

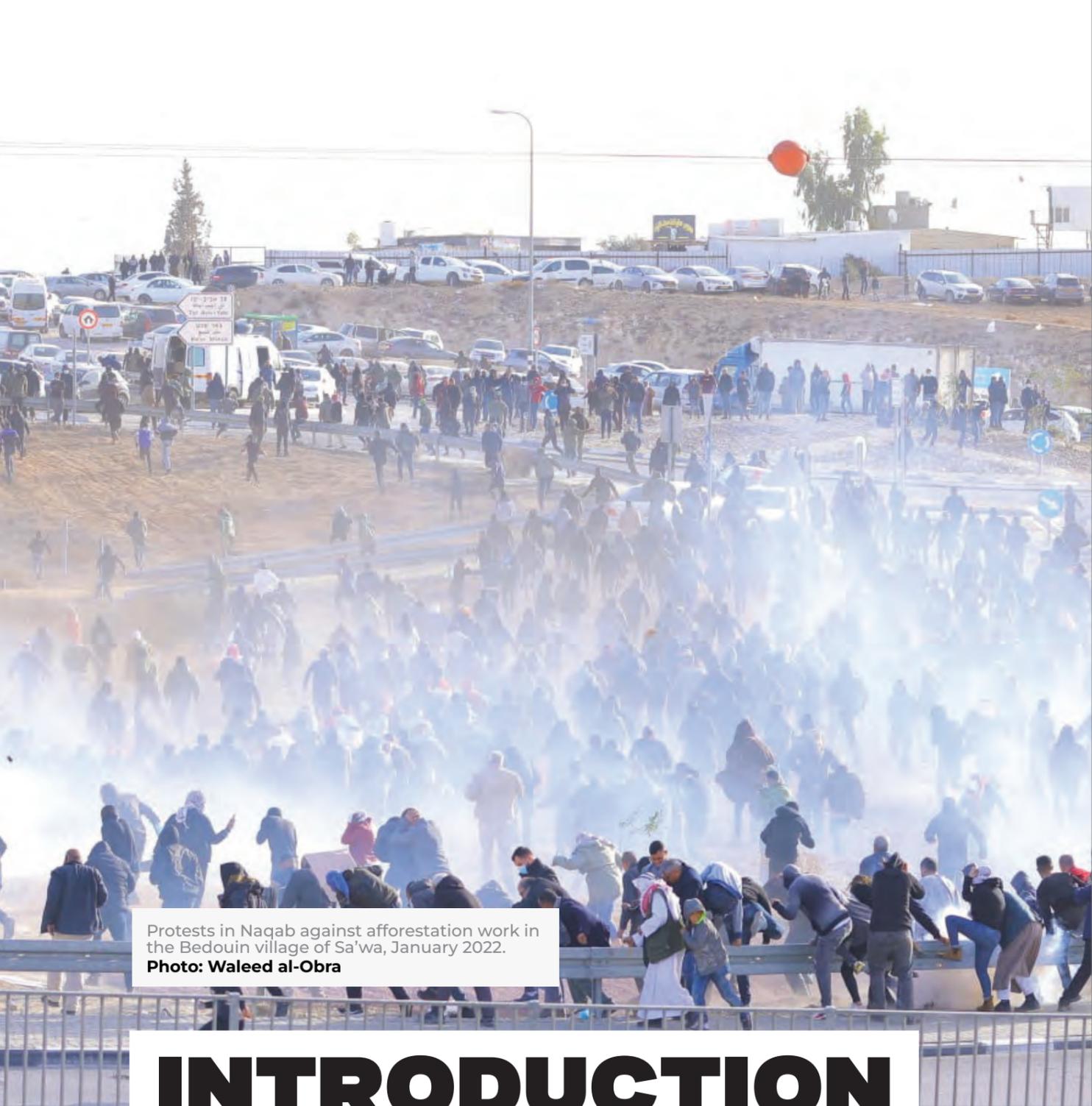
Adalah staff and residents of Ras Jrabah.

Photo: Mati Milstein



ADALAH

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Protests in Naqab against afforestation work in the Bedouin village of Sa'wa, January 2022.
Photo: Waleed al-Obra

INTRODUCTION

Throughout 2022, the former Israeli 'change' government engaged in serious human rights violations, including the bogus designation of six leading Palestinian human rights and civil organizations as 'terror organizations'; ongoing moves to forcibly displace Palestinian Bedouin from their land and homes in the Naqab (Negev); and nightly raids in the West Bank that resulted in the highest annual tally of Palestinians killed over the past seven years.

However, despite these formidable obstacles and the deteriorating political situation, Adalah was able to obtain significant achievements for Palestinians in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Positive outcomes that we achieved through our legal work, international advocacy initiatives and media outreach included re-activating the Food Security Council and ensuring Arab representation on this crucial body; defending the Bedouin residents of Ras Jrabah village in the Naqab in court against the state's attempts to evacuate and dispossess them; and enabling Palestinians in East Jerusalem and Syrian residents of the Golan Heights to apply for higher education scholarships from the Israeli lottery. We are extremely proud of these results, as well as others.

The year drew to a close with the election of a new Israeli government that is the most radical right-wing, extremist government in Israel's history. In the run-up to the elections, Adalah successfully challenged disqualification motions filed against Arab parties and candidates, representing them before the Central Elections Committee, as well as the Supreme Court, which we have done for over 20 years, as right-wing actors again sought to silence and delegitimize the Palestinian political leadership in Israel and disenfranchise Palestinian voters.

The governing coalition, led by returning Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, includes several hardline political parties that were once considered 'fringe', including the Jewish Power party and the Religious Zionism party. Netanyahu gave the leaders from these two parties major government cabinet posts, including the Minister of National Security; the Minister of the Negev, Galilee, and National Resilience; and a new cabinet-level post within the Ministry of Defense, which will control the settlement enterprise in the West Bank. The government's coalition agreements and foundational guiding principles promote the express goals of entrenching Israel's policy of segregation and racial domination in all territories under its control; expanding and further institutionalizing the two-tiered system of governance; undermining the powers of the judiciary; delegitimizing Palestinian identity and prohibiting legitimate political expression, including the act of raising the Palestinian flag; and advancing de facto annexation measures in the occupied West Bank. Since its term of administration began in late December 2022, the government immediately began to make good on its promises, posing a major challenge to our work, along with all other defenders of Palestinians' human rights.

RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND FOR ELECTION

Adalah successfully represented Palestinian Arab political parties Ra'am and the National Democratic Assembly (Balad) after disqualification motions made against them by right-wing political factions were overturned by the Elections Committee and the Supreme Court, respectively, allowing over 332,000 voters to vote for the two parties in the November 2022 Israeli Knesset elections.

FOOD SECURITY

Following Adalah's legal intervention, the government re-activated the Food Security Council and ensured Arab representation on this statutory body, crucial at a time when over 40% of Palestinian citizens of Israel are classified as 'food insecure'.

CHALLENGING RACIAL SEGREGATION

Around 90,000 residents of Bedouin towns and villages located near the Jewish Israeli town of Lehavim, including Rahat, Lagiyya, and Tarabin al-Sana, were again allowed access to the Lehavim public park after it reopened to the general public, having been closed to non-residents after racist complaints about Bedouin visitors.

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Adalah continued to defend hundreds of Palestinian Bedouin residents of the unrecognized villages of Ras Jrabah and Al-Bqea in the Naqab (Negev) against the imminent threat of forced displacement by the state, using the Israeli legal system and before the international community.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN EAST JERUSALEM

A day after Adalah's petition to the Israeli Supreme Court, the Israeli police dismantled all 10 checkpoints they had erected in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem (pop. approx. 15,000), in March 2022, during protests against the eviction of Palestinian residents.

RIGHT TO HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER OCCUPATION

In September 2022, the Israeli military issued revised regulations governing visas for foreign academics and students at Palestinian universities, following Adalah's legal letter on behalf of Birzeit

University. The revisions alleviate certain aspects of Israel's harsh 'visa policy'. In a separate case, following Adalah's legal action, the Israeli National Lottery amended the eligibility conditions for its scholarship program. In addition to citizens, the amendment will now also include Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem and Arab residents of the Golan Heights.

RIGHT TO A LIVELIHOOD, GAZA

In September 2022, Israel was forced to release a fishing boat back to Gaza, following legal intervention by Adalah and Gisha, to the Haifa District Court, sitting as the Maritime Court. A group of brothers own the boat, which is the extended family's sole means of making a living.

EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

Thousands of Arab school pupils who study at partially-private schools in Haifa will benefit from a commitment made by the Haifa Municipality that it will allocate any financial resources provided to private schools by the city between the Arab and Jewish education sectors according to fair criteria. The parents of around 70% of Arab school pupils in Haifa pay for their children to study in partially-private schools due to the poor state of Arab public schools in Israel.

MEDIA

In the international media, Adalah garnered widespread attention to the cases of the Palestinian 6, the new US embassy compound in Jerusalem, the Birzeit University case, the new ban on Palestinian family unification law, right-wing attempts to disqualify Arab political parties from the November 2022 Knesset elections, and our cases demanding criminal and civil accountability from Israel in the Gaza Strip.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Adalah additionally obtained positive outcomes from our international advocacy, before states, donor organizations and civil society groups. Major UN bodies including the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Commission of Inquiry on the OPT, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, and the UN Human Rights Committee (which monitors the ICCPR) all issued reports and statements containing supportive findings that reflected Adalah's submissions and advocacy undertaken before them.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

View of Umm al-Fahm
Photo: Moataz Agbaria

FOOD SECURITY

In January 2022, the Israeli Government announced the appointment of a chairperson to the National Food Security Council for the first time since 2019, and later two Arab council members, the first appointment of Arab experts since the enactment of the Food Security Law in 2011. With these developments, which followed Adalah's legal intervention, a vital committee for the well-being of all poor citizens of the state, and especially Palestinian citizens of Israel, over 40% of whom are classified as 'food insecure', will finally begin its work.

DISENFRANCHISING ARAB LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Adalah worked with Arab mayors and the Injaz Center to demand the cancellation of a governmental decision that specifically usurps the power of Arab local authorities (ALAs) to manage tenders for service provision in their towns. The decision followed Resolution 550, a five-year economic relief package for Arab towns, passed by the government in October 2021. The resolution stipulates that spending decisions will be undertaken by the government ministry or another body; it will not be implemented by the ALAs themselves. In a position paper issued in January 2022, Adalah and Injaz argued that the resolution violated the status, independence, and discretion of ALAs, as well as Arab voters' right to elect and be represented by the leaders of their choice. In addition, removing this power from ALAs threatens to create two segregated systems for local authorities – one for Israeli Jewish towns and another for Arab towns – with divergent spending powers. Adalah sent a legal letter on behalf of the National Committee for Arab Mayors challenging the provision in May 2022.

EMPLOYMENT CENTERS IN BEDOUIN TOWNS

Despite having the highest unemployment and poverty rates in the country and the lowest socio-economic ranking, due to years of state neglect and discrimination, six of seven government-planned Bedouin towns in the Naqab have no state-run employment centers; only Rahat has such a center. Adalah petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court in March 2022 on behalf of the local councils of four Bedouin towns, the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, and the Sidra Association, to demand the establishment of employment centers in the six towns. In November, Adalah and partners organized a conference on these issues in the Naqab to raise local awareness, which was well-attended by Bedouin mayors, women, activists and journalists.

PAVED ROADS IN TEL ARAD

In May 2022, the Transport Ministry promised funding for a paved entry road and access roads leading to schools in the unrecognized Bedouin village of Tel Arad in the Naqab. The village, home to 2,500 people, including 800 children, has, until now, had no paved roads. The lack of roads, including at the exit and entryway to the village and to and from the schools, created physical hazards to schoolchildren in particular, especially during treacherous winter conditions. The funding is a major development given that the village is officially 'unrecognized' and the state is reluctant to allow any construction in these areas, even for essential infrastructure. The development came in response to Adalah's legal intervention.

FAIR FUNDING FOR ARAB SCHOOLS IN HAIFA

In September 2022, the Haifa Municipality informed Adalah that any funds awarded from its municipal budget to private schools in the city would in the future be allocated according to fair criteria. The response came to a letter sent by Adalah in March 2022 demanding fair allotment of funds to private Arab schools in the city, given discrimination in funding: e.g., in 2021 private Arab schools did not receive any municipal support designated for equipment and renovation of private schools in the city, despite the fact that as many as 70% of Arab students in Haifa attend private schools. Adalah also demanded that the Municipality set forth clear, relevant and fair criteria for the allocation of these budgetary funds. Adalah will continue to follow up on implementation.

The road in Tel Arad.

Photo: Marwan Abu Frie

LAND AND

PLANNING RIGHTS

LAND AND PLANNING RIGHTS



PUBLIC HOUSING

The Ministry of Housing and Construction announced in March 2022 that it would purchase apartments in Arab towns and mixed cities in order to meet the need for public housing among Palestinian citizens of Israel (PCI). Adalah had previously requested that the Ministry expand the mandate of a public housing committee to specifically address the dire shortage of public housing in Arab towns. According to an official report, the state's policy had been specifically tailored to serve new immigrant populations, and therefore excluded PCI. As a result, in 2016 only 0.3% of all public housing apartments were located in Arab towns, and as of 2017, there was no public housing in 10 Arab localities classified in the lowest socio-economic ranking, with a combined total of 352,000 residents.



THE RIGHT TO BUY A HOUSE

In May 2022, a Palestinian family, citizens of Israel from Nazareth, were permitted to register an apartment that they purchased in Tiberias on state land controlled by the Jewish National Fund (JNF), after initially being told that the process could not go ahead because they were "minority members". Adalah represented the family in the case, which builds on years of litigation by Adalah before the Israeli Supreme Court concerning the state's duty of non-discrimination in land allocation. By registering the apartment in the family's name, the ILA accepted Adalah's argument that it was illegal to limit the rights of PCI who purchase property on JNF-controlled land.



LAND GRAB VIA NATURE RESERVE

Adalah continued its challenge against a planned new nature reserve in the north of Israel named 'Shomrat Alonim'. The nature reserve was positioned to encroach on the land of three Bedouin villages, changing its official designation from agricultural land to nature reserve, a move that would cause serious harm to the residents' livelihoods and curtail the future development of their villages. This tactic is used extensively by the Israeli planning authorities to appropriate land owned and used by PCI. At a hearing of the National Planning Council on objections against the plan submitted by Adalah and planning rights organization Bimkom, the parks nature reserve authority agreed to designate all the private land as agricultural land, and not as a nature reserve.



Adalah's staff, members of Amnesty International and people of Ras Jrahah.

Photo: Waleed al-Obra

LAND IN NAQAB



ATTEMPTED EVACUATION OF AL-BQEAA

Adalah continued its representation of Palestinian Bedouin residents of the unrecognized village of Al-Bqea in the Naqab against state-issued eviction orders and displacement lawsuits targeting 254 residents and their families. Adalah submitted defense arguments to the court in April and August 2022 to freeze the evictions and attempted displacement. No alleged public need to displace the villagers has been given by the state for its attempted evacuation of the village, alongside which a Jewish tourist village has grown up in recent decades. In addition to collecting affidavits from the residents, Adalah also gathered archival materials on the village, worked with Bimkom to analyze aerial photos, and solicited an expert opinion on the planning situation and alternative planning. Pre-hearings in the individual cases were held in November 2022 and in early 2023.



ATTEMPTED EVACUATION OF RAS JRABAH

Adalah continued its defense of the residents of Ras Jrabah, an unrecognized Palestinian Bedouin village of around 500 people in the Naqab, against the imminent threat of forced displacement by the state. The Israel Land Authority (ILA) filed 10 eviction lawsuits against 127 residents in May 2019. In the lawsuits, the ILA demanded that the court order the families' eviction for the purpose of expanding the adjacent Jewish city of Dimona and to "use the land for the public good". Ras Jrabah covers 84 acres of land belonging to the Al-Hawashleh tribe, and its residents have lived on the land for generations, prior to the establishment of Dimona. The state rejected the villagers' requests to include the village as a neighborhood of Dimona. In May 2022, villagers testified before the Beer Sheva Magistrates' Court during hearings held on the case, along with experts. The case is ongoing.



"Our village [Ras Jrabah] has been around for decades and my family and tribe have lived here for generations; they worked our lands and raised our sheep that graze on these lands. Our tribe has had a strong attachment to this area for generations, and the city of Dimona was built on the lands owned by Al-Hawashleh tribe. Therefore any attempt to present us as trespassers or invaders is inaccurate. The population of the village is one, cohesive social unit built on mutual cooperation among all the families. The evacuation of the village will sever these ties and harm the social structure of the families and all residents of the village."



FREIJ AL HAWASHLEH
AN ELDER OF THE BEDOUIN VILLAGE
OF RAS JRABAH



Photo: Marwan Abu Frieh

International support

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS VOICE SUPPORT FOR RAS JRABAH

In May 2022, Amnesty International (AI) issued a short report entitled Israel/OPT: Scrap plans for forced transfer of Palestinian Bedouin village Ras Jrabah in the Negev/Naqab, which directly referenced Adalah's work on the case and featured quotations from Adalah staff. It also noted field visits to the area with Adalah for AI's Secretary General and the Director of AI-USA in January 2022. In June 2022, the UN Special Rapporteurs on minority issues and the right to adequate housing issued a statement calling on Israel to cancel the plans to evacuate Ras Jrabah, following advocacy by Adalah. The Rapporteurs warned that, "Thousands of Bedouin citizens of Israel living in the Naqab are facing threats of eviction to make way for more Jewish-only towns, military bases, and other major infrastructure projects that exclude [them] and their development interests."

LAND-GRABS THROUGH AFFORESTATION

From January 2022, protests broke out throughout the Naqab in response to the planting of trees on land belonging to the Al-Atrash tribe in the Bedouin village of Sa'wa. The planting operation – by the Israel Land Authority (ILA) and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) – was carried out with a heavily militarized police presence for the purpose of "preserving" the land from Bedouin "trespassers". The Al-Atrash tribe registered ownership claims for its ancestral land and has used it for agriculture for decades. Protestors were violently dispersed by the police and placed under arrest and detention. In response, Adalah demanded that all afforestation work in the northern Naqab be halted immediately, and that Israeli police stop using violent, life-threatening means, including live ammunition and tear gas dropped from drones, to disperse the demonstrations and allow the protests to continue.



CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Adalah Attorney Nareman Shehadeh-Zoabi (second from left) with family of Mousa Hassouna, who was shot dead during the May 2021 events by an Israeli Jewish settler, Lod, 30 April 2022.

Photo: Adi Mansour

ELECTIONS DISQUALIFICATIONS

Adalah represented Arab political parties Ra'am and the National Democratic Assembly (Balad/Tajammu') before the Central Elections Committee, and later, Tajammu', which was disqualified, before the Supreme Court. The Court unanimously ruled (9-0) in October 2022 to overturn the ban placed on the party from running in the Israeli parliamentary elections held on 1 November 2022. These cases mark the latest attempt to ban Arab parties and candidates by the Israeli right-wing that have marred every election cycle for the last 20 years. While Balad ran in the elections, it did not pass the minimum threshold required to secure seats, a threshold that was introduced by law in 2014 to reduce the likelihood of Arab political parties entering the Knesset.

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The sole purpose of these moves is to incite against Arab political representatives and expel them beyond the boundaries of legitimate political discourse. Israel's Central Elections Committee is a purely political body, not a legal committee, and it should be abolished. Its decisions are driven primarily by racism and populism, in an attempt to win votes by inciting against Palestinian citizens of Israel and their elected representatives.”

ADALAH'S GENERAL DIRECTOR, ATTORNEY **DR. HASSAN JABAREEN**, ABOUT THE ELECTIONS DISQUALIFICATIONS.

REPRESENTING POLITICAL LEADERS

Adalah continued, in 2022, to represent three political leaders from extra-parliamentary movements in politically-motivated criminal indictments aimed at silencing their sharp dissent against Israeli government policies targeting Palestinians. The three are Sheikh Kamal al-Khatib, a leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, and Mohammad Kana'neh and Raja Eghbaria, both leaders in the Abnaa al-Balad extra-parliamentary movement. Each of them was detained for speech offenses, and held without bond for a period of one month, before being released to house arrest under harsh conditions. Adalah's main arguments are that the leaders' speech does not call for violence and that the state is selectively prosecuting them, while not pursuing similar charges against Jewish Israeli citizens. All three cases are ongoing.

CHALLENGING SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC SPACES

Following a legal letter sent by Adalah to the Lehavim local council in September 2022, a local public park was reopened to the general public. The local council had closed the park to non-residents of the affluent Jewish town of Lehavim following complaints by its residents about Arab-Bedouin non-residents visiting the park. Adalah argued that the policy amounted to illegal discrimination based on nationality, and that non-residents and the general public must be permitted to enter the park. The case built on an earlier petition challenging segregation in public spaces that Adalah brought in 2019, which led to the re-opening of a public park in the majority-Jewish town of Afula, in similar circumstances. The case primarily affects the approximately 90,000 residents of Bedouin towns and villages located near to Lehavim, including Rahat, Lagiyya, and Tarabin al-Sana, who can now use the public park once again.



The Hmeid family, petitioners in the family unification case
Photo: Sama Haddad

ONE YEAR ON FROM THE MAY 2021 EVENTS

The May 2021 events were a seminal moment in which we witnessed a deadly escalation in violence in Israel and throughout the OPT. In the aftermath, Adalah has continued to work on legal and international advocacy initiatives that include filing complaints to the Police Investigation Department (PID) or 'Mahash' on behalf of Palestinian victims of police brutality, among them minors, and representing the family of Mussa Hassouna, who was murdered by an Israeli civilian and whose family is being denied justice after the police decided to close the cases against all five Jewish Israeli suspects. Adalah has also challenged sections of the Government's 'Plan to Combat Crime in Arab Society' (approved in the aftermath of the May 2021 events) relating to draconian, militarized policing of PCI communities, and has provided legal support to protest leaders and groups in the face of preventative arrests and freedom of movement restrictions.

STRIPPING CITIZENSHIP

In July 2022, the Supreme Court decided not to revoke the Israeli citizenship of Alaa Zayoud, a PCI from Umm el-Fahem, on the ground of "breach of loyalty", following an appeal by Adalah and ACRI. However, the court upheld a new provision of law, which authorizes the Interior Minister, with district court approval, to revoke the citizenship of persons convicted of offenses involving "breach of loyalty" to the state, even if they become stateless as a result. The term "breach of loyalty" is defined in a sweeping manner, pursuant to the 2016 Counter Terrorism Law. Adalah and ACRI argued that the Interior Minister was selectively applying the law to target PCI: in 31 cases considered for citizenship revocation, no request was made to strip citizenship from a Jewish-Israeli, despite a number of murder cases in which Jewish citizens killed Palestinians or other Jewish citizens. The Court's decision sets a dangerous precedent and may affect the citizenship or residency status of a large number of Palestinians.

BAN ON PALESTINIAN FAMILY UNIFICATION

In March 2022, Adalah petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court against new amendments to the Citizenship Law banning Palestinian family unification in Israel, on behalf of three affected families. The 'ban on Palestinian family unification law', first enacted in 2003, bars citizens and residents of Israel from marrying Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, as well as citizens of legally-designated 'enemy states' Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq, and living together with them in Israel. It overwhelmingly affects the citizenship status and family life of PCI and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem. Unlike previous versions of the law, the latest legislation explicitly states that the ban is intended to ensure a Jewish demographic majority in the state. Adalah argued that the state can no longer defend the law solely relying on security pretexts, and that the law is racist and discriminatory, violates the right to establish a family, and operates through two separate citizenship tracks based on national and ethnic affiliation. The Supreme Court held a hearing on the case in December 2022, and it remains pending.

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My husband and I have been seeking family unification for 10 years. I'm almost completely dependent on him for access to services, and even in proving my biological relationship to my own children. Once I had to wait for him at the entrance to a hospital in Jerusalem because he needed to show them his identity card to prove that it was our son who was being treated, and to allow me to visit him. We've suffered greatly from the ban on family unification law, which is denying us the ability to enjoy a stable family life.”

JIHAD HMEID, A PETITIONER IN ADALAH'S PETITION



THE WEST BANK & EAST JERUSALEM

Birzeit University, 18 April 2011.
Photo: PalFest

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

In March 2022, Israel's national lottery, 'Mifal HaPais', changed its policy in order to permit permanent residents of Israel, mainly Palestinians living in occupied East Jerusalem and Syrians residing in the Occupied Golan Heights (and not only citizens), to apply for higher education scholarships. The change followed Adalah's legal intervention against the exclusionary rules. In 2021, Mifal HaPais awarded 38,000 scholarships of NIS 10,000 (~US \$3,100) each. This case may also be used to challenge other educational scholarships programs awarded in a similarly exclusionary manner.

HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER OCCUPATION

In 2022, Adalah continued to work on behalf of Birzeit University to challenge Israel's discriminatory policies aimed at preventing foreign academics and students at Palestinian universities from staying in the West Bank. Under these policies, Israel denies them entry and longer-term and work visas, forcing many to abandon their work and studies, and in some cases their families. In September 2022, the Israeli Military's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) issued revised regulations that eased certain conditions imposed on international academics and students, following Adalah's legal letter on behalf of Birzeit. The revised regulations went into effect on 20 October 2022. On paper, the revisions alleviate certain aspects of Israel's harsh and illegal 'visa policy', including the removal of quotas on the number of foreign students and teachers; however, they continue to discriminate against applicants in comparison to international academics and students at Israeli universities.

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The new Israeli military procedures undermine the institutional autonomy of Palestinian universities, and isolate us from the international academic community. For years, researchers, lecturers and students have been left in a state of constant uncertainty because of Israel's arbitrary policies, which ultimately affect their scholarly work, their ability to travel and interact with colleagues abroad, and to engage in joint, international research and other academic activities.”



PROF. BESHARA DOUMANI, PRESIDENT
OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

CHECKPOINTS IN SHEIKH JARRAH

A day after Adalah's petition to the Israeli Supreme Court, the Israeli police dismantled all ten checkpoints that they had erected in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem in March 2022, during protests against the eviction of Palestinian residents. Adalah, on behalf of residents and in cooperation with the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, argued that the police lacked the authority to erect the checkpoints, and that the checkpoints greatly restricted the daily lives of Palestinian residents and constituted collective punishment. It further contended that the underlying policy was based on illegal racial profiling, since Jewish Israeli settlers and their supporters remained free to enter and pass through the neighborhood. Adalah responded that, "The sudden removal of the checkpoints indicates that the police are well aware that their actions are illegal and will not stand up to legal scrutiny by the Court."

EAST JERUSALEM CITY CENTER MASTER PLAN

Adalah challenged the first Israeli master plan for central East Jerusalem, one that threatens to have a devastating impact on the quality of life and land rights of Palestinian Jerusalemites. The plan imposes long term restrictions on the development of Palestinians' housing, economy and employment, trade, education, culture and transportation, and disregards their current and future needs. Adalah objected to the plan with the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem and on behalf of 322 residents. The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee heard the objection in May 2022; a further hearing was held in February 2023 and a decision by the Committee is now pending. In a position paper issued by Adalah in March 2022 detailing the arguments as to the illegality of the plan, Adalah argued that "the plan must be understood within Israel's broader political project: to seize Jerusalem as the 'complete and united' capital of the State of Israel and to ensure Jewish demographic and territorial control."

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT OF MENTALLY-ILL YOUTH

In October 2022, Adalah and a private attorney appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn a lower court decision to deny the early release of Ahmad Manasra, who was convicted of attempted murder in 2015 at the age of 13, and has been held in protracted solitary confinement. At a hearing in November, the District Court extended his solitary confinement by an additional four months, based on secret evidence, despite his deteriorating mental health. In March 2023, the court granted the state's request of a six-month extension of his solitary confinement. The draconian 2016 Counter-Terrorism Law allowed the parole committee to retroactively determine that Ahmad's actions, even as a minor, constituted an 'act of terror', making him ineligible for early release. This case clearly illustrates why sweeping, blanket sentencing that ignores an individual's circumstances contradicts the basic principles of justice.



Police set up concrete road blocks at the entrance to the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah.

Photo: Oren Ziv / Activestills

In remembrance of the four boys killed on a Gaza beach by Israeli missiles.
Photo: Amir Schiby

THE GAZA STRIP

THE BAKR BOYS: MILITARY IMPUNITY

In April 2022, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the Bakr family, parents of four boys who were killed in an Israeli air force missile attack while they were playing on the fishing beach in Gaza in July 2014 during an Israeli military offensive codenamed 'Operation Protective Edge'. Filed in 2020 by Adalah, the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, the groups demanded that the Court overturn the Attorney General's decision to reject an appeal against the closure of the investigation and to order a criminal investigation that would lead to the prosecution of those responsible for the killing. The refusal at all levels of the Israeli legal system to hold the military accountable reflects a policy of total impunity amounting to shielding that continues today.

An intensive Israeli air offensive launched on Gaza in August 2022 – eight years later – resulted in the killing of 47 Palestinians, including 16 children, and the injury of 360 more, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, through actions that were in flagrant violation of international law and may amount to war crimes.

EXEMPTION FROM COMPENSATION

In July 2022, the Israeli Supreme Court, in a 2-1 decision, rejected an appeal filed by Adalah and Al-Mezan demanding civil tort compensation for a Palestinian family following the severe injury of their son, Attiya Nabaheen. Attiya was left in a wheel chair for life at the age of 15 after he was shot by the Israeli military in 2014, outside the arena of any 'act of war'. In this case, Adalah and Al Mezan challenged the 2012 amendment to Israel's Civil Wrongs Law (State Responsibility) – 1952, which stipulates that residents of an 'enemy territory' are not eligible for compensation from Israel; Israel declared Gaza to be an 'enemy territory' in 2007, following the takeover by Hamas. The law grants sweeping immunity to Israel from all liability for damages, in blatant violation of Israeli and international law. While the Court acknowledged in its decision that the law infringed on fundamental rights of Gaza residents, it maintained that immunity was appropriate in order "to prevent economic and moral assistance to the enemy". Following the decision, Adalah filed a further case for reconsideration and a second hearing; in February 2023, the Court rejected this request.

Boat returned to Gaza fishermen in February 2022.
Photo courtesy of Gisha.



RELEASE OF GAZA FISHING BOAT

Israel was forced to release a privately-owned fishing boat back to its owner in Gaza in September 2022, following the legal intervention of Gisha and Adalah to the Haifa District Court, sitting as the Maritime Court. Israel had been holding the boat at Ashdod Port since seizing it off Gaza's coast in February due to alleged violations by the fisherman of Gaza's "fishing zone". In doing so, it compromised the livelihoods and food security of seven Palestinian families in Gaza. The Maritime Court continues to consider Israel's request to impose permanent ownership of the vessel, although the boat remains in the custody of its Gazan owners for the duration of legal proceedings. The parties are awaiting the court's decision on their request to dismiss the state's petition, as well as a decision regarding the state's request to reconfiscate the boat back for alleged violations of terms of the interim decision.

While Israel consistently enforces a very restrictive "fishing zone" in Gaza's territorial waters, its legal effort to impound the boat in this case is unprecedented, as it seeks to use very old provisions of the laws of war in its courts to legalize the permanent seizure of boats. Fishing is a major sector of Gaza's economy and an important food source for the population. Fishing unions in Gaza report Israel's use of live fire, confiscation of fishing boats and equipment, and arrests of fishermen even within the permitted fishing zone.

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"I own the boat along with my three brothers. The boat is our family's sole means of making a living. It provides for the entire extended family of around 200 people. We have had the boat for many years and we've invested a lot of money in it on repairs and reconstruction, around US \$170,000. The boat was confiscated twice in 2022, once for over a month, the second time for over seven months. When it was confiscated the second time, it put us in a very difficult financial situation. We were humiliated. All of a sudden we had no way to repay the loans we'd taken out for the repairs and we lost our only source of income.

There were six family members on board the boat when it was confiscated, including two children. Israel has limited fishing on the Gaza city shore to six nautical miles, but an Israeli naval ship allowed us to go further out into deeper waters where fish are more abundant. Soon after, however, we were brutally attacked by the same Israeli ship, which was joined by another. They used commando soldiers to raid our boat and arrested two of our family members, who were released later the same day. The children were so scared that they tried to jump off the boat into the sea.

The return of the boat has changed our lives for the better. Although it is more difficult to repay our debts after being out of work for a considerable period of time, the entire family is now able to buy food and make a living from fishing. We hope that we will be able to go on like this in the future, to earn a living, and have enough food and drink, as other people do."



JIHAD AL-HESSI, A RESIDENT OF GAZA AND ONE OF THE BOAT'S OWNERS



The 50th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.
Photo: UN Photo/Violaine Martin

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY & MEDIA

UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

The UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the OPT, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, set up in the aftermath of the violent events of May 2021, issued two reports in 2022, to which Adalah contributed. Its first report, to the UN Human Rights Council, identified the continued Israeli Occupation, impunity for the Israeli military, and discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel (PCI) as root causes of the conflict. The inclusion of PCI is significant because it is the first time that this group has been made part of a mandate of a UN commission of inquiry. The more expansive mandate represents a wider view of the situation and reflects the emerging discourse of Apartheid.

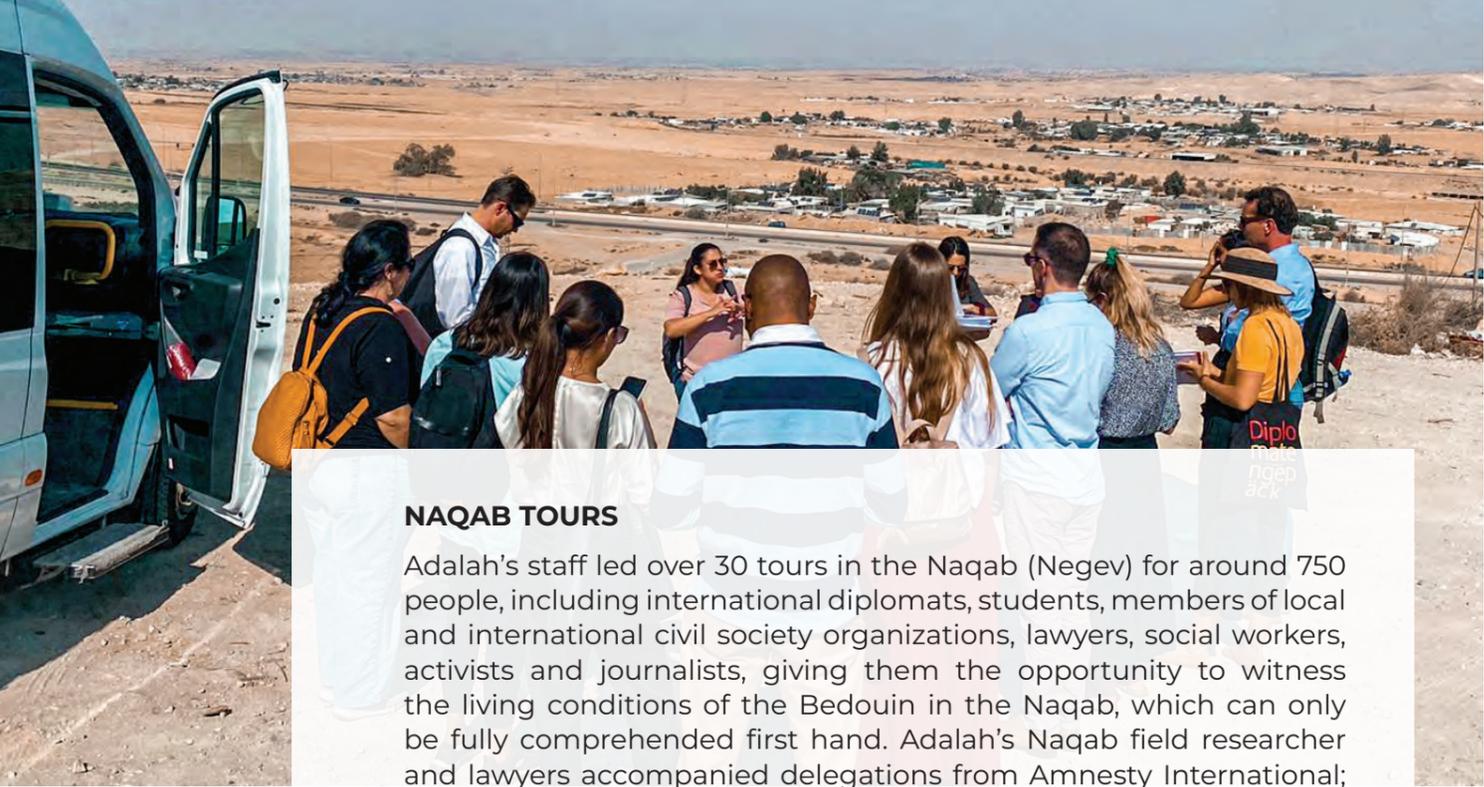
The COI issued a second report in October 2022. Here, the COI acknowledged that Israel has been enforcing military rule on Palestinians since its establishment in 1948 and noted that similar practices of domination and oppression operate against Palestinians in all areas under Israeli control, as well as discriminatory policies in the confiscation of land, demolitions and evictions.

The COI called upon the General Assembly to request an urgent advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of Israel's continued refusal to end its occupation of the OPT. The General Assembly voted to request the ICJ opinion at the end of December 2022. The COI also recommended that the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court prioritize the investigation into the situation in the OPT.

Adalah worked extensively before the COI in 2022, providing it with materials on human rights abuses against both PCI and Palestinians living under Occupation, and meeting with the commissioners and investigatory team.

THE 'PALESTINIAN 6'

In July 2022, 10 European governments, including those of Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain, issued a joint public statement in which they rejected the designations by Israel of the 'Palestinian 6' civil society groups as 'terror organizations' and 'unlawful associations', made in October and November 2021, and pledged their continued support and funding to them. The statement marks a very positive shift in approach by these governments, and came after Israel failed to furnish any evidence for the designations. Adalah provided legal analysis to foreign diplomats and other groups throughout the year, stressing the lack of due of process available to the groups due to the alleged 'secret evidence' on which the government relied. Israel continues to persecute the 'Palestinian 6' and other Palestinian CSOs with the clear aim of silencing them, and the Israeli army raided, vandalized and sealed their offices one month after the European governments' pledge of support, in August 2022.



NAQAB TOURS

Adalah's staff led over 30 tours in the Naqab (Negev) for around 750 people, including international diplomats, students, members of local and international civil society organizations, lawyers, social workers, activists and journalists, giving them the opportunity to witness the living conditions of the Bedouin in the Naqab, which can only be fully comprehended first hand. Adalah's Naqab field researcher and lawyers accompanied delegations from Amnesty International; Christian Aid; the US universities of Harvard, Yale, Virginia, Columbia, Chicago, Berkeley and James Madison; University College London; a group of Latin American and African diplomats; Eyewitness Palestine; the Qattan Foundation; the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute; and the Shalom Hartman Institute Group, among others, to the locations of our cases throughout the Naqab, often in partnership with the Negev Coexistence Forum and the Regional Council for the Unrecognized Villages.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The UN Human Rights Committee (a treaty body that monitors the ICCPR) issued its Concluding Observations (COs) on Israel in June 2022, raising many concerns and recommendations about issues highlighted by Adalah in its reports and advocacy, including the Jewish Nation-State Law; the ban on Palestinian family unification law; the Settlements Regularization Law; the ongoing state of emergency and emergency regulations used during the COVID period; the Palestinian 6 NGOs outlawed as "terror organisations"; the lack of accountability for Israeli military actions in Gaza; the excessive use of force by the Israeli military in the OPT, including during the Great March of Return, and the need for adequate investigations; Israel's policy of holding of bodies of deceased Palestinians; and discriminatory restrictions on participation in public affairs, including in elections.

This set of COs for Israel is the first by the HRC – considered the most important UN human rights treaty body – since 2014, and addresses many issues about which there are no previous COs from the committee. Adalah uses these COs as persuasive authority before the Israeli courts, and in its international advocacy and media outreach. Adalah contributed to the process by submitting three written NGO reports, providing an oral intervention before the Committee, and participating in an NGO meeting and additional session fielding questions of Committee members.

NEW US EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM

In July 2022, during the visit of US President Biden to Israel, Adalah revealed archival documents indicating that a renewed plan for a US diplomatic compound in Jerusalem was to be located on land confiscated illegally from Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons using the 1950 Israeli Absentees' Property Law. The records released by Adalah, which were discovered in the Israeli State Archives, offer proof of Palestinian ownership of the land. International media outlets, including NBC News, The New York Times, Mondoweiss, i24 News and MSNBC, gave extensive coverage to the issue.

In November 2022, Adalah and the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York sent an urgent letter to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the US Ambassador to Israel, Thomas R. Nides, calling on the Biden Administration to immediately cancel the plan for the new US Embassy Compound in Jerusalem and to demand its withdrawal by the Israeli authorities. The letter was sent on behalf of several Palestinian heirs to the land. Shortly before the letter was sent, the plan was deposited, with objections open to the public for 60 days. In January 2023, Adalah filed an objection against the plan on behalf of 12 descendants of the original owners of the land, including US and Jordanian citizens and Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem; the case remains pending.



"The fact that the US government is now participating actively with the Israeli government in this project means that it is actively infringing on the property rights of the legitimate owners of these properties, including many US citizens... By putting the US Embassy in Jerusalem, the US is violating resolutions of the UN that it voted for: for Jerusalem to be an international city and for nothing to be done in Jerusalem that would jeopardize the final status of that city... We are demanding that the US not build an embassy on our land. This is our property. It's not the property of the state of Israel to give or rent or lease to the US."



PROFESSOR RASHID KHALIDI, A US CITIZEN AND A DESCENDANT OF PALESTINIAN LANDOWNERS OF THIS PROPERTY, TOLD *DEMOCRACY NOW*.

LEGAL EDUCATION

Law students and Adalah staff at Adalah's 15th Palestinian law students' camp.



It was a wonderful experience. It was very moving to hear legal terms in Arabic for the first time, as something we miss out on as Palestinian students studying in Israeli universities and colleges. I had the chance to get to know a lot of students, and I learned many important things that universities [here] do not teach, but that are essential for every law student to know."



SAHAR TOUMA, 4th year student at the Ramat Gan Academi College.





ADALAH'S 15TH LAW STUDENTS' CAMP

Adalah held its 15th Palestinian law students' camp from 6-8 October 2022 in Beit Jala in the West Bank, after a two-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. 45 law students attended the camp, which was held as part of Adalah's commemoration of its 25th anniversary. The camp's theme was 'Racial Discrimination and Cause Lawyering'.



The camp brought together Palestinian law students studying in Israeli and Palestinian universities and colleges to hold critical discussions in Arabic on legal and human rights topics and practices that the students rarely have the chance to engage in, particularly those studying in Israeli law schools. Law professors, lawyers, journalists, human rights defenders and activists discussed cases with the students, as well as the crime of apartheid in international law, land and planning policies in the Naqab and East Jerusalem, and the denial of economic and social rights of Palestinians as a deliberate policy of collective punishment.



The camp opened with a tour of three villages near Beit Jala, the residents of which face enormous hardships caused by the expansion of surrounding settlements into their villages, frequent attacks by Jewish Israeli settlers, and the Separation Wall, which confiscated their land and restricts their movement.



I very much enjoyed the different activities in the camp, which gave me the chance to get to know people from all over Palestine and to hear diverse opinions and points of view. I learned about law and legal terms in Arabic for pretty much the first time, which was a very special experience. The lectures were very interesting and they dealt with important issues that we face in our lives."



SHADI DEEB, 4th year student at the Hebrew University.

LEGAL APPRENTICES

As part of its core goals, Adalah provided professional training to three legal apprentices (stagiaires) and law students in 2022.



Ms. Ola Taha from the Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University and the departments of Sociology and Anthropology, joined Adalah in the fall of 2021 as a law student researcher, and began her legal apprenticeship in March 2022.

"The experience of working in Adalah has enriched me both professionally and personally, and given me the opportunity to actively work on interesting, principle cases that I would not have been able to work on anywhere else. Here, I had the privilege of working with a supportive, professional and encouraging team. I saw what it means to be a leading lawyer on a case and understood how I can translate the commitment to defending human rights and the desire for change into legal action."



Mr. Mohammad Awad from the Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University and the department of political science, joined Adalah in March 2022 as a legal apprentice.

"Adalah gave me the opportunity to understand the nature of the Israeli legal regime, based on Jewish supremacy. Through my training in Adalah, I acquired critical tools to dismantle Israeli law, which is used to give a rational dimension to oppression. Adalah gave me the space to ask political questions and to explore where the political clashes with the legal."



Mr. Majd Haddad from the Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University joined Adalah as a law student researcher in September 2021.

"I feel that Adalah views us as the human rights lawyers of the future. In light of this mission, the lawyers who supervised me made sure that I looked at the law critically, and taught me how to turn it into a tool for achieving justice."



ADALAH IN THE MEDIA

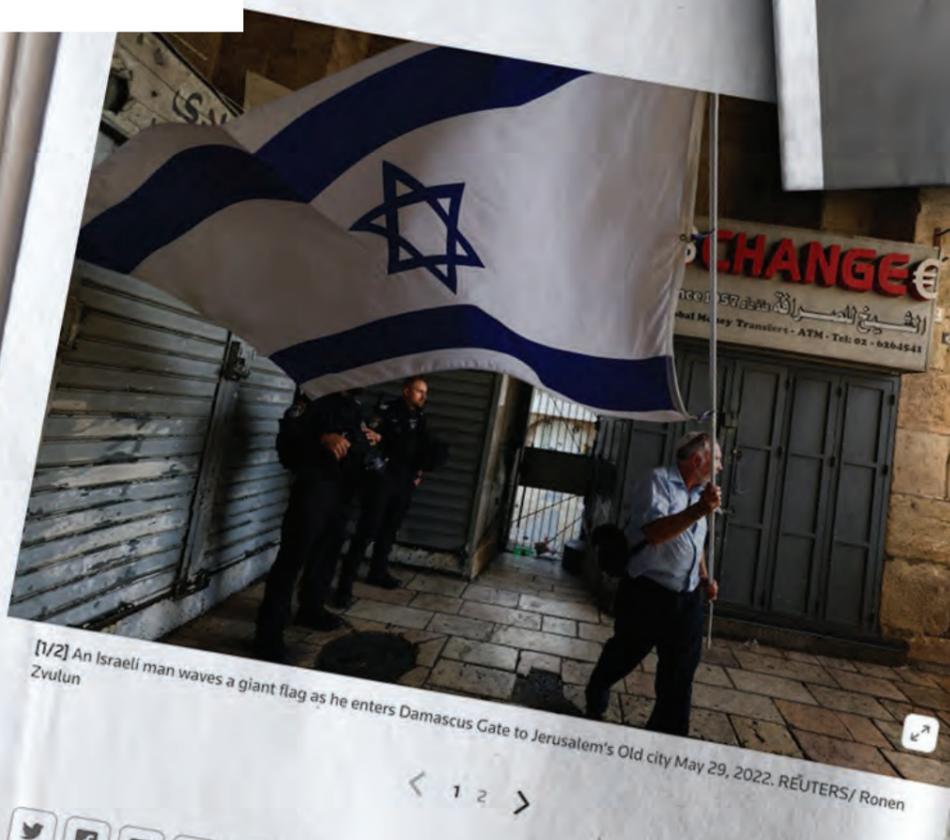
Palestinians use social media to out the Israeli undercover agents haunting their protests
Mista'arvim carry out sometimes violent arrests but demonstrators are increasingly effective at countering them

Israeli court rejects appeal in deadly Gaza beach airstrike
April 24, 2022

Five Palestinian NGOs Outlawed as Terrorist Groups File Objections, Claim Failure of 'Due Process'
Palestinian groups claim Israeli army's decision to outlaw them was made based on classified intelligence information they were not provided with – and are unable to defend themselves against

Israel's Supreme Court rules 'disputed land' can be stripped of status
July 21, 2022 7:37 PM GMT+3 · Last Updated 4 months ago

Israeli forces violently suppress Palestinian protesters in Naqab
Dozens of Bedouin Palestinian protesters were arrested by Israeli forces who fired rubber-coated bullets and tear gas and stun grenades.



AGREEMENT No. 2372
May 1947
The undersigned, on behalf of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and the undersigned, on behalf of the Arab Higher Committee, have agreed to let the Jewish Agency for Palestine purchase the land described in the attached schedule for the sum of £1,135,000.

עקב הפריצה: סגוריה בתניה צפויים לבקש רחיה בעדות פילבר
TheMarker
זכר הקדונה לא מתחמים לעצמם ברצינות, גם הציבור יתקשה בכך

ADALAH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

(ماحاش) , موشيه سعدة, التي كشفت عن تورط مسؤولين إسرائيليين سابقين في الضغط على ماحاش لإغلاق ملف الشهيد يعقوب أبو القيعان, الذي قتل برصاص الشرطة في كانون الثاني 2017, يتقدم مركز عدالة بطلب فوري لفتح تحقيق جنائي في القضية.

يضيف مركز عدالة: "لا توجد قضية أوضح من قضية الشهيد أبو القيعان لتظهر التستر المنهجي والإعفاء الشامل من العقاب على قتل الفلسطينيين على أيدي عناصر الشرطة والجنود. تم إطلاق النار على مواطن بريء من قبل الشرطة, وتركوه ينزف حتى الموت دون محاسبة أحد. الآن, تعزز كلمات النائب السابق لرئيس قسم التحقيق مع عناصر الشرطة "ماحاش" ما كنا نقوله منذ سنوات, وهو أن هنالك تضارب للمصالح في جهاز "ماحاش" ومكتب النائب العام, وأن الاتنين غير مهتمين في التحقيق والملاحقة القضائية عندما يكون الضحية فلسطيني".

لقراءة البيان كامل انظر التعقيب الأول



22:13

Thread

Adalah @AdalahEnglish

BREAKING: Adalah obtained video footage of police investigating the murder of Palestinian citizen, Mussa Hassouna, in Lod during the violent May 2021 events. The footage indicates that Israeli politicians pressured police to close the files against 5 Jewish-Israeli suspects.

0:44 Investigator 1: The head of the weapons' lab told me he won't check the weapons unless charges are filed.

97.3K views

21:39 · 30/04/2022 · Twitter Web App

1,415 Retweets 119 Quote Tweets 2,405 Likes

Tweet your reply

سمعت ال ... لن افحص حتى ... لكن هل تفهم أنه بالنسبة لي.... إذا كان فحص أو لم يكون فحص

219

adalah.legal.center

فيديو يظهر حوار بين محققين في ملف مقتل الشهيد موسى ...

Liked by rabea.eid and 218 others

Adalah

Posts About Videos Photos Mentions

Adalah - The Legal Center For Arab Minority Rights In Israel

13 Sep ·

انعدام الأمن الغذائي, والتهمير القسري, ونقص في وسائل النقل العام والدعم المالي للتعليم العالي, والاعتقال الإداري- هذه ليست سوى بعض التحديات التي واجهها عدالة بنجاح محققا نتائج إيجابية لصالح المواطنين الفلسطينيين وسكان القدس المحتلة.

المزيد في الرابط... <https://mailchi.mp/adalah/adalah-arabic-impact-report-2022>

Adalah - The Legal Center For Arab Minority Rights In Israel

16 Nov ·

الطاقم القانوني قبيل جلسة المحكمة العليا في القدس للبت في الالتماس بشأن انشاء مكاتب تشغيل في البلدات في النقب.

Fathiyya Hussein and 54 others

Like Comment Share

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22 Years since October 2000 Total impunity!

Liked by rina.rosenberg and 31 others

adalah.legal.center 22 years since October 2000 Killings: read Adalah's full statement in bio.

October 1

adalah.legal.center

Adalah - The Legal Center For Arab Minority Rights In Israel

21 Jul ·

ة وجمعية حقوق المواطن : العليا تبطل سحب الفحم ولكن هناك مؤشر لتصعيد خطير ضد

20 1 comment

Like Comment

Adalah - The Legal Center For Arab Minority Rights In Israel

26 Jun ·

ان, اليوم العالمي لمساندة ضحايا التعذيب. تقوم 105 شهداء فلسطينيين, الذين ارتقوا برصاص

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The fight for the rights of Ahmad... conti

39

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ugh for Israeli police to k the Bedouins of the protested against the place them with JNF trees. on site.

Twitter Web App

Quote Tweets 462 Likes

ADALAH.LEGAL.CENTER Posts

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Mazon – A Jewish Response to Hunger
World Peace Service (WFD)
The Galilee Foundation

For more information about Adalah, visit:
www.adalah.org

Demonstrators take part in a Land Day rally in the Bedouin village of Sa'wa in the Naqab, 26 March 2022.
Photo: Oren Ziv /Activestills



Adalah

For over 25 years, Adalah has been a leading actor in the most critical legal battles to defend the human rights of Palestinians in Israeli courts. This vital work depends on you fighting with us.

To follow our work, and for information about how to donate to Adalah, find us at:



www.adalah.org