



(مخ غير ربحية)

مركز الأبحاث والاستشارات القانونية للمرأة
Center For Women's Legal Research & Consulting

Final Narrative Report

Center for Women's Legal Research & Consulting Ltd.

April 2009





Preface :

Center for Women's Legal Research & Consulting is an independent non-profit , feminist center , established in Gaza by a group of experts from the local community of lawyers (male & female) and activists in the field of women work . They seek to concentrate the efforts to develop the reality and the conditions of the Palestinian women on the legal and community level , which is a basic need to achieve the justice , equality and democracy in the Palestinian community .

During the last year (2009) , the center was able to continue its work and achieve a lot of success . this report displays the important achievements whether at the management level , or at the activities and implementing the projects .

The administration level :

During 2009 , the administration and the financial system was fulfilled , also the strategic plan till 2011. In addition to that , the number of the employee (female) was increased .

The activities and the projects :

The center was able to implement a number of vital and important projects which meets the needs of women and the local community , and center become one of the important organizations in the society .

The center also gains the trust of the international donors and this was obvious in the increasing of the incomes of the center (80% compared with 2008).

The board of the center keen to follow up the work of the center , and it is very proud of these achievements of the team which work in the center (those who work full time & part time) , regardless of the difficult circumstances .

The Board of Directors thanks everyone for the donations that contributed in the improvement and development of the Centre's work, and we thank the international institutions that provided financial grants for the implementation of projects of the Centre , and they are :

- 1- Naseej program – Save the Children.
- 2- UNPD .
- 3- The International women Fund>
- 4- Henrich.Boll foundation.
- 5- Netham project- USAID



I hope , on the behalf of the board of the directors , that 2010 would be more active and effective in order to achieve the center's objects , most importantly , to achieve equality , justice and democracy in the Palestinian community .

Lawyer / Eslah Hassanyia
The head of the board of the directors
April . 2010

Introduction :

The conditions in Gaza Strip in 2009 :

Gaza Strip in one of the highly populated areas in the world , where one million and a half people live on an area of 365 Km square . The Israeli occupation has destroyed the farmers and imposed a strict closures on the boarders and turns the Strip into a pig prison , people were no able neither to get out , nor enter the Strip . Therefore, people invented a new way to broke the siege through digging tunnels on the ground at the boarders with Egypt so they can get what they need from the daily needs . However , a lot of men were killed during digging , so the tunnels turns to be the only outlet and a killer at the same time.

The effects of the Israeli war in Gaza Strip:

2009 witnessed a sever increasing to the Israeli aggression on the Strip and it was unprecedented war . The number of the victims was 1440 martyr , 431 of the them are children , and 114 women . these numbers were increased because a lot of injured (5450) were dead , and 40% of them were children and women . the half of these injured lose their hands or their legs and become handicapped .

The effects of the Israeli war in Gaza Strip:

2009 witnessed a sever increasing to the Israeli aggression on the Strip and it was unprecedented war . The number of the victims was 1440 martyr , 431 of the them are children , and 114 women . these numbers were increased because a lot of injured (5450) were dead , and 40% of them were children and women . the half of these injured lose their hands or their legs and become handicapped .

The effects of the Israeli war on the economical conditions



The Israeli war has left a massive destruction in the economical , social and infrastructure conditions . 4100 house were completely destroyed , while 17000 house were partially destroyed . in addition to 92 mosque , 29 school and university , and 4 gas station . 83 governmental structure were destroyed , and a lot of cars were burn , 20 of them were ambulances and civil defense cars.

Water lines and sanitation were badly damaged (10 lines were destroyed) , 10 electricity generation station were destroyed , as well as the two bridges which link the south and the north of the strip. more than (1500) established factories, workshops and blacksmiths shops, exchange bureaus, and tens of thousands of acres of agricultural land were razed and burned by phosphorous bombs, 'The value of total losses in infrastructure and buildings reaches to (1.224.6) million dollars.

Around 2009 , the economical sector losses millions of dollars daily in agriculture, fishing, transportation, storage, trade and construction, which refers to the magnitude of the disaster suffered by the Gaza Strip, which confirms that the reconstruction required several years and billions of dollars

The effects of the Israeli war on the social conditions :

At the level of social and psychological aspect the outcome of this war was, the displacement of tens of thousands of families out of their homes , in addition to thousands of martyrs and the huge number of injured and disabled who suffer and their families .

The war also left psychological effects on people as a result of fear and terror . women have suffered in particular as a result of this war, mental suffering, fearing for their children from death or injury, as well as a result of the inability to provide basic needs of daily food and drink, cleaning products , water, electricity and fuel for cooking . All these items were missing during the war and still at the moment they are unavailable as a result of the ongoing siege by the Israeli occupation which don't allow the entry of the basic materials .

All these conditions put psychological pressure on men and women because they felt unable to perform any act that could provide security or to save their families from poverty, so they were depressed and tensioned .

This has lead to further problems inside the families , it causes divorce, and numerous problems with the financial rights of wives who lose their husbands during the war, and problems related to custody of the children who lost one or both parents, which affected the future of many families and



their stability as a result of poverty increasing and the loss of fathers and mothers.

The reality of division and the blockade:

The closure of the borders and the siege continue and this contributed to the deepening of the internal Palestinian division. The internal political division has had devastating effects on the Palestinian street , because of the absence of a sense of security , violation of human rights and public freedoms , and devote the event of separation from the West Bank.

The political division has affected badly women because of the lack of access to the resources available to the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank and to take advantage of the National strategic plan for women development . At the same time women suffer from the lack of the resources in Gaza because of the siege . at same time the continuation of the division lead to a breakdown in the role of the Legislative Council , thereby hindering the development of the legislative process and creation of new laws to ensure equal rights between women and men, in addition to delaying the implementation of court rulings in both regions (Gaza Strip and West Bank) which women pay the heavy price for the lack of access to their financial rights or the right in the custody of their children or their right to join their husbands who have moved to the West Bank because of the political divide.

The role of Center for Women's Legal Research & Consulting

The Center still working despite all the difficult circumstances in Gaza Strip, and was able to get up and complete the implementation of projects, and implement projects that related to the new realities that emerged after the war.

It also expanded its work with women's NGOs to achieve its objectives and mission, the Centre was also able to gain the confidence of the donor institutions which doubled the projects and financial assistance to the Centre. this report will display all aspects of the work of the Centre and its activities systematically, and it is considered an important document issued by the Centre for Research and legal advice to women starting from January 1 to December 31, 2009.



The contents :

- 1- The board of directors message(p 2)
- 2- Preface(P 4)
- 3- the content of the report.....(P 7)
- 4- Definition of the center(P 8)
- 5- The center activities(P 11)
- 6- The center projects(P 16)

1-Mission of the center :

Promoting the legal and social status of the Palestinian woman , and empowering her to attain her rights at all aspects .

2- Vision of the center :

Working on originating a legal and social vision , based on recognizing that the woman is a fundamental partner with the man in building the Palestinian community upon democratic basics .



3- Overall Objectives :

- 1- Working on adopting national and democratic legalizations that guarantees the principle of equality between man and woman, in terms of rights and duties
- 2- Working on achieving harmony for national legalization with the international criteria of human rights in general, and woman's rights in particular, especially " Elimination of segregation against woman" agreement.
- 3- Performing legal researches and studies , surveying laws and enactments , and suggesting the optimal alternatives for spots of defect and weakness, for the purpose of fulfilling the first objective mentioned above
- 4- Disseminating human and woman's rights related studies , significantly women's rights.
- 5- Securing the efficacious legal protection for woman in national courts , and providing legal consultations to woman, in an effort to achieve this protection;
- 6- Contributing in spreading awareness about human rights and woman's rights in the Palestinian community , and eliminating the legal illiteracy in the community, through holding specialized training courses;
- 7- Working on fostering the principle of separation among the three authorities , through training, awareness, and education.
- 8- Consolidating the relations with parallel local community organizations at Arab and international levels, in the framework of partnerships;
- 9- Purchasing, owing, renting or pawning movable and immovable money , regarded as essential for achieving the center's aims;
- 10- The center has the right to carry out all agreed-upon tasks , listed on chapter 2 of companies law , enacted in 1929, and its modifications.
- 11- Each action approved and authenticated by the board members for the sake of the center is regarded as complimentary to its objectives.

4- Constituent Assembly (Stockholders)

- 1- Lawyer , Islah Hassaneya
- 2- Lawyer, Hanan Matar
- 3- Legal Researcher , Zainab Al Ghonaimy
- 4- Lawyer, Jameel Sarhan



- 5-Lawyer, Ibtehaj Al Shawa
- 6- Mrs. Amal Syam
- 7-Lawyer, Imteyaz Hasab Aallah
- 8- Mr. Zohair Al Lababedi
- 9- Mr. Tareq Al Derawi

Administrative Structure and board

The following board members have been appointed on 10,8,2009 by the General Assembly :

- 1- Lawyer , Islah Hassaneya : Chairperson
- 2- Lawyer, Hanan Matar : Vice- Chairperson
- 3- Lawyer, Jameel Sarhan : Member
- 4- Lawyer, Ibtehaj Al Shawa : Member
- 5- Mrs. Amal Syam : Member
- 6M., Tareq Al Derawi : Member
- 7-Mr.Zohair Al lababedi

Admin Staff:

- 1- **The center's director** : Zainab Al Gonaimy, Legal consultant of women's movement in Gaza.
- 2- **Accountant** : Rose Al Amody
- 3- **legal assistance**: -Lawyer, Imteyaz Hasab Aallah
- 4- **Worker** : Samira Toman

Projects employees:

- 1-**tahany Qassem**: projects coordinator at the center(legal protection of vulnerable women in the Gaza strip)
- 2-**Gada Al soos**: administrative assistant(legal protection of vulnerable women in the Gaza strip)
- 3- **Reda Sahyoon**: project coordinator(women forward forum)
- 4- **Wafaa Hels**: coordinator assistant.

** The Center's Activities in 2009

1/2- Administrative development and expansionism



1/1/2- Meetings of Board of Directors

The board held 8 meetings during the year 2009, in the framework of monitoring the center's activities , and taking work related decisions .

The meetings were characterized by a considerable sense of concern by the board, and regular attendance of the board members .

2/1/2- Development of the center

* As a result to the development achieved at the center, the fixed staff has been increased to include :

- Centers director.
- Accountant
- Projects coordinator.
- Administrative Assistant.
- Legal assistant
- Assistant officer.
- Employees in the projects(3).

3/1/2- centers work strategies:

- 1- achieved administrative structure
- 2- achieved financial structure
- 3- third strategic plan.

Centers program:

1/2/2- legal consulting program:

Legal consulting unit at the center provide legal support and legal consulting for women and defend them without money before court as following:

-(385) women asked help from the center (145) women come at the center, while(240)asked consulting by phone.

-(145) cases divided as following:

-(45)issues at the court,(25)issues are achieved, while(20) issues are followed at the center.

-(50) issues , not come at the center because the issues are solved, (10) issues are waived by their owner(10) issues didn't have any legal document.

- (50) issues related to the alimony at the ministry of finance,(23)issues are achieved,(5) issues are followed,(22) issues are blocked.



2/2/2-training program:

- target group received training in the framework of the centers projects, and the benefited are as following:
- total(139) (125 female and14 male) as following:
- (52) lawyers (fresh graduates) received training to increase their legal and practical skills as(40) hours.
- (13) lawyers(6) male and (7) female received training at the court as(20) hours.
- (30) divorced women received training about women's right in the framework of the Gender as(30) hours.
- (15) divorced women received training course about searching skills as(30) hours.
- (12) female(6) female lawyers and (6) media professional received training about searching as(30) hours.
- (12) 5 male and 7female lawyers received two training courses on the women's right as(30) hours, and(30) hours on rehabilitation trainers skills.
- (5) lawyers(3) male and(2) female received training on writing legal researches as(40) hours.
- provide training services for(4) NGOs and women organizations through trainers staff at the center.

3/2/2- Awareness and Education program:

- (60) awareness workshop.
- (3152) both genders (2182) female and (970) male received awareness on diverse subjects including : Gender, legal protection, domestic right for women and women's right are human right within personal status law .

4/2/2- Research and Studies Program:

- 1/4/2- produce research on(Reality and Needs of Divorced Women in the Gaza Strip) as the first phases outcomes for women forward forum project which funded by Henirich Boll foundation.
- 2/4/2- produce (5)researches as outcomes of legal protection for vulnerable women in the Gaza Strip which solved these subject:
 - The reality of Working Women.
 - Relative Marriage, Reasons and Influence.
 - Reasons and Influence of Divorce.



- The Reality of Legal Education of women.
- The Role of Feminist Foundation.

3/2- Interrelation with Local Organizations

1/3/2-(21) community meeting in order to expand interrelation with local organizations and women organizations which attend by organizations representatives ,lawyers and judges.

- The center has managed to establish solid relations with 50 woman and civil organization in all Gaza governorates where the target groups of those organizations benefited from issues and concerns , raised in the field workshops that executed by the trainees .

3/3/2- Development the relation between the center and local organizations:

- Center has role on implementing study on(Determination the Palestinian community Needs in the framework of Gender) funded by United Nation Development program(UNDP) cooperated with women organizations: Women's affairs Technical Center(WATC),Women's affairs center(WAC),Women's Information and Media center.
- Center is partner with women's center for researches and documentation at the West Bank, also implemented documentation women's story project after Gaza War.
- Center is one of six partners on establishing Amal cooperating on the elimination violence against women funded by UNEFEM.

4/2- Media activities:

- (10)media episodes,(8)media spot discussed expand custody age.
- (500) brochure about expand custody age.
- (6500) awareness brochures on three issues related to women's right.
- (1500) center identifying brochures in English and Arabic language.
- (1000) brochures on projects center.
- Update the website of the center in English and Arabic.

5- Dealings with donors

- Naseej program –save the children.
- International Fund for woman
- UNDP
- Heinrich Boll foundation –Germany



- Netham project funded by USAID.

5/2-Achievement of the Center:

1/5/2- strengthen the relation with public and focus group by providing legal consulting for women .and it is obvious through Women who come at the center to solve their issues.

-2/5/2- solving the problem of the custody women alimony and divorced women alimony at the ministry of finance in Ramallah.

-3/5/2- issuing resolution related to the expand custody age.

-4/5/2- defending women's issues within(women forward forum) which enrolled (400)divorced women.

**** Projects Implemented :**

" Voice of Justice " Project

The project was funded by Save the Children – Naseej Program , in the period 1/9/2008 till 30/6/2009 .

Overall Objective of the project:

Empowering and consolidating the role of community youth , through lobbying for adopting Gender issues , for the purpose of achieving implied change that guarantees the principle of equality and equity , and securing a society free from violence .

Outcomes of the project:

- 20 lawyers trained on skills of lobbying and mobilization on the woman's domestic rights.

- Field activities and work meetings executed.

- Media campaign poster designed to be disseminated during the mobilization meetings in all Gaza governorates.

- 2000 brochure copies printed of the project " Yes for Raising the age of custody to 18 years" .

- Two broadcasting sessions undertaken under the title " Yes for Raising the age of custody to 18 years" .



- Two mobilization meetings for organizations held in Gaza, and The Middle Governorate .
- The center's electronic homepage updates, a project banner designed on the page, and Naseej website linked to the center's .

Completion of' Young Female Lawyers' Forum ' Project

The Project was funded by Heinrich Boll , in the period 1/10/2008 till 30/6/2009.

Overall Objective of the project

Developing the forum of young lawyers (established at the center in 2006), to empower them to work as a harmonious cultural group to defend woman's rights , and raise the community awareness of these rights.

Outcomes Achieved

- (100)lawyers enrolled to (young female lawyers forum).
- (25) lawyers received training and awareness on changing community culture.
- (60) lawyers(fresh graduates) improving their legal skills.
- (600) young female lawyers forum project brochure.
- (100)legal directory to improve lawyers legal skills.
- Young female lawyers forum is able to continue working with people.

New projects funded at 2009:

2/2/3-International Fund for woman "

The project was implemented in the period 1/8/2007 till 31/1/2008 , in accordance with the plan set by the center to achieve the desired benefit from the donation . The donation was said to be disbursed for the administrative expenditures as major prerequisites for the center's sustainable work and its set goals concerning the different programs as well as for developing the unit of legal consultations in the center.



"Women Forward Forum" Project Improvement

overall Objective:

The Project aims to provide support to divorced women, particularly the young, and integrate them into the community.

the Outcomes of first phase of the project:

Started on 1-9-2009 until 30-12-2009 (4 months).

Pillars of the project:

First pillar:

Establishing the "Women Forward Forum" By enrolling 30 divorced women.

Second pillar:

Educate the divorced women on their legal and civil rights and how to defend these rights.

Third pillar:

Conduct a research study to identify the needs of divorced women. The findings of these results were discussed in a work shop attended by the interested NGOs.

Development phase of the project:

The duration: 8 months, starting on 1-12-2009 until 30-7-2010

The activities of the development phase depend on the results of the research titled " The Reality and Needs of Divorced Women" as follows:

First pillar: get 150 divorced women enrolled in the "women forward forum"

Second pillar: held educational legal meetings to the women who enrolled in the forum.

Third pillar: held social and psychological meetings for the forum members.



Fourth pillar: cooperating with local NGOs to fulfill the women's needs, after defining these needs.

Forth pillar: cooperating with official institutions and the justice system to obtain legal benefits for the divorced women.

Overall objective:

To contribute in the legal protection of vulnerable women in the Gaza Strip through promoting community education and awareness on the rule of law and women's' related laws.

Specific objectives

- To improve the professional capacity of lawyers in enforcing the family law.
- To mobilize the role of media in promoting the rule of law.
- To promote public debates on the rule of law.
- To increase the community sensitization on the rule of law with emphasis on the family law.

The project aims to contribute in the legal protection of vulnerable women in the Gaza Strip through promoting community education and awareness on the family law. It targets (15) female and male lawyers, (150) female and male students of law faculties from universities in Gaza Strip, and (2000) women and men living in marginalized areas in the Gaza Strip.

*** Training Program**

1- 155 lawyers (both genders) benefited from the training courses , in the framework of the aforementioned projects.



2- In cooperation with the Higher Commissioner Office for Human Rights , the center held a training course entitled " Human Rights and Law Sovereignty " , targeting 25 prosecuting tanneries and lawyers (female) . The course aimed at elevating the levels of awareness for the target group about the mechanisms of UN for Human Rights Protection. The course was held for 3 days, in the amount of 15 training hours .

3- The center implemented a workshop entitled " Discussion of CEDAW Stories Results" , under the framework of " Let Us Break The Barrier of Silence " Project. The stories aimed at highlighting woman's suffering in Gaza , according with the specific terms of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Woman " CEDAW".

4- The center held field training , in cooperation with civil organization , by training specialists, and legal experts at the center, whereas 25 trainers executed training programs in the following concerns :

- Concepts of Gender .
- Elimination of all forms of violence against woman
- Woman's domestic rights .
- Writing and documentation skills .

Partner - organizations

- Women's Affairs Technical Committee
- Women's Affairs Center
- Women's Studies Association
- General Union of Palestinian Woman – Rafah Branch