



Trans Arab Research Institute (TARI)



Conference: Alternative Strategies for Realizing Justice In Palestine

13-15 December 2015

Organized by:

Institute of Law at Birzeit University; Trans-Arab Research Institute; Mada al-Carmel; the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem; Stop the Wall; and the Arab Studies Institute at George Mason University.

In Partnership with:



SAWASYA

UNDP/UN Women Joint Programme
Strengthening the Rule of Law: Justice and Security for the Palestinian people

*Conference:
Alternative Strategies for Realizing Justice In Palestine*

Day One

Date: Sunday, 13 December 2015

Time: 430pm - 730pm

Location: Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem, Palestine

Display: Mapping Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism over Palestine

Time	Subject	
4:30pm - 4:50pm	Opening Remarks	Speaker: Representative of, <i>The Civic Coalition For Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem</i> Noura Erakat, <i>Assistant Professor, George Mason University</i>
4:50pm - 6:35pm	Roundtable One (focus on Jerusalem)	Lead Discussant: Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, <i>Director of Gender Studies, Mada Al-Carmel</i>

Discussants:

- Joseph Schechla, *Coordinator, Habitat International Coalition's Housing and Land Rights Network*
- Walid Atallah, *Chairperson, Department of Humanities, Bethlehem University*
- Bernard Sabella, *Professor of Sociology, Bethlehem University*
- Kutaybah Odeh, *Bustan Cultural Center– Silwan*

The official Palestinian “national project” continues to proclaim Palestinian sovereignty in occupied East Jerusalem, capital of the State of Palestine in the OPT, and seeks to achieve this aim through peace negotiations with Israel. New Palestinian strategic thinking is a matter of urgency, because this “national project” is not meaningful for most Jerusalem Palestinians, in particular the youth. Suffering daily the consequences of Israeli policies that aim to transform their city into a Jewish-Israeli town, and lacking effective protection and political representation by Palestinian leadership, many are seeking education or employment in Israeli institutions, recourse to Israeli lawyers and courts, applying for Israeli citizenship, or launching initiatives for political participation in the Israeli municipal system. Such individual coping strategies are commonly seen as a threat to the “national project”. Could some of them be transformed into collective, political initiatives that contribute to justice and liberation? How could local initiatives be framed in order to engage and inspire the city’s Palestinian population, including the youth and 1948 refugees from western Jerusalem, and have impact on Palestinian liberation at large?

6:35pm - 7:45pm Reception

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Day Two

Date: Monday, 14 December 2015
Time: 8:30am – 5:30pm
Location: Institute of Law at Birzeit University, Annex, Room 243,
Birzeit University, Birzeit, Palestine

Display: Mapping Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism over Palestine

Time	Subject	
8:30am - 9:00am	Registration & Coffee	
9:00am - 9:30am	Opening Remarks	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ghassan Faramand, <i>Director, Institute of Law, Birzeit University</i>○ Abdel Latif Abu Hijla, <i>President, Birzeit University</i>○ UNDP Representative
9:30am - 10:15am	Keynote Addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Anti-Colonial Legalities: Tactics & Strategy”○ “Settler Colonialism in Relation to Other Forms of Colonialism: Some Strategic Implications”	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ John Reynolds, <i>Lecturer, Department of Law, Maynooth University</i>○ Patrick Wolfe, <i>ARC Australian Research Fellow and Charles La Trobe Research Fellow, La Trobe University</i>
10:15am - 11:45am	Roundtable Two: Legal Strategies	Lead Discussant: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Noura Erakat, <i>Assistant Professor, George Mason University</i>
Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Raji Sourani, <i>Director, Palestinian Center for Human Rights-Gaza</i>○ Reem Al Botmeh, <i>Senior Researcher, Institute of Law at Birzeit University</i>○ Michael Kearney, <i>Lecturer in International Law, Sussex University</i>○ Mudar Kassis, <i>Professor of Philosophy and Director of Human Rights and Democracy MA Program, Birzeit University</i>		
If we accept that the law is often the tool of the powerful and therefore malleable to serve economic and political elite interests, what are the optimal ways to leverage legal mechanisms to achieve justice? What should legal advocates, scholars, and organizations do in order to optimize actions that are being undertaken in domestic, foreign and international legal forums, including the ICC?		
11:45am - 12:00pm	Coffee Break	

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12:00pm - 1:00pm

Roundtable Three: Diplomatic Strategies

Lead Discussant:

○ Ghada Madbouh, *Professor of Political Science, Birzeit University*

Discussants:

- Camille Mansour, *Senior Researcher, Institute of Palestine Studies*
- Husam Zomlot, *Ambassador and visiting Assistant Professor at Birzeit University*
- Nadim Rouhana, *Professor of International Affairs and Conflict Studies, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Director of Mada al Carmel*
- Vijay Prashad, *Professor of International Studies, Trinity College*

The Oslo framework has effectively sabotaged the possibility of a two-state solution. Meanwhile, changing global power dynamics have diminished the United States' monopoly over diplomatic and military action in the Middle East. Still, the Oslo framework and a "negotiated two-state solution" continue to be upheld by the diplomatic community, the United Nations, and the Palestinian leadership as the only viable political outcome. At this juncture, how should the Palestinian leadership pivot its diplomatic alliances in response to rising new powers and how can pressure be exerted on Palestinian officials to guarantee their accountability to the Palestinian people in the diplomatic sphere?

1:00pm - 2:15pm

Lunch

2:15pm - 3:45pm

Roundtable Four: Economic & Popular Resistance

Lead Discussant:

○ Samia Botmeh, *Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Institute of Women's Studies, Birzeit University*

Discussants:

- Sobhi Samour, *Researcher, MAS-Palestine*
- Linda Tabar, *Visiting Assistant Professor of International Studies, Trinity College*
- Nora Lester Murad, *Co-Founder, Aid Watch*
- Jamal Jumaa, *Coordinator, Stop the Wall Campaign*

The Israeli vision of a 'final status' is currently being effectively complemented by a neoliberal economic policy enacted against the Palestinian people within the West Bank. While Israel ethnically cleanses Area C and keeps Gaza under siege, an economic and administrative system is being installed by international and Palestinian institutions with features of economic liberalization, a shrinking welfare state and a militarized police state. The effect has been to deepen income and power inequality within Palestinian society and thus to add vertical or class differences to spatial, administrative, and other forms of fragmentation. What are the most effective responses to these conditions? How can efforts be deployed both internally (aimed at the Palestinian leadership) as well as externally (aimed at solidarity communities as well as multilateral financial institutions)?

3:45pm - 4:00pm

Coffee Break

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4:00pm - 5:30pm

Roundtable Five: International
Solidarity

Lead Discussant:

- Omar Barghouti, *Co-Founder, BDS Movement*

Discussants:

- Haidar Eid, *Associate Professor, Al-Aqsa University, Gaza*
- Cecilia Baeza, *Professor at the Institute of International Relations of the PUC-São Paulo, the Catholic Pontifical University of São Paulo*
- Kristian Davis Bailey, *Journalist and Activist, Black Lives Matter*
- Ingrid Jaradat, *International Advocacy Consultant, BDS Movement*

What is needed to take BDS to the next level of impact in order to effectively isolate Israel, as South Africa's apartheid regime once was? How does the BDS movement's reference to international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affect its appeal to diverse communities and its impact on Israel? How can the increased engagement of Palestinian exilic communities in the BDS movement contribute to overcoming the severe fragmentation of the Palestinian people as a whole and to furthering these communities' crucial role in the struggle for liberation and self-determination? How can Palestinians, through BDS and otherwise, support and partner with other global justice movements and struggles? How can mainstreaming BDS be reconciled with intersectional joint struggles, whether in the West or the global South, if solidarity is understood as, inter alia, a politics of reciprocity?

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Day Three

Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2015
Time: 10am – 215pm
Location: Al Ein Hotel, Nazareth

Display: Mapping Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism over Palestine

Time	Subject	Speaker
10:00am - 10:30am	Opening Remarks	Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nadim Rouhana, <i>Professor of International Negotiation and Conflict Studies, Fletcher School, Director of Mada al Carmel</i>
10:30am – 12:00pm	Roundtable Six: Struggle from Within	Lead Discussant: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Suhad Bishara, <i>Senior Attorney and the Head of the Land and Planning Unit, Adalah – Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel</i>

Discussants:

- Yousef Jabareen, *Joint Arab List*
- Hanin Zoabi, *Joint Arab List*
- Raef Zreik, *Lecturer, Carmel Academic Center*
- Huda Abu-Obeid, *Human Rights Activist*

What are the costs and benefits of participation in the Israeli legal and political system? How can Palestinian citizens of Israel take part in the struggle of the Palestinian people for justice and liberation? What strategies for engagement have proven successful, and which have fallen short of expectations? At various points in our national struggle, the initiative for achieving justice has shifted from the diaspora, in the days of a vibrant PLO, to the OPT's, in the first intifada. Is it conceivable that Palestinian citizens of Israel could be the next to provide leadership to the nation as a whole? What would be the benefits from and obstacles to such a development?

12:00pm - 2:45pm Lunch Break

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12:45pm - 2:15pm

Roundtable Seven:
Restoring Unity, Restoring
Rights

Lead Discussant:
Jamil Dakwar, *Director of
the American Civil Liberties
Union's Human Rights
Program (HRP)*

Discussants:

- Lisa Taraki, *Professor of Sociology and Vice-President of Community Affairs, Birzeit University*
- Basel Ghattas, *Joint Arab List*
- Loubna Qoutami, *Ph.D candidate, Department of Ethnic Studies at University of California, Riverside and Member of the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM)*
- Dalia Malki, *Researcher, Institute of Law at Birzeit University*
- Mohammad Matter, *Youth Organizer, Gaza*

What is the status of popular efforts by Palestinians locally and globally to resist national fragmentation? What are the barriers to the implementation of alternative strategies for justice in Palestine? Is Palestinian officialdom a partner or an obstacle to effective strategic action? If the former, along what lines can coordination occur? If the latter, what steps must be taken to either instill accountability of Palestinian leaders to their people or to replace them? Where is the greatest dynamism within Palestinian society today, and how can we leverage that dynamism into progress toward justice in Palestine?