

## The Failure of the Ministry of Justice Police Investigation Unit ("Mahash")

**The Ministry of Justice Police Investigation Unit ("Mahash") has not yet recommended that an indictment be filed against the police officers involved in the killing of 13 Arab citizens in October 2000.** A real, substantiated fear exists that Mahash did not meet and is not meeting its legal obligation to investigate properly the circumstances in which the 13 citizens were killed, despite the following points:

- Since October 2000, many requests have been made to Mahash that they investigate the circumstances surrounding police involvement in the killings of these 13 citizens.
- Mahash has a legal duty immediately to investigate cases in which there is a suspicion that a police officer has killed a person.
- Shortly after the killings, Mahash received autopsies of four of the citizens killed.

### **(Ret.) Justice Theodor Or, 1 September 2004:**

In general, Mahash did not collect evidence relating to the events surrounding the killings of the citizens, did not gather evidence at the scene, and did not attempt to locate any of the police officers who were involved in the incidents shortly after the incidents occurred... The Commission of Inquiry recommended that Mahash conduct an investigation into a number of incidents in which 13 people died. The intention was that, following the investigation, a decision would be reached over whether indictments should be filed and if so against whom. It is becoming clear that, to date, no conclusion has been reached over whether indictments are to be filed in relation to any of the events that Mahash was charged with investigating. The explanation given is that Mahash lacks sufficient personnel, and that only when additional manpower was provided did the pace of the investigation accelerate. In light of the grave results of the events that Mahash is charged with investigating, in light of the fact that the testimonies obtained by investigators on behalf of the Commission and by the Commission itself were always available to everyone, including Mahash investigators, as long ago as when the Commission was performing its work; and in light of the fact that over a year has passed since the Commission made its recommendations, it is regrettable that the Mahash investigation has not accomplished more.

### **Mahash's failure violates the rule of law.**

### **Does Mahash's conduct provide further reason for protest by the Arab minority?**

The Follow-up Committee  
for Arab Citizens in Israel

The Committee of Victims' Families

Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

For additional information, see [www.adalah.org](http://www.adalah.org)