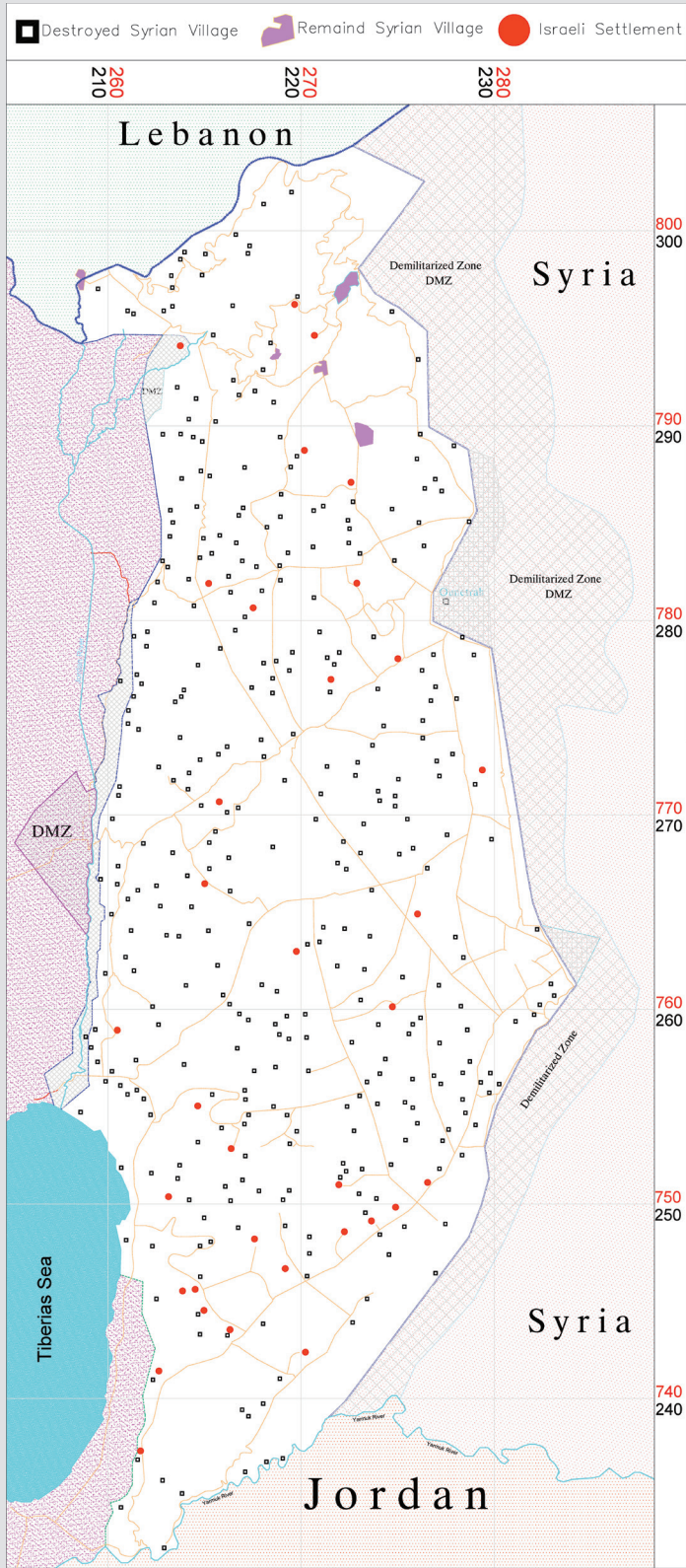


Al Marsad's publications

- "The Syrian Refugee Crisis: Refugees, Conflict and International Law", October 2016
- "The Syrian Situation: International Humanitarian Law Violations and the Call for Justice", August 2016
- "Syrian Refugees in Europe: Protection in Principle, Chaos in Practice", March 2016
- "Landmines in the Occupied Golan: Israel's obligations under International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law", August 2016
- "From Peaceful Demonstrations to Armed conflict: Considering International Intervention in the Case of Syria", April 2013
- "Water is Life: A Consideration of the Legality and Consequences of Israeli Exploitation of Water Resources of the Occupied Syrian Golan", 2013
- "Ownership to Occupation: The Forced Evictions and Internal Displacement of the People of the Syrian Golan", May 2012
- "Breaking down the Fence: Addressing the Illegality of Family Separation in the Occupied Syrian Golan", April 2010
- "From Settlement to Shelf: The Economic Occupation of the Syrian Golan", December 2009
- "Changing the Landscape: Israel's Gross Violations of International Law in the Occupied Syrian Golan", November 2008



The urban planning of Majdal Shams, Occupied Golan

AL MARSAD

Marsad - Arab Human Rights Center in Golan Heights is an independent non-profit legal human rights organization, located in Majdal Shams, in the Occupied Syrian Golan. The center was founded in October 2003 by a group of lawyers and professionals in the fields of health, education, journalism and engineering - mostly town-planners - as well as human rights defenders and other interested community members.

We commenced our work on voluntary basis but as time has passed we have been able to successfully attract funding from local and international resources, which has been used to support many of our projects.

AL MARSAD

P.O. Box 9 Majdal Shams 1243800
Golan Heights, via Israel
Tel: +972 4 687 0644
Fax: +972 4 687 0645
Email - marsad@golan-marsad.org
Website: <http://golan-marsad.org/en/>



المركز العربي لحقوق الانسان في الجولان



10/2016

AL MARSAD

Arab Human Rights Center in Golan Heights



Some Facts

Israel occupied the Syrian Golan during the June 1967 war. As a consequence of the war 130 thousand Syrian native inhabitants either fled or were forced to leave by the occupying power, which destroyed around 300 Arab villages and farms. Over the decades Israel has built 34 illegal settlements and has transferred thousands of its citizens to the Occupied Golan (24 thousand Israeli settlers are currently living in the Golan), in direct violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Of the native Syrian population only 26 thousand have remained, living in the 5 Arab villages spared by Israel. The United Nations (UN) issued many international resolutions calling for the end of the occupation and withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied territories, including the Golan. However, Israel refuses to implement these resolutions which reiterate the illegality of the occupation, violating UN treaties and endangering international peace and security. The Golan has remained under Israeli occupation for five decades.

Main Goals

AL-MARSAD's main goals are to:

- Monitor and document violations of both international human rights and humanitarian law committed in the Occupied Golan, both past and present;
- Educate the local indigenous community regarding their rights under international law through workshops and forums;
- Increase awareness amongst the international community regarding Israel's illegal occupation of the Syrian Golan;
- Bring impact litigation and other legal interventions before Israeli courts and state authorities;
- Provide legal consultation to native Syrian residents, other individuals and institutions.

Issues

Land appropriation and forcible transfer: during the 1967 war Israeli occupied the Syrian Golan, destroyed most of the Arab villages and carried out a systematic policy of forcible transfer of the native Syrian population.



Israel occupies the Golan, 1967, archive photo



The Arab village of Hemah after its destruction

Illegal settlements: over the decades Israel has built 34 illegal settlements, many of them on the ruins of old Arab villages, and has impeded the expansion of the remained Arab villages.



The Arab village of Jubatha El-Zeit and the illegal settlements of Neve Ativ, built on its ruins in 1972



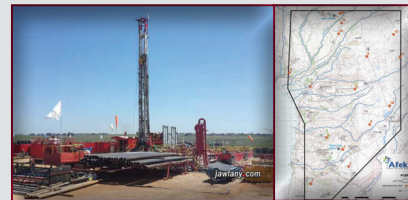
House demolition in Majdal Shams, Occupied Golan



Exploitation of natural resources: Israel has exploited the occupied territory, in particular its water resources. In addition, in 2015 an American oil company, Genie Energy, and the Israeli Afek Oil and Gas, started drilling operations in the Occupied Golan.



Israel pumps water from Ram lake and feeds it to the Jewish settlements



One of Afek's drilling sites and the map of all the sites in the Occupied Golan

Minefields: in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war, Israel placed many landmines in the Golan for security reasons. Over the years around 20 people have been killed in the Occupied Golan by landmines and 60 have been injured.



Children playing in their backyard only a few meters away from mined areas, Majdal Shams



Workers discharging wood besides a mined area, Majdal Shams

Family separation: the occupation of the Golan divided the Syrians who remained in the Golan and the ones who were forcibly displaced to Syria. Every family in the Golan has relatives in Syria, who they are permanently separated from.



Families peer through binoculars and talk on the phone to their relatives who are in Syria, Majdal Shams



A man communicating with his family across the border with a megaphone, Majdal Shams

Syrian Case: just a few kilometres away from the Occupied Golan a furious civil war is tearing Syria apart; as a national human rights organization Al-Marsad feels the urgency to condemn the bloodshed in Syria and calls for its immediate end.



Clashes in the village of Juatha Alkhahshab, located very close to the ceasefire line, Syria



Rescue operations in the province of Aleppo, in the village of Al Tukhar, (AFP)

What we do

Legal research

We conduct legal analysis focusing on the issues of discriminatory policies against native Syrian residents, and on the human rights situation in the Occupied Syrian Golan. In addition in the context of the ongoing Syrian Civil War and its devastating effects on the civilian population, we conduct legal research on issues related to humanitarian intervention and the duty to protect, transitional justice and accountability, refugees and others.

Litigation and legal consultation

We offer legal consultation to the native Syrian population of the Golan in order to inform them about their rights under the occupation. Moreover we offer legal services, in particular we bring litigations before labour courts in cases regarding workers' rights.

Advocacy

We carry on advocacy activities in order to raise awareness both at the domestic and at the international level about the abuses suffered by the Syrian population of the Occupied Golan. Our main targets are the UN, the EU and third party States. Moreover we exchange correspondence with the Israeli authorities about the violations of the human rights of the native Syrian population, in particular with the appointed (not democratically elected) local councils of the Occupied Golan.

Internship programme

Al-Marsad's Internship Programme provides an opportunity for individuals (international law specialists, lawyers, human rights defenders) to gain practical experience by working on the field with an international human rights organisation.

Field Tour

We regularly organise human rights tours in the Occupied Golan, for local and international groups and delegations, like journalists, diplomats and human rights defenders, with the aim to show and explain the reality of the occupation.



A German delegation in the Golan for the Field Tour