

Adalah The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

عدالة المركز القانوني لحقوق الأقلية العربية في إسرائيل

עזאלה המרכז המשפטי לזכויות המיעוט הערבי בישראל



URGENT APPEAL

April 2010

Support Adalah's Campaign to Counter Incitement against Adalah & Palestinian Citizens of Israel

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Supporters,

We are writing to ask you to help us counter a vicious incitement campaign against Adalah and the rights of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. Immediately before the publication of this statement, a bill was submitted by nineteen members of the Knesset to outlaw associations which give information to foreigners or are involved in litigation abroad against senior officials of the Israeli government and/or army chiefs for war crimes. This bill was proposed after a long campaign against human rights organizations in the last months.

A radical, right-wing Israeli group, [Im Tirtzu – The Second Zionist Revolution](#), has posted inflammatory billboards in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and internet banners and ads that state, "The [New Israel] Fund supports and Adalah persecutes [our soldiers and leaders]," and "We salute, they persecute [our soldiers and leaders]: NIF and Adalah – subversives; enough with you!" This campaign was timed to coincide with the Israeli Memorial (or Remembrance) Day for soldiers (Monday, 19 April) and Independence Day (Tuesday, 20 April). Im Tirtzu has also opened a Hebrew [Facebook group](#) called "Stop [Arrest] Adalah ... for the future of Israeli children". Within two days, more than 2,000 people had joined this group, where Adalah is described as "an Arab organization working under the pretense of a human rights organization ... and does all in its power to harm Israeli interests home and abroad ... Our soldiers protect us with their bodies, so we must protect them from Adalah and those who send them ..." In addition, some prominent Israeli journalists as well as members of the Knesset have stated on major radio and TV stations that Adalah's international work constitutes a serious threat to Israelis. Over the past weeks Adalah has received numerous hate-filled telephone calls and emails from Jewish Israelis as a direct result of this campaign.

While Im Tirtzu's campaign primarily targets the [New Israel Fund \(NIF\)](#), a major donor to human rights organizations in Israel, Adalah has been used as the focal point in order to strengthen and sharpen the attacks. The latest Im Tirtzu report centers on universal jurisdiction cases brought abroad against Israeli politicians and military generals for war crimes committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Here, Im Tirtzu emphasizes that Attorney Hassan Jabareen, the General Director of Adalah, submitted an expert legal opinion to the Spanish court in the Salah Shehadeh extra-judicial execution case. While Adalah has not initiated any cases based on universal jurisdiction – as Im Tirtzu's report and

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slogans falsely attempt to convey – we are proud to have fulfilled our duty as a human rights organization by giving this expert opinion, based on our experience and knowledge of Israeli law and court decisions and a request by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza to address the legal question of whether Palestinians in Gaza have an effective legal remedy before Israeli courts. The report also attacked former Adalah attorney, Jamil Dakwar, for his involvement in the filing of two *civil lawsuits* in the United States in 2005 by the Center for Constitutional Rights against former Israeli officials based on arguments that they committed war crimes. Attorney Dakwar responded, “This is an orchestrated attack against human rights defenders and organizations in Israel and abroad that are working for accountability for victims in accordance with international law.”

In the current political climate in Israel, the extremist right-wing rhetoric espoused by some ministers and Members of Knesset (MKs) poses a physical threat and constitutes dangerous incitement against Adalah, its staff and its activities in particular, and against Palestinian citizens of the state in general. The singling out of Adalah indicates the strength of the agenda of the Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who repeatedly emphasizes the “strategic threat” posed by Palestinian citizens of Israel, and the slogan “No loyalty, no citizenship”. This explains why in the last few months two Arab political leaders, whom Adalah now represents, have been indicted for legitimate political activities: MK Mohammed Barakeh, the leader of the only Jewish-Arab political party, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (“al-Jabha” or “Hadash”), and MK Said Naffa of the National Democratic Assembly – Balad.

Adalah is at the forefront of efforts to bring pioneering litigation before the Israeli Supreme Court to challenge discrimination and protect minority rights, and to defend the rights of Palestinians living under occupation. Adalah will also continue to demand accountability for violations of international humanitarian law.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Stay informed & inform others

Subscribe to our monthly [electronic newsletter](#) and forward it to your friends, family, colleagues, local political representatives, and relevant listservs; request our publications; watch our new video, “Targeted Citizen,” on Adalah’s website and pass it on; and join [Adalah’s group on Facebook](#)

Write an op-ed or a letter to the Editor of your local newspaper

Speak out against the attempt to de-legitimize Adalah and the rights of Arab citizens of Israel.

Donate to Adalah to support our campaign against incitement

In order for our campaign to succeed, especially in Jewish Israeli cities and towns, Adalah needs your help. Our campaign is possible only with the generous contributions of our many supporters in Israel and abroad. To learn about the different ways in which you can donate to Adalah, [click here](#)