



عدالة عدאלה Adalah

The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel
المركز القانوني لحقوق الاقلية العربية في إسرائيل
המרכז המשפטי לזכויות המיעוט הערבי בישראל

Annual Report of Activities

2011

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Contact us:

Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel
94 Yaffa Street, PO Box 8921
Haifa 31090 Israel
Tel: +972 (4) 950-1610; Fax: +972 (4) 950-3140
Email: adalah@adalah.org; Website: www.adalah.org

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INTRODUCTION

This report highlights Adalah's main achievements, impact, and key activities conducted in 2011, our 15th year of operation. As this report reflects, Adalah achieved several successes in our legal representation and international advocacy initiatives, and submitted major new impact litigation in cases of crucial importance for the promotion and defense of the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Adalah also issued new legal publications and delivered papers and lectures at numerous conferences and symposium to which we were invited, both in Israel and abroad.

Adalah ("Justice" in Arabic) is an independent human rights organization and legal center with offices in Haifa in the north and Beer el-Sabe (Beer Sheva) in the south. Established in November 1996, Adalah serves Palestinian citizens of Israel, numbering 1.2 million people or close to 20% of the population, as well as Palestinians living in the OPT. Adalah's main objectives are to achieve equal individual and collective rights for the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel in different fields including land and planning rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and civil and political rights including the rights of prisoners and detainees, and to defend the rights of Palestinians living under occupation. In order to achieve these goals, Adalah:

- Brings impact litigation cases before Israeli courts and various state authorities;
- Provides legal consultation to individuals, NGOs, and Arab institutions;
- Appeals to international institutions and forums;
- Organizes conferences and study days and publishes reports on legal issues;
- Conducts extensive media outreach;
- Trains legal apprentices, law students, and new lawyers in the field of human rights.

This report is divided into four sections: Legal Action, International Advocacy, Legal Education, and Institutional Development. We hope that this streamlined format will provide readers with a more succinct presentation of our work.

The Context of Adalah's Work

In 2011, the political environment in Israel became increasingly hostile towards human rights and human rights organizations. Focusing predominantly within the Green Line, the coalition government led by Benjamin Netanyahu and Avigdor Lieberman has undertaken a primary strategy of legislating a myriad of racist laws that discriminate against Arab citizens of Israel and undermine basic tenets of democracy. These laws include the Admissions Committees Law, which excludes Arab citizens from living in hundreds of small community towns on grounds of "social unsuitability," the Nakba Law, which cuts state funding to all institutions that commemorate the Nakba; and an amendment to the Absorption of Discharged Soldiers Law, which significantly expands the benefits in higher education given to former soldiers, among others. All of these laws were enacted in 2011 and threaten to fundamentally shift the status quo and alter the environment in which Arab citizens of Israel live.

The government also introduced and supported new legislation that seeks to place numerous restrictions on bodies with views that dissent from the government's official line. The targets of these attacks include the Israeli Supreme Court, the media, and human rights organizations. Laws enacted in 2011 that threaten the work and even the existence of human rights organizations include: the Foreign Governmental Funding Law, which imposes harsher financial reporting requirements, and the Anti-Boycott Law, which makes public calls for the boycott of Israeli settlements or Israel a "civil wrong". Late in 2011, NGO funding laws were proposed which could have cut all foreign government funding to

Adalah and several other human rights groups. These bills, which essentially sought to close down the human rights organizations, were frozen following pronounced and widespread criticism from the United States (US) and the European Union (EU).

Adalah is also witnessing a further breakdown in the rule of law, as the government has repeatedly failed to implement Supreme Court decisions and state commitments in cases concerning the rights of Palestinians in Israel and the OPT. Adalah has filed numerous motions for contempt of court and engaged in extensive correspondence with state bodies to secure implementation of positive court decisions and state commitments in its cases. At the same time, the Knesset is attempting to limit the power and independence of the Supreme Court, by limiting judicial review and changing the selection procedures for new justices in order to “pack” the court with right-wing figures.

In addition to this wave of discriminatory legislation, the government also approved the Praver Plan in September 2011, which threatens to uproot and dispossess up to 70,000 Arab Bedouin citizens of Israel who live in unrecognized villages in the Naqab (Negev). Neither the Arab Bedouin population nor Arab leaders in Israel were consulted in the planning process. The plan bars the Arab Bedouin from living on or claiming land in huge swaths of the Naqab and provides for the demolition of most of the unrecognized villages. To fight the plan, Adalah has adopted a multi-pronged strategy of legal action, public outreach, education, and international advocacy. Stopping the Praver Plan will continue to be a main priority of our work in 2012.

Faced with this deteriorating environment, Adalah focused much of its work in 2011 on challenging discriminatory legislation, representing Arab members of the Knesset and political protestors, and countering attacks against Adalah and other human rights organizations in the form of anti-NGO bills and inflammatory rhetoric. With this new legal and political reality, Adalah has shifted from the “affirmative rights” agenda that characterized its work in previous years to a more defensive agenda.

While the current government’s focus has been primarily within the Green Line, Israel continues to massively and systematically violate the rights of Palestinians living in the OPT. Further, the Supreme Court has become increasingly reluctant to rule favorably on cases pertaining to human rights and humanitarian concerns in Gaza related to Israel’s ongoing siege. In this regard, Adalah focused on cases such as access for patients from Gaza for emergency medical care and access to Israeli courts to seek compensation from Israel for injuries and damages caused by the Israeli military.

LEGAL ACTION

Figures

	Planned 2011	Achieved 2011
New impact litigation	15	17
New legal interventions	20+	30+
Wins/losses	–	16/8
Follow-up on pending cases	40+	40+

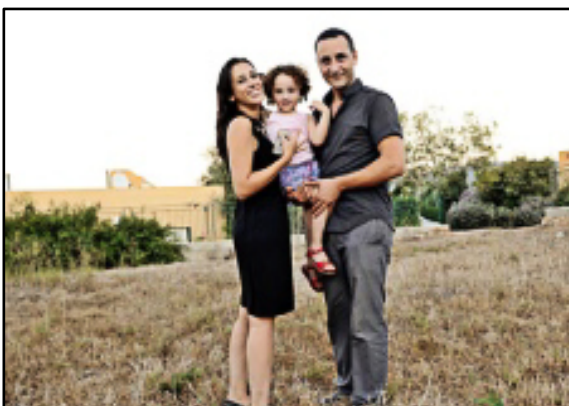
Main Achievements

Land and Planning Rights



In a precedent-setting decision, the Magistrates' Court ordered the immediate **cancellation of 51 demolition orders for the homes of 500 families in the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of Alsira** in 12/11. The ruling, a first in Israel's legal history, followed Adalah's motion on behalf of the villagers. The state sought the orders in 2006, without considering any alternative solutions. The residents have lived in Alsira for at least the past seven generations. The British Mandate recognized their land claims but Israel views them as trespassers illegally squatting on state land. [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, In legal precedent, Israel court stops demolition of unrecognized Bedouin village, 06.12.11](#)
- [YnetNews, Court annuls demolition of Bedouin village, 06.12.11](#)
- [Jerusalem Post, Court reverses demolition orders for 51 Beduin buildings, 06.12.11](#)



After years of legal struggle, in 09/11 the Supreme Court ordered the community town of Rakefet to admit the Zubeidats, an Arab family who had been deemed "socially unsuitable" to live in the town by its **admissions committee**. Mr. and Mrs. Zubeidat are both architects who graduated from top universities in Israel. In issuing this ruling, the Supreme Court accepted Adalah's petition, filed in 2007 on behalf of the Zubeidat family and human rights and social change organizations Another Voice in the Galilee (Kol Aher BaGalil); the Mizrahi Democratic Rainbow (HaKeshet); Bimkom:

Planners for Planning Rights; the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance; and the Arab Center for Alternative Planning. Adalah continues to challenge the Admissions Committees Law, enacted by the Knesset in March 2011, in another petition that is pending before the Supreme Court. [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, Israeli Arab couple wins legal battle to build home in northern Jewish town, 06.09.11](#)
- [Ha'aretz, Israel's High Court orders Jewish Galilee town to accept Arab couple, 14.09.11](#)

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In 11/11, the Ministry of Health announced that it would reopen a “**Mother and Child Clinic**” in the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of Wadi al-Nam in the Naqab, following its closure in October 2009. According to the ministry, it closed the clinic, together with two other clinics located in the Arab Bedouin villages of Abu-Tlul and Qasr al-Sir, because it was unable to find nurses willing to work in them. Thousands of people are served by the clinics. The two other clinics were reopened in 2010.



All three clinics were reopened following a petition and motion for contempt of court submitted by Adalah in 12/09 on behalf of 11 Arab Bedouin women, the head of the local committee of Qasr al-Sir, PHR-I, Yasmeen Al-Naqab for Promoting the Health of Women and the Family, and the Galilee Society. [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, "Israeli Bedouin women lack access to prenatal care", 24.04.11](#)

Following a motion for contempt of court filed by Adalah in 10/11, in 11/11 the Supreme Court issued a decision ordering the state **to pave a safe road to the school** in the unrecognized village of al-Fur'a in the Naqab. The new decision follows an earlier Supreme Court ruling from 2005 ordering the state to pave a new road, following a previous petition filed by Adalah. The court leveled scathing criticism at the state for not implementing this ruling and described the state's failure to comply as a clear contempt of court. In winter, rainfall makes the existing dirt track to the school particularly treacherous, and the vast majority of the school's teachers and 1,187 pupils cannot attend classes for fear of being injured. Consequently the school is frequently closed and lessons suspended. [More](#)



In 06/11 the Supreme Court ruled for the first time, that the right to water is a constitutional right for all citizens because it stemmed directly from the rights to life, dignity and equality, and that the state was obliged to secure this basic right. However, the court also ruled that Arab Bedouin living in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab only had **the right to "minimal access to water"**. The decision followed an appeal filed by Adalah in 2006 on behalf Arab Bedouin citizens of Israel representing 128 families from six unrecognized villages. Adalah asked the court to overturn a 2006 ruling by the Haifa District Court that refused to connect the villages to the main water network. The Supreme Court accepted the appeal in part – from residents of three villages – and rejected it in part – from residents of another three villages. [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, Court rules water a basic human right, 06.06.11](#)

Following the Supreme Court's decision, Adalah submitted a request to the Water Committee to connect the residents of the villages of Umm el-Hieran (population 500) and Tel Arad (population 1,500) villages to the water network immediately. The motion was denied. Adalah then filed an

appeal in 09/11 to the Water Tribunal. Residents must currently travel daily to bring water tanks to their villages and are often forced to wait for water for days, with serious consequences for their lives and health. [More](#)



In a partial legal victory, in 06/11 the Supreme Court ruled that the **Big Mosque in the Old City of Beer el-Sabe (Beer Sheva) should be opened as a museum of Islamic culture**. The 40-page ruling was issued on a petition filed by Adalah in 2002 demanding that the Big Mosque be re-opened for prayer for the thousands of Muslim residents of the city and neighboring towns and villages. After almost ten years of deliberations, the court rejected the Beer Sheva Municipality's position that the mosque should be used as a general museum. The

municipality argued that merely opening the mosque for prayer would lead to violence and disturb the peace in Beer Sheva. The court also ruled that the petitioners should approach the planning authorities to request that a change be made to the purpose of the building from that of a "general museum" to a place of worship. Later in 2011, a general historical exhibition was opened in the mosque, named "History of Be'er Sheva: From 1900-2011", in contravention of the Supreme Court's decision. A recent publication of the municipality refers to the building as "The Museum for Archaeology." Adalah is following up on the case. [More](#) | [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, High Court rules Be'er Sheva mosque to be used as Islamic museum, 23.06.11](#)
- [Ynet News, Beersheba mosque to become Islam museum, 24.06.11](#)
- [Photographs of the new general historical exhibit at the mosque](#)

Civil and Political Rights



In 02/11, the Supreme Court ordered that **local elections must be held in the Abu Basma Regional Council in the Naqab (Negev)** in 12/12. The court's decision follows a petition filed by Adalah and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) in 04/10. While the Abu Basma Regional Council was established in 2003, elections have still not been held and the council is headed by an official from the Shas political party appointed by the Interior Minister. Thus local Arab Bedouin community members have never been permitted to vote for

their local representatives. Around 30,000 Arab Bedouin citizens of Israel live within the jurisdiction of the council, which also provides services for 40,000 additional people from neighboring unrecognized villages. [More](#)

- [The Jerusalem Post, Bedouin council's first election in 2012](#)

In 10/11, the Tel Aviv Magistrates' Court ruled in favor of Adalah and **Arab Member of Knesset (MK) Mohammed Barakeh**, the leader of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (*al-Jabha* or *Hadash*) political party, and dismissed two of the four criminal charges filed against him for assaulting or insulting police officers resulting from his participation in anti-Wall and anti-War demonstrations between 2005 and 2007. MK Barakeh denies all the charges and argues that he himself was the victim of police brutality. The court accepted Adalah's arguments and ruled that the activities in question fell within the scope of MK Barakeh's basic parliamentary immunity. The two remaining charges are pending before the trial court. [More](#)

The Magistrate Court's decision follows a Supreme Court decision in 06/11 dismissing a petition filed by Adalah in 07/10 against the **joinder of four alleged offenses with which MK Mohammed Barakeh** was charged. Adalah argued that the joinder was illegal in that it constituted the improper use of discretion held by the State Prosecutor and stood to harm the legal defense of MK Barakeh and his right to a fair trial. [More](#)



Following Adalah's legal interventions, in 01/11 the Attorney General (AG) made the exceptional move of cancelling an indictment filed against Dr. Huneida Ghanem for allegedly assaulting and humiliating a public employee during an extremely **invasive, degrading and humiliating search at Ben-Gurion airport** that she was subjected to by airport security staff. Dr. Ghanem, who has PhD in Sociology from Hebrew University and a postdoctoral degree from Harvard University, is the director of Madar: The Palestinian Forum for Israeli Studies. [More](#)

Following Adalah's petition, in 02/11 the Haifa District Court decided that **Dr. Yacoub Halabi may change his nationality from "Druze" to "Arab"** in the Ministry of the Interior's Population Registry. Adalah argued that the classification of the religious affiliation of the Druze as a nationality was erroneous and did not correspond to the social, political or cultural reality of the Arab Druze community in Israel. [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, Druze can register as Arab in the Population Administration, 4.02.11 \(Hebrew\)](#)

The Right to Protest



Adalah represented Arab Bedouin community activists and leaders who were arrested for protest-related offenses for attempting to stop the **home demolitions in the unrecognized village of Al-Araqib** (population 300) in the Naqab. In 02/11, the Beer Sheva Magistrates' Court granted the immediate, unconditional release of Dr. 'Awad Abu Freih, spokesperson of Al-Araqib village, from detention, and he has not been indicted. The judge ruled that the police had no basis for the detention. In 03/11, the court eased the conditions

of the two-month house arrest of Hamza Abu-Medeghem from Al-Araqib and allowed the father of five to return to work. He was finally released from house arrest in 10/11. Adalah has also been representing protestors, mostly villagers from Al-Araqib, since the beginning of 2011 on 10 indictments charging offenses including participating in unauthorized demonstrations, acquiring territory by force, violating a legal order, assaulting police officers, and insulting public officials. [More](#) | [More](#) | [More](#)

A complaint sent to the Police Investigation Unit (Mahash) in 11/11 on behalf of the **residents of al-Araqib protesting against their violent assault by police**. The complaints relate to three separate events at which large numbers of unarmed protestors were attacked using tear gas, rubber bullets and a new kind of "transparent" bullet. Police also held the villagers in the village graveyard without access to water or food. Adalah demanded a criminal investigation into the police officers responsible for these assaults.

Following representation by Adalah and a private attorney, in 05/11 the Safad Magistrates' Court **released six Palestinian citizens of Israel detained during Nakba Day demonstrations in Israel** to house arrest for four days. When one of the detainees, Attorney Maisa Urshaid of PCATI, asked a



police officer why they were not permitted to hold a peaceful demonstration, he slapped her, an assault that was caught on video. Several detainees were badly beaten and pepper-sprayed in the face by the police and arrested for various criminal offenses including rioting, attacking police officers, and organizing an illegal demonstration. In 06/11, Adalah sent a **detailed complaint to the Police Investigation Unit (Mahash) to demand a criminal investigation** into the police officers who assaulted the protestors. [More](#) | [More](#)

In 10/11, Adalah secured the **release of 14 adults and 2 minors to house arrest, and subsequently their release on bail**, following their arrest outside the HaSharon Prison. The protestors demanded the release of all Palestinian women prisoners who were excluded from the Gilad Shalit prisoners' swap deal between Israel and Hamas. The detainees are being represented by Adalah and a team of pro bono lawyers. No one has been indicted to date. [More](#) | [More](#)



In 12/11, the Attorney General decided to **close the investigation into alleged offenses by Israeli citizens who took part in the flotilla to Gaza in May on 31.5.10**. The investigation focused on the offense of illegal entry into Gaza. The AG stated that he decided to close the case "due to significant evidence-based and legal difficulties that were discovered in regard to proving the basis of the offense as well as legal questions regarding the jurisdiction of Israeli penal law on crimes committed abroad." [More](#)

Adalah, together with private attorneys, represented Mr. Muhammed Zeidan, the Chairman of the High Follow-up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel; Sheikh Raed Salah, the Head of the Islamic Movement in Israel (northern branch); Sheikh Hamad Abu Daabes, the Head of the Islamic Movement in Israel (southern branch); and Ms. Lubna Masarwa of the Free Gaza Movement and Al Quds University, who were all arrested and detained from the *Mavi Marmara* ship, which was attacked by the Israeli navy in 5/10. They were released from detention after four days but with restrictive conditions. [More](#). Thus, due to the AG's decision, these Arab leaders will not face criminal indictment. MK Haneen Zoabi was also a passenger on the *Mavi Marmara*, but she was not arrested due to her parliamentary immunity. Adalah represents MK Zoabi before the Supreme Court (see above), as the Knesset revoked certain of her parliamentary privileges due to her participation in the flotilla. [More](#).

Adalah is also continuing to represent the Free Gaza Movement concerning the release of the ships, and several passengers, as their belongings were confiscated and not returned by the Israeli military.

IN FOCUS: Litigation to help 1,000 Arab Bedouin from the unrecognized village of Atir–Umm al-Hieran to remain in their homes



Ex parte home demolition orders: In 12/11, the Magistrate Court in Kiryat Gat rejected Adalah’s motion to cancel 33 **home demolition orders in unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of Umm Al-Hieran** in the Naqab. Update: In 1/12, Adalah submitted an appeal to the District Court against this decision. [More](#)

Evacuation lawsuits: A motion to the Supreme Court filed in 04/11 seeking permission to appeal a District Court decision upholding a

lower court’s order to evacuate families from Umm al-Hieran from their homes. The District Court criticized the state’s claims that the people of Umm al-Hieran were “trespassers” and accepted the residents’ argument that they had been moved to the location by the state 55 years earlier. On appeal to the Supreme Court, Adalah argued that the District Court's decision effectively granted the state the authority to expel people who had been living in their village for over 55 years. The motion to the Supreme Court will be heard in 07/12. 24 additional evacuation lawsuits against residents remain pending for hearings. [More](#)

Objection to the master plan for “Hiran”: An objection submitted to the District Committee for Planning and Building – Southern District in 01/11 by Adalah and Bimkom on behalf of residents of Umm al-Hieran against the construction of a Jewish town named “Hiran” on the village’s land. The plan involves demolishing residents’ homes and evicting them from their village. A hearing was held in the Planning Committee in 05/11. Update: In 01/12, the committee rejected the objection. Adalah and Bimkom will file a motion for permission to appeal to the NCPB. [More](#)

Yatir Forest Plan: In 12/11, Adalah and Bimkom submitted an objection to the Southern District Committee for Planning and Building on behalf of dozens of Arab Bedouin residents of Atir to cancel the “**Yatir Forest Plan**”. The plan seeks to evacuate the villagers, who are citizens of Israel, destroy their homes, and then to plant a forest on the ruins of the village. [More](#)

See also: *Nomads against Their Will: Adalah’s [New Report](#) & [Video](#) on these cases.*

- [Ha’aretz, Jewish town to be built on Bedouin land under Negev Relocation Plan, 03.06.11](#)
- [Al Jazeera English, Israel: No Place for the Bedouin, 29.06.11](#)
- [Ha’aretz, Negev Bedouin clan fighting evacuation orders, 05.01.12](#)

Impact Litigation and Legal Interventions

Land and Planning Rights

Adalah and the Arab Center for Planning (ACAP) filed an appeal to the National Council of Planning and Building (NCPB) in 01/11 against the approval of a master plan for the **new ultra-Orthodox Jewish city of Harish**, planned for 150,000 people in Wadi 'Ara, a heavily-populated Arab area. The appeal followed the rejection of the organizations' objection to the master plan. The land distribution outlined in the plan contradicted the principles of equality and justice by prioritizing the interests of ultra-Orthodox Jewish citizens, who have no connection to the area, at the expense of Arab citizens of Israel, a majority in this area, who have been living there since before 1948, the organizations argued. In response to appeal, in 03/11 the Ministry of Housing declared that bids to purchase or rent property in Harish would not be restricted to the ultra-Orthodox community. The NCPB then dismissed the appeal in 05/11. [More](#)

In 03/11, Adalah filed a Supreme Court petition to demand the cancellation of the new discriminatory **Admissions Committees Law**, which legalizes the use of "admissions committees" and affords them full discretion to reject individuals from these towns, including for being "unsuitable to the social life of the community". The law allows for people to be rejected based on their national belonging, sexual preference, cultural background and even health condition. Adalah filed the petition on behalf of the ACAP, the Mizrahi Democratic Rainbow, Bimkom, Another Voice in the Galilee, and the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance. In 06/11, the Supreme Court issued an order to show cause in the case demanding that the state explain why the law should not be voided as unconstitutional. [More](#)

- [The Jerusalem Post, NGOs to petition against 'racist laws', 24.03.11](#)
- [Ha'aretz, Concerns remain over defanged admission panel law, 02.05.11](#)
- [YnetNews, Court: State must explain why admission committees legal, 20.06.11](#)
- [Ha'aretz, High Court orders Israeli government to explain discrimination in town admissions, 21.06.11](#)

In 03/11, the Haifa District Court rejected a petition filed by Adalah against the approval of the **Local Master Plan for Daliyat al-Carmel** (population 25,000) on behalf of 75 Arab citizens from the Arab Druze town. In the petition, Adalah argued that the plan must be cancelled as it disregarded the existing and future needs of the area, as well as the right of the residents to housing, basic services and suitable infrastructure. [More](#)

In 06/11, the Haifa District Court dismissed a petition filed by Adalah in 2007 to demand the cancellation of a master plan for a "**National Park and Existing Forest Har Shokif**" that stands to eliminate the only possibility for the development of Daliyat al-Carmel. However, the judge stressed that planning for the area must take into consideration the cultural and social characteristics of the Druze community. He also stated that there were inadequate possibilities for construction in the town for housing and development. *Note:* Following Adalah's petition, in 01/08 the state excluded around 900 dunams of land belonging to 24 Arab citizens from the plan. As a result, they were able to keep their land. [More](#)

A letter sent in 06/11 to the Municipality of Safad demanding that it develop **basic infrastructure in the Arab neighborhood of Akbara** (population 2,000) in order to allow for land in the area to be distributed for housing purposes. The letter follows a Supreme Court appeal filed by Adalah in 2008 demanding that Akbara be connected to the sewage system. In 01/09 the Safad Municipality authorized a bid for the necessary construction works. The sewage system was completed in early 2010. Adalah received a letter in 10/11 from Municipality of Safad stating that the Ministry of Construction and Housing had taken charge of the development and allocation of the land; Adalah will follow up on the case with the ministry.

A letter sent to the Amidar public housing company in 06/11 on behalf of an **Arab resident of the Old City of Akka facing eviction** from the store from which he runs his business. Amidar informed the man that it intended to put the whole building up for sale in an open public bid. Adalah argued that, according to a decision by the Israel Land Administration (ILA), the man should be granted priority in purchasing the unit that houses his store at a 40% discount, preferential terms that Amidar did not offer him. Adalah received a response from the legal advisor to Amidar in 06/11 stating that the bid was the most efficient way to sell the building and that it had full discretion.

A letter sent to the ILA in 06/11 asking for the **British Mandate taxation records** to be declassified and opened to the public. These records, which contain valuable information on land-ownership, are often used by the state in court but remain closed from public view. Adalah argued that the public had a right to know and the records should be opened for all. No response has yet been received.



In 09/11, Adalah sent an urgent letter to the Israeli government urging it not to approve the **Prawer Committee report**. The report threatens to displace tens of thousands of Arab Bedouin from their homes in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab. Adalah also demanded that the government begin to right the historical wrongs committed against the Arab Bedouin tribes by granting recognition to the “unrecognized” Arab Bedouin villages and to Bedouin land ownership in the Naqab. The report was approved later in 09/11. [More](#) | [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, Israel approves plan to relocate 30,000 Bedouin from unrecognized villages, 11.09.11](#)
- [The Guardian, Bedouin's plight: We want to maintain our traditions, but it's a dream here, 03.11.11](#)
- [The Sydney Morning Herald, Bedouin face bull dozers as Israel reshapes desert, 05.11.11](#)

See also:

- [Adalah's Naqab Project Director, Dr. Thabet Abu Ras Against a Forced Solution, published in Yediot Aharonot, 12.09.11,](#)
- [Adalah's Analysis of the Prawer Report 10/11](#)



A letter sent to the ILA in 09/11 to demand that it agree to **connect the church in the destroyed Palestinian village of Iqrith in the Upper Galilee to the electricity grid**. The lack of ILA permission is the only obstacle preventing its connection. The internally displaced people of Iqrith continue to worship in the church and to mark religious and social occasions there, including weddings and funerals. Adalah argued that the church was an historic, public building and not subject to a demolition order. There is no reason why it should not be connected to the electricity grid.

Follow-up on pending cases

- A District Court hearing in 04/11 in the case of a Jewish family prevented from renting their house in **Moshav Nevatim** to an Arab family. [More](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territory – East Jerusalem



Adalah submitted a motion to the Supreme Court in 01/11 asking for status as amicus curiae to join three appeals that challenge the **application of the Absentees' Property Law in East Jerusalem**. Adalah argued that applying the absentees' property law in East Jerusalem violated domestic law and international law, according to which East Jerusalem is occupied territory. An occupying power cannot take over properties belonging to the population. Adalah is awaiting a response to the motion.

Economic, Social & Cultural Rights

Health Rights

A letter sent by Adalah and Yasmin al-Naqab (an Arab Bedouin women's rights NGO) in 01/11 to the Health Ministry and Israel's national ambulance service to demand an end to the policy of **preventing ambulances from entering the unrecognized Arab Bedouin villages** in the Naqab (total population ≈ 70,000). The letter followed complaints by residents after the ambulance service failed to respond to their emergency calls, or arrived hours after the incident. Adalah argued that the lack of health clinics on site made the ambulance service even more critical, and that women suffered the most since they spent most of their time in the villages, tended not to own or drive cars, and were largely responsible for the well-being of the family as whole. [More](#)



A letter sent in 03/11 to the Abu Basma Regional Council and the Interior Ministry demanding the opening of a **therapeutic daycare center for children at risk** in the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of Tel Arad in the Naqab (population 1,500). The letter, sent on behalf of parents of affected children, follows a decision by the Interior Ministry not to open the center. A suitable building for such a center was located, renovated and scheduled to open in 06/10. However, after the renovation, the Ministry of Social Affairs claimed that it could not be used since it had no building permits. Therefore the Interior Ministry never opened the center, a decision that Adalah argued violated the basic rights of children at risk to equality and dignity. In response to Adalah's letter, the state noted that it would search for an alternative location for the center in another village, despite the fact that 45 children have been identified who are at risk and in need of these facilities. This case was featured on Israeli TV, Channel 10. [More](#)

A letter sent together with PHR-Israel in 12/11 to the Ministry of Health demanding the allocation of **gynecologists to Arab Bedouin unrecognized villages in the Naqab**. There are currently 11 Clalit health clinics operating in the unrecognized villages, serving around 70,000 people, none of which have a gynecologist on staff. As a result, thousands of Arab Bedouin women have to travel long distances to see a gynecologist, which prevents many from receiving adequate health care. Clalit responded in 12/11 that it was not necessary to provide gynecologists in the clinics because: the existing general practitioners are adequate for the needs; most of the residents of these areas are children; the women can travel to clinics located in recognized towns; the clinics in the unrecognized villages are temporary; and that the costs of purchasing ultrasound equipment are unjustified in this case. According to an expert medical opinion by PHR-Israel, general practitioners cannot fulfill the role of gynecologists and that women's health suffers in their absence.

Follow-up on pending cases:

An order nisi issued by the Supreme Court on Adalah's petition challenging the new law that **conditions child allowances on vaccinations**. This law has a particularly harmful effect on many Arab Bedouin children due to the lack of health care facilities in their villages. The court ordered the state to explain why a law that threatens cuts to child allowances for thousands of Arab Bedouin children was legal.

[More](#)



Employment Right

In 06/11, Adalah sent a letter to the government and MKs demanding that they reject a bill that would **grant preference to former soldiers in civil service positions**. Since the vast majority of Arab citizens are exempt from military service, the bill threatens to further exclude them from the civil service. The bill stands to compound existing discrimination against Arabs in securing governmental positions, especially Arab women. The percentage of Arab employees in state services currently stands at 7.5% overall, and 2% for Arab women, while Arab citizens make up around 20% of the population in Israel. [More](#)



In 11/11, the Municipality of Akka (Acre) announced that **notices threatening to fine Arab businesses that open on Saturdays had been sent by mistake**. The announcement followed a letter by Adalah to the Akka Municipality demanding that it stop sending warning notices to Arab traders immediately, as they violated the Supreme Court's previous ruling to allow them to open their shops in neighborhoods with an Arab majority. The Akka Municipality stated that it would continue to abide by its agreement made before the Supreme

Court in 2009 following Adalah's petition, to divide the city into zones based on the composition of the population in each area, and determine whether or not Arab citizens were allowed to open their shops on Saturdays, the Jewish Sabbath. Adalah is monitoring the case. [More](#)

A letter sent on behalf of a coalition of groups to the "Dafai Zahav" (Yellow Pages) directory in 06/11 to demand that advertisements published in the directory by various companies under the heading of "**Hebrew labor**" be removed immediately. The condition "Hebrew labor" means that they do not employ Arab citizens, in breach of the Equal Opportunities in Employment Law. Adalah also demanded that the state investigate all companies that discriminate against Arab citizens and their hiring practices. [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, Israeli group urges yellow pages to boot businesses advertising Jewish-only labor, 27.06.11](#)

A letter sent in 06/11 to the Municipality of Natserat Illit to demand **appropriate representation for Arab citizens** in the municipality based on the principle of equality. Many departments within the municipality, which administers services for residents of the mixed city of Natserat Illit (population 42,000), employ very few or no Arab citizens. E.g. of the 68 employees in the Welfare Department, none is Arab. [More](#)

Follow-up on pending cases:

Petition against the denial of **income support payments** to persons who own or use a car. Following Adalah's written summary of 03/11, the Supreme Court expanded the judicial panel from 3 to 7 justices. A hearing was held in 11/11. [More](#) Update: In 2/12, the Supreme Court accepted the petition. This decision positively affects tens of thousands of Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel. [More](#)

Economic Rights – Fair budget and tax benefits for Arab towns and villages

In 02/11, the Supreme Court dismissed a petition seeking to prevent the Israeli government from continuing to use a prior governmental decision dividing the country into "**National Priority Areas**" (NPAs) in the field of education. This decision was ruled invalid by the Supreme Court in 2006 in a landmark ruling, since it excluded Arab towns from the list of National Priority towns. The petition, submitted by Adalah in 06/10, challenged the legality of a provision of the Economic Arrangements Law passed of 07/09. This law extended the validity of all governmental decisions taken prior to the passage of the law for two and a half years until 01/12. The court decided to dismiss Adalah's petition after the Attorney General announced that the NPAs decision was not included in the provision and its validity had not been extended. To date, however, no specific lists of towns or maps detailing the location of NPAs have been released. Adalah continues to monitor the case. [More](#)

In 05/11, Adalah withdrew its decade-old petition to the Supreme Court challenging the unequal distribution of **budget-balancing grants** to Jewish and Arab municipalities in Israel. The Supreme Court asked Adalah to withdraw the petition, filed in 2001, because of the numerous developments in the case over the course of 10 years of litigation, and because the original remedy requested by the petitioners was no longer relevant. Adalah will review the state's new proposal for the allocation of the grants and take necessary legal action if the criteria discriminate against Arab localities.

Follow-up on pending cases:

- Motion for a final decision in 01/11 on petition against the exclusion of Bedouin towns from list of localities eligible for **income tax benefits**. [More](#)
- A Supreme Court hearing in 06/11 on the petition demanding **fair subsidies** for Arab egg farmers, on a par with Jewish farmers. [More](#)

Education Rights

In 06/11, the Municipality of Ramleh (Ramla) **reconnected the Arab Al-Omariyah Elementary School of about 600 pupils to the internet** after it had been cut off for several days. The decision came immediately after Adalah sent a letter to the Mayor and the Education Ministry demanding its reconnection. The Mayor cut off internet access because of an email sent by the school's principal to the Mayor objecting to reductions in the school's budget. [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, In battle over budget, Ramle mayor cuts off local school from internet, 16.06.11](#)



In 02/11, the Supreme Court rejected a petition submitted by Adalah to demand **a school for the 350 elementary school-age children** in the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of Sawaween in the Naqab. The court accepted the state's argument that it had found a "solution" to the problem by transporting the children to schools in other towns and villages around 20km away. The court stated that there was no better solution for the time being. The petition was filed in 12/10 on behalf of 70 parents and school children from Sawaween aged 6-12 years old. The

lack of accessible education exacerbates the precarious state of Bedouin education in the Naqab, where only 15% of children receive high enough grades to be accepted to university. [More](#)

A letter sent in 10/11 to the Education Ministry demanding the implementation of a 2009 Supreme Court decision ordering it to appoint **educational counselors** to schools in the government-planned Arab Bedouin towns of Rahat, Segev Shalom, Hura, A'rara, and Lagiyya in the Naqab, or establish training courses for educational counselors. The court's decision followed a petition filed by Adalah in 2004 on behalf of students' parents in the schools. However, only one school has since received an educational counselor and no training programs have been established. [More](#)



A letter sent in 10/11 to the Attorney General and Education Ministry demanding the implementation of a 2005 Supreme Court ruling on an Adalah petition ordering the appointment of **truant officers** in Arab Bedouin schools in the Naqab. Six years after the decision, the number of truant officers working in Arab Bedouin schools has in fact fallen, despite the fact that the percentage of student drop outs in these schools is the highest in the country. [More](#)

A letter sent in 10/11 to the Ministry of Education and the Abu Basma Regional Council to request that **adult escorts should be provided for 14 preschool children** from the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of Wadi Jraba in the Naqab to their preschool in the village Qasr el-Ser. There is no preschool in Wadi Jraba. The children currently travel by bus unaccompanied, along with school children up to the age of 18. The journey is fraught with danger for these small children, including the risk of falling, being hit by other vehicles when entering and exiting the bus, and when crossing the road to reach the bus.

A letter sent in 10/11 to the Misgav Regional Council and the MOE to demand that state-funded transportation should be restored for 9 Arab children aged 6-17 from their homes in al-Qubsi, an unrecognized neighborhood close to Eilabun, to their schools in the Arab town of Nahaf. Transportation was suddenly discontinued in 2009. In response to an earlier letter sent by Adalah, the Regional Council responded in 2009 that it received no funds from the MOE for this purpose and that it was not legally obliged to provide transport for the children to Nahaf. Since transport was stopped, children have missed many days of schooling and their education has suffered as a result.

Follow-up on pending cases:

A petition to secure the opening of a **high school** in the unrecognized village of Abu Tulul, ordered by the Supreme Court; hearings held in 02/11 and 09/11. [More](#)

- [IPS News, Not School Time Yet for Bedouin Girls, 12.09.11](#)

Language Rights

A letter sent in 01/11 to the MOE after Adalah received numerous complaints from students and their parents that the **Baghrou (matriculation) certificate and grades are not translated to Arabic**. Many students who choose to study at universities in the West Bank and Jordan are affected negatively by this policy, which Adalah argued is unjustified given the status of Arabic as an official language in Israel and the existence of a separate Arabic language educational system. The Ministry of Education responded that it is examining Adalah's legal arguments.

Follow-up on pending cases:

A hearing in 04/11 on a motion for contempt of court to the Supreme Court against the Municipality of Natserat Illit for failing to post **road signs in Arabic**, in accordance with a Supreme Court decision. Adalah is monitoring the municipality's implementation of the decision. [More](#)



- [Ha'aretz, This way to Natserat/ State may eradicate foreign place names, 04.07.11](#)

Civil and Political Rights

In 05/11, Adalah and ACRI petitioned the Supreme Court on behalf of parents of children who study in a Jewish-Arab school in the Misgav, alumni from the Arab Orthodox School in Haifa, and Prof. Oren Yiftachel of Ben-Gurion University to demand that the court rule the **"Nakba Law"** unconstitutional. The petition argued that the law violated the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and equality, and severely infringed the rights of Arab citizens of the state to preserve their history. The law, passed in 03/11, authorizes the Finance Ministry to cut budgets to any entity receiving financial support from the state that engages in an action that negates the "existence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state" or marks the date of Israel's establishment "as a day of mourning". This ideological law targets the national identity of Arab citizens and their collective memory. In 03/11, prior to the law's passage, Adalah also sent a letter to the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee asking it to reject the bill. A hearing was held in the Supreme Court in 10/11. [More](#)

Update: In 01/12, the Supreme Court issued a decision rejecting the petition, in which it refrained from ruling on the constitutionality of the law in the absence of a concrete case. The ruling ignores the fact that already this law in practice harms both the freedom of expression and the civil rights of Arab citizens, even before its implementation. [More](#) | [More](#) | [More](#)

- [Jerusalem Post, Court to hear 3 claims of institutionalized discrimination, 10.01.11](#)
- [Ha'aretz, Human rights groups petition High Court to overthrow 'Nakba Law,' 04.05.11](#)
- [YnetNews, Human rights groups petition court to annul Nakba law, 04.05.11](#)
- [Jerusalem Post, Groups ask High Court to prevent enforcement of 'Nakba Law', 05.05.11](#)



A letter sent in 05/11 to the University of Haifa on behalf of an Arab student demanding the cancellation of the university administration's decision to **ban an event by the Arab Students' Committee** to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba. The event was scheduled to take place on 16/05/11 but was cancelled on the pretexts of "protecting student safety" and "not disturbing order at the university". Adalah argued that the decision violated Arab students' rights to freedom of expression and association. [More](#)

Political Participation

A Supreme Court petition filed in 07/11 on behalf of MK Dr. Ahmad Tibi (Ra'am-Ta'al) against the Knesset's decision to **disqualify a bill proposed by MK Tibi to prohibit denial of the Palestinian Nakba**. The bill seeks to amend the "Nakba Law", enacted in 03/11. The bill was disqualified by the Presidency of the Knesset on the ground that it negated the definition of Israel as a Jewish state. The petition argued that the debate about the history of Arab citizens in Israel was



legitimate and that denying the existence of such debates itself constituted a denial of the equal status of Arab citizens and violated their right to dignity. [More](#)

Follow-up on pending cases

Follow-up. A Supreme Court petition filed jointly with ACRI challenging the revocation of the parliamentary privileges of Arab **MK Haneen Zoabi** (Balad) for her participation in the “Gaza Freedom Flotilla” in 05/10. A hearing on the case was held in 03/11. The Supreme Court issued an *order nisi* in 04/11, compelling the Knesset to explain its decision to revoke several of her parliamentary privileges. In 12/11, the court decided to expand the judicial panel on the case from 3 to 7 justices. [More](#)



Racial Incitement

An urgent letter sent in 01/11 by Adalah and the National Committee of Arab Mayors to the AG demanding a **criminal investigation into MK Yaacov Katz for racial incitement**. MK Katz made the statements at a Knesset meeting on “infiltration into Israel”. Katz stated that all Bedouin found collaborating with Bedouin in Egypt should be arrested, put in cages and have their belongings confiscated. He further stated that Bedouin who head convoys of asylum-seekers – which he referred to as “convoys of infiltrators” – should be “brought down with a bullet to the head”. Adalah argued that the statements constituted racial incitement in the first degree, a criminal offence, and warranted a criminal investigation. The AG responded in 01/11 that there was no scope for a criminal investigation since Katz’s statements were not directed against all Bedouin but at criminal elements. The AG added that the statements were made in the course of his fulfilling his role as an MK, and were therefore covered by his parliamentary immunity. [More](#)

An urgent letter sent to the AG in 06/11 to demand a criminal investigation into the Mayor of Natseret Illit, following **racist public remarks** he made against Arab citizens of Israel. The letter was sent on behalf of two Arab members of the Natseret Illit Municipality. [More](#)

Follow-up on pending cases

In 2011, Adalah continued to represent four protestors who were **arrested by police in 2008 while engaged in a peaceful protest** against Israel’s War on Gaza. Adalah attended numerous hearing before the Tel Aviv Magistrates’ Court, during which the police prosecution admitted that it had a video of the events in question and gave a copy to Adalah. The events recorded on the video clearly contradict the indictments. The trial is due to commence in 03/12.



Prisoners and Detainees’ Rights

In 05/11, Adalah and Nadi al-Aseer sent a pre-petition to the AG and the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) to demand an end to the detention of detainees in the Ashqelon, Jalameh, Petakh-Tikva and Moscobiya facilities run by the Israel Security Agency (ISA or *Shabak*) because of the **inhuman and degrading conditions**. The pre-petition demanded the closure of these cells until the conditions are improved. [More](#)

A letter sent in 06/11 to the IPS demanding that it prepare for the hot, summer weather by improving conditions and installing air cooling devices in two prisons, Gilboa and Shata, located in the Bisan (Beit She'an) Valley in Israel. Adalah described the **overwhelming heat and humidity in the prisons** during the summer and the severe impact that it has on the health of prisoners. [More](#)

A letter sent to the Chair of the Knesset's Interior Committee in 06/11 to demand that a bill that would increase the **severe restrictions on meetings between "security" prisoners and their attorneys** be rejected. Adalah argued that the bill, which would allow "security" prisoners to be prohibited from meeting their legal counsel for up to one entire year, was unconstitutional and grossly violated the constitutional rights of prisoners and their lawyers. [More](#)

A petition sent in 09/11 to the Nazareth District Court on behalf of a 25-year-old Palestinian Arab citizen of Israel, Rawi Sultany, who is categorized as a "security prisoner", to demand that the IPS allow him to continue his **academic studies**. After he began his course, the IPS decided to ban all security prisoners from studying at the Open University, the only academic institution in which prisoners can enroll, as punitive measure. As a result, the IPS is denying these prisoners any opportunity to gain a higher academic education. The district court allowed the IPS to submit confidential evidence in the case in 12/11. [More](#)



A District Court appeal filed by Adalah, PHR-I and Al Mezan in 09/11 for permission for an **independent doctor - which is the right of every prisoner - to visit Palestinian Al Jazeera journalist Samer Allawi**, who was detained for 49 days without charge (13 days of which were incommunicado, without any visits by a lawyer) by the Israeli General Security Services (GSS or *Shabak*) for alleged contacts with foreign intelligence services.

Mr. Allawi's attorney voiced concerns about the methods of his interrogation, particularly as Mr. Allawi suffers from chronic health conditions. He was, however, denied access to his medical records and treatment. Court protocols indicate that Mr. Allawi was not examined by a physician upon arriving at the detention facility, in contradiction to IPS regulations. His case was brought up during a meeting with the informal EU-Israel Human Rights Working Group, after which he was permitted to see a doctor and subsequently released after a plea bargain. [More More](#)

In 11/11, Adalah petitioned the Nazareth District Court on behalf of Mr. Walid Dakka, a Palestinian citizen of Israel imprisoned as a security prisoner, to demand that he be granted his **right to father a child**, and that he and his wife should be permitted to exercise their conjugal rights. Adalah previously petitioned the District Court on behalf of Mr. Dakka in 07/08 and then appealed to the Supreme Court. Throughout the case, the IPS has relied on secret evidence that Mr. Dakka could use his meetings with his wife to undermine state security, which was challenged by Mr. Dakka and his lawyer. Adalah is now demanding that the District Court force the IPS to implement the Supreme Court's directive to it to explore ways to allow Mr. Dakka and his wife to have a child together. [More](#)

Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike

Palestinian political prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons launched a hunger strike in 9/11 to protest against the arbitrary and extreme measures that the IPS has taken against them recently, in particularly frequent and prolonged use of solitary confinement, and the ongoing violation of their fundamental rights. In response, Adalah and our partners took the following actions:



- An urgent letter sent by Adalah, PHR-Israel and Al Mezan on 02/10/11 to the IPS to demand that it protect the rights of hunger-striking Palestinian political prisoners. [More](#)
- A joint statement issued on 03/10/11 by Adalah, Al Mezan and PHR-Israel in support of the strikers' demands. [More](#)
- An urgent appeal to the UN by Adalah, PHR-Israel and Al Mezan. [More](#)

- A joint statement with Al Mezan and the Arab Association for Human Rights welcoming the Gilad Shalit and the Palestinian prisoners swap agreement. [More](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

A petition filed in 10/11 to the Administrative Court in Jerusalem against the **ban on Gaza residents entering Israel** for tort damages cases filed against the Israeli security forces. The sweeping ban, including the plaintiffs and their witnesses, prevents Palestinians from Gaza from completing the necessary legal procedures and the courts routinely dismiss their cases. These practices violate the principle of the rule of law, and deprive Palestinian victims of their **right of access to the courts, and thus their right to a remedy**. Thousands of compensation cases pending before the Israeli courts are threatened with dismissal as a result. The petition was filed by Adalah on behalf of 13 plaintiffs from Gaza, lawyers who represent victims from Gaza, and NGOs Al Mezan, PCHR (Gaza), and PHR-I. [More](#)

- [The Guardian, Israel faces legal challenge over block on Palestinians exiting Gaza to sue state, 01.12.11](#)
- [Associated Press, Palestinians Face Steep Court Fines, 07.11.11](#)
- [Ha'aretz, Palestinian No-Shows Denied Justice in Israeli Courts, 25.11.11](#)

In 12/11, Adalah submitted legal arguments to the National Labor Court in support of **compensation from the National Insurance Institute (NII) for the families of five Palestinian workers killed and injured** while working in a former settlement in Gaza. The settlement was hit by a rocket fired by Palestinian militants in 2005. The family of a Chinese worker who was killed in the incident has been awarded compensation. Adalah argued, with a private attorney representing on the matter, that the workers had work permits from Israel and should be dealt with on an equitable basis, and that the discrimination between a Chinese worker and Palestinian workers was unjustifiable. The court agreed with Adalah's arguments and ordered the state to enter into fast-track negotiations for compensation. [More](#)

- [Ha'aretz, Court recognizes Palestinians hurt while laboring in Israel as work-accident victims, 27.12.11](#)



A complaint sent to the MAG and AG in 01/11 to request a **criminal investigation into the death of Mr. Anas Saleh, denied permission by Israel to exit Gaza for medical treatment**. Adalah lodged the complaint on behalf of PHR-Israel and Al Mezan to demand the prosecution of those responsible. The 20-year old patient from Gaza died in 01/11 from liver disease. Mr. Saleh was also called for interrogation by the Shabak or ISA on 30/12/10 to consider his request, but by that date he was already in a comatose state. However, the ISA continued to insist that Mr.

Saleh appear for questioning. The legal advisor to the army responded in 07/11 stating that nothing in the complaint required an investigation. Adalah will follow-up on a series of medical death cases of patients from Gaza denied exit for medical treatment outside of Gaza. [More](#)

- [Ma'an News Agency, Gaza patient dies waiting for permit to leave, 15.01.11](#)

A legal report sent in 03/11 to the **Turkel Committee, which is examining the Gaza Freedom Flotilla (GFF) events of 05/10**. The Committee was mandated to examine the Israeli military's system of investigating alleged violations of international humanitarian law. Adalah addressed the issue of the lack of independent investigations in Israel in general, and in relation to the breaches of international law during Operation Cast Lead on Gaza in 12/08-01/09 in particular. Adalah also critically responded to a position paper submitted to the Turkel Committee by the Israeli MAG.

Follow-up on pending cases

A Supreme Court hearing in 07/11 on the case of members of the Palestinian Legislative Council whose East **Jerusalem residency status** was revoked. In 10/11 the Supreme Court issued an *order nisi* on the case, ordering the state to explain why it has the legal authority to revoke their residency. Adalah and ACRI are representing in the case as *amicus curiae*. This case is one of first impression, where the Interior Ministry has revoked the residency rights of Palestinians on the ground of “breach of loyalty” for membership in a foreign parliament. [More](#)



INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Figures

	Planned 2011	Achieved 2011
Reports/advocacy Interventions to UN/EU/US	8-10	18 reports 14 missions
Briefings for embassies and diplomats	Frequent meetings	10+ meetings 34 study tours
Conferences	10-12	7 trainings and conferences

Adalah conducts international advocacy for two main reasons:

- To promote compliance by the Israeli government with its international human rights and humanitarian law treaty obligations and agreements. Israel has ratified all of the main UN human rights treaties and is bound to these conventions, and Israel has several agreements with the EU which also contain human rights obligations.
- To raise awareness within the international community of the institutionalized discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel in order to better protect rights on the national level, and of the gross violations of the human rights of Palestinians in the OPT. The purpose of this awareness raising is to influence international actors to compel Israel to cease its human rights violations.

In 2011, Adalah focused its international advocacy work on the four main themes:

1. Equal rights for the Arab minority in Israel
2. Attacks on human rights organizations and defenders;
3. Securing Accountability;
4. Prisoners' and detainees' rights, including torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (CIDT).

Main Achievements

EU Advocacy



In 02/11, Adalah, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), and the Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA) published a new report, "[The EU and the Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel](#)." This report is the first to examine EU policies toward the Arab minority in Israel in detail and to make concrete recommendations to the EU for an enhanced and proactive rights-based strategy towards the minority. Adalah's International Advocacy Director Rina Jabareen together with Nathalie Stanus of the EMHRN and Nathalie Tocci, the principal author, participated in the launch of the report in Brussels to EU officials and EU members of parliament. In Israel, the three organizations launched the report at the office of the EU Delegation to Israel, where it was introduced to representatives of 20 EU member states. The report was also discussed at the office of the High Follow-up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel. Meetings about the report and its findings were also held with civil society organizations and journalists.

- [Institute for Middle East Understanding \(IMEU\), EU turns a blind eye to Palestinian citizens of Israel, 17.4.2011](#)

Immediately following the release of the report in 02/11, the EU issued an important [statement](#) after the tenth meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council calling upon Israel for the first time "to increase efforts to address the economic and social situation of the Arab minority, to enhance their integration in Israeli society, and protect their rights." This statement marked the time that the EU-Israel Association Council noted the rights of Arabs in Israel. [More](#)

In 10/11, Adalah and the EMHRN again undertook meetings in Brussels to follow-up on the findings of the report. These meetings introduced the report to several EU officials involved in various EU-Israel technical subcommittees. The purpose of these meetings was to try to "mainstream" human rights concerning the Arab minority in Israel in these technical subcommittees in line with EU guidelines on "human rights dialogues".

In 12/11, [Ha'aretz](#) reported that the EU Heads of Mission in Tel Aviv had drafted a report on the Arabs in Israel and made a series of recommendations to improve their status. The report calls on the EU member states to view the rights of Arab citizens of the state as "core issue" and not as second tier to the peace process, and to make it a central element in EU policy towards Israel. This report is the first from EU member states specifically on the subject of Arab citizens of Israel. Adalah is following up on the progress of this report.

US Advocacy



In 10/11, Dr. Thabet Abu Ras, the Director of Adalah's Naqab, travelled with a delegation to the United States to raise awareness about the conditions faced by the Arab Bedouin in the Naqab, and the new threats of displacement and dispossession posed by the Praver Plan. The group's aim was to try to educate and influence the American public about the Arab Bedouin in the hopes that they will influence the Israeli government to stop the Praver Plan and open a dialogue with the Arab Bedouin. The delegation was comprised of representatives from ACRI, Sidreh, and the Negev Coexistence Forum. The visit spanned 10 days, and included meetings and speaking engagements in

Chicago, Washington DC and New York. It was organized and supported by the Telos Group and Project Engage.

The group met with faith-based communities, NGOs and think-tanks, journalists, and students and faculty at Northwestern University, American University, and New York University. They also raised concerns with decision-makers in Washington, DC.

- [Jerusalem Post, Bedouin to seek US support against relocation plan, 12.10.11.](#)

Diplomatic Briefings



In 12/12, Adalah, together with the Negev Coexistence Forum and the Regional Council for Unrecognized Villages, gave a [briefing on the Arab Bedouin and the Praver Report for Ambassadors and representatives of embassies](#) in Israel. Ambassador Walter Haffner of Switzerland hosted the briefing. Also in attendance were ambassadors and political officers from Germany, Turkey, South Africa, Argentina, Norway, the Slovak Republic, Mexico, Sweden, and the EU Delegation. Dr. Thabet Abu Ras, director of Adalah's Naqab project, and Attorney Suhad Bishara represented Adalah at the meeting. [Photos](#)

Equal Rights for the Arab Minority

United Nations

The **UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** issued its [Concluding Observations on Israel](#) in 12/11. Israel is bound by the ICESCR, which it ratified in 1991. A number of the Concluding Observations (COs) issued by the Committee contained strong criticism of Israel's rights violations committed against the Arab Bedouin in the Naqab, and raised concerns regarding unemployment and poverty rates, the right to education, and the ban on family unification, as they affect Palestinian citizens of Israel. The COs followed the Committee's review of Israel in November 2011 in Geneva. At the review sessions, Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher and Legal Fellow Nadia Ben-Youssef gave presentations detailing Adalah's key concerns about Israel's failure to comply with the ICESCR regarding the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel from Adalah's [two NGO Reports](#) in NGO meetings with the Committee. Numerous issues raised by Adalah were adopted by the Committee. Adalah's representatives also held a series of meetings with various UN special rapporteurs and UN officials from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. FIDH organized the visit.

In 02/11, the **UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** issued its ["Concluding Observations on Israel,"](#) in which it called on Israel to ensure equal rights of Arab women citizens. The Committee adopted many of the issues raised by the Working Group on the Status of Palestinian Women Citizens in Israel relating to the status of Palestinian women citizens of Israel in its joint [NGO report](#). The observations follow the Committee's review of Israel's compliance with the CEDAW Convention in 01/11, at which representatives of the Working Group presented our NGO report. Israel ratified CEDAW in 1991. Adalah wrote five chapters of the report: the lack of a constitutionally-guaranteed right to equality in Israel; Israel's plans to draft a constitution; the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women; the Gender Implications of Legislation – 2007; and the negative impact of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law on Palestinian women citizens of Israel. [More](#)

In 12/11, Adalah submitted an [NGO report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\)](#), suggesting themes to be included in the upcoming review of Israel on 02/12. Adalah focused its recommendations on three separate themes: the lack of a national legal framework against racial discrimination; the situation of the Palestinian Arab national minority,

including the Arab Bedouin in the Naqab; and violations of the right to equal participation in cultural activities.

In 8/11, Adalah prepared and submitted an NGO progress report on the follow-up to the Concluding Observations issued by [the Human Rights Committee](#) (which monitors the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) on Israel in 2010. Adalah's report focused on the Arab Bedouin.



In 12/11, Adalah [briefed the UN Special Rapporteur \(SR\)](#) on Freedom of Expression, Mr. Frank La Rue, during his visit to Israel/OPT, on discriminatory legislation against Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, systemic attacks on Arab political parties and the political leadership, and brutal tactics used by police and military forces against peaceful demonstrators. Adalah also hosted the SR in Al-Araqib in the Naqab, where residents have faced arrests and indictments for protesting against home demolitions. See the SR's [preliminary conclusions](#).

European Union

In 11/11, by invitation of the Heinrich Boell Foundation, Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher participated in a **briefing for EU parliamentarians** in Brussels. Ms. Zaher presented on discriminatory and anti-democratic laws. A colleague from Peace Now spoke about the surge in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

Dr. Thabet Abu Ras, Director of Adalah's Naqab Project, participated in an **advocacy mission with EMHRN** to London in 03/11, with representatives from Al Haq, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) and PCATI. Dr. Abu Ras provided information on the Arab Bedouin community in the Naqab and new anti-democratic and discriminatory laws in Israel. Dr. Ras discussed the effects of these laws on the Arab minority and on the position of human rights organizations in Israel.

Rina Jabareen, Adalah's International Advocacy Director, traveled to Brussels in 06/11 to participate in an EMHRN event on **"EU training for European NGOs"**. She gave a presentation on Adalah's advocacy experiences with the [EU and the Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel](#) report. Miri Weingarten, European Advocacy Coordinator for Israel/OPT for Adalah, PHR-I and PCATI also attended the training and gave a presentation on advocacy regarding human rights defenders. The goal of the meeting was to facilitate the coordination between EMHRN members of the Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP WG) and European NGOs for future advocacy efforts. As a result of the meeting, Adalah gained valuable new contacts with European NGOs, and strengthened existing relations with partners. Adalah took an active role in a further EU advocacy training held for civil society in Tel Aviv in 10/11 by **Kvinna til Kvinna**.

Adalah is active participant in the **EMHRN Palestine/Israel and Palestinians Working Group**. Rina Jabareen is the facilitator of the WG, and in 2011 she participated in two meetings of the group. The meetings, held in 6/11 and 10/11 in Brussels, consisted of discussions concerning upcoming advocacy opportunities and strategies. The group was joined by representatives of international human rights organizations and agencies.

Adalah also produced a series of briefing papers regarding the rights of the Arab minority, timed to inform upcoming EU meetings. These papers include:

- A paper published in 8/11 entitled ["Key concerns regarding the rights of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel"](#), for the EU-Israel Informal Working Group. Our work in Tel Aviv and in Brussels - both written submissions and meetings - influenced the agenda of the meeting.
- A paper produced in 11/11 entitled, ["Major Developments Regarding the Rights of Palestinian Arab Citizens of Israel,"](#) to contribute to the EU's progress reports on Israel in the context of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). The EU issued its [ENP Progress Report for 2010](#) in 05/11.

The report highlights numerous issues raised in the reports submitted by Adalah and its partners in 2010 concerning the “the deterioration in the environment” for civil society organizations; the “strong alienating effect” on the Arab minority of recent laws and bills; and the lack of recognition and increased home demolitions in the Arab Bedouin unrecognized villages.

- Contributions to [a paper published by the EMHRN](#) in 11/11 highlighting key issues for the EU-Israel Political Sub-Committee meeting that took place in 12/11.

United States

In 05/11, Adalah Attorney Sawzan Zaher traveled to Washington, DC with Project Engage as a member of a delegation of 10 human rights organizations from Israel. As the advocacy visit took place in parallel to Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech in the US Congress and President Obama's speech to the US-lobby group, AIPAC, the group enjoyed broad attention to its issues and rights' messages. Attorney Zaher participated in meetings with US State Department officials to discuss the 2011 US State Department Human Rights Report for Israel, with the Office of International Religious Freedom, and with prominent US-based organizations working on Israel/OPT. As a result of the visit, Adalah substantially increased its US contacts.

Embassy Briefings



Throughout 2011, Adalah participated in meetings with representatives of embassies in Israel. In 12/12, Adalah together with partners PHR-I and PCATI organized a [briefing hosted by the German Embassy](#) to discuss key issues facing Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel and Palestinians in the OPT. Adalah provided an overview of legal developments concerning Arab minority rights in 2011. PHR-I spoke about the flood of anti-democratic legislation, including efforts to target human rights organizations and defenders; and PCATI focused on the practice of torture and ill-treatment against

prisoners and detainees. Ambassadors and political officers from Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic, Italy, Austria, the US, the EU, and Denmark attended the briefing.

Study Tours in the Naqab

In 2011, Adalah conducted **34 study tours** and briefing sessions in the Naqab for **200 people** including donors, journalists, international advocacy networks (CIDSE), international human rights organizations (Amnesty International, Amnesty-UK), and other visiting groups from abroad to the unrecognized villages. Some tours were held jointly with partners including the Regional Council for the Unrecognized Villages in the Naqab (RCUV), the Negev Co-Existence Forum, PHR-I, Sidreh, and Yasmin al-Naqab, and other Arab NGOs.

Attacks on Human Rights Organizations and HR Defenders (HRDs) in Israel

The right-wing attacks on NGOs continued in 2011 – by the government, in the Knesset, and in the media. The attacks sought to de-legitimize the human rights NGOs, and severely restrict their funding and activities.

One of the main priorities of the Adalah, PHR-I, and PCATI coalition in Europe was to raise awareness about the threats to HRDs and attacks on human rights organizations, and to expose anti-democratic and discriminatory trends in Israel. The coalition sought to promote recommendations for action based on the EU's “Guidelines on Protection of Human Rights Defenders”, and to work together with other NGOs and human rights actors in Europe. The coalition cooperated with EMHRN, CIDSE, and a network of Dutch organizations (ICCO, CORDAID, OxfamNOVIB) concerned with protecting the rights

of HRDs. The coalition also cooperated on an ongoing basis with Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Crisis Action.

The coalition prepared and disseminated **two briefing papers** on attacks against human rights organizations and on HRDs, one focusing on legislation and the other on the policing of dissent. Key meetings / advocacy missions conducted include:

In 03/11, the coalition together with EMHRN and an HRD expert representative of the Dutch organizations held a **series of meetings in Brussels** with EU officials working on human rights, with Crisis Action, and with permanent representation offices.

Experts Visit Brussels, 05/11. Briefings by Dr. Amir Paz Fuchs, Advocate (represents HRDs in Israel), veteran journalist Meron Rapoport, and coalition representative Miri Weingarten on HRDs, including aspects of legislation, law enforcement, the role of the judiciary, media and the academia to EU member states; two MEPs of the European Parliament's human rights subcommittee; and human rights NGOs based in Brussels.

Advocacy mission to Berlin organized by Medico International and Crisis Action in 06/11. Participants included EMHRN, the coalition represented by Miri Weingarten, Al Haq, and B'Tselem. Al Mezan could not attend due to the closure of Rafah. The coalition gave presentations on HRDs and the Arab minority in Israel. The mission held a series of meetings with German legislators on the Human Rights Committees, the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, journalists, and an NGO-roundtable with Amnesty, HRW, Oxfam, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and EED.

Adalah published several statements in 2011, against the escalation in attacks against human rights organizations. These included:

- In 07/11, Adalah, PHR-I, PCATI and the Coalition of Women for Peace issued a statement [criticizing the new anti-boycott law](#) as undermining freedom of expression, and targeting nonviolent political opposition to the Occupation. The law imposes heavy financial penalties against organizations which promote a boycott of Israel or Israeli institutions, even if applied only to illegal settlements in the OPT. **EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton** responded to the enactment of the law, telling the press that she was "concerned about the effect that this legislation may have on the freedom of Israeli citizens and organizations to express non-violent political opinions".
- Several [statements](#) in 10/11 and 11/11, including a joint statement by 18 NGOs in Israel, against the government's attempts to impose severe restrictions on human rights organizations' ability to receive foreign governmental funding. The bills were also widely denounced by local and international human rights organizations, the EU, EU member states, the US, and Canada. Statements included open letters to the Knesset from [OMCT, FIDH, and EMHRN](#) and [from six political foundations in Germany](#). **The most dangerous bill to NGOs was proposed again by the Likud and Yisrael Beiteinu, but by year's end, it had been essentially frozen.** On condemnation by the EU and US, click [here](#); and by the UK, click [here](#).

Results:

- New foreign funding bill was successfully quashed.
- Text in EU-Israel Association Council statement in 02/11 on the foreign funding bill and on anti-democratic measures;
- Favorable texts in ENP Progress Report on Israel – 2010 (issued 05/11);
- Issue of attacks on human rights organizations raised in the European Parliament (EP);
- Issue of HRDs raised in EU text at the UN Human Rights Council session in 03/11;
- The inclusion of the topic as a main EU priority in Israel's country report;
- Visibility: A meeting was held between EP President Dr. Jerzy Buzek and human rights organizations in Tel Aviv in 06/11. When Israeli Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin visited Brussels in 10/11, Dr. Buzek included specific questions on HRDs.

Securing Accountability



Adalah Attorneys Orna Kohn and Fatmeh El-'Ajou and law fellow Nadia Ben-Youssef briefed the **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR)** Navi Pillay and UN officials at three meetings during her first official visit to Israel and the OPT in 02/11. Adalah called for the HCHR's urgent attention to three issues: Israel's policy of home demolitions and forced eviction of the **Arab Bedouin** from their ancestral land in the Naqab; the need for an independent investigation and review in Israel of the AG's decision in 2008 to close all files

against police officers and commanders who are responsible for the killings of 13 Arab citizens of Israel in **October 2000** (see [The Accused—Part II: Failures and Omissions by the Attorney General in Investigating the October 2000 Events](#)); and the lack of independent investigations in Israel concerning scores of complaints for the victims of the war on Gaza, "**Operation Cast Lead**" (12/08-1/09). The HCHR acknowledged in her statement that "an overarching human rights concern is the lack of accountability." [More](#)

As discussed in the *Legal Action* section above, Adalah submitted a report to the Turkel Committee on the lack of independent investigations in Israel in general, and in relation to breaches of international law during Operation Cast Lead, in particular. Adalah also submitted a paper in this regard in 02/11, to the Independent Experts Committee (IEC) and gave testimony to the committee members. This paper updates Adalah's prior briefing papers to the IEC in 2010, in which the status of Israel's current military operational probes and investigations into Operation Cast Lead was discussed. Adalah's 2011 briefing paper aims to further assist the IEC as it resumes its mandate to assess the progress of domestic investigations by Israel and the Palestinians. See [Independent Experts Committee Report](#), presented to the UN HR Council in 03/11.

"Deep democracy"

In the second half of 2011, Adalah and its coalition partners PHR-I and PCATI worked on issues around the new ENP review (5/11). This review developed criteria for "deep democracy" in the region but this new approach did not include compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) as a benchmark for democracy. If IHL had been excluded then Israel could have been perceived as an "unproblematic democracy," since it would not be measured as an occupying power or in relation to the OPT. Response included:

- The partners composed a briefing on the subject in cooperation with APRODEV, CIDSE, EMHRN, and Diakonia;
- Meetings were held with EU officials and Brussels-based NGOs lead by Amnesty and EMHRN, to discuss these matters. In 10/11, it was decided that APRODEV, CIDSE and Amnesty would take the lead.

An interim result of this work is that in 12/11 the annual EU-human rights NGO forum held in Brussels was devoted to the place of IHL in EU policies. The EU advocacy coordinator and Adalah's General Director, Hassan Jabareen, both participated in the forum.

Prisoners and Detainees' Rights and Torture/Ill-treatment

Much of Adalah's work on the subject of prisoners and detainees' rights was undertaken in the context of our EU Torture project, with partners PHR-I and Al Mezan. Other initiatives included local coalition partner the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI).

United Nations

In 03/11, Adalah, PHR-I and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Gaza) presented a joint [briefing note](#) on Palestinian prisoners' rights to the **UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**. A representative of PHR-I attended the meeting in Vienna. The briefing note was also submitted to the **EU Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights** in advance of its meeting on the question of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons in 03/11. The paper was widely distributed in EU and UN bodies.



For the International Day Against Torture (26 June), Adalah, Al Mezan and PHR-I released a position paper urging Israel to stop using **solitary confinement** as a means of incarcerating prisoners. The paper, in Arabic, Hebrew and English, was widely publicized and distributed. It was also sent to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and the UN HCHR. [More](#)

To mark Universal Children's Day, in 11/11, Adalah published a joint position paper with partners PHR-I and Al Mezan which examined "[False Confessions by Palestinian Children and Adolescents under Coercion.](#)" The human rights organizations called for the immediate end to arbitrary detention of children, and the placement of safeguards against false and coerced confessions.

In 8/11, Adalah, PHR-I and Al Mezan prepared and submitted an NGO progress report on the follow-up to the Concluding Observations issued by [the Human Rights Committee](#), which monitors the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on Israel in 2010. The submission focused on several concluding observations concerning the siege on Gaza, and the torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees.

Representatives of Adalah and PHR-I travelled to Geneva for a two-day advocacy visit in 10/11. They held meetings with international torture NGOs and partners (OMCT, APT, FIDH), UN and independent agencies (staff of UN Special Rapporteurs and human rights treaty bodies) as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross. Our European Advocacy Coordinator held a meeting on behalf of Adalah, PHR-I and PCATI with the new **UN Special Rapporteur on Torture**, Professor Juan Mendez, in Geneva in 11/11. The meeting was held with British medical human rights group Medact, and concerned medical complicity in torture.

European Union

2011 EU advocacy aimed for the inclusion of prisoners/detainees and torture/ill-treatment as a recognized topic, part of Israeli human rights violations, rather than as topic related to the Middle East Peace Process or the Palestinian Authority. The group sought to achieve some favorable texts in EU reports and also the inclusion as a **priority in the EU's human rights strategy for Israel**.

Adalah, PHR-I, and PCATI undertook a two-day advocacy visit to Brussels in 10/11 to raise issues concerning the rights of prisoners and detainees, and torture and ill-treatment. The visit **followed closely on the Shalit prisoner exchange, a prolonged hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners, and a report published by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture against solitary confinement**.

The NGO representatives held briefings for EU member states representatives, the EEAS, and civil society organizations in Brussels. The group distributed a new [briefing paper](#), written in 10/11,

highlighting the recent hunger strike by the prisoners and the subsequent prisoner exchange; new legislation which imposes harsher conditions on ‘security prisoners and detainees’, and the lack of sufficient oversight mechanisms and accountability in cases of torture and ill-treatment. B’Tselem joined the group for several meetings.

Adalah. PHR-I and Al Mezan also produced briefing papers on the rights of prisoners and detainees and torture and ill-treatment, timed to inform upcoming EU-Israel meetings. These papers include:

- A [briefing paper](#) sent in 8/11 to the EU, in advance of a meeting of the EU-Israel Informal Human Rights Working Group. The paper drew attention to torture and ill-treatment in Israel, Israel’s failure to comply with international law, and the lack of investigation into Israeli Security Agency practices. **As a result of our work**, for the first time, the issue of prisoners was included in the Working Group meeting.
- A paper sent with PCATI in 11/11 to contribute to the EU’s progress reports on Israel in the context of the [European Neighbourhood Policy](#). The paper notes efforts to combat torture and the culture of impunity, and to protect the human rights of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel.

International Academic Conferences



Adalah’s General Director, Attorney Hassan Jabareen, participated in four international academic conferences held abroad in 2011:

In 03/11, he participated in a conference entitled, “[Minority Rights and Multiculturalism in the Arab World](#),” where he presented a paper on the status of Palestinians in Israel. Hassan was invited to the conference in Rome by Prof. Will Kymlicka, a leading political philosopher and scholar on minority rights. The conference, hosted by **Istituto di Studi Politici—**

Roma, Liberia University – Italy and Queen’s University - Canada, consisted of five panels on state-minority relations; ethnicity and religion; and models of multi-culturalism in the Arab World. Academics from the Arab World, US, UK, Canada, and Italy participated.

In 05/11, he participated in a three-day conference, “[Constitutional Revolutions and Counter-**Revolutions**](#),” presented by **The New School** in New York. Professors Andrew Arato and Yoav Peled, the convenors, invited Hassan to participate in the conference. He participated in two panels designed to explore the law and politics of constitutional revolutions in a comparative context. Leading legal academics and political scientists attended the conference. Hassan also gave a lecture to faculty members and students at the **Sarah Lawrence College** in New York, discussing the effect of the recent democratic awakening in the Arab world on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and on the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel. [More](#)

In 9/11, he participated in a conference entitled, “**Trajectories of Partition in South Asia and the Middle East: Comparative Historical Perspectives**,” in **New Delhi, India**, convened by the National Archives of India. The conference examined the divergent results of two partitions of British administered territory: one in India, and one in Palestine, as well as the shared commonalities such as the status of refugees and borders, the challenges of ethnic violence, and the issue of citizenship, land rights, minority rights and their protection. Hassan analyzed the Beer el-Sabe Mosque decision of the Israeli Supreme Court comparing this case to the Babri Mosque case in India, where the court similarly settled on a divergent solution than what either party requested in order to avoid conflict and political questions.

In 11/11, Jabareen participated in a workshop at the **London School of Economics**, which discussed “New Approaches to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict”. The event was led by Mary Kaldor and Lakdar Brahimi, and attended by academics, NGO directors, journalists, and UN Special Rapporteurs.

LEGAL EDUCATION

Figures

	Planned 2011	Achieved 2011
Seminars and Conferences	3 events	4 events held: report & book launches; multiple events in Naqab
	Academic workshops	Int'l Torture Workshop
	30 lectures to universities, NGOs	35 lectures and presentations
Publications and Reports	12 vols. of newsletter; subscribers	Published 11 volumes; 21,500 subscribers ; photo galleries
	Tri-lingual Websites	Updated frequently
	The Accused: Part II	Published report (Hebrew)
	Nomads Against Their Will	Released report with video
	Inequality Series	Released report with 3 videos
	Briefing papers	9 briefing/ position papers
Media Outreach	Issue 60+ PRs & interviews	Issued 120 PRs ; Over 10 issues widely covered
	Media consultation	Began work with UNIK, 3/11
Training for Lawyers and Law Students	Host 1-2 stagiaires, law student interns	2 stagiaires; 1 law student; and 3 other interns
	Professional Training for Lawyers	Courses on Representing Detainees and Land Settlement
	Conference	Event held for 70 students
	Host LLM fellows	SI-CEU fellow of Adalah accepted (2011-2013)

Main Achievements

Seminars & Conferences

International Expert Workshop on Torture

On 4-5 April 2011, Adalah, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel (PHR-I), and the Al-Mezan Centre for Human Rights held a two-day international workshop in Jerusalem entitled "[Securing Accountability for Torture and CIDT: New Trends and Comparative Lessons](#)." The workshop, attended by 40 practitioners and experts from Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights organizations, focused on issues of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (CIDT) against Palestinian prisoners and civilians by Israel. It provided a forum to discuss current challenges, lessons learned, best practices, and



advocacy strategies. Prof. Manfred Nowak, the former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and Dr. Stephen Xenakis, a retired Brigadier General in the US Army Medical Corps and an active member of PHR-USA, gave keynote speeches. Jamil Dakwar, the Director of the ACLU's International Advocacy Program and a former attorney with Adalah, spoke about the ACLU's efforts over the last decade to secure accountability for torture perpetrated and/or endorsed by the US military. 56% of the participants responded that the torture workshop had been "outstanding", and 44% "more than satisfactory". The workshop was supported by the EU.

Media coverage of the workshop included a two-page interview with Prof. Nowak in *Yedioth Ahronoth*: "And After They Were Tortured" (Hebrew), and an interview with Dr. Stephen Xenakis in *Ha'aretz*, entitled "[First, do no harm](#)". For the press release on the event, click [here](#); to see photos, click [here](#).

Publications and Reports

Adalah's Newsletter



Adalah published **11 volumes** of its monthly electronic newsletter in Arabic, Hebrew and English, and distributed it to **21,500 subscribers**. The newsletters were also posted prominently on the homepage of Adalah's website; shared on Adalah's Facebook page; and sent to numerous Israel/OPT listservs, websites, journalists, embassies, and donors. The newsletters included updates on our legal cases, state responses and court decisions, as well as on our international advocacy initiatives, publications, and upcoming events. The newsletters also provided articles and commentaries on human rights issues and links to reports and news from partner organizations and the UN. Copies of all volumes of *Adalah's Newsletter* published in 2011 can be found [here](#).

Articles and commentaries in 2011 included:

- [Ayelet Harel-Shalev, *The Geopolitics of Minority Rights and Civil Rights in Nation States: Lessons from the Republic of Macedonia*, 01/11.](#)
- [Haneen Naamnih, *Two Sides of Return: Palestine and the Refugees*, 02/11.](#)
- [Majd Bader, *Secret Prison for UFOs*, 03/11.](#)
- [Thabet Abu Ras, *The Arab Bedouin in the Unrecognized Villages in the Naqab: Between the Hammer of Praver and the Anvil of Goldberg*, 04/11.](#)
- [Haneen Naamnih and Suhad Bishara, *The Law of the Promised Land 2011: Between Absentees and Foreigners*, 05/11.](#)
- [Sawsan Zaher, *Mandatory Pensions Agreement Discriminates against the Arab Minority*, 06/11.](#)
- [Oren Yiftachel and Thabet Abu Ras, *A Shared Struggle for Housing in the Naqab*, 7/11](#)
- [Rawyah Handaklo, *Sticker No. 5: Security Inspections, Racial Profiling, and the Violation of the Basic Rights of Arab Citizens of Israel*, 11/11](#)
- [Fady Khoury, *No Right to Compensation*, 11/11](#)
- [Hassan Jabareen, *The Right Context of the Knesset's Laws*, 11/11](#)

Adalah also initiated and hosted a [virtual roundtable discussion](#) in the newsletter in 03/11 under the title of "Right wing protest in Arab towns and villages—Should Arab Palestinian citizens of Israel ask the state authorities to prevent the extreme right-wing from holding racist demonstrations in their towns?" The participants were journalist and activist Hisham Naffa; Dr. Ilan Saban of Faculty of Law, University of Haifa; and journalist, lawyer and activist Marzouq Halabi.

Adalah also initiated a number of new multi-media projects in 2011 for our Newsletter, website, and [Facebook](#) page.

- [Photo Gallery: Adalah in Photos 2010](#), 01/11.

- [Photo Gallery](#): *The Naqab in Photos*, 03/11.
- [Art Gallery](#): "Untitled" by Maysa Azeiza, 04/11 (prisoners/torture).
- [Video](#): Board Member Attorney Fouad Sultany on 1948 Palestinian political prisoners, 04/11.
- [Photo Gallery](#): *Adalah Hosts Amnesty International in the Naqab*, 05/11.

The Accused – Part II

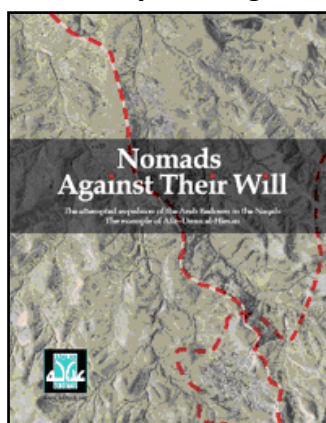


In 10/11, for the 11th Anniversary of the October 2000 killings of 13 Palestinian citizens of Israel and the injury of hundreds more, Adalah published a new report entitled 'The Accused – Part II'. The report further investigates the decision of former Israeli Attorney General (AG) Menachem Mazuz to close all of the files into the October 2000 events with **no indictments submitted** against any police officer, commander or political leader. This report supplements 'The Accused', published in 2007, which sharply criticized the failures and omissions of the Ministry of Justice Police Investigation Unit in these cases and led to an additional review by the AG's office.

"The Accused – Part II", written by Attorney Smadar Ben Natan and Adalah Attorney Orna Kohn, charges the AG and senior staff members with committing major errors and oversights, a breach of the truth placed in them, and a serious conflict of interest. The report calls for the reopening of the investigations into October 2000 killings, and for the investigation to be transferred to an independent, professional committee, operating according to international legal standards for investigations. Adalah continues to advocate in all forums for accountability for the October 2000 killings. The [full report](#) is available in Hebrew, and an [Executive Summary](#) is available in English.

To launch the report, Adalah hosted a [seminar](#) in Yaffa (Jaffa), organized in partnership with the Yaffa Youth Movement and the al-Saraya Theatre in 10/11. The event was attended by dozens of local Jewish and Arab activists and residents. Dr. Amal Jamal and Sami Abu Shehadeh from Tel Aviv University, opened the event with presentations. The report's main findings were then presented by Smadar Ben Natan and concluding remarks given by Adalah's General Director Hassan Jabareen.

The History and Legal Struggle of Atir-Umm al-Hieran



To commemorate the 63rd Anniversary of the Palestinian *Nakba*, Adalah published a new report entitled "[Nomads Against their Will](#)." The report details the Israeli government's plan to displace the 1,000 Arab Bedouin residents of Atir-Umm el-Hieran, an unrecognized village in the Naqab. Adalah has been representing residents of the village in multiple court cases and other fora since 2004 to enable them to remain on their land (*See also Legal Action section, above*). The report, available in Arabic, Hebrew and English, contains original maps, documents and photographs from the Israeli state archives, and describes the legal tracks used by Israel to attempt to uproot and displace the Arab Bedouin. A [short video](#) about Atir-Umm el-Hieran, directed by up-and-coming Arab filmmaker Eli Rezik for Adalah, accompanies the report.

Adalah held a public event, together with the Baladna Association for Arab Youth, at the Al Meidan Theatre in Haifa in 05/11 to launch the report. The speakers discussed the problems faced by the unrecognized villages as well as the ongoing legal and popular struggles to solve them. The video was also premiered. Around 80 people attended the event, including Arab Bedouin youth from the Naqab. It was widely covered by Arabic media including [Panet](#), [Arabs48](#), [Al Arab](#), [Bokra](#), and [Qadita](#).

Adalah also presented the report and video at an event in Tel Aviv in 07/11, which was organized by the Coalition of Women for Peace and the Regional Council for the Unrecognized Villages.

The Inequality Series – Report & Videos

In 12/10, Adalah published [The Inequality Report](#) (printed in 03/11), which examines the main legal, political and policy structures that institutionalize discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel and entrench inequalities between Arab and Jewish citizens. The full report is available in English, and a summary is available in Hebrew and Arabic.



The report accompanies three short videos, directed by filmmaker Rachel Leah Jones, to form Adalah's **Inequality Series**. [Targeted Citizen](#), featuring the Palestinian rap group, DAM, overviews discrimination against Arab citizens in Israel, was released in 2010. Thousands of viewers have screened the film on Adalah's [YouTube](#) channel and website, and it has run at several film festivals around the world in 2010 and 2011 including the London-Palestine Film Festival and the Boston-Palestine Film Festival, helping Adalah outreach to new and wider audiences. Adalah released two additional films in 2011, "[Unrecognized Village Case](#)" and "[Israel Railways Case](#)," marking the completion of the Inequality Series. This work was supported by Christian Aid.

Briefing papers, position papers

Palestinians in Israel and the OPT

- [New Discriminatory Laws and Bills in Israel](#), 06/11, highlights **23** main new discriminatory laws and bills against Arab citizens of Israel enacted and introduced since the beginning of the Netanyahu government in 2009. This paper has been widely disseminated and used in Adalah's advocacy.
- [Briefing Paper on the Legality of Boycotts in Comparative Law](#), 07/11
- [Overview and Analysis of the Praver Plan](#), 10/11

EU Torture project

Adalah produced a series of papers with its partners Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and Al Mezan in 2011.

- [Joint Briefing Note on Palestinian Prisoners' Rights, 03/11](#)
- [Joint Position Paper on Solitary Confinement, 06/11](#)
- [Briefing Note: Human rights of Palestinian detainees and prisoners held in Israel, with relation to the struggle against Torture and CIDT, 10/11](#) (with PCATI)
- [Joint Position Paper on False Confessions by Palestinian Children and Adolescents Under Coercion, 11/11](#)



These papers are available in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

Media Outreach

The scope of Adalah's media work in Hebrew, Arabic and English included issuing press releases (**120**) and tracking coverage; giving background briefings and interviews to journalists; interacting daily with the media (radio, print, new media, TV) and immediately reacting to relevant current events; initiating feature stories; maintaining ongoing relationships with journalists in many fields in all media; writing op-eds; and initiating media events. In 03/11, Adalah also started working with a progressive **media consulting company** in Tel Aviv with expertise in human rights.

Key results achieved include:

- Around **70** Hebrew media stories in 15 different publications;
- TV news coverage (Tel Arad Arab Bedouin children at risk in the Naqab); [Channel Ten](#) (from minute 11:40 to 14:54).
- Yedioth Weekend Supplement (interview with former UN SR Prof. Manfred Nowak, a keynote speaker at our international torture workshop); financial newspapers such as the Marker (various employment rights cases, Naqab cases); local newspapers.
- Numerous articles about Adalah's work by new reporters (working with an expanding base of journalists and editors, especially on social and economic rights cases).
- The publication of seven op-eds:
 - [NRG](#), "You cannot erase the minority's memory" by Sawsan Zaher. 15/5/11
 - [The Marker](#), "Mandatory pension agreement discriminates against the Arab public" by Sawsan Zaher. 19/5/11
 - [Ynet](#), "The Naqab belongs to all its residents, including the Bedouin" by Thabet Abu-Ras. 22/6/11
 - [Ha'aretz](#), "Why Palestinians can't recognize a 'Jewish state'" by Hassan Jabareen. 2/9/11
 - [Yedioth Ahronot](#), "Against a Forced Solution" by Thabet Abu-Ras 12/9/11
 - [Al Jazeera English](#), "Debating the UN bid for Palestinian statehood" by Hassan Jabareen. 19/9/11
 - [Ha'aretz](#), "The right context" by Hassan Jabareen. 25/11/11
- Numerous articles were published about legal letters sent by Adalah prior to District or Supreme Court petitions.
- Adalah continued to achieve good coverage in the Arabic media, despite the enormous, momentous events of the Arab revolutions, which significantly reduced the space allocated for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinians in the media in general.

Below are examples of Adalah cases that received wide media coverage:



1. The Supreme Court's decision in 06/11 to turn the **Big Mosque in Beer el-Sabe** into a museum for Islamic culture. Dozens of news outlets published stories about this case, including the international and local Arabic newspapers, e.g. [Al Hayat](#) (London), [Asharq al-Awsat](#), [Al Quds Al Arabi](#) (UK); [Al-Naqab Net](#); the Hebrew press, e.g. [NRG](#), [Ha'aretz](#), and [Ynet](#); in addition to local Hebrew press in the Naqab, e.g., [Ynet in Beer Sheva](#) and [HaDraomi](#).
2. The **petition filed by Adalah and ACRI against the Nakba Law**. This case received wide coverage on [Al Jazeera](#) on [video](#) and [website](#) and in [Al Quds Al Arabi](#); the websites of Palestinian news agencies Wafa and the Palestinian News Network, as well as the local Arabic media. It was also reported on in Hebrew in [Ha'aretz](#), the [Channel 10](#) website, [Walla](#), [Channel 2](#), [Globes](#) and many other sites. General Director Hassan Jabareen was interviewed on [Al Jazeera English](#) TV about the new law.

3. The case of **MK Haneen Zoabi** before the Supreme Court against the withdrawal of some of her parliamentary privileges following her participation in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla in 05/10: MK Zoabi's case received wide coverage in the Arabic international media such as [al-Hayat](#), [Al Jazeera](#), and the local Arabic press, and in the Hebrew press in [Ha'aretz](#), [Radio Reshet Bet](#), and [Galey Tsaahal Radio](#).

4. Adalah's response to the Praver report: [IMEU](#), English, 17/06/11; [Ynet](#), Hebrew, 22/06/11; [The Marker](#), Hebrew, 22/06/11; an op-ed by Naqab Director Dr. Thabet Abu Ras for [Ynet](#), Hebrew, 22/06/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 23/06/11; an Alternative Information Center [video](#), English, of Dr. Abu Ras on the Praver report; [The Pulse](#), Hebrew, 4/9/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 11/9/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 12/9/11; [The Jerusalem Post](#), English, 12/9/11; [BNO News](#), English 12/9/11; [Palestine News Network](#), English, 12/9/11; [+972 Magazine](#), English, 12/9/11; [The Jerusalem Post](#), English, 12/10/11; [Ha'aretz](#), Hebrew, 14/9/11; [The Guardian](#), English, 3/11/11; [BBC News](#), English, 11/11/11. Adalah's petition was widely covered in the Arabic media in 9/11, including [Al-Quds Al-Arabi](#), [Syrian News Station](#); [Moslim Online](#); [Arabs48](#); [Al Jabha](#); [Al Arab](#); [Panet](#); [Al Binaa](#); [PalPress](#); and others.

5. Adalah's Supreme Court cases involving "admissions committees": [Ha'aretz](#), English, 01/02/11; [Al Arab](#), Arabic, 2/2/11; [AlQudsNet](#), Arabic, 02/02/11; the Lebanese [As-Safir](#), Arabic, 24/03/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 24/03/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 02/05/11; [Calcalist](#), Hebrew, 20/06/11; [Ha'aretz](#), Hebrew, 20/06/11; [Walla](#), Hebrew, 20/06/11; [Ynet](#), Hebrew, 20/06/11; [Al Arab](#), Arabic, 20/06/11; [Arabs48](#), Arabic, 20/06/11; [Ynet](#), English, 20/06/11; [Palestinians48](#), Arabic, 21/06/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 21/06/11; [The Jerusalem Post](#), English, 21/06/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 6/9/11; ; [Wafa News Agency](#), Arabic, 13/9/11; [Ha'aretz](#), Hebrew, 13/9/11; [NRG](#), Hebrew, 13/9/11; [Calcalist](#), Hebrew, 13/9/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 14/9/11; [Al Hayat Al Jadida](#), Arabic, 14/9/11; [YNet](#), Hebrew, 14/9/11; [Fasl Al-Maqal](#), Arabic, 16/9/11; [Sawt Al Hag](#), Arabic, 18/9/11. Suhad Bishara was also interviewed by the Arabic Ashams, Arabs 48, and Al Arab radio stations.

The image shows a screenshot of a Hebrew news article from Ynet. The main headline is "הגב שייך לכל תושביו, גם לבדואים" (The Golan Heights belongs to all its residents, even to the Bedouins). The article discusses the Supreme Court's decision on the unrecognized villages case. It includes a photo of a man, likely a lawyer or official involved in the case, and various sub-headings such as "החוק החדש", "פיתוח עשוי למעית הבדואים", and "התגובה". The article text is in Hebrew and provides details about the court's ruling and the implications for the Bedouin population in the Golan Heights.

6. Adalah's report and cases on Umm al-Hieran/Hiran: See [Akhbarna](#), Arabic, 16/01/11; [Panet](#), Arabic, 17/01/11; [Al Arab](#), Arabic, 17/01/11; in the Lebanese [Wikalat alAkhbar alArabiya](#), Arabic, 17/01/11; [Ha'aretz](#), Hebrew, 03/06/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 03/06/11; see also Adalah [video](#) on Umm el-Hieran–Atir case.

7. The Supreme Court's decision on water in the unrecognized villages' case in 6/11: [Walla](#), Hebrew, 05/06/11; [Ha'aretz](#), Hebrew, 06/06/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 06/06/11; [AlQuds](#), Arabic, 06/06/11; [Al Arab](#), Arabic, 06/06/11; [Al Mashad](#), Arabic, 06/06/11; [Sora](#), Arabic, 06/06/11; [Al Makan](#), Arabic, 07/06/11; [Panet](#), Arabic, 07/06/11, [Al Jazeera English](#), 29/06/11.

8. Adalah's petitions on behalf of Palestinians **denied access to Israeli courts**; [Al Quds Newspaper](#), Arabic, 2/11/11; [Associated Press](#), English, 7/11/11; [Ha'aretz](#), English, 25/11/11; [Guardian](#), English, 1/12/11.

9. Adalah's successful case cancelling demolition orders in Al-Sira, in 11/11: This victory received wide coverage in English, in [Ynet News](#), [The Jerusalem Post](#); the Lebanese [NOW Lebanon](#), and [Ha'aretz](#). In the Arabic media, it was reported on in [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida](#), [Al-Quds](#), [PNN Arabic](#), [France 24](#), the Jordanian [Addustour](#), and [Al-Khaleej](#) from the UAE. Adalah attorney Suhad Bishara was also interviewed by Monte Carlo, Ashams, Ajyal, and Kol Israel radio stations.

10. Adalah's **representations of protestors at Hasharon Prison** following the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange received considerable attention, especially in the Arabic media. Adalah Attorney Orna Kohn and Media Coordinator Salah Mohsen were interviewed by Ashams radio and Radio Ajyal respectively. Other coverage came from [Al Hayat Al Jadida](#), [Al Quds](#), [Panet](#), [Bokra](#), [Pls48](#), [Al Jabha](#), and over 20 other local websites.

Training for Lawyers & Law Students

Representing Detainees – Professional Training Course for Lawyers

In 03/11 and 04/11, Adalah held a four-day, 10-session training course for 30 lawyers in Jerusalem, entitled "[Representing Detainees in Detention and Investigation Procedures](#)" as part of our EU-funded torture project. The course provided practicing lawyers with greater knowledge of Israeli criminal law and international human rights law for their use in criminal and "security cases".

The course emphasized practical aspects of legal representation from arrest to interrogation and indictment and discussed topics including detainees' due process rights; challenging the prohibition on meetings with lawyers and gag orders in 'security cases'; coerced confessions, medical treatment, torture and ill-treatment; and representing minors. Each session was conducted by leading lawyers and experts, and course materials consisting of caselaw, sample motions, and useful articles were distributed.



Participants gave highly positive feedback to the course. For example, one lawyer from Jerusalem emphasized that: "The subject was important, especially given the Occupation and the current political situation. The course was very interesting and enriching, and even exceeded my expectations. I was very happy to participate and would like to participate in similar trainings and activities [in the future]."

Some of the lawyers who participated in the course have agreed to work with Adalah to provide *pro bono* representation to detainees, where needed.

Land Settlement – Professional Training Course for Lawyers



In 9/11 and 10/11, Adalah hosted a six-week professional training course for lawyers working on land settlement issues in the Naqab. The course brought 10-20 practicing attorneys to the Mandel Institute, in Beer el-Sabe, where they were provided with historical and practical tools related to land settlement in the Naqab, to better prepare them to address land settlement cases. Each session was led by a leading attorney or expert and addressed a different element of land settlement in the Naqab. Topics included a comparative global perspective

on indigenous rights, a history of land in the Naqab, and techniques for preparing evidence for settlement cases. More information on the course components is available [here](#).

Legal Apprentices

Legal trainees Ms. Rawan Eghbariya and Ms. Rawyah Handaklo completed their one-year legal apprenticeship training under the direct supervision of Adalah's General Director at the end of 2/11, and both successfully passed the Israel Bar in 6/11. Haifa University law student, Mr. Fadi Khoury, continued his second year of work with Adalah in 2011.



Legal Fellowship

Adalah's candidate, Mr. Jalal Dakwar, was accepted to the Open Society Justice Initiatives-Central European University two-year LLM program and fellowship. Mr. Dakwar will begin his studies at the CEU in Budapest in the fall of 2011, and after completing his degree, Mr. Dakwar will work with Adalah as a lawyer for one year starting from 9/2012.

Sixth Annual Law Students Conference: "Legal Tools For Achieving Social Justice"

Adalah welcomed 70 law students and 30 lawyers, academics and activists to Neve Shalom-Wahat al-Salaam for a three day conference on employing legal tools for social justice in 10/11

The event opened with a field tour of the unrecognized Arab Bedouin villages in the Naqab led by Adalah's staff. The students met with Sidreh, an economic empowerment NGO for Arab Bedouin women, and heard from community leaders in the villages of Abu Tulul and Abu Qurinat about key issues facing the Arab Bedouin, including the Praver Report. For most students, this tour marked the first time that they had visited the Naqab and seen the unrecognized villages.



The next two days of the conference included four panel discussions on law, social justice, and the Arab minority led by leading human rights lawyers and academics in Israel. Students also participated in practitioner-led legal workshops on gender and the law, the right to housing, the right to protest, and the right to education – all headed by Adalah's lawyers.

The conference also included a screening, with the Director, of *The Law in These Parts*, an award-winning documentary about the military legal system in the OPT.

The students also had the opportunity to participate in a human rights fair, which was joined by human rights and social change organizations, Kayan, Mada al-Carmel, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, the Israel Cancer Association, Al-Manarah Association, Aswat, PCATI, Gisha, Women Against Violence, and Maan.

[See more photos on our Facebook page](#)

Read Adalah's [press release](#) on the conference or the [event program](#).

Main Achievements

Human Rights Award for Top Lawyering



In 12/11, Adalah's General Director, Attorney Hassan Jabareen received the "[Herman Schwartz Prize for Law and Social Justice](#)". Dan Yakir, the Legal Advisor to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) was awarded "The Guardian of Human Rights" prize at the same time. Both awards are top human rights lawyering prizes.

At the awards ceremony, organized by the New Israel Fund, retired Israeli Supreme Court Justice Ayala Procaccia gave a [keynote speech](#) commending attorney Jabareen and Adalah, saying

"The activity of Adalah under the leadership of attorney Jabareen excels in its commitment, determination, and high professional and cultural level. This is an organization that works to advance human rights by legal means, not extra-legal means, by outstanding intellectual power, high moral commitment, and a broad vision of Israeli society in all its diversity."

Prof. Herman Schwartz of the American University Washington College of Law and the founder of the NIF Civil Liberties Law Fellows program praised Hassan and Dan for their outstanding contribution to public interest lawyering in Israel. Prof. Neta Ziv, the director of the Cegla Legal Clinics Program, Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University, also gave an [important talk](#) at the event, discussing the special status of human rights defenders in Israeli society. See [photos](#) of the awards ceremony.

General Assembly Meeting



Adalah held its annual **General Assembly (GA) meeting** in Jerusalem in 12/11. It included several new members of the GA, the Board of Directors and Adalah's staff. During the meeting the audited financial report for 2010 was presented and approved by the GA, as were Adalah's activity and Control Committee reports. A [photo slideshow](#) of the highlights of Adalah's work in 2011 was also shown at the meeting.

The GA approved and welcomed three new board members: Odeh Bisharat, Hussein Abu Hussein and Khalil Al-Amour. Outgoing members are Dr. Mahmoud Yazbak (Chair), Prof. Mohammad M. Haj-Yahia and Advocate Fuad Sultany. The GA appointed a new Control Committee, to be composed of Advocate Jerjes Rawashdeh and Advocate Khaled Dagash, and discussed amendments to Adalah's bylaws.

Adalah prepared a paper for discussion on some of the main strategic challenges Adalah faces in the coming year. The GA members debated various points focused around the intensifying attacks on Arab citizens of Israel as well as the human rights organizations that support and represent them. Other challenges the GA discussed were the narrowing scope of legal cases on issues related to the OPT as well as the attacks on the Israeli Supreme Court, make it less likely to issue rulings to protect the rights of Arabs in Israel.

The directors of Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, Gisha, and the Society of St. Ives participated in a roundtable discussion with the GA on the context of our work as human rights organizations and the difficulties we face in the current political climate.

Board-Staff Workshops and Meetings

Adalah held two Board-staff workshops, Finance Committee meetings and periodic meetings of the Board of Directors, staff, and staff directors in 2011.



Adalah held a two-day **Board-Staff workshop** in 02/11 in Jericho. The 2011 annual work plan and budget were presented and discussed, alongside an evaluation of our projects and finances in 2010, and challenges for our work based on new legal and political developments and organizational requirements were identified. Major decisions related to Adalah's bylaws, our work in emergency detention cases; media consultation; Adalah's office in the Naqab; and future work planning. Several Board and staff members also visited the Naqab to see

Adalah's work on the ground in the unrecognized villages, following the workshop.

A second **Board-staff workshop** was held in Jerusalem in 07/11. Key issues discussed during the workshop included Adalah's media work, the Naqab Project and challenges it faces, as well as the mandate of Adalah's various legal units and a follow-up on the implementation of the 2011 work plan. The amended bylaws were also finalized for presentation to the GA.

Adalah held a day-long **Finance Committee meeting** in 06/11 to review internal financial reports and discuss needed financial matters. The Finance Committee decided to increase the number of positions in the finance department due to the greater financial reporting requirements of donors and the Registrar of Associations based on new laws. It also decided to authorize an increase in some staff salaries.

Adalah also held periodic Board meetings, **staff meetings and directors' meetings** to discuss our ongoing work, upcoming campaigns, financial and administrative matters, and major program issues.

Organizational Consultancy

In 08/11 Adalah began a process of organizational consultancy with *Sadara Business Consulting Group*, led by Dr. Basel Ghattas, the former General Director of the Galilee Society. The main goal of the process is to draw up a new organizational/administrative manual for Adalah. It is also meant to build on the recommendations of an evaluation team given to Adalah in 2007 and 2010. In the first stage of their work, *Sadara* reviewed the current organizational structures, met with all staff about their positions and communication and decision-making processes, and presented a report of their assessment. Adalah anticipates that a new manual will be prepared and that implementation will begin in 2012.

Adalah in the Naqab

In 11/10, Adalah took a major step towards developing its Naqab branch office (in place since 2000) by appointing Dr. Thabet Abu Ras, a lecturer at Ben-Gurion University in geography and the former director of Shatil's office in the Naqab, to the position of Director of Adalah's Naqab project. Adalah made this decision in order to better meet new challenges on the ground and respond to the needs of the Arab Bedouin community, given the government's stepped-up efforts to dispossess the Bedouin from their lands.



In 2011, Dr. Abu Ras developed and began implementation of an integrated work plan for Adalah's Naqab activities, expanded Adalah's staff team in the office, rented and moved to a new, larger office in Beer el-Sabe, worked with community groups, and led study tours for 34 visiting delegations and journalists to raise the profile of Arab Bedouin issues and Adalah's work in the Naqab both locally and internationally. The office succeeded to attract substantial media coverage to Arab Bedouin rights in the Naqab.

New grants to Adalah

In 2011, Adalah succeeded to further diversify its sources of income with new short-term and longer-term grants to the organization:

- Broederlinjk Delen (BD – Belgium): BD awarded Adalah a three-year grant for 2011-2013 to support its land and planning rights litigation.
- The Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT – Great Britain): SRT awarded Adalah a three-year grant for our work to promote Arab minority rights for July 2011-June 2014.
- The New Israel Fund (NIF) and the Ford-Israel Fund (Ford – USA): NIF and Ford awarded Adalah a special grant to expand our work on behalf of the Arab Bedouin in 2011. NIF also provided a small emergency grant for representing detained protestors against home demolitions in Naqab.
- ACSUR – Las Segovias (Spain): ACSUR awarded Adalah a grant for July 2011-June 2012 to support its work to promote Arab minority rights.
- Skoll Foundation (USA) via NIF: Skoll awarded Adalah a one-year grant for 2012 to support its work on the Right to Protest.

Organizational capacity-building and staff development

In 2011, several donors initiated organizational capacity-building projects. Adalah completed in-depth capacity-building assessment questionnaires disseminated by the NGO Development Center (NDC) and OxfamNOVIB. Adalah Attorney Fatmeh El-Ajou attended a meeting with NGO partners initiated by the NDC in 06/11 to discuss shared priorities in the OPT.

Adalah's International Advocacy Director, Rina Jabareen, participated in a workshop on strengthening the sustainability of human rights organizations in the Middle East and Maghreb initiated by the Ford Foundation, OxfamNOVIB, and the Open Society Foundation. The three-day workshop, held in Morocco in 03/11, brought together representatives of human rights NGOs and donors. The organizers seek to support region-wide research and training for partners on impact assessment, accountability, and financial sustainability.

Rina Jabareen also participated in an EU EIDHR Conference in 6/11 on human rights fundraising. The workshop offered useful sessions on preparing log frames, thinking about sustainability, and analyzing common pitfalls in EU grant proposals.

Adalah's Office Manager, Fathiyya Hussein, completed a five-month course on salaries' management and received a certificate from the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Israel. The course provides information on labor laws, taxes and insurance related to personnel staff salaries. Ms. Hussein has responsibilities for preparing salaries and maintaining staff files together with our Finance Director and Accountant.

Adalah's Community Outreach, Media and Multi-Media Coordinator, Lana Khaskia, participated in a two-day media training course offered by [Agenda](#). Other Adalah staff members participated in half-day media training courses about using social media for social change. Adalah also supported staff members taking courses in legal Hebrew.

External evaluation – EU Torture

In 02/11, Adalah received the results of an EU monitoring evaluation conducted in 10/10 of its three-year joint project on torture with PHR-I and Al Mezan. In general, the partners welcomed the positive comments and conclusions reached by the external evaluator, including that the project has clear added value and relevance; is efficient by producing a high number of outputs for a relatively low budget; is being managed in an efficient and transparent way; and is being implemented according to the proposal. The evaluation process was a valuable one for the continued implementation of the project. The groups are implementing relevant conclusions from the EU Monitoring Report.

Fundraising and Finances

Donors and contributors

Adalah's activities in 2011 were generously supported by contributions from private local and international donors. Foundational donors were:

- The Ford-Israel Fund (USA)
- Open Society Development Foundation (Switzerland)
- OxfamNOVIB (The Netherlands)
- The European Union
- New Israel Fund (USA and Israel)
- Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Fund (USA)
- The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland)
- EED (Germany)
- Christian Aid (Great Britain)
- Broederlijk Delen (Belgium)
- Sigrid Rausing Trust (Great Britain)
- NGO Development Center (Ramallah). Consists of the pooled funds of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Royal Danish Representative Office to the PA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sida) and the Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority (PA) channeled through the NGO Development Center (NDC) – HR/GG secretariat.
- ACSUR – Las Segovias (Spain)

We sincerely appreciate and thank all of these foundations, as well as individual contributors, for their support to Adalah.

Reports and informational material

In 2011, Adalah produced and distributed its 2010 Annual Report of Activities, an Audited Financial Report, as well as a Report of Activities for the first half of 2011. It submitted these documents to all donors. Adalah also fulfilled all reporting requirements of the Registrar of Associations in Israel, and in 5/11, received a **“certificate of good governance” for 2011.**

Board and Staff



Board of Directors

- Chairman, Dr. Mahmoud Yazbak
- Dr. Khaled Abu Asbeh
- Prof. Muhammad Haj-Yahia
- Dr. Mas'ud Hamdan
- Dr. Hala Khoury-Bisharat, Advocate
- Mr. Fuad Sultani, Advocate
- Ms. Salma Wakim, Advocate

Audit Control Committee

- Jeries Rawashdeh, Advocate

Outgoing Board members and Audit Control Committee Members include: Suad Aga, Advocate; Wael Rabi, Advocate; and Muhammad Miari, Advocate. Adalah sincerely appreciates all of their time, attention and commitment to the organization over the years.

Staff

Founder and General/Legal Director

- Attorney Hassan Jabareen

Legal Department

- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Sawsan Zaher, Rami Jubran
- Land and Planning Rights: Suhad Bishara, Haneen Naamnih (until 08/11)
- Civil and Political Rights: Orna Kohn, Rima Ayoub-Assaf, Fatmeh El-Ajou, Abeer Baker (associated until 08/11)
- Legal apprentices & law students: Rawyah Handaklo and Rawan Eghbariya (through 02/11), and Fady Khoury

Media and Public Relations Department

- Coordinator: Salah Mohsen
- Community Outreach, Media & Multi-Media: Lana Khaskia
- Webmasters: Samy Matar, Mohannad Hussein
- Hebrew Editor: Ran Shapira

International Advocacy Department

- Director: Rina Jabareen, Esq.
- Coordinator: Katie Hesketh

Administration and Finance Department

- Finance Director: Ghassan Kharouba, CPA
- Accountant: Basheer El Saleh
- Office Manager: Fathiyya Hussein
- Administrative Assistant: Suhair Kayyal
- Housekeeper: Alia Saadi

Naqab Office/Project

- Director: Dr. Thabet Abu Ras
- Field Worker: Atef Abu Rabia (until 06/11)
- Law Fellow: Nadia Ben-Youssef
- Administrative Asst: Hoda El-Sane (until 08/11)
- Housekeeper: Tatyana Rosenberg

Appreciation for Overseas Interns



We are grateful to the legal and human rights advocacy interns who worked with Adalah in 2011. All of these students and lawyers provided valuable work and spirit to Adalah. They are: Sarah Adamczyk, Esq. (spring), Sarena Hayner (Barnard College, summer and fall), Jay Minga (Stanford Law School, summer), Maria Zahran (Haifa University, summer), Fadi Suidan (Carmel Academic Center, fall) and Aaron Kates Rose (University of Toronto, NIF fellow, fall).