

The Christians in Palestine

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb

I. The Situation of Christians

Christians are indigenous in Palestine

Currently less than 2% of population

120,000 Palestinian Christians in Israel (8.9 million, 1.3% in Israel)

47,000 Palestinian Christians in the West Bank (2.8 million, 1.7% WB)

Concentration:

Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahoor

Gaza Strip has less than 1,000 (out of two million)



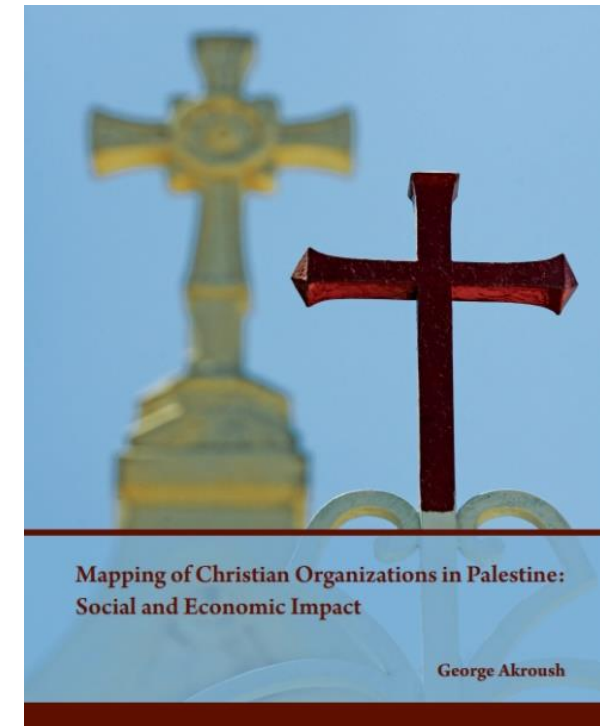
Numbers of Christians in the West
Bank and the Gaza Strip in 2007
Census

Bethlehem	21560
Ramallah	10817
Jerusalem	5271
Jenin	2423
Nablus	665
The rest of the provinces	452
Gaza Strip	1377



A leading role in society

- 45% of all NGOs are church related or funded
- 296 Christian organizations
 - Third largest employer in Palestine (Almost 10,000 people)
- Church injects \$500 million into the economy annually
- 1/3 of health care centers in the West Bank are Christian
 - East Jerusalem: 3 out of 4 hospitals (1/4 million patient/year)
- 10 Christian mayors
- Three Christian ministers



II. Mapping of the Christian Organizations in Palestine

**Contributions and Impacts on the Local Palestinian Community in
the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem**

March 2021

**CNEWA - Pontifical Mission – Jerusalem
Dar Al-Kalima University College– Bethlehem**

A Study Conducted by

George Akroush

The Palestinian Civil Society in a nutshell

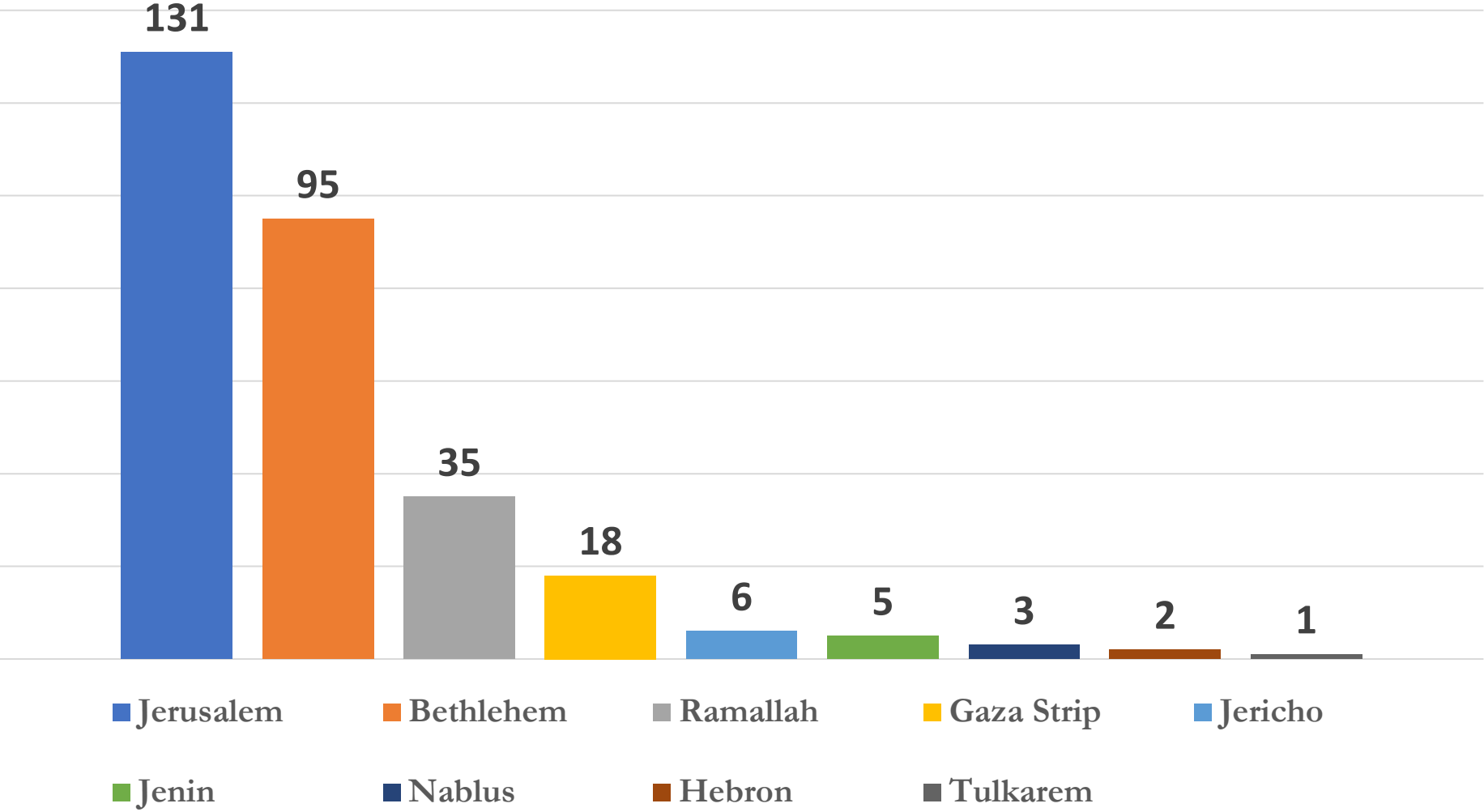
Year	# of NGOs	# of Employees
1994	538	3,800
2000	926	10,375
2007	1495	16,882
2015	2793	20,000



Sector	#	Definition
Health	19	Hospitals and Clinics that provides primary, secondary and specialized services.
Education	93	Universities, Schools and Rehabilitation Centers, Printing Press and Theological Centers
**Development Aid Orgs	18	Christian International and Independent Institutes that have Historical presence in Palestine
Culture & Community Centers	115	Clubs, interreligious and interchurch centers, media, tourism, scout troops,
Social Protection	47	Social services, advocacy, conflict resolution, people with disabilities and rehabilitation centers, elderly, housing, .employment and human rights
Environment	1	Environmental Centers
Total	296	

****Caritas, CRS, Pontifical Mission, Diakonia, Dan Church Aid, Lutheran World Federation, Mennonite Central Committee, World Vision, WCC, NECC, DVHL and others**

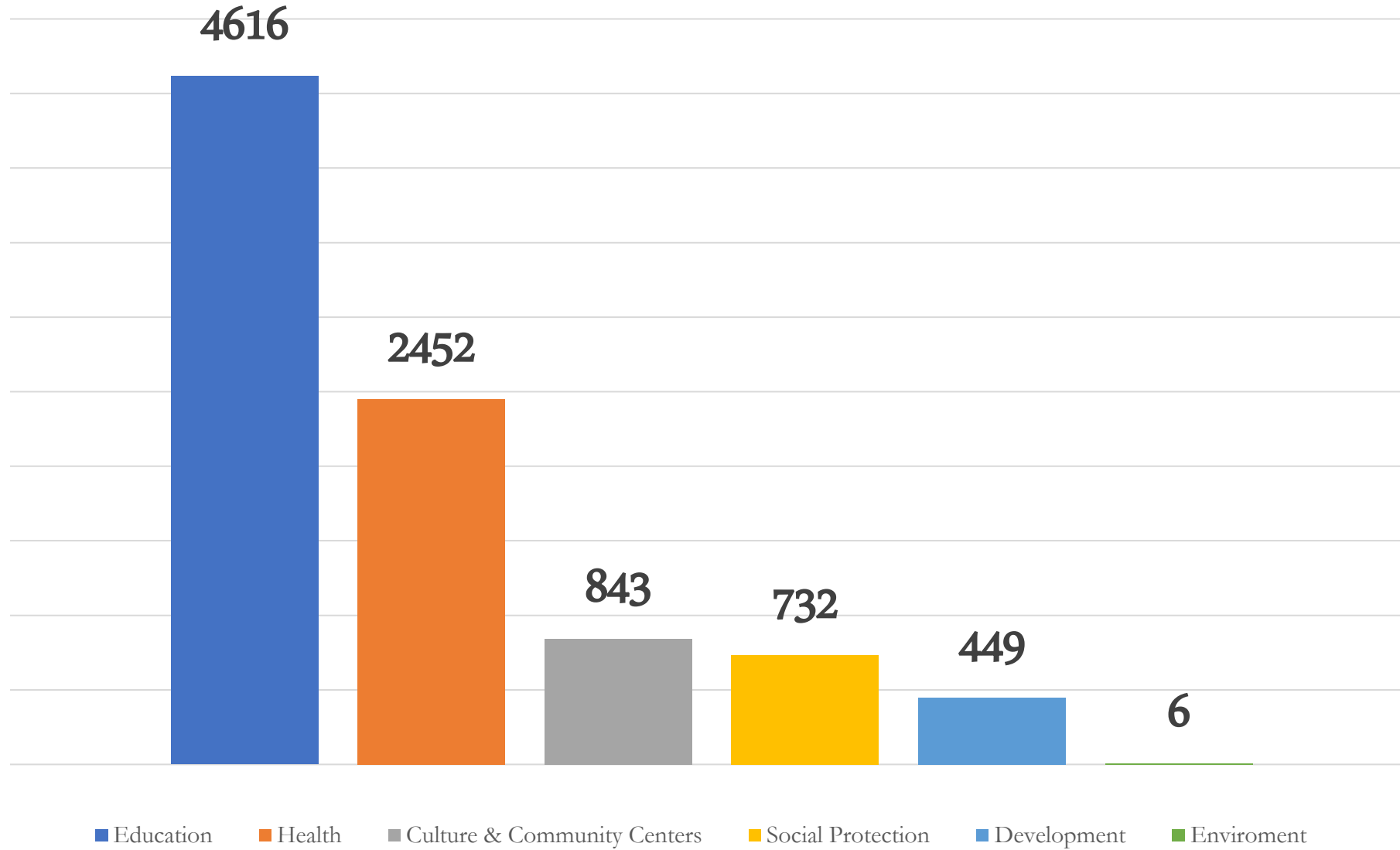
CRO's Geographical Distribution



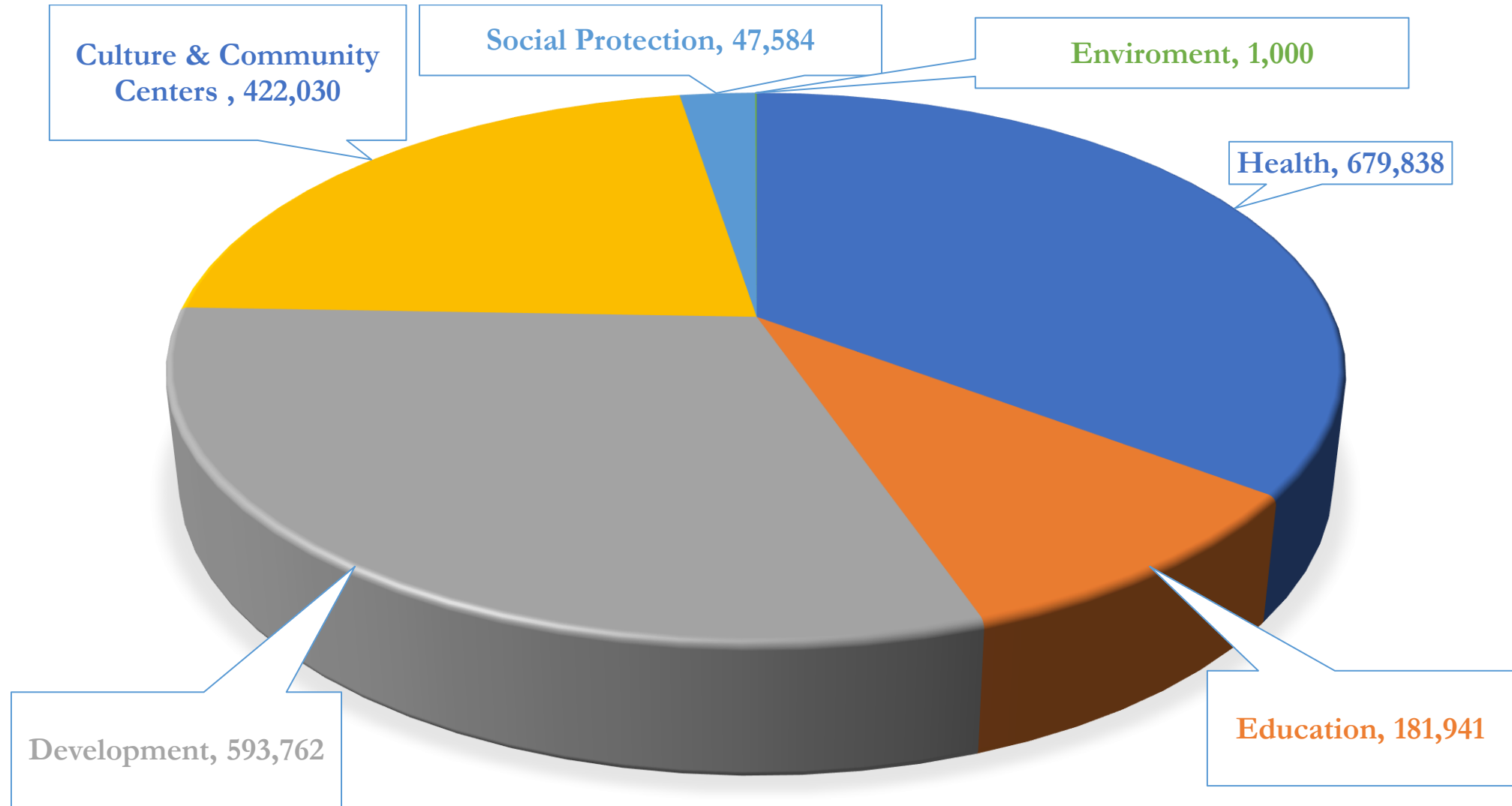
CRO's Operational Budgets by Sector

Sector	USD	Governmental Expenditure	% of CROs of overall public spending
Health	162,000,000	1,300,000,000 (11% of Gov. spending)	12%
Education	118,000,000	1,041,890,000 (9% of Gov. spending)	11%
Development	74,000,000		
Cultural & Community Centers	43,500,000		
Social Protection	18,000,000		
Environment	250,000		
Total	415,750,000		

CRO's Employment Size / Palestine



CRO's Beneficiaries by Sector



CRO's Employment size compared to other Palestinian Sectors

Sectors	Employment capacities
The Palestinian Authority	155,000
UNRWA	17,767
CRO	9,098
Stone & Marble Sector	8,500
IT Sector	6,400
Leather & footwear Industry	3,000
Palestinian Telecommunication Company "Pal Tel"	3,000
Pharmaceuticals Industry	1,100
Jawwal	900

The Health Sector in Jerusalem

#	Name of Institute	# of Patients / Yearly	# of Employees
1	Augusta Victoria Hospital	250,000	470
2	Saint John Eye Hospital	50,000	193
3	Saint Joseph Hospital	30,000	354
4	Princess Basma	2,600	113
	Total	332,600	1130



III. The Waves of Christian Emigration from Palestine



A, 4 Waves of Christian Emigration

- 1831-1917 The Ottoman Period
- 1945-1948 The Nakba
- 1948-1967 The Jordanian Period
- 1967- The Israeli Occupation



First Wave of Christian Emigration

Part of a world-wide Migration Wave

Destination: South America

Male Dominated

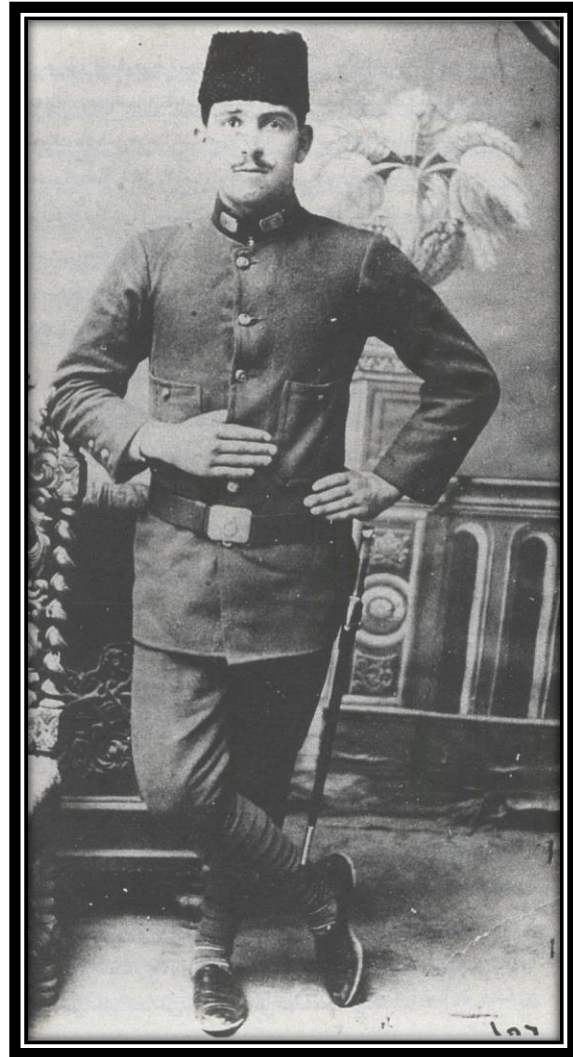
In a certain geographical area: The Christian Triangle

Bethlehem Population decreased from 12000 in 1900 to 6000 by 1921

The Population of Beit Jala decreased by a 1/3



Late Ottoman Period: Discovering South America



3. The Nakba, the Catastrophe 1948



The Loss of Land 77% of Historic Palestine



Refugee Nation 750,000



Numbers of Palestinian Christians in a number of major cities in Israel

City	Population 1931 Total Arabs	Population 1931 Christians	Population 1961 Total Arabs	Population 1961 Christians
Haifa	34,560	13,827	9,468	6,663
Jaffa	44,657	9,132	5,886	2,481
Ramla	10,345	2,184	2,166	1,302
Lydda	11,250	1,210	1,582	363



Second Wave of Christian Emigration

Forced Migration & Displacement

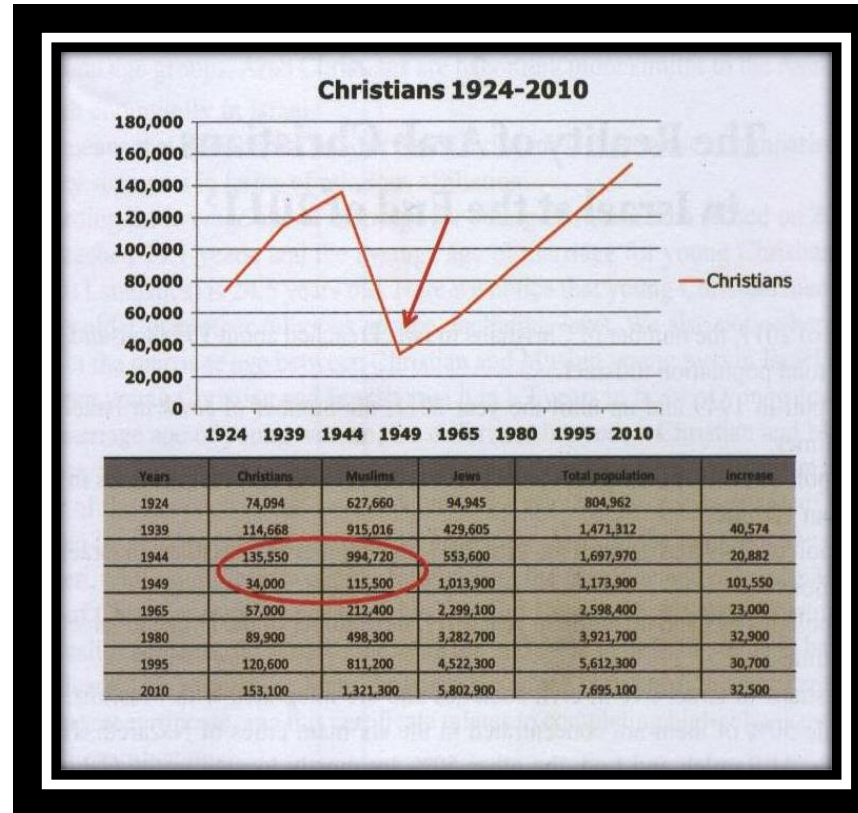
Destination: Lebanon, West Bank, & Jordan

Whole Families

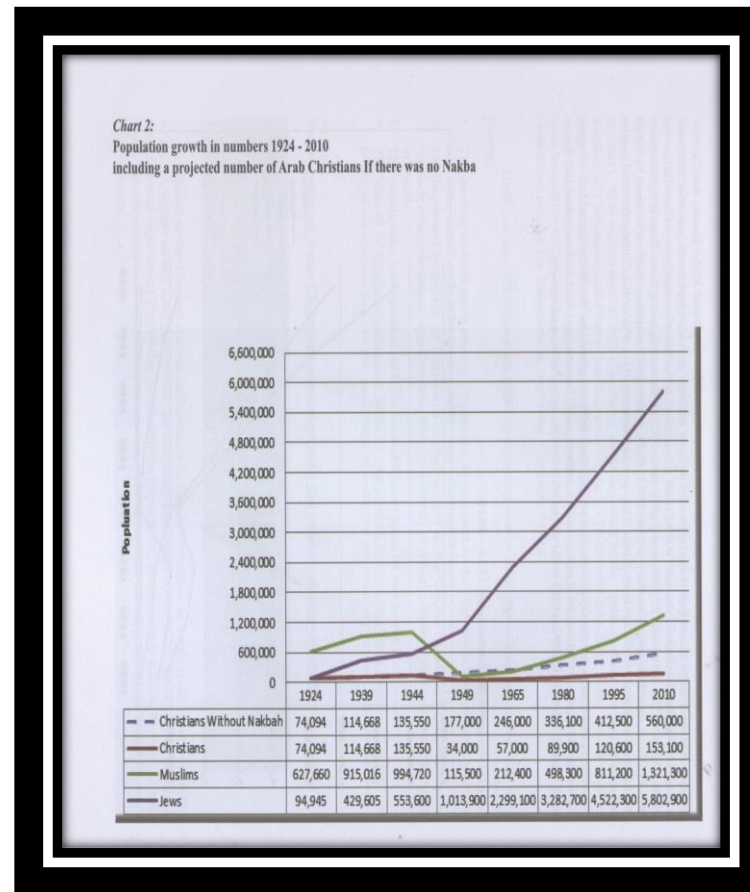
In a certain geographical area: Coastal Area, Galilee, Negev



Influence of *Al Nakba* on Palestinian Christians



Population increase with possible estimate of the increase in the numbers of Christians if you the Nakba didn't occur



Third Wave of Christian Emigration

Military rule in Israel, Jordanian in the WB, & Egyptian in Gaza

De-Development

Destination: Jordan, Oil Countries, USA & Europe

Very well educated and successful community

In a certain geographical area: The Jerusalem-Bethlehem Region

Number of Christians decreased in the WB from 42618 in 1961 to 29446 in 1967



Fourth Wave of Christian Emigration

Emigration as a ongoing bleeding wound

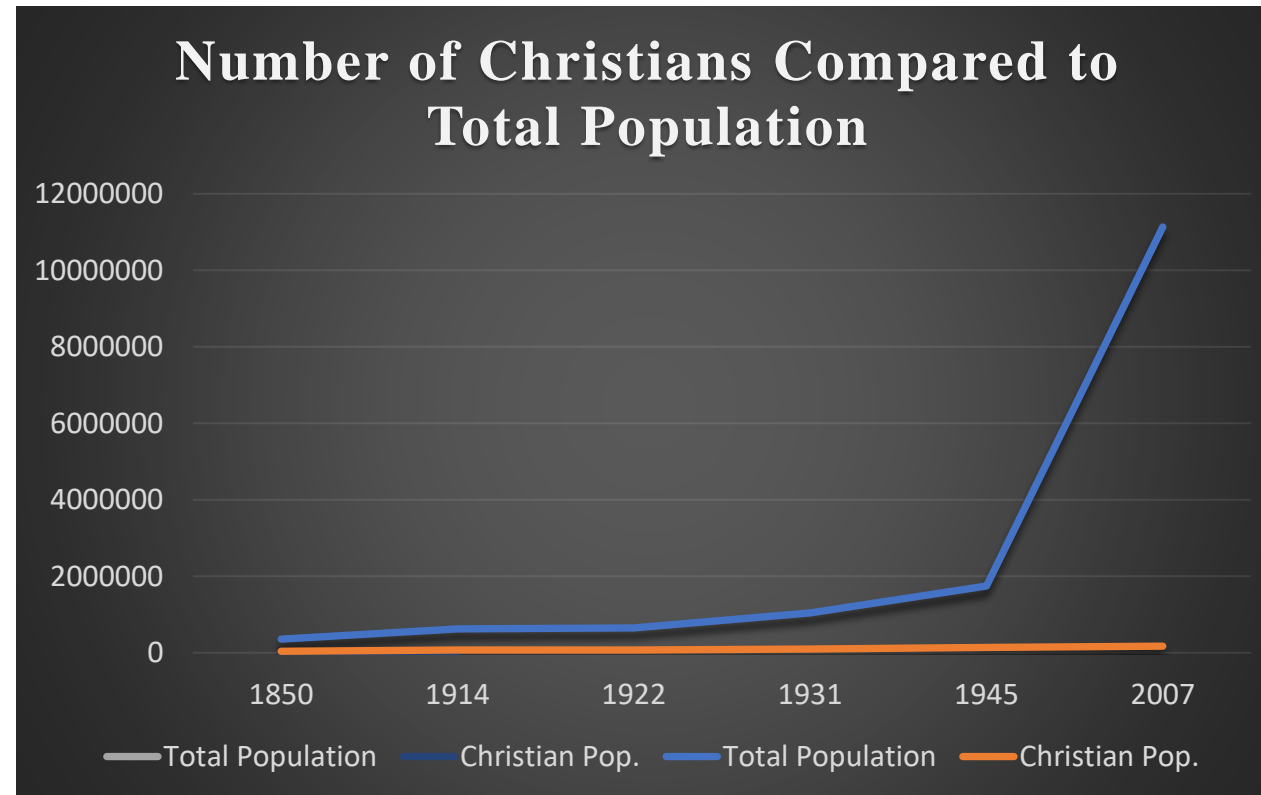
Emigration in sub-waves... (1967, 1988, 2001, etc.)

Destination: Jordan, Oil Countries, USA & Europe

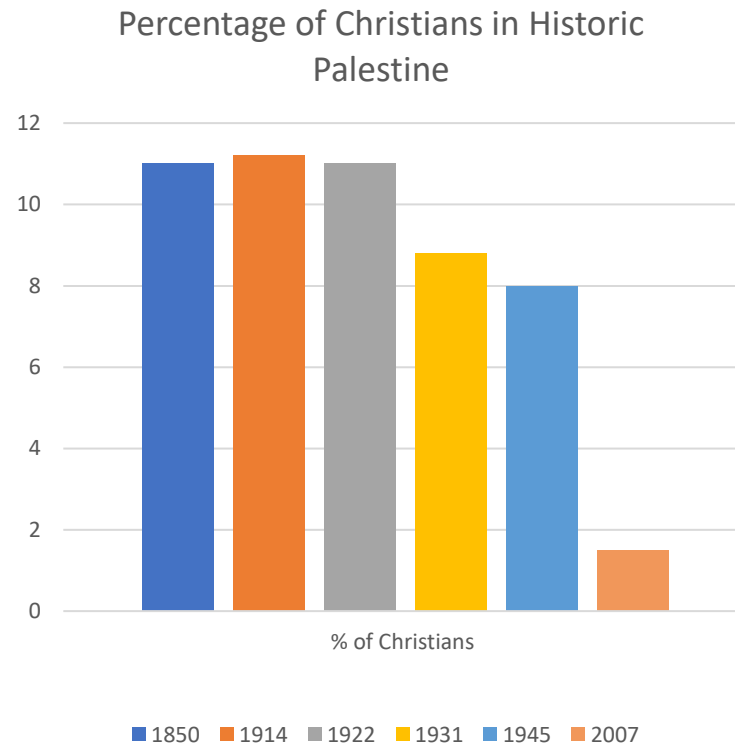
Very well educated & successful community

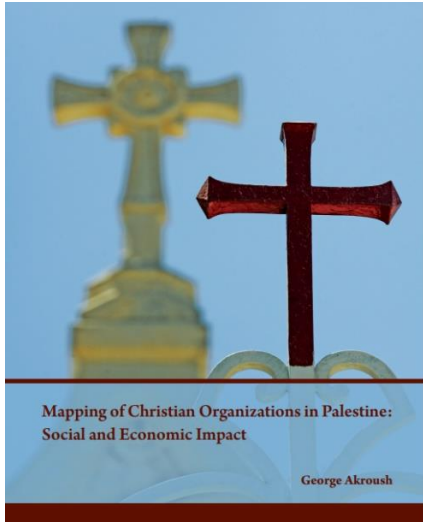
Throughout the West Bank

Preparation of Christians compared to total population



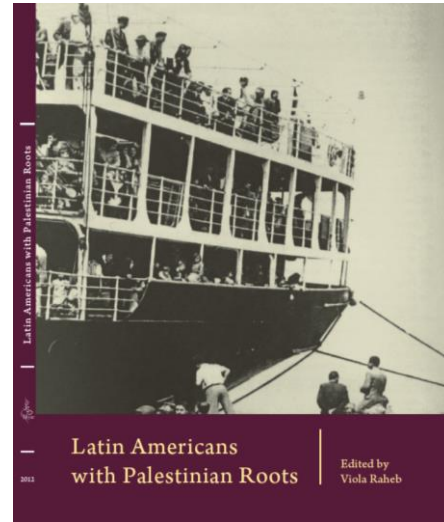
The percentage of Christians in Historic Palestine





Mapping of Christian Organizations in Palestine:
Social and Economic Impact

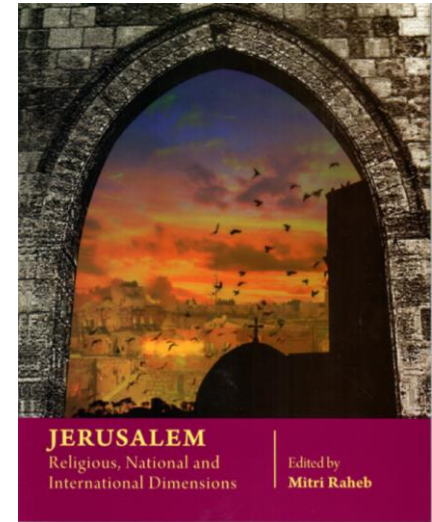
George Akrouh



Latin Americans with Palestinian Roots

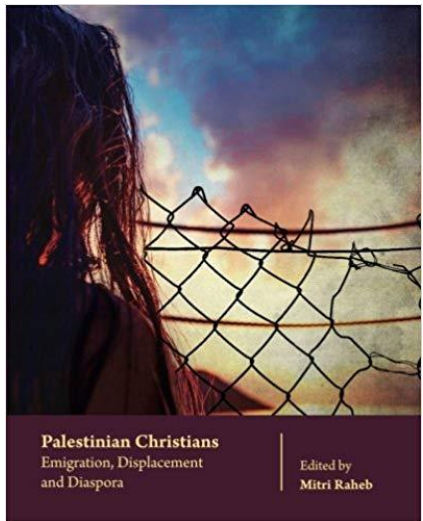
Latin Americans
with Palestinian Roots

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Viola Raheb



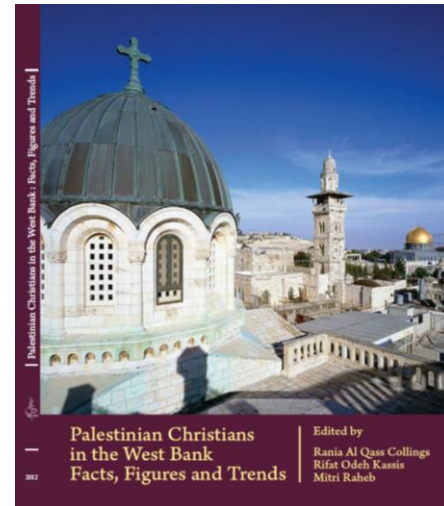
JERUSALEM
Religious, National and
International Dimensions

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Palestinian Christians
Emigration, Displacement
and Diaspora

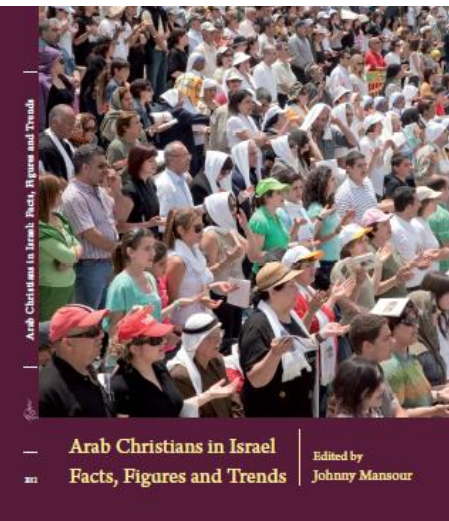
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Palestinian Christians in the West Bank: Facts, Figures and Trends

Palestinian Christians
in the West Bank
Facts, Figures and Trends

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Arab Christians in Israel: Facts, Figures and Trends

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