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Appendix A

Research Methodology

Interviews

I chose to focus on peace activists in the Jerusalem area because Jerusalem is the political epicenter of both Israel and Palestine for both parliamentarians and grassroots activists. The interaction between the Israeli and Palestinian populations of Jerusalem is also tense. The Arab and Jewish neighborhoods are interspersed in close proximity but are divided deeply socially by their different cultures, languages, political sentiments, and customs. The future status of Jerusalem is also one of the four final status issues, posing a challenge to the negotiators of Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

I conducted thirty-one scheduled interviews during the summer of 1999 with Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers. The interviews took place in the private homes and offices of the interviewees in Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, its suburbs, and Ramallah, an urban West Bank commercial center twenty minutes north of Jerusalem (under full Palestinian Authority control). These interviews serve as the data for the analytical observations presented in this essay, although unofficial and informal conversations that I had over the course of my three month stay in Jerusalem have also informed my analysis.

The interviews, of ninety minutes average duration, were conducted in English. I conducted two of the Israeli interviews in Hebrew and personally translated these interviews. I asked a set of similar ten questions to all of the

interviewees but allowed for each individual to focus on the questions that she felt most relevant to her experiences as a political activist.

I began by interviewing the paid staff members, volunteer activists, and board members of both Bat Shalom and the Jerusalem Center for Women (JCW). Both the staff members and board members of Bat Shalom granted me greater access to their organization and were more willing to be interviewed than their colleagues in the JCW. Part of the unequal receptivity between the two organizations undoubtedly responded to my own background as a Jewish American and my ability to speak Hebrew. Although I never stated my religious background, my name immediately informs all Palestinians and Israelis of my religious identity, as did my location of residence in West Jerusalem.

However, I do not think that my Jewish background played a large role in the difficulties I experienced in gaining access to the JCW. The women of the JCW treated me as an American college student, rather than an Israeli Jew. The linguistic barrier posed the greatest problem. I attempted to interview only the Palestinian women who spoke English. Moreover, many JCW directors and board members were on vacation during the summer months of July and August. Finally, the JCW has a professional policy in regard to academic and media interviews. May Kasem, the JCW program director, said that her organization does not grant more than one media or academic interview per interviewer.

Because of these limitations regarding the JCW itself, the fifteen Palestinians interviewed for this study include only five women officially affiliated with the Jerusalem Center for Women – two directors, a board member, and two

activists. The other Palestinian men and women are the directors and paid staff members of similar Palestinian NGOs. Because I originally sought contact with only those who spoke English, my Palestinian interviewees represent a small sub-culture of well-educated, English speaking activists, rather than the more grassroots participants or constituents of these NGOs. Seven of the Palestinian women I interviewed direct women's political action groups or committees based in Jerusalem and Ramallah, such as the *Palestinian Working Women's Society* and *People-to-People*. Although not directly tied to the JCW, these women provided important comments on the Jerusalem Link's activities as well as general observations about women in peacemaking within the Palestinian context. More than half of the Palestinian women I interviewed were involved politically at both the grassroots and as policy makers in the Palestinian Legislative Council or within Arafat's ministries. I also interviewed two male Palestinian directors of the *Beit Sahur Rapprochement Center*, a Palestinian community center that organizes a mixed gender dialogue group with Israeli residents of Jerusalem.

The sixteen Israelis interviewed for this essay include two directors, the former director, a paid staff member, five board members, and an activist involved in Bat Shalom. The Bat Shalom staff members were receptive to the project. They included me in meetings, programs, seminars, and discussions. Although Bat Shalom encouraged me to focus on their organization, I decided to interview women from other peace organizations in order to provide a context for the work of Bat Shalom itself. Accordingly, I interviewed three leading women activists from another all-women peace group, *Women in Black*. I also interviewed two women

involved in the mixed gender *Peace Now* and the director of the Israeli side of the *Beit Sahur Rapprochement Center*. I interviewed two Israeli male activists, Rabbi Asher Aschersman, director of *the Rabbis for Human Rights* and Jeff Halper, director of the *Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions*. I also interviewed Israel's first female Brigadier General of the IDF, Amira Dotan, who, upon retiring from her role in the Israeli Defense Forces, founded and now directs the *Middle East Women's Career Forum*, an organization working to promote professional interaction between Arab and Israeli women.

Although I tried to interview women of different ages and backgrounds, the Israeli peacemaking community tended to be uniform in both regards. The Israeli peacemakers all ranged in age from forty and seventy, and almost all were Ashkenazi (of eastern European descent), the majority Israeli ethnicity. The Palestinian women ranged in age from eighteen to sixty. They represent a small subculture within Palestine of a highly educate, English speaking middle class (See Chapter Two).

The methodological problems that I confronted in my research result primarily from my method of selecting my eventual thirty-one interviewees. I arrived in Jerusalem with a few phone numbers and found interviewees by word of mouth or from the recent literature on political activism in Jerusalem. Because of language difficulties, conflicting vacation schedules, time restraints, and general access problems, more than half of the Israeli and Palestinian women I contacted were not available for interviews.

Participant Observation

I participated in almost all of the Jerusalem Link activities that occurred during the period of June–August 1999. I attended two conflict resolution seminars sponsored jointly by the Jerusalem Link for both Palestinian and Israeli women. I attended a house rebuilding day of activism in the West Bank that was also sponsored jointly. I was unable to observe the Jerusalem Link dialogue groups discussed in this essay because the moderators set strict rules of privacy to protect the participants. I attended two Jerusalem Center for Women programs: a political leadership training seminar and a conflict resolution seminar. I attended a Bat Shalom board meeting, a political coffeehouse, a street protest, two Bat Shalom sponsored lectures, and a street demonstration in downtown West Jerusalem. I also attended a Beit Sahur mixed gender dialogue group. The participant observation opportunities provided context for the interviews and gave me a feel for the actual operation of the programs chosen by each side of the Jerusalem Link as well as the activists “at work.”

Palestinian Interviews

Jerusalem Center for Women Affiliates:

- Rima Ajrami, activist and dialogue group participant, *Jerusalem Center for Women*, Beit Haninah (outside Jerusalem), 30 June 1999.
- Sumaya Farhat-Naser, Director, *Jerusalem Center for Women*, Ein Kerem, 30 June 1999.
- Gheda Naser, activist and conflict resolution seminar participant, *Jerusalem Center for Women*, Ramallah, 12 August 1999.
- Zahira Kamal, Board member *Jerusalem Center for Women and Gender* Department Director for Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation,, Beit Haninah (home), 3 August 1999.
- May Kasem, Program Director, *Jerusalem Center for Women*, Beit Haninah, 19 July 1999.

Activists Affiliated with other Palestinian Organizations:

- Sama Aweidah-Liftawi, Director, *Women Studies Centre*, Beit Haninah. 24 July 1999.
- Hanan Aruri, Public Relations officer, *Palestinian Working Women Society*, East Jerusalem, 29 July 1999.
- Hanan Awad, Chair, *Women's International League For Peace and Freedom*, Wadi Joz, Jerusalem, 29 July 1999.
- Siham Barghouti, General Director in the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government, Ramallah, West Bank, 27 July 1999.
- Eitaf, Administrative assistant and activist, *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*, East Jerusalem, 29 July 1999.
- Yolla Hadidin, Director, *People To People*, Ramallah, West Bank, 16 August 1999.
- Soraida Hussein, Educational Director, *Women's Council for Legal Aid and Counseling*, Beit Haninah, 12 August 1999.
- Naalah Kourach, Director, *Ramallah Municipal Library* and Fatah activist, Ramallah, West Bank, 12 August 1999.
- George N. Rishmawi, Director, *Beit Sahur Rapprochement Center* Beit Sahur, West Bank, 15 July 1999.
- Elham Abu Ghazala, dialogue group participant, *Beit Sahur Rapprochement Center*, 15 July 1999.

Israeli Interviews

Bat Shalom Affiliates:

- Judy Blanc, Board Member, *Bat Shalom*, veteran peace and social justice activist, West Jerusalem, 7 July 1999.
- Chava, activist and board member, *Bat Shalom*, West Jerusalem, 26 July 1999.
- Nava Eisin, Board Member, *Bat Shalom*, Tel-Aviv University, 9 August 1999.
- Ruth Finegan, administrative assistant and Jerusalem Link dialogue group participant, *Bat Shalom*, West Jerusalem, 22 June 1999.
- Daphna Golan, former director, *Bat Shalom*, West Jerusalem, 2 August 1999.
- Galia Golan, Board Member, *Bat Shalom*, Veteran Activist in peace and feminist movement, spokesperson, *Peace Now*, West Jerusalem, 23 August 1999.
- Ronny Jaeger, activist, *Bat Shalom*, West Jerusalem, 20 July 1999.
- Dafna Kaminer, Board Member, *Bat Shalom*, Veteran activist for peace and social issues, West Jerusalem, 7 July 1999.
- Molly Malekar, Political Action Director, *Bat Shalom*, West Jerusalem, 28 June 1999.
- Gila Svirsky, Director (1998-September 1999), *Bat Shalom*, West Jerusalem, 6 July 1999, 5 August 1999, 23 August 1999.

Activists Affiliated with other Israeli Organizations:

- Rabbi Arik Ascherman, Director, *Rabbis for Human Rights*, West Jerusalem, 20 June 1999.
- Yaala Cohen, Director, *Women in Black*, West Jerusalem, 2 July 1999.
- Amira Dotan, Director, *Middle East Career Women's Forum*, Tel-Aviv, 9 August 1999.
- Etti, Veteran Activist, *Women in Black*, West Jerusalem, 2 July 1999.
- Judith Green, Director, *Rapprochement Dialogue Center* (Israeli branch), West Jerusalem, 25 July 1999.
- Jeff Halper, Director, *Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions*, West Jerusalem, 10 August 1999.
- Irene Levy, political spokesperson and veteran activist, *Peace Now*, West Jerusalem, 5 August 1999.