



2025

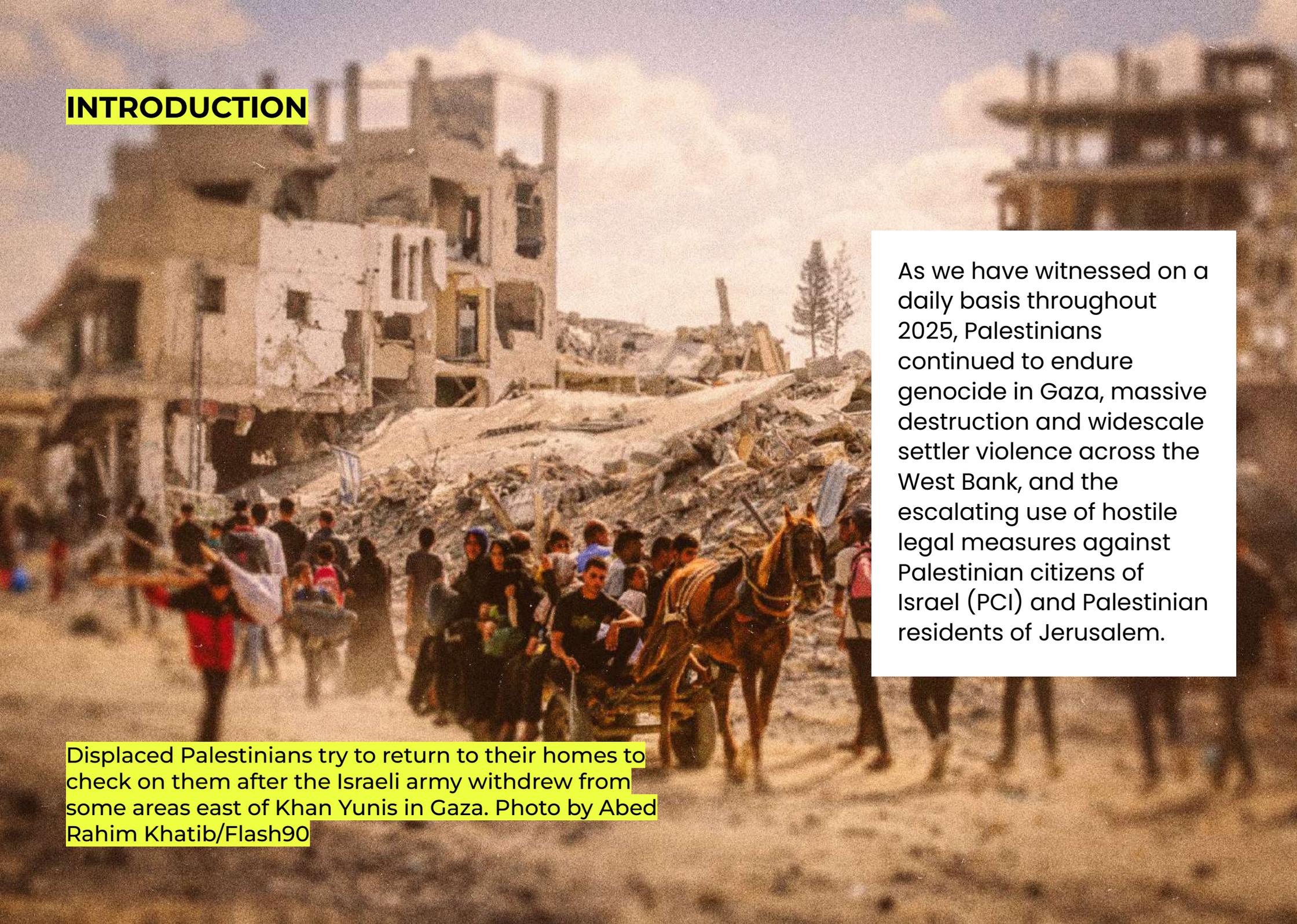
ANNUAL REPORT

The unrecognized Bedouin village of Ras Jrabah in the Naqab (Negev) in southern Israel, threatened by demolition, pictured with the city of Dimona behind it

INTRODUCTION

As we have witnessed on a daily basis throughout 2025, Palestinians continued to endure genocide in Gaza, massive destruction and widescale settler violence across the West Bank, and the escalating use of hostile legal measures against Palestinian citizens of Israel (PCI) and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem.

Displaced Palestinians try to return to their homes to check on them after the Israeli army withdrew from some areas east of Khan Yunis in Gaza. Photo by Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90



In 2025, Palestinians, both citizens of Israel (PCI) and residents of Jerusalem, again faced heavy penalties for any anti-war protest and social media posts, including arrests, indictments, university expulsions, and job losses, in a climate of silencing and fear. Adalah defended dozens of targeted individuals before Israeli courts and disciplinary committees.

The ongoing emergency in Israel/OPT and wars in the wider region have further exposed the erosion and fragility of the citizenship of PCI. Since 7 October 2023, the Knesset has passed over [30 racist and discriminatory laws](#) amid rampant incitement against PCI by officials and the public, and the state has used emergency and security legislation to regulate dissent. Throughout this crisis, Adalah has continued to fight mounting anti-Palestinian laws and anti-human rights measures, with some successes—including in defense of children's rights to education—but has faced many challenges.

Adalah's advocacy in 2025 included actions to expose the forced displacement of the Bedouins in the Naqab through state eviction lawsuits, the establishment of Jewish-only towns, and the implementation of major infrastructure projects. Adalah also highlighted the [legal infrastructure of the Israeli settlement enterprise](#) in the OPT with a new report, and defended Palestinian prisoners' rights, calling for international attention to systematic [torture and ill-treatment in Israeli detention facilities](#), and a demand to withdraw the Death Penalty Bill targeting Palestinians. We further continued to oppose legislation imposing prohibitive taxes on NGO funding by foreign governments. During the [Freedom Flotilla campaigns](#) to break the blockade on Gaza, Adalah provided legal representation and support to around 500 activists from around the world.

EDUCATION RIGHTS

Authorities commit to science education for Arab high school students in Haifa

In September 2025, Adalah petitioned the Haifa District Court on behalf of Palestinian students, citizens of Israel (PCI) and their parents demanding that the Education Ministry and the Haifa Municipality ensure access to science education in Haifa's public high schools.

Adalah highlighted chronic shortages, with PCI students restricted to two overcrowded schools, only one of which offers a limited science program. At a hearing, the authorities committed to guarantee science-track access for all eligible PCI students from the 2026–27 school year, open new science classes, and offer virtual science studies in Arabic.

Protecting PCI children with autism

To challenge the Education Ministry's decision to close the Al-Shorouq School in Arrabeh, Adalah petitioned the Jerusalem Administrative Court on behalf of 177 children with autism and their families, in August 2025. Adalah argued that the state's decision to withdraw the school's license and disperse the students violated their rights to education, care, and stability. Following an urgent hearing, the court ordered the Ministry to secure appropriate placements for all unassigned students, allow families to appeal, and consult the parents' committee in all placement decisions.



Adalah's legal team speaks with students' parents following the hearing at the Jerusalem District Court, 16 September 2025

School buses for Bedouin children



Children from Bir Hadaj in the Naqab catching a bus to school, 23 Sept. 2025.
Photo by Marwan Abu Frieih, Adalah

In May 2025, following Adalah's petition, the Be'er Sheva Administrative Court ordered the Education Ministry to reinstate school transport for 50 Bedouin children in the Naqab village of Bir Hadaj. The court found the Ministry had cut the service even though the schools are over 2 km from most students' homes—meeting the Ministry's own guidelines for eligibility. Adalah highlighted that the village's unpaved roads, stray dogs, and harsh winters make the daily journey unsafe. Since the school year began, transport has been restored for all 50 children.

"For an entire year, my children have had to walk to school along rugged, unpaved dirt roads strewn with garbage after their state-funded school bus service was cancelled. A young relative of mine was attacked and bitten by a stray dog on his way to school and seriously injured, and another major concern is getting hit by cars. Adalah's staff came to Bir Hadaj to see the situation firsthand and even walked the route to the school to understand what the children have been going through. After the court ruling, the bus transport will allow the children to get to and from school safely. The bus will pick them up and bring them back home at the end of the school day. Many children are now looking forward to going to school."



Majed Al-Wej, a resident of Bir Hadaj, has three young children who attend school in the village

Dismissal of Palestinian teachers, defunding schools

Adalah worked on a SCT case challenging a new law granting the Education Ministry authority to dismiss teachers based on vague assessments without due process, and to withhold school funding merely on the suspicion of “identifying with acts of terror.” The law enables arbitrary enforcement and infringes on free expression (FoE), targeting Palestinians in Israel and Jerusalem. Adalah filed the petition in December 2024 on behalf of the Palestinian leadership in Israel, the National Committee of Arab Parents, and others. In December 2025, the SCT issued an order to show cause.

Religious freedom in Israeli universities

In November 2025, Adalah sued Bar-Ilan University on behalf of Hala Odeh, an optometry student, to overturn its ban on her wearing a niqab. The university told her that she could not continue her studies, citing concerns about “quality of instruction,” “educational and social interaction,” and “identification for security and academic requirements.” Other Israeli universities allow the niqab, employing simple identification measures. Adalah argued the ban violates her rights to dignity, autonomy, and FoE, and discriminates based on gender and religion.

Teachers and students in a classroom in East Jerusalem, 17 January 2023. Photo by Jamal Awad/ Flash90



Aerial view of the Bedouin village of Ras Jrabah with Dimona in the background, 29 May 2023

FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN THE NAQAB

Supreme Court rejects final appeal by Ras Jrabah residents, ordering their eviction within 90 days

On 12 November 2025, Israel's Supreme Court upheld the state's plan to forcibly evict more than 500 people within 90 days. The Court approved the evacuation, despite a recent District Court decision to cancel the approval of the "Dimona East Plan," the very project the state used as its justification for the Ras Jrabah villagers' displacement. The District Court found that the plan's approval had been marred by serious procedural flaws, including the state's failure to consider the possibility of integrating Ras Jrabah's residents within the expanded plan for Dimona.

The Supreme Court's ruling therefore grants the state the authority to evict the people from the land without any legitimate planning purpose or demonstrated necessity, which may have a 'domino effect' throughout the Naqab. Adalah, representing the villagers, condemned the decision for giving "judicial cover for Israel's policies of segregation and apartheid." Adalah requested a second hearing before the SCT in December 2025.

A Bedouin family left homeless after being forced to demolish their own home near Ar'arat an-Naqab. Photo via the Regional Council for the Unrecognized Villages in the Negev



Representing three threatened Bedouin villages

Throughout 2025, Adalah also continued to represent hundreds of residents of the three unrecognized Bedouin villages of Ras Jrabah, Umm Badoun and Al-Bqea'ah against state-initiated evacuation lawsuits. With these pending defense cases, villagers have been able to remain on their land and in their homes, gaining more time to respond to the state's plans. Adalah continues to provide the villagers with legal representation, pursuing multiple legal avenues to defend their rights and improve their legal situation and living conditions.

Challenging displacement camps

In September, important changes were made to the state's plan for "temporary displacement camps" for Bedouins living in unrecognized villages that lessen rights violations against them. These changes followed Adalah's appeal against the plan in May 2025. While the planning committee approved the general concept of the temporary housing for Bedouins, it mandated these changes, including limiting the plan's scope to 1,200 housing units, including 500 for people who have already relocated. The plan has also been limited to people who sign agreements to move, and an observatory mechanism has been established to oversee implementation. Adalah filed a petition against the plan that was rejected on 29 December; Adalah has appealed.

Panoramic view of Umm al-Fahem. Photo by Moa'taz Tawfeeq Eghbariya, via Wikimedia Commons

DISCRIMINATION IN LAND

Legal actions to defend the land rights of PCI

In July, Adalah and partner organizations filed an objection to the Ein Jarar plan in Umm al-Fahem, challenging a Defense Ministry proposal to create an 80-meter “buffer zone” that would reclassify residential and industrial areas as “open space,” allowing expropriation of land and effectively freezing urban development. In December 2025, the plan was approved but five buildings were excluded from the buffer zone, sparing 60 residents from displacement. Also in July, Adalah sent two legal letters to the Israel Land Authority (ILA): one opposing a proposed resolution to allocate 100% of residential land in certain areas exclusively to Israeli soldiers and reservists, which would create segregated enclaves and exclude most PCI; and another objecting to a discriminatory amendment restricting land allocation benefits to “Druze” and “Circassian” localities, while those classified as “Arab” would not get these resources. Adalah argued that both measures violate the principle of equality, unlawfully tying access to land and housing to military service, religion, or political loyalty.

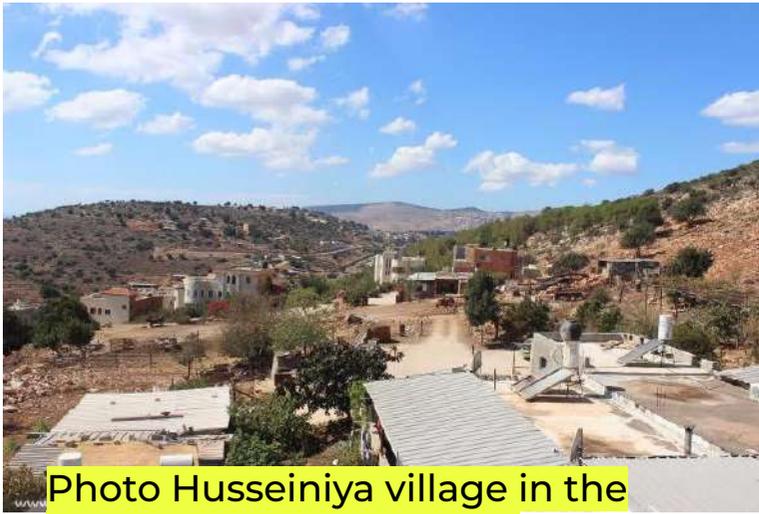


Photo Husseinia village in the north of Israel via Arab48

Representing the residents of Husseinia

In August, Adalah sent a legal letter to the Misgav Planning Committee and the Housing Ministry urging progress on the long-delayed master plan for the Bedouin village of Husseinia. The existing 2003 plan for the 850 residents is outdated and inadequate, while the nearby Jewish-majority town of Karmiel had its plan swiftly approved. After Bimkom's objection to the Karmiel plan was rejected, Adalah petitioned the Haifa District Court in September 2025 on behalf of the local committee and Bimkom.

"As an SJD (PhD in Law) student at Harvard Law School, I had the opportunity to work with Adalah in 2025 through the university's Summer Public Interest program. As a qualified lawyer in Israel, I was able to contribute to the case of my own village of Husseinia, which faces serious discrimination from the state planning authorities. I contributed research to and helped shape a submission by Adalah's legal team to a planning committee to advance the case. Working with Adalah has given me the chance to stand with my village at a critical moment. The outcome of the struggle remains uncertain, but it matters that the case is ongoing. The current case builds on earlier legal work in the late 1990s, when Adalah supported the legal efforts and public campaign that led to Husseinia's recognition by the state."



Attorney Hamad Swaid, a resident of Husseinia

DISCRIMINATORY LAWS

Vote at Knesset Plenum, Jerusalem, 25
March 2025. Photo by Yonatan Sindel/
Flash90

Adalah continued to challenge Israel's sweeping legislative assault on the human rights of Palestinians. Since 7 October 2023, dozens of racist and discriminatory laws have been enacted. In November, Adalah released [a new report](#) detailing laws passed between 7 October 2023 and 27 July 2025 that directly or indirectly inflict severe violations of the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians under Israeli occupation. The laws examined violate numerous fundamental rights, including freedoms of expression, protest, and thought, the right to citizenship and legal status, the rights to family life, equality, social rights and equality in the allocation of state resources, criminal justice principles, and prisoners' rights.



Abuse of 'counter-terrorism' measures, legal challenges

UN experts, led by the UN Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, sent a communication to Israeli officials in April 2025 detailing the illegality of a new law that allows for the deportation of family members of individuals accused or convicted of broadly defined "acts of terror".

In May, a second communication addressed the illegality of two new laws targeting Palestinian children: one, an amendment to the Youth Law, which allows for the imprisonment, even for life, of 12-year-old children; and the other, to the National Insurance Law, revokes social allowances to families with a child imprisoned for a terror offence, including stone-throwing.

The experts determined that the new laws breach international human rights law and risk being misused for political and ideological purposes. In March 2025, Adalah petitioned the Supreme Court against the new amendment to the National Insurance Law.

ATTACKS ON ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Defending MK Ayman Odeh from Knesset expulsion

On 14 July 2025, the Knesset failed to secure the required 90-MK supermajority to expel Palestinian MK Ayman Odeh, leader of the Hadash/Jabha party, despite 73 MKs voting in favor. The attempt stemmed from a single social media post in which Odeh supported a Hamas-Israel prisoner-hostage exchange, and is likely a precursor of future far-right efforts to bar Arab parties and candidates from running in Knesset elections in 2026.

Adalah's General Director, Dr. Hassan Jabareen, representing MK Odeh, condemned the vote as a racist and unlawful attempt to punish legitimate political expression and silence Palestinian representation. Knesset House Committee hearings prior to the vote were marked by incitement and threats from MKs across the political spectrum.



Adalah's General Director, Dr. Hassan Jabareen, during a Knesset committee hearing to oust MK Ayman Odeh, 24 June 2025. Photo by Ari Remez/ Adalah



MK Ayman Odeh. Photo by Ari Remez/ Adalah

MK Odeh under physical attack

On 19 July 2025, MK Odeh and others were physically and verbally attacked by right-wing Jewish Israeli rioters at a protest in Nes Ziona. Adalah submitted videos, affidavits and an expert forensic opinion to the police, Justice Ministry, and State Attorney's Office, arguing that the attack should be investigated under the Counter-Terrorism Law due to its ideological and racist motivations. Adalah also charged that the police had failed to intervene despite advance warnings and clear evidence of wrongdoing, calling for an independent inquiry into police and municipal security failures and the prosecution of all perpetrators. No action has yet been taken by state authorities.



MK Ofer Cassif. Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

Defending MK Ofer Cassif

In October, the Supreme Court summarily dismissed a petition filed by Adalah on behalf of MK Ofer Cassif (Hadash) to overturn the Knesset Ethics Committee's 9 July decision suspending him from plenary and committee work. This sanction was his fifth disciplinary punishment since December 2022, largely for his criticism of Israel's actions in Gaza. Adalah argued that the committee was using its authority to silence Cassif's legitimate political expression. Adalah also submitted an intervention to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which issued a unanimous decision in April 2025 expressing deep concern about the Knesset's targeting of Cassif and calling on the Israeli authorities to restore his parliamentary rights and uphold free expression for all MKs.

Anti-war protest in Haifa, 10 April 2025. Photo by Ranna Khalil/ Adalah

CRACKDOWN ON FREE EXPRESSION

Defending anti-war protestors

Over the year, Adalah continued to provide legal representation and counsel to dozens of arrested anti-war protesters at police stations and in court. The authorities routinely labelled protesters as “terror supporters” and violently dispersed demonstrations. However, in most cases in 2025, Adalah’s lawyers secured their release, lifted any movement restrictions imposed, and recovered confiscated belongings, including of protestors detained in Haifa for participating in demonstrations opposing the war on Gaza. Despite the peaceful nature of these protests, the police have repeatedly dispersed the protests without legal authority. In several rulings, the courts affirmed that the detentions lacked legal basis and that no legitimate suspicions justified the restrictions placed on the protestors.



Comedian Nidal Badarneh performing on stage during one of his shows. Photo: Badarneh's Facebook page

Representing Palestinian artists

Adalah represented Palestinian artists, including actress Maisa Abdul Hadi on speech-related criminal charges and comedian Nidal Badarneh, the latter targeted by a right-wing incitement campaign for his satirical content on current events, including the war on Gaza. Badarneh was arrested and interrogated, before being released following Adalah's urgent letter to the authorities demanding an end to his persecution. Since 7 October 2023, journalists and booksellers have also been caught up in the crackdown on free speech, alongside the banning of cultural events such as film screenings.

Representing Palestinian political, religious and community leaders

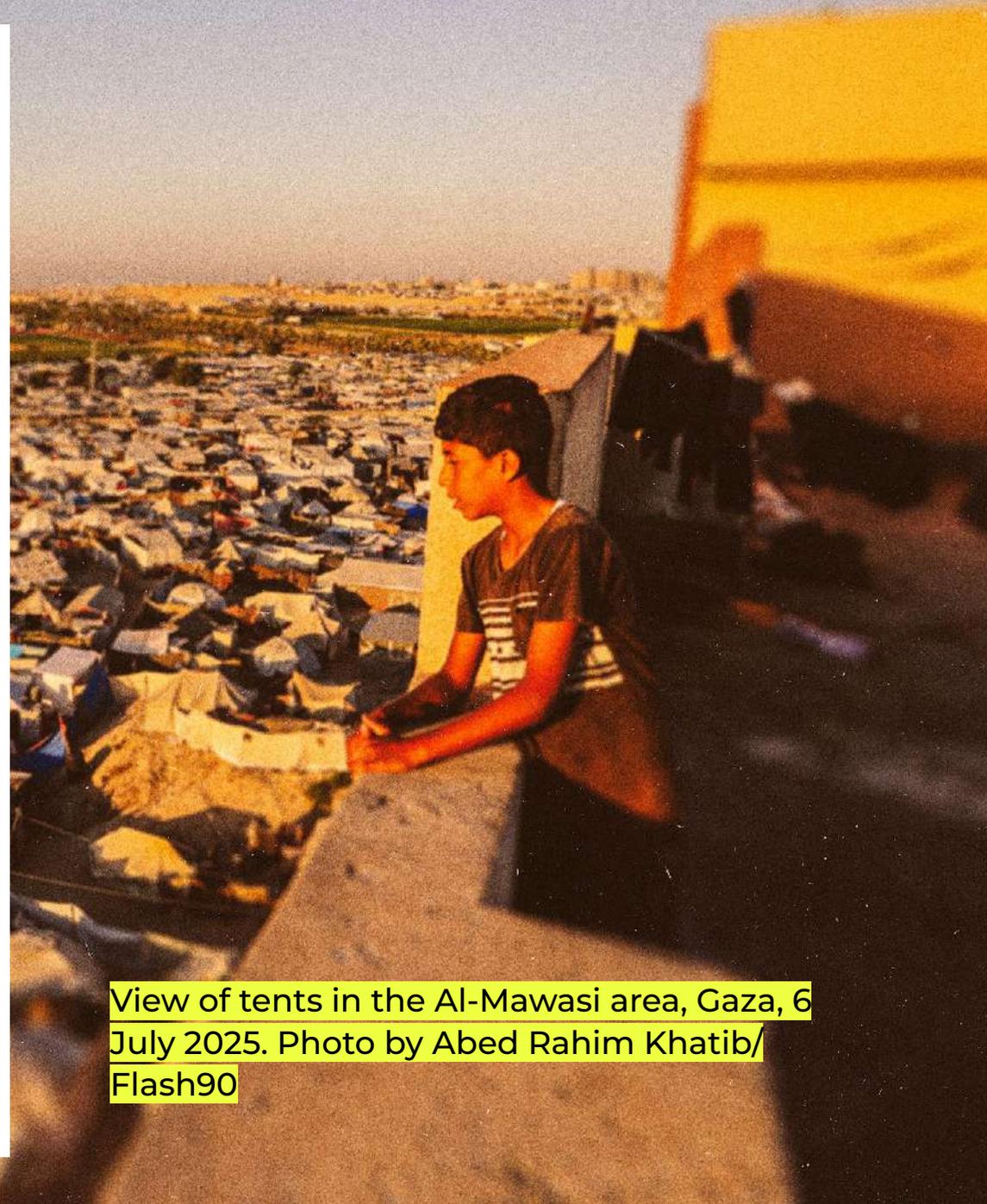
Adalah also represented PCI political leaders criminalized for social media posts. Politically motivated measures in 2025 targeted secular nationalist movement Abna' al-Balad leader Raja Eghbariah, who was held in administrative detention for four months and tortured, and later convicted on other speech-related criminal charges, and Mohammed Kana'neh. Other targets included Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. Adalah is also representing community leaders Ahmed Khalifa and Mohammad Jabareen in criminal proceedings related to their participation in anti-war protests in Umm al-Fahem.

THE GAZA STRIP

Mass forced displacement

In July, Adalah, Gisha, ACRI, and Physicians for Human Rights–Israel sent a letter to Defense Minister Israel Katz, the Attorney General, and the Military Advocate General demanding that they cancel the state's plan to concentrate Gaza's population in a camp on the ruins of Rafah. In a 7 July briefing, Katz announced a "humanitarian city" with residents confined under Israeli military control, with aid funneled there to induce "voluntary migration." The groups warned that the plan constitutes mass forced transfer and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In September, Adalah and partners sent a letter to the Israeli authorities opposing military orders to transfer around a million residents of Gaza City to the confined area of Al-Mawasi, designated by Israel as a "permitted zone"—in an act of ethnic cleansing.



View of tents in the Al-Mawasi area, Gaza, 6 July 2025. Photo by Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90

PRISONERS' RIGHTS

Palestinian prisoners from Gaza held in an Israeli prison facility in central Israel, 4 March 2025. Photo by Chaim Goldberg/ Flash90

“Unlawful combatants”

Thousands of Palestinians from Gaza have been held incommunicado for long periods in Israel in a system of military camps and prisons and subjected to systematic torture, inhuman and degrading treatment since 7 October 2023, carried out with near-total impunity. Adalah continued to pursue a Supreme Court petition filed together with PCATI and other human rights groups against December 2023 amendments to the Unlawful Combatants Law extending detention without judicial oversight and long delays in access to legal counsel. The law facilitates enforced disappearances. A November 2024 amendment made minor changes but retained core violations, leaving thousands held under the law in conditions akin to indefinite administrative detention.

Ban on MK visits to prisoners

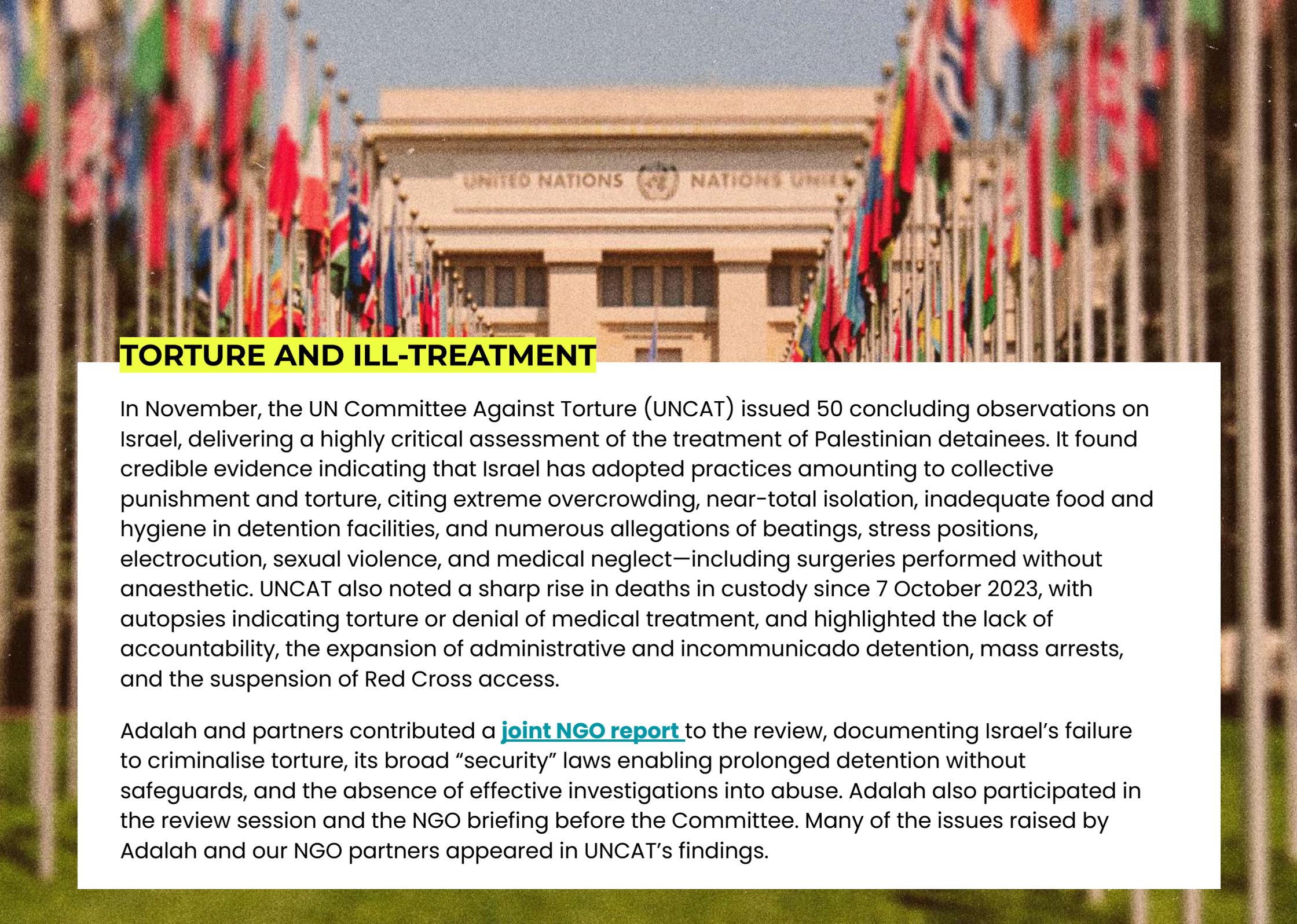
Adalah and MK Dr. Ahmad Tibi are challenging a ban before the SCT on MK Tibi from visiting Palestinian leader Marwan Barghout and other prisoners, arguing that it obstructs oversight of the executive's actions. In April 2025, Adalah also demanded an end to the Israel Prison Service's practice of blindfolding Palestinian prisoners held in security wings, including minors. On Palestinian Prisoners' Day, 17 April, Adalah issued a statement calling for international action to end Israel's unlawful detention regime and halt the inhumane treatment of Palestinian prisoners. Adalah widely distributed the statement to international actors and it was noted in the UN NGO Action News.

Lawyer visits to child prisoners

As part of the work of Adalah's Children's Rights Unit, an Adalah lawyer regularly visited ten Palestinian children held in Israeli prisons as a means of advocating for their rights and welfare. During the visits, Adalah checked on their general situation and health, filing requests for medical treatment as needed.



Israeli Ofer prison, in the occupied West Bank, 22 February 2025. Photo by Jamal Awad/ Flash90

The background image shows the United Nations Secretariat Building in New York City, with a large number of national flags flying in front of it. The building's facade features the words "UNITED NATIONS" and "NATIONS UNIES" flanking a central emblem.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

In November, the UN Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) issued 50 concluding observations on Israel, delivering a highly critical assessment of the treatment of Palestinian detainees. It found credible evidence indicating that Israel has adopted practices amounting to collective punishment and torture, citing extreme overcrowding, near-total isolation, inadequate food and hygiene in detention facilities, and numerous allegations of beatings, stress positions, electrocution, sexual violence, and medical neglect—including surgeries performed without anaesthetic. UNCAT also noted a sharp rise in deaths in custody since 7 October 2023, with autopsies indicating torture or denial of medical treatment, and highlighted the lack of accountability, the expansion of administrative and incommunicado detention, mass arrests, and the suspension of Red Cross access.

Adalah and partners contributed a [joint NGO report](#) to the review, documenting Israel's failure to criminalise torture, its broad "security" laws enabling prolonged detention without safeguards, and the absence of effective investigations into abuse. Adalah also participated in the review session and the NGO briefing before the Committee. Many of the issues raised by Adalah and our NGO partners appeared in UNCAT's findings.

GAZA FREEDOM FLOTILLAS



Ships gather at Barcelona port for the launch of the Global Sumud Flotilla, 31 August 2025.
Photo by Wahaj Bani Moufleh/ Activestills

In October 2025, Israel intercepted four humanitarian flotillas attempting to reach Gaza, including the Global Sumud Flotilla and the Thousands Madleens Flotilla, which carried over 600 participants aboard around 50 vessels. Israeli naval forces illegally seized the ships in international waters, towed them to Ashdod Port, and detained hundreds of activists at Ktzi'ot Prison in harsh and degrading conditions. Detainees were reportedly denied legal counsel, blindfolded, and handcuffed for extended periods. These actions violate international law, including prohibitions on arbitrary detention, inhumane treatment, and the obstruction of humanitarian missions.

Adalah took immediate legal action to represent the detained participants, coordinating a volunteer team of lawyers to secure their release and challenging the illegality of their detention and the Flotilla's interception. Adalah appealed to Israeli authorities to allow contact with detainees and demanded their right to meet legal counsel, ultimately reaching over 500. Adalah emphasized that the Flotilla's purpose was to deliver humanitarian aid and protest the blockade on Gaza, which, together with the war, has created catastrophic shortages of food, fuel, and medical supplies.

A vessel from the Global Sumud Flotilla being escorted to the Ashdod Port after being intercepted by Israeli forces overnight, 2 October 2025. Photo by Jamal Awad/Flash90



In its public statements, Adalah condemned Israel's tightening restrictions and the escalation of violence against international aid efforts, describing the blockade and interception as violations of international humanitarian law and of provisional measures issued by the ICJ in the *South Africa v. Israel* genocide case. Adalah pledged to continue defending the rights of flotilla participants and Gaza's civilian population, calling for accountability for collective punishment and war crimes.

Earlier, in June, Israeli forces intercepted the *Madleen*, a Freedom Flotilla vessel carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza, in international waters—outside of Israeli jurisdiction. Adalah represented nine of the 12 activists, securing access and visiting them in different detention facilities, providing legal counsel, and demanding better conditions and their immediate release. Although the vessels were prevented from reaching Gaza, the activists' message about the illegal blockade, starvation and ongoing genocide reached millions of people.

THE WEST BANK



Palestinians argue with Israeli army soldiers at site of a new road under construction for the use of Israeli settlers near the Palestinian village of Beit Ur al-Alfoqa, west of Ramallah, 29 September 2025. Photo by Flash90

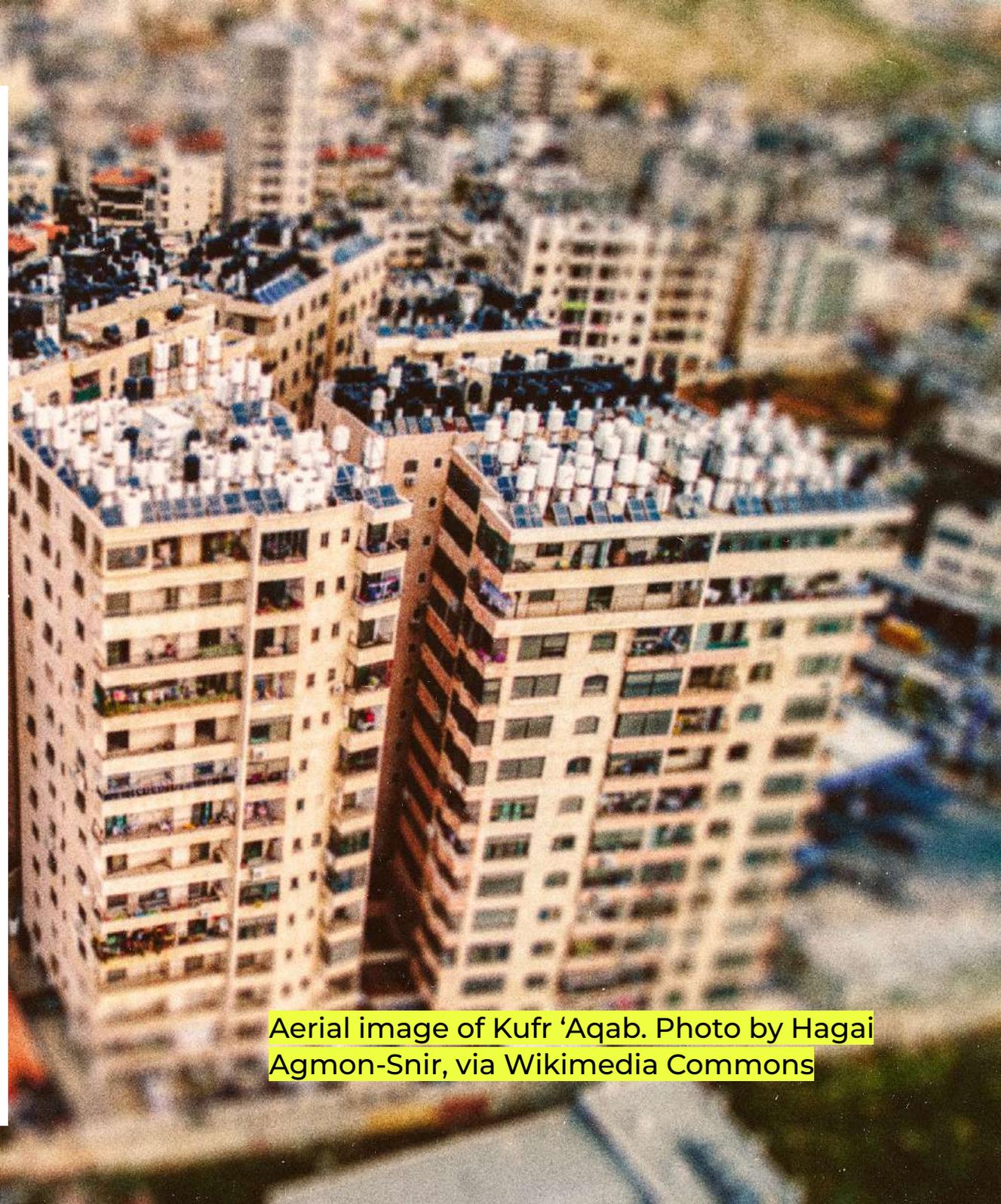
New report on the Israeli settlement enterprise

In July, Adalah released a new report, "[Legal Structures of Distinction, Separation, and Territorial Domination](#)," documenting Israel's bifurcated legal and administrative regime in the occupied West Bank, particularly Area C. It shows how Israeli settlements fall under Israeli civilian planning and municipal systems, while Palestinians remain under military rule with severely restricted land-use rights. It outlines the "civilianization" of settler land governance, parallel local authorities, large-scale "state land" declarations, and starkly unequal permit and enforcement systems—e.g., thousands of settlement units approved between 2023 and mid-2025, contrasted with permit denial rates exceeding 95% for Palestinians.

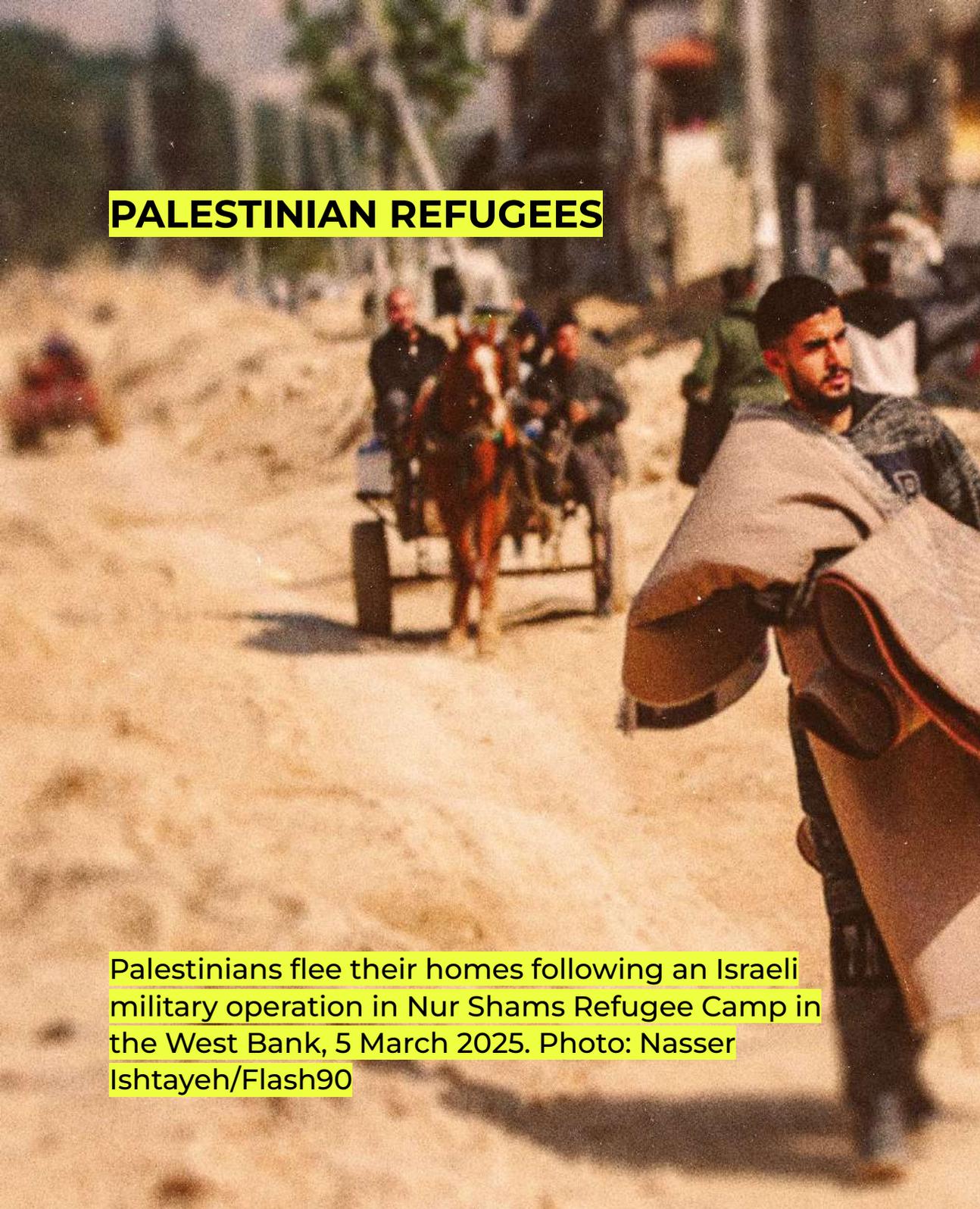
The report concludes that this system constitutes racialized land control amounting to apartheid and de facto annexation. It urges the international community to act to halt Israel's settlement expansion and annexation measures that violate IHL, the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, UN resolutions and International Court of Justice advisory opinions.

Drinking water for Kufr 'Aqab

In September, the Israeli Supreme Court issued an interim order requiring Israeli authorities, including the Government Water and Sewage Authority, the Mekorot water company, and the Jerusalem Municipality, to provide explanations regarding the ongoing water outages and the failure to ensure a regular, consistent, and adequately pressurized water supply to meet the personal, domestic, and public needs of residents in Kufr 'Aqab, Samiramis, the Matar, and Zwaiter—Palestinian neighborhoods beyond the Wall in occupied East Jerusalem. Adalah filed the petition in August 2024 on behalf of 204 residents, arguing that the Israeli authorities' failure to provide a continuous and adequate water supply violated the petitioners' rights to health, life, and bodily integrity.



Aerial image of Kufr 'Aqab. Photo by Hagai Agmon-Snir, via Wikimedia Commons



PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Palestinians flee their homes following an Israeli military operation in Nur Shams Refugee Camp in the West Bank, 5 March 2025. Photo: Nasser Ishtayeh/Flash90

Demolitions and destruction in occupied West Bank refugee camps

In May, the Supreme Court rejected Adalah's petition to halt military demolition orders targeting over 100 homes in Nur Shams and Tulkarem refugee camps. The Court dismissed the petition without a hearing, accepting the military's justification without scrutiny. The orders affected 58 buildings in Tulkarem and 47 in Nur Shams. On 6 July, the military announced demolitions in Tulkarem, following an amended Court decision allowing action based on alleged "urgent combat needs or overriding security considerations." By the time Adalah's petition was ruled on, nearly a third of the northern camp had been destroyed. However, the military spared four residential buildings housing around 70 people from demolition.

Earlier, in June, the Court rejected Adalah's petition against military orders targeting 90 civilian buildings in the Jenin Refugee Camp.



A Palestinian pupil stands at the entrance of a closed UNRWA school in the Shuafat refugee camp in East Jerusalem, 8 May 2025. Photo by Jamal Awad/ Flash90

Anti-UNRWA laws, raids and closure of UNRWA schools

On 22 October 2025, the ICJ issued an Advisory Opinion on Israel's obligations toward the UN and other international actors in the OPT. It held that Israel must lift restrictions on UNRWA, stressing the agency's central role in meeting Palestinians' basic humanitarian needs and supporting self-determination. The ICJ rejected Israel's claims that alleged Hamas "infiltration" justified limits on UNRWA. The Advisory Opinion followed Adalah's legal work in Israel and advocacy, which also contributed to a related communication by UN Special Rapporteurs.

On 16 January 2025, Adalah petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court on behalf of 10 Palestinian refugees and Gisha against two anti-UNRWA laws passed in October 2024, arguing they would strip refugees of essential services and violate Israeli and international law. The Court declined to freeze the laws, which went into effect on 30 January 2025, and later postponed hearings until 2026. In May 2025, it also rejected Adalah's motion to stop the closure of six UNRWA schools in East Jerusalem. Police raided three schools on 8 May, and all were soon closed, affecting nearly 800 students. Israeli police raided UNRWA's East Jerusalem headquarters on 8 December 2025 in blatant disregard for the inviolability of UN premises.

ADALAH'S LAW STUDENTS' CAMP



Law students and Adalah staff at Adalah's 18th Law Students' Camp, 27 September 2025

From 25–27 September 2025, Adalah held its 18th Annual Palestinian Law Students' Camp at the University of Notre Dame in Jerusalem, bringing together 41 Palestinian law students. Conducted in Arabic, the participants explored how Israeli law has been used as a means of revenge and to implement collective punishment and repression of Palestinians after 7 October 2023. Activities included a field tour of East Jerusalem, workshops, lectures, and screenings of Palestinian short films, all designed to deepen understanding of genocide, displacement, and racist laws.

"The discussions addressed issues that we experience daily, sometimes without even realizing it, as well as what our people in Gaza are going through. This experience is important for anyone who truly cares about this cause and wants to understand it more deeply... It was an exceptional experience, not only educationally, but also socially, as I met new people, new faces, and heard different stories."

S.S, a first-year student at Tel Aviv University

"It was truly one of the best experiences of my life. I enjoyed it immensely—it was a genuinely unique experience. I felt deeply connected to my Arab identity, and I felt that I was genuinely studying law with a purpose. I was able to express what's inside me freely, especially considering the circumstances we live under as an Arab community and as a minority."

Z.Z, a third-year law student at Tel Aviv University



ADALAH IN ACTION



Legislating apartheid: How Israel entrenched unequal rule during Gaza war

In a two-year blitz, Israeli lawmakers passed over 30 laws curbing Palestinians' rights and punishing dissent, a new report says.

By Orly Nov | December 2, 2025



'The land is ours': Bedouin village fights forced removal in Israel's top court

Israel's Supreme Court is set to hear a case challenging the forced displacement of over 500 Palestinian citizens from the Bedouin village of Ras Jrahah.

MENA 3 min read

The New York Times

Israel Intercepts Another Activist Flotilla That Aimed to Break Gaza Blockade

It was the second attempt in as many weeks to breach the restrictions around the Gaza Strip. Neither has succeeded.

Listen to this article - 2:38 min [Learn more](#)

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FRANCE AFRICA INTERNATIONAL CULTURE SPORTS SCIENCE

Live news

UN says Israel school closures in east Jerusalem 'assault on children'

Jerusalem (AFP) - The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees on Thursday decried an "assault on children" after Israel closed all six of its schools in annexed east Jerusalem, months after an Israeli ban on its activities took effect.

Issued on: 08/05/2025 - 10:26 Modified: 08/05/2025 - 17:21 3 min

ADALAH IN THE MEDIA

Israeli Human Rights Groups Tell UN That Israel Increased Use of Torture During Gaza War

The report submitted to the UN notes that detainees received medical treatment while shackled and blindfolded, and were forced to use diapers to relieve themselves. It also says detainees were starved, with 'an official diet of approximately 1,000 calories daily'



Nir Hasson and Matan Golan
11:53 AM · November 28, 2025 (IST)

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has intensified its violations of the UN Convention Against Torture, according to a detailed report submitted last month by Israeli human rights organizations to the UN.

'I Guess Everything Is Allowed': How the Systematic Eviction of Israel's Bedouin Works

14 comments Save Zen Reading

The Bedouin village of Ras Jrahah, in November 2023.
Credit: Elyahu Hershkovitz / Photo editing: Roni Nova

The Netanyahu government, which has ordered the systematic eviction of Bedouin villages, has...

Israel-Palestine conflict Live updates What is a Palestinian without...

Israel's ban on UNRWA comes into effect despite backlash

The United Nations has said UNRWA will continue working in all Palestinian territories



03:08
The UN's agency for Palestinians is now banned in Gaza. What now?
30 Jan 2025 | Updated: 30 Jan 2025 08:20 PM (GMT)

A ban on the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) in Israel has come into effect, impacting the organisation's life-saving work in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.



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Israel
This article is more than 5 months old

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Emma Graham-Harrison in Jerusalem
Mon 9 Jun 2025 22:45 BST

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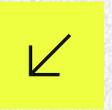
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