

ADALAH'S ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Palestinians protest in front of an UNRWA headquarters to demand the provision of flour and hunger relief in Khan Yunis, Gaza, 17 Nov 2024. Photo by Abed Rahim Khatib/ Flash90

DECEMBER 2024

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INTRODUCTION

2024 was another devastating year, as the war raged on and Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank faced even greater destruction, overwhelming humanitarian crises and human rights violations by Israel. After Hamas's brutal attack on 7 October 2023, which resulted in the killing of over 1,200 people and the taking of over 250 hostages, Israel's ongoing genocidal assault on Gaza has to date claimed the lives of at least 45,000 people and over 100,000 wounded, and displaced nearly 2 million others. Gaza lies in ruins, with entire families and communities wiped out, along with health, education and welfare systems. In the West Bank, settlers, backed by the Israeli military, ran rampant and attacked Palestinians, and together with victims of military raids, over 700 Palestinians have been killed there.



Palestinian child near rubble caused by an Israeli military operation in Khan Yunis, Gaza, 10 Dec 2024. Photo by Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90

There were major, historic developments in international law addressing these atrocities, with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) finding in 2024 that South Africa's contention that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza to be plausible. The ICJ ordered Israel to halt the killing of civilians, allow access to humanitarian aid, and investigate and prosecute those responsible for making genocidal statements, among other provisional measures, which, to date, Israel has ignored. Further, the ICJ released its Advisory Opinion in July finding Israel's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to be unlawful. In addition, the International Criminal Court, after much delay, issued arrest warrants for Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.



Delegates of South Africa at the ICJ in the Gaza Genocide case (*South Africa v. Israel*), 26 Jan 2024. Photo: ICJ website

In Israel, the war has starkly exposed the fragility of the citizenship rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel (PCI), amid extraordinary attacks on legitimate free speech critical of the war or sympathetic to Palestinians in Gaza. Hundreds of PCI have been arrested and criminally charged for alleged speech offenses, with many indicted under the Counter-Terrorism Law. Colleges and universities targeted PCI students with trumped-up disciplinary charges, resulting in expulsions and suspensions from studies. The Israel Bar Association attempted to suspend or revoke the licenses of PCI lawyers, and private companies fired employees for social media posts. The type and scale of these attacks on PCI are unprecedented.

The status of PCI has been further eroded by an onslaught of new racist laws and discriminatory policies, including a total ban on the right to protest imposed exclusively in Palestinian towns in Israel, and the withholding of bodies of deceased PCI for use as bargaining chips in negotiations between Israel and Hamas. Under the cover of the war, the far-right Israeli government is also aggressively pursuing the forced displacement of Bedouin communities from their land in the south of Israel. These steps not only strip PCI of their basic rights and dignity, but also amount to an alarming erosion of the rule of law.

Amid this rapid deterioration, Adalah continued to fight against the rising anti-Palestinian, anti-human rights and anti-democratic tide. Adalah's legal work secured the release of dozens of detained anti-war protesters, protected PCI students from unfair disciplinary actions, defended PCI lawyers against complaints for expressing anti-war statements, and ensured the release of some bodies of deceased PCI to their families for burial.

Internationally, as massive pro-Palestinian solidarity protests continue to sweep the globe, Adalah's work has been referenced by many diplomats, UN experts and journalists who have relied on our legal analysis of developments in Israel and the OPT. As 2024 draws to a close, we thank you, our friends and supporters, and take courage from all those who stand with us as we continue to fight for Palestinians' human rights in these dark times.



REPRESSION

OF PALESTINIAN ANTI-WAR PROTESTERS

Police arrest a protester in Haifa during a demonstration against the war on Gaza, 30 May 2024. Photo by Flash90

From the start of the war, Israeli authorities imposed a near-total ban on anti-war protests by Palestinian citizens of Israel (PCI). In late 2023, on behalf of the PCI political leadership, Adalah challenged the unlawful directives of the Police Commissioner in a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court, which rejected it, along with two other petitions Adalah filed to defend the right to protest. Despite making general assertions about the importance of the freedom to protest, the court granted the police unfettered discretion to suppress protests, and the Attorney General failed to intervene. The result has been a near-total ban on protests by PCI in 2024, while Jewish Israelis have staged some of the largest protests in decades.

The police and government officials consistently labeled PCI protesters as “supporters of terrorism” and violently dispersed demonstrations using excessive force and arresting anti-war protesters in Haifa, Nazareth, Umm al-Fahem and other Palestinian towns in Israel. Some protests leaders were subjected to preventative arrests to thwart protests before they could begin. Adalah gave legal counsel to over 60 protesters throughout 2024, and provided legal representation to those detained at police stations and brought to court. In most cases, Adalah’s lawyers successfully secured their release from detention, lifted restrictions on their movement and activities, and retrieved confiscated belongings.



Mohammad Jabareen is arrested during an anti-war protest in Umm Al-Fahem, 19 October 2023. Photo by Muhammad Khalilia

After months in detention, a PCI attorney and a human rights activist charged with speech offenses during demonstration released to house arrest

PCI human rights lawyer, Ahmad Khalifa, spent 110 days in detention for organizing a peaceful protest in Umm al-Fahem against Israel's war on Gaza. The police arrested Attorney Khalifa on 19 October 2023 along with 10 other protesters, including four minors. The courts released all detainees within three days, except for Khalifa and Mr. Mohammad Jabareen, a 31-year-old activist and social worker. Jabareen spent eight months in detention. Both men were held as security detainees in dire conditions and without bond. The state indicted Khalifa and Jabareen in November 2023 for "incitement to terrorism" and "identifying with a terrorist organization" under Israel's Counter-Terrorism Law, based solely on their participation in the protest and the common slogans they chanted.

The two men were eventually released from prison to house arrest under very restrictive conditions, Attorney Khalifa following an appeal to the Supreme Court (SCT) in February 2024, and Jabareen after an appeal to the Haifa District Court in June 2024. In August 2024, six months later, the SCT allowed Khalifa to return to his home in Umm al-Fahem and resume his work as an elected member of the municipal council, and lifted most other restrictive conditions. In September, the court further eased restrictions on Jabareen. Adalah is continuing to represent the two men in the criminal cases against them.



CRACKDOWN

ON PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AND ACADEMICS

Prof. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian arrives at the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court for her detention hearing, 19 April 2024. Photo by Chaim Goldberg/Flash90



Prof. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian is reinstated to the Hebrew University and released from police detention following illegal arrest

Adalah provided Prof. Shalhoub-Kevorkian, an internationally renowned Palestinian feminist scholar, with legal representation before the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU), as well as before the police and in the courts, after she was suspended by the HU and later arrested from her home, allegedly for incitement to terrorism, violence, and racism. HU alleged that she had behaved in a “disgraceful, anti-Zionist, and inciting manner”, noting that she signed an academic petition labelling Israel’s action in Gaza as genocide. She was also subjected to a campaign of incitement by right-wing students, activists, and politicians. Adalah argued that HU had violated her rights to freedom of expression and academic freedom and persecuted her for political reasons. In March, HU reinstated Prof. Shalhoub-Kevorkian to her teaching position; she later left due to a hostile work environment. In April, the police illegally arrested Prof. Shalhoub-Kevorkian from her home for her critical comments about Israel’s war on Gaza. The police strip-searched her, tightly handcuffed her and denied her access to food, water and medication. Adalah, with private Attorney Alaa Mahajana, secured her release from police detention and repeated interrogations. No criminal charges have been filed against her to date.

This case marks the first instance of police detaining a professor based on speech related to her scholarly work. Hundreds of international and local academics signed petitions and statements of support for Prof. Shalhoub-Kevorkian.

Students at Haifa University, 11 April 2016. Photo
by Hadas Parush/Flash90



Resolution of dozens of cases of PCI students facing disciplinary actions for their social media posts

Since 7 October 2023, 36 Israeli universities and colleges initiated an unprecedented wave of disciplinary proceedings against PCI students, mainly for posts they made against the war on Gaza on their private social media accounts. These academic institutions exclusively targeted Palestinian students; no disciplinary measures have been brought against Jewish Israeli students for incitement or hate speech against PCI that we are aware of.

In 2024, Adalah continued its work representing the students, some of whom merely expressed sympathy for civilians in Gaza or quoted verses from the Qur'an; a few of the posts were even totally unrelated to the events. In total, Adalah legally represented 95 students in disciplinary hearings, mediations, and on appeal, and provided legal advice to other students and their lawyers. As of December 2024, Adalah's legal representations have resulted in 40 acquittals, cancellations of proceedings, or exonerations (42%). 23 cases resulted in reduced suspensions, 8 in expulsions, and 18 in "educational punishments", in some instances resulting in a "clean academic" record for the students.



INCITEMENT

AGAINST PALESTINIAN CITIZEN LAWYERS

Entrance to the Israel Bar Association offices in Tel Aviv, 16 January 2019. Photo by Flash90



Since 7 October 2023, the Israeli Bar Association (IBA) and private right-wing Israeli lawyers have been waging a campaign of incitement against PCI lawyers, primarily based on their anti-war expressions on private social media platforms. The IBA sent an announcement to all lawyers registered in Israel on 12 October 2023 stating that its Ethics Committee would have “zero tolerance” for a lawyer who published content on personal social media accounts perceived to constitute “incitement to violence”. The IBA then initiated disciplinary proceedings to suspend PCI lawyers for their social media posts and other publications expressing solidarity with the people of Gaza or opposing the war, claiming that they undermined the dignity of the profession.

Additional complaints were filed to the IBA by the Israel Prison Service, which claimed that lawyers had violated ethics codes in visiting Palestinian prisoners held in security wings, largely based on secret evidence. Other complaints were filed on the basis of professional/academic speech made by lawyers. In 2024, Adalah represented eight lawyers before the IBA: in three cases the complaints were dismissed; in three cases complaints were filed but no decision has been made on whether to launch disciplinary proceedings; two other disciplinary cases are awaiting decision. The IBA has not initiated any proceedings against Israeli Jewish lawyers who have incited racism or called for the extermination of Palestinians in Gaza, to our knowledge.



The announcement issued by the IBA's Ethics Committee, 12 October 2023



UN human rights experts call on IBA not to stifle speech of PCI lawyers amid war on Gaza

In parallel to legal representations, Adalah contacted UN human rights experts to call for their assistance in urging the Israel Bar Association (IBA) to halt these discriminatory and punitive proceedings. On 22 March 2024, the UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and the SR on Freedom of Expression and Opinion issued a joint letter to the Representative of Israel at the UN raising concerns about the conduct of the IBA in stifling the free speech of lawyers in Israel, in particular of PCI lawyers who published anti-war social media posts. The SRs stated that, “We are concerned that the [Israel] Bar Association’s email was, in fact, a stifling of speech in support of Palestinian rights or opposition to the attacks in Gaza from those in the legal profession ... Expressing solidarity with Palestinians should not be equated with support for terrorism.”



GAZA WAR

MAJOR LITIGATION

Palestinians walking south on a road after fleeing from their homes in Gaza City, 26 November 2023. Photo by Atia Mohammed/Flash90

Petition demanding entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza

On 18 March 2024, five human rights organizations, led by Gisha and including Adalah, petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court (SCT) to order the Israeli government and the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) to enable access of all humanitarian aid, equipment and staff to Gaza; to significantly increase the volume of aid to Gaza; and provide for all the civilian population's needs in keeping with Israel's obligations as the occupying power. The case was brought following the provisional measures ordered by the ICJ for Israel to allow the provision of humanitarian aid to Gaza. The petitioners argued that Israel is preventing the supply of humanitarian aid to Gaza, against international law.

According to UN and international aid agency reports, Israel has effectively prevented access to aid by introducing a myriad of obstacles during the inspection process and distribution of aid throughout the Strip, systematically denied access to the north of Gaza, and failed to protect staff from its bombardments and other dangers posed by the collapse of civil order. As a result of these actions, the population in Gaza is facing severe food shortages. The SCT held multiple hearings on the case from 1 April, following which the court ordered the state to provide clarifications but has issued no decision on the case to date.



Palestinians gather to receive food supplies at an UNRWA school in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, 28 January 2024.
Photo by Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90



Palestinian prisoners from Gaza held in a prison facility in southern Israel, 14 Feb 2024. Photo by Chaim Goldberg/Flash90

Challenging new amendment to Unlawful Combatants' Law

On 19 February 2024, four human rights organizations, led by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel and including Adalah, filed a SCT petition demanding the cancellation of Amendment 4 to the Unlawful Combatants' Law. Since the start of the war, Israel has detained thousands of Palestinians from Gaza, including minors, and imprisoned many of them under this law, in what amounts to incommunicado detention: without charge, trial or even a detention order. The term "unlawful combatant" - which has no basis in international law - is used by Israel to refer to a category of persons it may detain indefinitely without trial. The SCT upheld the constitutionality of the law in 2008; however, new amendments made in 2023 and 2024 introduced significantly harsher detention procedures.

The organizations argued that Amendment 4 severely violated detainees' rights to freedom, life, bodily integrity, due process and judicial oversight: it increases the time allowed for the detention of individuals before being brought before a judge from 96-hours to 45 days, and allows them to be held without access to legal counsel for 90 days, up from 10 days. In defense of the amendment, the state cited its inability to interrogate the large number of detainees held under the law promptly. As of December 2024, around 1,770 people are being held under the law.

At a hearing on 27 May 2024, the SCT ruled that the state must update it about their procedures concerning hearings conducted by military commanders and about a proposed mechanism for external supervision of military detention camps, following substantial evidence of torture of Gaza detainees. No ICRC personnel or non-state attorneys are permitted to visit these detainees during the initial three-month detention. A new bill is expected to be presented to the Knesset to extend the law until the end of March 2025.



Incitement to genocide by Israeli public figures

On 8 April 2024, Adalah wrote to the Attorney General and State Attorney demanding an investigation into potential incidents of incitement to genocide by Israeli politicians and other public figures since the start of the war on 7 October 2023. The letter highlighted Israel's obligations under international and Israeli law and referred to in the provisional order issued by the ICJ on 26 January 2024 in the case *South Africa v. Israel*, stating that, "Israel must take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip". Adalah highlighted 40 examples of statements from the Law for Palestine database made by legislators, ministers, and military and religious leaders that are particularly alarming and warrant immediate investigation.

In one instance, former Defense Minister Yoav Galant referred to the population of Gaza as "human animals", stating that there would be no electricity, food or fuel for the territory. In another, Rabbi Eliyahu Mali said that all Gazans must be killed in order to comply with Jewish law. The letter also included comments from Israel's senior leadership, including a statement by the President of Israel, Isaac Herzog, that, "It's an entire nation out there that is responsible. This rhetoric about civilians being unaware, not involved—it's untrue." The AG has since decided not to open criminal investigations into any of these cases.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich attending a vote in the Knesset, Jerusalem, 13 March 2024. Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90



החלטת ועדת הכספים לגבי צו תעריף
המכס והפטורים ומס קנייה על טובין
(תיקון מס' 3 וחוראת שעה מס' 8)
התשפ"ד-2024

DENIAL

OF PALESTINIANS' RIGHTS

A debate in the Knesset plenum, Jerusalem, 13 March 2024.
Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash 90

New racist legislation

Against the backdrop of Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza and wider war, the Knesset is pushing forward new racist, discriminatory and anti-democratic legislation that further strips Palestinians of their rights. Ahead of the Knesset's new session that began in October 2024, Adalah published a briefing paper outlining eight such bills, all at advanced stages of the legislative process. The current government has explicitly pledged to advance Jewish supremacy and racial segregation and to deny Palestinians the right to self-determination.

Since Adalah published the paper, seven of the eight bills have passed into law. Two of the new laws aim to shut down UNRWA; another strips parents of Palestinian minors convicted of security offenses (including stone-throwing) from social welfare benefits. A further law allows Israeli authorities to imprison children as young as 12 years old, even for life, if convicted of murder or attempted murder classified as a "terror act". One law authorizes the Education Ministry to dismiss teachers who "publicly identify with a terrorist organization or act of terrorism and/or support them", another allows the Interior Minister to deport family members of individuals accused or convicted of certain terror offenses if the family knew or should have known about the planned act, supported or praised it, and a final law permits draconian restrictions on the pretext of "fighting crime in Arab society" that reintroduce the tools used by the military rule period. This new legislation joins over 70 existing discriminatory laws documented by Adalah over the years in its Discriminatory Laws Database.

[READ THE BRIEFING PAPER](#)



Israel's anti-UNRWA Laws Spark Fresh Fears Among Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza

In the West Bank, concerns grow that the legislation could undermine the UN agency's ability to pay salaries, worsening already high poverty and unemployment rates. In Gaza, where the agency is the sole distributor of humanitarian aid, the law's impact could be even more severe

Israel's Parliament Opens With Passage of Bill Banning U.N. Agency

Israel's Knesset began its winter session on Monday against a backdrop of war in Gaza and Lebanon and with some contentious matters on the agenda.

By Matthew Mpoke Bigg, Gabby Sobelman and Myra Noveck
Oct. 28, 2024

Israel's Knesset opened its winter session on Monday by passing bills that could threaten the work of the main U.N. agency that assists Palestinians, UNRWA.

The session is being held against a backdrop of war in Gaza and Lebanon and after an Israeli strike on Iran on Saturday. It also comes amid tensions within Israel itself.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition controls the Knesset, or parliament. The coalition is made up of his right-wing Likud party, the largest, which governs with six smaller parties, including two from the far right.



his article is more than 1 month old
Israel's plan to ban Unrwa from accessing Gaza marks new low in its relations with

nation likely to be able to persuade Netanyahu to drop plan
ned by 123 member states

Patrick Wintour Diplomatic Editor
Fri 25 Oct 2024 06.00 BST

The two laws targeting UNRWA indicate a concerted effort to block essential aid and support from reaching Palestinian refugees throughout the OPT, primarily Gaza, despite Israel's ongoing genocidal assault and resulting humanitarian catastrophe. The Knesset enacted both laws on 28 October 2024, arguably also violating provisional measures issued by the ICJ in the genocide case brought against Israel by South Africa.

Many international media outlets consulted and cited Adalah in their coverage of the UNRWA bills, as we closely tracked the legislative process through the Knesset and offered timely, comprehensible analysis of this legally-complex legislation. Since the outbreak of the war, Adalah has further established itself as a primary resource for international journalists seeking legal analysis of Israeli laws and policies.



JERUSALEM

Israeli left-wing and Arab activists hold a protest at the official opening ceremony of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, 14 May 2018. Photo by Miriam Alster/Flash90



Palestinian objectors press US officials to cancel embassy plans

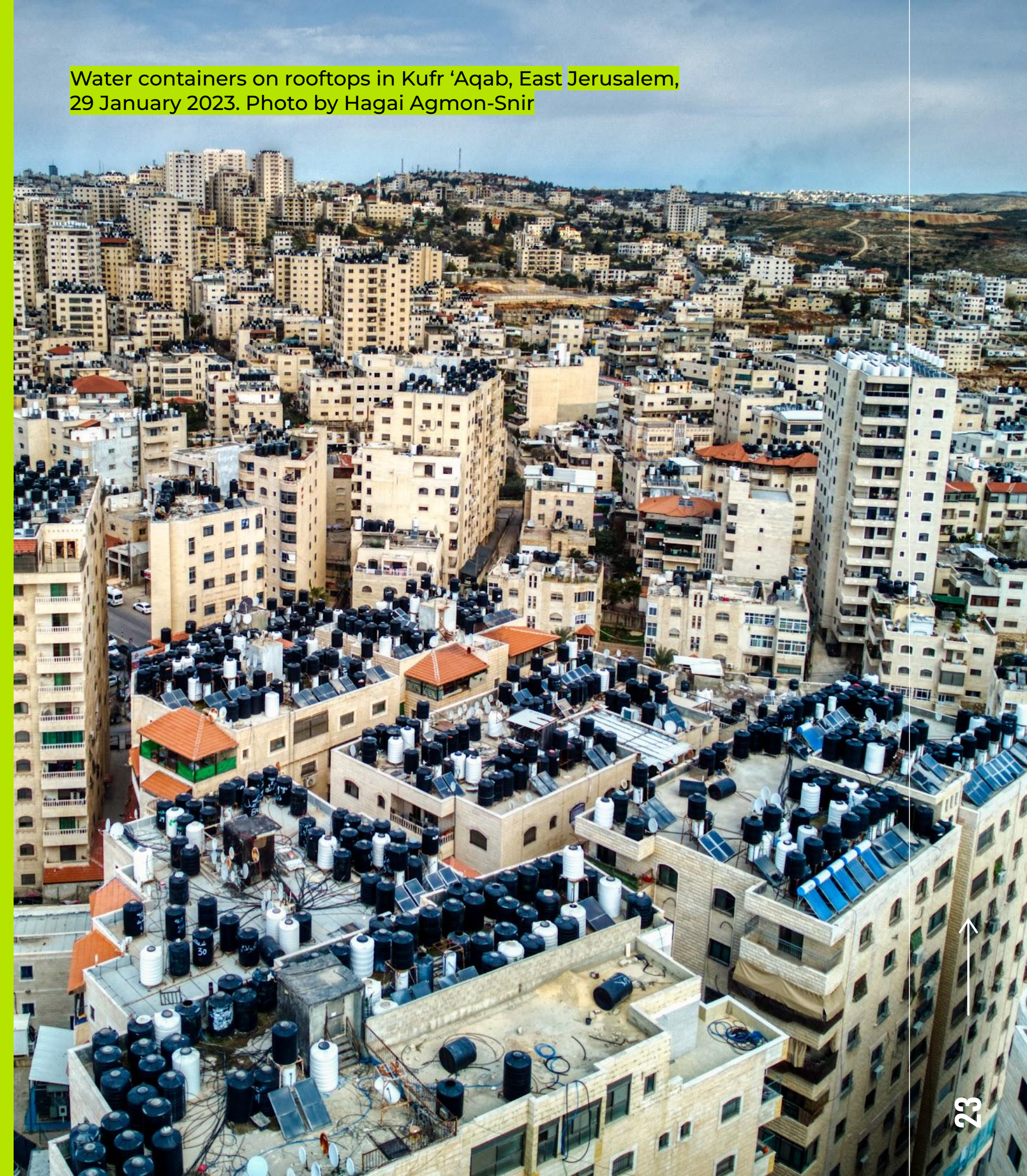
In 2024, Adalah continued to fight the dispossession of Palestinian landowners in Jerusalem affected by US plans to construct a new embassy at the “Allenby Barracks” compound. Plans for the site were confirmed by the Israeli planning authorities on 17 April 2024, after they rejected Adalah’s objection, filed on behalf of 12 descendants of the original landowners. On 18 July, Adalah submitted a letter to US officials urging the US State Department to withdraw its plan. In September, three Palestinian descendants of the original landowners held a meeting with US Embassy officials to follow up on previous legal actions aimed at forcing the Israeli planning authorities and the US government to call off plans to build on the proposed site, in violation of their property rights.

The State of Israel confiscated the property using the Israeli Absentees’ Property Law - 1950. A group of Palestinian heirs to the land presented evidence of their ownership in a letter sent by Adalah and the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and former US Ambassador to Israel Thomas R. Nides. The US State Department has repeatedly claimed to be considering two different sites for the project, and that a final decision would be made only after the planning process for both sites concludes, and in the light of the “history of the sites”.

Water crisis in Kufr 'Aqab

In August 2024, Adalah petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court (SCT) on behalf of 204 residents of Kufr 'Aqab to demand the provision of a regular, continuous and adequate water supply. Kufr 'Aqab is the largest Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem, and located behind the Separation Wall. The petition followed a sharp deterioration in the water supply that plunged residents into a severe water crisis for over three months. At a hearing on the case, the SCT acknowledged the severity of water shortage in Kufr 'Aqab and expressed the intent to oversee the case until a resolution is reached. The court required the Israeli authorities and the Jerusalem Water Undertaking company to examine specific solutions, such as increasing water allocations to the Palestinian Water Authority and upgrading infrastructure.

Water containers on rooftops in Kufr 'Aqab, East Jerusalem, 29 January 2023. Photo by Hagai Agmon-Snir





OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich and fellow settlers seen in observation at a West Bank settlement. Photo by Gershon Elinson/Flash90



Challenging Finance Minister Smotrich's attempts to annex the West Bank

In 2024, Israel's far-right government promoted various laws and other measures that further entrench the *de facto* and *de jure* annexation of the occupied West Bank. One such measure was the transfer of extensive authorities over civil affairs in the West Bank to Smotrich via a "memorandum of understanding", a copy of which Adalah obtained in March 2024 after one year via a Freedom of Information Act request. It stipulates that Smotrich, himself a settler, will assume authority over most civil matters in the West Bank, including directing COGAT policies. He will also direct a new 'civilian' Settlements Administration in areas including land management, planning and expropriation; the declaration of "state land"; the "legalization" of settlements; energy regulation; and improving state services for Jewish settlers.

In parallel, he oversees the process through which Palestinians in 'Area C' apply for building permits from Israel, along with diverse issues as access to cellular networks, transportation, archaeological excavation licensing, and the management of holy sites. On 25 March 2024, Adalah wrote to the Israeli authorities to demand that the memorandum be canceled, arguing that it extends Israeli sovereignty in the West Bank, ingrains its *de facto* annexation, and entrenches Apartheid. On 5 August, Adalah sent a further letter underscoring the unlawful elements of the occupation of the West Bank, as detailed in the ICJ's Advisory Opinion.

Illegal gas exploration off Gaza's coastline

On 5 February 2024, Adalah wrote to the Israeli authorities to demand they revoke licenses for gas exploration off the Gaza coast granted to local and foreign companies, and cancel any works to exploit gas resources in areas within Palestine's maritime borders. The letter followed an announcement by the Israeli Energy Ministry in October 2023, shortly after the start of the war, that it had awarded licenses to six Israeli and international companies to explore for natural gas reserves off Gaza.

Adalah argued that Israel had no sovereign or exclusive economic rights in these areas, and that any gas exploitation by external actors flagrantly violated the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, which includes management of its own natural resources. Further, Israel, as the occupying power, exercises effective control over these areas, and these acts therefore violate international law. In response, the Israeli Energy Ministry claimed that the Palestinian Authority had no legal right to determine its maritime areas. Adalah countered this claim in a letter sent in August in which it cited the ICJ's Advisory Opinion, which elaborates on the illegality of exploiting natural resources in Palestinian territory.



View of the Israeli Leviathan gas processing rig, captured from Dor Habonim Beach Nature Reserve, 1 Jan 2020. Photo by Flash 90

A photograph of a woman's hand holding a small, white, rectangular photograph of a wedding. The woman's hand is in the upper left, with fingers slightly curled around the photo. The photo shows a bride in a white dress holding a bouquet. The background is a rough, cracked, light-colored wall. A black silhouette of a person is visible in the lower right. A black rectangular box with the text 'FAMILY UNIFICATION' in yellow is positioned in the upper left, with a white arrow pointing to it from the left.

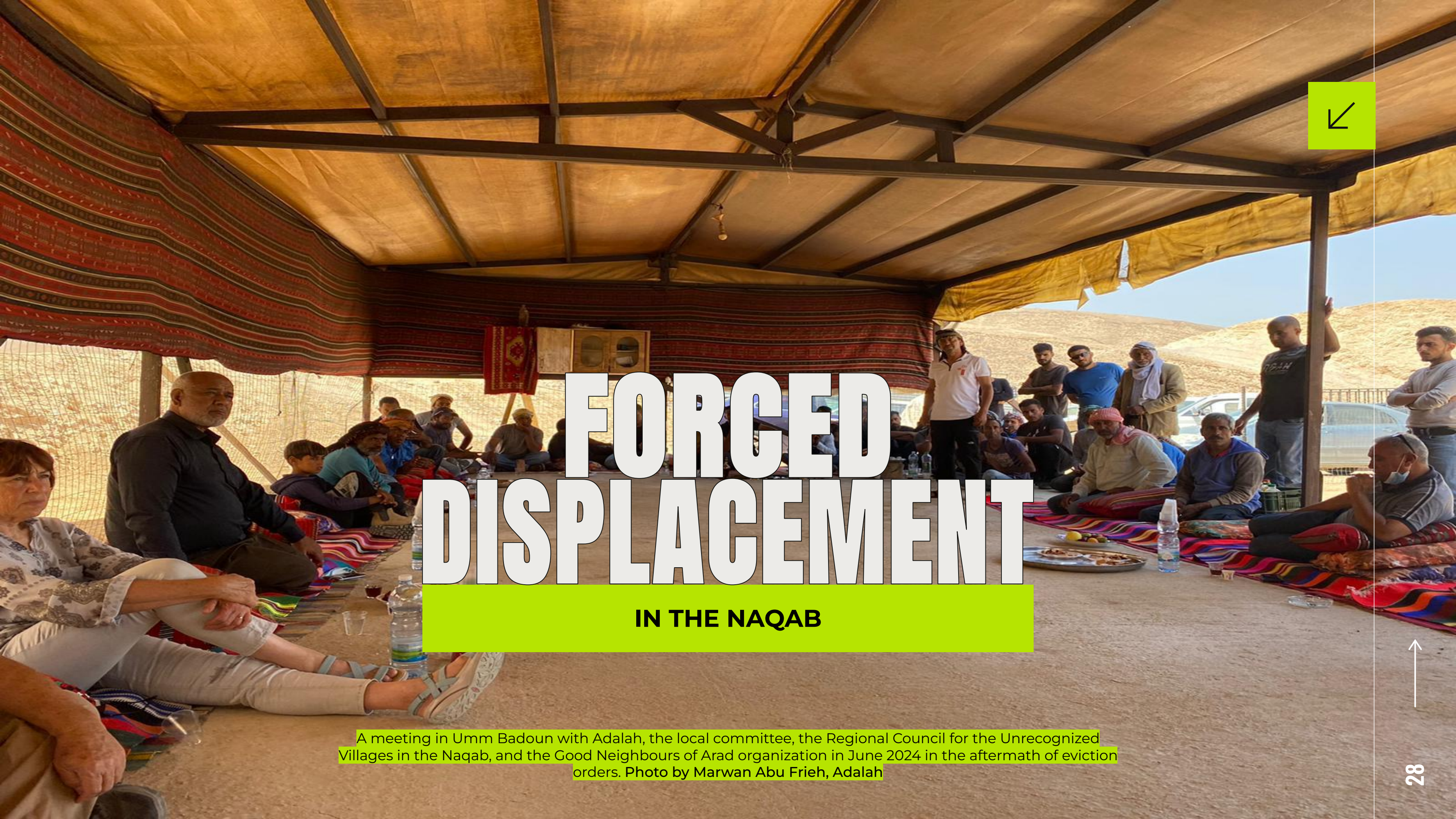
FAMILY UNIFICATION

Ban on Palestinian family unification

On 9 July 2024, the Israeli SCT issued an *order nisi* (order to show cause) to the Knesset and government demanding explanations for why the ban on Palestinian family unification should not be revoked. The order followed a hearing on nine petitions filed to the SCT against the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order) - 2022, including a petition submitted by Adalah.

The law bans the unification in Israel of Palestinian families in which one spouse is an Israeli citizen or permanent resident (in practice all those affected are Palestinian citizens and residents), and the other a resident of the OPT (excluding Jewish settlers). The *order nisi* shifts the burden of proof to the state, requiring it to justify the legality of the law. Adalah argued that the law's sweeping provisions serve a racist, demographic purpose and create a form of apartheid in citizenship.

Woman affected by the ban on Palestinian family unification holds up a photograph of her wedding day. Photo by Jenny Nyman, produced for Adalah



FORCED DISPLACEMENT

IN THE NAQAB

A meeting in Umm Badoun with Adalah, the local committee, the Regional Council for the Unrecognized Villages in the Naqab, and the Good Neighbours of Arad organization in June 2024 in the aftermath of eviction orders. Photo by Marwan Abu Frie, Adalah



In 2024, under the cover of the war, Israel continued to implement its plan to enforce racial and spatial segregation of Bedouin citizens of Israel living in the Naqab (Negev) in the south of the country. An uninterrupted campaign of forced displacement across the Naqab seeks to uproot the “unrecognized villages”, falsely portraying their residents as trespassers, and to concentrate them in poverty-stricken, overcrowded state-planned towns. In most cases, the state seeks to expand existing Jewish Israeli towns or establish new ones, and/or to use the land for major infrastructural developments such as railways and roads. The state has not developed suitable alternative plans with these communities. Adalah is representing villagers against eviction lawsuits in three villages: Umm Badoun, Ras Jrabah and Al-Bqea’ah. Together with a large coalition of NGOs, Adalah is also fighting new state plans for so-called “temporary housing”, under which tens of thousands of Bedouin citizens would be displaced into makeshift refugee camps to clear land for “development projects,” without receiving permanent housing solutions.

Umm Badoun

In 2024, Adalah began representing the residents of Umm Badoun (pop: 500) in 29 individual cases, submitting defense arguments in September and October, together with private Attorney Auni Banna. The residents were forced to leave their original land around the area of Kurnub, near what is today the Israeli city of Dimona, by Israel’s military government in the 1950s, when they were moved to the village’s current location. The villagers make their living primarily through agriculture and tourism, benefiting from their proximity to the Dead Sea, Masada and the Kfar Nokdim tourist sites, and being relocated would severely compromise their ability to earn a livelihood.


Ras Jrabah

The village of Ras Jrabah (population: 500) predates the establishment of Israel, and its eviction is intended to make way for the expansion of Dimona, built in part on the village's land. A motion for permission to appeal, filed by Adalah in September 2024, is pending before the Israeli Supreme Court. In June, the Be'er Sheva District Court upheld the approval of 10 eviction lawsuits filed by the state against the village's entire population, despite an earlier acknowledgment that the villagers were permitted to reside on their land and had lived there since at least 1978.

In October 2024, the District Planning Committee rejected a planning objection submitted by Adalah and Bimkom on behalf of 105 residents of Ras Jrabah against the plan to expand Dimona. The objection included an alternative plan that outlines, for the first time, how the integration of Ras Jrabah into Dimona could be achieved.



An AFP journalist speaks with Freij Al-Hawashleh, an elderly resident of Ras Jrabah, at his home, 29 May 2024. Photo by Adalah

A photograph showing three children from behind, looking at a large pile of debris and rubble. The debris includes twisted metal, broken wood, and various household items like a yellow plastic jug and a white container. The background is a vast, flat, brown landscape under a clear sky. The children are standing on a patch of dirt and debris. The girl on the left is wearing a light pink long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The child in the middle is wearing a light blue shirt and patterned pants. The child on the right is wearing a grey hoodie and dark pants. They are holding hands and looking towards the pile of rubble.

Children from Al-Bqea'ah look over their family's belongings after the demolition of their home by Israeli authorities, February 2022. Photo by Marwan Abu Frie, Adalah

Al-Bqea'ah

In cooperation with the Meezan Organization, Adalah continued to represent the residents of Al-Bqea'ah (pop: 600) throughout 2024. In June, the Beer Sheva Magistrates' Court decided the first of the 19 cases, giving residents two years to evacuate their homes, despite acknowledging that they had permission to use the land and were not “trespassers”, as the state claimed. The court added that a planning solution should be reached with the state authorities during this period. An appeal is pending. The outcome of this case will apply to all the remaining cases.



RACIAL SEGREGATION

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEES

Adalah Attorneys Dr. Suhad Bishara and Dr. Hassan Jabareen, stagiaire Mai Diab, and ACRI Attorney Gil Gan-Mor at the Israeli Supreme Court for a hearing on the Admissions Committees Law, 26 May 2024. Photo by Adalah

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEES

In May 2024, the Israeli SCT issued an *order nisi* compelling the Knesset, Economy Ministry, and Israel Land Authority to explain why they should not revoke a new amendment to the Admissions Committees Law. The order came in response to a petition filed by Adalah against the amended law, which significantly expands the scope of “admissions committees” to allow these exclusionary bodies to act in dozens of more towns. It also expands the geographical areas in which they can operate, and adds additional vague criteria for rejecting applicants that perpetuate discrimination in the selection process. Admissions committees work to exclude PCI and members of other marginalized groups from hundreds of communities throughout Israel based on their alleged lack of “social suitability”. The order demonstrates that the court considers there to be a sound legal basis to the arguments raised in the petition.

Adalah filed the petition in its own name and on behalf of a broad coalition of nine civil society organizations against the law, including ACRI, the Arab Center for Alternative Planning, the Mizrahi Democratic Rainbow Coalition, Bimkom, Ahoti – For Women in Israel, the Association for Distributive Justice, Gila Project for Trans Empowerment and Tolerance, and the Association of Ethiopian Jews. The petitioners argue that the law increases segregation and discrimination throughout Israel and should be annulled.



IMPUNITY AND VIOLENCE

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir at the
Supreme Court, 7 June 2023. Photo by Yonatan
Sindel/Flash90

Petition challenging sweeping powers afforded to Minister of National Security Ben-Gvir over the police

Adalah continued its legal challenge to the “Ben-Gvir Law”. Adalah petitioned the Supreme Court (SCT) in 2023 on behalf of the High Follow-up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel to revoke the law, which grants Ben-Gvir authority to determine the police’s policies regarding investigations and to set “principled priorities”. Adalah argued that far-right Ben-Gvir’s previous actions suggest that the law is aimed at increasing racist law enforcement against Palestinians in particular.

At a hearing in 2024 before an expanded panel of nine justices held on five petitions challenging the law, Adalah demonstrated how police policies implemented under Ben-Gvir have directly harmed Palestinian citizens of Israel (PCI), particularly during the current war. Examples include banning demonstrations in Palestinian towns, obstructing gatherings of Arab political parties, barring the display of the Palestinian flag, and violent arrests of PCI for anti-war expressions on social media. The SCT’s decision is pending.



A PCI is arrested by police during a protest organized by PCI and Jewish left-wing student activists to mark the Nakba anniversary at Tel Aviv University. Photo by Tomer Neuberg/Flash90



Arab residents of Lod and activists protest the killing of Mousa Hassouna outside the District Court in Lod, 28 May 2021. (Banner reads: Shame on the judicial system for defending a murderer!) Photo by Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90.

Appeal against closure of investigation into killing of Mousa Hassouna in Lod during May 2021 uprising rejected

On 22 July 2024, Israel’s State Attorney informed the family of the late Mousa Hassouna that the Attorney General (AG) had decided to reject Adalah’s appeal against the closure of an investigation into five suspects, Jewish Israelis, involved in the shooting that killed Mr. Hassouna and injured two other PCI on 10 May 2021, during the Dignity Uprising. Four suspects were cleared outright, and the fifth case was closed for insufficient evidence.

Adalah argued that the police had conducted a flawed investigation aimed at absolving the suspects, claims that are supported by investigative materials, including video footage suggesting that pressure was exerted by political figures to close the case. The AG’s decision fails to address evidence of improper considerations and political pressures exerted on the investigators, relying almost entirely on the suspects’ own accounts. In September, Adalah filed a SCT petition on behalf of Hassouna’s family against the AG’s decision.



A woman holds a sketch of Eyad Hallaq, a special-needs Palestinian student shot and killed by a police officer. Photo by Jamal Awad/Flash90

Supreme Court upholds decision not to appeal acquittal of police officer who killed Eyad Hallaq

On 11 April 2024, the Israeli SCT dismissed a petition filed by Adalah and the Meezan Organization against the decision of the Police Investigation Department and the State Attorney not to appeal a Jerusalem District Court ruling acquitting the Israeli police officer who killed Eyad Hallaq over four years earlier.

Hallaq, a 32-year-old autistic Palestinian man, was shot dead by an Israeli Border Police officer in Jerusalem's Old City on 30 May 2020 while walking to the special needs school where he worked and studied. According to witnesses, Eyad was chased by two police officers who shouted and ran towards him. During the chase, the police commander, who was never prosecuted, shot twice towards Eyad. Eyad sought refuge in a shed, where another officer shot him in the lower body then, fatally, in the upper body. In October 2020, it was announced that the officer who shot Eyad would be criminally charged with reckless manslaughter, in a rare occurrence. However, in July 2023, the Jerusalem District Court acquitted the officer, accepting his claim of "perceived self-defense". In the petition, Adalah and Meezan argued that the decision constituted an egregious miscarriage of justice that reinforces the near-blanket immunity provided to Israel's police officers for the killing of Palestinians.



Protest demanding the release of
Walid Daqqa, Baqa Al-Gharbiya.
Photo: Arab48

The state's withholding of the bodies of deceased Palestinians

On 30 September 2024, the Israeli Supreme Court (SCT) upheld the government's decision to continue to withhold the body of Walid Daqqa, a PCI who was imprisoned for decades and died of cancer while in custody in April 2024. Daqqa was convicted in 1987 for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping and murder of an Israeli soldier in 1984, claims he repeatedly denied. He was a well-known author and playwright and was due to be released in March 2025. The decision to allow the state to continue to hold his body came in response to a petition filed by Adalah on behalf of Daqqa's family to release his body to them for burial. The court cited the state's claim that withholding his body was part of its efforts to "exchange" Palestinian prisoners for hostages held by Hamas in Gaza. Israel is holding the bodies of at least nine other PCI, which represents a dramatic change in policy and a severe violation of the rights of the deceased and their families to dignity.

During the proceedings, the state informed the SCT that the Security Cabinet had decided to continue holding all bodies of PCI alleged to have carried out attacks - regardless of political affiliation - until the government reached a new policy decision. A previous policy, which allowed the state/military to withhold the bodies of Palestinians affiliated with Hamas, was updated in 2020 to include bodies of Palestinians (from the OPT) regardless of their affiliation and the circumstances of the incident. The SCT approved both policies. Israel is holding hundreds of Palestinians from the OPT. Following the outbreak of the war in October 2023, the state began to implement the same policy against PCI, for the first time. Adalah is also representing the families of five other PCI whose bodies are being held by Israeli authorities. A SCT hearing is scheduled on 30 December 2024 on these five cases. Prior to the cabinet decision, Adalah secured the release of three bodies of PCI.



PRISONERS' RIGHTS

Israel Prison Service guards watch over Palestinian prisoners held in southern Israel, 14 February 2024. Photo by Chaim Goldberg/Flash90



UN Special Rapporteur on Torture calls for probe into allegations of torture against Palestinians

On 23 May 2024, the UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on Torture urged Israel to investigate claims of torture committed against Palestinian detainees in Israeli custody, including “allegations of individuals being beaten, kept in cells blindfolded and handcuffed for excessive periods, deprived of sleep, and threatened with physical and sexual violence.” She stated, “I am particularly concerned that this emerging pattern of violations, coupled with an absence of accountability and transparency, is creating a permissive environment for further abusive and humiliating treatment of Palestinians.” The statement came in response to a joint report by Adalah and partner human rights organizations, supported by the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), which was submitted to the SR in February 2024. The report urges immediate action to halt the systematic abuse, torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli facilities. As a result of their harsh, inhumane conditions of confinement, there have been at least 60 deaths of Palestinians held in Israeli custody since the start of the war.

From 12-20 March 2024, Adalah, PCATI, HaMoked and PHR-I held meetings in Brussels and Geneva with UN SRs, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Committee Against Torture, and the UN Commission of Inquiry. In Brussels, the groups met EU officials and EU member state delegations. In addition, the UN SR on the OPT cited the organizations’ joint report in her report to the UN Human Rights Council on 25 March 2024, and 21 members of the European Parliament sent a letter to the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission calling on them to hold Israel accountable for the dire situation of Palestinian prisoners. The groups’ joint report and visit received extensive media coverage in Europe.

MK Ahmad Tibi with Adalah General Director Attorney Dr. Hassan Jabareen in court. Photo by Chaim Goldberg/Flash90

SCT petition to allow MK to visit Palestinian prisoners

On 21 April 2024, Adalah filed a petition to the Supreme Court (SCT) on behalf of Member of Knesset (MK) Dr. Ahmad Tibi, to allow him to visit Palestinian leader and prisoner Marwan Barghouti, and for an immediate halt to a policy of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and the Israel Prison Service to prevent him from visiting Palestinian prisoners for almost two years. Just one representative from each political party is currently permitted to visit prisoners.

The petitioners highlighted the vital need for MK visits due to the harsh conditions of confinement in which Palestinian prisoners are being held by Israel. Prior to the SCT hearing, the State Attorney's Office claimed, for the first time, that there were security concerns surrounding such visits. The state presented its evidence at a closed session, and, following Adalah's motion, a summary of the secret evidence was released indicating that the alleged security concerns were not linked to any specific threat arising from MK Tibi's potential visit, or the security of the prison facilities. Rather, the state's objections are based on strictly political concerns about "raising [Barghouti's] political status", "enhancing the prisoner's public image", and "legitimizing the Palestinian armed struggle".





CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Palestinian children and husband of a woman who lacks a permit to live with them in their East Jerusalem home due to Israel's ban on Palestinian family unification. Photo by Jenny Nyman, produced for Adalah

UN Children's Rights Committee (CRC) condemns Israel for grave violations of Palestinian children's rights

On 19 September 2024, the CRC issued its Concluding Observations on Israel following its periodic review. The CRC called for urgent actions by Israel to: address the ongoing violence in Gaza, imploring it to comply with the ICJ's provisional measures in the genocide case; provide accountability for violations by Israel's armed forces against children; repeal discriminatory laws; end policies harming children that constitute racial segregation and apartheid; and remove barriers to Palestinian children's access to education and family unification. The CRC also highlighted the dire conditions of children in Israel's prisons and detention facilities, expressing deep concern over reports of their torture and ill-treatment during arrest and detention.

Adalah participated in the CRC's review sessions in Geneva and submitted two detailed reports to the Committee, in 2023 and 2024. The CRC's Concluding Observations reflect many issues raised by Adalah in its reports and communications with committee members. The advocacy before the CRC is one of the first actions by Adalah's newly-established Children's Rights Unit (CRU). The CRU's work will involve legal action and research, international advocacy and media outreach focused on protecting particularly vulnerable Palestinian children, including Bedouin children, children with disabilities, and child prisoners.



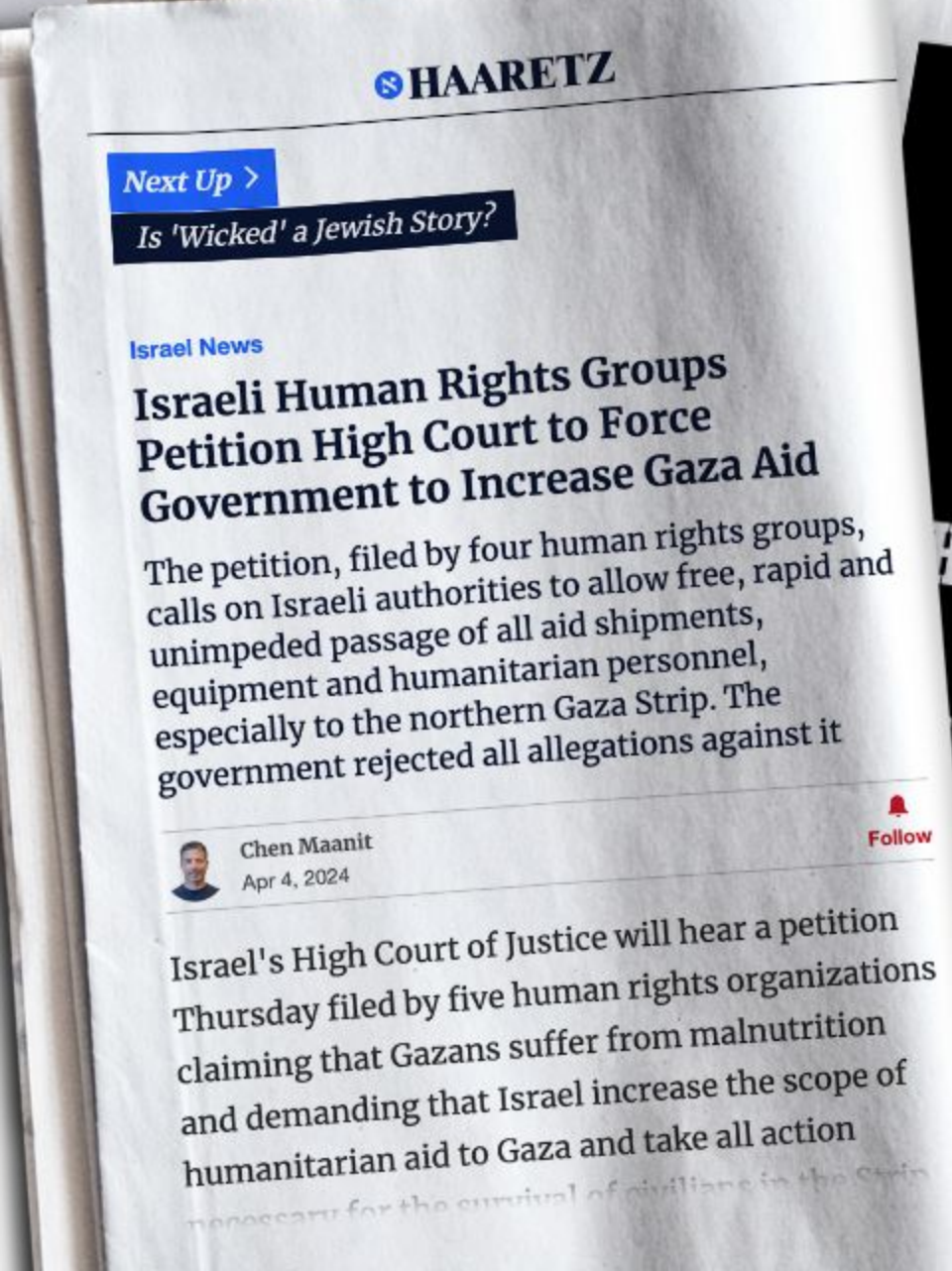
Displaced Palestinian children study at a bombed out school in Khan Yunis, Gaza, 9 October 2024.
Photo by Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90

ADALAH'S PALESTINIAN LAW STUDENTS' CAMP

Adalah held its annual Palestinian Law Students' Camp on 4-5 October 2024, online for the first time. 25 students participated (6 men and 19 women). The camp's theme was Genocide in Gaza: Law, accountability and political persecution. Panel discussions included one led by Issam Younis, Director of the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Gaza) and Commissioner General of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine on "The War and the Future of Gaza." Another panel covered the decisions of the ICC and the ICJ concerning Palestine, led by Dr. Hala Khoury-Bisharat, the Academic Dean of Ono College, lecturer in international law and Adalah Board member.

Workshops addressed the topics of Palestinian prisoners held in a 'black hole' in Israeli prisons at risk of torture during the war in Gaza, the forced disappearance of prisoners from Gaza, and political persecution and freedom of speech violations. Adalah's General Director, Dr. Hassan Jabareen, spoke about Israel's Counter-Terrorism Law and its use to constrain free expression and criminalize speakers. A second round of workshops covered arrests for speech-related charges and the political persecution of PCI students by Israeli universities and colleges. A further panel discussion focused on workers and lawyers facing political persecution for social media posts, led by Adalah Attorney Salam Irsheid and Attorney Abeer Baker, a specialist in Israeli criminal and constitutional law. The online camp received positive feedback from participants, with a majority evaluating the event highly in terms of the standard and content of the lectures.





MEDIA COVERAGE



- Report on **Israel's violations of the rights of PCI to peaceful assembly since 7 October 2023** to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, 31 Jan 2024
- Report **on the crackdown on freedom of expression of Palestinian students in Israel** to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, 15 Feb 2024
- Report on **systemic torture of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prison facilities since 7 October 2023** to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and others by PCATI, Adalah, HaMoked and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, 16 Feb 2024
- Report on **Israel's "judicial overhaul" on the protection of Palestinians' rights and other fundamental principles of democracy and rule of law** to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, 6 Mar 2024
- Infographic data report: **The Persecution of Palestinian Students in Israeli Universities and Colleges during the War on Gaza**, updated to 25 Mar 2024
- Adalah's report on **Threats to Palestinians' FoE rights in Israel post-7 Oct 2023** to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, 30 June 2024
- Adalah's NGO Report to the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**, 15 Aug 2024
- Briefing paper on **new wave of Knesset legislation targeting Palestinians' rights**, 23 Oct 2024
- **20 episodes of the Adalah Podcast**, in English and Arabic, featuring interviews with Adalah's attorneys and other legal experts on current legal issues including and Israel's withholding of Palestinians' bodies as bargaining chips and Israel's legislative attacks on UNRWA.
- **9 editions of Adalah's Newsletter** in English, Arabic and Hebrew

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