

## ☀ International Advocacy

Over the years, numerous issues raised by Adalah in our international advocacy reports have been adopted in the Concluding Observations of the UN human rights treaty bodies. In 2005, Adalah obtained Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Adalah conducts its EU advocacy initiatives within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). Adalah is an active member of the EMHRN Working Group on Palestine/Israel and the Palestinians and the Working Group on Women's Rights and Gender. In parallel, Adalah holds regular briefings for embassy representatives and other diplomats.



Adalah frequently networks with international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, FIDH and ICTJ. In 2008, Adalah participated in a series of visits to South Africa with the victims' families of the October 2000 killings to examine truth and justice-seeking mechanisms; with Arab MKs to learn about constitution-building processes; and with political leaders and academics to study the struggle against Apartheid.

## ☀ Institutional Recognition

In recognition of Adalah's accomplishments Adalah has been awarded:

- ☀ An "NGO Award for Excellence in Achievement" by the Welfare Association;
- ☀ A "Distinguished Palestinian Civil Rights Award" by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee;
- ☀ Adalah's General Director, Attorney Hassan Jabareen, received the American University's Peter Cicchino Award for Outstanding Advocacy in the Public Interest.



## ☀ Publications

Major publications, available in Arabic, Hebrew and English, include:

- ☀ Adalah's legal journals Adalah's Review and Makan – Adalah's Journal of Law, Land and Planning
- ☀ Adalah's Newsletter
- ☀ Prohibited Protest (2009)
- ☀ The Accused: A Report regarding Criminal and Public Responsibility for the Killing of Arab Citizens in October 2000 (2007)
- ☀ October 2000: Law and Politics before the Or Commission of Inquiry (2003).

## ☀ THANK YOU

Adalah wishes to thank our many partners and contributors for their interest in and generous financial support of our work. Adalah relies on grants and donations from foundations, agencies and individuals in Israel and abroad. We are very grateful to our supporters, who share our vision of a more equal and just society in which human rights are enjoyed by all.



The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

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**ADALAH**

## ☀ Mission

Adalah (“Justice” in Arabic) is an independent human rights organization and legal center. Established in November 1996, it works to promote and defend the rights of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, numbering 1.2 million people or close to 20% of the population, and Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

Adalah seeks to achieve equal individual and collective rights for the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel in the following major fields: land and planning rights; civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and prisoners’ rights. It also defends the human rights of Palestinians living under occupation based on international law. In order to achieve these goals, Adalah:

- ☀ Brings impact litigation cases and legal interventions before the Israeli courts and state authorities;
- ☀ Provides legal consultation to individuals, NGOs, and institutions;
- ☀ Appeals to international institutions and fora;
- ☀ Organizes seminars and conferences and publishes reports on topical legal issues;
- ☀ Conducts extensive media outreach locally and internationally;
- ☀ Trains legal apprentices and new lawyers in the field of human rights.

## ☀ Strategic Litigation

Adalah’s recent legal achievements and major representations include:

- ☀ In the run-up to the national elections, Adalah represented all Arab Members of Knesset (MKs) and political parties targeted by disqualification motions. In 2003 and 2009, the Supreme Court overturned the decisions of the Central Elections Committee to disqualify Arab MKs and parties.
- ☀ Adalah represented the families of 13 Palestinian citizens of Israel killed by police during demonstrations in October 2000 before the Official Commission of Inquiry. In its final report of 2003, the Commission recommended criminal investigations into the killings. In 2008, the Attorney General issued a discriminatory decision not to indict any of those responsible for the killings. Adalah continues to demand justice and accountability for the families.
- ☀ Adalah challenged the 2003 Citizenship Law, which bans family unification between Palestinian citizens of Israel and their Palestinian spouses from the OPT. Thousands of Palestinian families are forced to live apart as a result of the racist law. In 2006, a 6-5 Supreme Court majority dismissed the case. Adalah has launched a legal challenge against harsh new amendments to the law.
- ☀ In response to a Supreme Court petition filed by Adalah, in 2000 the Ministry of Health opened six mother and child health clinics in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab. As a result,

thousands of Arab Bedouin families continue to have access to on-site health care facilities. Demanding these services is part of Adalah’s efforts to prevent the state’s appropriation of ancestral land from the Bedouin.

- ☀ Adalah continues to challenge the state’s policy of allocating lands controlled by the Jewish National Fund (13% of land in Israel) only to Jewish individuals before the Israeli courts and international forums. Most of this land was confiscated by the state from Palestinian refugees and then transferred to the JNF.
- ☀ A landmark Supreme Court judgment delivered in 2006 cancelled a long-standing socio-economic plan according to which the government divided the country into “National Priority Areas” for the purpose of allocating massive financial resources, including educational benefits. The court cancelled the policy on the basis that it discriminated against Arab citizens. Adalah continues to demand the full implementation of the decision.
- ☀ In a unanimous ruling, a nine-justice Supreme Court panel decided in 2006 that Israel cannot exempt itself by law from paying compensation to Palestinians in the OPT who have been injured and harmed by the Israeli military.
- ☀ In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled that the Israeli army’s use of Palestinian civilians as “human shields” in military operations constituted a violation of international humanitarian law and banned the use of this practice. Adalah continues to demand investigations into reported incidents.

## ☀ Impact

“[Adalah] is considered as the most important reference point in Arab legal action and is viewed by many Arab leaders as the ‘legal arm’ of the Arab minority in Israel.” (OxfamNOVIB External Evaluation Report (ON), 2007, p. 3)

Adalah’s litigation is “revolutionizing the judicial discourse in Israel regarding minority rights... empowering other Arab NGOs that use Adalah’s cases to follow-up on governmental policies in different fields... empowering other minority groups in Israeli society that became more confident to challenge governmental policies, using Adalah’s litigation strategy to promote their rights.” (ON, p. 14)

In its international advocacy work, the organization has achieved a “high degree of credibility and appreciation by international actors that perceive Adalah as a reliable source of information” (ON, p. 23). Further, this work “ensures international access to a narrative that represents many citizens and that would otherwise remain invisible.” (EU Monitoring Report 2008, p. 3)

“[Its publications] keep Adalah in the spotlight and contribute to the ongoing public debate. Adalah’s publications certainly have an impact on the Israeli public agenda and engage Israeli Jewish society in debates that were not to be even imagined without Adalah’s professional and assertive work.” (ON, p. 26)