

Adalah The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

عدالة المركز القانوني لحقوق الأقليات العربية في إسرائيل

עזאלה המרכז המשפטי לזכויות המיעוט הערבי בישראל



INVITATION TO PRESS CONFERENCE

**Beit Agron, Jerusalem
Sunday, 18 September 2005, 15:00**

**Adalah / The High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens in Israel /
The Committee of the Victims' Families (October 2000)**

Adalah, the High Follow-up Committee for Arab Citizens in Israel, and the Committee of the Victims' Families (October 2000) invite you to participate in a press conference:

Date and Time: Sunday, 18 September 2005, 15:00
Place: Beit Agron International Press Center, 37 Hillel Street, Jerusalem
Languages: Hebrew and Arabic, with briefing in English

On 18 September, the Ministry of Justice's Police Investigation Unit ("Mahash") will announce the findings and recommendations of its investigations into the killings of 13 unarmed Palestinian citizens of Israel during the October 2000 protest demonstrations by members of the Israeli police and security forces. The conveners will provide response, commentary and analysis on Mahash's report at the press conference. It will also be possible for journalists to interview Adalah lawyers, Arab political leaders, as well as the victims' families.

The Official Commission of Inquiry into the Clashes between Security Forces and Israeli Citizens in October 2000 ("the Or Commission") recommended that Mahash open investigations into each of the killings in its final report issued in September 2003. The Or Commission was established by the Israeli government on 8 November 2000, in order to "investigate the clashes, which involved security forces and Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel" during October 2000.

Mahash is legally bound to investigate the killings including identifying the police officers involved in the killings and collecting data from the field. However, to date, Mahash has failed to investigate killings with any degree of seriousness. As a result and despite the passing of almost five years since the events of October 2000, no police commander or officer has yet been criminally charged in relation to the killings.

As the legal representative of the victims' families, the High Follow-Up Committee, and three Arab elected public leaders who received warnings from the Commission, Adalah presented the Or Commission with a vast number of testimonies, medical reports, and maps as well as expert opinions, articles, and other evidence. This information related to the circumstances of the killings, discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel, police treatment of the Arab minority, racism, and land problems, particularly those of planning and building, among other issues.

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