



JOURNAL OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Understanding Israeli Practices of Forced Displacement and Settler Colonialism in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (Special Issue Guest Editor: Lamya Hussain)

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ABSTRACTS

Special Theme

Editorial

Understanding Israeli Practices of Force Displacement

Lamya Hussain

JID (July 2014), Vol. 4 No. 2, 5-7

Abstract

This Issue of the Journal of Internal Displacement (JID) examines the plight of Palestinian refugees and displaced communities as a marginalized-protracted refugee community through the lens of international and regional laws and policies. In order to investigate whether these legal frameworks are in symphony with the existing development agencies the volume aims to analyze the efficacy of local and international law on the overall status of displaced persons. The on-going research around forced displacement across the Palestinian territories employs both data collected in the field and existing interpretive theoretical methods, borrowing from several disciplines - health, law, human rights, development and social entrepreneurship disciplines.

“We may go, but this is my home”: Experiences of domicide and resistance for Palestinian children and families

Bree Akeeson

JID (July 2014), Vol. 4 No. 2, 8-22

Abstract

Since the start of the occupation of Palestine in 1967, Israel has demolished approximately 27,000 Palestinian structures, most of which are family homes. Porteous and Smith (2001) coined the word domicide to mean the intentional destruction of one's home by another, which causes distress to those who have become displaced. Domicide, or even the possibility that one's home may be destroyed, causes significant psychological effects; nevertheless, we only know generally what these effects are and we know even less about the effects on children and families as a social system. Drawing from qualitative place-based research with 18 Palestinian families, this paper explores how loss of home or the threat of loss of home affects their everyday lives. After providing an

overview of the factors that lead to domicide—Israel's "matrix of control" and the proliferation of illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine—the paper describes the effects of domicide or the threat of domicide on Palestinian children and families and how they resist domicide through *sumud* (steadfastness). The paper concludes with recommendations to conceptualize home as a human right, and correspondingly, include domicide as a human rights' violation.

Understanding Israeli Practices of Forced Displacement: The Creation of Dispossessed and Displaced Palestinians

Lamya Hussain

JID (July 2014), Vol. 4. No. 2, 23-38

Abstract

Palestinians refugees are often engaged in two continuous battles; one for survival under the staggering conditions in refugee camps and the other in the pursuit of resettlement and return to their indigenous lands. In the very specific case of protracted refugees and displaced context, like the Palestinian refugees, the struggle is far more complex as they remain static and warehoused across refugee camps. It is within this indeterminate state where insufficient social services (i.e., health care, education etc.,) and on-going conflict coupled by forced displacement continues to cripple the livelihoods of Palestinians across the occupied territories. Further, with complete reliance on UNRWA services and other donor agencies (both development and humanitarian), a pattern of donor dependency has created a context through which the Israeli military-settler occupation continues to operate coincidentally with the local Palestinian Authority (PA) as a sub-contractor for security and administrative support. In light of the existing refugee population and with the on-going demolitions and displacement patters in what is identified as 'Area C' zones, existing literature must challenge the context and practice of Oslo Accords that continue to enable the dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. This paper probes the challenges faced by local communities through a legal and narrative perspective, shedding light on the on-going violations of international law, human rights, rights of refugees etc.

Book Review

Gaza Writes Back: Short Stories from Young Writers in Gaza, Palestine

By Refaat Alareer (ed.), 2014

JID (July 2014), Vol. 4 No. 2, 39-41

Mara Sprengel

Abstract

In September 2005 Israeli troops and settlers were withdrawn from Gaza after thirty-eight years of occupation and military control. The Oslo Accords of 1993 outlined that Gaza, together with the West Bank, should become part of the Palestinian Authority. A Palestinian state would potentially be formed with the two areas joined by an access strip. However the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), having previously occupied the ground space of Gaza, were merely trans-located to the airspace, border crossings and territorial waters that surround it. A separation barrier now completely encircles Gaza's land border, with movement in and out controlled and monitored entirely by the IDF. A bureaucratic system of identity cards and travel passes is in operation, which serves to render travel in and out of the area practically impossible for many Palestinian residents. The oppression, domination and control, it seems, continues, with Gaza being dubbed 'the world's largest open air prison'. Residents suffer, along with regular power cuts, lack of medical supplies and basic goods, and huge unemployment, intermittent air strikes at the hands of the IDF.

General Theme

Why We Need the Concept of Land-Grab-Induced Displacement

Frances Thomson

JID (July 2014), Vol. 4 No. 2, 42-65

Abstract

This paper challenges the traditional threefold classification of forced migration, and proposes a new concept: land-grab-induced displacement. The concept sheds light on issues that are shrouded by the conventional typology. Displacement, frequently treated as the 'collateral damage' of war and climate change, or an unfortunate sacrifice necessitated by 'development', may often be better understood as part of the political economy of land. The notion of land-grab-induced displacement encapsulates cases in which people are forcibly uprooted primarily so that others can control the land and its resources. The argument draws on three examples –from Colombia, Ethiopia and Southeast Asia post-tsunami- in order to highlight the limitations of the standard categorisation, and the need to better integrate land questions into our analytical frameworks of forced displacement.

Of Foolish Ancestors, and Land over Weapons: Political Ecology of the “Development” of Chenchu

Meenakshi Narayan

JID (July 2014), Vol. 4 No. 2, 66-78

Abstract

Based on fieldwork conducted among the Chenchu, a tribal community of Andhra Pradesh, India, this paper discusses the effects of physical displacement on the ethnomedical knowledge of the community. Furthermore, it gives an account of how the Chenchu view their lives following displacement positively, thereby demonstrating apathy toward their Chenchu identity. Contrasting the apathy demonstrated by the Chenchu toward their identity with growing concerns over the need to preserve eroding knowledge systems, this paper raises the question, how can knowledge loss or erosion be addressed when groups like the Chenchu no longer wish to identify with their traditional ways of life? Using a political ecology framework, my paper is a conversation between the critique of development discourse surrounding tribal development and growing concerns over loss of indigenous knowledge systems; Through this conversation, I describe two contradictory but simultaneous phenomena: tribal development, which often assumes displacement as a precursor to progress in the Indian context, and efforts of preserving indigenous knowledge system, which require the socio-geographic context in which they operate to remain intact. By juxtaposing these two processes, this analysis brings to light an inherent contradiction in the current development discourse undertaken by the Indian state toward tribal communities. This contradiction helps explain why India’s tribal development project continues to perpetuate the marginalization it aims at overcoming. This paper ultimately challenges the existing paradigm of tribal development that not only explains growing apathy of the Chenchu toward their tribal identity, but also contributes to their sustained disempowerment.

Book Review

Refugee Repatriation: Justice, Responsibility and Redress

By Megan Bradley, 2013

JID (July 2014), Vol. 4 No. 2, 79-80

Veronica Fynn

Abstract

In October last year, whilst flipping hats from my PhD research to working on publishing articles of personal interest on refugee issues, I happened upon Megan’s book. You see, once an internally displaced person and a refugee for 11 years of my relatively young life, affinity to researching refugees plight is not just an academic exercise for the purpose of populating my curriculum vitae. It is an actively lived experience where past trauma of pain and suffering, interestingly becomes the driving force for steering social change. In 2012, I embarked on a research journey to investigate the United Nation High Commission for Refugees’ resolve to evoke its 1951 Convention Cessation Clause to conduct the closure of the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana.

Book Review

LAT Does Not Exist: Oral Histories of Development-Induced Displacement in India

By Sam Trnum and Lois Kapila, (eds.), 2014

JID (July 2014), Vol. 4 No. 2, 81-82

Veronica Fynn

Abstract

For me, as the Editor-in-Chief and Founder of the Journal of Internal Displacement, every book review has a tale, actually a rewarding story of learning, appreciation and fight for social justice and equality for forcibly displaced persons. Whilst I have been privileged in assisting a colleague and friend with proof-reading manuscripts on displacement in Asia, in actuality, this is my first attempt to review a complete finished product on displacement in India. It was 13 May 2014, exactly a month to my departure from Liberia having spent 6 months collecting field data for my PhD. Apparently, it was also a month to the publication of Lat does not exist, when Sam Trnum, the first author, pre-empted the need to solicit JID’s review of the upcoming publication.

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