of violence in schools alternative to violence programs for educators and students are advised.
Deir al Balah	Counselling programs for those who have had family members imprisoned and more involvement from civil society organisations or NGOs to provide recreational activities such as sport, artistic and cultural activities.
Khan Younis	Immediate investment in the sewage and water infrastructure for the camp. Support to RCC to play a more active role in addressing internal problems in the camp such as violence.
Rafah	Counselling or advice sessions for those who have or have had family members imprisoned or killed or those who have lost their homes. Psycho-social programs to help children who are traumatised from the violent surroundings through the provision of specialised child development centres.

General Information on West Bank Refugee Camps

Governorate	Camp Name	Year Established ³¹	Population ³²	Area ³³ (km ²)	Pop. Density (per sq. km)
Jenin	Jenin	1953	15,834	0.423	37,430
Tubas	Far'a	1949	7,540	0.255	29,564
Tulkarem	Tulkarem	1950	17,981	0.18	100,188
	Nur Shams	1952	8,998	0.210	42,904
Nablus	Camp No. 1	1950	6,683	0.045	148,777
	Askar	1950	15,591	0.119 ³⁴	51,856 ³⁵
	Balata	1950	22,855	0.253	90,426
Ramallah	Qalandia	1949	10,759	0.095	113,589
	Jalazoun	1949	10,966	0.253	43,458
	Al-Amari	1949	10,377	0.093	111,892
	Deir Ammar	1949	2,335	0.162	14,512
Jericho	Aqbat Jaber	1948	6,264	1.67	3,768
	Ein al-Sultan	1948	1,828	0.87	2,136
Jerusalem	Shu'fat	1965/1966	10,717	0.203	53,029
Bethlehem	Aida	1950	4,715	0.071	66,563
	Dheisheh	1949	12,804	0.327	39,253
	Azzeh	1950	2,054	0.02	102,900
Hebron	Al-Arroub	1950	10,246	0.242	42,268
	Al-Fawwar	1949	7,912	0.274	29,076
Total			186,479	5.765	32,346

³¹ Badil, "1948-2008: 60 years of Palestinian Nakba, Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2006-2007", p 52, BADIL Resource Centre, Bethlehem, oPt, March 2007.

³² Information is taken from <http://www.un.org/unrwa/refugees/westbank.html> in August 8, 2008

³³ Information supplied by UNRWA West Bank Field Office, Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem.

³⁴ Askar camp was established on 52 acres of land but in 1964 the camp was expanded to cover an additional 22 acres, and camp residents refer to this new area as "New Askar". "New Askar" is not officially recognized as a camp and there are no UNRWA installations there but residents may use the services provided by UNRWA in "Old Askar" camp.

³⁵ Population density includes "New Askar" camp area.

General Information on Gaza Strip Refugee Camps

Governorate	Camp Name	Year Established ³⁶	Population ³⁷	Area (km ²) ³⁸	Pop. Density (per sq. km)
North Gaza	Jabalia	1948	107,146	1.4	76,532
Gaza	Beach (Shati)	1948	80,688	0.7	115,268
Deir al-Balah	Nuseirat	1948	58,789	0.6	97,981
	Bureij	1948	29,919	0.5	59,838
	Deir al-Balah	1948	20,296	0.2	101,480
	Maghazi	1948	23,264	0.6	38,773
Khan Younis	Khan Younis	1948	61,798	0.5	123,596
Rafah	Rafah	1948	97,674	0.8	122,092
Total			479,574	5.3	90,486

³⁶ Badil, "1948-2008: 60 years of Palestinian Nakba, Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2006-2007", p 52, BADIL Resource Centre, Bethlehem, oPt, March 2007.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Information supplied by UNRWA West Bank Field Office, Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem

Total			322 (159 male, 163 female)	267 (92 male, 175 female)
Camp Name	Name of Partner CBO		Number of youth surveyed	Number of youth participants in training workshops
Jenin	"Not to forget" Women's Association		25 (14 male, 11 female)	N/A ³⁹
Far'a	Women's Social Centre		19 (9 male, 10 female)	24 (10 male, 14 female)
Tulkarem	Tulkarem R.C. Women's Programmes Centre		11 (0 male, 11 female)	14 (0 male, 14 female)
Nur Shams	Nur Shams Women's Centre		13 (0 male, 13 female)	18 (0 male, 18 female)
Camp No. 1	Women's Centre		18 (2 male, 16 female)	11 (0 male, 11 female)
Askar	Safir Organisation, New Askar Refugee Camp		23 (2 male, 21 female)	29 (8 male, 21 female)
Balata	Yafa Cultural Centre	Balata Youth Centre	18 (9 male, 9 female)	29 (14 male, 15 female)
Qalandia	Child Centre for Culture and Development	Qalandia Camp Women's Handicraft Cooperative	16 (11 male, 5 female)	N/A
Jalazoun	Jalazoun Youth Club		34 (22 male, 12 female)	22 (8 male, 14 female)
Al-Amari ⁴⁰	N/A		N/A	N/A
Deir Ammar	Deir Ammar Women's Centre		31 (15 male, 16 female)	9 (4 male, 5 female)
Aqbat Jaber	Aqbat Jaber Youth Centre		N/A ⁴¹	26 (12 male, 14 female)
Ein al-Sultan	Ein al-Sultan Youth Activities Centre		18 (11 male, 7 female)	N/A
Shu'fat	Shu'fat R.C. Women's Centre		22 (4 male, 18 female)	14 (0 male, 14 female)
Aida	Lajee Center		17 (10 male, 7 female)	N/A
Dheisheh	IBDA'A		15 (12 male, 3 female)	18 (11 male, 7 female)
Azzeh	Azzeh Camp Gender Centre for Internet		17 (13 male, 4 female)	N/A
Al-Arroub	Al-Arroub Youth Activities Centre		12 (12 male, 0 female)	13 (13 male, 0 female)
Al-Fawwar	Al-Fawwar Camp Youth Club		13 (13 male, 0 female)	40 (12 male, 28 female)

Partner Organisations and Participants in the West Bank

³⁹ At the time of publication workshops in this camp (and all marked with N/A) had not taken place.

⁴⁰ Al-Amari Camp did not participate in the project activities.

⁴¹ Aqbat Jaber only joined the project after the initial surveys had been conducted but still participated in the human rights training workshops and awareness-raising activities.

Partner Organisations and Participants in the Gaza Strip

Camp Name	Name of Partner CBO		Number of youth surveyed	Number of youth participants in training workshops
Jabalia	Women's Program Centre	Life & Hope Society	32 <i>(16 male, 16 female)</i>	27 <i>(25 male, 2 female)</i>
Beach (Shati)	Women's Program Centre	Save the Future of our Children	34 <i>(19 male, 15 female)</i>	14 <i>(7 male, 7 female)</i>
Nuseirat	Women's Program Centre		37 <i>(19 male, 18 female)</i>	20 <i>(1 male, 19 female)</i>
Bureij	Bureij Cultural Forum		32 <i>(15 male, 17 female)</i>	22 <i>(22 male, 0 female)</i>
Deir al-Balah	Women's Programs Centre	Rowad for Development	37 <i>(18 males, 19 females)</i>	17 <i>(5 male, 12 female)</i>
Maghazi	Women's Programs Centre	Maghazi Cultural Centre	33 <i>(14 male, 19 female)</i>	22 <i>(0 male, 22 female)</i>
Khan Younis	Women's Programs Centre	Khan Younis Service Club	32 <i>(16 male, 16 female)</i>	20 <i>(0 male, 20 female)</i>
Rafah	Women's Centre	The National Association for Democracy	41 <i>(17 male, 24 female)</i>	58 <i>(16 male, 42 female)</i>
Total			278 <i>(134 male, 144 female)</i>	200 <i>(76 male, 124 female)</i>

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Links to all legal covenants cited in this publication are available in Arabic from the Sharek Youth Forum website at <http://www.sharek.ps/youth-rights/files/legal%20database.doc>

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