



Refugees In The Occupied Territories

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) reports 614,899 registered Palestinian refugees living under the military occupation of Israel in the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip. 269,741 of these refugees live in 28 refugee camps established by UNRWA. The remainder of the registered refugees and other Palestinians live in the villages and towns of the Occupied Territories.

In the West Bank, the total population of Palestinians is approximately 700,000. As of September, 1974, 63,690 of these Palestinians lived in refugee camps. The 20 camps in the West Bank are located as follows:

Jericho.....Aqabat Jaber Camp, Ein Sultan Camp, Nuweimeh Camp
JerusalemShufat Camp, Am'ari Camp, Kalandia Camp, Deir Ammar Camp,
Jalazone Camp
HebronFawwar Camp, Arroub Camp, Dheisheh Camp, Ayda Camp, Beit
Jibrin Camp
NablusFar'a Camp, Camp No. 1, Askar Camp, Balata Camp, Tulkarm
Camp, Nur Shams Camp, Jenin Camp

There are approximately 350,000 people in the Gaza Strip; 300,000 of these are Palestinian refugees. Unlike other areas with large refugee populations, most of the refugees in the Gaza Strip live in UNRWA camps. The eight UNRWA camps in the 125-square-mile Strip house 196,051 refugees. Four of the camps have in excess of 30,000 inhabitants.

Gaza StripJabalia Camp, Gaza Beach Camp, Nuseirat Camp, Bureij Camp,
Deir El Balah Camp, Maghazi Camp, Khan Yunis Camp, Rafah
Camp.

During the past year, the refugees in the Occupied Territories have faced two major problems: an ever-increasing rate of inflation and a shortage of housing due to the demolition of refugee shelters.

Since 1967 when the territories were militarily occupied, inflation has risen approximately 300%. In 1974 alone it rose to over 40% in the West Bank and 47% in the Gaza Strip (UN Document A/9613, pages 11 and 7).

According to Sir John Rennie, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, in his report to the U.N. General Assembly (UN Document A/9613, page 11), expropriation and demolition of refugee shelters for road and other types of construction by the occupying authorities continues and is most critical in Gaza. From July, 1967, to June 1974, 4,209 refugee families had their homes demolished in the Gaza Strip; only 1,443 of these families have been able to obtain new housing and these facilities must be purchased from the military authorities. Since most refugees on the West Bank do not live in the refugee camps, UNRWA is not able to compile accurate figures on the number of refugee homes demolished. However, it is estimated that at least 5,000 refugee families on the West Bank have also had their homes demolished by the occupying forces.

AMER Chosen

American Middle East Rehabilitation (AMER), the medical division of ANERA, has been selected by Lederle Laboratories as one of some ten voluntary agencies to receive the company's total charitable contributions of pharmaceuticals. Lederle Laboratories, a division of American Cyanamid Company, is a long-time contributor of drugs and medical supplies to AMER.

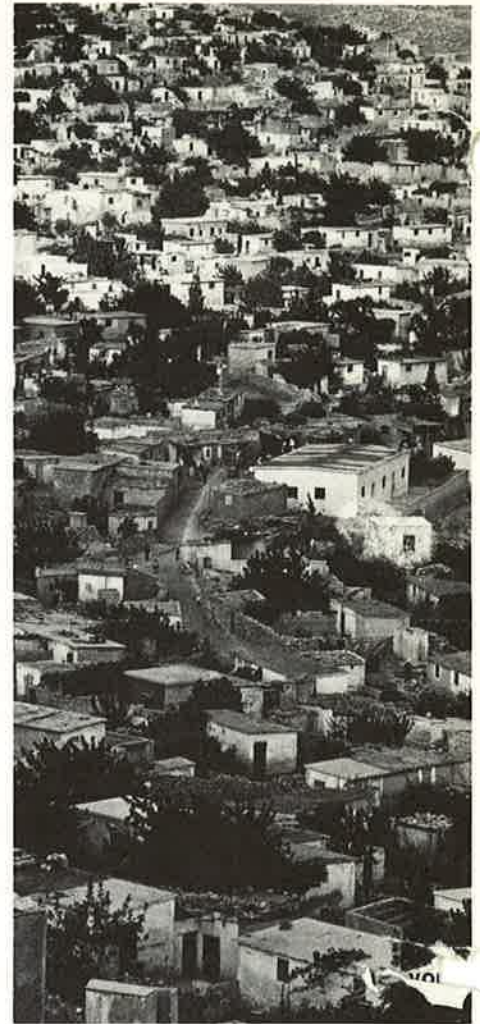
While most of the organizations selected by Lederle have world-wide operations, ANERA/AMER is the only agency which specifically aids the Palestinian refugees and other needy civilians in the Middle East.

For more information on AMER, please write to: American Middle East Rehabilitation, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York 10017.

*ANERA is a non-profit, charitable organization which seeks: to increase total assistance in cash and kind from American sources to Palestinian Arab refugees and other needy individuals in the Arab World; to be responsive in crises affecting civilian populations in the area, particularly displacement and casualties caused by war; and to increase American understanding of the Palestinian refugee problem.



DHEISHEH CAMP, BETHLEHEM, WEST BANK OF JORDAN—These photos show Dheisheh Refugee Camp located between Bethlehem and Hebron on the West Bank of Jordan. The photo on the left shows the camp as it looked in 1948 while the photo on the right shows the way the camp looks today. Dheisheh's Palestinian refugees have worked hard over the past 27 years to improve their condition. The largest of the camps in the Hebron area, Dheisheh lies on an open hillside near Bethlehem within sight of the Church of the Nativity. (UNRWA photo by George Nehmeh)



The Problem Of Land

The issue of land ownership has always been basic to the problem of the Palestinian refugees. It is especially crucial now in the context of the possible creation of a Palestinian state in the Occupied Territories.

With the creation of Israel and the war of 1948, most Palestinians became refugees, being forced from their homes or fleeing the combat zones to the central inland portion of Palestine, to the area around the city of Gaza, and to neighboring Arab countries.

The area around Gaza (the Gaza Strip) came under the administration of Egypt; in 1950, Jordan annexed the central inland portion of Palestine (known as the West Bank). With the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, the Gaza Strip and West Bank fell under the military control of Israel.

The Gaza Strip is only 25 miles long and from four to five miles wide, more than half the area being sand or semi-desert. The Palestinians farm such portions of the Strip as are suitable and the agricultural crop consists basically of citrus fruit.

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and tobacco.

Since 1967 (the period of military occupation) Israeli authorities have expropriated some of the land within the Occupied Territories. Excluding land held for military reasons, approximately 20% of the West Bank and 33% of the land in Gaza is held by Israel (*Jerusalem Post*, April 9, 1973, page 1). An additional 4,500 acres of land in East Jerusalem (which is part of the West Bank) have been expropriated from the Palestinians. (The Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*, March 29, 1974, reports that the acreage requisitioned in Jerusalem is worth roughly \$35 million—\$500,000 has been paid in compensation to the refugees.)

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The Security Council, General Assembly, and the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations have all passed resolutions expressing the "gravest concern" at this requisitioning of Palestinian land. However, the problem continues.

The following is from the photographic essay on the Palestinian refugees by Per-Olow Anderson, titled, *They Are Human Too . . .*

I walk between

Darkness and light—

The night of exile and

The shining memory of home.

The land I knew

Is given up to strangers.

There, in the sunshine,

Do they feel my shadow?

ANERA In The Occupied Territories

Palestinians currently living in the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip represent the largest concentration of Palestinians in the Middle East and the largest group of refugees registered with UNRWA. Over the past six years, ANERA has committed \$249,427 to programs in the Occupied Territories which are staffed and managed by the Palestinians themselves:

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS: BIRZEIT COLLEGE in Birzeit, West Bank, has received a total of \$50,000 from ANERA over the past six years. Birzeit will become the first and only college for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories offering the bachelor's degree. **BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY** is a new institution run by the Catholic Church and developing a bachelor's program in several fields. ANERA gave its first support of \$2,000 to the University in 1973-74.

An elementary school for refugee children in Jerusalem is maintained by the **GREEK ORTHODOX CHARITABLE SOCIETY**. ANERA donated \$1,000 to the school to help meet expenses for reconstruction after the 1967 war. **GAZA COLLEGE** is the only educational school for Palestinians in Gaza. Scholarships and laboratory equipment have been provided for the students through ANERA grants totaling \$18,000. ANERA also contributed \$3,000 in scholarships for Palestinians at the **COLLEGE DES FRERES** in Jerusalem. The school is a Catholic high school which provides secondary education for boys of all religions.

DAR EL-AWLAD, DAR EL-TIFL, RAWDAT EL-ZUHUR, the INDUSTRIAL ISLAMIC ORPHANAGE (all in Jerusalem), **WASFIEH ORPHANAGE** (Nazareth), and **JEEL AL-AMAL** (Bethany) are all orphanages for Palestinian girls and boys. The orphanages provide elementary and secondary education, with some vocational training in carpentry, printing, shoe-making, cooking, sewing, etc. Food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for the children are also provided. ANERA has granted a total of \$64,100 to these institutions, which care for over 2,500 children.

The **ARAB DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**, which was founded by Musa Alami, maintains a school and farm in Jericho for Palestinian orphan boys. The boys receive academic, vocational, and agricultural training at this institution. The Society began its work

in 1949 and has gained an international reputation. The **MUSA ALAMI FOUNDATION** of Jericho is the American supporting arm of the Arab Development Society. ANERA gave a total of \$10,000 to the Musa Alami Foundation in 1970 and 1971. ANERA now houses the functions of the Foundation in the U.S. The Foundation raises its own funds with assistance from ANERA.

In addition to its recreational programs with the youth in the refugee camps, the **YMCA OF EAST JERUSALEM** maintains a vocational center near Aqabat Jaber Refugee Camp in Jericho. The center provides high-quality training in blacksmithing, welding, carpentry, upholstery, leather work, refrigeration maintenance, electrical work, hotel services, etc. Over the past six years ANERA has donated \$28,000 to the Jerusalem YMCA for its vocational training programs.

ANERA donated \$20,000 to the **YWCA OF EAST JERUSALEM** for its vocational training classes, cultural and recreational programs for women. At the Aqabat Jaber Refugee Camp, the YWCA also conducts a kindergarten, handicraft program and literacy classes for refugee children and women.

MEDICAL GRANTS: THE FOUR HOMES OF MERCY consist of a maternity hospital, crippled children's home, orphanage, and invalid's home located in Bethany and Jerusalem. ANERA has provided grants totaling \$8,000 in support of the Four Homes.

ANERA made its first grant of \$1,500 in fiscal year 1974 to the **SPAFFORD MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL/HELP FOR CHILDREN IN THE HOLY LAND**. The Hospital is located in Jerusalem and maintains an outpatient department and infant welfare center. The Hospital's main emphasis is on preventing disease rather than on curing the ill.

In Jerusalem, the **MAQASSED HOSPITAL** provides facilities for surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, gynecology-obstetrics, x-ray, and a consultation clinic. Two-thirds of the beds are free of charge and the poor get free x-rays. The hospital also trains student nurses. ANERA has granted \$16,000 for new equipment and maintenance of the hospital.

The newly-formed **BLOOD BANK OF NABLUS** stocks supplies of blood donated by Palestinians for surgical cases. No fees are charged the recipients. The Blood Bank is a sub-group of the Red Crescent Society (Red Cross) and serves a population of 110,000. ANERA made its first grant of \$1,000 to the Blood Bank in fiscal year 1974.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS: After the war of 1967, the **FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SOCIETY** was formed to provide relief for those in the Occupied Territories. ANERA donated \$6,250 to the Society to develop cottage industries in the Occupied Territories and to give monetary
(continued on next page)



DEIR EL BALAH CAMP, GAZA STRIP—This is the smallest of the eight refugee camps administered by UNRWA in the Gaza Strip. Just under 8,000 refugees live in the UNRWA shelters with an average of four to five persons to a room ten feet square. More than 375,000 people are crowded into the tiny strip of land. With the influx of the refugees, the Gaza Strip has become one of the most thickly populated areas in the world. Housing is a chronic problem due to the large number of refugees and to the demolition of shelters by the occupying forces. (UNRWA photo)



ARROUB CAMP, HEBRON, WEST BANK—This photo of Arroub Camp was taken prior to 1967 and shows land typical of the West Bank. About half of the Palestinians living in Arroub Camp fled from the Israeli forces during the war of 1967. Today the camp houses roughly 4000 refugees who lost their homes and land in Beersheba, less than 50 miles away. (UNRWA photo)

(ANERA In The Occupied Territorie, continued . . .)

support to Palestinian families who would otherwise be forced to leave the West Bank. Headquartered in Beirut, the Society is now part of the Lebanese Association for Information on Palestine.

The **PALESTINE ARAB WOMEN'S UNIONS OF GAZA, NABLUS, and JERUSALEM**, as well as the **PALESTINE ARAB WOMEN'S SOCIETY** of Jerusalem, have received a total of \$11,500 from ANERA over the past six years. The Society and Unions have a variety of programs including medical clinics for children, child care programs, and literacy and vocational programs for women. The Unions in Nablus and Jerusalem also maintain orphanages and elementary and secondary schools.

In Beit Jala, the **CHILD'S CARE SOCIETY** provides a feeding center and clinic for over 500 Palestinian children. The Society also runs a sewing center where dressmaking and embroidery are taught. ANERA has given \$3,000 for the work of the Society.

A unique organization on the West Bank, the **BEIT JALA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** supports needy Palestinian families with small loans which enable them to start profitable projects to rehabilitate themselves as working members of the community. Loans are given for small agricultural, commercial and industrial projects and for needy students in vocational training or academic courses. Loans are repaid to

the Committee within 2-5 years. ANERA provided the Committee with \$3,000 as capital for the loan fund.

PROJECT RYAIAT is a program providing funds for needy Palestinian children from individual sponsors in the United States and Canada. Project Ryaiaat's staff in Jerusalem works without pay, translating correspondence between the children and their sponsors, interviewing families, and distributing funds. ANERA gave \$1,577 to Project Ryaiaat for the basic operating expenses incurred by the Jerusalem staff.

Each summer, refugee children in the Occupied Territories may spend time away from the refugee camps through a special **WEST BANK SUMMER CAMP PROJECT**. The Project involves recreational and cultural activities and offers leadership and fellowship opportunities for the children away from their families. The Project is sponsored by UNRWA and has received \$1,500 from ANERA for its operation.

In the face of skyrocketing inflation and lack of capital development funds, these vital institutions in the Occupied Territories face a constant problem of remaining solvent. Newsletter readers may make a special donation to ANERA's work in the Occupied Territories by completing the following form and sending it with a tax-deductible contribution to: ANERA, Room 900, 733 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Word From Gaza

The following letter arrived in the ANERA office in late January, 1975 from Wadi Tarazi, Principal of Gaza College. The letter expresses the problems faced by institutions in the Occupied Territories and is in response to a recent ANERA grant of \$5,000 to Gaza College, the only private high school for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip:

"... Let me be more explicit and say with great frankness that the donation came opportunely as the College was experiencing a most difficult financial problem. You must have been aware that devaluation in the currency here, up to 43%, took place in November (1974). Moreover the prices of some essential commodities soared. This necessitated a raise in the salaries of the College staff. Besides we had to cope with the high prices of the needed other school expenses. The raising of tuition fees in the middle of the school year was out of the question as the soaring prices hit everybody. In this dilemma came your donation. It afforded us some relief for which we must thank you and thank your esteemed Board.

"To make the picture of our situation more vivid I must state that our fees, as you know, are necessarily very low. They vary from about \$33 for the first secondary class student to \$60 for the third secondary, per year. It is very clear that this is a mere pittance. Donations that we receive enhance these tuition fees a bit. In this way we manage to operate the College. You will be interested to know that the enrollment this year is over 500 students.

"In closing we appeal to all our friends to aid us in keeping this institution running and giving educational facilities to hundreds of students...."

Enclosed is my contribution for ANERA's work in the Occupied Territories in the amount of (please check one):

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ Other \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____



Michael J. Gannam

New Board Member

Michael J. Gannam was born to Lebanese-American parents in Savannah, Georgia, on November 10, 1922.

Mr. Gannam received his combined Juris Doctor/Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949 and his Master of Arts in political science from the University of North Carolina in 1950.

Since 1950, Mr. Gannam has practiced law in the city of Savannah and has served as Vice President and President of the Savannah Bar Association. Mr. Gannam was first elected in 1969 to the Board of Governors of the State Bar Association of Georgia and has served continuously on the Board since that time.

An outstanding member of the Savannah community, Mr. Gannam is currently the Director of the Savannah Speech and Hearing Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Historic Savannah Foundation, ~~some~~ President of the Armstrong ~~ank~~ College Alumni Association, and a past President of the Legal Aid Society of Savannah; he is also a member of the American Legion's George K. Gannam Post 184 which is named in honor of his brother, the first Georgian killed in World War II.

Mr. Gannam, his wife, Marion, and their four children reside in Savannah, Georgia.

ANERA In The Shenandoah Valley

Adding to ANERA's impact on local communities, chapters have been established in four areas of the United States: Seattle, Washington; Cambridge, Massachusetts (AMER Committee); Wausau, Wisconsin; and in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The chapters are largely autonomous and engage in fund-raising and informational activities which are crucial to ANERA's over-all effort on behalf of the Palestinian refugees.

The newest group, the Shenandoah Valley Chapter of ANERA, was established in July, 1974. The chapter has approximately 30 members, who reside in several towns in Virginia (including Bridgewater, Harrisonburg, Luray, and Singers Glen). The chapter is headed by Dr. Richard K. MacMaster and Dr. Caroline Marshall.

To benefit its members and local communities, the Shenandoah Valley Chapter has an extensive informational program. The Chapter has provided a forum for nationally known speakers such as Robert Vogel, Peace Education Secretary and coordinator of the Middle East Project for the American Friends Service Committee. A local speakers' bureau has also been organized and is available free of charge to any group in the Shenandoah Valley area. Additionally, in December, 1974, Dr. MacMaster moderated a discussion on the Middle East which was locally broadcast by WSVB T.V. of Harrisonburg.

Chapter plans for Spring, 1975, include a dinner for Middle Eastern students attending area colleges and a conference on the Middle East for high school students and teachers.

Information on membership and chapter activities may be obtained by writing to Shenandoah Valley Chapter of ANERA, 104 South May Court, Bridgewater, Virginia 22812; or by telephoning 703-828-3267 (Dr. MacMaster) or 702-433-6142 (Dr. Marshall). Those wishing information on forming a local chapter of ANERA should write to Sara Gentry at the ANERA office.

ANERA salutes the work of all four of its chapters and especially welcomes the addition of our newest group in the Shenandoah Valley.



900 Woodward Bldg.
733 15th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

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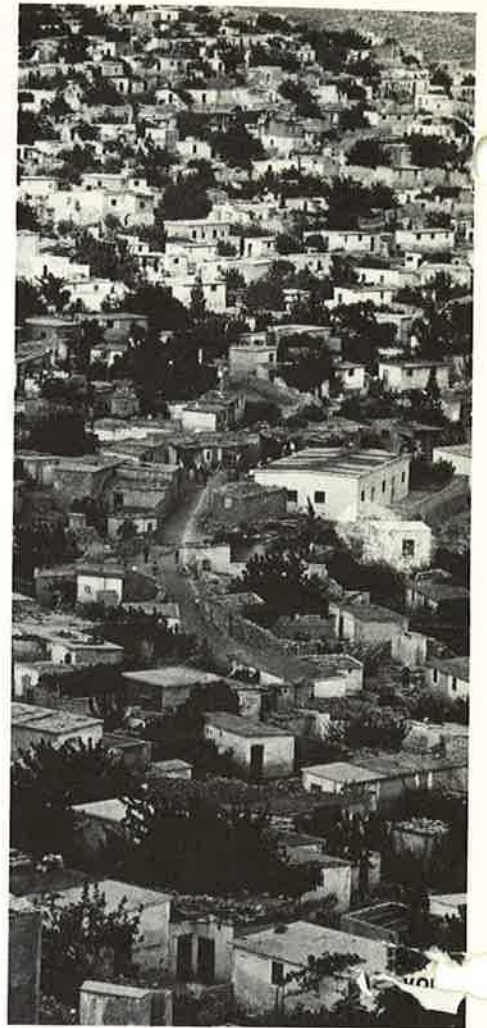
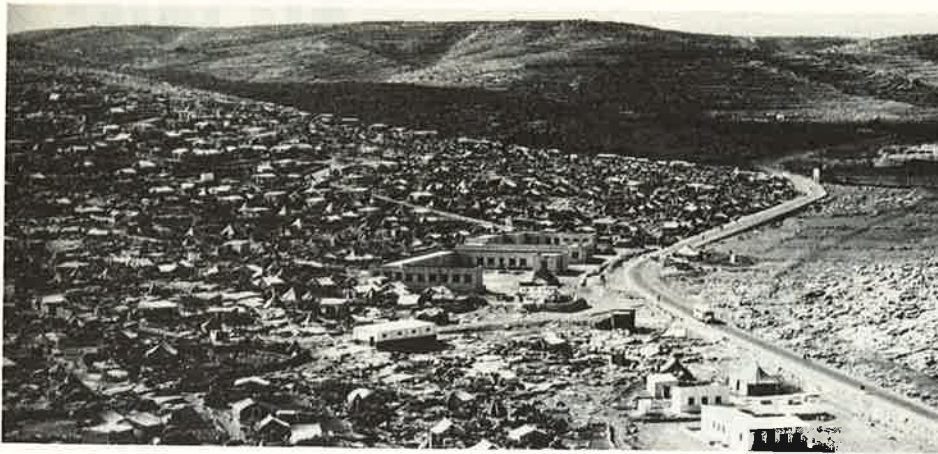
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