



Adalah's Summary Report on Activities January – December 2000

This report highlights Adalah's main activities during 2000. The year 2000 marked Adalah's fourth year of operation, and our third year as an independent NGO.

Key Developments in 2000

(1) Litigation Victories: Adalah achieved two significant Supreme Court judgments in 2000: (i) "Equal Funding for Arab Religious Cemeteries;" and (ii) "Equal Access for Arab Students to Shajar (Academic Enrichment) Programs." In the first case, the Supreme Court, in a precedent-setting decision delivered in April, ordered the Ministry of Religious Affairs to allocate funding equally to Jewish and Arab religious communities, based on a percentage of the population criteria. Several legal academics have written about this case, characterizing it as a "landmark" decision, as for the first time, the Court recognized this percentage of the population principle in budgetary matters. Prior to this decision, Arab religious communities received no funds under this NIS 17 million annual budget-line. In the second case, the Supreme Court accepted the Ministry of Education's assurances that, due to Adalah's petition, which alleged historical intentional discrimination, it had begun to provide and will continue to allocate at least 20% of this program budget to Arab schools. Again, Arab students were previously completely excluded from this program, which receives annual budget allocations of millions of Israeli shekels. The Supreme Court awarded Adalah NIS 20,000 in legal fees for each of these cases.

(2) New Legal Approaches: While the main focus of Adalah's legal work remained group rights/impact litigation before the Supreme Court of Israel, in 2000, Adalah's lawyers undertook the representation of some individuals, and appeared before and/or filed cases to the lower courts (Magistrate, District, Labor) and university tribunals. Our aims in expanding our representation included: (i) creating precedent-setting decisions in individual rights cases (e.g., punitive damages in employment discrimination cases); (ii) gaining lengthier, reasoned decisions from the lower courts on equality issues (e.g., Arabic language; the Supreme Court often avoids issuing written decisions, while the lower courts must set forth a complete record in its judgments as they are subject to appeal); (iii) using our credibility before the courts in more "politically sensitive" cases (e.g., administrative detention, prohibition on the right to meet to lawyers in security cases, etc.); and (iv) acting on behalf of Palestinians under severe attack in 2000 for their protest activities (e.g., representing individual Arab students indicted for political activity on campus). Adalah had mixed success in this regard (see *infra*) (See also *Adalah's Review*, Vol. 2, Land, Fall 2000).

(3) Second Office in the Negev: In August 2000, Adalah opened an office in the Negev, hired a field worker for the Negev, and assigned one of our staff attorneys to work from the Negev office three days a week. For Adalah, this step begins to fulfill one of our longer-term goals of being a national Arab Palestinian organization. In order to work more effectively with the Arab Bedouin community in the Negev, one of the poorest and most disadvantaged in the country, Adalah recognized the acute need to be present and thus, more accessible to the people in order to better represent their interests. Our field worker in the Negev assisted Adalah's attorneys in gathering facts for petitions, monitoring compliance with court judgments, and coordinating community outreach and legal education events in the Negev. Working from two locations raised many new challenges for Adalah in terms of communication and supervision/management, as well as our ability to engage in direct community mobilization activities (with which we have no experience).

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(4) The Al-Aqsa Intifada: In early October, Palestinian citizens of Israel staged massive protests in towns and villages nationwide to express their solidarity with Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. During the demonstrations in Israel, the police killed 13 Palestinian citizens and injured hundreds more. Israeli Jewish citizens also engaged in 'pogroms,' attacking Palestinians, their property and their holy sites. Close to 1,000 Palestinian citizens were arrested in connection with these events, and hundreds more were detained without bond until the end of trial. Adalah responded to the resulting need for legal representation by initiating a wide range of projects. Adalah's work in this regard included representing Palestinian citizens arrested and detained; coordinating a nationwide group of 140 Palestinian volunteer lawyers to ensure representation for the detainees; collecting testimonies and physical evidence from witnesses and Palestinians seriously injured as a result of police violence; filing various legal challenges to the government's actions; conducting local, international, and United Nations advocacy; issuing reports on the excessive use of force by police and abuse of due process rights by the Israeli courts; organizing media protest campaigns; and participating in university symposium and Knesset hearings. With these efforts, Adalah substantially increased our ties with Palestinian lawyers and became very known to the Palestinian and Israeli public, establishing the role of Adalah as a key community leader. Adalah is currently representing the High Follow-up Committee for the Arab Citizens in Israel and the family members of those killed before the Israeli Commission of Inquiry established in November 2000 to investigate the events.

I. Legal Action

Filed Seven (7) New Petitions to the Supreme Court of Israel

- Equal Access for Arab Neighborhoods to Urban Renewal Programs (filed 1/00);
- Equal Funding for Arab Religious Buildings (filed 2/00);
- Demolition of the Mosque in Husseniya (filed 3/00);
- Freedom of Movement for Arab Citizens of Israel (filed 3/00);
- Establishment of Arab Schools in Beer Hadaj (filed jointly with ACRI 7/00);
- Cutting the "Balance Grants" of Arab Municipalities and Local Councils (filed 8/00);
- Expansion of Jurisdiction of Omer Municipality to Encompass the Land of Unrecognized Arab Villages (filed 9/00).

Filed Six (6) New Lawsuits and Appeals to the Supreme Court, District Courts, Labor Court, and University Tribunals

- Teddy Katz/Tantura Massacre Libel Case: Participated in legal defense team on behalf of Teddy Katz, Haifa University historian, sued for libel by veterans of the Alexandroni Brigade. In his Master's thesis, Katz claimed that soldiers in the brigade had massacred approximately 200 Arab residents of Tantura during the 1948 War. After testifying for two days, and before any Palestinian survivors had testified, Katz signed a settlement agreement. The agreement, which was obtained without consultation with Adalah, stated that the brigade veterans would drop their suit in exchange for his retraction of the massacre allegations and a public apology to be published in two newspapers. Immediately after signing the agreement, Katz tried to rescind. The District Court approved the settlement and denied Katz's request. Adalah withdrew from the case at this time.
- Employment Discrimination Case: Filed a lawsuit to the Haifa Labor Court on behalf of a Palestinian citizen who was offered a position and then denied it based on his national belonging. Adalah requested that the Labor Court order the company to pay compensation as well as punitive damages, the latter of which is rarely sought by litigants in Israel. By seeking punitive damages, Adalah attempted to broaden the range of remedies available for victims of discrimination based on national belonging. To support this request, Adalah relied on caselaw from the United States, Canada and European Union countries.
- Arabic Language Rights Case: Filed a lawsuit in the Haifa District Court to request a declaratory order against the Municipality of Haifa for its refusal to publish public announcements in Arabic-language media. The Court ruled that it lacked jurisdiction over the issue, and that jurisdiction lies solely with the Supreme Court. (Adalah filed a petition to the Supreme Court on this matter in February/March 2001.)

- Appeal Against Administrative Detention Order: Represented Ghassan Athamleh, a Palestinian citizen, before the Nazareth District Court against a six-month administrative detention order issued by the Minister of Defense. Mr. Athamleh is a political activist and a member of the Executive Committee of Balad (The National Democratic Assembly). The Court upheld the order. In December, members of the General Security Service and Galilee police, in possession of a court order, attempted to search Adalah's office to obtain two documents, which had mistakenly been given by the prosecutor to Adalah's attorneys working on the case. Adalah prevented the search on the grounds that the Chairperson of the Israeli Bar Association was not notified and no representative of the Bar accompanied the security officials, as required by law. As copies of the documents had already been distributed to all the lawyers working on the case, Adalah noted that the material was no longer secret, and the officers left the office. Adalah returned the documents requested that evening. (Adalah appealed the District Court's decision to the Supreme Court in February 2001. The Supreme Court rejected the appeal.)
- Appeal Against Prohibition on Meeting Lawyers: Represented Sami Assad, a Palestinian citizen held in incommunicado detention. Assad, who suffered from severe mental illness, was detained in April 2000, and a month later charged with criminal offenses of membership in a hostile organization, carrying illegal weapons, and illegally entering a military camp. Adalah filed an appeal to the Nazareth District Court regarding the "gag order" initially placed on the case, the prohibition on Assad's meeting lawyers, and the extension of his detention orders. Adalah also alerted the Court to Assad's severe mental illness and his need for a "suicide watch." The District Court rejected the appeal and ordered no protective measures. Adalah then filed an appeal to the Supreme Court. Shortly before the Supreme Court hearing, the police agreed to lift the ban on meeting attorneys. Mr. Assad committed suicide in prison on 19 June.
- Representing Arab Students: During the first half of 2000, Arab students at Haifa University engaged in almost daily protest activities on campus. These protests were primarily organized in response to increasing police brutality against Palestinian demonstrators and Arab Members of Knesset (MKs) nationwide who participated in Land Day and Independence Day marches, house demolition protests, etc. Adalah represented student activists indicted for illegal demonstration, disobeying university security officers, and breach of public order on campus before University Tribunals. Through this representation, Adalah challenged university restrictions on freedom of expression rights, and the denial of students' due process and fair trial rights. In addition, Adalah intervened in tens of cases by writing letters to University authorities, calling on faculty members to represent and support the students, placing ads in newspapers, and offering general legal advice and assistance to the Arab Students Committee. As a result of Adalah's efforts, the University withdrew tens of indictments against Arab students and prevented the suspension/expulsion of numerous students.

Filed Tens of New Pre-Petitions and Letters of Intervention

- Filed numerous pre-petitions to the Attorney General's Office, as an alternative to or in advance of a Supreme Court petition. Pre-petitions are filed when Adalah finds a very clear legal basis and the case can be resolved without lengthy litigation. Issues addressed include family reunification, citizenship, freedom of movement, etc. In one key case, Adalah filed a pre-petition on behalf of three foreign physicians married to Arab citizens of Israel, who were prevented by the Ministry of Health from beginning a one-year stage (medical apprenticeship) necessary to practice medicine in Israel, due to their temporary residency status. Although each of them had applied for permanent residency status several years previously, the applications remained pending by the Ministry of Interior. Adalah succeeded in obtaining the required residency status for the foreign physicians, and established a precedent for all other individuals faced with this problem.
- Sent dozens of letters to Israeli ministries, offices, and municipalities, detailing legal issues of concern and demanding compliance with the law.

Continued Representation on Four (4) Pending Supreme Court Petitions

- The Right to Preventive Health Services for Arab Bedouin Women and Children in the Unrecognized Villages in the Negev (filed 12/97, motion for contempt 1/00);
- Exclusion of Arab Localities from the National Economic Priority List (filed 5/98);
- Use of Arabic on Signs in Mixed Cities (filed jointly with ACRI 6/99);
- Recognition for the Unrecognized Arab Neighborhood of Al-Jelasi (filed 11/99).

Obtained Seven (7) Judgments or Settlements in Supreme Court Cases

- The Right to Kindergarten Education for Arab Children in Segev Shalom (judgment 1/00);
- Equal Funding for Arab Religious Cemeteries (judgment 4/00);
- Freedom of Movement for Arab Citizens of Israel (judgment 4/00);
- Equal Access for Arab Students to Shahr (Academic Enrichment) Programs (judgment 7/00);
- The Right for Arab Representation in Arab Local Government (judgment 9/00);
- The Right to Social Services for Arab Bedouin in the Unrecognized Villages in the Negev (judgment 9/00);
- Cutting the “Balance Grants” of Arab Municipalities and Local Councils (withdrawn 11/00).

II. Legal Education

Held Seven (7) Workshops & Panel Discussions

- Women and the Religious Courts, Shfaram (January). One-day workshop aimed to open a debate about the status of Palestinian women in Shar’ia and Kenesy religious courts. Held in conjunction with the Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA). Forty women’s rights activists attended.
- Women and Religious Courts, Ben Gurion University (May). One-day panel discussion addressing the status of Palestinian women in the religious courts. Held in conjunction with HRA and the Association for the Advancement of Arab Bedouin Women’s Education. One hundred (100) people attended, including students and women’s rights community activists.
- Religious Discourse and Feminism Training Workshop, Gaza City (June). Three-day training workshop led by Mushraqiyat (Gaza) for Palestinian citizen activists to discuss and analyze religious discourse and feminism. Held in conjunction with HRA and Mushraqiyat (Gaza). Twenty-four (24) people participated.
- “The Palestinian Refugees: A Memory or a Cause?,” Shfaram (June). Panel discussion addressing the rights of the Palestinian refugees. Panelists included Professor Susan Akram; Usama Halabi, Advocate; Dr. Ilan Pappé; and Wakim Wakim, Advocate. The documentary “Children of Shatila” was also shown. Over 100 people attended.
- Palestinian Lawyers Meeting, Rhodes, Greece (September). Cross-borders meeting of Palestinian lawyers from Israel (Adalah), the West Bank (LAW) and East Jerusalem (Jerusalem Center for Economic and Social Rights) to discuss common legal issues and concerns, and possible joint legal strategies. Twenty (20) people attended. Funded by ICJ-Sweden (via LAW). (*Meeting conclusions available upon request*).
- “Arabs and Jews in a Common Political Sphere?,” Ben Gurion University (November). Roundtable discussion focusing on concepts of citizenship, majority/minority relations, and political participation. Adalah’s General Director Hassan Jabareen and Board Member Dr. Riad Egbariah participated in a panel of six lawyers. Fifty (50) people attended, including faculty members and students.
- Umm al-Fahem Roundtable Discussion, Umm al-Fahem (December). Roundtable discussion of future strategies of the Palestinian minority in light of the Al Aqsa Intifada.

Speakers included MK Azmi Bishara, Sheikh Raed Salah (Mayor of Umm al-Fahem), and Mohammad Nafa (Secretary General of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality). Over 100 people attended.

Produced & Distributed four (4) Publications

- 1999 Annual Report (May). A 54-page review of Adalah's activities and achievements in 1999. (English)
- Reflections and Thoughts on Human Rights (December). Guidebook on human rights for use by Palestinian teachers and schools. Published jointly with the Ministry of Education. (Arabic)
- Fatal Force (December). Report on the Al-Aqsa Intifada events in Israel. Published jointly with the ACRI and HRA. (Hebrew and English)
- Adalah's Review, Volume 2 – Land (Fall). New volume of Adalah's legal journal. Adalah obtained 100 new subscribers. (Arabic, Hebrew, and English)

Adalah also re-organized and regularly updated our web page (<http://www.adalah.org>) with reports, press releases, and case updates. New sections of the website were created for "Updates on the Intifada," and "The Commission of Inquiry."

Media

- Appeared several times each week in the local Hebrew, Arabic & English media including print, radio & television outlets, and numerous times in the foreign media.
- In August, Adalah secured a weekly Wednesday evening radio spot with the Sha'at Hevra Radio program on Reshet Bet station. An Adalah Board or staff member appeared each week on the program.
- Authored numerous letters to the editor and articles, which appeared in the local Hebrew and Arabic newspapers and *Al-Hayat* (London).
- Adalah's General Director, Hassan Jabareen, published an article entitled "Palestinians in Israel" in the Winter 2000 issue of *Middle East Report: Beyond Oslo, The New Uprising*.

Ad Campaigns

- Published joint ads with Palestinian NGOs in *Ha'aretz* on the conditions of Palestinian political prisoner citizens of Israel and police brutality.
- Published joint ads with Palestinian NGOs in *Ha'aretz* (Hebrew and English) on human rights violations by Israeli police during the Al-Aqsa Intifada.

Training for Law Students & Recent Graduates

- Marwan Dalal worked with Adalah as a New Israel Fund Fellow. (September 1999-August 2000)
- Sonia Boulos joined Adalah as stager. (February)
- Suhad Hammoud joined Adalah as a New Israel Fund Fellow. (October)
- Adalah's General Director taught a course at Hebrew, Tel Aviv and Haifa Universities on "The Arab Minority and Israeli Law." He donated his teaching fees from Haifa University to an Arab law student scholarship fund in the name of Adalah.

Volunteers

- Hosted 1 overseas legal intern and 3 overseas non-legal interns;
- Hosted numerous local volunteers from Haifa University School of Law, notably from October to December;
- A former intern, who is now an Associate from Le Boeuf, Lamb, Greene & McRae, LLP in Washington, DC, provided 200 hours of pro bono legal service to Adalah. He focused on comparative constitutional and administrative law research.

International Advocacy/Public Relations

United Nations (3 Interventions):

- UN Commission on Human Rights Special Session on Israel/Palestine, Geneva, Switzerland. Adalah researched and wrote a 30-page report on Israeli rights violations against Palestinian citizens during the Intifada. Adalah Board Member Muhammad Dahleh gave an oral statement before the UN HRC, and presented Adalah's written submission. (October)
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, NGO Meeting, Jerusalem. Organized and attended meeting of Palestinian and Israeli NGOs based in Israel to discuss UN investigation into human rights abuses by the Israeli government during the Al-Aqsa Intifada. Adalah also prepared and sent a letter of critique to the Commissioner's trip report. (November)
- UN Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva, Switzerland. Adalah prepared and submitted a follow-up report on economic, social and cultural concerns such as the unrecognized Arab villages, the *Qa'dan* Supreme Court judgement and its effect on the status of land settlement by the Jewish Agency, and those that occurred during the Al-Aqsa Intifada. Adalah did not attend the session. (November)

International Conferences/Training Workshops/Study Tours (12 meetings):

- Adalah's General Director delivered a presentation on the construction of Israeli national identity at a Heinrich Boll Foundation-sponsored conference on Citizenship and Identity held at Tel Aviv University. (March)
- Adalah Board Member Saidah Biadseh attended the International Society for Peace and Human Rights-funded PeaCentury 2000: A People's Human Rights Conference in Edmonton, Canada, where she discussed the status of Palestinian women in Israel, and Palestinian women and the Shar'ia courts. (May)
- Adalah staff member Orna Kohn led a workshop on international tools available for protecting the right to equal treatment at the British Council's International Conference "Democracy, Rights and Equality: Challenges and Opportunities" in Belfast. (May)
- Adalah staff member Jamil Dakwar led a workshop at a Minority Rights Group training in Geneva where he presented Adalah's work on the unrecognized neighborhood of Al-Jelasi as a case study for advancing international human rights law in domestic courts. (May)
- Adalah's General Director and other staff members attended a joint Ben Gurion University/University of California, Los Angeles conference on "The Future of Indigenous Peoples: Strategies for Survival and Development." Mr. Jabareen delivered a lecture on the legal status of unrecognized villages in Israel, the state's failure to recognize the Palestinians as a national minority, and Adalah's work on behalf of the Arab Bedouin in the Negev. (May)
- Adalah's New Israel Fund Fellow Suhad Hammoud represented Adalah at the Millennium Forum: The United Nations for the 21st Century at the UN's New York headquarters. (May)
- Numerous Adalah staff and board members attended LAW's 10th Anniversary Conference "Culture, Community and Jerusalem: Strategies to Protect and Promote Human Rights in Palestine." Mr. Jabareen lectured on the Israeli Supreme Court and the media. (June)
- Adalah staff member Jamil Dakwar presented a paper on the challenges and dilemmas of Arab education rights in Israel during the Association for Israel Studies Conference in Tel Aviv. (June)

- Adalah Board Member Iyad Rabi participated in the 10th annual Anabtawi Seminar on Human Rights, hosted by the Arab Institute for Human Rights. The ten-day seminar was held in Tunisia, and focused on a wide range of international human rights treaties and UN mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. (June/July)
- Adalah's General Director and Board Members Ghassann Agbaria (Chairperson), Iman Kandalaft, and Salman Natour participated in a Ford Foundation-sponsored study tour of civil rights NGOs, including minority-run and Arab-American associations, as well as law school public interest programs in Washington, DC and New York, NY. (October)
- Adalah staff member Marwan Dalal participated in two seminars in Stockholm, Sweden that focused on the Palestinian right to return. He also met with representatives of the Swedish Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Department; participated in a panel discussion at the Swedish Parliament; spoke at an outdoor gathering of 400 people to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People; and met with student unions at Stockholm University. (November)
- Adalah's General Director attended the General Assembly meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Carry Le Rouet, France. Adalah has subsequently become a member of this network. (November)

Visiting Delegations:

Adalah hosted a delegation in May from the US State Department to discuss the situation of the Palestinian minority in Israel and our legal work. The US Embassy used extensive information from Adalah in the most recent State Department Human Rights Report entry on Israel. Adalah also maintained contact with representatives of various embassies in Israel, providing information to be used in reports written for home government agencies. Adalah also hosted numerous overseas and local university groups, and solidarity and peace delegations.

University Lectures/NGO and Community Group Discussions:

Adalah lawyers and Board Members gave numerous lectures at Israeli universities and to NGOs and community groups on subjects such as majority/minority relations; legal status of the Palestinians in Israel; Palestinian detainees; and the Al-Aqsa Intifada. Adalah provided extensive commentary in the media and at a university symposium following the March Supreme Court judgment in the *Qa'dan* case, concerning the right of a Palestinian family to live in a settlement. Adalah staff member Jamil Dakwar published an editorial on the case in *Ha'aretz*.

III. Organizational/Institutional Development

Shfaram Office

Adalah greatly expanded its resources at its office in Shfaram during 2000. The organization solicited bids for and installed an ISDN line. With this development, all staff are now able to access the Internet on their PCs. As indicated in the staffing section below, Adalah's staff expanded during the year. In order to accommodate the space needs, we have taken additional offices in the building, and now have eight offices.

Negev Office

In August 2000, Adalah opened an office in the Negev. This step begins the fulfillment of a long-term goal to become an Arab Palestinian national organization. Over the next three years, the establishment and operation of this office is a priority for Adalah. Due to the complex political, social, and cultural situation among the Arab Bedouin in the Negev, and the need for Adalah to gain a more complete understanding of the local circumstances, Adalah decided to build the office gradually. In May 2000, Adalah hired a Fieldworker, based in our Negev office, to assist Adalah's attorneys in gathering facts for petitions, monitoring compliance with court judgments, and coordinating local community outreach and legal education events. In September 2000, Adalah staff attorney Marwan Dalal began working in this office three days a week, at which time Adalah rented an apartment in Beer Sheva to accommodate traveling staff. The contact information for the Negev office is:

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Tel: +972-8-665-0740, Fax: +972-8-665-0853

Fundraising

Highlights of Adalah's fundraising efforts during this period include:

- Emergency grants awarded for Al-Aqsa Intifada actions – Secured \$50,000 from New Israel Fund, NOVIB, and ICJ-Sweden;
- Two grants from a new donor – Secured two grants from Oxfam-Great Britain to support our office and work in the Negev;
- Two-year general support grant – Secured two-year grant from New Israel Fund, almost doubling their yearly contribution;
- General support grant notification – Received contract and first installment of two-year Meda-Democracy grant from European Commission; this grant was initially awarded in 1998;
- Donor-advised contributions– Received a number of new donor-advised contributions from individuals in the US, UK and Israel via the New Israel Fund.

Adalah has also generated income at a local level through court-awarded judgments, individual donors, interest on deposits, and the sale of publications.

Adalah's work was highlighted in numerous New Israel Fund newsletters distributed worldwide to their contributors.

Workshops and Consultation

Adalah participated in several organizational development workshops through SHATIL, al-Ahali and other local organizations. Adalah staff attended training sessions on fundraising, the Internet, website development and maintenance, and the role of NGOs in society.

Adalah worked with a financial consultant to review accounting procedures, track grants by donor, and produce detailed internal budgets.

Other

Adalah took part in questionnaires and impact assessments for two funding agencies:

- Human Rights Impact Assessment - Voluntarily participated in this study organized by ICCO. The purpose of the study was to develop guidelines to assess the work of ICCO's counterpart organizations. Twelve of ICCO's counterpart organizations and Adalah took part in this study. ICCO produced a preliminary report "Measuring the Impossible?" in December.
- Partner Questionnaire - As a partner of the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, Adalah participated in this study focusing on organizational development and qualitative assessment of Adalah's work. This study was part of an assessment of the Foundation's ten-year activities. Adalah answered an initial questionnaire as well as produced a detailed follow-up response to questions.

IV. Al-Aqsa Intifada

Adalah's main Intifada-related actions included:

Representing Detainees

- Adalah staff attorneys represented tens of Palestinian citizens of Israel arrested and/or detained in connection with the conflict in the Magistrate, District and Supreme Court. Representation included extension of detention hearings, appeals of detention orders, appeals on prohibitions on access to counsel, etc.
- In order to ensure legal representation for all of the detainees, in mid-October 2000, Adalah organized and hosted a meeting of over 140 Palestinian lawyers at our office in Shfaram to organize and coordinate legal actions on behalf of Palestinian citizens of Israel detained during

the Intifada. The two main outcomes of the meeting were: (i) The lawyer participants resolved to defend all the Palestinians citizens of Israel detained during this crisis on a voluntary basis; and (ii) The volunteer lawyers decided to form several committees (Regional, Advisory, and Lawyers), which Adalah coordinated. Adalah also hosted a lawyers meeting in our office in the Negev (attended by 15 lawyers) to coordinate representation of Palestinians arrested in the south. Adalah's coordination work included: organizing meetings of the volunteer lawyers committees; obtaining and providing legal resource materials to the lawyers (e.g., recent court decisions, motions and memoranda of law); keeping an up-to-date list of all detainees – names, lawyers, case status, detention/release status, etc.; organizing meetings with Justice Ministry officials, the Attorney General's office, and the Israeli Bar Association in an attempt to change policies; and serving as an information hotline for lawyers and family members of the detainees.

Local Advocacy

- **Ad Campaign:** In an attempt to affect local public opinion towards the conflict, and mobilize Israeli Jewish citizens and the locally-based international community to take positive actions, Adalah published three ads in *Ha'aretz*. One ad denounced police brutality against the demonstrators; another, entitled "Guilt by Silence" aimed at the Israeli Jewish majority; and a third statement/resolution signed by over 450 Palestinian lawyers, which was adopted after the Adalah-organized lawyers meeting). (*All of these ads are posted on Adalah's website*)
- **Press Releases/Media Interviews:** In addition to issuing numerous press releases in Arabic, Hebrew and English, and Adalah's staff and Board appeared on television and radio to publicize the illegal actions of the police and the abuse of due process rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel before the courts.

International Advocacy

- **Fact-Finding Mission/Collection of Testimonies:** Adalah hosted an international delegation comprised of representatives of the Euro-Med Human Rights Network, the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), and the International Commission of Jurists-Sweden, and researchers of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. Adalah facilitated meetings and the collection of testimonies by these researchers from witnesses and injured individuals.
- **UN Advocacy:** See *supra*.
- **Lectures and Media Interviews:** Adalah's Board Chair, Mr. Ghassann Agbaria, delivered a lecture on the conflict and the changing role of the Palestinian struggle in Israel at the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine in Washington, DC on 13 October. His lecture was broadcast numerous times in the US on C-Span. Mr. Agbaria and Hassan Jabareen, Adalah's General Director, also appeared on Jim Zogby's cable TV show to discuss the conflict. This show was broadcast in the US and internationally on MBC. Adalah Board member, Mr. Muhammed Dahleh also gave interviews to the European press concerning the Intifada, during his UN Geneva visit in October.

The Committee of Examination/The Commission of Inquiry

In late October, Prime Minister Ehud Barak announced the establishment of a Committee of Examination to investigate "the clashes with the security forces in the state, in which Arabs and Jews were involved, since 29 September 2000." Such a committee would have had limited powers, and although the Attorney General expanded its powers, Adalah raised concerns that such an expansion would not withstand judicial review. Adalah, along with the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian community in Israel as a whole, struggled with the Israeli government to form a legally-sanctioned Commission of Inquiry to investigate police violence against Palestinian citizens on a national scale. The efforts of Adalah and the Palestinian community proved successful, and on 8 November 2000, Prime Minister Ehud Barak announced the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry in accordance with the 1968 law of Commissions of Inquiry. The 1968 Law give the Commission various authorities including the power to subpoena witnesses and to compel their attendance, and affords witnesses immunity from criminal

prosecution. On 15 November, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Aharon Barak, appointed three members to the Commission: Supreme Court Justice Theodor Or (Chairperson); Judge Sahel Jarah, Deputy President of the Nazareth District Court; and Professor Shimon Shamir, former Israeli Ambassador to Jordan and Egypt.

Immediately after its establishment, Adalah raised concerns about the mandate of the Or Commission, which includes investigating the “behavior of the inciters,” a reference to Arab MKs, Arab demonstrators. As a result there are questions about its ability to act as an impartial professional body with discretion over its findings. Adalah hosted numerous meetings of lawyers, family members, and NGO leaders in our offices to discuss strategies and tactics concerning the mandate of the Or Commission, and whether to participate in the process. The Arab political leadership (the High Follow-up Committee for the Arab Citizens in Israel) and the family members of those killed in October decided that it was crucial to participate, and requested that Adalah represent them before the Or Commission. Adalah currently works with a team of senior Palestinian lawyers, political figures, family members, and other NGOs (including Physicians for Human Rights) on this representation. Materials collected and submitted to the Commission include over 90 affidavits and testimonies from eyewitnesses and victims, videos, photos, medical reports, newspaper accounts, and medical and forensic evidence.

(Adalah’s Intifada-related work, our Report on Submission to the Commission of Inquiry, press releases and other materials are available on our website at <http://www.adalah.org>)

V. Other

Board, Staff, Volunteers

Board Changes

Adalah held our annual General Assembly meeting in March 2000. The current Board is comprised of seven members – five men and two women:

- Mr. Ghassann Agbaria, Advocate, Chairperson: Head, Private Law Office, Haifa; former Chair, Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Haifa Branch.
- Ms. Saida Biadseh, Advocate: Partner, Private Law Office, Baka al-Gharbiya; volunteer with women’s rights organizations.
- Mr. Muhammad Dahleh, Advocate: Partner, Private Law Office, Jerusalem and Ramallah; Assistant Instructor, Constitutional Law, Hebrew University; former NIF Fellow.
- Dr. Riad Egbariah: Senior Lecturer, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben Gurion University.
- Ms. Iman Kandalaft: Organizational Consultant; Founder of Assiwar – Arab Feminist Movement in Support of Victims of Sexual Abuse.
- Mr. Salman Natour: Author and Poet; former Cultural Editor of *Al Jadeed*; wrote and published 27 books of stories, essays and poems in Arabic.
- Mr. Iyad Rabi, Advocate: Head, Private Law Office, Jarjulya.

Mr. Raef Zreik served as Board Chair from April to August 2000. He resigned from the Board to pursue his LLM/JSD studies at Columbia University in New York.

Adalah’s Board met approximately every four to six weeks during 2000. Adalah’s Financial Committee, comprised of Board and staff members, met numerous times in 2000 to monitor the budget. (*The next General Assembly meeting and Board election is scheduled for May 2001*).

Membership Policy

In Fall 2000, Adalah added 50 individuals and all staff to its membership.

Staff Developments

- Mr. Salim Abu-Medeghem joined Adalah as a Fieldworker in May 2000. He is based in Adalah’s office in the Negev.

- Ms. Gadeer Nicola became an Adalah Staff Attorney in June 2000 after passing her Bar exam. Ms. Nicola worked with Adalah since 1998 as a law student, and then as a stager.
- Ms. Hoda Rouhana, Special Projects-Women & Religious Courts, left Adalah in August 2000. Ms. Rouhana received a British Council Chevening Scholarship to attend a Masters Degree Program in Women & Ethnic Studies at the University of London.
- Mr. Marwan Dalal became an Adalah Staff Attorney in September 2000, after completing the second year of his New Israel Fund Fellowship with Adalah.
- Ms. Tahrier Hijazi, Adalah's Public Relation Coordinator, worked with Adalah from May-September 2000. In October, Ms. Hijazi went on maternity leave, and resigned from her position in January 2001.
- Ms. Fathiyya Hussein joined Adalah as our Administrative Director in October 2000.

By the end of 2000, Adalah employed 14 staff members. A diversity table follows:

Adalah Staff	Men	Women	Total
Professional Staff	4	6	10
Administrative Staff	1	3	4
Total	5	9	14

Awards

In March 2000, General Director Hassan Jabareen was awarded the first annual "Peter Cicchino Award for Outstanding Advocacy in the Public Interest" by American University's Washington College of Law. He accepted the award in a ceremony at Washington College of Law in Washington, DC.