

ZOCHROT 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015

Zochrot, RA 580-389526



Annual Narrative Report 2015

Reporting period: 1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015

1 Brief description of the genesis of the report

The following report was written by Zochrot's resource development coordination. The information was collected from Zochrot's ongoing performance chart for 2015 and from discussions with the organization's director and the project coordinators; the coordinators also brought with them to these discussions feedback received from the projects' target audience during the period of this interim project.

2 Important changes that occurred with respect to Zochrot in the reporting period

During the reporting period, a new position was added to the organization as part of the natural and positive process of the development and expansion of Zochrot's work. The position is the artistic director of 48mm international festival for films about the Nakba and Return. As the festival activity had been expending in the last 2 years, we had decided to locate a professional artistic director for the project in order professionalize the working process and increase the festival networks, internationally and locally.

Zochrot's activity scope in 2015. As can be clearly shown in the report below, Zochrot activity and public outreach had increased significantly in 2015 comparing to previous year (see especially our detailed indicators table in paragraph 4.1.2 in this report). In 2014 – we had about 22,485 direct beneficiaries, calculated as follows: 22,845 direct beneficiaries, calculated as follows: Information Centre: 480 people; 2 Exhibitions and lecture evenings – 180 people, Tours and commemoration events participants 1,320 people, Return Workshops – 177 people, Educators workshop and seminars – 120 people, open courses– 168 people, Truth Commission – 200 people, iNakba app users – 19,200 people, Film Festival – 1000 people. In 2015 – we had about 35,018 direct beneficiaries, calculated as follows: Information Centre: 200 people; 2 Exhibitions and lecture evenings – 1010 people, Tours and commemoration events participants 1,060 people, Return Workshops – 160 people, Educators workshop and seminars – 18 people, open courses– 120 people, iNakba app users – 30,000 people, Film Festival – 1700 people. Participants are mainly Jewish Israelis, women and men, living throughout the country, thus Zochrot succeeded to advance its goal in reaching the Israeli public. Indirect beneficiaries from Zochrot activities in 2015 were calculated according to ripple effects of at least 2 people per participants, and also included 172,747 unique visitors to Zochrot's website, and at least 40 students per 18 teachers coached during the reporting period (and 2 more people by ripple effect there) per use of the Study Guide. A total of at least 243,503 people.

3 Overview of activities in the reporting period

ACTIVITIES	Responsible	j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d
Tours: a total of 5 open tours for the wide public and 33 commissioned tours.	Tours coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Visitor centre: was open for visitors 5 days a week.	Culture& Knowledge coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Testimonies project: Five testimonies of Palestinian refugees were collected and short films have been prepared throughout the year. Following every open tour a short film of the testimonials on the ground has been sent via the newsletter. In addition, two testimonies of Zionist veterans were collected and exposed in the frame of Zochrot's public truth commission for 1948 in the South.	Testimonies coordinator and Transitional Justice coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Newsletter: came out every week throughout the year.	Public Outreach coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Website: Zochrot is uploading regularly materials which are available to the public in Hebrew/English/Arabic.	Video, media& internet coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Developing new ways of outreach to Israeli audiences: The usage of various media throughout the year.	Video, media& internet coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Study Guide for teachers: The education coordinator works with the teachers all year.	Education coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Courses in the framework of "The Nakba and Return School"	Education coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
One-time workshops and lectures for groups: commissioned throughout the year	Staff members by rotation	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gallery: two exhibitions were shown this year.	Culture& Knowledge coordinator					*								*
Evening lecture series: 2 new events took place throughout the year.	Culture& Knowledge coordinator				*	*						*		*
Capacity building: work took place all year, with weekly financial team meetings.	Zochrot's director and resources development coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

4. Zochrot's goals and objectives

Our Goals:

1. Raised awareness among a growing number of Jewish Israelis to the Nakba, its implications and to the situation of Palestinian refugees;
2. Growing recognition among the Israeli public of Israel's part in the Nakba, and that the time has come for Israel to take responsibility for it;
3. Greater knowledge created by producing and publicizing as many accessible materials as possible, in Hebrew, on the Nakba and its ongoing effects, particularly the situation of Palestinian refugees; and
4. Better developed public discourse – Israeli and Palestinian – on practicalities of Palestinian Return.

Our Objectives:

1. Mark the physical landscape by posting signs in Nakba-related landmarks and sites and initiating events around this activity in order to challenge the erasure of Palestinian life.
2. Develop ways to engage educators in teaching about the Nakba and students in learning about it in both the formal and informal education systems operating within Israel.
3. Create greater and deeper knowledge, by producing and publicizing as many accessible materials as possible, in Hebrew, regarding the Nakba and its ongoing effects, particularly the situation of the Palestinian refugees.
4. Create a space for a new culture that allows and encourages public discourse on the Nakba and its ongoing implications;
5. Develop practices for Palestinian Return through lectures, workshops, joint Jewish Israeli-Palestinian publications and projects in the Israeli landscape; and
6. Increase active outreach to the Jewish-Israeli public through different means, including social media and approaches to the media.

5 Overview of Objectives, Indicators and Activities during 2015

- Project objective 1: Marking the physical landscape by posting signs in Nakba-related landmarks and sites and initiating events around this activity in order to challenge the erasure of Palestinian life.

Indicators showing of raised awareness to the Nakba through its physical unravelling in the Israeli landscape:

- a. The impact of Zochrot's tours to destroyed Palestinian villages on participants: through feedback by participants to the tours and their corresponding booklets, as received during and after the tours by personal communication, emails, phone calls and letters to Zochrot.
- b. Number of participants: number of participants in tours and commemoration events, number of booklets distributed, division of participants to newcomers and those who frequent our tours, and how many were Israeli, Palestinian and internationals.

- Open tours -

During the period of this report, Zochrot conducted 5 open tours to the wide public. Total of about 460 people took part in the tours. The tours were to Ajami neighborhood in Yaffa, Caesarea, Lubya, Khirbat al-'Umur and Dir Aban. Each of the tours was led by Palestinian refugees from the village and the neighborhood, new testimonies were collected from Palestinian refugees and a new Hebrew-Arabic booklets was published for Lubya and Dir Aban tours.

The tour to the site of the destroyed Palestinian village Caesarea, one of the first villages occupied in 1948, and their inhabitants were expelled took place on end of February, 2015. The remains of the Palestinian Caesarea, including several houses and a mosque, exist till today in "Caesarea National Park". The signs of the national park, reveal the long history of Caesarea, and pass over completely the history of the Palestinian village and the expulsion of its residents in mid-February 1948. This is how the denial and erasure of the Palestinian history and identity from the space policy perpetuates itself, as well as the disconnection of the refugees from their village by prevention of their return to their homes and land. The tour was guided by a graduate of the first cycle of Zochrot's tour guides course that brought to the tour images from Caesarea before the destruction and read a testimony, collected by the tour guide from a refugee from the village that he met with, who lives today in Jenin and could not attend the tour. The Android version of the iNakba was also launched in the frame of the tour.

The tour to Lubya was a unique initiative by a group of Jewish activists from South Africa, members of the "Stop The JNF" movement, to implement an unprecedented apology ceremony that was held on May 1 among the ruins of the Palestinian village of Lubya in the Galilee. The tour took place on beginning of May 2015. The South Africans apologized to refugees and internally displaced persons from the village for having donated money to the Jewish National Fund, used to plant the so-called South Africa Forest on the rubbles of Lubya, a forest which was part of the Zionist practice of denying the return of Palestinian refugees.

The moving event, attended by more than 200 people, was co-organized by Zochrot, the Association for the Defense of the Rights of the Internally Displaced (ADRID) and Stop The JNF-South Africa. It was preceded by a guided tour of the village ruins, that included descriptions of life in the prosperous pre-1948 village, the circumstances of its occupation and the expulsion of its inhabitants, testimonies by internally displaced persons, the distribution of a trilingual booklet about the village and the apology initiative, and last but not least – placing signs to mark key village sites erased by the State of Israel in the aftermath of the war, such as the local school, cemetery, mosque, and spring.

The ceremony included speeches by a representative of Lubya's displaced persons, ADRID chairperson and a Zochrot representative. They all praised the initiative and called for similar events in other villages as part of the overall process of acknowledgement and realization of the right of return by Palestinian refugees and those still displaced within Israel.

The South African representatives described their journey to this point, sang a song of resistance in Xhosa and English from the time of their resistance to apartheid, read out the formal apology to the village family

representatives and the public, and eventually submitted 200 apology and solidarity pledges personally signed by members of the group.

The event was held in three languages – English, Arabic and Hebrew.

Click [here](#) for the apology letter given to the Palestinian refugees from Lubyia.

Here is the list of selected media coverage in English about the event:

[South African Jews apologize to displaced Palestinians](#) - By Gideon Levy and Alex Levac, Haaretz

[S. African Jews in Lubyia: We're here to acknowledge the Nakba](#) - By Natasha Roth, +972 Magazin

[South Africans apologize over forest planted on Palestinian village](#) - By Sarah Levy, The Electronic Intifada

[S. African Jews apologize to Palestinians displaced from their village by the Nakba](#) - by Lena Odgaard, FSRN - Free Speech Radio News

[Public Apology Ceremony and a tour at the Palestinian Destroyed village of Lubyia](#) - The Social TV

The tour to destroyed village Khirbat al-'Umur took place on beginning of October 2016 and about sixty people arrived for the tour: Jews, Arabs and activists from abroad. Half the participants were from 'Ein Rafa. The tour was led by Mahmoud Alayan, a member of the nakba's second generation, who was born and lives in the neighboring village of Abu Ghosh. His father was born in Khirbat al-'Umur. Even though Mahmoud is an Israeli citizen he doesn't have the right to return to his village and regain his lands. There are some 300,000 internally displaced persons in Israel like him. We began the tour at 'Ein al-'Umur, walked beside Wadi al-'Umur (Arabic) /Wadi Kasla (Arabic)/Nahal Kisalon (Hebrew), climbed the hill on which the village had stood, passed among its ruins and demolished buildings. We heard about the capture of the village and the expulsion of its inhabitants and erected informational signs beside the spring, the entrance of the village, the desecrated cemetery and the destroyed mosque. In the end of the tour we stopped again by the spring, there our hosts from 'Ein Rafa offered us tea and sweets. Click [here](#) for the tour video (Hebrew and Arabic).

The tour to Dir Aban, destroyed Palestinian village which was occupied in July 1948 and completely depopulated took place on end of December 2015. Dayr Aban is located today close to the Israeli Moshav of Mahseya east to Beit Shemesh. Refugees from Dayr Aban led the tour and shared stories about the village. Zochrot posted signs of the village name and distributed a booklet written especially for the event in Hebrew and Arabic. The tour was planned by 2 graduates of Zochrot's tour guides course who prepared the booklet for the tour and conducted interviews with the refugees from the village. The tour included a visit in the village former cemetery which was violated and most of the graves of the former deceased inhabitants are open and the bones of the deceased are exposed. This horrible site had shocked many of the participants, and it was decided that Zochrot, in cooperation with Filistiniyyat association to implement a second tour to the village, which will include a renovation action in the cemetery of the village, in order renovate desecrated graves in the cemetery. The second tour is planned to be implemented in January 2016. 60 people had participated in the tour.



South African Jews and representatives of Lubyia refugees at a public apology ceremony amid the ruins of the destroyed Palestinian village of Lubyia, May 1, 2015



Open violated grave in the cemetery of Dir Aban destroyed village, taken in the frame of Zochrot's tour to the village, December 2015.

- Commissioned tours: During the period of this report, Zochrot conducted 35 by invitation tours to groups of Jewish-Israelis, Palestinians and Internationals, for a total of about 300 people; The tours were to al-Shaykh Muwannis, Al-Manshiya, Lifta, Amoas and al-Lydda.

- Commemoration events:

Commemorating 66 years since the Dayr Yassin massacre:

On Wednesday, April 8, Zochrot had commemorated the 67th anniversary of the Dayr Yassin massacre. We walked along the main street of the village (now Kanfey Nesharim Street), learned about the village and its Nakba, and passed some of the Palestinian buildings that are still standing along the road - people were massacred in some of them - as well as the Kfar Shaul mental hospital, whose buildings were once the core of the village. We stopped at the remains of the Palestinian cemetery and ended the tour in the grove behind the hospital. We carried signs bearing the names of the victims of the massacre.

The writer and poet Salman Natur and Prof. Yehouda Shenhav-Sharabani participated in the event and launched Natur's new book "The Memory had conversed with me and disappeared - The Life and Death of the grooved face Sheikh", translated by Shenhav-Sharabani to Hebrew and published by Resling publishing house this month. Both read pieces from the new book. 100 people add attended the ceremony.

Here is the list of media coverage in English about the event:

Commemorating 67 years to Dayr Yassin massacre - Social TV

[How Israel was absolved of Deir Yassin and all other massacres](#) - By Ilan Pappé | The Electronic Intifada | 10 April 2015

[Remembering Deir Yassin 67 Years Later](#) - by IWPS Team | International Women's Peace Service | April 9, 2015

Commemorating 67 years to Dayr Yassin massacre - [Video of the full tour](#)



Holding the signs with the names of the massacre victims in Deir Yassin.



Tour in the remains of Dier Yassin village

The annual right of return march:

The March of Return took place on April 23, 2015 to the ruined Palestinian village of Hadatha near Tiberias. Zochrot joined the March of Return organized by ADRID and calls for wide participation in this important event. The march is the biggest event to commemorate the Palestinian Nakba and to call for the implementation of the Right of Return for the Palestinian refugees and the internally displaced.

The Israeli Independence Day:

On the Israeli Independence Day, April 22, 2015, Zochrot had implemented a launching event of the new book of the author and playwright Salman Natur "The Memory had conversed with me and disappeared - The Life and Death of the grooved face Sheikh", translated by Yehouda Shenhav-Sharabani. The speakers: Salman Natur, Yehouda Shenhav-Sharabani, Areej Sabbagh-Khoury - Mada al-Carmel and Tomer Gardi. More than 100 people had attended the event.

The Nakba Day:

On Saturday, May 16, 2015, the Ship of Return anchored in Yaffa Harbor, and 80 Palestinians and Jews disembarked. An hour beforehand, it had sailed as part of Zochrot's activities to mark and commemorate the 67th anniversary of the Nakba and promote the right of return of Palestinian refugees. On board, Mr. Sha'ban Balaha described the expulsion of Palestinians from Yaffa in 1948, and how he managed to return to his home after two years. After this symbolic return to Yaffa, we toured Ajami Neighbourhood. We walked through its streets and alleys, relating its history before and since 1948, with particular reference to the way it was turned after the war into a ghetto where 3600 Nakba survivors from Yaffa and the area were concentrated. We marked houses of Palestinian refugees whose owners had lived here until 1948: the State of Israel prevented them from returning, confiscated their property and sold or leased it to others. We also discussed the gentrification-Judaization process currently underway the neighbourhood. The event was attended by activists, families and Palestinian, Jewish and international journalists, as well as Member of Knesset Haneen Zoabi. More than 100 people had attended the tour.



Images from the return flotilla in Yaffa harbor

- Project objective 2: Developing ways to engage educators in teaching about the Nakba and students in learning about it in both the formal and informal education systems operating within Israel.

Indicators showing a growing number of teachers are incorporating the Nakba into their teaching:

- a. Numbers of teachers using Zochrot's Study Guide for teachers: how many teachers are teaching about the Nakba using Zochrot's Study Guide where do they work – the type of school or organization and their location.
- b. Responses to teaching and learning about the Nakba: feedback from teachers about their experience teaching a lesson/ series of lessons about the Nakba in their Israeli classes, and also the feedback they received from their students/ school/ parents.

Zochrot had continued in 2015 to develop the model of the Nakba and Return School in order to expand the circle of social influence agents (agents of change) who promote a public discourse of acknowledgement of and accountability for the ongoing injustices of the Nakba and the Return of Palestinian refugees as redress, by affecting their work practices and maximizing their potential impact on the discourse. The school offers several basic learning tracks, including courses, seminars, learning materials, workshops and professional, individualized support throughout the school year, to diverse audiences and using various teaching practices and methods.

During the reporting period, eight courses in the frame of three learning tracks were offered to the wide public and to professionals as described below:

1) Zochrot Tour Guides Course (in the frame of Space and Landscape Track):

Zochrot had developed a unique model of tour guides course, which combined theoretical and on the ground learning processes as well as practical experience in planning and implementing tours in Palestinian localities ruined in the Nakba. In the frame of the course, the participants acquired historical knowledge about the Nakba and the erasure of the Palestinian culture and existence from the landscape, obtained tools and developed the required skills in order to plan and guide political tours based on the professional model of developed by Zochrot and implemented it in practice through guiding tours themselves.

The training course was held in Hebrew and Arabic and included seminars, external lectures and introductory sample tours, based on dedicated learning kits. Upon the completion of the course, a graduation certificate was given to each participant.

Please see below the description of course meetings:

The course was composed from 13 meetings, 3 hours each meetings (total of 36 hours) which included the following:

As in the first cycle of the course, it included: guest lectures by experts, seminars and introductory sample tours. 8 participants had registered to the course – 4 Israelis and 4 Palestinians. The second cycle of the course was opened on the 11th of December and continued till April 2015. 4 guest lectures presentations were given by experts about the history of Jaffa, the tours as a political tool, the visible and the invisible spaces in Israel and about testimonies collection. In addition three introductory tours had taken place to Jaffa, Lifta and Al-Shaykh Muwannis.

The group was divided to two teams, each team was developing four different ruined Palestinian villages: Dir Aban, Kakun, Abu Kishk and Sirin. Each group had conducted a visit in the village area, collected materials, interviewed refugees and preparing an introductory tours for the course participants.

2) TOWARDS TAMA 48: COURSE FOR SPATIAL PLANNING PROFESSIONALS NAKBA, REFUGEES AND DESIGNING SPACE (in the frame of Landscape and Space Track)

The course: "TOWARDS TAMA 48: COURSE FOR SPATIAL PLANNING PROFESSIONALS NAKBA, REFUGEES AND DESIGNING SPACE" was implemented during the reporting period – This is a unique course for planning professionals on the relation between the Nakba and fair planning. The course had looked into the presence and absence of the Nakba in the planning world and introduce participants to critical planning tools and projects that rely on principles of justice and reconciliation. The course had three parts. The first part dealt with the Nakba and its spatial manifestations and planning implications. The second discussed

the following questions: Is the Nakba ongoing? What are its spatial manifestations and how does it affect the design of space? How does the formal planning policy act to erase, exclude and segregate the Palestinian population? Do land confiscations still occur? The course presented the planning realities in East Jerusalem, the Negev, Palestinian towns and villages in Israel and refugee camps in the West Bank. The third part of the course examined potential planning tools for the future that will also address the issue of return, with reference to various relevant planning models in Israel and worldwide.

The course was designed for architects, engineers, planners, designers and related professionals. 15 Jews Israelis participants took part in the course. It includes 8 three-hour weekly meetings at 18:00-21:00, as well as a tour to the Palestinian ruined village Lifta and 8 guest lectures facilitated by Geography and planning experts about the geography of the Nakba, the planning practices in East Jerusalem, planning in the frame of transitional justice practices, The Bedouin struggle for housing rights, and more.

3) The Mizrahi Struggle and Acknowledging the Nakba – Think Tank (in the frame of the Theory and Practice track)

Zochrot invited participants to learn and think how Mizrahi perspectives can enrich and transform the study and activism related to the Nakba as a historical event and ongoing reality, to the Palestinian refugees and their return. This group will undertake in-depth study of the Nakba, uprooting, return and the interrelations between them and the Mizrahi struggle from various perspectives. The group worked towards creating a language for both Nakba-related and Mizrahi activism and seek new courses of action on these issues. 20 participants took part in the course – 2 Palestinians and 18 Jews-Israelis. The course was based on peer learning, and had become in practice a research program that presented researches, idea, preliminary thoughts about the responsibility of the Mizrahi on the Nakba, conducting multi layered tours, development of an educational model, and more. The course included 2 tours to Vadi Saleeb neighborhood in Haifa and to Musrara neighborhood in Jerusalem, as well as 2 expert lectures.

4) Israeli Jews Encountering the Nakba: Theoretical Foundations for Consciousness Transformation (in the frame of the Theory and Practice Track)

The third cycle of this unique course which explored the theoretical foundations for understanding the coping of Israeli Jews with the Palestinian Nakba and the Return of refugees as processes of psychosocial transformation. During the course, the participants had read texts that represent a variety of critical approaches and analyses transformative practices in personal, family, and community spaces, and in the intersections between the mental and the socio-political. The course was designed for people engaged in processes of consciousness transformation: educators, political and social activists, artists, parents, psychologists and others. The course was facilitated by PhD candidate Efrat Even Zur. The course was composed from 8 meetings, 2.5 hours each and was opened on July 2015. 15 Jewish-Israelis participants took part in the course, mostly from the field of education and mental health.

5) The Nakba from a Jewish Perspective (in the frame of Theory and Practice track)

This innovative course was opened on December 2015 and was intended for the wide audience. 20 participants took part in the course which will be completed on January 2016. The course is composed from 5 meetings, each meeting lasts for 3 hours – total of 15 hours course. The course was facilitated by Ami Asher, a member of Zochrot, who deals, among others, with testimonies collection and archival researches. The course dealt with 1948-9 event, emphasizing the atrocities done by Jews during the war and following it. The course presented testimonies based on interviews with Jewish veterans, documents and archival images, as well as historical researches in order to provide answers to questions such as: How did it happen that such a small group relatively of some thousands of Jews had succeeded in such short time to dispossess 750,000 Palestinians from the homeland and change irreversible the land of Palestine? What was required for that? What had been done to perpetuate the situation and to prevent the refugees return? Was this process planned before and is this question relevant? How the Jewish victors did behaved other than other victors in the 20th century? How did they feel when implementing the atrocities and how did they feel now? The course deals with those questions through in depth discussions with the participants.

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7) Game Lab for creation of political games (in the frame of political art Track)

Zochrot's Education Department had developed a unique frame lab for game designers, a unique workshop for creating games on the Nakba, Palestinian refugees and return. In the lab, we had brainstormed new games on those subjects by coping with the challenges of combining gamification and playfulness with political power relations, conflict and injustice, to invent political and critical games. The Game Lab was opened for people who want to design and develop games (artists, educators, game students, game players, parents, designers and etc.). The course was composed from 15 people – Israeli and Palestinians, men and women who held previous experience or interest in game development.

The course included 7 meetings, total of 21 hours (7 meetings*3 hours) and was opened on October 2015. The course combined theoretical learning processes to encourage deep processes grounded in broader practices of critical and political education. The participants acquired historical knowledge about the Nakba and the erasure of the Palestinian culture and existence from the landscape, based on the professional educational models of developed by Zochrot association in the last 13 years, and implemented it in practice through the development and creation of at 5 games (for example: cards games, street games, online games, board games and more). The games will be completed on the first quarter of 2016 and launched in an event in Zochrot's offices.

8) The memory after the memory: writing workshop about the Nakba and Return (in the frame of political art Track)

This unique workshop was initiated for people who write, like to write or think they can write, facilitated by Mr. Raji Bathish, writer and culture researcher. The course was opened on December 2015 and 7 participants, Israelis and Palestinians take part in the course which will be completed by end of the first quarter of 2016. The workshop enables the participants to learn how to write on the Nakba, on the dispossession, the diaspora, the fear and the wish to return, through concepts as responsibility, personal and collective memory, guilt, empathy, reparation and more. We had focused on inter-generational processes of memory of national disasters and focused on the first, second and third generation of the Nakba. The workshop invited the participants to expend the known boundaries of identities, conflicts and the reality through artistic tools of postmodern writings, to research and write imagined testimonies and not imagined about the past, the present and potential futures. We anticipate that the stories will be completed on beginning of 2016 and published and distributed later on during 2016.

4) Educational Track

While dealing with the task of teaching the Nakba in today's reality, teachers encounter many challenges and thus required assistance and supervision on both the practical application of the kit, and on the psychosocial level, fearing that they are risking their jobs by introducing issues related to Nakba in their school. The program coordinator works with the teachers throughout the year, consulting on their questions and hearing about their work with the study-guide and their new ideas as they are implementing them. We provide

answers to questions and through one-on-one meetings, as well as online support the coordinator coach the teachers through dilemmas regarding teaching about 1948, incorporating the Nakba into already packed curricula, and dealing with the growing fear about teaching the Nakba in the current political climate.

1) Continuous Training to Educators

During this period of the report a total of 18 teachers have been coached on implementing the study guide and using it as a tool for teaching about Nakba in Hebrew. The teachers were from different areas in the country. The support was provided through meetings, emails and phone conversations, hearing about their work with the study-guide and their new ideas as they are implementing them with the program coordinator. In addition, 2 introductory lectures was implemented to high school students and human right organization focused on Zochrot work. Total of 10 participants took part in the lectures.

2) Professional Materials Development

- Transitional Justice - Training Program for Educators - This unique project, allows us to shed light on different ways in which transitional justice practices can be further implemented and developed in the case of the ongoing conflict in Israel-Palestine.
The project to be structured in the form of a group of at least 5 Jewish-Israeli educators, teaching in 5 Israeli schools, who will learn about Transitional Justice and the Nakba in peer learning process, to eventually set up a civil truth seeking initiative, in the form of activism led by the students themselves. The project will equip the educators with the theoretical knowledge and training about the field, based on unique and professional educational kit which will be developed especially for this project, as a process of critical thinking and dialogue that emphasizes humanistic and non-violent values, which fosters a transformative process of awareness rising. Based on previous educational models of transformative pedagogy developed in Zochrot, this project will offer Israeli high-schools educators a program that could be easily integrated in their curriculum and schedules.
During the reporting period, the educational kit was developed and one lesson plan was created. The work on the development of the educational kit for the educators will continue in 2016.
- "Fissures" booklets for educators
In order to assist educators in integrating the Nakba in teaching their students about citizenship, geography and history, Zochrot had begun to develop lesson plans that can be integrated in the regular teaching process. Those lesson plans aims to create fissures in the ministry of education official educational booklets in those areas, and provide information about the Palestinian silenced history that does not exist in the official materials provided to educators. During the reporting period, one lesson plan was developed for geography teachers for students in their eleventh grade and the work on additional lesson plans will continue in 2016.

▪ Project objective 3: Create greater and deeper knowledge, by producing and publicizing as many accessible materials as possible, in Hebrew, regarding the Nakba and its ongoing effects, particularly the situation of the Palestinian refugees.

Indicators for showing increase in creation and dissemination of materials on the Nakba:

- a. Responses: who came to Zochrot's information centre (Israelis, Palestinians, internationals) and in what capacity (students, filmmakers, planners)? Did they produce new work?
 - b. Numbers: How many people approached the information centre (emails, phone, coming in person)? How many original materials (maps, booklets, papers) did we disseminate? How many hits per day to the new website (from where)? How many people joined the mailing list?
- ❖ Visitor centre: Zochrot had 200 approaches by email specifically asking for information on the Nakba from the visitor centre; every month about 5 people (artists, researchers and students) came in for in depth inquiries with Zochrot's culture and knowledge coordinator; another 100 emails were received that

inquired about Zochrot's work or debated materials published by the organization on the tours, the website, the newsletter and so on; Zochrot continued to receive on average about 10 calls per week with inquiries regarding information on the Nakba and Zochrot's work.

- ❖ The second edition of the Nakba Map in Hebrew: On March 2015, following an intensive research, Zochrot had published the second updated edition of The Nakba Map – The first Nakba map in Hebrew which shows the Palestinian ruined Localities in the country that were destroyed between the beginning of Zionist colonization and the 1967 war. Click [here](#) to download the map.
- ❖ Testimonies - The testimonies project continued this year to work in concert with Zochrot's ongoing work. A total of 5 testimonies from Palestinian refugees in collaboration between the testimonies coordinator and Zochrot's tours coordinator and 2 testimonies of Zionist fighters were collected in 2015 in the frame of the Truth Commission for 1948 events in the Negev (see detailed description below). The five testimonies were collected from Palestinian Refugees "on site" as the refugees physically followed their cognitive maps of the village and gave testimonies as they walked along routes that used to exist and by houses that are no longer standing. With others, the strain of the interview and the need to talk about the events that led to the destruction of their home, required that the interview take place in more than one sitting, and the project coordinator came back to complete the interview after some time has passed.
- ❖ Public Truth Commission for 1948 Events in the Negev –

Following the public event that had taken place on December 10, 2014, a Public Truth Commission on the Events of 1948, in Beer Sheba/Bir al'Saba, to promote accountability by the Israeli society for its share in the events of the Palestinian Nakba in 1948-1960 in the Negev and south, the commissioners had been working during the reporting period to develop and implement the final report of the truth commission which will include testimonies heard in the public event as well as recommendations for reparations. 5 meetings a tour to Beer Sheba had taken place during the reporting period. The Truth Commission has been established as part of a broader network of volunteers and activists in Israel and worldwide who have participated in the preparatory team, the steering committee, as interviewers, writers, transcribers and translators, archival researchers, etc. The Truth Commission had attracted global attention and interest among human rights and transitional justice activists and scholars interested in the unique nature of the situation in Israel/Palestine. A thesis, several lectures and conferences, as well as book chapters are currently being dedicated to the commission from such diverse perspectives as history, psychology and political science.

The Truth Commission final report, prepared by the 7 commissioners and Zochrot's truth commission coordinator, produced during 2015 and completed in December 2015 included the following chapters:

- 1) The theory and practice which inspired and informed the establishment of the Truth Commission, the first of its kind in Israel; its methodology; and the historical-spatial context of the Negev before and after 1948, and to this day.
- 2) The issues raised by Jewish fighters regarding the events of the Nakba: explanations and justifications for their actions, issues related to obedience and accountability, and the reasons which motivated them to testify to atrocities against Palestinians before a civil body lacking any formal authority, without any public or official "reward".
- 3) Analysis of information gathered about the Nakba in the Negev: during a first-of-its-kind public event held in Beersheba on December 10, 2015, by interviews with Jews and Palestinians in their homes, from archive materials, documentation of tours on the ground and expert testimonies.
- 4) Conclusions and recommendations for redress, based on the transitional justice model.

The final report was launched in a public event in Al-Araqib unrecognized village in the Naqab on the 2nd of January 2016. The truth commission was a pilot, aiming to initiate a process which imagines the option of transitional justice in a reality of an ongoing conflict that so far holds no sign of transition. The recommendations that were assembled in the final report, enables to open the path for the continuation of the process. It seems to us that the experience accumulated in the commission work process and the recommendations can contribute to the advancement of the ongoing process of raising public awareness, responsibility taking and acceptance of an agree solution. Click [here](#) for the final report (in Hebrew). The report will be translated to English during 2016.



From the annual commissioners meetings during 2015

- ❖ Newsletter - Zochrot proceeded during 2015 to send our newsletter every week to a mailing list of 3,500 addresses; some of which are for organizations thus reaching dozens of more people. On average, about 650 people opened each of our newsletters.
- ❖ Online Hebrew library – Our website, www.zochrot.org, serves as the largest most accessible online Hebrew source devoted to the Nakba. The well-trafficked site has proven a very beneficial tool for reaching new audiences, including those interested in learning but reluctant to join our activities or visit our library. The website also contains a large visuals collection depicting Palestinian life before 1948 and during the Nakba.
- ❖ iNakba application - Zochrot had developed a new application: "iNakba" is a trilingual mobile app (Arabic, Hebrew and English) based on Google Maps. This social application allows users to locate the Palestinian localities destroyed in the Nakba since 1948 and to learn about them. The application was released for free download from iTunes on the 5th May 2014 and its Android version was launched in February in the frame of Zochrot's tour to Cesaria (reported above). The application provides coordinates and maps of Palestinian localities that were completely demolished and obliterated after their capture, partially demolished, or remained standing although their residents were expelled. The maps also show buildings that were left in these localities, provide historical information and include video clips and photographs. The app is interactive; it allows users to add pictures of the destroyed localities, as well as to share comments and follow updates about selected localities. Since its launching, more than 30000 people from all over the world had downloaded the application in their cellular mobiles, hundreds of people had

already begun to upload images from destroyed Palestinian villages and we had received by now many supportive emails on the app initiative. Every day there are approximately 80 downloads of the application.

You can find [here](#) the link to download the application, and this is the [link](#) for a short film explaining the usage of the app.



From the Android app launching event in the frame of Zochrot's tour to Ceasaria, February 2015

- Project objective 4: Create a space for a new culture that allows and encourages public discourse on the Nakba and its ongoing implications

Indicators:

- a. Participation of agents of social change: who were the artists that submitted work to Sedek (the journal) and the gallery? What kind of work was submitted and what happened during the editing/ curating processes? Which topics were discussed in the evening lecture series and by whom? What were the responses in the media following Zochrot's cultural events?
- b. Numbers: how many submissions to these platforms? How many mentions in the media? How many people visited the gallery, read Sedek, and attended the evening lecture series?

Zochrot has been acting for some years now in the attempt to examine the space that is familiar to us, the Israeli space into which we were raised, and to discover it anew as a space that also tells the story of the Palestinian Nakba: The stories of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from hundreds of destroyed villages and cleansed cities. The aim of Zochrot is to bring the Nakba to the awareness of Israeli Jews, to speak the Nakba in Hebrew and in so doing to change the Hebrew language. That is, to make it into a language that contains the Nakba (in Arabic), into a language that contains a fissure. The gallery at Zochrot offers a stage for work and thought around the Nakba. This is a stage to which creators and viewers are invited to try out other possibilities of relationships between the Nakba, the memories of 1948 and the different identities that have been assembled and disassembled in its wake. This is an invitation to think anew about 1948 as a moment during where different possibilities existed at the same time, to follow their tracks and perhaps to learn something about different possibilities today.

The gallery is an outcome of a cultural movement that is taking place alongside and despite the difficult political events of recent times, and embody a stage for dialogue between the word and the visual image. They are an attempt to create a text that examines its borders: the borders of content, of language, and of the discipline.

Gallery Exhibitions - In 2015 the gallery had presented 2 exhibitions:

* "Houses beyond the Hyphen":

The Houses beyond the Hyphen project was held in Yaffa on May 14-16, 2015, to mark the 67 anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba. More than 400 people arrived in Yaffa during that weekend to take part in the symposium and three tours and watch the three exhibitions organized especially for the project.

The exhibitions – Anisa Ashkar's Hands Weaving Fire, Manar Zoabi's Elevator Speech, and Muhammad Qais's Transgression – were held in three private homes occupied by Palestinians until 1948, and now owned by Israeli Jews. The exhibitions challenged the state's signifying practices, which have legitimized housing its Jewish inhabitants in Palestinian homes legally defined in 1948 as "abandoned". During that fleeting moment of presence in the work's specific display venue, the exhibitions thus enabled the viewers to imagine the potential destroyed and at the same time transgress the consensual acceptance of the current political situation as an immutable fact.

The symposium on the exhibitions was held in a building on Yefet (Al-Hilwe) St. currently rented by Al-Rabita League for the Arabs of Jaffa, and included the presentation of diverse projects that have undertaken complex moves with reference to Palestinian urban history. The participants included Dorit Naaman, Sami Abu-Shehade, Karmit Batzir and Raz Rozkin, Gil Mualem Doron, and Muhammad Jabali. The discussion was accompanied by a screening of Jumana Manna's film A Sketch of Manners – Alfred Roch's Last Masquerade.

Click [here](#) to watch the symposium on Zochrot's YouTube channel.

The weekend events also included the Miriam Shickler's vocal tour Echoing Yaffa that tells the story of Manshiye Neighborhood's Palestinian inhabitants and reconstructs the lives destroyed and irrevocably transformed during the events of 1947-48 and present-day processes of uprooting and dispossession of Yaffa's Palestinian community. They also featured Ami Asher's tour Empty Facade – On Erasure and Reconstruction, included in Once upon a Land – an alternative tour guide published by Zochrot and Pardes which offers 18 tours in Palestinian neighborhoods and villages depopulated during the Nakba and mostly destroyed by Israel. About 80 people participated in the tour.

On Saturday, May 16, 2005, the Ship of Return anchored in Yaffa Harbor, and 80 Palestinians and Jews disembarked. An hour beforehand, it had sailed as part of Zochrot's activities to mark the 67th anniversary of

the Nakba and promote the right of return of Palestinian refugees. On board, Mr. Sha'ban Balaha described the expulsion of Palestinians from Yaffa in 1948, and how he managed to return to his home after two years. After this symbolic return to Yaffa, we toured Ajami Neighborhood. We walked through its streets and alleys, relating its history before and since 1948, with particular reference to the way it was turned after the war into a ghetto where 3600 Nakba survivors from Yaffa and the area were concentrated. We marked houses of Palestinian refugees whose owners had lived here until 1948: the State of Israel prevented them from returning, confiscated their property and sold or leased it to others. We also discussed the gentrification-Judaization process currently underway the neighborhood. The event was attended by activists, families and Palestinian, Jewish and international journalists, as well as Member of Knesset Haneen Zoabi.

Selected Media coverage:

Jaffa's Palestinian heritage celebrated in Nakba Day open houses - By Sarah Irving | The Electronic Intifada

Palestinians return to 'Bride of the Sea' - By Rich Wiles | Al Jazeera

'Jaffa flotilla' marks destruction of Palestine's cultural capital - By Social TV | +972

Lifelong refugees: Palestinian boat people search for a new home - By Samah Salaime | +972

A special flotilla to commemorate the Nakba in Jaffa - By Uri Shapira | i24

Israel continues to criminalize marking Nakba Day - By Patrick Strickland | Al Jazeera

Palestinians remain rooted in the land - By Rich Wiles | Al Jazeera



Houses beyond the Hyphen program cover

* Ground Truth – Records of Dispossession, Return and Environmental Damage in the Naqab

The story of Al-Araqib, destined to experience displacement and dispossession, is representative of the disaster that befell all the Palestinians in southern Israel. Only ten percent, a mere ten thousand out of some one-hundred thousand Arabs in the Negev have remained in Israel after 1948. Many have been expelled to Jordan and Sinai and some to the Gaza Strip. Since 1948, Israel has created a legal system which facilitated the expropriation of lands in the area and adopted a legal doctrine which denies the very idea of Bedouin-Palestinian ownership of Negev lands. The lion's share of Bedouin lands has been transferred over the years to state and non-state entities promoting the Judaization of the Negev. This process relies on various appropriation laws all of which ignore the Negev's indigenous past, i.e. the legal system of land ownerships that prevailed in the region for generations, with the consent of its Ottoman and British rulers.

Facing the injustices of the ongoing Nakba, Zochrot and the inhabitants of Al-Araqib and the Forensic Architecture project at Goldsmiths, University of London invited the public to the final session of the Truth Commission on the Events of 1948-1960 in the South, held on Friday and Saturday, January 1-2, 2016 in the village of Al-Araqib in the Negev. The series of events accompanying the session requested to produce alternative knowledge that will challenge the policy of denying the Bedouins' rights to their lands. Given the recent and ongoing rejection of the Bedouins' legal claims and the recurring brutal destruction of "unrecognized villages" such as Al-Araqib, and to examine the conditions for the production of truth in a neocolonial age through oral testimonies and memories, aerial photography, studies by Negev researchers and historical maps to offer an alternative conceptual horizon on civil society's ability to re-appropriate its truth.

The project had diverse program during the 2 days of its implementation:

- 1) Aerial Photography Workshop - Historical aerial photographs are a key tool used by the inhabitants of Al-Araqib and other so-called "unrecognized villages" in danger of destruction to produce evidence and claim their land rights. Nevertheless, creating aerial photographs and maps requires professional tools and knowledge that are usually unavailable to those who need them to fight for their rights. During the two days of the gathering, we had documented Al-Araqib from the air and from the ground in order to produce evidence for their presence on the ground using aerial photographs and 3D models, together with children and adults. The workshop was facilitated by researcher and activist Hagit Keysar and artist Ariel Ken.
- 2) Collecting evidence towards the creation of an online visual-historical archive of Al-Araqib. Zochrot had invited the inhabitants of Al-Araqib to present historical and contemporary documents attesting to the Bedouin permanent settlement of the Naqab/Negev, including: maps, land transactions, receipts and confirmations of land tax payments, family photos, aerial photos, bills of sale, official correspondence, military orders, voter certificates and any other relevant document. These were documented by photographer Micky Kartzman and collected for the digital archive.
- 3) Launching of the new book: "The Conflict Shoreline – Settlement and evacuation as climate change in the Naqab" by Prof. Eyal Weizman, Goldsmiths University UK (produced by Zochrot and Babel Publication). This new and innovative book examines the "battle over the Negev," an ongoing Israeli state campaign to uproot the Bedouins from the northern threshold of the desert. Unlike other frontiers fought over during the Israel-Palestine conflict, however, this threshold is not demarcated by fences and walls but advances and recedes in response to cultivation, displacement, urbanization, and climate change. The fate of the Bedouin villages along the desert's threshold, its "aridity line," is bound up with deep environmental changes. But whereas even the most committed environmentalists today conceive of climate change as an accidental and unintentional side effect of modernity, Weizman argues that from the point of view of colonial history, climate change has never been simply collateral damage. It has always been a stated goal; "making the desert bloom" is, in effect, "changing the climate."
In examining this history, Weizman outlines attempts—from the Ottoman era through the period of European colonization to the present—to scientifically define, measure, and map the threshold of the desert. Such efforts have been important because imperial and, later, national governments—whose laws have never recognized property rights in the desert—aimed to push back this threshold as they

tried to expand the limits of arable land and bring the nomads under state control. In the Negev, the displacement of the weather and the displacement of the Bedouins have gone hand in hand. But while the desert edge, and the Bedouins, have been driven further and further south, global climate change today acts as a major counterforce. Predictably, the Bedouins are caught in the middle.

The launching included responses to the book by the Panelists: Prof. Oren Yiftachel, Adv. Smadar Ben-Natan, Ranad Shaqirat, Dr. Safa Abu-Rabia, Micky Kartzman.

- 4) Following the lunch break, the launching of Zochrot's Truth Commission final report took place, and included the summary of the report of the recommendations by the commissioners as well as documentary theatre performance of a testimony collected from former Zionist veteran on the Nakba in the Naqab by the celebrated actress Einat Weizman.

The events were accompanied by an exhibition in the tent of archival materials collected from the Bedouins and the scholar Prof. Oren Yiftachel proving the rights of the Bedouins on their land, as well as the aerial photos and 3d model of Al-Araqib cemetery and site photographed on the set up day of the project. More than 300 people had participated in the 2 days event.



The project Tent



Historical documents exhibition view



Aerial photos workshop



Collection of historical documents from the Bedouins families

2) Symposiums:

- "48" by the artists Boaz Arad and Miki Krazman: Conversation about the series of photographs "48". Participants: Miki Kratsman, Boaz Arad, Dr. Tamar Berger, Dr. Eyal Dotan took place on 5th of February 2015 in Chelouche Gallery in Tel Aviv. The evening had exposed the photographs series "48" that was not showed before and discussed the reasons for the decision of its archiving. The fascinating series documents places where massacres of Palestinians took place in 1948. More than 100 people had attended the evening.
- "On Erasing, Forgetting, and Making Others Forget: Three Discussions on Archiving of Palestinian History": The symposium took place in May 2015 and present and discussed three historical studies that deal – each from a d different perspective – with practices of archiving Palestinian history, which shed light on the power relations and regimentation mechanisms by which Israel controls and appropriates the treasures of Palestinian culture. Dr. Gish Amit presented his study, recently published in Arabic as well, by the Palestinian Center for Israel Studies in Ramallah. Amit focused on the sorting and cataloguing procedures which have accompanied the collection of Palestinian books and the relationship between them and the erasure of Palestine's pre-Zionist past. Dr. Rona Sela presented her study about the control apparatus of the archives that is based on double activation of power relations from the moment those were taken, through rules and regulation that organize the activity of the archives in reference to them and the various apparatuses that relate to the limitation of their exposure, till their censoring and erasure from the public space as well as the restriction of their return to their owners. Dr. Adel Manna offered a critical reading of Zionist sources about the Nakba while relying on Palestinian sources, including oral histories. More then 150 people had attended the symposium.

- "The Two Gaze Directly into One Another's Face"- Symposium marking the launch of The Holocaust and the Nakba: Memory, National Identity and Jewish-Arab Partnership | Co-editors: Bashir Bashir & Amos Goldberg. The book is a collection of articles and essays by Palestinian and Jewish researchers, writers and thinkers who seek to deal with this issue. They are not cast from the same mold: some of them are in favour of dealing with the two events together and view it as an opportunity for reconciliation and peacemaking, while others categorically deny this possibility. The result is a unique mosaic designed to challenge commonplace thinking about the two nations' traumatic memories. The symposium took place on October 2015 and due to its importance, it was decided to extend the symposium to two sessions. The First Session was titled: "Holocaust and Nakba: On the nature of the "and" and the internal grammar of traumatic memory" – with contributions by: Marzuk Al-Halabi: Journalist, writer, poet and literary and cultural critic, Umar al-Ghubari from Zochrot and Almog Behar: Poet, writer and literary critic. The Second session of the symposium was titled: "The ethics of memories of the Holocaust and the Nakba and A horizon of Arab-Jewish reconciliation and partnership?" with contributions from Dr. Yael Barda, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Shira Kupfer, Haifa University and Ala Halihal: Writer and playwright. This fascinating evening was completed by responses from Dr. Goldberg and Dr. Bashir, editors of the book. More than 60 people had participated in the evening.

3) 48mm – International Film Festival on Nakba and Return –

Zochrot's 3rd International film festival was held for three days in cinematheque Tel Aviv-Jaffa and Al-Saraya Theatre in Jaffa, dedicated to films about the Palestinian Nakba and Return of Refugees between 4-6.12.2015. The festival seeks to creatively challenge the partition concept between Palestinians and Israelis and suggest new pathways for just and equitable life for all the present inhabitants and refugees of this country. Approximately 700 people attended the festival's screenings, under repetitive threats by minister of culture Ms. Miri Regev to shut it down and cut funding for hosting cinemas.

Together with premieres and special screenings of films from both Israel/Palestine and worldwide, the festival included new and original short films produced especially for the event. Prior to the festival in Tel Aviv, Zochrot had implemented during 2015 different screenings programs in various locations in Israel, making 48mm an ongoing-developing event.

Please find below the detailed description of the activities implemented:

3.1 Film Festival in Cinematque Tel Aviv and al-Saraya Theater in Jaffa

The 3 days festival was composed from feature films, short new films, symposiums and tours:

3.1.1 Screening of films:

Six films, by a mixture of Palestinian, Israeli and international filmmakers, were included in this year's program.

The film Roshmia (Palestine 2014) by the director Salim Abu-Jabal is a 70 minutes feature length film that constitutes an elaboration of a short film initially produced for 2014's festival. The film was screened in various festivals worldwide and it was its Israeli premiere. Sar'a (Israel 2015) by Michael Kaminer is also a long film development of a short film initially produced for 2014's festival. The screening was followed by a discussion with the participation of a Palestinian refugee originally from to Palestinian ruined village Sar'a, an Israeli woman living today in Tzora, a Kibbutz that was built on the ruins of Sar'a, and the film director, a resident of Tzora as well. The film The Wanted 18 (Palestine/Canada 2014) was screened with a special permission by Palestinian director Amer Shomali who normally refuses to screen his films in Israel. The film is the Palestinian Oscar candidate for Best Foreign Film, 2015 and was screened twice due to audience demand. The complete program of the festival can be seen [here](#). 490 people were exposed to the films.

3.1.2 Screening of Short films produced especially for the festival

The opening event of the festival was the screening of four short films by Israeli and Palestinian filmmakers produced especially for the festival, with the support of Zochrot. Zochrot's artistic film director had accompanied the work of the four filmmakers throughout the year to support the artistic process. The screening was followed by a panel moderated by Ms. Chen Tamir and with participation of the filmmakers. 150 people attended the screening.

3.1.3 Panel discussion: History and Digital Art

The panel discussion "History and Digital Art" took place on the second day of the festival. The panel elaborated on some of the issues arising from the festival's program, and examined how young auteurs react to the region's history using the digital tools available to them. Moderator: Thalia Hoffman. Panelists: Chen Tamir (curator, CCA Tel Aviv); Timna Peretz (video coordinator, Active Vision); and young filmmakers Suma Ka'dan, Juhaina Sa'ada and Iman Masri. 30 people attended the panel.

3.1.4 An alternative nocturnal tour in Jaffa

A tour around Jaffa dealing with the wipe out of all physical evidence to the city's pre 1948 past. The tour was led by Zochrot's member Ami Asher, ended at Al-Saraya Theatre and was followed by the premiere screening of *The Wanted* 18. 30 people participated in the tour.

3.2 The Palestinian Film Festival in Haifa March 2015 (Al-Midan Theater)

The 3 day Palestinian Film Festival was organized by Zochrot Together with al-Midan Theater and included a selection of recently produced Palestinian films. The festival took place between the 4-6.3.2015. Some of the films were also part of 48mm previous festivals while others were selected specifically for this event. The festival took place in al-Midan Theater in Haifa, and attracted more than 1,000 people during the course of the program. Following part of the screening of the films, a public discussion took place with the director of the film or a scholar presentation.

Click [here](#) for festival program.

In addition, in light of the backlash and attacks on Al-Midan theater by the Israeli government to cancel the financial support, Zochrot had established a statement to support the theater in its struggle. We believe the withdrawal of public funding from Al-Midan is tainted with the racist desire to obliterate Palestinian identity and history. Click [here](#) for the full statement in English.

3.3 Cinematic Events

3.3.1 Screening event and lecture in Minshar School of Art: The Censorship Regime

A second screening of the 4 short films produced for 2014's festival took place on September 2015. The screening was followed by a guest lecture by writer and film scholar Raji Bathish on the Israeli demand for erasure of Palestinian memory as price for "coexistence". Click [here](#) for event program. 15 people took part in the event.

3.3.2 Online event: Welcome Back

On World Refugee Day the film *Welcome Back* by Guy Königstein was available online for 24 hours through Zochrot's website and facebook page. The filmmaker invites a group of friends to the rural community where he was born, in the Upper Galilee, to organize a reception for Palestinian returnees. The film was originally produced especially for 48mm festival in 2014.

3.3.3 Screening on Nakba Day

The village under the Forest (South Africa, 2013) by Mark J Kaplan was screened on Nakba day in May 2015 in Beer Sheva in collaboration with The Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality. The film unfolds a personal meditation from the Jewish Diaspora, and explores the hidden remains of the destroyed Palestinian village of Lubya, which lies under a purposefully cultivated forest plantation called South Africa Forest. The film was screened in Zochrot's first film festival in Tel Aviv in 2013. 50 people attended the screening.

3.3.4 Public Hearing in Haifa

Despite ongoing attempts of Zochrot to hold a screening event of films about the Nakba and Return in Haifa, the local municipality had refused constantly to allow the event from taking place. In reaction, Zochrot held a Public Hearing at Haifa Cinematheque square in order to inform the wide public about the refusal of the municipality and accuse it for not standing by its claims for being a symbol and model for Jewish-Palestinian co-existence. Journalist, activists, artists and filmmakers were invited to the event which draw a great deal of public and media attention. 100 people had participated in the public hearing. Click [here](#) for more details about the event.



Film Festival poster



Conversation with director and actors after the screening of the film "The Return to Haifa"

- Project objective 5: Develop practices for Palestinian Return through lectures, workshops, joint Jewish Israeli-Palestinian publications and projects in the Israeli landscape

Indicators: Impact on participants in Zochrot's focus groups: who participated in the process – geographical area, professional background (planners, teachers, students)? How did that affect their ideas? How did they respond to the process? Did the projects receive any feedback from the outside (media, other organizations, etc.)? In comparison to the previous year, did Zochrot affect the process and how?

During the reported period, Zochrot had initiated and partnered with 3 initiatives that will lead to the development of 5 return models for upholding the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland. Total of 80 participants, all Palestinian citizens, were exposed directly to Zochrot's practice of developing models of return to Palestinian ruined localities, and we reached indirectly 160 participants who were calculated according to ripple effect of at least 2 people per participant.

1) Udna project –

The partnership of Zochrot with the Palestinian Organizations: The Arabic Association for human rights, the Association for the Defence of the Rights of the Internally Displaced and Baladna in the frame of the project "Udna" had continued during the reporting period. Two days seminar had taken place on April. The first seminar included a tour to Tiberius and Maalul guided by Zochrot space for return coordinator. Following the two tours, a 5 hours return models development workshop had taken place. The group was divided to 6 groups – Each group worked on the two location visited on beginning of the seminar – and presented it upon the completion of the work to the whole team. Before that a lecture was given about the Nakba and the Return as well as lecture on testimonies collection. Total of 60 people – all Palestinians – take part in the project (30 women, 30 men).

Following the tours and workshops, 8 different groups were formed, each of them created a model for return for a specific ruined Palestinian village. The groups are composed of third and fourth generation descendants of the Nakba, whose ancestors are originally from the ruined village they have been working on: Iqrit, Safuriyya, Mi'ar, Ma'alul, al-Lajjun, al-Birwa, al-Ghabisiyya, al-Majdal ('Asqalan). Types of 8 models for return created were diverse and included films, 3d models, 3d films and poems. Each group presented its model in the location of respective village and with the participation of local community from the former village. The public

presentations took place between October-December and ended with a larger ceremonial event in Nazareth where all models were presented where 100 people attended the event, most of them Palestinians. The completion of the project was also accompanied with a short film produced by the organizations, documenting the overall process and its outcomes, and with a series of 3 short video reports produced by Israel Social TV. Zochrot took part in the production of the short films, members of the organization were interviewed and helped develop their conceptual frame. Following the successful completion of the project, 2 planning meetings between the partner organizations had taken place in December 2015 to plan the next phase of the project for 2016. We anticipate that the film and models can be developed into advocacy tool in the future. The models created will be exposed to larger publics in Israel in the frame of Zochrot's international conference to take place in March 2016 as well be described in the next paragraph in this report.



Return model developed for the destroyed village al-Birwa

2) The third international conference for the right of return –

Zochrot is planning the third international conference for the advancement of the Right of Return to take place on 21-22 of March 2016. The conference will seek to examine different ways of promoting return today as well as imagine the post-return reality. Its point of departure is recognition of the right of return and its objective is to explore how return will occur in practice, and how it can offer an opportunity for living together in a truly democratic, egalitarian and just regime for all inhabitants of this country. Accordingly, the issues discussed in the conference will focus on the post-return political, cultural, educational, economic and planning realities, as well as on current spaces and activities to promote return in practice. During the reporting period, 24 planning meetings had taken place to develop the open call for the proposals, the schedule, keynote speakers. The open call for proposals for the conference is being distributed and the deadline for the submission of papers was 1st of September 2015. The progress of the project will be reported on the next progress report to Christian Aid. The conference will take place on 21-22.3.2016 (two days) in Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv, which is located on the land of the ruined Palestinian village Sheikh Munis. The conference title chosen is: "How to say 'Awda in Hebrew?" (Al Awda in Arabic means "return"). The open call for the conference concluded with 35 proposals for papers. The stirring committee reviewed them and selected 20 papers that are in accord with the conference's themes. The accepted proposals are from Israeli, Palestinian and international acclaimed scholars and activists.

Please find below the description of the tentative program for the conference:

The first day will begin with a paper titled "Imagine the space after return" by keynote speaker Prof. Ilan Pappé, an Israeli historian from Exeter University, UK. The keynote paper will be followed by 3 panels featuring scholars and social activists, discussing different aspects of the question of return, in Israel-Palestine and examples of return of refugees from other places in the world. Among them are a paper by Bosnian scholar Dr. Selma Porobić titled "Return to Bosnia" and a papers by Dr. Munir Nuseibah (Al-Quds University, Palestine) on the place of return in post-conflicts agreements.

The second day will feature 5 panels focused primarily on the presentation of different models for the return of the Palestinian refugees, some of the models were developed in Udna Project (as described in detail above) and will be presented for the first time to a Jewish-Israeli audience. An invitation (save the date) for the participation of audience will be published and distributed on beginning of 2016.

- Project objective 6: Increase active outreach to the Jewish-Israeli public through different means, including social media and approaches to the media

Lessons learnt by Zochrot on influencing and effecting change in Israeli society include the understanding that since Zochrot has created many activities, much original material, and knowledge about the Nakba, there has been a greater need to bring this to the Israeli public.

Accordingly, Zochrot has been taking a proactive approach to conventional media, initiating articles rather than waiting for reporters to write about Zochrot and the Nakba, as well as writing ourselves. From material mainly in Hebrew we have also expanded to English and to Arabic.

Zochrot made over 150 appearances in the media in 2015, ranging from the biggest national newspapers and news sites in Israel, through articles by top bloggers in Israel and abroad, Jewish news sites, right-wing sites, and local newspapers. The articles dealt with Zochrot and the passing of the Nakba law, Land Day, Zochrot's tours, including the Nakba within in the educational system in Israel, Zochrot's exhibitions, the International Nakba and Return Film Festival, and more. In addition to the newsletter (sent to 3,500 addresses, opened by more than 650 people every week) and Zochrot's website (with 172,747 unique visitors in the past year mainly from Israel, United States, Palestine and Jordan), Zochrot's activities and knowledge are also being disseminated through social media, with updates in Zochrot's Facebook page taking place at least once a day; Zochrot's page has a total of 7785 likes (increase of 150% comparing to 2014).

- Project objective 7: Influence decision makers regarding the dedication of land in Israel - through advocacy work that aims to halt the continued destruction of Palestinian heritage by the state of Israel

Zochrot's membership in the international Refugee and Displacement Working Group- International Coalition of the organizations: Adalah, Adrid, Badil, Christian Aid, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, HeksEper, and Association Najdeh continues this year as well. During the reporting period, a three days international conference was organized and implemented on June 2016. The title of the conference was: "The disappearance of the representations of Palestinian Refugees". Representatives from Israeli and Palestinian CEO's were invited as well as Palestinian experts who represent organizations that are working with Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank, Europe and the US, among them the celebrated scholar Prof. Salman Abu Sitta. The first two days included expert lectures and discussions. The third day was composed from discussion in small groups discussing the next steps that should be taken in order to increase and advance the discourse about the Palestinian refugees within the public Palestinian discourse. The outcome of the conference was the establishment of 3 working teams where each team will develop a position letter about three main subjects:

- * The question of the representation of the Palestinian refugees.
- * Protection on rights of refugee rights in the current reality.
- * Engagement of the refugees with the future decisions.

Following the conference, the correspondence between members of the working group had continued. The position letter is still being developed and discussed, and we anticipated it to be completed on beginning of 2016.

6 Achievement of objective(s) 2015 – indicators table

Indicator	2014 baseline	2015 achievements
Participants in tours and their locations	<p><u>Open Tours:</u> Total of about 330 people took part in the tours. The tours were to Hadatha, Iqrit, Yaffa, Qisarya, Al-Manshiya, Lifta, Khirbat al-Lawz, al-Walaja, Tel Aviv, S'ara and to the ruined Palestinian villages in Tel Aviv. The number of Israeli Jewish participants is approximately 65%, with the remainder being Palestinian-Israelis, internationals, and Zochrot staff.</p> <p><u>Commissioned tours:</u> in 2014 Zochrot coordinated 33 tours to Israeli and Palestinian groups. A total of about 850 people participated in these tours..</p>	<p>Open Tours: Zochrot conducted 5 open tours to the wide public. Total of about 460 people took part in the tours. The tours were to Ajami neighborhood in Yaffa, Caesarea, Luby, Khirbat al-'Umur and Dir Aban. Each of the tours was led by Palestinian refugees from the village and the neighborhood, new testimonies were collected from Palestinian refugees and a new Hebrew-Arabic booklets was published for Luby and Dir Aban tours.</p> <p><u>Commissioned tours:</u> During the period of this report, Zochrot conducted 35 by invitation tours to groups of Jewish-Israelis, Palestinians and Internationals, for a total of about 300 people; The tours were to al-Shaykh Muwannis, Al-Manshiya, Lifta, Amoa and al-Lydda.</p>
Teachers using the Study Guide, how many, from where, what type of schools and how many students do they reach?	<p>During the reporting period, Zochrot's political education coordinator had coached 28 educators in the frame of their work with the study guide. A new lesson plan was developed and disseminated as well as 6 workshops and presentations for educators.</p>	<p>During this period of the report a total of 18 teachers have been coached on implementing the study guide and using it as a tool for teaching about Nakba in Hebrew. During the reporting period, it is important to state, that a large portion of Zochrot's political education coordinator work was dedicated to development of new professional materials for educators, as well as to develop and implement a larger number of courses for the wide public and professional target groups to integrate the Nakba and Return in their professional work.</p>
Number of approaches to the information centre, who uses it and for what purpose?	<p>Zochrot had over 200 approaches by email specifically asking for information on the Nakba from the Visitor Centre. Every month about 5 people (artists, researchers and students) came in for in depth inquiries with Zochrot's information & resources coordinator. Another 100 emails were received that inquired about Zochrot's work or debated materials published by the organization, the tours, the website, the newsletter and so on. Zochrot continued to receive on average about 10 calls per week with inquiries regarding information on the Nakba and Zochrot's work.</p>	<p>Zochrot had over 200 approaches by email specifically asking for information on the Nakba from the Visitor Centre. Every month about 5 people (artists, researchers and students) came in for in depth inquiries with Zochrot's information & resources coordinator. Another 100 emails were received that inquired about Zochrot's work or debated materials published by the organization, the tours, the website, the newsletter and so on. Zochrot continued to receive on average about 10 calls per week with inquiries regarding information on the Nakba and Zochrot's work.</p>
How many and who submitted works to Sedek and the gallery; on what topics?	<p>2 exhibitions were during the reporting period in Zochrot gallery – "New Kakal" by Eytan Bronstein and Moran Barir, and the exhibition " Imagined Midya" by the artist Dani Gal.</p>	<p>2 exhibitions were implemented during the reporting period: "Houses Beyond the Hyphen" in Jaffa in May 2015 and "Ground Truth" in the unrecognized Bedouin village "Al-Araqib" between the 1-2nd of January 2016.</p> <p>In the frame of the project "Ground Truth" a new book was published "The Conflict Shoreline" by the UK based scholar Prof. Eyal Weizman (Goldsmiths University). The book dealt with the connection between climate changes to the ongoing dispossession of the Bedouins in the Naqab.</p>
monthly original hits on Zochrot's website	<p>108,687 visitors, mainly from Israel, United States, Palestine and Great Britain</p>	<p>172,747 visitors, mainly from Israel, United States, Palestine and Jordan.</p>
How many original materials by Zochrot were disseminated?	<p>2 new tour booklets each disseminated through our website and in the tours themselves.</p>	<p>2 new tour booklets were published in the frame of 2 tours to ruined Palestinian villages.</p>

To whom?		
How many appearances did Zochrot make in the media? What was reported?	Zochrot made over 150 appearances in the media, on issues such as our ongoing activities, Land Day, Nakba Day, Israeli Independence Day, Zochrot's tours, the Nakba in the education system, Zochrot's exhibitions, Zochrot's public truth commission, and the film festival.	Zochrot made over 150 appearances in the media, on issues such as our ongoing activities, Land Day, Nakba Day, Israeli Independence Day, Zochrot's tours, the Nakba in the education system, Zochrot's exhibitions, Zochrot's public truth commission, and the film festival.

7 Important side effects

Positive side effects From a target audience point of view, teachers and additional professional audiences (planners, game developers, writers, etc.) are becoming active social agents who routinely incorporate the Nakba in their activities and initiatives: many of the teachers who began using the Study Guide and teaching about the Nakba in 2010, 2011 and 2012, 2013 and 2014 had continued to do so in 2015 regularly and independently, incorporating the Nakba in the annual curricula. In general, our activities resulted in highly positive feedbacks and participants were very active, with some expressing willingness to take part in further activities or join Zochrot.

Negative side effects may come from Israel's current government which passed the "Nakba Law" and the "Loyalty-Citizenship" Bill. The current racist and violent political environment as well the discriminating bills issued by the right wing Israeli government, and the escalation in the violence in Israel, makes Zochrot's work within the Israeli public even more challenging comparing to previous years. Zochrot, more than ever, is careful to meet all legal requirements made by the Israeli Registrar of NGOs, in order to make sure that we are not shut down for "technical" issues. In addition, we are increasing our grassroots work and basis of support, in order that shutting us down will be difficult and that our work will already be out there, with the public.