

# Palestine

We make justice a reality for poor people by fighting to guarantee high-quality legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. We provide criminal defense services and help build sustainable, effective legal aid institutions.

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**2010**

First West Bank office established

**4,000+ People**

represented to date

**4 Offices**

in Ramallah, Hebron, Jenin & Nablus, serving 11 governorates

## Our Approach

We catalyze meaningful, sustainable change. Every day, we fight in court to protect the rights of our clients. We litigate for maximum impact, winning precedent-setting cases that expand access to justice and strengthen rule of law. At the systems level, we collaborate with governments and other partners to transform justice systems and ensure sustainability.

### International Fellows Program

The International Fellows Program is core to our approach. International Fellows are experienced legal experts who volunteer for 3 to 5-month professional exchange assignments. They work case-by-case with ILF lawyers to build skills and knowledge needed to provide client-centered, rights-based representation. Fellows specialize in areas including juvenile representation, gender, trauma, and holistic representation.

- The ILF has brought **25 International Fellows** to Palestine from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

**In Palestine,  
more than 50%  
of our clients are  
children.**

### The Crisis in Access to Justice

Every day, thousands of men, women, and children are held in jails because they cannot afford a lawyer. Lack of access to qualified criminal defense lawyers particularly impacts poor and otherwise marginalized communities who are disproportionately arrested, prosecuted, and incarcerated.

# Our Impact

In 2019, we secured the release of **300 children** through mediation, diversion, and acquittals.

Since 2010, we have trained more than **250 women lawyers.**

Since 2019 we've reached **128 students** through our Know Your Rights education program.

## Empowering Women

In Palestine, nearly 50% of ILF lawyers are women, and women head two of our four offices. **The ILF's Women in Leadership in the Law (WiLL) program is elevating women as leaders in the justice system** through mentorship, know your rights trainings, and community outreach to women and girls.

## Protecting Children

Over half of our clients in Palestine are children. Our lawyers are leaders in juvenile defense, providing holistic representation and taking a **positive youth development** approach. We aim to keep kids out of jail through **early intervention, mediation, and diversion.** We also provide expert juvenile representation trainings to other lawyers in Palestine and across the Middle East and North Africa.

## Building Effective Legal Aid Institutions

We are committed to sustainability and long term reforms. **The ILF holds observer status on Palestine's National Legal Aid Committee,** where we advocate for quality legal aid and expanded access to justice.



*I had another lawyer. He stopped showing up in court when he knew I did not have enough money to pay his fees. My ILF lawyer gave me hope. I started thinking about my life outside of jail because she stood by me in court. She fought for me.*

Mohammad, Ramallah



## Our Partners

