

**1989
Carter-Menil
Human Rights Prize
The Carter Center
Atlanta, Georgia**

The Program

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Executive Director, The Carter Center
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1989 State of Human Rights Address

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation

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THE CARTER-MENIL
HUMAN RIGHTS
PRIZE

*Commemorating the 41st anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

The Carter Center
Atlanta, Georgia
December 9, 1989

1989 Carter-Menil Human Rights Prize Recipients

For twenty-two years Israel has occupied and administered the West Bank and Gaza Strip, thereby undertaking responsibility for upholding universal human rights standards in those areas. Since the outbreak of the *intifadah* in December 1987, however, Palestinian residents of the Occupied Territories have suffered human rights abuses unprecedented in the history of the occupation. This year, the Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation honors two groups which have actively and courageously worked to protect and promote human rights in Israel and the Occupied Territories. By recognizing al-Haq and B'Tselem, the Foundation is highlighting the efforts of two groups which, though they come from different communities, work toward the common goal of raising the standard of human rights observance in this troubled part of the world.

Al-Haq/Law in the Service of Man, Ramallah, West Bank

Al-Haq (Arabic for "truth," "justice," "fairness," and "law") is a Palestinian human rights organization based in Ramallah, a city north of Jerusalem, and is the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists. Al-Haq was founded in 1979 by attorneys Raja Shehadeh and Jonathan Kuttab to protect Palestinian civilians by promoting respect for internationally recognized standards of human rights, humanitarian law and justice in the Occupied Territories. The core program of al-Haq consists of investigating and documenting human rights violations; monitoring and challenging military and civil legislation and judicial decisions; publishing reports on human rights topics; and attempting, through direct intervention and other means, to bring specific abuses to an end. This includes an active program of research that examines options for third-party states to become involved in enforcing international law.

Al-Haq fieldworkers document and publicize killings and woundings, deportations, house demolitions, extra-judicial punishments, travel restrictions, curfews, raids and closures of local institutions and other forms of individual and collective punishment aimed at Palestinians. The organization devotes particular attention to maltreatment and torture in Israeli prisons and detention centers. Two of al-Haq's special projects, initiated in 1985, emphasize labor and women's rights. The Labor Rights Project works in conjunction with Palestinian unions and other groups to increase workers' understanding of their rights and how to advance them. The Women's Rights Project documents viola-



Executive Director Mona Rishmawi (R) talks with Fieldwork Coordinator Khaled Batrawi.



Al-Haq documentation of a house demolition in Shuja'iyyeh, Gaza, on July 17, 1989. No reasons were given by the authorities for the demolition.



Fateh Azzam, Al-Haq
Administrative
Director

tions specific to Palestinian women and educates them on the laws pertaining to their rights at home and in the workplace.

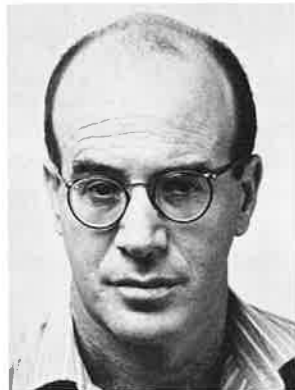
The organization also seeks to educate the public about legal rights. Its legal advice bureau advises residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip about their legal problems at no cost. Al-Haq also has written and distributed a series of "Know Your Rights" handbooks, which informs residents about various issues in non-technical language. The most recent of this series is a publication on willful killings and how to document them. During the past ten years, al-Haq has issued some 47 publications and over 20 newsletters, as well as numerous press releases, briefing papers and "Alerts." In addition, al-Haq maintains a computerized data base on human rights information and operates the only law and human rights library in the West Bank which is open to the public.

Al-Haq staff members frequently have been hindered in their efforts by Israeli authorities. Al-Haq's fieldworkers are periodically stopped at checkpoints and harassed, and at times the military has confiscated their data on abuses. During 1988 and 1989 — a period of escalating human rights violations — most of these fieldworkers were administratively detained without charge or trial for periods ranging from four months to one year. In October 1989, Sha'wan Jabarin, one of the 1988 detainees, was re-arrested without charge, beaten severely, and placed in administrative detention for one year. As of this writing, Mr. Jabarin is still in custody.

Accepting the award on behalf of al-Haq are Executive Director Mona Rishmawi and Administrative Director Fateh Azzam. Mona Rishmawi received a law degree at Ain Shams University in Cairo in 1981, and started practicing law upon her return to the Occupied Territories. She joined al-Haq and became an Executive Committee member in 1985. In July 1989, Ms. Rishmawi became al-Haq's Executive Director after completing the Master of Law program at Columbia University in New York. Fateh Azzam comes to human rights activism from a varied background. After working for a number of years as a professional mime and choreographer, he received a degree in Community Planning from the College of Public and Community Service of the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Before joining al-Haq in mid-1987, Mr. Azzam worked as Executive Director of the Nuzha/El-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem.

B'Tselem/The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Jerusalem, Israel

B'Tselem was founded in February 1989 by a group of Israeli lawyers, intellectuals, physicians, journalists and Knesset members to respond to the resounding silence in Israel about the treatment of Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories. B'Tselem's primary objective is the systematic collection and dissemination of data on human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition, the organization educates the Israeli public about international human rights standards and fosters public debate about the nature and scope of rights violations and their impact on Israeli society and democracy. B'Tselem also seeks to impress upon the Israeli public the devastating effect of government policies on the lives of individual Palestinians.



Founder of B'Tselem and Knesset member Dedi Zucker.



Database Manager Yuval Ginbar (L) and Field-worker Basem Eid at work in B'Tselem's office.



Zehava Gal'On, B'Tselem Executive Director.

B'Tselem publishes a monthly bulletin that reports statistics on fatalities and injuries and provides information about other human rights violations such as the conditions faced by detainees in prisons, the use of plastic bullets, and the confiscation of identification documents. These bulletins are distributed to more than 2,000 opinion and policy-makers in Israel, including Knesset members, journalists, judges, teachers and authors. B'Tselem also periodically prepares comprehensive studies on topics such as military court proceedings, freedom of the press, regulations on when soldiers can open fire, and house demolitions as a means of punishment.

The organization arranges fact-finding visits to the Occupied Territories for journalists, Knesset members and others. The staff also maintains a lobby in the Knesset to intervene on behalf of individual residents of the territories, to raise human rights issues, and to widen the circle of Members of Knesset who are concerned about these issues.

B'Tselem actively supported the re-opening in July 1989 of West Bank schools that had been closed for eighteen months. The organization recently played a key role in exposing the number of children under age 16 killed by security forces since the start of the *intifadah*. B'Tselem provided this documentation, as well as information about the circumstances surrounding the killings, to the Israeli authorities, and is pressing them to investigate the cases and prosecute those responsible. Additionally, B'Tselem received acclaim for a publication providing a full account of house demolitions and sealings.

Accepting the Award on B'Tselem's behalf are Founder Dedi Zucker and Executive Director Zehava Gal'On. Dedi Zucker was also a founding member in 1977 of the Peace Now movement in Israel, and served as Secretary-General of the Civil Rights and Peace Movement from 1984-1988. Since 1986, Mr. Zucker has served as a Member of Knesset. Mr. Zucker received a B.A. in Economics and International Relations and an M.A. in Political Science, both from Hebrew University. He is currently a doctoral candidate in History at Tel Aviv University. Before becoming B'Tselem's Executive Director this year, Zehava Gal'On was General Manager of Ratz - Citizens Rights and Peace Movement. She also served as General Manager of "Politica," a magazine of political and social commentary. In 1987, Ms. Gal'On was a founder of the Twenty-First Year protest movement, developed to seek an end to Israel's occupation of the Territories and to combat human rights violations against Palestinians. Ms. Gal'On holds a degree in Special Education and Language from Beit Berl College near Tel Aviv.

Dominique de Menil

"During the past two years, international attention has been focused on the human rights abuses and violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. By recognizing al-Haq and B'Tselem, the Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation hopes to highlight the urgent need to support all parties in the region that are actively engaged in the search for justice, human rights, and peace."

- Dominique de Menil

French-born Dominique de Menil is the daughter of Conrad Schlumberger whose geo-electric discoveries led him to found, with his brother Marcel, the oil field service firm bearing their name.

Mrs. de Menil, founder and president of the Rothko Chapel in Houston, is a proponent of better understanding among people of different religions. She has also been active in her support of human and civil rights causes. Her empathy with the deprived and oppressed and her commitment to justice have led her to initiate a variety of projects seeking truth; denouncing repression; and promoting understanding, non-violence and peace.

She is known as well for her interest in art, which has led to the creation of The Menil Collection Museum in Houston. The museum, inaugurated on June 4, 1987, houses the collections both she and her late husband, John de Menil, acquired throughout the years.

In addition to her commitment to the Houston museum, Mrs. de Menil is chairman of the Georges Pompidou Art and Cultural Foundation and is involved with Menil Foundation projects such as the Image of the Black in Western Art research, the Institute for the Arts at Rice University, and the International Circle for Philosophy.

Jimmy Carter

"Al-Haq and B'Tselem share the goal of promoting basic human dignity. In the face of repeated condemnation, harassment, and sometimes even physical abuse, the members of these two groups have not wavered in their determination to expose, condemn, and prevent violations of human rights."

- Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States, is recognized and honored as an international statesman. The efforts of his administration to make human rights the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy and his own deep commitment to this cause, both during and after his tenure as president, have put human rights on the international agenda. His wife, Rosalynn, also has been active in promoting respect for human rights, most recently serving as co-chair of the De Burght Conference, an East/West dialogue on human rights. The credibility established by the Carters in the field of human rights and their access to world leaders make them valued assets to The Carter Center of Emory University's (CCEU) Human Rights Program.

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation was established in 1986 by Jimmy Carter and Dominique de Menil to promote the protection of human rights throughout the world. Each year on or around December 10, which marks the anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the foundation presents a \$100,000 prize to one or two organizations or individuals for their outstanding contribution to the advancement of human rights principles. The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation also supports the activities of the Human Rights program of CCEU.

Past Recipients



1986: Yuri Orlov, Soviet Union
(co-recipient)

Yuri Orlov, Soviet physicist and dissident, has continued his important work as a human rights activist. Mr. Orlov serves as the honorary chair of and spokesperson for the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights and has recently devoted himself to reestablishing the Moscow Helsinki Committee. The Committee, whose activities were forcibly curtailed in 1982, was founded by Mr. Orlov in May 1976.

Before accepting a position in the Physics Department at Cornell University in New York, Mr. Orlov travelled for four months in Europe and the United States to press for the release of political prisoners, including Anatoly Marchenko and Nelson Mandela. During this trip, he met with delegates to the Vienna Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as with leaders such as Margaret Thatcher, Willi Brandt, Helmut Kohl, Ronald Reagan, and members of the U.S. Congress. Mr. Orlov continues to maintain regular contact with dissidents in the Soviet Union, Europe and the United States and has used part of the Carter-Menil Prize money to contribute to human rights efforts in these places. He also used the money to provide for the needs of family members still in the U.S.S.R. and to contribute to the Solidarity campaign in Poland just before the historic elections.

In commenting about the Award, Mr. Orlov writes, "That I have been able to do so much of what matters most to me is in no small way due to the Carter-Menil Prize. That I am free at all is in no small way due to the fact that President Carter raised the issue of human rights to the level of State policy. . . To have received the invaluable help of the Carter-Menil Prize, is a source of deep gratitude. To have received a human rights prize carrying Jimmy Carter's name is a profound honor."

Since receiving the Carter-Menil Award, the Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM) has continued its courageous work on behalf of the disappeared in Guatemala. GAM was formed in June 1984 by relatives attempting to determine the fate of their missing family members. The Group makes inquiries to the government, files *habeas corpus* petitions and denounces disappearances in local and international forums. In the past year, as death squad violence against Guatemalans has increased dramatically, GAM members have been singled out as special targets and threatened, tortured, kidnapped, and in many cases murdered. GAM member Aurelio Lorenzo Xicay was extrajudicially executed on July 25, 1989. Five days later, Lorenzo Xicay's wife and three other GAM members were followed by the car believed to have been used in his abduction. Lorenzo Xicay's cousin, Maria Rumalda Camey, was abducted by heavily armed men on August 15, 1989, and is feared dead. Four other Camey family members have been abducted and murdered.

On the same day that Maria Camey disappeared, armed men fired shots and threw a Claymor bomb into the GAM house (which was purchased with the Carter-Menil Prize money), causing serious damage to the building, but no injuries to the 14 people inside. One day later, Amnesty International issued a statement calling on the Guatemalan authorities to take urgent measures to guarantee the safety of GAM leaders, members, and their families. Since that time GAM President Nineth Montenegro de Garcia has been continually threatened and followed.

In Guatemala, few families are untouched by violence and loss. Because GAM remains in special need at present, its members ask that the international community urge the government and security forces to comply with universally held standards of human rights to end the violence to which Guatemalans are daily subjected.



1986: Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo, Guatemala
(co-recipient)



1987: La Vicariá de la Solidaridad, Chile

During the past two years, La Vicariá de la Solidaridad has persevered in its efforts to defend and promote human rights. The group's most important activities continue to be the protection of citizens' freedoms through the submission of *habeas corpus* petitions, the denunciation before the courts of violations of rights and abuses of power by agents of the military government, and the defense of persons accused of political crimes. In addition to its legal activities, La Vicariá continues to publicly denounce human rights violations by distributing monthly and yearly bulletins on the status of human rights in Chile.

La Vicariá also assists the large sectors of the Chilean population who live in extreme poverty. The group has expanded its nutritional assistance programs and has significantly increased its monetary support of popular organizations that combat poverty and unemployment. La Vicariá also has intensified its traditional human rights education efforts through non-political civic programs.

Executive Secretary Alejandro Gonzalez writes, "The heritage of human rights violations that the dictatorship leaves behind is an open wound in the souls of our people; that wound must be healed. Truth and justice — hidden and postponed — are essential conditions for an authentic reconciliation among Chileans and for the reconstruction, among all, of a country of brethren." Gonzalez continues, "The Carter-Menil Award has strengthened us in our vocation of defending human dignity, has stimulated us in valiantly confronting the difficult circumstances which we have lately had to withstand and, because of its high moral significance, it has increased the prestige and the credibility of La Vicariá de la Solidaridad inside and outside the country, thus contributing to the greater effectiveness of its denunciations regarding the precarious situation of human rights in Chile."



1988: The Sisulu Family, South Africa



Walter Sisulu is reunited with his family after his release from prison on October 15, 1989. Human Rights Program staff await his arrival in Soweto with the Sisulu family.

1989 was a year of dramatic changes for the Sisulu family. The most notable was the unconditional release on October 15 of Walter Sisulu, who was serving the 26th year of a life sentence for his leadership in the banned African National Congress (ANC). Also in October, restriction orders making Albertina Sisulu a prisoner in her own home for the better part of 25 years were lifted. The Sisulus attribute these changes to intensifying internal and external pressure on the South African government to negotiate with credible black leaders.

While these developments have profoundly affected the Sisulu family itself, they insist that these are token efforts by the South African government to distract the international community from the fact that the cornerstones of apartheid are still in place — the real demands of the black majority are not being met. The family appeals to the international community not to be fooled by such tactics and to intensify, not relax, pressure through comprehensive mandatory sanctions.

Walter and Albertina Sisulu have been leaders in the struggle for human rights in South Africa since the 1940s. Their seven children have also taken an active role in this fight for justice. Zwelakhe Sisulu is the editor of *The New Nation*, an alternative publication which has been banned on several occasions by the government. Zwelakhe was detained without charge or trial from 1986 to December 1988, at which time he was placed under heavy restrictions. The Sisulu family believes that Zwelakhe's release was due in large part to publicity and pressure generated by the Carter-Menil Award. Jongumzi Sisulu was sentenced to five years imprisonment in 1986 for his involvement in ANC activities and is serving that sentence on Robben Island, near Cape Town. Max and Lindiwe Sisulu are currently in exile for their support of the ANC. Nonkululeko and Berel Sisulu are engaged in their studies in South African universities, and Mlungisi Sisulu runs a small grocery business.

The Sisulus have expressed gratitude to the Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation for its acknowledgement of the family's commitment to human rights. The \$100,000 Award has been put into a trust fund which disburses money to various organizations in the Mass Democratic Movement, including the United Democratic Front (UDF), student and children's organizations, and homes for the elderly.

The Carter Center Human Rights Program

Launched in January 1988, The Human Rights Program seeks to strengthen institutions engaged in human rights monitoring and advocacy, promote their collaborative interaction, and help in the development of strategies that discourage violations of human rights.

A special concern of the program is the protection of victims of human rights abuses and the people engaged in monitoring and protesting those abuses. Program staff screen, research and evaluate requests for President and Mrs. Carter to intervene on behalf of persecuted individuals. Briefings and recommendations for action are prepared in cases where the program has determined that intervention by the Carters is appropriate. Briefings of this kind have brought to the Carters' attention abuses in Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Israel and the Occupied Territories, China, Burma, the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, Cuba, Peru, and Guatemala.

The Carters are additionally committed to adding a human rights component to all of their overseas visits. Over the past two years they have included a human rights agenda on their trips to eight nations in Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. In each case, the Carters were provided an extensive briefing on human rights conditions and a list of specific concerns to raise with leaders with whom they met.

The Human Rights Program is directed by Leah Leatherbee. Karin Ryan is Program Coordinator, and Susan Casey coordinates the Carter-Menil Human Rights Prize and other special projects.

The Carter Center Atlanta, Georgia

The Carter Center facilities are home to a consortium of non-profit organizations that seek to alleviate conflict, reduce suffering and promote better understanding among peoples. Working together, these organizations combine scholarly research and analysis with outreach, demonstration, or public policy programs designed to effect positive change. An unprecedented array of leading statesmen, scholars, diplomats and policy-makers have contributed to the Center's work since its inception in 1982. In addition, The Carter Center has the distinction of being the only institution in the world in which a former U.S. president is involved on a day-to-day basis.

The central component of the organization is The Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU). Here, carefully selected issues of public policy are addressed through non-partisan study and research, forums, conferences and special publications. Distinguished resident and visiting scholars and experts currently pursue programs in Middle Eastern Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, U.S.-Soviet Relations, Health Policy, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution.

The construction of The Carter Center facilities was funded by \$25 million in donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. Dedicated on October 1, 1986, the complex of four inter-connected buildings on thirty acres houses The Carter Center of Emory University; the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, built with private funds and deeded to the federal government; and the Office of Jimmy Carter. The complex is also home to Global 2000 Inc., The Task Force for Child Survival (TFCS), and the Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation, a group of independently funded and administered organizations whose goals and ideals complement and enhance The Carter Center as a whole.



Paul Dingman

The Carter Center