THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE for Palestinian Human Rights

2435 Virginia Ave. NW • Washington, DC 20037
(202) 342-8347

BULLETIN

May 1991

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robert Listou

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Gail Homesack
President

Robert Listou
Secretary - Treasurer

Jeremy Levin
Journalist and former hostage in Lebanon
World Peacemakers

Cynthia Johnson
Women Strike for Peace

Reverend Jeanne MacKenzie
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Washington, D.C.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Alexander A. Di Lella, O.F.M.
Professor of Biblical Studies
The Catholic University of America

Brother Austin David, F.S.C., PhD.
Director of Information
Catholic Near East Welfare Association, New York

Samih Farsoun, PhD.
Professor of Sociology
American University

Mary Gray, PhD.
Professor of Mathematics/Statistics
American University

Peter Gubser
Director, American Near East Refugee Aid

J. Bryan Hehir
Senior Research Scholar
Kennedy Institute for Ethics

Father Vertanes Kalaygian
St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, Washington, D.C.

Father Michael Ledoux, O.F.M.
Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Reverend George D. McClain
Executive Director
Methodist Federation for Social Action

Richard McSorley, S.J.
Director, Center for Peace Studies
Georgetown University

Joseph Schechla
Director, EAFORD

Hisham Sharabi, PhD.
Professor of History
Georgetown University

Joseph Stork
Editor, MERIP
Washington, D.C., New York

Reverend Gordon Webster
Presbyterian Church, Oneida., N.Y.

Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

An ad hoc Coordinating Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations (CCINGO) in Jerusalem was formed to reflect current concerns of its members regarding the situation of the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. Members of CCINGO include World Vision, Middle East Council of Churches, Lutheran World Foundation, OXFAM, AMIDEAST, Middle East Witness, ANERA, and some 18 other humanitarian organizations. Cooperating with CCINGO are the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNRWA. Here are excerpts from an April 23 CCINGO press statement:

In defiance of international law and numerous UN resolutions, Israeli authorities continue to expropriate vast tracts of Palestianian land...and to encourage Jewish settlements...Israeli authorities have confiscated over 60% of West Bank land and 40% of the Gaza Strip...approximately 90,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank, 3,500 in the Gaza Strip, 110,000 in East Jerusalem and 15,000 in the Golan Heights...The Palestinians are being stripped of their patrimony... Israeli authorities exercise total control over the natural resources via...more than 2,000 military orders...diversion of approximately 80% of the West Bank's water for use by Israeli citizens has stymied the development of...agriculture and undermined Palestinian self-reliance.

LAND CONFISCATION ...is resulting in the de-Arabisation (Note: a CCINGO term which appears to mean forced removal) of the West Bank and Gaza Strip...Since the end of the Gulf war, an alarming increase in both the amount and pace of land confiscations has occurred ...authorities and settlers employ...quasi-legal and outright illegal methods to expropriate land.

SETTLEMENTS ...land is frequently seized by Israeli settlers...the group responsible for the occupation of St. John's Hospice last Easter confiscated 30 dunums...in East Jerusalem in April...(and) announced its intention to take over 250 houses in the Arab sections of Jerusalem's Old City...Israeli courts almost never overturn a confiscation order...Successive Israeli governments have authorised and helped to finance the building of settlements despite the objections from the US, EC, UN and numerous world leaders.

NATURAL RESOURCES ...More than 80% of the West Bank's water is used by Israeli citizens ...Since 1967, authorities have prohibited the drilling of any new agricultural wells in addition to demolishing existing cisterns and blocking natural springs...60% of the villages are without local sources of water...many Palestinians are unable to pay their water bills...a number of villages have had their water cut off by...Israel's national water authority...Israeli authorities routinely uproot trees...assaulting the natural infrastructure ...destruction of fruit bearing trees...robs many Palestinians of their major source of income.

INTERNATIONAL LAW In its attempts to de-Arabise the occupied territories, the Israeli government is openly contravening international law. According to Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel is forbidden to encourage settlement on territories under its occupation. The world community, unanimous in condemning Israeli settlements, must demand the immediate halt of all further construction in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. With respect to international law, we call upon the signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention to demand that Israel unconditionally abide by all UN resolutions.

The complete CCINGO statement, including names and telephone numbers of spokespersons in Israel and the occupied territories, can be heard by phoning **202-342-8347.**

(Over, please)