

**CEPAL** Canadian-Palestinian  
Educational Exchange

## Taking Stock 2007

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CEPAL's Annual Report

CEPAL is a volunteer humanitarian organization, founded in 1996 by Canadian individuals who share a deep commitment to the respect of human dignity and the rights of all people. Our objective is to assist the Palestinian refugees in the pursuit of their basic human rights by increasing their access to education, and by raising public awareness in Canada about their struggle.

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## Introduction

Since its founding in 1996, CEPAL has become a strong, vibrant, well-known and respected organization, both in Canada and internationally. We continue to focus and expand upon our goals in the areas of education, human rights, awareness-raising and capacity building, with the overriding goal of improving the lives and future prospects of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Over the years, CEPAL's Summer Program has expanded from English language training, to incorporate French language and computer literacy, in addition to arts courses, such as photography and journalism. These additions were a direct response to the expressed needs of our local partners. CEPAL's Summer Program has to date sent over 60 volunteers to work in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

Unfortunately, due to continued instability in Lebanon, we were unable to implement CEPAL's 2007 Summer Program. The absence of the Summer Program has been felt by camp residents, with feedback from our partners throughout this year affirming the importance of CEPAL's presence in the refugee camps. We are therefore in regular communication with our partners in Lebanon to determine how CEPAL can best meet their current needs; in particular, we hope to be able to go ahead with plans for our 2008 Summer Program.

In the absence of the 2007 Summer Program, we dedicated much of our time to strengthening and expanding CEPAL's awareness raising activities. As a result, we are delighted to have many successful events to report back on. Most notably, CEPAL hosted prominent scholar, Dr. Norman Finkelstein, and Ms. Olfat Mahmoud, Director of the Women's Humanitarian Organization - a long time CEPAL partner - at a very well attended and well-publicized 11<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which took place in Toronto. During Ms. Mahmoud's stay in Canada, we also organized meetings in Ottawa with members of the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Association, as well as with representatives of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Internationally, a group of past CEPAL volunteers based in London, UK, organized an information session there in partnership with UNIPAL, CEPAL's UK counterpart. These are just a few examples of our endeavors this year, and of the continued dedication CEPAL volunteers have demonstrated in helping to support and solidify CEPAL's presence in Canada and internationally.

CEPAL continues to be supported by a number of key individuals. Our Board of Advisors includes long time supporters: Nahla Abdo, PhD, an expert on Palestinian refugees and women's issues and Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carlton University; Michael Lynk, LL.B., a labour arbitrator and mediator based in London, Ontario who teaches labour law and human rights law at The University of Western Ontario's Faculty of Law; Chris Giannou, M.D., a Canadian physician who worked at a hospital in Shatila refugee camp throughout the 1980's, and author of *Besieged: A Doctor's Story of Life and Death in Beirut*; John Sigler, an expert in Middle East politics and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Political Science at Carlton University; Mark Zeitoun, CEPAL co-founder and head of the international London Water Research Group at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Maysa Jalbout, past CEPAL President, whose professional career has focused on

social development policy and programming in the government and non-profit sectors. We are in regular communication with our Board of Advisors and greatly appreciate their support.

Our local Canadian volunteer support has continued to grow this year, and is now located in various cities across the country. With the support of our dedicated volunteers and generous donors, we will continue to focus and expand upon our goals in the areas of education, human rights, and raising awareness about the plight of Palestinian refugees. Most importantly, in response to continued requests from our partners and friends in the Palestinian refugee camps where CEPAL works, and in light of the fact that 2008 commemorates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Palestinian *Nakba*, we are renewing our commitment to actively support and advocate for the Palestinian Right of Return.

Shannon Dow  
CEPAL President

## **2007 Board of Directors**

### ***Shannon Dow, President***

Shannon holds a master's degree in Socio-cultural Anthropology, and she has been involved with CEPAL since 2001 when she was a Summer Program volunteer working in Bourj el-Barajneh and Shatila refugee camps. Shannon also served as CEPAL's 2005-06 Overseas Program Director. 2007 was her second term serving as President.

### ***Philippe Johnson, Vice-President and Overseas Program Director***

Philippe is an undergraduate student in his fifth year of the Interdisciplinary Specialist Co-op Program in International Development Studies at the University of Toronto. Philippe was a CEPAL Summer Program volunteer in the summer of 2002. He re-joined the CEPAL Summer Program in 2005 and returned to Lebanon as the Lebanon Field Coordinator. From there he went on to complete a 10-month internship with a microfinance organization in Sri Lanka as part of his University of Toronto program.

### ***Gilberte Fleischmann, Communications Director***

Gilberte Fleischmann is retired from the public service where she held various positions in the field of negotiations with Aboriginal people. Her last job was as director of self-government negotiations in the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. From this vast experience, she brings significant management and negotiation skills. Since she retired, her interests led her to work with CEPAL and with the Center for Conflict Management, Peace and Development in Nepal, in both cases as a volunteer.

### ***Niketh Pareek, Director of IT, Fundraising, and the Treasury***

Niketh is currently employed as a Web Consultant at an advertising agency. He has worked as a management and IT consultant, project manager and corporate trainer. He holds a graduate diploma in journalism and a Bachelors of Commerce in Finance. He has been published in The National Post, The Globe and Mail, and is a co-author of a marketing textbook.

## Events

Because the 2008 Summer Program was suspended, we decided to focus much of our efforts this year on awareness raising activities in Canada, as well as overseas. A number of successful events are worth reporting on.

### ***Presentation to Solidarité internationale and les retraités flyés***

Ottawa, ON

Mayssam Zaaroura, a CEPAL volunteer and newly arrived Palestinian in Canada, spoke to concerned activist groups *Solidarité internationale* and *les retraités flyés* about the story of her family who fled Palestine in 1948. In both groups, people were moved by Mayssam's testimony. This also proved to be a good opportunity to increase CEPAL's visibility generally; for example, *Solidarité internationale* will add a link to CEPAL on their website, and a reporter for *les retraités flyés* will write an article on Mayssam's testimony that will be distributed within Québec, thereby increasing our presence within francophone communities.

### ***Meeting at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)***

November 26, 2007

Ottawa, ON

During Ms. Olfat Mahmoud's visit to Canada, a meeting was arranged at IDRC with representatives from IDRC, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). The purpose of this meeting was to introduce CEPAL to the representatives in attendance, and to allow Ms. Mahmoud to speak about the current situation Palestinian refugees are facing in Lebanon, as well as their immediate and future needs. The meeting was small and informal, and was an excellent space to dialogue with decision makers. We will be continuing this dialogue in the future.

### ***Round Table Discussion with Members of the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Association***

November 26, 2007

Ottawa, ON

We also coordinated a meeting with MPs who are members of the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Association on Parliament Hill. The meeting was attended by Shannon Dow, President, Gilberte Fleischmann, Communications Director, Olfat Mahmoud, Director of the Women's Humanitarian Organization, and some members of the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Association. This was a small, informal meeting where Olfat once again had the opportunity to speak about the current situation Palestinian refugees face in Lebanon. We also spoke about CEPAL and distributed information, including CEPAL brochures, fact sheets and maps of the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and the region. We plan on continuing the important dialogue that has been started with the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Association.

## ***United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People***

November 29, 2007

Toronto, ON

The commemoration of the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is instrumental in highlighting CEPAL's important work, as the only Canadian organization to work directly with Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. It is critical in raising awareness about the dire and worsening situation Palestinian refugees are facing, and about how Canadians can become involved in helping CEPAL fulfill its mandate. This year was CEPAL's 11<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The event was held at the University of Toronto and was attended by approximately 500 people.

We were honored to host as keynote speaker Dr. Norman Finkelstein, former professor at DePaul University in Chicago and prominent scholar who received his doctorate in 1988 from the Department of Politics, Princeton University, for a thesis on the theory of Zionism. Dr. Finkelstein lectured on the "coming break-up and collapse of American Zionism." Citing history, human rights and international law, he argued that US and Canadian Jewry will increasingly begin to part ways with Israel because they will be unable to support it amidst its record of human rights violations. This parting of ways, he argued, will ultimately benefit both Palestinians and Israelis.

We also hosted Ms. Olfat Mahmoud, Director of the Women's Humanitarian Organisation (WHO), one of CEPAL's partner organizations in Bourj el-Barajneh refugee camp on the outskirts of Beirut. Ms. Mahmoud gave a moving address, where she discussed the role and impact of CEPAL in the refugee camps, as well as the current situation for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. She said that CEPAL acts as a "voice of the children outside, when their voices have been neglected," and that we all have to work together to achieve justice for Palestinian refugees.

The event received much publicity. It was audio recorded by Rabble.ca, and has since been posted on their podcast network ([www.rabble.ca/rpn/podcast.php?id=nni](http://www.rabble.ca/rpn/podcast.php?id=nni)). The event was also filmed by Baraka Productions, a documentary film company that has been following Dr. Finkelstein for five years. In addition, several articles were written about the event, including two by Mayssam Jackson, a CEPAL volunteer, one, which was published in The Daily Star (please see Appendix I), and the other published at Rabble.ca (please see Appendix II).

### ***Six Decades of Exile***

December 4, 2007

London, UK

*Six Decades of Exile* was the title of a panel discussion on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon held at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The talk was supported by the LSE Palestine Society, UNIPAL and CEPAL. About twenty people were present to engage in top-quality presentations and energizing discussion.

Mark Zeitoun introduced the panel by putting the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon into context. He noted the many changes that have occurred in Lebanon and Palestine, and that

the outlook for refugees now was, if anything, worse than when CEPAL was founded a decade ago. Middle East consultant, Samia el Tabari, then provided a detailed account of the history, living conditions, lack of rights and likely future of the refugee communities. She noted in particular the positive development of the formation of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, and the role it played in reducing resentment during the siege of Nahr al-Bared earlier this year.

Former UNIPAL volunteer, James Denselow, then provided a political analysis of the situation, noting that negotiators in Ramallah had long ago abandoned Palestinians outside of the West Bank and Gaza, and were now abandoning those outside of the West Bank. He recounted his memories of working with inspirational friends over four summers volunteering in Rashidiyeh camp. Former CEPAL Board Member and Summer Program coordinator, Andrea Becker, provided a moving account of her friends in the camp, and the importance of CEPAL's programmes there. She reinforced James' view that the refugees in Lebanon were certainly not on the list of priorities for decision-makers in Ramallah.

Mark Zeitoun then presented the recommendations of Amnesty International's latest report which were geared to the Lebanese government and the international community. He highlighted the absence of recommendations for the Palestinian Authority or the state of Israel, pointing out that shying away from political engagement on a political issue can ultimately lead nowhere. The subsequent discussion was very engaging, with many interested in finding out more about volunteering themselves.

## **Summer Program**

2007 marked the 59th anniversary of the *Nakba* – or catastrophe – that created the first wave of Palestinian refugees and led to the continued suffering of their descendants. In Lebanon, the Palestinians' half-century of exile has been marked by a 16 year saga of unimaginable violence – the 1975-1991 civil war, the 1982 Israeli invasion, protracted sieges of Palestinian camps and massacres. Moreover, despite the hopes engendered by the end of the civil war in 1991, the recent Israeli onslaught in July-August 2006 has had a devastating impact on Lebanon's present and aspirations for the future, while the conflict in Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp in 2007 has placed the Palestinian refugees in an ever more precarious socio-economic and political position. This, combined with the fact that Lebanon continues to struggle for political and economic stability in the wake of the 2006 war and current demands for political power, leaves Palestinian refugees in Lebanon increasingly in limbo.

### ***Suspension of the 2007 Summer Program***

After significant deliberation and much consternation, the 2007 CEPAL Board of Directors choose to suspend this year's Summer Program shortly after the commencement of recruitment activities. This represented the first suspension of its kind in the 10-year history of the organization. This also followed closely on the heels of last summer's evacuation of CEPAL volunteers. The decision to suspend the summer program coincided with warnings against non-essential travel to Lebanon by the Canadian government, as well as the suspension of similar programs by other NGOs, such as UNIPAL.

In addition to the suspension of the Summer Program, the Board of Directors also chose to later cancel a planned needs assessment which was to be completed by CEPAL's President and Overseas Program Director in August 2007. This decision was taken in response to the outbreak of fighting in Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon, and the resulting instability in Lebanon at that time.

Despite these setbacks, CEPAL has continued to remain in contact with its partners in order to ascertain the changing dynamics of both the humanitarian and security situation in the camps. This contact included the dissemination of an internet-based questionnaire sent out to all partners, and planning meetings with Ms. Olfat Mahmoud, Director of the Women's Humanitarian Organization, in Ottawa during her November visit to Canada.

### ***Outlook for the 2008 Summer Program***

Despite the setbacks experienced over the last two years of the Summer Program, CEPAL has continued to hold out hope for an improvement in the political and security environment in Lebanon, so that we can go ahead with plans for the 2008 Summer Program. Through our conversations with partners in Lebanon, it has been recognized that demand for the presence of CEPAL programming remains as strong as ever and has likely increased, given the pressures placed on camps such as Bourj el-Barajneh after the evacuation and destruction of Nahr al-Bared refugee camp. The incoming Board of Directors will make a decision regarding plans for the 2008 Summer Program after their election in January 2008.

## ***CEPAL's Main Areas of Operation***

Although the 2007 Summer Program was suspended, CEPAL continues to work in the same areas of operation as in previous years, including three Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon: Bourj el-Barajneh, Shatila and Wavel (al-Jaleel).

### **Bourj el-Barajneh**

- Situated in the southern suburbs of Beirut
- Established by the League of Red Cross Societies in 1948
- Approximately 15, 484 registered Palestinian refugees
- 500 families (1, 630 persons) registered as UNRWA special hardship cases
- Only 1 UNRWA health centre with an average 168 patients per day
- 7 UNRWA elementary/preparatory schools for 2, 511 pupils in 2003/2004
- CEPAL has been working in Bourj el-Barajneh since 1997

### **Shatila**

- Situated in the southern suburbs of Beirut
- Established by the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1949
- Approximately 8, 212 registered Palestinian refugees
- 293 families (1, 068 persons) registered as UNRWA special hardship cases
- Only 1 UNRWA health centre with an average 79 patients per day
- 2 UNRWA elementary schools for 1, 056 pupils in 2004/2005
- CEPAL has been working in Shatila since 1997

### **Wavel (Al-Jaleel)**

- Situated on the outskirts of Ba'albek in the Beqa'a Valley
- Originally a French army barracks
- Approximately 7, 551 registered Palestinian refugees
- 200 families (908 persons) registered as UNRWA special hardship cases
- 1 UNRWA health centre with an average 65 patients per day
- 1 UNRWA elementary and 1 secondary school for 833 pupils in 2003/2004
- CEPAL has been working in Wavel since 2000

## ***CEPAL Partners***

CEPAL currently works with nine partners in Lebanon. Every year, prior to the volunteers' arrival, the CEPAL Overseas Program Director communicates with partners to determine their current needs and how the Summer Program can best respond to these needs. The Summer Program is thus a genuine reflection of and response to partner needs and desires.

### **Arab Resource Centre for the Popular Arts (ARCPA) / "Al-Jana"**

ARCPA is a non-profit organization founded in 1990. The Centre works both to impart skills and instill self-confidence in Palestinian children and youth through art and creative pedagogical techniques known as "active learning". ARCPA also provides non-formal learning programs and materials to counteract the culturally impoverished environment of the camps and schools, and to motivate children to assume an active role in re-establishing their own and their

communities' sense of self-worth and identity. CEPAL has worked with ARPCA in Bourj el-Barajneh and Shatila since 2000.

#### *Association Najdeh*

Najdeh is a non-profit organization founded during the 1975-1991 civil war. Najdeh works primarily with women in low-income families and in the field of education, as well as providing social services and running income-generating projects for women and their families throughout the camps in Lebanon. Najdeh's primary goal is to empower women to become financially self-sufficient and to encourage their participation in society. CEPAL has worked with Najdeh in Bourj el-Barajneh and Shatila since 1997 and in Wavel since 2001.

#### *Children & Youth Centre (CYC)*

CYC is a non-profit organization founded in the 1990s to serve the Sabra-Shatila community and to provide a place for children and youth to come together and learn. It places a great deal of importance on community work and strives to make its members sensitive to social justice issues, by empowering them as youth and providing them with a variety of skills. CEPAL has worked with CYC in Shatila since 2001.

#### *National Association for Vocational Training & Social Services (NAVTSS)*

NAVTSS is a non-profit organization founded in 1983. Its goal is to combat illiteracy, poverty and disease, by helping young men and women expand their career choices by offering intensive vocational training based on current market demands in Lebanon. In addition to its vocational work, NAVTSS has recently established cultural centers for youth to engage in arts, theatre, language classes, etc. in most of the camps where it works. CEPAL has worked with NAVTSS in Bourj el-Barajneh since 2001.

#### *National Institution of Social Care & Vocational Training (NISCVT) / "Beit Atfal Assomoud"*

NISCVT is a non-profit organization founded in 1976 to care for children who were orphaned following the siege and massacre of Tal al-Za'atar camp. NISCVT centers are found throughout the camps in Lebanon and provide educational, recreational and cultural activities for children and youth, as well as computer training and income-generating projects. CEPAL has worked with NISCVT in Bourj el-Barajneh and Shatila since 1999 and in Wavel since 2004.

#### *Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD)*

PARD is a non-profit organization founding in 1985, with the goals of fighting disease, poverty and illiteracy by establishing projects for public benefit, and to improve community health consciousness in displaced and impoverished areas. It provides social and medical services to displaced people and those with low incomes in the camps and the deprived areas that surround them. CEPAL has worked with PARD in the Sabra area adjacent to Shatila since 1999.

#### *United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)*

UNRWA is a UN organization established by the General Assembly on 8 December 1949, with the purpose of carrying out direct relief and social work programs for Palestinian refugees expelled from their homes in Palestine in 1948. UNRWA currently provides education, health

and relief/social services to approximately 4.1 million registered Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank/Gaza Strip. CEPAL has worked with UNRWA in Bourj el-Barajneh, Shatila and Wavel since 2000.

### *UNRWA Women's Centres*

UNRWA established the Women's Centers as non-profit community-run centers with the aim of improving the education of women, children and youth through the provision of English, French and computer classes. CEPAL has worked with the Women's Centers in Bourj el-Barajneh and Wavel since 2001 and in Shatila since 2004.

### *Women's Humanitarian Organization (WHO)*

WHO is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 with the aim of serving women and children living in the refugee camps, by providing early childhood education, vocational training, an elderly care program, as well as after-school tutorial programs and cultural activities for youth. CEPAL has worked with WHO in Bourj el-Barajneh since 1997.

## **Awareness-Raising**

As with every year, CEPAL has continued to raise awareness in Canada about the plight of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. We have had a very successful year raising awareness, with the highlight being CEPAL's 11<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. In addition, past CEPAL Summer Program volunteers have held awareness raising events, written articles, and participated in interviews that have reached audiences across Canada and internationally (see CEPAL Highlights from 2007). In addition, there were a number of ways in which the CEPAL Board of Directors conducted awareness-raising activities in Canada:

### **Website**

CEPAL launched a new website in early 2007 at [www.cepал.ca](http://www.cepал.ca). The new website is now almost entirely bilingual (French and English), and includes stories and pictures from our volunteers who lived and worked in the refugee camps, testimonies from refugee camp residents, events and other announcements, CEPAL publications—such as our bi-annual newsletter—and transcripts from talks given by our guest keynote speakers.

The new website has been an important milestone for CEPAL. Powered by a content management system (CMS), the new website is user friendly, making it feasible for all Directors, even with limited computer knowledge, to update content. A CMS takes the complexity out of maintaining a website. Even non-programmers can create and publish content online. We have already seen the benefits: CEPAL has reduced the time to publish content from days to hours, and in some instances, minutes.

### **The CEPAL Digest**

The CEPAL Digest, established during the war of summer 2006 as a mean to raise awareness about the conflict in Lebanon and how it affected Palestinian refugees there, has been maintained after the very positive feedback received from listserv subscribers. The Digest includes current news and relevant articles from various sources, as well as letters from our partners and friends in the refugee camps when available. The intention of the CEPAL Digest continues to be to present information that might otherwise not be presented in mainstream media, with a focus on the personal experiences of the people in the Palestinian refugee camps and in Lebanon more generally. Close to 52 digests were compiled and sent out during 2007. We intend to continue distributing the Digest throughout 2008.

### **Voices**

CEPAL continues to screen *Voices*, the documentary directed by a 2005 Summer Program volunteer. *Voices* was filmed in three Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon (Wavel, Bourj el-Barajneh and Shatila). It relates the experience of nine CEPAL volunteers who went to the camps to teach English and French and to share time with Palestinians in exile. Each volunteer was filmed in their classroom where the students, young and old, talk about themselves through different activities (such as artistic activities, plays, poetry, storytelling, photography, etc.). These activities serve as a way for the viewer to learn, through the eye of the camera, about the lives and dreams of the Palestinian refugees.

This film is an excellent awareness-raising tool, and has been screened at many venues. So far, feedback about the film has been extremely positive.

### ***Newsletters***

As with every year, this year CEPAL published the *Arch*, a bi-annual newsletter that is distributed by mail to all CEPAL Sustaining Members, as well as local organizations that support CEPAL and our programs. In addition, the *Arch* is posted on CEPAL's listserv and website to maximize its reach. This year's newsletters, as well as past newsletters, can be accessed at [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca).

## **Treasury**

One of the objectives for the Treasury this year was to modify our processes and practices so as to reflect CEPAL's decentralized operations (although CEPAL is based in Ottawa, many of CEPAL's Directors and volunteers live in other cities). The Treasury department celebrated two significant milestones in 2007.

The first was migration from a cash to an accrual accounting system in September. The difference between cash and accrual basis accounting has to do with the timeframe in which revenues and expenses are recorded and reported. With an accrual accounting system, all revenues and expenses are recognized at the time in which the transactions occur, rather than when payment is made or received, as is the case in a cash-based system. An accrual accounting system provides a better and more accurate picture of CEPAL's finances.

The second milestone was the successful implementation of an accounting software package in October. With this new accounting system in place, CEPAL will be able to produce accurate assessments of our finances in a timely manner.

## **CEPAL Highlights from 2007**

Several areas are worth highlighting from CEPAL's 2007 programs:

### **General**

- CEPAL celebrated the tenth anniversary of its Summer Program in 2007.
- CEPAL has been managed entirely by volunteers since its founding.
- Nearly all funding for CEPAL's programs is donated by Canadian citizens.
- CEPAL is supported by leading experts, NGOs, the UN and Canadian government, and has been supported as such for ten years now.
- CEPAL remains the only Canadian NGO working with Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

### **Lebanon Summer Program**

- Communicated with partners in Lebanon to ensure continued relationship in light of CEPAL's absence this year.
- Distributed brief needs-assessment questionnaire to all partners to gain feedback about CEPAL's Summer Program and how CEPAL can best meet current needs.

### **Awareness Raising and Communication**

- Creation of IT Director position, which reflects the growing importance of information technology in accomplishing CEPAL's goals.
- Changed website host provider reducing our hosting costs by 50%.
- Created @cepal.ca email addresses for CEPAL directors.
- Continuation of the CEPAL Digest.
- CEPAL's listserv has expanded to reach over 500 people and organizations.
- The website was translated into French.
- All news items and publicity material (e.g., CEPAL brochure, Summer Program information) are now presented in both English and French.
- Organized meeting between Ms. Olfat Mahmoud, Director of the Women's humanitarian Organization and long time CEPAL partner, and officials from DFAIT, CIDA and IDRC.
- Ms. Olfat Mahmoud, Shannon Dow (President) and Gilberte Fleischmann (Communications Director) met with members of the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Association.
- Mayssam Zaaroura, a CEPAL volunteer, and Gilberte Fleischmann presented to 25 members of *Solidarité internationale*.
- Mayssam Zaaroura and Gilberte Fleischmann presented to 25 people members of *les retraités flyés*.
- Successfully organized CEPAL's 11<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, with keynote speakers, Dr. Norman Finkelstein and Ms. Olfat Mahmoud.
- Publication of article reviewing CEPAL's 11<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in the Lebanon's Daily Star (see Appendix I), as well as at Rabble.ca (see Appendix II).
- Recorded and posted podcast of UN day event at rabble.ca.

# Financial Statement

## Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange

### Profit and Loss

January 1, 2007 - Dec 31, 2007

<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>UN Day of Solidarity (2007)</b>	
Ticket Sales	3,872.84
<b>Total UN Day of Solidarity (2007)</b>	<b>3,872.84</b>
<b>4032 - Donations Income</b>	
Friends of Cepal	3,023.55
4045 - Sustaining Membership Fees	4,763.80
<b>Total 4032 - Donations Income</b>	<b>7,787.35</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,660.19</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>11,660.19</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	
Banking Service Charge	38.50
7200 - Printing & Reproduction	130.05
7210 - Postage & Delivery	21.53
7346 - Office Supplies	5.70
7525 - Telephone	747.51
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>943.29</b>
<b>Outreach Program</b>	
Outreach Program - Other	12.00
Meals and Entertainment	90.82
Photocopying and Printing	34.80
Transportation	215.28
<b>Total Outreach Program</b>	<b>352.90</b>
<b>UN Day of Solidarity (2007)</b>	
UN Day of Solidarity (2007) - Other	1,113.99
Book Purchases	822.03
Room Rental	477.00
Security Expense	880.00
Speaker Accommodation	354.54
Speaker Travel	342.28
<b>Total UN Day of Solidarity (2007)</b>	<b>3,989.84</b>
<b>6010 - Advertising &amp; Promotion</b>	
7520 - Hosting	130.00
<b>Total 6010 - Advertising &amp; Promotion</b>	<b>130.00</b>
<b>7220 - Professional Development</b>	
7220 - Professional Development	800.00
<b>7310 - Rent</b>	
7310 - Rent	3,456.00
<b>7340 - Supplies</b>	
7340 - Supplies	8.71
<b>7710 - Board Expenses</b>	
7710 - Misc. Expenses	458.14
6190 - Meals & Entertainment	176.84
7725 - Transportation	80.65
7730 - Vehicle/Rental/Fuel	938.30
8192 - Travel Insurance	41.00
<b>Total 7710 - Board Expenses</b>	<b>1,694.93</b>
<b>8191 - UN Day of Solidarity (2006)</b>	
8191 - UN Day of Solidarity (2006)	1,330.16
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>12,705.83</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(1,045.64)</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Expense</b>	
8190 - Misc. Expenses	479.61
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>479.61</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>(479.61)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(1,525.25)</b>

## Future Plans

The CEPAL Board of Directors is looking ahead to 2008 to plan for yet another successful year. In particular, much of 2008 will be spent commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Palestinian *Nakba*, as well as putting plans in place for the rejuvenation of CEPAL's Summer Program after a year's absence from the field.

### **Annual General Meeting 2008**

CEPAL's Annual General Meeting will take place January 27, 2008. At this time, CEPAL's current Board of Directors will provide a review of CEPAL's 2007 programs and operations. In addition, CEPAL members will elect CEPAL's 2008 Board of Directors.

All CEPAL members are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting. You must be a current member in order to participate. CEPAL membership must be renewed annually, and we welcome new members throughout the year. For more information about becoming a CEPAL member, please visit [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca) or see Appendix III of this report.

Date: January 27, 2007

Time: Noon – 2PM

Location: CEPAL Office, 323 Chapel Street, Ottawa, Ontario

### **Plans for Summer 2008**

Though the situation is still extremely tenuous, uncertain and political unpredictable, CEPAL is hoping to be able to send Summer Program volunteers to Lebanon in 2008. Given the tenuous situation in Lebanon, we will also be considering alternatives to CEPAL's Summer Program and longer term strategies to ensure CEPAL's presence endures in the refugee camps where we have been working for ten years now. All of our partners in the refugee camps have expressed the need for the continuation of CEPAL's Summer Program, and the board is currently communicating with them to determine how CEPAL can best meet their current needs and desires. Planning for the Summer Program and any alternatives will take place following the election of the new Board of Directors.

### **Commemoration of the Palestinian Nakba**

May 15, 2008 will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Palestinian *Nakba* (catastrophe) of 1948, which saw the creation of the state of Israel, as well as the ethnic cleansing of over three-quarters of the indigenous Palestinian population, whose lands were confiscated, and who were barred from ever returning to their homes. Since this time, "Israeli policies and practices remain in violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid."<sup>1</sup>

CEPAL plans to commemorate this important date in history by organizing a one day conference that will bring together academics, activists and policy makers to discuss the Palestinian Right of Return. Various aspects of the Right of Return will be covered, including legal and political implications, demographics, socio-cultural considerations, etc. This event will take place in

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<sup>1</sup> BADIL Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugees' Rights, <http://www.badil.org/campaign40-60/index.html>.

Ottawa, and it is hoped that it will be well attended by students, politicians, policy makers and members of the public. More information about this commemoration will be posted at [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca) as plans unfold.

### ***CEPAL Chapters***

CEPAL volunteers are now spread over various cities in Canada. The majority reside in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, and many past volunteers as well as people new to CEPAL have expressed interest in becoming involved and helping to raise awareness about the plight of Palestinian refugees. We have therefore decided to form CEPAL chapters in Montreal and Toronto. The purpose of these chapters is to help maintain CEPAL's presence in these cities, and to help expand and strengthen our awareness raising activities. Each CEPAL chapter would be responsible for organizing several small awareness raising activities per year, for example, film screenings, presentations, lectures, etc. The chapters will also help us to network with other, like-minded organizations. Information about these chapters will soon be available at [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca).

## How You Can Help

There are many ways to contribute to CEPAL's work and every bit helps. Whether you volunteer your time or generously donate funds, you are providing the gift of education to those who need it the most.

### ***Volunteer***

CEPAL is always looking for volunteers to help run the organization in Canada. Whether it be in desktop publishing, book keeping, content contributing, or event organizing, your time and skills can be put to use for the benefit of CEPAL's programs. Please visit [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca) for information on how to volunteer in Canada.

### ***Become a CEPAL Director***

CEPAL is currently recruiting for volunteer Board of Director positions, to commence January 2008. Every January, CEPAL members elect the CEPAL Board of Directors through an open and competitive process at the Annual General Meeting. Currently CEPAL is seeking to fill five Board of Director positions, including:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Communications Director
- Overseas Program Director
- Fundraising Director
- Events Director

Being a CEPAL Director is a challenging and time-consuming task, but one which is greatly fulfilling and enriching. It will allow you to use the breadth of your skills, creativity and knowledge, while providing fertile ground to explore new strengths and develop greater NGO experience, managerial and organizational skills, as well as a better appreciation for the Palestinian refugee issue. In addition, in 2008, CEPAL will be commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Palestinian *Nakba*, through various events and activities throughout the year. This is therefore an important time to become involved and learn more about the plight of Palestinian refugees.

All applicants must have a strong commitment to social justice, the ability to work as part of a team, excellent communications skills, and dedication to and belief in CEPAL's mandate. Each Director position requires approximately 10 - 15 hours of work per week. Please visit [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca) for complete job descriptions of each available position.

Any CEPAL member can run for a position on CEPAL's Board of Directors, and we encourage all interested candidates to apply.

To apply for a position, please submit:

1. A cover letter describing the reasons why you would like to run for CEPAL's Board of Directors, highlighting the area of responsibility that interests you, and where you think your skills would best be maximized;
2. Resume;
3. Contact information for two referees (i.e., name, job title, address, phone number and email address).

Please forward this information to Shannon Dow, CEPAL President, at [shannon.dow@cepal.ca](mailto:shannon.dow@cepal.ca).

### ***Make a Donation***

There are three ways in which individuals can donate to CEPAL:

1. Individuals can use a credit card to make a donation through the secure CanadaHelps.org website, located on CEPAL's website using the "Donate Now" option.
2. Individuals can mail a cheque to CEPAL's office in Ottawa. Cheques must be made payable to Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange, and must be forwarded to:

CEPAL, third floor  
323 Chapel St,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 7Z2

3. Individuals can donate through the United Way Payroll Deduction Program. The annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign supports Canadian charities and is managed by the United Way. Government employees can give donations through either cheque or payroll deductions, and can choose to donate to organizations such as CEPAL, who are not members of the United Way. To donate to CEPAL through this campaign, list the name Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange and its charitable number 862761418 RR 0001 on the donation form. Please note that the United Way will deduct an administrative fee of 11% for the donation, and an additional 4% if the donation is designated as a payroll deduction.

### ***Become a Sustaining Member***

CEPAL relies heavily on its membership for fundraising, most particularly on its Sustaining members. You can become a Sustaining Member if you commit to making an annual payment of \$500 or above. These payments can be made in one lump sum or in monthly/quarterly installments. In addition to regular membership benefits, Sustaining Members may choose to have a meeting a year with the Board of Directors. The designation of "Sustaining Member" will apply from the day a member makes this commitment, and will continue for as long as this commitment is fulfilled annually. With their consent, Sustaining Members are also recognized publicly (i.e., on CEPAL's website, newsletters, etc.) for their continued support of CEPAL's work.

Sustaining member benefits

- Sustaining Members are entitled to call a meeting with the board, and once a year a meeting will be held with the board and all sustaining members.
- Sustaining Members receive an annual gift from the board.
- Sustaining Members are entitled to be informed of and attend all general meetings of the organization.
- Sustaining Members hold voting rights and can vote at CEPAL's Annual General Meeting.
- Sustaining Members will receive regular updates via CEPAL's email news list and semi-annual newsletters.
- Sustaining Members are eligible to run for a position on CEPAL's Board of Directors.

If you are already a Sustaining Member, please encourage others to become Sustaining Members! To find out more about becoming a Sustaining Member, please visit [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca), or send an information request by email to [info@cepal.ca](mailto:info@cepal.ca). Alternatively, you may call CEPAL at 613-236-7825.

## Appendix I:

### **Canadian NGO hosts event to mark United Nations Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in Toronto**

Author and former De Paul University professor Norman Finkelstein delivers lecture as keynote speaker

By Mayssam Jackson  
Special to The Daily Star  
Friday, December 07, 2007

Source: [http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1&categ\\_id=1&article\\_id=87309](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=87309)

TORONTO, Canada: A people's right to pursue the most basic of human rights and the simplicity with which applying international law could award them these rights was the main focus of this year's commemoration of the UN Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at an event held at the University of Toronto last Thursday.

The event, organized by the Canadian Palestinian Educational Exchange organization (CEPAL), saw a packed auditorium at the Toronto campus.

The event highlighted the continued plight of Palestinians 59 years after al-Nakba, or the catastrophe - which refers to the formation of Israel in 1948 and the subsequent exile of Palestinians from their homeland.

Thursday's lecture was CEPAL's 11th annual commemoration of the UN Day of Solidarity. The Ottawa-based non-governmental organization was founded in 1996 by a group of Canadians who, after a chance meeting in Lebanon and after exposure to the plight of Palestinian refugees there, decided something had to be done.

They dedicated CEPAL to the pursuit of basic human rights for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon by increasing access to education and by raising awareness in Canada about the plight of refugees, such as appeals for the right of return according to UN Security Council Resolution 194.

CEPAL sends volunteers each summer to three Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon - Burj al-Barajneh, Shatila and Waval - to teach English and French language skills.

Kicking off the evening, CEPAL president Shannon Dow said the UN Day of Solidarity "symbolizes both the continued remembrance of a history that, until now, affects the lives of all Palestinians ... it is also a steadfast commitment to a just solution to the 59-year conflict that has proved to be so intractable and irreconcilable."

The UN states that this day has "traditionally provided an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine is still unresolved and

that the Palestinian people is yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly; namely, the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property from which they had been displaced."

The first speaker of the evening, Olfat Mahmoud, the founder and director of the Women's Humanitarian Organization in Burj al-Barajneh and a Palestinian refugee herself, continued along this vein.

Mahmoud detailed the daily hardships of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

"The conditions we live under are against all logic," she said. "I came all the way here to tell you about our daily suffering and our miserable existence. Every day is a painful experience for us, and this has been going on for 60 years. We have been forgotten. The world should be ashamed for leaving the Palestinians for so long."

Mahmoud asked why international law "does not apply" to Palestinian refugees.

"You have the most basic of human rights. You have a right to an education, health and space. So why don't we?" she asked the audience. "The Palestinian people want peace just as much as anyone else. But we want peace with justice.

"We have children," she added, "and just like all children, they love to play. They love football, too. But in a single square kilometer there are 20,000 inhabitants. Where should they play? How can they play when they live in fear?"

Refugee camps were established for Palestinians in the late 1940s in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt as a temporary measure to house the mass exodus of Palestinians from their homeland. Sixty years later, many refugees in Lebanon have no running water, electricity, telephone lines, civil or basic human rights.

Mahmoud concluded by thanking CEPAL, which she called the "voice of the children outside, when their voices have been neglected," and urged attendees to continue their work.

"I am so happy to see this place so full. But this is one day. There are 364 and a quarter days left to show solidarity. Let us walk together to achieve a just peace," she said.

The evening's main speaker was Professor Norman Finkelstein, a prominent and controversial critic of Israel.

A former professor at DePaul University in Chicago, Finkelstein recently settled a legal battle with the institution out of court over his being denied tenure because of his views.

During his lecture on the "coming break-up and collapse of American Zionism," Finkelstein was forced to pause twice as angry protesters screamed insults at him before being escorted out of the

university to the street, where a handful of members of the Jewish Defense League staged their own protest.

Dismissing often voiced arguments on the complicated nature of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Finkelstein stressed the clarity and simplicity of international law on the subject.

"It is not complicated," Finkelstein said.

The fallout of 60 years of conflict has resulted in many complications, he clarified, but again repeated that applying international law and UN resolutions would in fact deal with the core problems.

"All fundamental legal-political questions on the Israel-Palestine conflict have been definitively settled, and on each of them the position defending Israel and its supporters have been resoundingly repudiated," he said.

Finkelstein mocked the recent Middle East peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland, hosted by US President George W. Bush, during which the conflict was described as a "very difficult, complex problem which is very hard to figure out how to solve."

"The UN General Assembly annually votes on the resolution 'Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine,'" he said.

"The resolution has uniformly included these tenets for 'achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine:' Affirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war; affirming also the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the territory occupied since 1967 and of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem; stresses the need for: (a) the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination; (b) the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967; also stresses the need for resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with its Resolution 194 (III) [The right of return or compensation] of 11 December 1948," he said.

Highlighting the fact that the annual resolution is routinely endorsed by 160 members of the General Assembly, he said, "The vote on this resolution for the past decade has been rejected by Israel, the United States, Nauru, N-A-U-R-U, Palau, P-A-L-A-U, Tuvalu, T-U-V-A-L-U, the Federate States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands."

Quoting former US President Jimmy Carter's recent book, "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid," Finkelstein said that the book "sharply criticized Israeli policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and put the onus squarely on Israel for the impasse in the peace process."

Following the book's release - and its subsequent rise to the top of the New York Times' bestseller list for months - the Israeli lobby charged Carter with being "in the pay of Arab sheikhs, a plagiarist, an anti-Semite, an apologist for terrorism and a borderline Holocaust denier."

According to Finkelstein and many others he quoted, the accusations of anti-Semite against someone like Carter didn't stick and the fact that they didn't was one of the indications of the decreasing support for Israel in recent years among American Jewry.

Jews in the US had suffered for the first 20 years of Israel's inception from what Finkelstein called "dual loyalty:" loyalty to the country that took them in after World War II and an expected loyalty to the "homeland."

"It is now largely forgotten how recent is the romance of American Jewry with Israel," Finkelstein said.

Quoting Israel's first premier, David Ben-Gurion, he said that the leader had "impolitically declared that the duty of Zionists living abroad was 'to assist the State of Israel in all conditions and under any circumstances ... whether the government to which the Jews in question owe allegiance desire it or not.'"

However, he said prior to the 1967 Middle East war, except as an object of charity, Israel "had pretty much dropped from sight." It wasn't until after Israel became a valuable strategic asset to the US against "Soviet proxies" in the Middle East, that American Jewry "embraced Israel," said Finkelstein.

This romance, according to Finkelstein, "now seems to be coming to an end" as American Jews are no longer able to continue their support if Israeli policy and simultaneously embrace basic liberal values.

"The era of beautiful Israel has now passed, it seems irrevocably," he said, "and the ugly Israel that has replaced it is a growing embarrassment. It is not so much that Israel behaves differently now than before, but rather that the actual record of Israel's behavior has now caught up with it ... the record of human rights violations compiled by respected mainstream organizations cannot be reconciled with Israel's vaunted commitment to 'purity of arms.'"

American Jewry can choose to "jettison liberal values, [but] since that is an unlikely scenario, it is more likely that US and Canadian Jewry will begin to cast Israel adrift. In their hearts and minds, the Jewish State will return ... to an occasional object of charity," he said.

"But beyond this Israel will be put out of sight like the slightly meschugge aunt confined to the attic because of 'what the neighbors might think' ... The break-up of American Zionism will be not only for Palestinians but for Israelis as well an unalloyed boon ... how fortunate Palestinians and Israelis will be when - the day is perhaps not far off - American Jewry and Israel part ways."

## Appendix II:

### **CEPAL marks Day of Solidarity with Palestinians**

The evening's main speaker was Professor Norman Finkelstein, a prominent and controversial critic of the state of Israel.

by Mayssam Jackson  
December 7, 2007

Source: [http://www.rabble.ca/news\\_full\\_story.shtml?x=65219](http://www.rabble.ca/news_full_story.shtml?x=65219)

A people's right to pursue the most basic of human rights and the simplicity with which applying international law could award them these rights was the main focus of this year's commemoration of the UN Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people at an event held at the University of Toronto on Thursday, November 29.

The event, organized by the Canadian Palestinian Educational Exchange organization (CEPAL) saw a packed auditorium at the central Toronto campus.

The event highlighted the continued plight of Palestinians 59 years after Al-Nakba, or The Catastrophe – which refers to the formation of Israel in 1948 and the subsequent exile of Palestinians from their homeland.

Last Thursday's lecture was CEPAL's 11th annual commemoration of the UN Day of Solidarity. The Ottawa-based NGO was founded in 1996 by a group of Canadians who, after a chance meeting in Lebanon and after exposure to the plight of Palestinian refugees there, decided something had to be done.

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The UN states that this day has "traditionally provided an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine is still unresolved and that the Palestinian people is yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly; namely, the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to

national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property from which they had been displaced."

The first speaker of the evening, Olfat Mahmoud, the founder of the Women's Humanitarian Organization in Bourj al-Barajneh and a Palestinian refugee herself, detailed the daily hardships of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

"The conditions we live under are against all logic," she said. "I came all the way here to tell you about our daily suffering and our miserable existence. Every day is a painful experience for us, and this has been going on for 60 years. We have been forgotten. The world should be ashamed for leaving the Palestinians for so long."

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Finkelstein mocked the recent Middle East peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland hosted by US President George W. Bush, during which the conflict was described as a "very difficult, complex problem which is very hard to figure out how to solve."

"The UN General Assembly annually votes on the resolution [the] 'Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine,'" he noted. "The resolution has uniformly included these tenets for achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine: Affirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war; Affirming also the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the territory occupied since 1967 and of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem; Stresses the need for: (a) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination; (b) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967; Also stresses the need for resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with its Resolution 194 (III) [The right of return or compensation] of 11 December 1948."

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## **Appendix III:**

### **CEPAL Membership Vision**

CEPAL is a membership-based organization with a growing membership body. Our vision is to maintain the steady growth of a membership base with the highest level of diversity in age groups, cultural, academic and professional backgrounds. By becoming a member, you are ensuring that CEPAL's crucial work continues.

### **What Does it Mean to Choose to be a CEPAL Member?**

To be an official CEPAL member means, first and foremost, that you have a firm belief in the right of the Palestinian refugees to improve their quality of life, and that they have a right to improved living conditions, better education and brighter futures.

As a CEPAL member, you are also the conduit for the voice of Palestinian refugees in Canada, and do, within the framework set up by CEPAL's Board of Directors, whatever possible to raise awareness amongst Canadians on the daily struggles of Palestinian refugees.

You also have the right to participate in the development of the organization, be it by voting in the election of CEPAL's Board of Directors, brainstorming ideas for activities/events, or assisting in drawing new members to the organization. Members are also encouraged to attend CEPAL's Annual General Meeting (held every January in Ottawa) and CEPAL events.

### **Membership Choices**

#### **General Members**

Members who wish only to be informed by obtaining related news and articles on Palestinian refugee issues, attending our activities, and receiving updates on our programs are General Members. Anyone who donates \$5 or more to CEPAL can become a General Member.

#### **General Member Benefits**

General Members are entitled to be informed of and attend all general meetings of the organization.

General Members hold voting rights and can vote at CEPAL's Annual General Meeting.

General Members will receive regular updates via CEPAL's email news list and semi-annual newsletters.

General Members are eligible to run for a position on CEPAL's Board of Directors.

#### **Sustaining Members**

You can become a Sustaining Member if you commit to making an annual payment of \$500 or above. These payments can be made in one lump sum or in monthly/quarterly installments. In addition to regular membership benefits, Sustaining Members may choose to have a meeting a

year with the Board of Directors. The designation of "Sustaining Member" will apply from the day a member makes this commitment, and will continue for as long as this commitment is fulfilled annually. With their consent, Sustaining Members are also recognized publicly (i.e., on CEPAL's website, newsletters, etc.) for their continued support of CEPAL's work.

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Sustaining Members receive an annual gift from the board.

Sustaining Members are entitled to be informed of and attend all general meetings of the organization.

Sustaining Members hold voting rights and can vote at CEPAL's Annual General Meeting.

Sustaining Members will receive regular updates via CEPAL's email news list and semi-annual newsletters.

Sustaining Members are eligible to run for a position on CEPAL's Board of Directors.

### **Membership Criteria**

Members must be committed to supporting CEPAL's mission, and always act in the organization's best interests.

Members must each year renew their membership by paying the minimum membership fee assigned to their category (e.g., Sustaining Members must each year pay \$500 or more).

### **Membership Limitations**

Members of CEPAL may only represent the organization within the context of the Board of Directors, or within other special arrangements arrived at in conjunction with the CEPAL management. CEPAL holds no liability for statements or actions made by members, outside of the purview of the organization's mandate. Please note that CEPAL reserves the right to terminate membership, based on the lack of fulfillment of membership criteria as indicated above.

### **Membership Expiry**

A CEPAL membership is an annual commitment, which follows the fiscal year which begins on January 1 and ends December 31. However, in order to give members who join 3 months before the end of the year full benefit, CEPAL considers the 'expiry' date of all membership forms signed during or after the month of October to be December of the following year. (For instance, if a member signs on in October 2005, their membership will be valid until December 2006).

### **Membership Form**

To become a member please make a donation at [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org) by visiting [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca).