

ZOCHROT 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

Zochrot, RA 580-389526



Annual Report 2016

Overall Context

In 2016 Zochrot continued to expand its scope of activities and we have created more projects than before, reaching diverse publics with diverse activities. Zochrot have developed and implemented intense workshops for focus groups of activists and professionals that have been trained and received tools enabling them to create individual projects on the Nakba and Return. The program aims at recruiting social change agent who will be engaged with Zochrot for a long period and together we initiate and develop outputs in different fields: educational materials, models for return, political games, transitional justice grassroots initiatives, Mizrahi action-research group, testimonies collection, etc. Next to the intimate work with individuals, Zochrot have implemented large scale project that were exposed to hundreds and thousands of people: film festivals, return conferences, public tours, exhibitions, updating online information center and archive, and more. With those efforts, Zochrot have increased its scope of influence, and more and more people possess knowledge and demonstrate active acknowledgment towards the Nakba and its redress.

On the other hand, the past years have been years of escalation in the Israeli public discourse, as the right-wing government initiated legislations that limits freedom of speech and puts limitation on the work of civic society. The government actions have created an atmosphere of fear and threat, and the spaces for civic activity are shrinking. People are reluctant to express their opinion publicly, let alone to join activities, disseminate information, or create works in the scope of project dealing with taboos such as the Nakba and Return.

Zochrot is facing this complex reality, and make sure to continue and provide platforms and spaces for those who are still looking for a fundamental change. The organization keeps updating its program and initiate innovative projects in a variety of methods and fields which are based on truth-seeking and protection of human rights for all people. Those projects create many sub-spaces that nurture and cultivate the human rights and peace camp in our society. Zochrot believes that the escalating discourse from the government actually indicates the crisis of its ideology and the unstable system it creates. Thus, we are certain that our efforts and work are crucial and vital for the creation of the basis for bottom-up change; calling for a fundamental change in priorities, outreaching the entire public.

Activity scope

In 2016 Zochrot had about 4,437 participants in various activities, calculated as follows: return conference: 300 people; exhibition and lecture evenings: 1,040 people; tours and commemoration events: 1,070 people; educators seminars and professional workshops: 41 people; open courses and workshops: 81 people; film festival and cinematic events: 1,550 people; information centre, group visits, personal trainings, testimonies collection: 355 people. Participants are Palestinians, internationals, and mainly Jewish Israelis, women and men, living throughout the country.

Zochrot's digital activity has significantly grown in 2016. We had 98,317 unique visitors to Zochrot's website; 6,615 unique users in Zochrot's iNakba app; 10,780 followers on Facebook. Most users are from Israel the rest come from Palestine, US, Jordan, Russia, UK, and more countries worldwide. In addition, thousands of booklets, maps and books were disseminated by Zochrot in 2016 to the wide public, mostly in Hebrew.

Goals and Objectives

Our Goals

1. To increase the presence of the Return in public discourse;
2. The injustices of the ongoing Nakba and Return as its imperative redress will have become an urgent item on the Israeli Jewish public's agenda, with more and more people realizing that return is essential and critical to a better society;
3. To transform the public discourse so that the linkage between Nakba and Return is understood, together with the fact that the Nakba is an ongoing reality with no end in sight, rather than a one-time historic event;

4. To seek the truth that provides an account of past abuses and injustice around the Nakba and to encourage Israelis to take individual and collective responsibility for it;
5. To generate avant-garde, creative discursive spaces involving the Nakba and Return.

Our Objectives

1. Create wider support for practical and rights-based solutions to the Palestinian refugee problem and promote just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; commemorate the Nakba and challenge the erasure of Palestinian life by holding tours and events in Nakba-related locations; *Space for Return program*.
2. Develop ways to engage educators in teaching about the Nakba and students in learning about it; act to expand the circle of influential social change agents who promote a public discourse of active awareness, acknowledgement and accountability; *Political Education program*.
3. Promote truthful discourse as part of a pre-reconciliation process through research, development and implementation of unofficial transitional justice initiatives; Promoting a paradigm shift from 1967 to 1948 as the root cause of the conflict; collect testimonies from Palestinian victims of the Nakba and Zionist fighters; *Pre-Transitional Justice program*.
4. Create a space for a new culture that allows and encourages public discourse on the Nakba and its ongoing implications; generate greater and deeper knowledge by producing and publicizing accessible materials in Hebrew, including books, publications, exhibitions, symposia; *Knowledge & Culture program*.
5. Initiate, support and disseminate local and international films about the Nakba and Return; Expand the cycle of filmmakers as change agents who promote a public and artistic discourse about the denial of the Nakba and the practical thinking about return; *Cinema 48mm and film festival program*.
6. Raise awareness of the Nakba and Return; encourage and promote the use of multimedia and internet platforms, promote wide public outreach strategies aimed towards mass communication; maintaining an archive and providing a large and accessible pool of information on the Nakba, particularly in Hebrew; *Public Outreach, Multimedia & Internet program*.

Overview of projects and activities implemented during 2016

Space for Return Program: Create wider support for practical and rights-based solutions to the Palestinian refugee problem and promote just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; commemorate the Nakba and challenge the erasure of Palestinian life by holding tours and events in Nakba-related locations.

Program Overview: With this program Zochrot revisit Israel's physical landscape and unveil its Palestinian history, shedding light on the silenced stories and erased geography. Alongside it, the program calls for the return of the refugees and initiates different activities promoting the idea and the possible models for its implementation.

❖ The 3rd International Return Conference

The Third International Return Conference took place on 21st-22nd of March 2016 in Erez Israel Museum in Tel Aviv on the land of the ruined Palestinian village Sheikh Munis. 25 speakers participated, Israeli, Palestinian and international scholars and activists.

The conference title chosen was: 'How to say 'Awda in Hebrew?' (Al Awda means return in Arabic) and it examined different ways of thinking of and promoting return today as well as imagine the post-return reality. Its point of departure was recognition of the right of return and its objective was 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. The conference created a space for an innovative and free discussion on the Nakba and Return. It was also a moment

to reflect on Zochrot's activities and achievements in previous years, before proceeding and developing new projects. A wide array of researches about the Nakba and return were presented, including the presentation of models for return that were created in the frame of the project Odná in 2015. The conference was marked by the significant participation of organizations that have joined Zochrot in developing the notion of practical return, including BADIL (Bethlehem), ADRID, and Baladna. In addition to a paper by prominent Israeli historian Prof. Ilan Pappé (Exeter University), two additional international keynote presentations were conducted by Selma Porobich (Bosnia) and Justine Mbabaze Rukeba (Rwanda) who shared fascinating, rich information about their professional and practical experience of expulsion and return to their countries. About 300 people attended the two days of the conference, mostly Israeli. The conference was held in three languages – Hebrew, Arabic and English, with simultaneous translation to 3 languages. It was streamed live online, and most presentations were uploaded later to YouTube.

[The complete Hebrew media coverage](#)

[The complete Arabic media coverage](#)

[The complete English media coverage](#)



The Third International Return Conference



The Third International Return Conference



❖ Odna

Following 15 models for return that were created in 2014-2015 and discussions on how to continue the project, the partner organizations in Odna have decided that in 2016-2018 the Palestinian organizations (ADRID, Baladna and HRA) will be in charge of working with Palestinian youth and the creation of models for return, while Zochrot will be in charge for the following activities: (1) Working with Israelis residing today on ruins of Palestinian Odna villages. (2) Establishment of a Public Council for Return. (3) A campaign addressing the Israeli public disseminating the models created in Odna and calling for support in return (in collaboration with ISTV). In 2016, Zochrot was engaged in a thorough research and outreach to potential partners who will participant and contribute to this project.

❖ Open tours to destroyed Palestinian villages

During the period of this report, Zochrot conducted 10 open tours to the wide public. Total of about 590 people took part in the tours. The tours were to Summayl, Tantura, Dayr Aban, Lifta, Acre, Yaffa and Bayt Nattif. Each tour was led by a Palestinian refugee of 1948. The tour in Bayt Nattif included an apology ceremony by Erik Ader (The Netherlands) following his discovery that the JNF planted a forest in honour of his father who saved Jews during the 2nd world war on the ruins of the Palestinian village Bayt Nattif. When Erik found out that his father's name was used by the JNF in expelled Palestinian village he decided to make action to commemorate this vanished village. A booklet documenting the tour and ceremony was produced and printed. In addition, Zochrot conducted 35 tours to Jewish-Israelis, Palestinians and International groups by invitation.

[Letter to Bayt Nattif by Erik Ader.](#)

[Video article on the ceremony and tour \(Hebrew\).](#)

[Download Bayt Nattif booklet.](#)



Tour to Bayt Nattif and apology ceremony by Arik Eder



Tour to Bayt Nattif and apology ceremony by Arik Eder



Tour to Tantara



Tour to Tantara

❖ Commemoration Events

March of Return: Like every year, Zochrot has participated in the annual March of Return, that was held this time in the Naqab, around the destroyed village Wadi Zubalah. This location was chosen because the former residences of the village reside today in Umm al-Hiran and are facing constant threats of a second deportation by Israel. Zochrot called the Jewish public to join the march, and organized a bus from Tel Aviv; about 40 people joined and participated. In the central location of the march Zochrot build a stand and handed out about 2,000 booklets about destroyed villages where Zochrot held tour in previous years. Zochrot also participated in the work to put signs and commemorate the village and its name.

The return flotilla and house tour at the Nakba day: from Diaspora to Homeland: Tens of thousands of Yaffa's inhabitants were deported in 1948 on ships heading for Gaza, Beirut, and other Mediterranean ports. This commemoration event for the Nakba's 68th anniversary included a boat trip and a walking tour in Yaffa and its houses. The tour illustrated an act of deportation and returning to Yaffa in the opposite direction, an act seeking to turn the journey of refugeehood into one of return. The first part of the tour was a boat trip during which participants received explanations about the 1948 deportation and listened to live refugee testimonies, as well as a recorded testimony by the late Shafiq al-Hout, a senior PLO official from Jaffa and the author of *Between Homeland and Diaspora: The Voyage Began in Yaffa*. The boat trip as followed by a walking tour of Jaffa houses, led by 'Abed Sattal. Around 70 people participated in the boat trip and the walking tour.

Deir Yassin commemoration event: Zochrot commemorated Deir Yassin massacre in a special event and tour, this time marking the 68th anniversary of the massacre. The event was composed of a tour from the eastern end of the village to its western side. We stopped at the remains of one building, which is situated today on the main street of Giv'at Shaul quarter in Jerusalem; at a building that used to be the school of the village and today is a center for CHABAD; at the cemetery; and at the center of the village, where a mental institute is situated today and the entrance is forbidden. During the tour and the stops, we introduced information on the village and its history, we described what happened in 1948, and read testimonies, from Jewish fighters, Palestinian refugees, and investigators from the UN. About 40 people participated in this tour.

Nakba Commemoration event at the Israeli Independence Day: On the eve of Israeli Independence Day Zochrot held a lecture "Between Imagination and Expectation" dealing with the Palestinian Refugees in Southern Lebanon. The lecture was held by scholar Tiina Järvi (University of Tampere, Finland) and was followed by an open discussion with the audience. Around 40 people participated.



Return flotilla at the Nakba day

- **Political Education Program:** Develop ways to engage educators in teaching about the Nakba and students in learning about it; act to expand the circle of influential social change agents who promote a public discourse of active awareness, acknowledgement and accountability;

Program Overview: Zochrot continued in 2016 to develop the model of the Nakba and Return School in order to expand the circle of social influence agents 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 special workshops for professional, courses open to the wide public, the development of educational materials, and ongoing guidance and assistance to teachers and educators who want to teach the Nakba in class and face difficulties coming from the official education system.

❖ **Professionals' Workshops**

Towards TAMA48 – Course for planning professionals: A unique course for planning professionals on the relation between the Nakba and fair planning. The course 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. Each participant is asked to plan a model relating to a specific aspect of return to Haifa which is a fascinating study case, a central city in the Palestinian culture prior and today a mixed city where the past is hidden and where political/imaginary dimensions are required for an alternative thought on the future. The models and work will be completed and presented to the public in 2017.

Game Lab for creation of political games: 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 workshop was composed from 15 people – Israeli and Palestinians, men and women who held previous experience or interest in game development. The workshop started in 2015 and was completed in 2016 with the development of 8 prototypes of games by the participants. One of them the games, *Terrace*, is a finalized game which is available to the public. [Media review on the game Terrace \(Hebrew\)](#)



❖ Courses Open to the Wide Public

Because It Is Something Colonial - The Nakba and the Zionist Settler Society: This course asked to see the Nakba not as an outcome of war, but as something rooted deep in the Zionist identity and goals, as they developed through the first half of the 20th century. Some of the questions that led the participants in the course; what is colonialism and how did the founders of Zionism saw it? what are the similarities between the Zionist society and other settler colonial societies such as in the US, Australia and New Zealand? How did people talk and write about the Nakba while it was happening? Dr. Tom Pessah instructed the course, 15 people participated.

Palestinian Women, History and Memory: We cannot understand the full scale of the Nakba's socioeconomic and political history without reference to the key element of women lived experience. Conversely, we cannot understand gender relations and roles without reference to political developments within the broader colonialist context. In recent years, a range of scholarly studies, films and artworks have examined the Nakba from the gender perspective, and the impact of the Zionist colonization of Palestine on the socioeconomic and political status of Palestinian women. The course hosted several researchers and artists and addressed a range of issues, including oral history and its centrality to the writing of feminine history; Palestinian women's movements from the British Mandate period to the present and the impact of colonialist realities on their development and vision; the city and Palestinian women; nationality, citizenship and gender; women and cinema; and women in the pre-statehood rural economy. 30 people participated.

The following courses started in 2015 and were completed in 2016.

The memory after the memory: writing workshop about the Nakba and Return: This 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 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.

The Nakba from a Jewish Perspective: 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.

❖ Educational Track & Educational Material Development

Training to Educators: Zochrot continues to provide training and guidance to teachers and educators who are working with our materials. 35 teachers have been coached in 2016 on implementing Zochrot's texts and study guides 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, a special 3-day seminar was held to present the new Transitional Justice Curriculum to teachers interested in teaching it in class. The participants in the seminar got introduced to the textual and visual materials of the curriculum, archival materials and historical knowledge of the Nakba, the continuous Nakba and ongoing violation of Palestinian rights since 1948, precedents and theoretical aspects of TJ, and ideological and pedagogical challenges of teaching the curriculum in an era of fear and censorship in Israel and specifically the education system.

Transitional Justice Curriculum: A unique curriculum on transitional justice was developed in 2016. The curriculum is based on the long-time experience of Zochrot in education and curriculum writing as well as TJ learning and training process the organization has gone through. The curriculum is intended for teachers and educators of high school student, and deals with the subject of transitional justice, known TJ mechanisms, learning from international precedents of conflict resolution, the history and present of the Nakba and the conflict. Part of the curriculum is also the encouragement of new civic initiatives for redress in relation to the Nakba to be developed by the students. The written curriculum was completed on September 2016, it is composed of 14 lessons for 42

hours of teaching and offers the opportunity for educators to hand in an in-depth perspective on the subject to their students.

Shuruch – Cracks in History: A teaching kit designed to fill significant gaps in the official education program by providing complementary information and insights to students of Unit 4 in the official curriculum for the 11th grade: “Building the State of Israel in the Middle East”. The program is designed to expand on the standard lesson plans and offer alternative approaches to key themes in the official curriculum. In each of the topics selected, we have provided historical information excluded from the curriculum as well as raised critical questions regarding past and present.



Shuruch – Cracks in History

- **Pre-Transitional Justice program:** Promote truthful discourse as part of a pre-reconciliation process through research, development and implementation of unofficial transitional justice initiatives; collect testimonies from Palestinian victims of the Nakba and Zionist fighters;

Program Overview: This program acts to mainstream transitional justice as a widely-accepted conflict resolution mechanism while encouraging unofficial grassroots initiatives. Working with activists, artists, scholars, educators, and people from a variety of fields, the program asks how models of recognition, truth, remedies, and responsibility can be applied while the conflict is still on going and justice or protection of human rights is not in sight.

❖ **Pre-Transitional Justice Incubator**

A group platform for the development and implementation of grassroots Pre-TJ projects by individuals. The incubator/lab encourages participants to lead processes of recognition, remedy, and responsibility in their communities. Following group learning, independent initiatives were developed by the participants and will be implemented in 2017, all projects will be supported by Zochrot, in assistance, guidance, production and implementation. At first stage, the lab introduced the group to the language, theory and practice of transitional justice as developed globally, criticize it and expand upon it out of Zochrot's unique approach regarding the ongoing Nakba – 1948, 1967 and to this today. Zochrot also introduced the participants with the term 'Pre-Transitional Justice', an outcome of a long process we have gone through while facing the difficulties in discussing TJ in contemporary Israel-Palestine, that lack transition nor justice. We have come to realize that the notion of Pre-TJ maintains the legacy of TJ, while clearly emphasizing that we are facing a different situation where individual

accountability receives an even greater significance; as an action that aims not only towards implementation of justice, but first and foremost to lead the very first steps of transition. The participants also learned together about the Nakba from a historical and contemporary perspective, the erasure of the Palestinian culture and life from the Israeli landscape and about the Palestinian refugees.

Anticipated projects may include, for example, researching pre-Nakba remains in Palestinian villages and towns and seeking ways to present them anew; obtaining testimonies from Jewish fighters in 1948; researching official and unofficial archives; holding lectures on the Nakba in schools and community centers, and of course more ideas to be developed by the participants. The lab is a first of its kind initiative in Israeli civil society, the participants delve into the issue of the possibilities to lead grassroots transitional justice mechanisms in an era of escalation and violence and we look forward toward the implementation of the projects. 15 people participated in the incubator.

❖ Testimonies Collection

The creation of an oral archive on the crimes of the Nakba and the war in 1948 is one of Zochrot's core missions when facing the challenge of the predominant historical discourse in Israel. As time goes by, the majority of the survivors and Zionist fighters are already dead, or dying. Thus, Zochrot prioritizes this project in the next years. In 2016, we have collected 10 testimonies from Palestinian refugees and 3 testimonies from Zionist-Jewish fighters from 1948. In 2017, all testimonies will be transcribed, translated, edited into short clips and uploaded to Zochrot's website and online archive. We are expected to collect many more testimonies in 2017-2018.

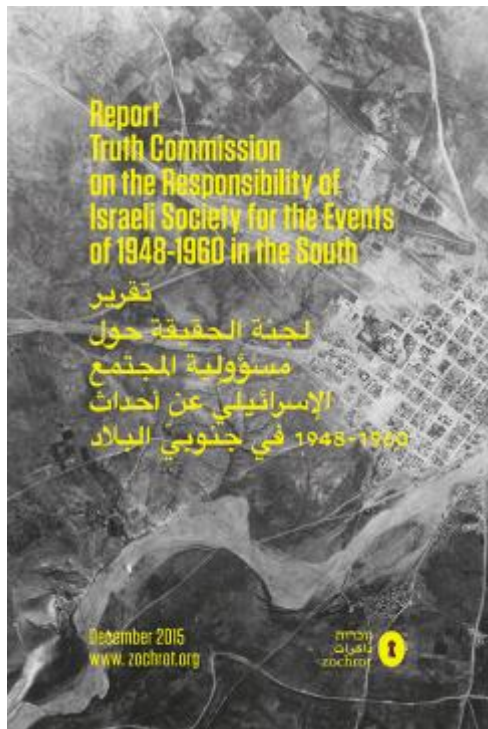


Testimony collected in the tour to Lifta

❖ Truth Commission Report

The truth commission on the Responsibility of Israeli Society for the Events of 1948-1960 in the South was presented in January 2016 in an event in Al Araqib with the commissioners and more scholars. Following that, the report was printed and disseminated on and off line in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic and English. 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. On March 2016, on the international

day for the right to truth, the report was submitted to the UN Rapporteur on the Right to Truth, Reparation and Guarantee of Non-Recurrence. [Truth Commission report \(Hebrew, English, Arabic\)](#)



- **Knowledge & Culture program:** Create a space for a new culture that allows and encourages public discourse on the Nakba and its ongoing implications; generate greater and deeper knowledge by producing and publicizing accessible materials in Hebrew, including books, publications, exhibitions, symposia;

Program Overview: 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. 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.

❖ Houses beyond the Hyphen

An exhibition that marked the Nakba's 68th anniversary in a 3 days' activity composed of a series of artistic interventions in private homes in Yaffa from which Palestinians were uprooted in 1948 and today are inhabited by Israeli Jews. This is the second time Zochrot is holding this large-scale event in Yaffa, with the goal of shedding light on the present absence of the Palestinians deported in 1948 and the expectation for return. The silent house's walls together with the art works that reside there, offered the public an opportunity to reflect on a suppressed past and to see the future redress; firstly, for the families and individuals that were expelled, as well as for the cultural legacy the houses contain. The artists, socially engaged and known locally and internationally, presented their works in various locations and corners of these houses and homes, giving them a new lease on life and a meaning different from that most of us know. In addition to the artistic interventions that stood at the core of the project, it included more activities such as symposia, a theatre play, and 2 tours in Yaffa. Kamal al-Ja'fari, Scandar Copti, Rabi' Buchari, Samah Shehade participated as artist, 250 people attended the event.



Houses Beyond the Hyphen



Houses Beyond the Hyphen

❖ Symposium and Lectures

Genealogy of Erasure: A symposium part of Houses Beyond the Hyphen. With presentations by Prof. Tobi Fenster and Ronnie Schlesinger, Shamir Zalkin and Omer Bar-Oryan, Keren Kinberg, Himat Zoabi, and Tamara Ben Halim the event offered an extensive discussion of the issues addressed by the project, with emphasis on the erasure of official, public, cultural and private lives of the pre-1948 Palestinian city – and Jaffa in particular – by presenting and discussing a range of other projects that expose the urban history of the now hyphenated city.

Counter-Mapping - On the Map as a Decolonization Practice: In marking the international refugee day, Zochrot initiated a symposium in Haifa dealing with mapping as a hegemonic and subversive tool. The symposium raised awareness of what has been erased from the hegemonic Israeli maps, and discuss practices of counter-mapping the destruction of 1948. By presenting both physical and mental alternative maps and studies that recognize official maps as agents of power and knowledge and sites representative of the sovereign's policy, it highlighted processes of exclusion and erasure of the Nakba and put it back on the map. Participants: Dr. Johnny Mansur, Noga Kadman, Umar Al-Ghubari, Hassan A. Mansur. 30 people attended.

Book Launch - The Conflict Shoreline: The village of al-'Araqib has been destroyed and rebuilt more than nineteen times in the ongoing "battle over the Negev," an Israeli state campaign to uproot the Palestinian Bedouins from the northern threshold of the desert. Unlike other frontiers fought over during the Israel-Palestine conflict, this one is not demarcated by fences and walls but by shifting climatic conditions. The threshold of the desert advances and recedes in response to colonization, cultivation, displacement, urbanization, and, most recently, climate change. Eyal Weizman's essay's, first published in Hebrew, incorporates historical aerial photographs, contemporary remote sensing data, state plans, court testimonies, and nineteenth-century travelers' accounts, exploring the Negev's threshold as a "shoreline" along which climate change and political conflict are deeply and dangerously entangled. The book, *The Conflict Shoreline: Settlement and Dispossession as Climate Change in the Negev*, was published in Hebrew by Zochrot and Babel Publishing and was launched in the 'unrecognized' village Al-Araqib in the Naqab in January 2016. Following that, 2 additional events dedicated for the book took place in Tel Aviv. Among the participant were Eyal Weizman, Sharon Rotbard, Dr. Awad Abu-Frieich, Prof. Gadi Algazi and Dr. Noa Kram. About 200 people attended the event in Al Araqib and 100 people attended the events in Tel Aviv.

Selected media coverage on the project and book:

- [Yedioth Ahronoth](#)
- [Haaretz - Yitzhak Laor](#)
- [Haaretz – Ztafrir Rinat](#)
- [+972 Magazine](#)

▪ **Cinema 48mm and film festival:** Initiate, support and disseminate local and international films about the Nakba and Return; Expand the cycle of filmmakers as change agents who promote a public and artistic discourse about the denial of the Nakba and the practical thinking about return; Cinema 48mm and film festival program.

Program Overview: The program is composed of different cinematic events throughout the year in different locations, and the main event that is the International film festival on Nakba and Return in December in Tel Aviv Cinematheque. Through initiation of new original films by local filmmakers and screening international acclaimed works, the project is unique in the local landscape, which usually lack knowledge or access to films dealing with the Nakba and return.

❖ The 4th International Nakba and Return Film Festival

On December 2016 48mm film festival took place in Tel Aviv cinematheque and Al Saraya theatre in Jaffa for the fourth time. The 3 days' program was composed of films dealing with the Nakba, ongoing refugeehood and the anticipated return, most of them were screened for the first time in Israel. Here is a list of some of the films screened at the festival: The Shebabs of Yarmouk (Axel Salvatori-Sinz, France-Syria), Homage by Assassination (Elia Suleiman, Palestine), The Time That Remains (Elia Suleiman, Palestine), Salata Baladi (Nadia Kamel, Egypt), Ambulance (Muhammad Jabaly, Palestine-Gaza), Infiltrators (Khaled Jarrar, Palestine), A Plate of Sardines (Omar

Amiralay, Syria). Introduction presentations by prominent scholars took place prior to some of the screenings, giving historical and geo-political context to the films. Among the participants: Dr. Ariel M. Sheetrit, Eyal Sagui Bizawe, Dr. Gerardo Leibner.

Selected media reviews of the festival (Hebrew):

[An interview with The Shebabs of Yarmouk's director Axel Salvatori-Sinz.](#)

[An interview with the festival's artistic director](#)

[Film festival full program](#)



❖ Palestine and the Nakba in the Eyes of Syrian Cinema

A discussion and films screenings about Syrian cinema and Syrian works dealing with the Nakba and the Palestinian struggle. Participants: Raji Bat'hish, Salah Dabbah, Laliv Melamed and Yael Messer.

❖ 48mm in New York

In collaboration with local students' organizations, Zochrot held the film festival in New York. It is the first time the festival receives international exposure. With the participation of hundreds of people, 5 events took place in different universities in New York City (New York University, Brooklyn College, Columbia University, Brown University, and NYU's Hagop Kevorkian Center), screening a variety of Zochrot's original productions from previous year.

Selected Media Coverage - 48mm in NY

[Why We Flouted Hillel Rules to Hold Nakba Event at Brown University](#)

[Defying official censorship orders, Brown and RISD students hold Nakba discussion inside Hillel](#)

[Heavy Backlash Forces Brown University's Hillel to Pull Sponsorship of 'Nakba Day' Event](#)

❖ Screenings in Haifa and Jerusalem cinematheque

A selection of short films produced for the festival were screened for the first time in Haifa and Jerusalem cinematheques. The screenings were followed by a discussion with the filmmakers on political cinema, freedom of expression and integration of the Palestinian Nakba and Return in the local cinematic discourse.



The Time That Remains, Elia Suleiman

- **Public Outreach, Multimedia & Internet program:** Raise awareness of the Nakba and Return; encourage and promote the use of multimedia and internet platforms, promote wide public outreach strategies aimed towards mass communication; maintaining an archive and providing a large and accessible pool of information on the Nakba, particularly in Hebrew.

Program Overview: 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, mainly through maintaining the largest archive and database in Hebrew about the Nakba and the Palestinian refugees, and through the initiation and dissemination of articles, documents and video materials, mainly in Hebrew. Zochrot's digital activity has significantly grown in 2016 and we had 98,317 unique visitors to Zochrot's website; 6,615 unique users in Zochrot's iNakba app; 10,780 followers on Facebook. Most users are from Israel the rest come from Palestine, US, Jordan, Russia, UK, and more countries worldwide. In addition, thousands of booklets, maps and books were disseminated by Zochrot in 2016 to the wide public. Zochrot made over 100 appearances in the media in 2016, 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.

❖ Online Hebrew library and archive

Zochrot's [website](#) serves as the largest and 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. 98,317 unique users visited the website in 2016.



Online Nakba Archive

❖ iNakba App

iNakba is Zochrot's trilingual mobile app (Arabic, Hebrew and English) based on Google Maps. This app allows users to locate the Palestinian localities destroyed in the Nakba since 1948 and to learn about them. 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 35,000 people from all over the world had downloaded the app, and in 2016 alone we had 6,615 unique users. 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.

❖ Social Media

With an average of 3 posts per week, Zochrot keep updating activities and projects on our [Facebook page](#), alongside posts responding to topical political events with Nakba historical context, and information on destroyed villages and contemporary relevant researches. At the end of 2016, Zochrot's Facebook page has 10,780 followers.

❖ 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.

❖ Newsletter

Zochrot proceeded during 2016 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.

Organizational changes in 2016 and plans for 2017

At the end of 2016 Zochrot said goodbye to Liat Rosenberg, its director for over 5 years. Mr. Nadav Inbar was appointed as the new director and had started his term in 01.01.2017. Nadav Inbar served as a board member of Zochrot from 2011 to 2016 and knows the organization and its agenda well. The transition was smooth.

Zochrot will continue to implement a diverse program composed of old and new projects, and in 2017 will give special attention on the following channels:

Professionals training - Zochrot will encourage new works in different fields, by individuals and group who join our educational workshops. In the frame of the education program and the pre-transitional justice Incubator, Zochrot will generate creative spaces for game developers, urban and regional planners, Mizrahi activists, artists, and researches. We aim at recruiting and training change agents who can develop sustainable works or models which later will be disseminated to wider audiences in various ways.

Practicalities of Return – Zochrot is opening new channels for projects and works dealing with the right of return. More people and participants will be involved in the process and together we hope to reframe our call for redress of the Nakba. The projects here aim to generate wide public awareness through a campaign and the production of new video and text materials that challenge predominant perceptions. Alongside the public outreach, Zochrot will create a base for support through outreach to individuals who can lead a call supporting this cause. These activities will take place in the frame of project Odná and the collaboration with BADIL.

Testimonies Collection - since many of the Palestinian survivors and Jewish fighters from 1948 are already dead, and the living are old and aging rapidly, Zochrot has made a strategic decision to promote this project, and collect as many testimonies as possible within the next year or two. Testimonies collection is an integral part of Zochrot's work since its foundation, but now it is a time where this activity is critical and must receive special attention.

Strategic Planning – In 2017, Zochrot will initiate an in-depth process of strategic planning for the organization. The previous planning took place in 2012, since time has passed and there is no political progress, the internal situation in Israel escalates, and Zochrot has a new director, we believe it is a good moment to re-evaluate and updated our goals and methods of work. The organization will look at the past and present with the intention to seek new routes and opportunities we haven't researched yet.