

RESOLUTION ON THE DESTRUCTION OF PALESTINIAN LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES

The following resolution was adopted by the Progressive Librarians Guild at its June 16, 2002 membership meeting in Atlanta, GA. It was also approved by the elected representatives of the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) on June 15, 2002. SRRT is a body within the American Library Association, but does not, and should not be taken to, speak for the Association as a whole. In this resolution SRRT speaks only on its own behalf.

WHEREAS, beginning in late March 2002, Israeli military forces occupied numerous sites which housed Palestinian cultural resources, including libraries and archives; and

WHEREAS, in the course of this occupation Israeli forces were responsible for the destruction and theft of computers, photocopiers, books, audio recordings, video recordings, data, institutional archives and records, and objects of historical, cultural, and artistic importance; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of these cultural resources represents a significant loss for the people of Palestine and of the world; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association deplores the destruction of these cultural resources, and calls upon the Israeli government to refrain from further actions of this type; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Social Responsibilities Round Table calls upon the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations to provide material assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of these resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Social Responsibilities Round Table offers assistance in the form of resources, advice, expertise, and consultation for the purpose of restoring and enhancing Palestinian libraries and archives; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be sent to the appropriate persons, including the U.S. Secretary of State, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, the representative of the Palestinian National Authority to the United States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of UNESCO, and the President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.