

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Haaretz** - New settlement construction up 176% in 12 months.
- US State Department global report on human rights considers **Israel**, the **P.A.** and **Hamas**.
- **Take action** - **Support us**

“His being away from home was hard for me. It meant I had to be the mother and the father at the same time, to work and raise money for our daughters. Sometimes I felt like I was a single mother raising children alone.”

Suhair – mother from East Jerusalem whose husband needs a permit to live with the family.

DETENTION FIGURES

Number of Palestinians held in Israeli detention facilities in May 2013.

- **Total** - 4,817
- **Women** - 15
- **Girls** - 1
- **Boys** - 222



Manal Jobeh and Samar Wazani: WCLAC's team leaders on the new referral project.

Overview

A new referral system for female victims of violence has been approved by the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs. The referral system was jointly developed by WCLAC and Juzoor, an NGO dedicated to improving and promoting health in Palestine. The referral system is now undergoing a final review process prior to implementation – [More](#).

On 30 May, an emergency women's shelter in the Jordan Valley re-opened following extensive renovations. The WCLAC-run shelter originally opened in 2006 and was the first of its kind in the West Bank, providing refuge for women whose lives are at risk from domestic violence. The shelter, located in a rural setting, was originally

established with the help of Palestinian and foreign donations – [More](#).

Khirbet Ghuwein is a small farming community of 65 people located in the South Hebron Hills, in the West Bank. In 1989 the Israeli settlement of Shani was built nearby and a road constructed for the settlers cuts through the community's land and separates the residents from their land and each other. According to Lamyā Gabaren, WCLAC's volunteers' programme coordinator, the social fabric of the village has been torn apart, and women have been particularly affected. “The community lacks basic health, educational, water and sanitary services,” says Lamyā – [More](#).

WOMEN'S VOICES

- **Dua K.** - On 5 February 2013, a two storey house in East Jerusalem is demolished while court proceedings relating to the house were ongoing. Twenty-seven men, women and children were made homeless by the demolition.
- **Fatima R.** - A mother of three describes the day Israeli settlers fired shots at her family as they planted almond trees on their land in the village of Qusra, in the occupied West Bank.
- **Suhaila T.** - The director of a hospital in Gaza run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem describes the day an Israeli bomb landed in her garden.
- **Samia K.** - A 26-year-old woman from Gaza describes life in the territory during intense Israeli aerial bombardment in November 2012.
- **Bessan Q.** - A 28-year-old mother of two from Gaza describes another sleepless night as Israeli missiles continue to land.
- **Najah K.** - On 18 June 2012, Israeli bulldozers demolish a number of houses and livestock sheds belonging to the Bedouin community of Al Hamra, near Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank.
- **Hamda M.** - A 43-year-old mother from Beit Ummar, near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank, describes repeated night raids on her home and the arrest of her children.

Women's Voices

Name: Dina N.
Age: 13
Location: Susiya, South Hebron Hills, West Bank
Nature of incident: Settler violence
Date of incident: 20 April 2013

On 20 April 2013, a mob of settlers from Suseya, attacked a group of children on their way to school, injuring one girl in her eye and terrifying others.

"The settlement of Suseya was built on village land in the 80s and settlers have been giving us a hard time ever since," says Dina. "We are not allowed to build on our land or herd our goats and settlers often physically and verbally abuse villagers and destroy our crops. Life in our small village is very hard."

"On 20 April 2013, at around 7:00 a.m., I got in a vehicle and was on my way to school as usual together with 12 other students when I noticed a group of about 10 settlers aged 20 to 30 carrying sticks and stones and shouting things in Hebrew," recalls Dina. "Although I don't understand Hebrew it was clear that the settlers were threatening us and were about to attack the vehicle we were in. I was scared and so were the other students."

"Sure enough, seconds later, settlers attacked our car with sticks and threw stones at us. Stones fell on our car from all directions and made horrifying sounds. We held our heads and stuck to each other out of fear. Some of us were shouting and calling for help," remembers Dina. "I was in the seat behind the driver and one of the settlers hurled a stone the size of an orange at the window next to me. The window was shattered and glass got into my eyes. I was in severe pain and feared that I was blinded because I couldn't see. I screamed out of fear and so did the other students. The driver kept on driving as fast as he could, because he wanted to get out of there as quickly as possible. He kept assuring us, saying: 'everything is going to be all right.'"

Sometime later an Israeli police car arrived and prevented the settlers from chasing the students any further, allowing the driver to reach the school. "He dropped off the other students and drove me to the hospital where I was given first aid. I was prescribed medication and advised not to expose my eyes to the sun," recalls Dina. "I feel my eyes are not normal still; I blink and twitch a lot. I tremble and shake out of control because of the fear I felt. I missed school that day and in my mind I keep imagining settlers chasing me."

"The other students later told me they weren't able to focus at school. Some told me they cried in the classroom as they recalled what happened on the way to school. Life in our village is hard. Incidents like this are not unusual and each day we worry about what that day might bring."

- **Rana H.** - On 6 July 2012, a 20-year-old woman from Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank, is beaten by Israeli soldiers as she peacefully demonstrates against the expansion of an illegal settlement.
- **Alia A.** - On 15 March 2012, a 15-year-old girl from Suseya village, in the occupied West Bank, reports being beaten by Israeli soldiers as she tries to herd the family's goats.
- **Dalal S.** - A mother describes waiting two months for a permit to visit her son in a prison inside Israel. Transferring Palestinians to prisons inside Israel violates the Fourth Geneva Convention.

WCLAC REPORTS

- **Women's Voices: Glimpses of Life Under Occupation**
- **Joint WCLAC/DCI submission to the UN International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**
- **Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**
- **Women's Voices: In the Shadow of the Settlements**
- **Women without Names: Femicide in the name of honor in Palestinian society**

In Focus – Women's shelter re-opens

On 30 May 2013, an emergency women's shelter in the Jordan Valley re-opened following extensive renovations. The WCLAC-run shelter originally opened in 2006 and was the first of its kind in the West Bank, providing refuge for women whose lives are at risk from domestic violence. The shelter, located in a rural setting, was originally established with the help of Palestinian and foreign donations.



The shelter provides emergency accommodation for up to eight women and two children for a month at a time. If required, women in need of longer-term accommodation are referred to shelters in Nablus and Beit Sahour. Whilst at the shelter, women are provided with expert counselling in a safe environment, staffed 24 hours per day. In most cases the women come from impoverished rural and urban backgrounds and are referred to the shelter by the police, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA)+ or by WCLAC.

The opening of shelters in the West Bank, including the one in the Jordan Valley, marks an important milestone in breaking down a reluctance within Palestinian society to discuss domestic violence issues. Whilst concerns about safety are paramount, the shelter works to re-integrate affected women back into their communities in co-ordination with MOSA, the police and other relevant stakeholders. Where re-integration is not possible or desirable, the shelter works to find appropriate alternative solutions. In the course of a single year, the shelter will typically provide refuge for around 50 women and their children.

According to WCLAC's General Director, Maha Abu-Dayyeh, an important element in the success of the shelter has been in developing the relationships with all relevant parties including MOSA, the police and the community at large. "We have come to a clear understanding with the various stakeholders involved in terms of defining the roles and each taking their own responsibilities. We have come a long way since the shelter was first established in 2006."