

**Adalah** The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel  
عدالة المركز القانوني لحقوق الاقلية العربية في اسرائيل  
עזאלה המרכז המשפטי לזכויות המיעוט הערבי בישראל



## Adalah's Report of Activities January – September 2008

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## Introduction

This report highlights Adalah's **main achievements and impact, as well as our key activities** conducted from January through September 2008, our twelfth year of operation. As this report reflects, during the first nine months of 2008 Adalah achieved some favorable resolutions on our legal representations and international advocacy initiatives, and submitted a large number of major new impact litigation cases of crucial importance in promoting and defending the rights of Palestinian in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Adalah also initiated new partnerships and projects in Israel, the OPT and abroad, in particular in South Africa, and moved to its new offices in Haifa in May.

Adalah ("Justice" in Arabic) is an independent human rights organization. Established in November 1996, it serves Palestinian citizens of Israel, numbering over one million people or close to 20% of the population and Palestinians living in the OPT. Adalah's main objectives are to achieve equal individual and collective rights for the Arab minority in Israel in different fields including land and planning rights; civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; religious rights; women's rights; and prisoners' rights, and to defend the rights of Palestinians living under occupation. In order to achieve these goals, Adalah:

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

Adalah operated from three offices: Shafa'amr in the north (our main office through May), Yaffa-Tel Aviv in the center (through April), and Beer el-Sabe (Beer Sheva) in the south.

The report is divided into four sections: Legal Action, International Advocacy, Legal Education and Institutional Development. We have employed a new, more streamlined format for this report, in an attempt to provide readers with a more succinct presentation of our work. We have also added information about major challenges faced by the organization during the first nine months of the year, and the strategies that we have employed to meet those challenges.

## Legal Action

### Highlights

Following Adalah's petition to the Haifa District Court, in 1/08 the state rescinded its decision to appropriate 900 dunams of land belonging to Arab citizens in **Daliyat al-Carmel** to create a national park and forest. As a result of this case, Arab citizens were able to keep their land [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_01\\_14](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_14)

The Supreme Court ordered the state to explain why the **Citizenship Law** banning family unification should not be struck down in 5/08, following a petition filed by Adalah [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_05\\_06](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_05_06)

In 5/08, Adalah secured the release of **detained Arab demonstrators** before the Nazareth Magistrates' and District Courts who were subjected to police violence during the annual "Right of Return" March commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_05\\_08](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_05_08)

In 8/08, following a petition filed by Adalah and the Association for the Development of Arab Education in Haifa, negotiations between Adalah and the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Haifa Municipality led to an agreement to open a first grade class at the **al-Karma school for the arts** in Haifa, from 9/08 for one year [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_08\\_24](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_08_24)

Adalah, together with ACRI and PCATI, filed a petition to the Supreme Court in 3/08 challenging an amendment to the **Criminal Procedure Law** that imposes harsh conditions of confinement on "security" detainees [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_03\\_06\\_1](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_03_06_1)

Adalah, together with Palestinian NGOs and mayors submitted an objection in 3/08 to the planning authorities against the **Eastern Ring Road Plan for Jerusalem**, which aims to cantonize Palestinian neighborhoods. Advocacy is being undertaken with Al Quds University Human Rights Law Clinic to stop the Ring Road ([www.stoptheringroad.net](http://www.stoptheringroad.net)) [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_03\\_17](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_03_17)

Adalah, Al Mezan and Association for the Palestinian Prisoners petitioned the Supreme Court in 6/08 to demand that **Palestinians from Gaza**, completely banned since 2006, be permitted to visit their relatives in Israeli prisons [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_06\\_17](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_06_17)

### Figures

	Planned 2008	Achieved Jan-Sept 2008
New impact litigation	15	16
New legal interventions	20+	24
Wins/losses	–	3 wins 5 losses
Follow-up on pending cases	–	30+

### Major new impact litigation

- *Cases to the courts & planning authorities*

A Supreme Court petition filed in 2/08 demanding **better transport conditions for prisoners** traveling between prisons and to courts [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_02\\_22](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_02_22)

A Supreme Court petition challenging a law that **bans income support recipients from owning or using a car**, filed in 3/08 [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_03\\_16\\_1](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_03_16_1)

A Supreme Court petition filed in 4/08 demanding an end to **discrimination against adult Arab prisoners** in education [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_04\\_17](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_04_17)

A Supreme Court petition demanding the **inclusion of an Arab village** in the list of communities eligible for marketing quotas and subsidies for egg production, filed in 4/08 [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_04\\_29](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_04_29)

A petition filed to the Tel Aviv District Court in 6/08 demanding that the Arab village of **Jisr al-Zarqa** be connected to the coastal highway, as have neighboring Jewish communities  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_06\\_24](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_06_24)

A petition to Tel Aviv District Court challenging **discriminatory age restrictions** imposed on entry to Tel Aviv University's medical school, filed in 1/08  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_01\\_29\\_2](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_29_2)

A second appeal to the planning authorities against local plan for **Daliyat al-Carmel**, which disregards the rights of the town's Arab residents, filed in 3/08  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_03\\_17\\_1](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_03_17_1)

A Supreme Court petition filed in 7/08 demanding the return of a 10-dunam plot of **land in Nazareth** confiscated by the state in 1958 for alleged but unfulfilled public purposes. On 22/7/08, the court rejected Adalah's request for a temporary injunction  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_07\\_03](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_07_03)

A petition submitted in 7/08 to the Nazareth District Court on behalf of prisoner Walid Daka, seeking **conjugal rights**, granted to Jewish Israeli prisoners such as Yigal Amir  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_07\\_28](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_07_28)

A Supreme Court petition filed in 7/08 demanding the amendment of the **pension insurance agreement** to extend its application to all workers over the age of 18 in order to prevent discrimination against Arab citizens  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_08\\_06](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_08_06)

A petition to the Haifa District Court filed in 9/08 challenging a ban placed on the entry of driving instructors' cars into Carmiel on Saturdays and Jewish holidays which has a disparate impact on Arab instructors causing them economic harm

- *Selected legal interventions*

A pre-petition sent to the AG in 1/08 arguing that the **application of the Absentee Property Law** in East Jerusalem is illegal and demanding that no property belonging to Palestinians be confiscated under the law

<http://www.adalah.org/features/Absentee/Adalah%20Letter%20to%20Mazuz%20Absentee%20Property%20Jerusalem%20-%20english.doc>

A motion filed to the Beer el-Sabe Magistrates' Court in 3/08 seeking the appointment of an investigatory judge to examine the **cause of death of an Arab Bedouin citizen** following a police chase  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_03\\_05](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_03_05)

A pre-petition sent to the AG in 4/08 demanding the provision of a **safe road leading to elementary schools** in the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of al-Sayyid in the Naqab  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_04\\_16](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_04_16)

A letter sent to seven government ministries demanding **suitable employment for Arab women** within their offices in 3/08  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_03\\_06](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_03_06)

A letter to the employment office seeking an end to **discrimination against religious Arab women** in employment following reports of employers refusing to hire women wearing the Islamic veil, sent in 3/08  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_03\\_25](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_03_25)

A letter sent to the National Insurance Institute demanding that it stop using **military and national service criterion** as condition for job appointments in 4/08  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/features/N\\_%20NII\\_Military.pdf](http://www.adalah.org/eng/features/N_%20NII_Military.pdf)

A letter sent to the Justice Minister and AG in 4/08 asking them to object to a bill absolving the GSS and police from audio and video **recording of investigations with "security" detainees**  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_05\\_07](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_05_07)

A letter sent in 6/08 to the AG demanding the freezing of **demolition orders** against Arab homes in the Triangle and Wadi Ara  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_06\\_04](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_06_04)

A position paper issued jointly with HaMoked and ACRI in 6/08 arguing that a proposed law **precluding tort suits against the state** for damages inflicted by the army will legitimize further military attacks on Palestinians

[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_06\\_12](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_06_12)

A letter sent in 7/08 to the Prime Minister, Defense Minister and AG demanding the cancellation of an order issued by the Defense Minister to **demolish the homes of two families** whose relatives were implicated in fatal attacks on civilians in Jerusalem  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_07\\_10](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_07_10)

A letter sent in 7/08 to the Agriculture Ministry demanding that pastures be designated for **grazing camels** in the Naqab, and clear criteria to govern the registration of camels with the ministry be published.  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_07\\_23\\_1](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_07_23_1)

A position paper sent to MKs in 7/08 requesting that they vote against the Citizenship Bill (Amendment No. 9) 2008, which permits the **revocation of citizenship for disloyalty to the state**. This bill subsequently passed into law  
<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jul08/NU%20Orna%20Revoking%20Citizenship%2029.7.08.doc>

A letter sent to the AG in 7/08 calling for the establishment of a **technological education center in Tamra** for 300 students who have or are at risk of dropping out of school  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_08\\_04](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_08_04)

A letter sent to the Defense Minister in 8/08, demanding that he revoke his order to close down **the Al-Aqsa Association** and withdraw his proclamation of it as an illegal organization under the Defense (Emergency) Regulations  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_08\\_25](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_08_25)

In 9/08 Adalah represented Mr. Nouri Al-Uqbi before the Beer el-Sabe Magistrates' Court in a police request to expel him from his land in the Arab Bedouin village of **al-Araqeeb** in the Naqab. The court rejected the police request  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_09\\_10\\_1](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_09_10_1)

A letter sent in 9/08 to the Municipality of Ramle demanding the **registration of an Arab child at a Jewish kindergarten** located close to his home. Shortly after the letter was sent, the municipality agreed to register the child  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_09\\_10](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_09_10)

A letter sent in 9/08 to the MOE and the Abu Basma Regional Council demanding a **school bus for preschool children** from the unrecognized village of Wadi Jaraba in the Naqab, who now have to wait two hours for a school bus, fully exposed to the sun  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_09\\_16](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_09_16)

## Negative decisions delivered

In 1/08 the Supreme Court rejected a petition filed by Adalah and Gisha on behalf of ten Israeli and Palestinian NGOs against **Israel's fuel and electricity cuts to Gaza**, contrary to principles of international law  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_01\\_31](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_31)

The Attorney General decided in 1/08 that no police officers or commanders involved in the fatal shootings of 13 Palestinian citizens in **October 2000** will face criminal indictment  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_01\\_29](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_29)

An English summary of the AG's decision:  
<http://www.justice.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/5B88648A-D537-47E1-9CE8-EE9D586CFCFE/9728/english2.doc>

In 2/08 the Supreme Court dismissed Adalah's petition demanding the cancellation of a police decision to prohibit the commemoration ceremonies in Nazareth for deceased **PFLP leader George Habash**  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_02\\_29](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_02_29)

In 6/08 the Supreme Court refused to order the Israeli army to provide a military report to family of **Mr. Meteb al-Nebari**, an Arab Bedouin citizen, killed by the army in suspicious circumstances  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_06\\_29](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_06_29)

In 6/08, the Absorption of Discharged Soldiers Law was amended to allow the use of the **military service criterion** to determine eligibility for student housing. The amendment overturned a district court decision accepting Adalah's petition to cancel Haifa University's use of this criterion. Adalah's Supreme Court petition on this issue was subsequently mooted

## Major follow-up work

The Supreme Court in an interim ruling in 9/08 instructed that PLC members whose **Jerusalem residency status** was revoked must be allowed to submit applications to reinstate. Adalah and ACRI submitted an amicus brief in this case [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_09\\_17](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_09_17)

In 7/08, the state announced to the Supreme Court that it implement the **National Priority Areas** decision in less than five years due to budget constraints. Based on Adalah's motion for contempt, the court then expanded the panel to seven justices [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_07\\_29\\_1](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_07_29_1)

At a hearing in 4/08, eight years after Adalah's petition, the Supreme Court ordered the state to appoint members to new committee formed to decide on criteria for allocating **budget balancing grants** to local authorities [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_04\\_13\\_1](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_04_13_1)

## Legal Challenges

- *Decreasing judicial activism by the Supreme Court*

2008 marked the second year of Justice Dorit Beinisch's tenure as the new Israeli Supreme Court Chief Justice. Since the beginning of her tenure, the court has been subjected to a serious attack from the government and in particular Justice Minister Daniel Friedmann, a strong critic of what he views as the court's usurpation of the powers of the legislature. In parallel, Israeli society has shifted further to the right. The Supreme Court has therefore become more cautious in issuing rulings that may further undermine its position in the eyes of the Jewish Israeli majority. The court did, however, hand down some positive interim decisions.

In 2008 the Supreme Court has appeared to be less inclined to deliver rulings, and to or act in favor of Adalah's cases, and is postponing hearings on our cases more often than ever before with the result that many of our cases remain pending for long periods of time.

Adalah employed various techniques and strategies to manage this risk in the first half of 2008, including: entering into more negotiations with certain ministries/municipalities to resolve

cases out of court after filing petitions; trying to file more cases to the lower courts, jurisdictional issues allow; and employing institutional arguments relating to separation of powers and balance of power issues and the court's authority before the Supreme Court. Some adaptations to our litigation agenda are also being discussed.

- *New Anti-Arab Legislation*

In 2008, the Knesset considered many new pieces of "anti-Arab" legislation, several of which have been enacted into law. Some of these new laws and bills are ostensibly neutral, while others explicitly discriminate against Palestinians, including both citizens of the state Palestinian in the OPT. Some new legislation is specifically designed to circumvent prior judicial rulings. Many of these new laws focus on issues conceived of as security-related such as citizenship and loyalty to the state; visits to "enemy states" resulting in the disqualification of those individuals from running for Knesset office; family unification; and criminal procedure laws for those suspected of security offenses, among others, all of which will have a disparate impact on Palestinians.

Discrimination against Palestinian citizens has existed in legislation that preceded the Basic Law on Human Dignity and Liberty – 1992, and was part and parcel of state policies. The new trend, however, is to enact legislation designed to anchor this discrimination in laws. In the OPT, the Knesset seeks to anchor in law the occupation's apartheid-like practices, most of which have previously been determined by military decrees.

In 2008, Adalah pursued several advocacy tracks to challenge these new laws and bills. Adalah has published position papers to MKs and government officials, often jointly with other Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, urging them to vote against this new legislation. We concurrently began to prepare petitions challenging these new laws for submission to the courts, and issued press releases and gave media interviews articulating our position. In addition, we discussed this new trend and these new laws and bills in our international advocacy reports. Adalah has taken a multi-tiered approach to challenging the new anti-Arab legislation and is not relying on a single track.



## International Advocacy

### Highlights



A delegation headed by the Chairman of the Arab High Follow-up Committee including representatives of the October 2000 victims' families and Adalah traveled to **South Africa** in 4/08 to seek international support for the group's demand for **truth, justice and accountability for the October 2000 families**. The visit is the first of a series of international advocacy initiatives launched after the AG's decision to close all the October 2000 cases. South African officials, lawyers and activists offered strong support during the visit. The delegation also learned about transitional justice mechanisms. [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_04\\_23](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_04_23)

Arab political leaders, the Chair of the Arab High Follow-up Committee and Adalah traveled to South Africa in 6/08 for a **study visit on constitution building**. The visit was organized with support from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and included meetings with academics, lawyers, ministers, MPs and ANC officials. This visit was part of the series of initiatives undertaken after the AG's decision in the October 2000 cases. [http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_06\\_05](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_06_05)

Adalah's General Director (GD) Attorney Hassan Jabareen and the Deputy State Attorney (DSA)

Shai Nitzan participated in a special panel in London organized by the **Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA)** in 5/08. The event, entitled "Human Rights during 60 Years of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," was attended by around 250 people. Attorney Jabareen spoke about Palestinians under Israeli law since 1948; DSA Nitzan spoke about Israeli Supreme Court judgments and Arab citizens of Israel. Attorney Jabareen also spoke at Cambridge University before a group of 25 faculty members and ME specialists in the Department of Middle East History. Participation supported by the HRLA.

Adalah and the United Against Torture (UAT) coalition submitted an NGO report to the **UN Committee Against Torture (CAT)**. The CAT will publish a "List of Issues" in advance of its review of Israel in 5/09. Adalah contributed 10 sections to the report, which analyze various laws and practices constituting torture and/or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners and Palestinians in the OPT.

[http://www.unitedagainsttorture.org/assets/uat%20alternative%20report%20-%20israel%20\(3\).doc](http://www.unitedagainsttorture.org/assets/uat%20alternative%20report%20-%20israel%20(3).doc)

Ms. Asma Jahangir, the **UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom**, visited Adalah's offices in 1/08 for a briefing at which Arab religious leaders and Adalah called on her to urge Israel to cease discrimination against Arab religious communities. Adalah submitted a short issues paper to the SR.

[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08\\_01\\_24\\_3](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_24_3)



## Figures

	Planned 2008	Achieved Jan-Sept 2008
Reports/interventions /advocacy to UN/EU bodies	5-7	8
Briefings for embassies	2	Ongoing
Participate in international human rights conferences/ seminars / networks	7-10	10

## The United Nations

A joint NGO briefing paper analyzing the Supreme Court's decision to reject a petition filed by Adalah and Gisha on behalf of ten human rights NGOs and challenging **fuel and electricity cuts to Gaza**. Submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in 2/08.

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/ara/feb08/English%20-%20AI-Haq%20-%20Joint.doc>

**The UN Independent Expert (IE) on Minority Issues** cited the Citizenship Law as an example of the denial or deprivation of citizenship in her report to the UN Human Rights Council of 2/08. Attorney Hassan Jabareen participated in an expert consultation on non-citizen rights convened and supported by the IE in Geneva in 12/07.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/7session/A-HRC-7-23.doc>

Prof. Philip Alston, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions criticized the AG's decision in the **October 2000 killings cases** in his report of 5/08 to the UN HR Council. The SR concluded that the decision not to issue indictments "would appear to fall short of the international standards." Adalah provided information to the SR on developments in the October 2000 case for his report.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/8session/A-HRC-8-3.doc>

Adalah Attorney Fatmeh El-Ajou testified before the **UN Special Committee** to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the

Palestinian People in 6/08 in Amman. She focused on a legal analysis of recent Israeli Supreme Court cases dealing with the status of Gaza. Participation supported by the UN.

Adalah submitted its NGO report to the UN Human Rights Council's **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** in 7/08. The UPR session to be held in 12/08 is the first occasion on which Israel will be reviewed. Adalah's report focused on the constitution building process in Israel; the denial of the right to equality; police impunity; denial of rights to access to justice; home demolitions; and the ban on family unification. Report available at:

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jul08/jul08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Fjul08%2Fjul08.html>

## The European Union

Adalah Attorney Fatmeh El-Ajou in 4/08, and Adalah General Director Hassan Jabareen and Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher in 9/08, attended a **series of advocacy meetings in Brussels** with European Commission, European Parliament and European Council representatives organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) and the FIDH. The series in 4/08 was held alongside a meeting of the Working Group on Palestine/Israel and the Palestinians. Participation supported by the EMHRN and FIDH.

The EMHRN and its members in Israel and the OPT, including Adalah, submitted a note expressing deep concern over the deterioration in the human rights situation in Israel and the OPT to the **EU-Israel Human Rights Working Group** in 4/08, and called on the EU to cooperate to bring an end to the highlighted human rights violations.

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/ara/apr08/Note%20EU-Israel%20HR%20WG%20April%20-final.doc>

The EMHRN submitted a further briefing paper to the **EU-Israel Association Council** ahead of the Council's annual meeting urging the EU to raise grave concerns over the human rights of Palestinians in the OPT and in Israel, and to bring diplomatic pressure to bear on Israel to alleviate them.



<http://www.adalah.org/eng/features/Note%20Israel%20in%20view%20of%20the%20EU%20Israel%20Association%20Council%20-%20June%202008.pdf>

## Embassies and MP Delegations

Adalah met with ambassadors and representatives of embassies in Israel throughout the year. Adalah also provided information on its work and other legal developments to the embassies on an on-going basis. Adalah also hosted delegations of parliamentarians from South Africa in 6/08, and from Belgium in 9/08, the latter together with Mossawa.

## International HR Organizations Conferences and Networks

Attorney Hassan Jabareen and Adalah's International Advocacy Director Rina Rosenberg participated in the first of a series of workshops to reassess **Israel's practices in the OPT under international law**. The workshop was convened in South Africa in 2/08 by the HSRC and brought together an international team of lawyers and legal scholars. Adalah contributed extensive materials in 5/08 for a research report to be issued by the law project. Participation supported by the HSRC.

Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher participated in a meeting of the **EMHRN's Working Group on Gender** and a regional coordination and planning meeting on the Istanbul Action Plan in Cairo, Egypt in 5/08. Attorney Zaher is the Chair of the WG. She also participated in the **EMHRN's Executive Committee** meeting in Brussels in 9/08. Participation was supported by the EMHRN.

Adalah Attorney Suhad Bishara gave a presentation on the Nakba at a conference on "Breaking the Logic of Displacement" organized by the **Forum for Human Rights in Israel/Palestine** to commemorate 60 Years of the Nakba in 4/08 in Bern, Switzerland. The forum comprises Swiss organizations active in the Middle East in development and human rights. Participation supported by the Forum.

Adalah Attorney Suhad Bishara undertook a **four-day speaking tour in France and**

**Belgium** in 6/08 on Adalah's Democratic Constitution. The tour was organized by the French Jewish Union for Peace in the framework of the International Campaign celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nakba. Participation supported by the Forum.

Adalah's legal apprentice, Haneen Naamnih, was selected and attended the EMHRN's one-week **Human Rights Education Summer School** in Istanbul, Turkey in 7/08. The theme of the summer school was protecting human rights in conflict. Participation supported by EMHRN. Read more: <http://www.euromedrights.net/pages/526/page/language/1>

Attorney Hassan Jabareen gave a presentation on the **failure of domestic remedies in cases of killings of Palestinians** at a conference convened by Diakonia entitled "Palestine/Israel: Making Monitoring Work – Re-Enforcing International Law in Europe." The two-day conference was held at the Free University in Brussels in 9/08 and brought together leading lawyers and human rights activists from Israel/OPT and Europe. Participation supported by Diakonia.

## Legal Education

### Highlights



- Adalah's work was featured regularly in the media including websites, print, radio and TV, in Hebrew, Arabic and English. International media coverage included Al Jazeera TV (Arabic and English), Al Arabiyya, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and The Economist.
- Adalah updated its tri-lingual website several times a week with legal news, court petitions and decisions and photo galleries. The average number of unique visitors to Adalah's website per month increased from 21,000 in 2007 to 24,450 in the first half of 2008. The highest monthly average was in 4/08, when around 32,400 unique visitors entered the website.
- Adalah published 9 volumes of its tri-lingual, monthly electronic newsletter, highlighting legal news, plus articles and commentaries by lawyers, academics and activists on the 60th anniversary of the Nakba, the siege on Gaza, prisoners' rights, new anti-Arab legislation, and education rights.
- Adalah trained two stagaires and provided offered legal apprenticeships to two more law students, one an Arab Bedouin citizen.
- By invitation, Adalah's lawyers gave 19 lectures at universities and law schools, at Israel Bar Association meetings and conferences, and at NGO events.

### Figures

	Planned 2008	Achieved Jan-Sept 2008
Seminars & conferences	3-4 public events	Planned for fall 2008
	30+ lectures	19 lectures
Publications & reports	12 vols. of Newsletter and subscribers up	Published <b>9</b> vols. of Newsletter
	Website	Increased monthly unique visitors to 24,450
	Makan and Adalah's Review	Publication of AR in 2008; Makan 2009
	The Reader	Publication in 2009
Media Outreach	Issue 50+ press releases with interviews and analysis to media	Issued <b>81</b> PRs; 11 cases were widely covered
	Newspaper articles	Wrote 2 published articles
	Protest ads	1 ad about October 2000 decision and 1 ad for 8 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of October 2000
Training for law students & recent law graduates	Host 1-2 stagaires	Hosted 2 stagaires
	Coordinate 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Law Students' Conference	Conference to take place in 10/08
	Work with law school clinic externs	Partnership with al-Quds University HR Clinic, and intern from NYU law school
	Seek and host LLM fellows	Adalah to host OSI-CEU LLM fellow in fall 2008

## Seminars & conferences

By request, Adalah lawyers gave around 19 lectures at university and law school symposia and conferences, Israel Bar Association meetings and conferences, and NGO events. Presentations included: the internationalization of cause-lawyering; family unification and citizenship; housing and land rights; the Democratic Constitution and constitution-making; commissions of inquiry; the Ring Road in Jerusalem; the Supreme Court and Gaza cases; and the Law of Return and the Right of Return. Adalah also participated in Land Day commemorations, protests against the siege on Gaza, and "Nakba at 60" events.

## Publications & reports

In 1-6/08, Adalah published **9 volumes of its monthly electronic newsletter** in Arabic, Hebrew and English. Themes of the newsletters included the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nakba, the siege on Gaza, International Women's Day, prisoners' rights, October 2000, and Land Day. Multi-media items included three photo slideshows, a roundtable discussion on whether or not to continue to petition the Supreme Court on OPT cases, and a power-point presentation on the Nakba. Please click on the following links to view the Newsletters published in 1-8/08:

**Vol. 44:** October 2000 Killings and Gaza Siege  
<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jan08/jan08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Fjan08%2Fjan08.html>

**Vol. 45:** Supreme Court and OPT cases  
<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/feb08/feb08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Ffeb08%2Feb08.html>

**Vol. 46:** Land Day and Palestine  
<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/mar08/mar08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Fmar08%2Fmar08.html>

**Vol. 47:** Prisoners' Rights  
<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/apr08/apr08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Fapr08%2Fapr08.html>

**Vol. 48:** 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nakba  
<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/may08/may08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Fmay08%2Fmay08.html>

**Vol. 49:** International Day against Torture  
<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jun08/jun08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Fjun08%2Fjun08.html>

**Vol. 50:** New Anti-Arab Legislation

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jul08/jul08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Fjul08%2Fjul08.html>

**Vol. 51:** Education Rights

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/aug08/aug08.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Faug08%2Faug08.html>

**Subscribers** to the newsletter numbered around 16,400 in 6/08. This represents a substantial decrease from the last reported numbers in 2007 as the email lists were cleaned up in 2008. Soliciting new subscribers will be a main focus during the second half of 2008. However, it should be stressed that thousands of non-subscribed readers view the Newsletter each month; e.g. recent statistics from the website of Arabs48, where the Newsletter is posted monthly, show that around 10,000 people open each Newsletter from that website. Further, articles and commentaries posted in the Newsletter are regularly republished on the websites of a host of media and HR NGOs.

**Website:** Adalah frequently updated its trilingual websites with new press releases and primary documentation concerning our legal work and international advocacy, and photo galleries. **In 2008, the highest ever number of average monthly users visited our website.**

**Adalah's Review**, Vol. 5, "On Criminalization": the material is with the graphic designer and publication of the printed editions is expected in 2008.

**Makan**, Vol. 2, "Narratives, Space and the Rights of Indigenous and Minority Groups": printed editions in Arabic, Hebrew and English. Publication expected in 2009.

**The Reader** (working title): printed or CD-Rom editions in Arabic, Hebrew and English, bringing together articles, commentaries, and keynote lectures published in Adalah's Newsletter from May 2004 to January 2007. Publication expected in 2009.

## Media outreach

From 1-9/08 Adalah published and tracked coverage of **81 press releases** on our work in Arabic, Hebrew and English.

<http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases2008.php>

**Eleven** of Adalah's cases attracted widespread media attention in the first half of 2008. Cases that received the most coverage included:

- The petition filed by Adalah and Gisha on behalf of 10 Palestinian and Israeli HR organizations against Israel's **fuel and electricity cuts to Gaza** received extremely widespread coverage in the local and international media, surpassing news coverage of all other legal representations.
- The AG's decision not to criminally indict police involved in the **October 2000 killings** was widely covered in the local media and received some international coverage. Adalah held a press conference with the Arab High Follow-up Committee and the Committee of the Victims' Families in Jerusalem immediately after the AG's decision, attended by all Israeli media outlets. Adalah obtained in-depth coverage of the decision, including an interview with GD Hassan Jabareen, and the resulting demonstration by over 20,000 people on Al Jazeera TV (English).
- The international media focused on covering items related to "Israel at 60" during the first half of the year. Adalah received related coverage in this context on the front page of the New York Times (land cases) and in The Economist (the Democratic Constitution).

By the invitation of Human Rights Watch, Adalah's staff participated in a press conference for international journalists in Jerusalem in 3/08 to launch its report "Off the Map" on land and planning rights in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab. Adalah contributed substantial research to the report.

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2008/iopt0308/>.

Adalah distributed a DVD of its documentary film on the unrecognized villages at the event.

Adalah Attorney Abeer Baker wrote opinion pieces that were published in *Ynet* (Hebrew) and the Arabs48 news website in 6/08. The two op-eds focused on the AG's discriminatory policies in filing October 2000-related indictments.

Adalah placed a protest ad with the Arab High Follow-Up Committee and the Committee of the Victims' Families (October 2000) in *Haaretz* soon after the AG's decision, entitled "Killing

Arab Citizens – Approved". The ad was also posted on Adalah's website and Newsletter. <http://www.adalah.org/eng/features/october/mazuzenglish.pdf>

## Media Challenges

- The Hebrew media is hostile to Arab citizens, and much of Adalah's legal work is portrayed negatively and as political. It has even become much harder to receive coverage in *Haaretz*, the main Hebrew newspaper that has reported on Adalah's cases. *Haaretz* has substantially cut back on its legal reporting, shifted to the right and increased coverage of economic news. Adalah has begun to frame its press releases on cases from more of an economic perspective where possible in order to gain more coverage in *The Marker*, the daily business supplement of *Haaretz*. Adalah is also developing strategies to attract more positive coverage in Hebrew-language media outlets.
- Coverage of Adalah's work in the Arabic and English international media, as well as the Palestinian media (OPT) is limited. Adalah needs to proactively solicit international coverage on a regular basis and be more creative and invest more resources in this area. It must also make more personal contacts with international journalists to become a better-known source of information and must target them with feature stories that overlap with their specific agendas. During the first half of 2008, Adalah recruited for the first time an international media fellow, and is currently seeking a replacement for this position.

## Training for law students & recent law graduates

From 1-3/08 Adalah completed the training of stagaires Mr. Ihab Asleh and Mr. Alla Abdallah, and began the official traineeship of Ms. Haneen Naamnih in 4/08. In 6/08, Adalah also hired an Arab Bedouin trainee lawyer from the Naqab, Mr. Salem Abu Medeghem, Adalah's former Naqab field researcher.

Adalah staff contributed to the Al Quds University's Human Rights Clinic by giving lectures to the students on Israeli law and Supreme Court jurisprudence, participating in conferences and undertaking joint advocacy projects.



## Institutional Development

### Highlight – A new office for Adalah



Adalah is delighted to announce that it bought an office in Haifa in 11/07 and moved into it in 5/08. Purchasing an office had been a long-term organizational goal. The new office substantially increases Adalah's accessibility and visibility, as the building is located across from the "Haifa Mercas" train station at the bottom of Ben Gurion Street, a major thoroughfare. Adalah joins a community of Palestinian and Israeli NGOs, the Bar Association, and the Haifa University Law School in the city. The office consists of one floor of a three-storey building dating from 1935. It is 220m<sup>2</sup> and has 12 rooms. Renovations were done in 2008 prior to our re-location. The opening party was held in 7/08.



## Fundraising

- *New projects and proposals submitted*

A full proposal submitted by Adalah, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and Al Mezan in Gaza to the EU for a three-year EUR 800,000 project to combat and prevent torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and civilians in the OPT was placed on the "**reserve list**" for funding until the end of 12/08. Should funding become available, the EU could support the project for 2009-2011.

A full proposal was submitted by Adva Center and Adalah to the EU for a two-year EUR 240,000 project involving research, budget analysis and socio-economic litigation on behalf of Arab children and youth at risk. The project was placed on the "**reserve list**" for funding until the end of 12/08.

A concept note drafted by Adalah and Sikkuy for a two-year EUR 250,000 project focusing on the implementation of positive Israeli Supreme Court judgments was not pre-selected by the EU for possible funding. The proposal missed the pre-selection grade by one point.

A proposal for capacity-building entitled "Legal Empowerment to Promote the Indigenous Rights of the Arab Bedouin" was submitted to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for US \$30,000. Notification is expected at the end of 2008.

- *Grant renewals achieved*

Ford Foundation (2008-2010); New Israel Fund (2008-2010); Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation (2008-2009); Federal Department of Foreign Affairs – Switzerland (2008).

- *Reports*

Adalah's Annual Report of Activities and Audited Financial Report for 2007 were completed and sent to all donors. These reports were accepted and found to be of high quality. Adalah's half-year report of activities, and unaudited financial report Jan. to June 2008 were completed and sent to donors.



## Financial challenges

The **steep decline in the dollar/shekel exchange rate** increased actual expenses by around 20% during the first half of 2008. Adalah prepared a revised budget for 2008 and instigated cuts and cost-saving measures to manage this challenge: staff members took a 1-2 weeks' unpaid leave; Adalah trimmed reimbursements for staff transportation costs; Adalah closed its office in Jaffa-Tel Aviv in 4/08; Adalah deferred expenses as much as possible toward the end of the year in order to best assess needed costs; and Board-staff strategy meetings were held in our own offices.

There is **very stiff competition for funds** among NGOs. Obtaining EU funding was highly competitive: even with new partnerships with Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, innovative projects and smaller budgets, Adalah has not yet secured a new EU grant for 2009 and beyond. Adalah's current EU grant is around US \$220,000 per year and ends in 2008. Other donors have announced possible cuts in funds in 2009 due to changing policies and priorities. During the second half of 2008, attempts to expand our pool of European and US donors will intensify, and funding from other sources such as income-generating activities, local fundraising and in-kind donations will also be pursued.

## Implementation of the External Evaluation

Pursuant to recommendations made by the external evaluators in 7/07, Adalah worked with an organizational consultant, Ms. Iman Kandalaft, on re-organizing our structure and systems during the first nine months of 2008. Particular attention was paid to defining and drafting individual job descriptions, including the roles and responsibilities and the functions of the four departments: legal, media and public relations, international advocacy, and finance and administration. Changes were instituted in 8/08 with the hiring of a Finance Director, C.P.A. Ghassan Kharouba. Additional changes will be instituted in each of these departments during the second half of 2008, evaluation mechanisms and criteria drawn up, and an index for organizational manuals of policies and procedures produced.

## Interns/Fellows

**Isabelle Humphries**, a British journalist and Ph.D. candidate in Middle East History, did a three-month international media fellowship with Adalah. **Kelli Barton**, a law student at New York University Law School, interned with Adalah during the summer of 2008. **Belkis Wille**, a new graduate, received a one-year scholarship from Harvard University to intern with Adalah beginning in 9/08.

## Staff

- *Founder and General/Legal Director*  
Attorney Hassan Jabareen

- *Legal Department*

**Attorneys:** Adel Badir, Abeer Baker, Suhad Bishara, Nabeel Dakwar (thru 8/08), Fatmeh El-Ajou, Morad El-Sana, Orna Kohn, Sawsan Zaher; **Urban Planner:** Hana Hamdan

**Public Outreach:** Salah Muhsin (moved to media in 9/08)

**Stagaires:** Salem Abu-Medeghem, Haneen Naamnih

- *Media and Public Relations Department*

Director: Eva Mousa

Coordinator: Christine Khalil (thru 8/08)

Web Editor: Bilal Zahra

Hebrew Editor: Ran Shapira

- *International Advocacy Department*

Director: Rina Rosenberg, Esq.

Coordinator: Katie Hesketh

Researcher: Dr. Maha El-Taji

- *Administration and Finance Department*

Finance Director: Ghassan Kharouba

Admin. Director: Fathiyya Hussein

Assistant: Christine Nasrallah

Accountant: Basheer Geraisy (thru 8/08)

## Board of Directors

- Chairman, Prof. Marwan Dwairy
- Dr. Thabet Abu Ras
- Ms. Suhad Aga, Advocate.
- Prof. Muhammad Haj-Yahia
- Dr. Hala Khoury-Bisharat, Advocate
- Fuad Sultani, Advocate
- Dr. Mahmoud Yazbak

## Audit Control Committee

- Muhammad Miari, Advocate
- Wael Rabi, Advocate