

St. Yves “toolkits” also enable the residents to immediately contact St. Yves for representation. Residents may have as few as 24 hours after receiving notice of the planned destruction to submit these emergency documents. The “toolkits” are now available through churches and other facilities in cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

In addition to defending against home demolitions, the protection of the legal rights of Catholics living in East Jerusalem to social benefits is needed to allow them to remain in the Holy Land. The Western Lieutenancy has funded vital projects to achieve that aim.

“Protecting Legal Rights to Obtain Social Benefits”

Palestinians with Israeli permanent residency, mostly Catholics, are entitled to many Israeli social benefits, such as unemployment, disability, widowhood, and old age and yet over 68% live under the poverty line but only 22% receive social services benefits. The St. Yves work will help those deprived of their social and economic rights to obtain them. In addition to representing individual clients, St. Yves is creating toolkits for greater awareness of legal rights to these benefits, explaining step-by-step, easy to understand directions to seek benefits.

We appreciate your prayers and financial support for all of these and many other efforts by the St. Yves lawyers. They are courageous and relentless, sometimes even suffering bodily harm while protecting others from Israeli soldiers.

As Bishop Desmond Tutu said: *“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor”.*

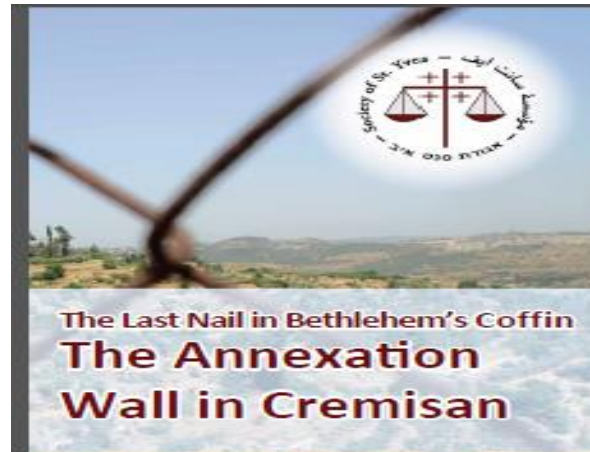
Donations should be made directly to:

EOHSJ

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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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For more information about the Society of St. Yves, please visit <http://www.saintyves.org>. We also urge you to read the newest reports by St. Yves on the Annexation Wall.



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**The Society of St. Yves
Catholic Center for Human
Rights**



**Defending the Legal Rights of
Catholics and the Church in the
Holy Land**



The Society of St. Yves is the Catholic Center for Human Rights of the Latin Patriarchate in the Holy Land.

It was founded in 1991 by the former Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, H.B. Michel Sabbah, to help "the poor and the oppressed". The Patriarch chose to name the organization in honor of a much-admired patron saint of lawyers, St. Yves of Brittany, a Doctor of Law in the Thirteenth Century, who was famous as a tireless defender and benefactor of the poor. Today, the Society, works under the patronage of the Patriarchate in Jerusalem, defending the legal rights of the Christians and the Church in the Holy Land.

The Society of St. Yves provides free legal representation and advocacy in the courts to prevent human rights abuses – especially home demolitions and land confiscations, not only of Palestinian Christians but even of lands and structures belonging to the Patriarchate and Catholic Orders.

St. Yves' outstanding work and success are exemplified in *The Cremisan Valley Case*, when St. Yves lawyers stopped the construction of the massive Separation Wall through Church lands. The only opening in the Wall surrounding Bethlehem is where St. Yves stopped construction, allowing children from the neighboring



Catholic village to attend the school located on Church lands, which also includes a convent and a monastery. Tragically, however, the Israeli military confiscated lands belonging to the Catholic villagers, destroyed a wide swath of their fertile, ancient olive groves and constructed the Wall through them so that it separates the villagers from the remaining groves, depriving villagers of their livelihood.

With the Wall now mostly constructed, Bethlehem is for the first time sealed-off from Jerusalem, separating families and imposing extraordinary hardships on Palestinians seeking work in Jerusalem.



The Wall now surrounds Bethlehem and Israeli settlements encircle it, with only the small strip open where St. Yves prevailed.



The destruction of homes and livelihoods, as well as the confiscation of land in Bethlehem, has been highly publicized by St. Yves to the United Nations Human Rights Council and other international bodies, through funding from the Western Lieutenancy. This has resulted in international condemnation of and opposition to these acts.

Unfortunately, the destruction of Palestinian homes and lands is part of an even wider, rapidly escalating campaign by the Israeli government. Over **88,000** homes in East Jerusalem are at now risk for destruction. In 2016, 1,093 homes were destroyed, displacing 1,600 Palestinians, half of them children. Along with supporting St. Yves' leadership role with the Human Rights Council fighting against this, the Western Lieutenancy funded St. Yves urgent work helping homeowners.

“Helping Prevent Home Demolitions and Land Confiscation, Enabling Home Building, and Protecting Human Rights”

St. Yves lawyers are successfully defending homeowners against demolitions and providing “Legal Toolkits” to Palestinians with emergency documents that can temporarily prevent demolition.