

Al-Haq Media Packet

From Theory to Practice: Upholding International Humanitarian Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

21- 24 November 2005
Grand Park Hotel, Ramallah

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Affiliate, International Commission of Jurists-Geneva

NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

فرع لجنة المحققين الدولية، جنيف.

تمتع الحق بصفة استشارية لدى المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي في الأمم المتحدة



AL-HAQ MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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International and Local Experts Meet in Ramallah for Legal Seminar: From Theory to Practice: Upholding International Humanitarian Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

When: 21-24 November 2005

Where: Grand Park Hotel, Al-Masyoun, Ramallah, West Bank

On 22 November 2005, international legal experts in the fields of international humanitarian law, human rights practitioners, and Palestinian civil society representatives will convene for an expert seminar regarding international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

November's seminar is a follow-up of Al-Haq's 1988 legal conference on the application of international law to occupied territory. The conference sessions produced much discussion and debate that have been important contributions to the question of the international legal norms applicable to the OPT. Its papers were subsequently published in a highly-respected legal volume that has become a major reference work for academics and legal experts on the OPT.

Over 15 years later, though the fundamental legal framework of international humanitarian law itself has not changed, the deteriorated situation on the ground presents new challenges and realities. Taking into account Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, and its continued settlement expansion and construction of the Annexation Wall, the seminar will also address such pressing issues as Israel's Disengagement Plan, final status negotiations issues, and the broader themes related to the law of armed conflict and of belligerent occupation. Speakers include William Schabas, Françoise Hampson, Raja Shehadeh, Iain Scobbie, and Maha Abu Dayeh.

Al-Haq, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists - Geneva, is a Palestinian human rights organisation located in Ramallah. The organisation was established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and rule of law in the OPT, and has special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. Al-Haq is committed to the uniform application of the universal principles of human rights regardless of the identity of the perpetrator. The organisation strives to bring to an end abuses committed by Israeli and Palestinian authorities and hold perpetrators accountable by using both national and international mechanisms. In addition, through the reinforcement of rule of law and the promotion of international legal standards, Al-Haq contributes to the development of a transparent and democratic civil society in Palestine.

- Ends -

Al-Haq, P.O.Box 1413 Ramallah, Tel: 970 2 2954646/9
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Web: www.alhaq.org الصفحة الإلكترونية

25 Years Defending Human Rights (1979-2004)

الحق ص.ب. ١٤١٣ رام الله، تلفون: ٩٧٠ ٢ ٢٩٥٤٦٤٦/٩
فاكس: ٩٧٠ ٢ ٢٩٥٤٩٠٣، بريد الكتروني: haq@alhaq.org

٢٥ عاماً من الدفاع عن حقوق الانسان (١٩٧٩-٢٠٠٤)

**From Theory to Practice:
Upholding International Humanitarian Law in the Occupied
Palestinian Territories**

Programme
21 - 24 November 2005

Monday, 21 November 2005

17.00 - 19.00 Opening Session
Welcome • Nidal Taha
Keynote Address • Raja Shehadeh

Tuesday, 22 November 2005

8.30 - 9.00 Registration

9.00 - 9.45 Welcome • Randa Siniora
Summary of 1988 conference • Emma Playfair

9.45 - 10.30 Prolonged Occupation of the OPT
Moderator • Lisa Taraki
General Overview: Israel's Prolonged Occupation of the OPT in Policy and Practice • Jonathan Kuttab
International Humanitarian Law and Prolonged Occupations • Ardi Imseis

10.30 - 11.45 Discussion

11.45 - 12.00 Break

12.00 - 13.00 Final Status Issues
Moderator • Raja Shehadeh
Current Situation of Final Status Issues: Jerusalem • Randa Siniora
Current Situation of Final Status Issues: Settlements • Khalil Tufakji
Means of Addressing Final Status Issues in Proposed Political Solutions in Light of International Law • Ibrahim Shaban

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.15 Discussion

15.15 - 16.30 The Disengagement Plan
Moderator • Mouin Rabbani
Aftermath of the Disengagement Plan: Reality on the Ground • Raji Sourani
PNA Responsibility in the Aftermath of Disengagement • Iain Scobbie
Expert Discussion: Legal Implications of the Disengagement Plan

16.30 - 16.45 Break

16.45 - 18.00 Discussion

Wednesday, 23 November 2005

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 10.00 The Annexation Wall
Moderator • Kathleen Cavanaugh
- The Annexation Wall: Reality on the Ground • Allegra Pacheco
- The Impact of the Wall on Women • Maha Abu Dayeh
- The International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion • Michael Lynk
- 10.00 - 11.30 Discussion
- 11.30 - 11.45 Break
- 11.45 - 12.45 Civil and Criminal Responsibility
Moderator • Fateh Azzam
- Israeli Violations that Entail Civil and Criminal Responsibility • Naser Rayyes
- Israeli Legal Civil and Criminal Accountability in International Law • William Schabas
- Special Challenges of Individual versus Collective Claims • Chibli Mallat
(presented by Raja Shehadeh)
- 12.45 - 13.45 Lunch
- 13.45 - 15.00 Discussion

Thursday, 24 November 2005

- 9.00 - 9.30 Registration
- 9.30 - 11.00 Means of Obtaining Justice
Moderator • Agneta Johansson
- Options Available Under International Law • Françoise Hampson
- The Intersection of Law and Diplomacy: A Case Study of the EU-Israel Association Agreement • Charles Shamas
- Litigation Before the Israeli Courts • Orna Kohn
- Litigation Before Other National Courts • Phil Shiner
- 11.00 - 12.15 Discussion
- 12.15 - 13.15 Lunch
- 13.15 - 15.15 Roundtable Discussion
Moderator • Lynn Welchman
- Campaigning and Advocacy: Palestinian Society and the International Community • Rifat Odeh Kassir
- Campaigning and Advocacy: International Perspectives • Per Stadig
- Campaigning & Advocacy: A Case Study on the Annexation Wall • Jamal Juma
- 15.15 - 16.00 Concluding Remarks • Kathleen Cavanaugh & Randa Siniora
- Conference Rapporteur • Michael Kearney

SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS

Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas is the co-founder and Executive Director of Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) located in Jerusalem, and a long time Palestinian feminist, activist and thinker. She works locally in the Occupied Territories to address the complex political, legal, social, and cultural needs of Palestinian women. She also is engaged deeply in regional and international arenas where she advocates for not only Palestinian women, but also for all women worldwide to ensure full rights and justice, and to promote genuine security for all. Born and raised in Jerusalem, Shamas is a recipient of the French Republic Human Rights Award (1998), and a recipient of the 2002 Ms. Woman of the Year Award. She served on the International Jury of the Body Shop Human Rights Award for two consecutive cycles and is on the board of Equality Now, an international human rights organisation dedicated to action for the civil, political, economic and social rights of girls and women. She is also on the boards of several local Palestinian human rights organisations promoting democracy and civil society.

Fateh Azzam is the Director of the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program at the American University in Cairo. He was formerly Programme Officer for human rights at the Ford Foundation in Cairo and Lagos, and the Director of Al-Haq from 1988-1995. Mr. Azzam has published a number of articles on human rights in the Middle East. He was recently appointed the Chair of the New Arab Human Rights Fund, by the Board of Directors. The fund was recently started by Arab countries to promote and uphold human rights in the region.

Kathleen Cavanaugh is from the United States. She obtained her Ph.D. in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics & Political Science and an LL.M in Comparative International and Human Rights Law at Queen's University of Belfast. She is currently (since 2000) a Lecturer in International Law at the National University of Ireland, Galway in the Irish Centre for Human Rights. She has previously taught in the Faculties of Law and Political Science at Queen's University, Belfast and the Dept of Politics at UCD. She has participated in numerous international and professional conferences, has written extensively on the question of political violence in ethnically divided societies, the question of self-determination and autonomy regimes, and has undertaken considerable field work in regions experiencing ethnic conflict (Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Israel/Palestine, Iraq). For over a decade, she has been actively involved in both international, as well as local based human rights groups. She is currently on the Executive Committee of Amnesty International (Ireland) and the International Executive Committee (IEC) of Amnesty International. She has previously served on Amnesty International's Board of Directors (USA) and additionally served as the US Country Specialist on the United Kingdom and Ireland. She has undertaken numerous missions on behalf of Amnesty International including to Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine (where she spent 3 months in the West Bank directing an Amnesty International delegation investigating violations of human rights and humanitarian law focussing on events in Jenin and Nablus) and more recently, to Iraq (where she focussed on the conduct of the occupying powers with relation to detention and security). Her academic interests and specialisation include the study of nationalism, ethnic conflict, political violence and applicable human rights laws in entrenched/states of emergency and the laws of belligerent occupation (IHL).

Françoise J. Hampson is Professor of Law at the Department of Law and Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex, UK. She was on the Steering Committee and the Group of Experts of the ICRC Customary Law Study. She is the British nominated member of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. She has considerable litigation experience before the European Court of Human Rights, particularly regarding human rights in situations of conflict. Her publications are principally in the fields of the law of armed conflict and human rights law.

Ardi Imseis LL.M (Columbia), LL.B. (Dalhousie), B.A. Hons. (Toronto). Policy Analysis Officer, UNRWA Headquarters, Gaza. Barrister & Solicitor of the Court of Appeal for Ontario and of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. Mr. Imseis has published in leading American, British and Canadian law reviews and other academic journals, including the *Harvard International Law Journal*, *American Journal of International Law*, *Berkeley Journal of International Law*, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, *International Journal of Human Rights*, *British Columbia University Law Review* and *Journal of Palestine Studies*. Mr. Imseis has been cited by the Supreme Court of Israel, as well as in studies written or commissioned by the Palestinian Authority, World Bank, International Committee of the Red Cross, Oxford Public Interest Lawyers, Harvard University, Tel-Aviv University, and Israeli Physicians for Human Rights. Mr. Imseis is former Human Rights Fellow and Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, Columbia University School of Law, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellow.

Agneta Johansson is Deputy Director of International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), an umbrella organisation for a number of international associations of judges, prosecutors and lawyers, with the objective of resurrecting judicial systems in post-conflict countries. Ms. Johansson is a lawyer, specialised in international law in general, and human rights. She has worked with these issues in several different capabilities and with different perspectives; at the Swedish Foreign Ministry, as a lecturer at universities and the Swedish Police Academy, but also more practically. After the wars in the Balkans Ms. Johansson served three years in Bosnia as Human Rights Officer for OSCE and as the Head of the “Department of Missing Persons and Exhumations” within the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo. Ms. Johansson has many years of experience of work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. She was the first Director at the Swedish Christian Study Centre in Jerusalem, 1990-1992, and she was Deputy Head of Staff at TIPH in Hebron in 2002. For 15 years, Ms. Johansson served as a member of the Steering Committee of Swedish section of ICJ, responsible for their program in Israel and Palestine.

Jamal Juma is coordinator of the Palestinian grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign (www.stopthewall.org). He is founding member of the Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network, the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) and the Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange. Jamal Juma is currently a board member of PARC. He has written several analysis pieces on the Wall and the struggle for Palestine that have been published widely at an international level. He has attended several local and international conferences, demonstrations and protests representing the Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign. Additionally, Jamal has promoted boycott, divestment and sanctions strategies at a national and global level.

Orna Kohn is the Acting General Director of Adalah: The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel. She has worked as a Staff Attorney with Adalah and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), and has extensive experience litigating cases on human rights violations in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories before the Israeli High Court of Justice and other tribunals (including the Or Commission of Inquiry). Ms. Kohn has particularly focused her work on such issues as citizenship; residency; movement restrictions; house demolitions; detainees and prisoners; police brutality and excessive use of force; and freedoms of speech, assembly, and association. In addition, she has advocated and lobbied for the rights of the Palestinian minority in Israel at the national and international levels including before the Knesset, European Union, and the United Nations.

Jonathan Kuttab is a private practice attorney in Jerusalem. He received his J.D. at the University of Virginia Law School and his B.A (Hon.) at Messiah College. He has tried a varied practice before Israeli civil and military courts, Palestinian courts, arbitration, various administrative tribunals and Ecclesiastical and Shari'a courts. He co-founded and directed Al-Haq, as well as the Mandela Institute for Political Prisoners. In addition he co-founded the Palestinian Center for the Study of Non-

Violence and the Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems (HURIDOCs). He currently serves as a member of HURIDOCs' Continuing Council, and as Vice President of Mandela Institute and of the Palestinian Center for the Study of Non-Violence. He serves as Chairman of the Board at Bethlehem Bible College and the Holy Land Trust. He has written extensively on international human rights and humanitarian law in the OPT including *West Bank and the Rule of Law* and *Civilian Administration in the Occupied West Bank: Analysis of Military Order No. 947*. He has taught law at several Palestinian universities and has lectured extensively throughout the United States and Palestine. Mr. Kuttab has received substantive recognition for his work, including in 1986 the 'Rothko Chapel Award for Commitment to Truth and Freedom'.

Chibli Mallat is EU Jean Monnet Professor in European Law at St Joseph's University, Beirut, and director of its Centre d'Etudes sur l'Union Européenne (www.cjm.usj.edu.lb), now recognised as 'Centre of excellence' by the EU. He is also an international legal practitioner, and the principal at Mallat Law Offices (www.mallat.com). As legal counsel, Professor Mallat has litigated a number of known affairs, including the Sharon case in Brussels and the disappearance of Imam Musa Sadr in Libya, and helped set up Amnesty International's regional office in Beirut in 2000, for which he acts as legal counsel. In 1996, he established Indict, the international NGO that worked to bring Saddam Hussein and his aides to justice. He is the author/editor of over twenty books and has been active in the Lebanese Cedar Revolution. Together with several leading Arab/ME networks, *Le Monde*, CNN, *Der Spiegel* and the *New York Times* recently saluted his leadership in the ongoing democratic revolution in Lebanon and the region. He is currently Senior Fellow at Yale law school's Schell Center for International Human Rights.

Michael Lynk is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ontario, Canada. His teaching and research areas include labour law, domestic and international human rights, and constitutional law. Prior to becoming an academic, Professor Lynk served as a Vice-Chair of the Ontario Public Service Grievance Board, and practised for a number of years as a labour lawyer in Ottawa and Toronto. He is the co-author of *Trade Union Law in Canada*, a senior editor of *Labour and Employment Law Casebook* (7th ed., 2004), and a co-editor of the forthcoming *Globalization and the Future of Labour Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). Professor Lynk is also an active labour arbitrator, and has adjudicated cases in both the federal and Ontario labour jurisdictions. Professor Lynk worked with the United Nations in the Middle East on refugee and human rights issues in 1989, and served as an election observer with the Canadian government delegation in Gaza in January 1996. He has an article on the recent decision on the Separation Wall by the Israeli Supreme Court appearing in the forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*.

Born in Beit Sahour, **Rifat Odeh Kassis** has long been active in the Palestinian struggle on a number of non-violent fronts, not least on the national and international rights-based advocacy scene. In 1992 he founded the first Palestinian independent Child Rights' NGO - a national section of the Geneva-based global child rights' movement, Defence for Children International. During his term as Executive Director of the East Jerusalem YMCA (2000-2004), he spearheaded the YMCA/YWCA Joint Advocacy Initiative, from which the highly successful Olive Tree Campaign was launched. Since January 2005, he has been working in Geneva as the International Coordinator and Project Manager of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). He combines this challenging post with a wide range of voluntary commitments, including being a core group member of the Danish donor agency, Dan Church Aid and President of the International Executive Council of the aforementioned Defence for Children

Emma Playfair is the Regional Representative for the Ford Foundation in the Middle East and North Africa, based in Cairo. A British human rights lawyer by background, she spent ten years working on human rights in the Middle East, initially as a legal researcher with Al-Haq, the first Palestinian human rights organisation, and then establishing a human rights programme for the Middle East and North Africa in the Ford Foundation's Cairo Office. She left the Foundation to become Executive Director of Interights, the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights, in London, UK, returning to Cairo nine years later to take up her present position with the Ford Foundation. She has written on human rights and humanitarian law, and on philanthropy. Amongst her publications, she edited *International Law and the Administration of Occupied Territories* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992).

Mouin Rabbani is Senior Analyst/Middle East with the International Crisis Group - with his focus on Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Previously he worked as Palestine Director of the Palestinian American Research Centre, and before that as project director for the Association of Netherlands Municipalities in a project to establish the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities. From 1988-1990 he was volunteer researcher at Al-Haq, and among other things served as General Editor for the 1990 Al-Haq annual report *A Nation Under Siege*. A contributing editor of *Middle East Report* (MERIP) he has published and commented widely on Palestinian affairs and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He is currently based in Amman, Jordan.

Naser Rayyes received his Masters in International Law and International Studies from Algeria University in 1995. He is currently in the process of completing his PhD on the jurisdiction and responsibility of states under International Law. He began working for Al-Haq in 1998 as a Legal Researcher, and also serves as a Lawyer and coordinator for legislation and the judiciary. He specialises in international human rights law and is the author of several publications on the subject. He has written four books dealing with international humanitarian law, including *The Israel Settlements from the Perspective of International Law*. He has published articles on Palestinian resistance, settlements, Israel's responsibility as a member state of the United Nations and the rule of law and human rights within Palestinian National Authority territories.

Professor William A. Schabas is director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway, where he also holds the professorship in human rights law. Before moving to Ireland in 2000, he was professor at the law school of the University of Quebec at Montreal, which he chaired for several years, and a member of the Quebec Human Rights Tribunal. He has also taught as a visiting or adjunct professor at universities in Canada, France and Rwanda, and has lectured at the International Institute for Human Rights (Strasbourg), the Canadian Foreign Service Institute and the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre. He was a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace (1998-99). Professor Schabas served as one of three international commissioners of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2002-04). Professor Schabas holds post-graduate degrees in history and in law from universities in Canada. He is the author of eighteen monographs and more than 170 articles dealing with such subjects as the abolition of capital punishment, international criminal prosecution and issues of transitional justice, in English and French. His writings have been translated into several languages, including Russian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Farsi and Albanian. He has lectured around the world in the areas of international humanitarian and human rights law, and been a frequent participant in human rights fact-finding missions on behalf of international non-governmental organisations.

Iain Scobbie is the Sir Joseph Hotung Research Professor in Law, Human Rights and Peace Building in the Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Professor Scobbie was formerly Reader in International Law at the University of Glasgow, and studied at the Universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge, and at the Australian National University. He has advised

the Negotiation Affairs Department of the Palestinian Authority on water rights. Professor Scobbie maintains a special interest in international humanitarian law; international adjudication, particularly the role and function of the International Court of Justice; and in the theory of international law. He is a member of the Governing Board of the Scottish Centre for War Studies, which is based in the University of Glasgow.

Ibrahim Mohammad Mahmoud Sha'ban is a specialist in international human rights law and lectures on humanitarian law at the Lecturer School of Law at Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem. A member of the Palestinian and Jordanian Bar Associations, Mr. Sha'ban earned his masters degree in Public Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, and Labour Law at Cairo University. He is currently the vice president of the Lawyers Association in East Jerusalem Centre, a member of the board of trustees of the Palestinian Human Rights Center, and the representative of Al-Quds University to the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy at An-Najah National University. Mr. Sha'ban is also the head of the Central Committee of Elections at the Palestinian Association of Lawyers, head of the Legal Consultancy Committee at the Al-Quds University Community Center, and team leader to the committee of the unification of the Civil Procedure Law between the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Mr. Sha'ban formerly served as head of the Legal Researchers Centre of Jerusalem and is the Chairman of the Palestinian Housing Council.

Charles Shamas is the Senior Partner and founder of the MATTIN Group, a voluntary human rights-based partnership in Palestine that draws on the disciplines of law, economics, commerce and trade policy to address problems of international human rights and international humanitarian law enforcement and issues of third state responsibility. In 1979 he founded a laboratory manufacturing venture in Ramallah. Over the next decade the MATTIN Group employed that venture to test the institutional constraints on skilled labour-based manufacturing in the occupied Palestinian territories, test a repositioning path for pro-social industry promotion, and initiate direct Palestinian exports to the EU and the US. Mr. Shamas led a successful MATTIN Group effort to coax Israel's key trading partners (the EC, the US and EFTA) into reversing their de facto acceptance of Israel's administrative annexation of the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories, establishing separate regimes for trading with Palestinian exporters, and overcoming Israel's refusal to permit direct Palestinian agricultural exports. He subsequently co-founded the Palestinian Trade Promotion Organisation and served as a member of its Executive Committee and acting Executive Director. Mr Shamas has also advised the PLO/PNA on IHL-related diplomacy, and attended the expert meeting convened by Switzerland in 1999 as a member of the Palestinian delegation. Recently, the work of the MATTIN Group has been heavily focused on strategic law-based lobbying and advocacy efforts. In partnership with several European NGOs the MATTIN Group has launched several interventions aimed at promoting greater consistency between the EU's management of its relations with Israel and the Palestinian Authority on the one hand, and its human rights obligations on the other. Mr Shamas was a co-founder of Al-Haq. He established Al-Haq's "international enforcement" project and served on Al-Haq's Executive Committee until 1991. He is currently a member of the MENA advisory board of Human Rights Watch. He is the author and co-author of several articles and analytical reports on IHL, EU external relations and trade-related subjects.

Raja Shehadeh is an Officer in the Order of Canada. He graduated in 1973 with a degree in English literature and philosophy from the American University of Beirut. Studied law in London and was called to the English Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1976. Mr. Shehadeh has been practicing law in Ramallah since 1978. In 1979, he co-founded the pioneering human rights organisation Al-Haq, the Palestinian affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists which he co-directed until 1991. In the course of his legal practice, he handled and participated in a number of precedent-setting cases including the recent request to the International Court of Justice at The Hague regarding the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Mr. Shehadeh also wrote several books on the legal aspects of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territories including *Occupiers Law*

(Institute of Palestine Studies, 1985 revised 1988) and *From Occupation to Interim Accords* (Kluwer, 1997). His latest two published books were *Strangers in the House* (Penguin 2002), and *When the Bulbul Stopped Singing* (Profile 2004). The last was adapted to the theatre and performed in Edinburgh, Tehran and New York.

Phil Shiner is a solicitor at Public Interest Lawyers, which specialises in human rights law much of it dealing with extraterritorial issues. He was awarded Human Rights Lawyer of the Year in 2004 and has taken test cases on behalf of Iraqi civilians killed or tortured in post-occupation Iraq and won ex-Gurkha soldiers, held as prisoners of war by the Japanese in the Second World War, equal compensation as their British counterparts. He has also worked on issues regarding violation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He is an Honorary Professor at London Metropolitan University and a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics.

Randa Siniora has been the General Director of Al-Haq since November 2001. She formerly served as the Head of Advocacy at the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), making use of her specialized knowledge in the human rights of women. Prior to that, she worked with Al-Haq from 1987 to 1997, as a Legal Researcher, Public Relations Officer, and the Coordinator of the Women's Rights Project. Randa earned her LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex (UK), her Masters in Sociology from the American University in Cairo (Egypt), and her B.A. in Sociology from Birzeit University (Palestine). Randa serves on the Executive Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, and on the boards of the Palestinian Counselling Center (Palestine) and International Service for Human Rights (Switzerland). She is a member of the Palestinian Selection Committee for 1000 Women for the Nobel Prize Initiative, and was a member of the Palestinian Model Parliament Steering Committee from 1986-1987.

Raji Sourani works to promote and protect human rights as the director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, which he founded in 1995 with a group of fellow lawyers and human rights activists in the Gaza Strip. Raji has spearheaded this award-winning centre since its establishment and continues to ensure that the centre provides legal and other services to victims of human rights abuses in the Gaza Strip, enabling them to seek justice and reparation. Raji has been an active lawyer since his qualification in 1977, representing a wide variety of victims of human rights abuses.

Per Stadig is an International Human Rights Lawyer from Sweden specialising in refugee and criminal law. He has worked with the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) since 1988 and is the head of the Swedish section of International Commission of Jurists which financially and legally supports Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations. The program has also been involved with sending trial-observers to courts in the OPT and in Israel. Mr. Stadig is the vice chair of The Swedish Red Cross Foundation for tortured refugees. He is also involved with the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, and on the board of patrons of the Kurdish Human Rights Project (KHRP).

Lisa Taraki is an associate professor of sociology and Dean of Graduate Studies at Birzeit University. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Al-Haq. Her research and publications have focused on the Palestinian national movement; Islamist politics; gender relations in the Middle East and Palestine; urban social history; and the system of informal justice in Palestine. She has served on the boards of several Palestinian organisations, and has made many professional contributions to Palestinian institutions.

Khalil Tufakji was born in Jerusalem in 1950. He received his Masters in Geography Information Systems from Arizona State University in 1998. He is the Mapping and Survey Director at the Orient House and a member of the Center Committee for Building and Organizing in Jerusalem District. He

has published many books on subjects of: the Palestinian map in 1945, Israeli settlements that existed in the West Bank before 1967, Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the Jerusalem Municipality from 1815-2000: study in infrastructure. Plus many articles, studies and maps in local journals.

Dr Lynn Welchman is Senior Lecturer in Islamic and Middle Eastern Law at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London. Prior to taking up this post she worked in human rights, primarily with Palestinian NGOs al-Haq and CIHRE, but also with international human rights organisations in the region, and she continues to be active in this area. Her publications address issues of Palestine, the law and third party state policy as well as human rights, women's rights and contemporary applications of Islamic law. She is a member of the founding editorial board of the *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights* and of the founding Board of the newly-established Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation.



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فرع لجنة المحققين الدولية، جنيف

تمتع الحق بصفة استشارية لدى المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي في الأمم المتحدة



21 November 2004

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Al-Haq's seminar "From Theory to Practice: Upholding International Humanitarian Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories." The presentations given during this conference will focus on the law of armed conflict including belligerent occupation, an international legal regime which guarantees fundamental protections for the Palestinian people. They will consider the legal implications of recent developments in the OPT and explore ways of obtaining civil and criminal accountability, in particular the practical means by which Palestinians can obtain justice. The seminar will not only address terms of law, but also discuss advocacy, and aims to develop law-based strategies for civil society organisations working to protect the basic rights of the Palestinians.

This seminar is a natural progression from our 1988 legal conference on the administration of international law in occupied territory. That conference represented the first concerted attempt by non-Israelis to examine Israel's administration of the OPT in the light of international law. Its sessions produced much discussion and debate that have been important contributions to the scope of the international legal norms applicable to the OPT.

However, much has changed since that time in regards to the situation on the ground and as it relates to the development and interpretation of international law. The Palestinian National Authority has been established, and many of the international legal principles upheld in the Geneva Conventions have been further developed and codified through such standards as the Statute of the International Criminal Court. It is our hope that "From Theory to Practice" will be an opportunity to discuss the implications of such changes and to address such matters as prolonged occupation, the enforcement of international humanitarian law, and accountability.

It is to this end that we have developed the programme of the next three days, during which we will discuss a range of key issues facing the Palestinians today. Each session has both a factual component addressing the current situation on a given topic, and a legal component, in which the issue is considered in light of international humanitarian law. The session concludes with a discussion period, during which questions may be asked. In this way, each session "develops," allowing the opportunity to explore the complexities of key issues. Furthermore, the foundation is laid for the final day's discussions regarding means of obtaining justice and next steps, during which participants can debate future law-based strategies to realise the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

I would like to offer particular thanks to all of our speakers who have generously agreed to participate in this seminar, and to our Consultative Committee which has worked with us over many months to ensure the success of this endeavour. Their support is greatly appreciated.

We hope that you enjoy the seminar.

Best regards,

Randa Siniora
General Director

About Al-Haq

Al-Haq, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists - Geneva, is a Palestinian human rights organisation located in Ramallah, West Bank. The organisation was established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and rule of law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), and has special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. Al-Haq is committed to the uniform application of the universal principles of human rights regardless of the identity of the perpetrator. In order to meet these goals, the organisation:

- Conducts and disseminates legal and field research on human rights violations in the OPT based on international human rights and humanitarian law
- Monitors and documents human rights violations through an extensive database
- Carries out local and international advocacy to raise awareness of human rights violations in the OPT and to increase compliance with international law
- Implements local and international campaigns on trends of human rights violations
- Provides free legal services to the Palestinian community
- Houses a public library specialised in international human rights and humanitarian law

Through these activities, Al-Haq strives to bring to an end abuses committed by Israeli and Palestinian authorities and hold perpetrators accountable by using both national and international mechanisms. In addition, through the reinforcement of rule of law and the promotion of international legal standards, the organisation contributes to the development of a transparent and democratic civil society in Palestine. Al-Haq is a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the World Organisation Against Torture, (OMCT), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), and Habitat International Coalition (HIC).

Selected Al-Haq Publications

Briefing Papers on Twenty Years of Israeli Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza (1987)

Punishing a Nation (1988)

Human Rights Violations During The Palestinian Uprising, December 1987 - December 1988

A Nation Under Siege (1989)

Protection Denied: Continuing Israeli Human Rights Violations in the OPT 1990 (1991)

International Law and the Administration of Occupied Territories (1992)

The By- Pass Road Network in the West Bank (1997)

The Israeli Settlements from the Perspective of International Law (2000)

Death Traps: Landmines in Golan (2000)

Israel's Attack on Beit Rima (2001)

Education Under Siege: A Future in Jeopardy (2001)

Unlawful Killing: The Assassination of Palestinians in the OPT by the Israeli Occupying Forces (2001)

Beating and Wilful Killing in Yamoun Village (2002)

In Need of Protection (2002)

Death Traps: Israel's Use of Force at Checkpoints in the West Bank (2002)

The Forced Transfer of Kifah & Intissar Ajuri (2002)

Arbitrary Execution in Beni Naim (2002)

Screaming in the Dark: Life in Israeli Detention (2002)

Beaten To Death: Umran Abu Hamdieh (2003)

The Applicability of Human Rights Law to Occupied Territories: The Case of the OPT (2003)

Provocation to Kill: The Use of Force as a Response to Provoked Stone Throwing (2003)

Israel's Punitive House Demolition Policy (2003)

Israel's Raid on Arab Banks in the OPT (2004)

Four Years Since the Beginning of the *Intifada* (2004)

Medicine Under Siege (2004)

The Impact of the Annexation Wall Around al-Sheikh Sa'd/Jabal al-Mukabber (2004)

The International Court of Justice and the Annexation Wall: Replacing Politics with Law (2004)

A Legal Commentary on the Geneva Accord (2004)

Palestinian Presidential Elections 2005 Monitoring Report (2005)

Waiting for Justice (2005)

Building Walls, Breaking Communities: The Impact of the Annexation Wall on East Jerusalem Palestinians (2005)

The Israeli High Court of Justice and the Palestinian *Intifada* (2005)

Rights Without Remedies: Israel's Compensation Law (2005)