



ANNUAL REPORT

ADALAH'S ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2007
Issued May 2008

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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



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1. Introduction

This report highlights Adalah's **main achievements and impact, as well as the key activities** conducted during 2007, our eleventh year of operation. As this report reflects, Adalah achieved important favorable decisions and resolutions on our legal representations and international advocacy initiatives, submitted new major cases to the Supreme Court of Israel, attracted widespread coverage to our work in the Hebrew, Arabic and English media, and produced and distributed advocacy papers and legal publications of vital importance in promoting and defending the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living under occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

Adalah ("Justice" in Arabic) is an independent human rights organization, registered in Israel. Established in November 1996, it serves Palestinian Arab 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 Palestinian 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. Adalah intensively addresses issues of discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel as a group, as a national minority, and speaks from a minority perspective in its legal interventions. Adalah also seeks to protect and defend against gross violations of 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; advocates for legislation; provides legal consultation to individuals, NGOs, and Arab institutions; appeals to international institutions and fora; organizes study days, seminars and workshops and publishes reports on legal issues; and trains stagaires (legal apprentices) and new lawyers in the field of human rights.

Adalah operated from three offices in 2007: Shafa'amr in the north (our main office), Yaffa-Tel Aviv in the center (opened in May 2007) and Beer el-Sabe (Beer Sheva) in the south.

2. Context and Analysis

1. Israel's Separation Policy

Extremist rhetoric from Israeli political figures and other harsh manifestations of racism continued throughout 2007. This rhetoric is characteristic of what can perhaps be described as a new phase, one in which the state has been displaying greater willingness to adopt directly racist laws. First and foremost among these laws is the law banning family unification between Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians from the OPT, **the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order) – 2003**. In May 2006, the Supreme Court rejected petitions challenging the constitutionality of the law in a 6-5 split decision. This law made headlines again in 2007. In March 2007, rather than easing the restrictions on family unification, as was suggested by a majority of the court in its 2006 decision, the Knesset expanded the law to also exclude spouses from "enemy states," defined in the new law as Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran. This ban also applies to "anyone living in an area in which operations that constitute a threat to the State of Israel are being carried out," according to security reports as presented to the government. The Knesset also voted to extend the applicability of the law until 31 July 2008.

In May 2007, Adalah filed a petition against the new law, arguing that it is racially discriminatory as it bars certain individuals from family unification solely on the basis of their nationality and disconnects Arab citizens from the Palestinian people and Arab nation, emphasizing that the law has no parallel in any other democratic nation. The law was featured in a *Haaretz* editorial, "A law we cannot accept", published on 27 March 2007: "The Citizenship Law continues to burden the law books and cause damage to the reputation of democracy in

Israel. The blow to the right of Arab Israeli citizens to choose to live here with their partners is sweeping and detrimental to the rights of Arab citizens.”

The escalation that has occurred over the last few years is due to the emergence of what can be viewed as a new Israeli strategy of “separation”. This strategy is clearly evidenced in the West Bank, the site of the construction of the Separation Wall, the ring-roads encircling Jerusalem, and the apartheid roads for the exclusive use of Jewish settlers. Physical contacts have been severed between the West Bank and Gaza, and between the OPT and Palestinians inside Israel, by laws banning family unification and new laws such as a prohibition on the most basic of exchanges of services between Israel and Palestinian areas in the West Bank—the repair of Israeli cars. However, it is in the siege on Gaza that Israel’s policy of separation is revealed in sharpest relief.

The Siege on Gaza

Gaza was completely cut off from the rest of the world in 2007, in a year that human rights defenders agree was the worst yet for the human rights of Palestinians in the OPT. The year witnessed intense clashes between Fatah and Hamas and by mid-June 2007, Hamas seized full control of Gaza. Israel responded by closing the Karni crossing, which is a vital passageway for the movement of essential foods and goods to and from the Gaza Strip. Under international law Israel still occupies Gaza—even after the ‘disengagement’ in September 2005—because it still exercises effective control over the lives of the residents of Gaza and the borders that link Gaza to the outside world. Therefore by closing Karni, Israel is in violation of its duties as an occupying power to protect the safety and security of the residents of Gaza. In a joint petition filed to the Supreme Court in June 2007 demanding the immediate reopening of the crossing, Adalah, Al Haq, Al Mezan and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights-Gaza argued that the closure of Karni and not supplying basic foodstuffs and other essential provisions to the residents of Gaza violates their rights to life, health and to an adequate standard of living. They further argued that Israel’s actions amount to collective punishment. However, the court was unconvinced that there was a humanitarian crisis in Gaza and advised the petitioners in October 2007 to withdraw the petition.

To increase the pressure on Hamas further for its rocket attacks on the south of Israel, the Israeli government decided in September to declare the Gaza Strip a “hostile entity”. This declaration made Israel’s policies of separation and isolation easier to justify, and promptly thereafter, Israel decided to reduce the supplies of fuel and electricity it provides to Gaza. Israel supplies nearly all of Gaza’s energy and does not allow it to receive necessary supplies from alternative sources. Therefore these cuts also constitute collective punishment and not economic sanctions.

In October 2007, Adalah and Gisha, on behalf of ten Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, petitioned the Supreme Court demanding an injunction to prevent the state from disrupting electricity and fuel supplies. The petitioners argued that the reduction in fuel supplies had already caused extensive damage to vital systems like water wells, and as a result Palestinians in Gaza are suffering from severely disrupted water supplies. In addition, cutting electricity seriously impairs the operation of hospitals and other vital services, particularly since Gaza was left completely reliant on Israel for power after Israel destroyed all six transformers in Gaza’s only power plant in June 2006. The petitioners strongly contested the state’s claim that it is only bound to safeguard “a minimal humanitarian situation” in Gaza, a term that does not exist in international law. In November 2007 the Supreme Court approved the government’s decision to cut fuel supplies to Gaza; by the end of January 2008, the court approved all planned

cuts to fuel as well as electricity. These court rulings sanction the use of civilians for political purposes and permit collective punishment, and violate the basic principles of international humanitarian law. The rolling blackouts that have been witnessed across Gaza in the aftermath of the court's decision are now the starkest manifestation of Israel's deliberately engineered isolation of Gaza from the outside world.

Land Segregation and Exclusion inside Israel

Israel's policy of separation also extends to Palestinian citizens of Israel, who are excluded from vast tracts of state-controlled lands by discriminatory land policies that overwhelmingly benefit Jewish citizens. These policies have resulted in the confiscation of Arab-owned land, the displacement of Arab citizens from their homes, and to direct state control over 93% of all land in Israel. The vigorous implementation of discriminatory land allocation policies is also leading to the creation of ever-greater numbers of racially-segregated communities.

Strikingly, around 89% of all towns and villages in Israel are classified as Jewish. Palestinian citizens of the state are excluded from purchasing leasing rights in a large majority of these towns and villages, known as community or agricultural towns. "Selection committees" monitor applications for housing units in these areas, partly in order to filter out the Arab population, often on the arbitrary ground of "social unsuitability". The Israel Land Administration (ILA) stipulates that a senior official from the Jewish Agency or World Zionist Organization must sit on these committees. In September 2007, Adalah and a broad coalition of social change and human rights organizations filed a petition to the Supreme Court demanding the cancellation of selection committees on behalf of a young Arab married couple. The couple, who both graduated from the College of Architecture at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem with distinction, applied to live in the community town of Rakefet in the north of Israel. The local selection committee rejected their application on the humiliating ground of their "social unsuitability". In October 2007 the Supreme Court issued a temporary injunction requiring the set-aside of a plot of land for the couple pending a final decision on the petition.

The ILA manages all state lands including land controlled by the Jewish National Fund (JNF). The JNF, which by its own admission operates solely for the benefit of Jewish citizens, excludes Palestinian citizens of Israel from the approximately 13% that is owned by the JNF. In 2004 Adalah petitioned the Supreme Court demanding the cancellation of an ILA policy which permits and conducts the marketing and allocation of JNF lands through bids open only to Jews. In response to this petition the JNF claimed to have purchased the lands in its ownership using money donated by Jews from around the world in order to buy land in Israel and its distribution among Jews. However, 78% of this land was transferred to it by the state in 1949 and 1953, much of which belonged to Palestinian refugees and internally-displaced persons.

At a hearing in September 2007, the Supreme Court approved a proposal made by the JNF and the state to delay further deliberations on the case to allow these two parties to reach a final agreement over a mutual land exchange. Under this proposal, the ILA will temporarily allow Arab citizens to bid for JNF-lands; in return the state will compensate the JNF for land acquired by Arabs by transferring alternative state lands to it. Adalah objected to the proposal on the ground that it does not end the state's discrimination against Arab citizens.

The Unrecognized Villages in the Naqab

Perhaps the most visible expression of the policy of separation between Arabs and Jews inside Israel can be witnessed in the Naqab (Negev) desert, where the state is stepping up home demolitions and evacuations, seeking to complete the dispossession and displacement of the Arab Bedouin in the dozens of shockingly neglected ‘unrecognized villages’. During 2007, Adalah’s work to defend the land rights of the Arab Bedouin in the unrecognized villages continued, through the filing of motions to cancel demolition and evacuation orders issued perfunctorily by the courts at the state’s request, and challenging the state’s discriminatory planning policies that are designed to squeeze the remaining residents into cramped and culturally-inappropriate state-planned towns.

One unrecognized village whose residents Adalah continued to defend in 2007 is Atir-Umm al-Hieran, which is home to around 1,000 Arab Bedouin citizens of Israel belonging to the Abu al-Qi’an tribe. Following the establishment of the state in 1948, the military government ordered the tribe to leave their ancestral lands in Wadi Zuballa, which the state later transferred to Kibbutz Shuval for exclusive use by Jewish Israelis. The tribe was moved to various locations and forced to relocate to Atir-Umm al-Hieran in 1956. However, the state never officially recognized the village and as a result its inhabitants receive little or no basic services, including electricity, water, telephone lines, or education and health facilities, and they are now facing the threat of expulsion for a second time. The Israeli government, which refers to the unrecognized villages as “illegal clusters,” view the Arab Bedouin residents of Atir-Umm al-Hieran and the other unrecognized villages as “trespassers on state land.” This is so despite the fact that the state’s attempts to assert ownership claims on the land, the traditional ancestral lands of the Arab Bedouin in the Naqab, are vehemently disputed.

In October 2007, Adalah and Bimkom submitted an objection to the National Council for Planning and Building on behalf of 82 people from Atir-Umm el-Hieran, seeking the official recognition of the village. According to the current master plan, a new community named Hiran—designated exclusively for Jewish citizens—will be constructed on most of the village’s land. A report by the ILA identifies a number of “special problems” that may affect the planning and establishment of Hiran, among them the Arab Bedouin inhabitants of the area. Two other new and exclusively Jewish communities are also planned for the area. In order to establish these three new Jewish communities, the state is using multiple means to evacuate the entire population of Atir-Umm al-Hieran, including eviction lawsuits and home demolition orders. Despite court orders freezing the home demolitions—issued at Adalah’s request—in June 2007 the ILA demolished 25 houses, leaving families homeless. Adalah is also representing the villagers in lawsuits challenging all of these orders, and demanding disciplinary proceedings against those responsible for the home demolitions.

Discriminatory Allocation of State Resources

In February 2006, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark decision cancelling a major, long-standing governmental socio-economic plan that classifies select towns and villages in Israel as “National Priority Areas” (NPAs). NPA-designated communities receive a host of lucrative socio-economic benefits under the plan, including extra educational funding, personal income tax benefits and tax breaks to local industries. According to the court’s ruling, the government’s decision dividing Israel into NPAs in the field of education blatantly discriminates against Arab towns and villages and therefore must be cancelled, and objective criteria set for the designation of NPAs. The ruling was handed down on a petition filed by Adalah and the High Follow-up Committee for the Arab Citizens of Israel and followed eight years of hearings. In the petition, Adalah argued that government’s decision arbitrarily and discriminatorily excludes the vast

majority of Arab towns and villages, with only four Arab villages were among the 553 towns and villages originally classified as NPA “A.”

In its groundbreaking decision, the court awarded the state one year to implement its ruling. However, just before implementation was due to commence in 2007, the Ministry of Education (MOE) requested a four to five year extension on the basis that the decision’s implementation would have a deleterious effect on Jewish towns and their teachers. The MOE issued thousands of dismissal notices to teachers, citing the court’s 2006 decision as the reason. At a further hearing held in 2007, the court expressed reservations about the MOE’s failure to implement the decision, but nonetheless awarded it an additional year, thereby allowing the government to continue to stall in applying the principle of equality in allocating the resources of the state and to continue to implement its policy of excluding Arab citizens.

2. Adalah’s Democratic Constitution

Israel has lacked a formal constitution since its founding in 1948 due to the difficulties entailed in reaching a consensus over divisive national issues such as the state’s territorial boundaries and the role of religion in the state. However, in recent years serious attempts have been made by Jewish Israeli intellectuals to promote a constitution, one that is not based on human rights or democratic values, but rather on the lowest common denominator of political compromise among the religious and secular of the Jewish majority. Most prominent is the “Constitution by Consensus” campaign by the Israel Democracy Institute. This project differs from its predecessors in its insistence and determination that Israel should adopt a constitution, but like previous attempts threatens to constitutionalize the existing discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel and further entrench the policy of separation.

In response to these constitutional proposals, Adalah launched a “Democratic Constitution” (DC) in February 2007. The DC was issued on the tenth anniversary of the founding of Adalah after an intensive process of research, consultation and drafting. It constitutes a constitutional proposal in which the Arab minority is a subject which possesses a history, rights and interests, and is not an object to be excluded. The DC calls for a democratic, bilingual and multi-cultural state. Adalah modeled the DC on constitutions adopted by democratic countries, and international human rights conventions and universal principles of human rights contained in UN declarations. The draft document contains 63 articles, which set forth provisions on citizenship, official languages, educational and cultural institutions to promote multiculturalism, model mechanisms for the participation of the Arab minority in decision-making in the Knesset, as well as rights and freedoms to which all residents and citizens are entitled including equality and anti-discrimination, distributive and restorative justice, particularly concerning land and property, social and economic rights, and rights in court and criminal justice. The DC is available at: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/constitution.php>.

The DC, along with the other “Arab documents” published in late 2006 and 2007, namely “The Future Vision” led by the National Committee of Arab Mayors; “Ten Points” issued by Mossawa; and the “Haifa Declaration”, led by Mada al-Carmel, were all met with harshly negative responses in the Israeli media. The Jerusalem Post quoted the Hebrew University’s Prof. Shlomo Avineri as stating that, “Adalah’s proposal is a very clear and sophisticated mechanism for disestablishing Israel as a Jewish state,” on 4 June 2007. By contrast, Prof. Judith Butler, writing in the London Review of Books on 10 May, afforded a notable mention to the DC: “Adalah recently proposed a ‘democratic constitution’ that starts out not with the question, ‘Who is a Jew?’, but with the question, ‘Who is a citizen?’ Although it does not seek to

adjudicate on what establishes the legitimate territory of this state, it does propose a systematic separation of nation and state, and so resonates with an Arendtian politics.”

The negative response by the Hebrew media was not unexpected given that the Arab documents, including the DC, call for a democratic state and not a “Jewish and democratic state” and deal with other contentious issues such as the Law of Return and the Right of Return. However, the statements made by the Director of the General Security Services (GSS or Shabak or Shin Bet) regarding the documents prompted Adalah to demand that the Attorney General launch a criminal probe into the illegal interference by the GSS into the publication of the documents. The media had reported that the Director of the GSS stated in a discussion with the Prime Minister concerning the documents that “the radicalization of the Arab citizens of Israel constitute a strategic danger to the state.” In response to Adalah’s demand, the Director of the GSS wrote that the GSS is “required to thwart the subversive activity of entities seeking to harm the character of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, even if their activity is conducted through democratic means.” In May 2007, the AG issued his reply, stating his full agreement with the GSS’s letter.

The anti-democratic response of the GSS and the AG received some sharp criticism in the Hebrew media. On 28 May 2007, an editorial in *Haaretz* opined that, “The Shin Bet is responsible for maintaining state security, not for maintaining a Jewish majority in the state, and it must refrain from any activity that involves intervening in legally permissible political action.” Novelist and literary critic Yitzhak Laor, writing in *Haaretz* on 30 May 2007 emphasized that: “In recent years, for the first time, the Shin Bet has dragged the debate about Israeli Arabs into racist expressions by the center, not the margins. Some equated the politicians’ statements and the PR against the constitution proposed by the Arab advocacy group Adalah with Kahane’s speeches in the Knesset.”

A number of writers published supportive op-eds on the DC in the Hebrew press. Adalah tried to generate discussion and debate among Arab and Jewish academics by hosting articles and roundtable discussions in Adalah’s E-Newsletter, and jointly organizing academic conferences and workshops at universities. Adalah will increase its efforts in 2008 to engage both the Arab and Jewish communities in Israel in discussions on the Democratic Constitution. For Adalah it is crucial that Palestinian Arab society does not accept the status quo or agree to constitutional proposals that ingrain their marginal status and fail to guarantee them a minimum level of equality or justice.

Adalah’s 2007 Annual Report of Activities is divided into four chapters: I. LEGAL ACTION, which highlights our Supreme Court litigation, as well as our legal representations before lower courts and other forums; II. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ADVOCACY, which presents our work before the United Nations and the European Union as well as staff and Board of Directors’ participation in conferences convened by international human rights organizations, universities and other partners; III. LEGAL EDUCATION, which focuses on our seminars and conferences; publications and reports; media outreach; and training for law students and new lawyers; and IV. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, which features the organizational progress and programs of the Board of Directors and staff over the last year.

3. Legal Action

This section highlights Adalah’s **key legal representations** before all levels of Israeli courts and other legal fora undertaken in 2007. Through its legal actions, Adalah seeks to attain equal individual and collective rights for the Palestinian minority in Israel, block discriminatory laws

and decisions, secure more state resources and services, and increase community empowerment to assert rights confidently and successfully. Adalah also works to defend against gross human rights violations of Palestinians living under occupation.

The section is organized thematically under the following headings: A. Land and Planning Rights; B. Education Rights; C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; D. Civil and Political Rights; E. Criminal Justice / Prisoners and Detainees' Rights; and the F. Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Cases are updated through April 2008.

I. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	PLANNED 2007	ACHIEVED 2007
No. cases/interventions won and lost	–	10 wins / 6 losses
No. of new cases filed to the Israeli courts	15+	20
No. of new legal interventions filed	20	21
No. of follow-ups on pending cases	–	21+

Main Achievements

As a result of Adalah's petitions, appeals and other legal interventions:

- The Supreme Court issued a precedent-setting decision banning the state from spraying toxic chemicals on crops cultivated by Arab Bedouin farmers in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab;
- Demolition orders issued against 45 homes in the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of al-Sura were frozen by the Magistrate Court in Beer el-Sabe;
- The Education Ministry committed before the Supreme Court to open the first high school in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab in the fall of 2009;
- The Akka Magistrates' Court's dismissed a motion to demolish the mosque in the Arab Bedouin village of Husseniya in the Galilee;
- The Haifa District Planning and Building Committee decided that lands cultivated by Arab farmers will not be assigned for the creation of "Kiryat Ata Forest" and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) committed to remove privately-owned Arab farm land from master plan that sought to create this forest;
- The Supreme Court issued an injunction ordering the community town of Rakefet to set aside plot of land for an Arab family pending a final decision on Adalah's petition challenging the use of "selection committees" to screen applicants for their "social suitability" for living in around 500 community and agricultural towns;
- The Israel Land Administration (ILA) cancelled discriminatory criteria that apply to Arab Bedouin in the Naqab in the leasing of farm land;
- The National Council for Planning and Building partially accepted objections filed by Adalah, the Arab Center for Alternative Planning and 25 Arab municipalities and local councils against the master plan for the northern district of Israel.
- The Education Ministry compelled the Led Municipality to register three Arab children at Hebrew-language preschools located close to their homes;

- The Finance Ministry committed before the Supreme Court to grant “border town” status to four Arab villages in the north, making them eligible for full compensation for war damages similar to neighboring Jewish villages following the Second Lebanon War.

Negative Decisions Delivered

- The Supreme Court granted the state an additional year to implement its 2006 decision concerning “National Priority Areas” (NPAs) in the field of education;
- The Supreme Court rejected Adalah’s request for a second hearing on its 2006 decision that granting enormous state loans for home mortgages to former soldiers does not discriminate against Arab citizens;
- The Supreme Court dismissed petitions filed in 2002 against a governmental decision freezing family unification processes initiated prior to the enactment of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law in July 2003;
- The Supreme Court rejected Adalah’s petition demanding the criminal indictments of the soldiers responsible for killing of an Arab Bedouin citizen of Israel, Mr. Meteb al-Nebari;
- The Supreme Court refused to open the Karni crossing between Israel and Gaza after its total closure in mid-June 2007 to allow foodstuffs and other essential goods and raw materials to reach Gaza;
- The Supreme Court decided in an interim ruling that the state may lawfully cut fuel supplies to Gaza, in violation of international humanitarian law.

Major New Legal Actions

Land and Planning Rights

- A Supreme Court petition against the use of selection committees and the “social suitability” criteria in about 500 community and agricultural towns, for illegally excluding Arab citizens, Mizrahi Jews, single parents, gays and other marginalized groups;
- An appeal to the Supreme Court against the confiscation of lands in Lajoun near Umm al-Fahem in the Triangle belonging to 300 Arab families over 50 years ago, but were never used for claimed “essential settlement and development needs”;
- A petition demanding the cancellation of a master plan that threatens to join land that has been cultivated by farmers from the Druze village of Daliyat al-Carmel since before 1948 to a “national park”, violating its owners’ rights to property and a livelihood;
- Motions to cancel home demolition orders issued against 34 homes in the unrecognized village of Umm el-Hieran in the Naqab;
- Urgent motions to cancel demolition orders issued against almost all homes (around 300 people) in the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of al-Sura in the Naqab;
- An objection against the master plan for Metropolitan Beer el-Sabe that violates the rights of Arabs living in the Naqab to dignity, equality and suitable housing.
- An objection with Bimkom against the master plan for Metropolitan Beer el-Sabe demanding recognition and a master plan for the unrecognized village of Umm el-Hieran in the Naqab;

- An objection against the master plan for the Arab village of Sandalah, which threatens the agricultural nature of the village, against its residents' wishes, and would harm their future development and quality of life;
- Legal letter demanding the cancellation of "Negev 2015: The National Strategic Plan for the Development of the Negev" (Naqab), which fails to respond to the socio-economic and spatial needs of Arab citizens and contradicts the principles of equality and justice in resource allocation.

Education Rights

- Representation of Arab students in the Supreme Court on an appeal filed by Haifa University against a District Court decision obliging the university to cancel the use of military service criterion in allocating student housing;
- A Supreme Court petition seeking the establishment in Haifa of the first Arab special school for the arts in Israel;
- Seeking the cancellation of age restrictions imposed on entry into Tel Aviv University's medical school that discriminate against Arab students, who do not perform military service and are unable to register at the school directly after completing their secondary education.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- A Supreme Court petition demanding the cancellation of unconstitutional municipal regulations forcing all shops in mixed neighborhoods in Akka to close on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath;
- A motion for a second hearing to Supreme Court arguing a grave error of law in a decision that enormous loans for home mortgages awarded to former soldiers do not discriminate against Arab citizens.

Civil and Political Rights

- A Supreme Court petition to overturn the new amendment to the Citizenship Law that expands the scope of the ban on family unification for Palestinians in the OPT to also include spouses from Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq.
- Challenging the General Security Services' (GSS) illegal interference in the publication of political and legal documents by Arab organizations (the Future Vision, the Haifa Covenant and Adalah's Democratic Constitution).

Police Brutality and Prisoners

- A demand to the Israeli police for a criminal investigation into the extremely violent actions of prison guards at Ketziot Prison in the south that resulted in the death and injuries of Palestinian political prisoners;
- A Supreme Court appeal against a decision to prevent an attorney from holding meetings with Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons;
- A tort suit filed on behalf of an Arab family who were violently assaulted by police officers, demanding compensation for the damages inflicted.

Occupied Palestinian Territory

- A Supreme Court petition demanding criminal investigations against Israeli military commanders and government officials responsible for killings and extensive home demolitions in Gaza in 2004;
- An *amicus* brief submitted together with ACRI to the Supreme Court challenging the Interior Minister's cancellation of the Jerusalem permanent residency status of four Hamas members of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
- Supreme Court petitions seeking the immediate opening of Karni Crossing (closed in June 2007) between Israel and Gaza to allow supplies of foodstuffs and other essential goods and raw materials to reach the civilian population of Gaza;
- A Supreme Court petition filed by Adalah and Gisha on behalf of ten Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations demanding an injunction against the Israeli government to prevent disruption to supply of electricity and fuel to Gaza.

II. CASE DOCKET

A. Land and Planning Rights

Achievements / Decisions

1) Supreme Court issues precedent-setting decision banning state from spraying toxic chemicals on crops cultivated by Arab Bedouin farmers in unrecognized villages. The decision was issued in 4/07, and included a statement that the spraying is insensitive, disrespectful and endangers the lives and health of the villagers. The state argued that Arab Bedouin farmers were “trespassers” on “state land”. The decision was delivered on a petition filed by Adalah in 3/04 on behalf of eight other human rights organizations and three individuals injured by the chemicals, seeking to prevent the Israel Land Administration’s (ILA) spraying operations in the unrecognized villages. The ILA had destroyed thousands of dunams of crops by aerially spraying them with dangerous chemicals. Adalah argued that the spraying endangers the life and health of human beings and animals, as well as their environment. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_04_15-1.

2) National Council for Planning and Building (NCPB) partially accepts objections filed against the master plan for the Northern District. The NCPB issued its decision in the fall of 2007 on objections submitted in 2001 by Adalah and the Arab Center for Alternative Planning on behalf of 25 Arab municipalities and local councils. The plan was initiated in 1986 and refers to the Arab population as a problem by virtue of its very existence in the north: “The taking control of [the Northern District] by Arab elements is a fact that the State of Israel is not dealing with as it should and this will cause distress to future generations.” The stated goal of the plan was “preserving the lands of the nation and Judaizing the Galilee.” The NCPB’s decision rejected the objectors’ requests to cancel the plan and to draft a new plan in accordance with the principles of equality and public participation in the planning process. However, it also partially accepted the objections to the plan and calls for significant revisions, particularly with regard to the establishment of employment zones and overcrowding in Arab towns and villages, and the possibilities for expanding the areas for development within them. More: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/dec07/2.php>.

3) ILA cancels discriminatory criteria for leasing farm land by Arab Bedouin in the Naqab. In 3/07, the ILA published new regulations easing the short-term leasing of agricultural land in the Naqab. In 9/04, Adalah demanded the cancellation of discriminatory criteria previously in place and increased opportunities for Bedouin citizens in the Naqab to lease agricultural land. As a result, severe and discriminatory restrictions on the rights of the Arab community to lease these lands were removed. However, the new regulations give preference to those who have served in the Israeli security forces or army. Adalah argued that the military service criterion is irrelevant in this case and that the hidden aim behind its use is to entice Arab Bedouin citizens to enlist in the security forces. Adalah is monitoring the implementation of the new regulations. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_04_30-1.

4) Lands cultivated by Arab farmers not to be assigned to “Kiryat Ata Forest”. In 2/07, the Haifa District Planning and Building Committee, accepting one of two objections filed by Adalah on behalf of 19 Arab farmers, announced that a plan to create a man-made forest in the area of Wadi al-Malak would be amended so as not to include land plots in private ownership. The plans cover an area of around 12,182 dunams earmarked as forested land, including land

cultivated by Arab farmers since before 1948. In the objections, filed to the Haifa and Northern Planning and Building Committees, Adalah argued that the land provides Arab farmers with their basic source of livelihood, and thus reassigning it as forested areas would deprive them of their income and violate their rights to property and freedom of occupation. In 10/07, due to the second objection, the JNF committed to remove privately-owned land from a second master plan that sought to confiscate Arab farmland for the creation of the forest. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_03_12-1; http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_10_30-1.

5) Dismissal of motion to demolish the mosque in Arab Bedouin village of Husseniya in the Galilee. The motion, filed by the Misgav Local Planning and Building Committee (MLPBC) in 4/01, was dismissed by the Akka Magistrates' Court at a hearing held in 3/07 at which Adalah represented residents of Husseniya. The MDPBC had sought numerous delays of the hearing because residents of Husseniya had submitted an alternative master plan for their village to the Northern District and Planning Committee (NDPC) in 6/05, which would, inter alia, legalize the mosque and prevent its demolition. This alternative plan is in the process of being reviewed; the MLPBC is challenging its submission. A mosque that was previously constructed in Husseniya was demolished.

6) Challenging discriminatory state policies for leasing land and eligibility for housing assistance in Arab Bedouin towns in the Naqab. In 4/07, the Supreme Court held a hearing on the ILA's decision to award large discounts in the leasing of land in the Naqab to individuals who have completed military service, following a petition filed by Adalah challenging discriminatory policies governing land leasing and eligibility for housing assistance in seven Arab Bedouin towns in the Naqab. In 10/05, according to the petitioners' demands, the state announced the cancellation of the military service criterion as a pre-condition for leasing land in the seven towns and stated that in 4/05 the Construction and Housing Ministry had annulled its policy of denying housing assistance to married couples one of whom is a non-citizen. Adalah withdrew the petition at the court's suggestion in 4/07.

More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=05_10_27.

New Cases Submitted

7) Supreme Court petition filed by Adalah and broad NGO coalition against use of discriminatory selection committees and "social suitability" criterion. The petition was filed in 9/07, and argued that these committees in practice exclude certain groups, such as Arab citizens, Mizrahi Jews, single parents and gays, from community towns for being "socially unsuitable". Adalah demanded the cancellation of the committees and the recognition of the individual's right to choose his or her residence as a constitutional right, and a ruling that the criterion of "social suitability" is arbitrary and unconstitutional. Before petitioning the court, Adalah filed a motion for injunction in 1/07 seeking the allocation of a plot of land for an Arab couple rejected by an admissions committee as "socially unsuitable" to live in the community town of Rakefet; the court rejected the motion. Later in 10/07, however, the court issued an injunction obliging Rakefet to set aside a plot of land for the couple, pending a final decision on the petition. Hearing scheduled for 5/08. More:

http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_09_23; and http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_01

8) Appeal to Supreme Court against confiscation over 50 years ago of Lajoun lands belonging to 300 Arab families. The appeal was filed in 5/07 against a Nazareth District Court decision of 3/07 to reject a lawsuit filed by Adalah and the families regarding the ownership of lands of the village. The district court rejected Adalah's main argument that the confiscation is fundamentally invalid and the land must be returned to its original owners as it has not been used for "essential settlement and development needs," as claimed in a Finance Ministry order from 1953. The court interpreted the term "settlement" extremely broadly, in such a way that, as Adalah argued, is incompatible with the definitions contained in Israeli law, legitimizes the illegal seizure of land, and violates the landowners' constitutional right to property. *Update:* In 3/08, Adalah filed a motion to the Supreme Court seeking a temporary injunction to prevent the state and the Development Authority from issuing bids to sell the land to third parties. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_05_29.

9) Petition to cancel a master plan that threatens to join land of Arab residents of Daliyat al-Carmel to a national park. The petition was filed to the Haifa District Court in 10/07 on behalf of 24 people from the Druze village of Daliyat al-Carmel demanding the cancellation of the master plan for a "National Park and Har Shukiv Forest". The master plan entails the joining of the petitioners' land, which has been cultivated by its owners since before 1948, to the area of the aforementioned park, thereby preventing the future development of the area and violating the landowners' rights to property and a livelihood. *Update:* In 1/08, the state announced its decision to rescind the appropriation of 27 of 36 plots of land that had been designated for the national park, together with other plots amounting to around 900 dunams. The court ordered the parties to negotiate in order to come to an agreement regarding the remaining nine plots. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_14.

10) Urgent motions to cancel demolition orders issued against almost all homes in unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of al-Sura in the Naqab. The motions were filed in 8/07 to the Beer el-Sabe Magistrates' Court and demanded the cancellation of *ex parte* demolition orders issued by the court in 2006 on almost all houses in the village. Al-Sura has existed since before 1948 and is home to approximately 300 Arab Bedouin citizens. Following Israel's establishment, the villagers were not asked to leave the village and filed official land claim forms for their land from the 1970s. In 8/07, the court ordered the freezing of the demolition orders. A hearing is scheduled in 9/08. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_08_16.

11) Objection to master plan for metropolitan Beer el-Sabe, which violates the rights of Arabs living in the Naqab to dignity, equality and suitable housing. This objection was filed to the NCPB in 10/07, and argued that the regional master plan for metropolitan Beer el-Sabe is an extension of the state's policy of concentrating the Arab Bedouin in the Naqab in the existing cramped government-planned towns and severely violates their rights to dignity, equality and suitable housing. Further, it was formulated with a complete disregard for the immediate needs of the Arab population, the current disparities between the Arab and Jewish communities in the region, and the future development needs of its Arab citizens. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_27.

12) Motion to Beer al-Sabe Magistrates' Court to cancel home demolition orders filed against 34 homes in the unrecognized Arab Bedouin village of Umm el-Hieran. The motion was submitted in 1/07 challenging *ex parte* orders issued in 2003 and 2005 by the magistrates' court based solely on the state's request, without the presence of or hearing from any of the affected parties and relying on the state's false claim that it could not identify the homeowners.

Adalah argued that demolishing the homes would violate the residents' right to housing and that the state's attempt to make them homeless endangers their lives. Previously, in 10/06, following Adalah's request, the court delayed the implementation of the orders. Adalah is also representing the villagers in lawsuits filed by the state in 4/04 to evacuate them. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_02_14; and http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=06_10_31.

13) Seeking recognition for the Arab Bedouin village of Atir-Umm el-Hieran and cancellation of master plan for metropolitan Beer el-Sabe (Beer Sheva). In 10/07, Adalah and Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights submitted an objection to the National Council for Planning and Building against the master plan for metropolitan Beer el-Sabe, which covers most of the northern Naqab. The objection was submitted on behalf of 82 residents of the unrecognized village of Atir-Umm al-Hieran. The objectors seek a revision of the plan to include: the marking of Atir-Umm al-Hieran on the map of the plan; recognition and a master plan for the village; a plan for building infrastructure in the village; and the incorporation into the master plan of the possible development of an employment zone in the village. According to the master plan, a new community called “Hiran”, which is designated exclusively for Jewish citizens, will be constructed on most of the land on which Atir-Umm el-Hieran is currently located. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_26.

14) Objection to master plan for the village of Sandalah in the north of Israel, which disregards the inhabitants' wishes for the village's future development. The objection was submitted in 12/07 on behalf of members of the local village council of Sandalah, against the master plan to Northern District Planning and Building Committee. As the objectors argued, the plan ignores the wishes of the villagers for their village's development and their immediate living environment, thereby disregarding their right to chose to continue to live in an agricultural-rural setting, and harming their quality of life. Adalah demanded the redrafting of the master plan in a way that will maintain the agricultural nature of the village, allow for its economic development, and reflect the vision of its inhabitants of the future of their community. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_03.

New Legal Interventions

15) Demanding cancellation of “Negev 2015: The National Strategic Plan for the Development of the Negev”. In 1/07, Adalah sent a letter to the Prime Minister demanding the cancellation of the plan, arguing that it discriminates against Arab Bedouin citizens and fails to promote the development of the Arab community in the Naqab. The plan, approved by the government in 11/05 and implemented from 11/06, has a budget of NIS 17 billion (US \$4 billion) for 2006 to 2015. The plan aims to develop the Naqab in the fields of housing, economic development and education, but fails to respond to the socio-economic and spatial needs of Arab citizens and contradicts the principles of equality and justice in resource allocation. In 2/07, the Prime Minister's Office informed Adalah that its request to cancel the plan has been denied as the plan involves the investment of large sums of money in the Bedouin community in the Naqab. Adalah is monitoring the implementation of the plan. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_01_30-1.

16) Challenging a provision of “Negev 2015” plan awarding 50% discount development fees in National Priority Areas (NPAs). In 2/07, Adalah sent a pre-petition to the Attorney General (AG) regarding a provision in the section of the plan dealing with “housing and communities.” This provision awards a 50% discount on infrastructural development fees for the

construction of housing in NPA “A” areas. Adalah demanded the provision’s cancellation on the basis of a Supreme Court decision from 2/06 on a petition filed by Adalah that the governmental decision establishing NPAs discriminates against Arab citizens of Israel and must be cancelled. In 3/07 the state responded to the pre-petition, emphasizing that the 50% discount is not being used. Adalah is monitoring developments in this regard.

17) Challenging warnings to demolish 100 homes in unrecognized village of al-Nasasara in the Naqab. In 2/07, Adalah sent a letter to the Interior Minister and AG demanding the cancellation of warning notices issued on around 100 homes in al-Nasasara. The notices order the homeowners to appear before the Building Monitoring Unit to present explanations for “unlicensed building.” However, such notices are generally the first step in a home demolition process. Adalah argued that the state’s attempt to demolish the entire village while planning to develop Jewish towns in the same area blatantly discriminates on the basis of national belonging. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_02_19-1.

18) Demanding an immediate investigation into the demolition of nine homes in the unrecognized village of Umm el-Hieran. In 6/07, Adalah sent a letter to the AG and the Director of the ILA, demanding an immediate investigation into the demolition of nine buildings in Umm el-Hieran and that all individuals responsible for the illegal home demolitions, carried out in 6/07, face disciplinary proceedings within the ILA. In 10/06, the Beer el-Sabe Magistrates’ Court, at Adalah’s request, issued an order to delay the implementation of a previously-delivered *ex parte* home demolition and evacuation order on the houses. Adalah argued in the letter that the demolition of the houses in violation of the court’s order stripped their owners of their constitutional right to defend themselves and to representation before the courts. *Update:* In 2/08, Adalah obtained a commitment from the ILA that it would not demolish new homes built by the villagers pending a final decision in the evacuation lawsuits filed against all residents of Umm el-Hieran (see below). More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_07_11.

19) Challenging the newly proposed “JNF Bill” as racist and discriminatory. Adalah submitted a position paper on new bill introduced in 7/07 entitled the “Jewish National Fund Law,” which passed its preliminary reading in the Knesset. According to the bill, “Despite whatever is stated in any law, leasing of JNF’s lands for the purpose of the settlement of Jews on these lands will not be seen as improper discrimination.” Further, “For the purpose of every law, the association documents of the JNF will be interpreted according to the judgment of the JNF’s founders and from a nationalist-Zionist standpoint.” In Adalah’s view, the setting in law of the JNF’s discriminatory land policies will result in the continued exclusion of Arab citizens from land in Israel and contribute to the further institutionalization of racially-segregated towns and villages throughout the state. The Knesset’s attempt to bypass the decision in the *Qa’dan* case from 2000, in which the Supreme Court ruled that the state is prohibited from allocating “state land” on the basis of national belonging or using “national institutions” to discriminate on its behalf, is blatantly racist and discriminatory. More: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jul07/jul07.html?navi=%2Fnewsletter%2Feng%2Fjul07%2Fjul07.html>

Follow-up on Pending Cases

- Supreme Court agrees for JNF land to be sold to all citizens for three months; the JNF will be compensated with alternative state land if a “non-Jewish” citizen wins the bid. At a 9/07 hearing the court accepted the JNF and AG’s request to delay a decision on a petition filed

by Adalah in 2004 seeking the cancellation of an ILA policy preventing Arab citizens from bidding for JNF-controlled land. The court granted this extension to allow the state and JNF to reach an agreement over a proposed exchange of land deal between them. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_09_27.

- Seeking annulment of the “Wine Path Plan” before the Supreme Court for the establishment of “individual settlements” for Jewish individuals and families in the Naqab. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=06_04_13.
- Demanding the cancellation of evacuation lawsuits to expel all residents of the unrecognized village of Umm el-Hieran in the Naqab. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_02_14.
- Defending residents of Kammaneh before the Supreme Court against attempt by Cooperative Organization of neighboring Jewish town of Kamoun to cancel the village’s master plan. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=06_11_20.
- Requesting the inclusion of Al-Mal neighborhood of Wadi Salameh in the village’s master plan. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=05_07_27-1.

B. Education Rights

Achievements / Decisions

1) Before Supreme Court, Education Ministry commits to opening first high school in unrecognized villages in the Naqab. In 1/07, the Supreme Court approved a settlement reached between the MOE and Adalah, whereby the former will establish a high school in the area of Abu-Tulul–El-Shihabi, which contains seven villages inhabited by around 12,000 Arab Bedouin citizens, by 9/09. It will be the ***first high school in any unrecognized village in the Naqab***. The agreement followed a petition filed in 3/05 by Adalah, NGOs in the field of education and families demanding that a high school be opened in the area. Students from the villages wishing to attend high school must travel 12km to schools elsewhere. Adalah presented data showing that the dropout rate in the villages is extremely high – around 77% – and higher still among girls, which violates the children’s right to an education. More:

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/mar05/fet.pdf>; and
http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_01_30.

2) Securing the registration of Arab children at predominately Hebrew-language preschools located close to their homes. In 11/07, in response to a letter sent by Adalah, the Ministry of Education (MOE) ordered the Preschool Division in the Municipality of Led (Lod) to allow the three children to be registered at the preschools immediately. In the letter, sent in 9/07, Adalah demanded that the children be registered in Hebrew language pre-schools due to the long distance between their homes and the Arabic language schools the municipality assigned to them. Adalah stressed that the lack of transportation has forced them to return home on foot, travel on alternative buses if available or stay at home, and argued that the unavailability of transportation violates the children’s right to obtain a free, compulsory education and denies them an educational framework. More:

http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_13-1.

New Cases Submitted

3) Representing Arab students in Supreme Court on an appeal filed by Haifa University against decision ordering the cancellation of military service criterion in allocating student housing. The District Court's decision was delivered in 8/06 on a petition submitted to the court by Adalah in 10/05, seeking the cancellation of the military service criterion in the allocation of student housing. Adalah argued that this criterion discriminates against Arab students, most of whom are exempt from military service, and that dorms should be allocated based on distance and socio-economic need. Following the decision, the university filed the appeal to the Supreme Court. In 5/07, Adalah filed its arguments against the appeal. In 7/07, Haifa University rejected the court's request that the sides negotiate a solution. *Update:* In 1/08, Adalah filed a motion to expand the judicial bench. More:

http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_05_29-1; and

http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_04_30.

4) Seeking the establishment in Haifa of the first Arab special school for the arts in Israel. In 8/07, Adalah petitioned the Supreme Court on behalf of the Association for the Development of Arab Education and 33 Arab families to demand the establishment of the first special school for the arts for Arab pupils in Israel. 25 official special Hebrew-language schools for the arts currently operate in Israel but none for Arab children. In Haifa the 57 Hebrew-language elementary schools include special schools for the arts, sciences and communications and independent schools, whereas there is just one special Arab democratic school in Haifa (the Heward School), established following a Supreme Court petition. The petition followed a pre-petition sent to the AG in 5/07. More:

http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_08_31.

New Legal Interventions

5) Seeking cancellation of discriminatory age restrictions on entry to Tel Aviv University's medical school. In 3/07, Adalah wrote to the university demanding that the new restrictions, that impose a minimum age restriction of 20 on medical students, be annulled. Adalah argued that the restriction discriminates against Arab students, who now cannot register at the medical school immediately after completing their secondary school education, particularly as the age restriction does not apply to Jewish students under 20 who wish to study before entering the army. Adalah emphasized that the intensive acceptance examination currently employed by the medical school is sufficient for determining the candidates who possess the personal abilities and appropriate professional motivations for studying medicine. *Update:* In 1/08, Adalah filed a petition to the Tel Aviv District Court challenging the medical school's age restrictions. More: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jan08/4.php>.

6) Demanding that Education Ministry resume transport to school for Arab Bedouin children in the north. Adalah sent a letter to the MOE in 11/07 demanding that it resume bus transportation for children from the Arab Bedouin villages of Kammaneh and Husseniya to school in the village of Nahaf in northern Israel. The letter followed a decision by the regional council to stop providing transport and transfer the children to a school in Wadi Salameh, adding 10km to their journey. The council did not consult or inform the children's parents. Some of the 150 children affected have been forced to remain at home, while others have had to travel the 25km to and from school on foot, which involves a dangerous crossing over a highway. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_13.

7) Challenging exclusion of Arab Bedouin schools in the Naqab from state's 'New Ofeq Plan'. In 10/07, Adalah sent a letter to the MOE on behalf of the Arab Education Forum in the Naqab demanding the inclusion of more Arab Bedouin schools in the Naqab in the plan, which aims to raise educational standards in Israel by improving working conditions for teachers. The plan is being implemented in an incremental manner throughout the country, but far fewer Arabic-language schools were included in the first stage (only two schools) than Jewish-language schools in the Naqab. In 12/07, the MOE informed the forum that the number of Arabic-language schools in the Naqab had been increased for the first stage of the plan, and currently stands at 15 schools.

8) Seeking to prevent closure of Akbara elementary school for Arab children in Safad. In 6/07, Adalah sent a pre-petition to the AG's Office demanding that the MOE's decision to close the school in the 2007-2008 academic year be cancelled. Akbara is the only Arab neighborhood in Safad; in 1994, a school was established in Akbara for pre-school and 1st-2nd grade children. The MOE announced the school's closure in 11/06 based on the low number of pupils, thereby requiring elementary school children to travel 50km a day to and from school. The children's parents approached Adalah in 5/07. In the pre-petition, Adalah argued that it was known when the school was founded that the number of pupils would be low, and thus the MOE's decision contradicts its previous decision and commitment. Further, the closure of the school breaches the MOE's basic legal duty to provide accessible compulsory education. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_06_20.

9) Demanding the reinstatement of a disabled Arab child's personal care-giver. In 11/07, Adalah sent a letter to the Matte Asher Regional Council and the MOE demanding that the personal care-giver of a 14 year-old disabled Arab child from Sheikh Danoun be reinstated. The child has been diagnosed with a 100% permanent disability but had been studying at the local comprehensive school with a permanent personal care-giver due to the lack of a special educational facility. However, at the end of the last school year, the regional council cancelled this position and replaced it with a care-giver for all students with special needs in the class. As a result he did not receive the necessary care and was forced to discontinue his education. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_11.

Follow-up on Pending Cases

- Repairs made to serious health and safety hazards at Arab elementary school in Akka. In 12/07, the Supreme Court ordered the MOE and Akka Municipality to pay legal expenses to Adalah on its petition filed in 2/06, demanding the immediate repair of safety hazards at an Arab elementary school in Akka to remove dangers to the lives of its 670 pupils. Contrary to MOE regulations, for example, there were no water fountains and children were forced to drink from water faucets in sinks in the school's small bathroom facilities; the playgrounds lacked shaded areas and the ground was slippery and completely unsafe; and the area through which pupils enter and leave the school is also used as a car park. In 8/06, the Court ordered the state to complete repairs, and in 9/07 the court decided that the MOE and Akka Municipality should continue to complete outstanding, minor repairs. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=06_04_07.
- Challenging severe shortage of educational counselors in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab. More http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=06_05_16-1.

C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Achievements / Decisions

1) Finance Ministry commits before Supreme Court to grant “border town” status to four Arab villages in north, entitling them to full compensation for war damages. In 1/07, the Finance Ministry included the four Arab villages in its list of ‘border towns’, which are eligible for the highest levels of war compensation, following a petition filed by Adalah in 9/06. Adalah challenged the state’s discriminatory compensation scheme for war damages incurred during the Second Lebanon War by businesses and NGOs as discriminating against Arab towns in northern Israel and Arab citizens. Adalah sought ‘border town’ status for four Arab villages seriously damaged in the war located along the Lebanese border close to Jewish towns with such status, but eligible for lower levels of compensation because of their exclusion from the list of ‘border towns’. Additional demands raised in the petition for compensation for businesses and NGOs were not dealt with by the court, however, in its final decision of 7/07. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_02_04; and http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=06_12_19.

2) Supreme Court grants state additional year to implement its decision concerning “National Priority Areas” (NPAs) in the field of education. In 6/07, the court granted the state a further year to implement its landmark ruling of 2/06 in the NPAs petition filed by Adalah, in which it decided that the government’s decision establishing NPAs discriminates against Arab citizens and should be cancelled. In response to the state’s motion to extend the deadline for implementing the ruling in the field of education by 4-5 years because of harm caused to Jewish towns and teachers, Adalah submitted a response in 4/07 demanding that the court reject the state’s request. At a 6/07 hearing on the motion Adalah argued that it violates the principle of the rule of law and would perpetuate discrimination against Arab towns and villages, stressing that since the ruling the state has done nothing to advance its implementation. *Update:* After viewing updates sent to the court by the state, Adalah filed a response to the court in 1/08 arguing that the state has made no efforts towards implementing the court’s decision. A hearing is scheduled for 6/08. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_06_26.

3) Motion for second hearing to Supreme Court arguing grave error of law in decision that held that enormous loans for mortgages awarded to former soldiers do not discriminate against Arab citizens. In 2/07 Adalah filed a motion for a second hearing on the court’s decision, which held that there is no impediment in principle to granting benefits to those who complete military or national service above the generous financial support for housing and other benefits afforded by the Absorption of Former Soldiers Law (1994). The decision was delivered on a petition filed by Adalah in 12/05 challenging governmental ‘extended support’ in the form of low-interest loans for mortgages to Israeli citizens who have completed military service. Adalah argued that this support discriminates against Arab citizens, and that its aim should be to assist the economically disadvantaged to find housing, which is unrelated to military service. Adalah further argued that the decision contains a grave error of law, as the court incorrectly ruled that the disputed support was established in law. The court rejected the motion in 10/07 finding that state loans for mortgages to former soldiers do not discriminate. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_10_27; and http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_02_12.

New Cases Submitted

4) Supreme Court petition demanding cancellation of unconstitutional municipal regulations in Akka forcing shops to close on Saturday. The petition was filed in 5/07, challenging amended municipal regulations introduced by the Akka Municipality prohibiting business owners in mixed neighborhoods in Akka with a Jewish majority from opening their places of business on Saturdays, the Jewish Sabbath. Adalah argued that the amendment is unconstitutional, breaches the principle of equality, and violates the constitutional rights of Arab citizens living in Akka to freedom of employment, freedom of religion and conscience, and freedom from religion. Adalah emphasized that Israeli primary legislation governs weekly days of rest and closures of businesses on Saturdays, and stipulates an obligation that the days of rest for each religious group should be determined separately. A hearing is scheduled for 10/08. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_05_18.

Follow-up on Pending Cases

- Knesset amends law and permits income support payments to a limited number of car owners and users. In 4/04, Adalah and Sawt al-Amel (the Laborer's Voice) petitioned the Supreme Court seeking the cancellation of income support legislation that renders car owners or users ineligible for income support payments. The organizations argued that the law violates the constitutional rights to dignity and property and breaches the principle of equality. In 1/07, as a result of Adalah's petition, an amendment allowing car owners and users to receive income support, with certain conditions. At a 10/07 hearing, Adalah argued that the new amendment also discriminates against recipients and does not alter the law's constitutional flaws; the court then recommended that Adalah file an amended petition on the case. *Update:* Adalah filed the new petition in 3/08. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_10_20.
- Challenging discriminatory law that excludes Arab Bedouin towns from income tax benefits. In 7/07, the Supreme Court ordered the state to provide updated information regarding the law. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_07_12.
- Challenging unequal distribution of "budget balancing grants" between Jewish and Arab municipalities. *Update:* At a hearing in 4/08, the Supreme Court issued an interim ruling obliging the establishment of a committee to re-examine the formula used for allocating the grants, and ordering the state to submit the committee's recommendations within six months. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_04_13_1.
- Appealing Water Commissioner's refusal to provide water access for hundreds of Arab Bedouin in unrecognized villages in the Naqab to the Supreme Court. Adalah filed its concluding arguments on the case in 12/07, arguing that using water resources as a way of exerting pressure on Arab Bedouin to leave the unrecognized villages is illegal. Pending for final judgment. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_12_12.

D. Civil and Political Rights

Achievements / Decisions

1) Dismissal of petitions against governmental decision freezing family unification processes initiated prior to enactment of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law. In 1/07, the Supreme Court dismissed petitions filed by Adalah and ACRI in 9/02, challenging a governmental decision from 5/02 that prohibits family unification between an Israeli citizen and non-citizen Palestinian spouse. The decision formed the basis of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order) (2003). The court postponed ruling on these petitions pending a final judgment on petitions challenging the law, which the court rejected in 5/06. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_01_22.

New Cases Submitted

2) Demanding cancellation of extension to Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law for contradicting the Supreme Court's prior decision. A petition filed in 1/07 demanding the cancellation of a three-month extension of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law. The law denies Arab citizens of Israel the right to acquire any status in Israel for their Palestinian spouses from the OPT solely on the basis of their national belonging. Adalah argued that extending the law for three months contradicts the decision reached by a majority of the Supreme Court in 5/06 on petitions challenging the law. In 3/07, the Knesset passed a new version of the law, which Adalah is challenging before the Supreme Court (see below). More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_01_26.

3) Seeking to overturn new citizenship law banning family unification and disconnecting Arab citizens from the Palestinian people and Arab nation. A petition filed to the Supreme Court in 5/07, demanding the cancellation of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Amendment No. 2), enacted in 3/07, and that the graduated procedure for obtaining residency/citizenship status in Israel be used to decide equitably on family unification applications. The new law is valid until 31/7/08 and expands on the existing law by not only preventing Israeli citizens married to Palestinians from the OPT from living together in Israel, but also residents/citizens of "enemy states", listed in the law as Iran, Iraq, Syria or Lebanon. Adalah argued, inter alia, that the new law constitutes racial discrimination as it bars individuals from family unification solely on the basis of their nationality and that the law has no parallel in any democratic state. It also prevents Arab citizens from having contact with their families and members of the Arab nation and the remainder of the Palestinian people. *Update:* In 1/08, the court expanded the judicial panel to seven justices; a hearing is scheduled on the case for 5/08. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_06_06.

New Legal Interventions

4) Position paper on proposed amendment to the Citizenship and Entry to Israel Law. In 1/07, Adalah submitted a position paper to the AG, Justice Minister and the Knesset's Interior Committee, setting forth its legal arguments against a proposal to extend the law, as well as its expansion to ban unification of spouses from "enemy states". Adalah argued that the essence of the new proposed legislation is to deny the right to family life on a national or ethnic basis. In 3/07, the Knesset passed the new law, which Adalah is challenging before the Supreme Court (see above). More: <http://www.adalah.org/features/famuni/postionPaper090107.pdf>.

5) Seeking criminal probe into GSS's illegal interference in publication of political and legal documents by Arab organizations. A letter sent to the AG in 3/07, demanding a criminal investigation into inflammatory reports published about a meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office on political and legal documents issued by Arab organizations that address proposals to amend the constitutional structure of Israel, including Adalah's 'Democratic Constitution.' Adalah demanded that the investigation encompass the involvement of the General Security Service (GSS). According to the reports, the GSS's Director warned during this meeting that "the radicalization of the Arab citizens of Israel is a strategic danger for the existence of the state." Adalah further demanded clear, written directives clarifying what is permissible and prohibited under the law, with the goal of preventing the GSS's future interference in similar matters. In a letter dated 3/07, the Director of the GSS stated that the GSS is "required to thwart the subversive activity of entities seeking to harm the character of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, even if their activity is conducted through democratic means." In 5/07, the AG issued his reply, stating his full agreement with the GSS's letter. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_05_22, and <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/mar07/letter.pdf>.

6) Suggested bill for adequate representation for Arab women in Israel's political and legal systems. In 6/07, Adalah presented a position paper, in cooperation with Ibn Khaldoun – The Arab Association for Research & Development, regarding adequate representation for Arab women in Israel in local councils. The paper included a suggested bill to amend the Local Council (Elections) Law – 1965, and was presented to the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, but was rejected in 12/07.

7) On behalf of the Ataa' Center, demanding that the Winograd Committee investigate the repercussions of the War on Lebanon in 2006 on Arab towns and villages in Israel. In 8/07, Adalah submitted a letter to the Winograd Committee which was formed by the Israeli government to examine the events of the war, requesting that it consider the report of Ataa – "The Arab Population in Israel Under a State of Emergency: Damages from the Second Israeli War on Lebanon." While there were numerous failures to assist all citizens in Haifa and in north during the north, Arab citizens fared much worse as the lack of preparedness was more severe: a shortage of shelters and public services and a lack of access to information, suitable alternative housing outside of their community of residence and a shortage of food. More: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/aug07/winograd.pdf>

8) Position paper criticizing the proposed press law for its severe consequences for freedom of the press and freedom of expression. In 12/07, Adalah presented a position paper to the Directorate of the Israel Press Council (IPC) emphasizing the severe consequences of a proposed new press law on freedom of the press and freedom of expression in general, and on the Arabic press in particular. The bill is designed to replace the mandatory-era Press Ordinance of 1933, which severely violates freedom of the press and of expression, and has mainly been used against the Arab press. The bill's most serious flaw is that it does not revoke the extremely dangerous power granted by the Press Ordinance: the authority to shut down newspapers. Article 7(a) of the proposed bill authorizes district courts to prohibit or limit the publication or distribution of a newspaper if the court "were convinced that the publication of the newspaper is liable to endanger the security of the state or public security." The Directorate of the IPC decided to oppose the bill. More: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/dec07/6.php>

9) Following Adalah's intervention, Haifa University revokes ban on distribution of leaflet produced by Arab students affiliated to Abna al-Balad. On 12/07, in response to an appeal filed by Adalah earlier that month, the University of Haifa advised of the cancellation of an order issued by the Dean of Students to prohibit the distribution of a leaflet issued by Arab students affiliated to Abna al-Balad (an extra-parliamentary political movement). As Adalah argued, the language contained in the leaflet did not constitute any danger to any protected interest and the Dean's order violated the students' right to freedom of political expression and illegally infringes the principles of Israeli public law. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_6_1.

Follow-up on Pending Cases

- Demanding legal recognition for Muslim holy sites in Israel in name of Muslim religious leaders. In 8/07, the Supreme Court ordered the state to explain the failure to recognize Muslim religious sites as holy sites and to provide funds for their protection. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_08_21.
- Adalah rejected the Supreme Court's proposal to turn the Big Mosque into a museum in 1/07; subsequently the Supreme Court issued order nisi in 2/07 against the Beer el-Sabe Municipality to explain why Big Mosque should not be opened for prayer and worship by Muslims. More: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jan05/mesq.pdf>; and http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_03_01.

E. Criminal Justice / Prisoners and Detainees' Rights

Decisions

1) Adalah's petition demanding criminal indictments of soldiers responsible for killing of Mr. Meteb al-Nebari rejected by Supreme Court. In 6/07, in response to Adalah's petition, the court decided that there was no reason for its intervention in the decision of the Chief Military Prosecutor (CMP) not to indict those responsible for the death of Mr. Meteb al-Nebari, a Palestinian Bedouin citizen of Israel shot and killed in 10/03 by Israeli army soldiers in the West Bank. As was clear from the evidence presented in the petition, Mr. al-Nebari was killed by live bullets fired at him from behind. Mr. al-Nebari did not constitute a threat to the soldiers and had no security record. Adalah filed the petition in 12/06, requesting that the court order the CMP to indict the soldiers responsible for his death. The military police did not launch an investigation until ten months after the killing and much pressure from Adalah. The investigation concluded in 4/05 with the CMP's decision not to issue any indictments. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_06_26-1.

New Cases Submitted

2) Supreme Court appeal against decision to prevent attorney from meeting with Palestinian political prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons. The appeal was filed in 11/07 on behalf of Attorney Ahmed Khatib, an Arab citizen of Israel, against a decision delivered by the Tel Aviv District Court to ban him from visiting all political prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons for 19 days. According to the IPS, "... There is a clear fear that Attorney Khatib's meetings with security prisoners will enable the commission of a crime that will endanger prison security or lead to the disruption or obstruction of the prison regime and management." At a

Supreme Court hearing in 11/07 the GSS presented secret evidence during a closed session, and then advised the appellants to withdraw the appeal with a commitment from the IPS not to extend the ban. Adalah withdrew the appeal with Attorney Khatib's consent. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_29-1.

3) Tort suit filed on behalf of an Arab family who were violently assaulted by police demanding compensation for the damages inflicted on them. The suit was filed in 9/07 to the Haifa Magistrates' Court on behalf of Mr. Tawfiq Abdul Fatah Hussein and his family against the Israeli police and two individual police officers who attacked them in 2000, causing serious injuries. The family was driving near the Arab village of Kawkab in the Galilee when two police officers approached the car and asked for Mr. Hussein's identity card. When he informed them that he was not carrying it one police officer struck him with a flashlight. The two officers then dragged him out of the car by his hair and one of them bound his hands together and informed him that he was under arrest. The two officers threw him to the ground and beat him all over his body, breaking some of his teeth and a rib. Ms. Samar Abdul Fatah Hussein was also injured by the police and couple's daughter suffered serious psychological damage. Adalah demanded that the court award compensation to the family for the damages inflicted on them. Negotiations between the parties are underway. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_09_03.

New Legal Interventions

4) Demanding criminal investigation into prison guards' violence that resulted in the death and injuries of Palestinian political prisoners. In 11/07, Adalah and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) sent a letter to the National Prison Guards Investigation Unit demanding a criminal investigation into the incident, which occurred in 10/07. Prison guards at the Ketziot prison opened live fire on prisoners during a search operation, which led to the death of one prisoner, who was killed after being opened fire on at a range of one meter, and the injury of a large number of other prisoners. The injured were also denied access to medical treatment, which led to the tragic death of the deceased prisoner. Families and lawyers were also denied access to the prisoners in the aftermath of the attack. The organizations also demanded an end to the current inhumane conditions at the prison. *Update:* In 1/08, the IPS replied that there had been no mistreatment of prisoners during the incident and that they had been provided with 'impeccable' medical treatment, and rejected the claims that family members and lawyers had been denied access to the prisoners following the incident. The IPS further stated that the investigation into the incident remains pending.

More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_29-2.

5) Adalah: Forcing Palestinian detainees to strip naked is a method of torture prohibited under international law. In 8/07, Adalah sent a letter to the Public Security Minister, the Head of the GSS and the AG, demanding an end to a new method of torture according to which GSS investigators have forced detainees to remove their clothing in front of other detainees, soldiers and interrogators and to put on disposable nylon overalls. Adalah further demanded the opening of a criminal investigation. The GSS had been using these methods for three months against detainees from Gaza, according to PCHR-Gaza. The AG's office responded in 11/07, claiming that the security checks are proportionate to the existing risks and denied that strip searching is routine, and that on the rare occasions on which it is carried out it is done in a way that respects suspects' dignity and privacy. Adalah is monitoring the situation.

More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_08_20.

6) Challenging Mahash's Decision to Close Case of Police Brutality Against 66-Year Old Arab Protestor. An appeal filed to the AG in 7/07 against the decision of the Ministry of Justice's Police Investigations Unit ("Mahash") to close the file of a police brutality complaint submitted by Mr. Suleiman al-Uqbi in April 2007 for "lack of public interest". Mr. al-Uqbi demanded an investigation into police who assaulted him during a protest against Israel's land policies in the Naqab. He was subsequently denied medical treatment. After his release the next day his right hand was placed in a cast for forty days. Adalah demanded that the AG cancel Mahash's decision and compel it to conduct a full investigation into the case. Adalah argued that it is unclear how the trial of police officers who assaulted an elderly man would harm the interests of the public. The appeal is still being examined. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_07_31.

7) Demanding dismissal of State Prosecutor Eran Shendar for his consistent failures as head of Mahash. In 2/07, Adalah, on behalf of the October 2000 victims' families, sent a letter to the AG demanding the dismissal of State Prosecutor Eran Shendar and the opening a serious and comprehensive inquiry into the illegal conduct of Mahash regarding the October 2000 killings and injuries. Shendar was the Director of Mahash in October 2000 and bears the main responsibility for Mahash's omissions and failures to investigate the events. Adalah sent several letters previously asking for Shendar's immediate suspension in order to enable an appeal to be submitted against the findings and conclusions of Mahash published in its report of 9/05, which found that no indictments should be issued. In 12/07 Shendar retired and was succeeded by the new State Prosecutor Moshe Lador. More: <http://www.adalah.org/features/october2000/mazuz-l-feb07-en.pdf>.

Follow-up on Pending Cases

- Demanding permission for physical contact during visits between political prisoners and their children. *Update:* In 3/08, Adalah sent a response to the Supreme Court regarding the criteria imposed by the IPS for physical contact between a child and his or her imprisoned parent. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=06_05_03.
- An urgent letter to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, and the AG challenging a law imposing harsher investigation, interrogation and detention laws on "security suspects", who are almost exclusively Palestinians. *Update:* Adalah, PCATI and ACRI filed a Supreme Court petition on the case in 3/08; a hearing has been scheduled for 7/08. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=05_10_19.
- Appealing against Mahash's decision to close the file on a complaint of police brutality in the Arab village of Beineh, due to "lack of public interest." More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=05_04_25-1.
- Filing a complaint to Mahash following the violent assault by police officers of residents of an unrecognized village, including women, following protest demonstrations in the Naqab. In 7/07, the AG's Office replied stating that as a result of a lack of cooperation from the complainants, they had been forced to close the investigation. More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=05_12_27.
- Demanding the release by the Israeli military of a summary report into the Israeli military's killing of Meteb al-Nebari to his family in a petition filed to Supreme Court in 3/05 (also see

Adalah's petition demanding criminal indictments of soldiers responsible for killing of Mr. Meteb al-Nebari rejected by Supreme Court, above). More:
http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=05_03_29-1.

- Representing family of a 30 year-old Arab Bedouin citizen of Israel, Mr. Hamad Dibsan, who died in police custody, in an investigation into his death. More:
http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=03_08_19.

F. Occupied Palestinian Territory

New Cases Submitted

1) Demanding criminal investigations against Israeli military commanders and government officials responsible for killings and extensive home demolitions in Rafah, Gaza in 2004. In 4/07, Adalah, PCHR-Gaza and Al-Haq filed a Supreme Court petition demanding criminal investigations into the killing of civilians and extensive home demolitions which resulted from two military operations in Gaza in 2004. Adalah argued that the actions of Israeli military officers and commanders during these operations constitute criminal offenses under Israeli and international law, and demanded the prosecution of those responsible. In both operations, the Israeli military carried out willful killings and extensive and wanton destruction of civilian property, classified as grave breaches under the Geneva Conventions IV and thus war crimes. A hearing has been scheduled on the case in 7/08. More:
http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_04_15.

2) Challenging cancellation of residency status of Palestinian parliament members from East Jerusalem before the Supreme Court. An *amicus* brief filed jointly with ACRI in 5/07 in the case of four Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) members from East Jerusalem against the cancellation of their Jerusalem residency status. The Israeli Interior Minister revoked their residency status in 6/06 for "breach of trust" following their election on the list of Hamas in the 1/06 PLC elections, in which they participated with Israel's consent. The brief argued that the minister's decision gravely violates the parliamentarians' constitutional rights to dignity, personal liberty and property, and their and their families' rights to family life, and presented arguments concerning the complexity of the issue of canceling the status of residents of East Jerusalem, which is occupied territory under international law. The AG's Office responded in 5/07, stating, inter alia, that the brief, "lacks any legal basis, is immoral, and contradicts the basic principles of the law, freedoms and human rights, and is therefore a danger to public safety and security." A *Haaretz* editorial heavily criticized the AG's Office for its unprofessional response, and eight human rights organizations, led by B'Tselem and PCATI, called for the dismissal of the relevant lawyers in the AG's Office and demanded that an apology be issued to Adalah and ACRI. A hearing is scheduled on the case for 7/08. More:
http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_05_09; and
http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_06_08.

3) Supreme Court petitions seeking immediate opening of Karni Crossing to Gaza, closed in breach of international and Israeli law. In 6/07 and 7/07, Adalah, PCHR-Gaza, Al-Mezan Center and Al-Haq filed petitions to the Supreme Court demanding that the Karni Crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip be opened immediately to allow foodstuffs and other essential goods and raw materials to be imported into Gaza. The crossing, closed immediately after Hamas' takeover of Gaza in 6/07, is the main crossing for supplying goods to Gaza. According

to international organizations, the closure has led to a severe and dangerous shortage in essential goods and foodstuffs and raw materials. Adalah argued that Israel is still occupying Gaza and is not fulfilling its duty to provide for the humanitarian needs of Gaza's residents, thereby violating their rights to life, dignity, health, and an adequate standard of living. Preliminarily, the court accepted the state's arguments that there was no humanitarian disaster in Gaza and left pending the state's claim that Israel exercises no effective control over Gaza. At a hearing in 10/07 the court advised the organizations to withdraw the petition. Recent developments, including the government's declaration of Gaza as a 'hostile entity', claimed the court, made it inappropriate for it to decide on border-related issues outside the context of the overall situation. The petition was then withdrawn. More:

http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_07_19.

4) Demanding an injunction against Israeli government to prevent disruption to supplies of electricity and fuel to Gaza. A petition filed to the Supreme Court in 10/07 by Adalah and Gisha on behalf of ten Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations demanding an injunction against the Public Security Minister and the Prime Minister to prevent them from disrupting the supply of electricity and fuel to the Gaza Strip. The petitioners argued that interrupting electricity and fuel supplies is illegal and would endanger innocent civilians by threatening the functioning of hospitals and sewage and water services, and push Gaza further into a severe humanitarian crisis. Moreover, it is in violation of its responsibilities under international law, which proscribes collective punishment. Numerous subsequent motions for injunction were also filed to the court. In 11/07, the court permitted the state to drastically reduce fuel supplies to Gaza, in violation of basic principles of international law. *Update:* In 1/08, the court rejected the petition, allowing the state to proceed with its plan to cut electricity sold to Gaza, which has resulted in rolling blackouts across Gaza. In response, Adalah stated that, "According to the Supreme Court's decision, it is permitted to harm Palestinian civilians and create a humanitarian crisis for political reasons. This constitutes a war crime under international criminal law." More:

http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=08_01_31.

Follow-up on Cases

- **Seeking implementation of Supreme Court's decision banning Israeli army from using Palestinian civilians as "human shields" in military operations.** In 3/07, Adalah sent two letters to the AG and the Chief Military Advocate General (MAG) to open investigations into various recent instances in which the Israeli army has used Palestinian civilians as human shields, in breach of the Supreme Court's 2005 decision. These instances were documented by B'Tselem and reported on widely in the media. In response, the state argued that investigations into the alleged incidents are underway. In 10/07, Adalah sent an urgent letter sent to the Deputy State Attorney and the MAG demanding that they make public the measures and punishments used against soldiers who violate the ruling. The Supreme Court delivered the decision in 10/05 on a petition filed by Adalah with Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations in 5/02 demanding that the use of human shields be prohibited. The court ruled that the practice violates IHL. In 11/07, the MAG responded to the letter, rejecting Adalah's claims. The MAG stated that the military is fully implementing the decision and investigating all complaints of reported incidents of the use of human shields. Adalah is continuing to monitor the situation. More:

http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_10_28-1.

- **Demanding that Minister of Justice withdraw proposed amendment to Compensation Law.** In 9/07, Adalah, ACRI and HaMoked wrote a position paper against the new proposed amendment to the Civil Torts Law (Liability of the State) (Amendment No. 8) – 2007. The organizations argued that the purpose of the new amendment is to overrule the Supreme Court's ruling on a petition challenging the law filed by the human rights organizations, including Adalah in 9/05. In response to the petition the Supreme Court ruled that state cannot exempt itself from paying tort compensation to Palestinians in the OPT injured or other damaged by the Israeli security forces.
More: <http://www.adalah.org/features/compensation/positionpaper-e.pdf>.

4. International Legal Advocacy

This section highlights Adalah's **international legal advocacy** initiatives undertaken in 2008. With this work, Adalah strives to promote compliance by Israel with its international human rights treaty obligations and agreements and to raise awareness among the international community about the institutionalized discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel and the gross violations of the human rights of the Palestinians in the OPT. The main aim of these activities is to most effectively protect, promote and defend rights on the local level. This section is organized under the following headings: A. UN / EU / Embassies and B. International Human Rights Conferences / Networking.

Highlights of Adalah's **main achievements** included:

- *Before the UN:* The **UN CERD Committee** set forth 26 Concluding Observations regarding Israel's violations of the CERD convention against Palestinians in Israel and in the OPT, adopting numerous recommendations raised by Adalah in its reports and its advocacy during the review session in Geneva in 2/07. The UN Committee on NGOs rejected the application of the **Jewish National Fund (JNF)** for ECOSOC consultative status. Adalah and its NGOs partners have advocated strongly before the UN for Israel to cease its discriminatory land allocation policies using institutions such as the JNF. **The UN Special Representative on Minority Rights** invited Adalah's GD to serve as an expert consultant at a UN session on minorities and citizenship in the world.
- *Before the EU:* Adalah undertook **advocacy tours** to Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and the UK, together with Israeli and Palestinian NGO partner members of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). Adalah also increased its submissions to EU institutions by contributing informational materials to open letters and publications by the EMHRN concerning Israel's compliance with its human rights commitments under the European Neighborhood Policy and the **EU-Israel Action Plan**.
- *Before diplomatic representatives in Israel:* Adalah initiated two well-attended briefings on legal developments in Israel and the OPT for **representatives of embassies and consulates** as well as international organizations in 11/07 in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The US State Department's Country Report on Human Rights for Israel and the OPT – 2006 cited Adalah's work on 12 different cases.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

A. UN / EU / Embassies

Adalah researched and submitted 12 new reports / interventions to UN and EU bodies, conducted advocacy tours in Europe, and held briefings for representatives of embassies, consulates and international organizations in Israel and the OPT.

United Nations

1. UN CERD urges Israel to revoke the citizenship law, dismantle the Wall, bind the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to the principle of non-discrimination, and recognize the unrecognized Arab Bedouin villages. The Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), issued on 3/07 following its review of Israel's

report and compliance with the CERD convention, set forth 17 recommendations addressing discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel, and six specific steps regarding Palestinians in the OPT. The Committee adopted numerous issues raised by Adalah in its two reports to the Committee (presented in 12/05 and 2/07), and on which Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher and International Advocacy Director Rina Rosenberg lobbied during the committee's sessions in Geneva in 2/07. Adalah's lawyers have used the CERD's Concluding Observations in petitions filed to the Israeli Supreme Court and in other local advocacy initiatives. Participation supported by the EU. To view Adalah's special report on CERD, see: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/cerd.php>.

2. UN rejects JNF's application for ECOSOC consultative status. Adalah, the Habitat International Coalition and Badil closely monitored related developments before the UN Committee on NGOs in 5/07, and advocated strenuously for Israel to cease its discriminatory land allocation practices using institutions such as the Jewish Agency, the World Zionist Organization and the JNF, the latter of which controls 13% of the land in Israel exclusively for the benefit of the Jewish population. To read the news update, see: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/may07/6.php>.

3. Briefings and position papers for Chair of UN CRC and Special Rapporteurs. Adalah presented the Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) with six short position papers on issues affecting Arab children in Israel in 2/07. Adalah also briefed several human rights officers working with UN Special Rapporteurs (on Minority Rights, Right to Adequate Housing, OPT and Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on recent legal developments. Information provided by Adalah to the UN Special Rapporteurs was often cited in their reports to the UN Human Rights Council. Meetings held in Israel and in Geneva throughout the year laid the groundwork for future interventions and, it is anticipated, strong statements by the UN.

4. Adalah testifies before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the OPT. Adalah has received an annual invitation and provided testimony to this UN Committee since 2002. GD Attorney Hassan Jabareen appeared before the Committee in Amman, Jordan in 7/07. He provided information on recent developments concerning the Israeli Supreme Court, the legal impact thereof on the Gaza Strip, and the revocation of Palestinians' Jerusalem residency rights and the ban on family unification. Participation supported by the UN. To read a summary of Attorney Jabareen's remarks, see: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/aug07/3.php>; to read the report of the UN Special Committee, see: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/intladvocacy2007.php>.

5. Adalah General Director invited as an expert consultant to the UN Special Representative on Minority Rights on issues of minority rights and citizenship. GD Hassan Jabareen participated in an expert consultation in Geneva, Switzerland convened by the UN Special Representative on Minority Rights in 12/07. Attorney Jabareen spoke on a wide range of issues concerning Palestinians and the denial or deprivation of citizenship. He discussed the problem of citizenship for Palestinians: Palestinian refugees, Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living OPT. He also spoke of the ways in which Palestinians in the OPT are deprived of freedom of movement in their homeland, including for purposes of education, visiting relatives and receiving medical treatment. Participation supported by the UN. To read the news update and the Special Representative's report, see: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/apr08/1.php>.

European Union

6. Joint recommendations by human rights NGOs on EU and Israel's lack of compliance with human rights commitments under European Neighborhood Policy and EU-Israel Action Plan. To strengthen human rights advocacy work before the EU and in Israel, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) and its partners in Israel – Adalah, B'Tselem, PCATI, and the Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA) – formulated and disseminated these recommendations. In preparation for the common statement, in 4/07 the organizations held an initial training workshop in Tel Aviv on EU mechanisms and policies for 15 human rights NGOs, and an advocacy seminar attended by officials from the European Commission and the German Presidency, as well as embassy representatives of 12 EU member states. Training workshops and advocacy seminar supported by the EMHRN. To view the report, see: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jul07/eu.pdf>.

7. Israeli and Palestinian human rights NGOs conduct advocacy visit to Berlin, Germany. In 2/07, during the German Presidency of the EU, Adalah International Advocacy Director Rina Rosenberg, together with representatives of Al Haq, B'Tselem and the EMHRN, held meetings with members of the German parliament sitting on the Committee for Human Rights in the German parliament, and officers from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Deputy Head for the Middle East in Berlin. The advocacy visit followed a meeting in Berlin of the EMHRN's Working Group on Palestine/Israel and the Palestinians. Participation supported by the EMHRN.

8. EMHRN partners launch the third annual "EU-Israel Human Rights Review 2005-2006" in Brussels and the Netherlands. In 6/07, Adalah Attorney Orna Kohn and representatives of Al Haq, the HRA, the EMHRN and the Mattin Group participated in the launch of this report to key policy makers in the EU and the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands. Adalah also distributed a briefing letter to targeted decision-makers raising major issues of Israeli laws and policies that discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel such as the Citizenship Law banning family unification, the October 2000 killings and home demolitions and evacuation orders against Arab Bedouin in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab. Participation supported by the EMHRN. To view the review, see: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/jul07/EMHRN-annual-s.pdf>.

9. "Israel's Human Rights Behavior – Towards Greater Accountability: July 2005 to July 2006," examined by the Dutch parliament and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Adalah contributed materials and was a member of the steering committee for this EMHRN report, which was commissioned by United Civilians for Peace and issued in 3/07. To view the report, see: http://www.njcm.nl/upload/Israels%20HR%20Behaviour_2007.pdf

10. Human rights organizations urge EU-Israel Sub-Committee on Political Dialogue and Cooperation to act on human rights violations. Adalah contributed several advocacy issues to the EMHRN's "Note on the Human Rights Situation in Israel and the OPT in View of the Sub-Committee on Political Dialogue and Cooperation between the EU and Israel," issued in 10/07. The letter demanded that these issues be raised at the meeting, pursuant to the human rights clause of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, and that appropriate action be taken. To view the note, see: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/intladvocacy2007.php>.

Embassies

11. Informational briefings for diplomatic representatives in Israel and the OPT. Adalah's lawyers met regularly with embassy representatives and visiting delegations of members of parliament and officials from ministries of foreign affairs by request to offer analysis of legal developments in Israel. In 11/07, Adalah initiated two briefings on Supreme Court legal developments and the rights of Palestinians in Israel and the OPT in 2007 for consulate officials and embassy representatives as well as international development and human rights organizations in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Diplomats from 17 different countries attended the briefings. At these meetings, Adalah urged the diplomatic representatives to raise specific issues of Israel's human rights violations against Palestinians with their foreign affairs ministries and in bilateral discussions with their Israeli counterparts.

More: http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=07_11_29-3.

12. US State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Israel and the Occupied Territories – 2006 cites Adalah's work on 12 different cases. The report, which was released in 3/07, referenced cases involving the state's discriminatory practices against Arab citizens of Israel. The cases included the October 2000 killings, the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law, the lack of legal protection for Muslim holy sites, the denial of water to the unrecognized Arab Bedouin villages and the National Priority Areas case. To view the report, see: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78854.htm#ot>.

B. International Human Rights Conferences/Networking

Adalah participated in 12 international human rights conferences, partner forums, and networking events throughout 2007.

1. Chatham House workshop considers state viability in Palestine and Israel. By invitation of Christian Aid (CA), Adalah Attorney Orna Kohn participated in this workshop held in London in 3/07 on the occasion of the 40th year of the Occupation. Participants included academics and members of international and local human rights organizations. Christian Aid subsequently produced a report entitled "Israel & Palestine: A question of viability", published in 6/07. CA supported her participation. To view the report, see: http://www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/Israel%20and%20Palestine%20A%20Question%20of%20Viability_tcm15-24551.pdf.

2. Community presentations in Northern Ireland and Ireland on Adalah's work and the legal status of Palestinians in Israel and the OPT. Adalah Attorney Orna Kohn gave a series of briefings and presentations to participants in the commemorative events for Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1/07; the Medsin Northern Ireland Regional Conference on "Conflict, Migration and Human Rights" in 2/07; lawyers working with the Legal Aid Board (for asylum seekers) in Dublin in 3/07; and to members of Northern Ireland's Legislative Assembly at Stormont, to mark the launch of Christian Aid Week in 5/07.

3. Adalah Attorney to chair EMHRN Working Group on Women's Rights and Gender. This new working group aims to make proposals to the EMHRN regarding gender mainstreaming and specific actions for the promotion and protection of women's rights, and to act as a watch dog to ensure gender mainstreaming within the network's activities. Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher attended the first meeting of this group in Rabat, Morocco in 4/07, at which she was voted chairperson. In 11/07, Attorney Zaher attended a five-day seminar and

working group meeting on gender mainstreaming in Paris, France. Her participation was supported by the EMHRN.

4. International Conference on “Building a Future on Peace and Justice”. By invitation of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Adalah’s GD Hassan Jabareen participated in this conference held in Nuremberg, Germany in 6/07. More information: <http://www.peace-justice-conference.info>. His participation was supported by ICTJ.

5. Legal research and cooperation with Interights and Minority Rights Group on ban on family unification case. Adalah wishes to offer its thanks and appreciation to Interights – The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights and the Minority Rights Group for the legal research and case materials which they provided to Adalah in the preparation of its petition against the amended Citizenship and Nationality into Israel Law, filed to the Supreme Court in 5/07.

6. Adalah participates in week-long sessions on human rights and terrorism at prestigious Salzburg Seminar. Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher attended the seminar entitled “An International Rule of Law: Balancing Security, Democracy and Human Rights in an Age of Terrorism,” organized by the Salzburg Global Seminar and the International Bar Association, and held in Salzburg in 9/07. The Salzburg Seminar supported her participation.

7. Adalah participates in Christian Aid’s (CA) regional partners’ meeting. Adalah Attorney Orna Kohn attended the meeting of Christian Aid’s human rights and development NGO partners in Amman, Jordan in 12/07. The meeting aimed to draw up Christian Aid’s Middle East “Regional Programme Strategy Paper”. Her participation was supported by CA.

8. Board Member Fuad Sultany attends a “Mobilisation Workshop” coordinated by the Conflict Forum in London in 10/07. The forum organized two workshops for experienced activists to discuss contesting uses of power and identity that contribute to polarization between Muslims and the West. His participation was supported by the Conflicts Forum.

9. The United Against Torture (UAT) Coalition, Third Annual Steering Committee Convention. In 9/07, Adalah Attorney Fatmeh El-Ajou, together with representatives of Israeli and Palestinian UAT members participated in a two-day meeting convened by the coalition (www.unitedagainstitorture.org) in Amman. The meeting focused on strategic planning for the UAT including specific international advocacy initiatives before the UN and the EU, as well as internal coordination matters for joint press releases, statements, and reporting. Adalah also completed a questionnaire on the EU torture guidelines for the UAT’s annual report for 2007. Her participation was supported by UAT.

10. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ): Meetings on counter-terrorism and human rights. In 8/07, Adalah Attorney Fatmeh El-Ajou presented at and participated in an NGO meeting in Jerusalem organized by the ICJ on the subject of counter-terrorism and human rights. This meeting was one of a series of meetings held by the ICJ around the world in order to produce a report on counter-terrorism and human rights post-September 11th. Attorney El-Ajou discussed the Citizenship Law and a range of issues concerning Adalah’s cases in the OPT. Adalah also contributed to the ICJ’s E-bulletin on counter-terrorism and human rights concerning the Gaza fuel and electricity case. To view the E-bulletin, see: http://www.icj.org/article.php3?id_article=4255&id_rubrique=37?=en.

11. Lectures at New York University: “Constitution-Making in Israel and the Democratic Constitution” and “Palestinians Under Israel Law”. The first event, sponsored by the New Israel Fund Forum 2007, was a day-long symposium with various panel discussions, interactive dialogues, and films attended by around 300 people. Adalah’s GD Attorney Hassan Jabareen and former MK Naomi Chazen spoke at a session on “Future Vision/Joint Vision: Creating a Successful Model for Arab-Jewish Relations,” which was moderated by Aaron Back of the Ford-Israel Fund. Former Adalah Attorney Jamil Dakwar also spoke at the event on a panel entitled “Human Rights and National Security”. The second event, attended by around 30 faculty members, students and activists, was sponsored by Arab Students United, Justice for Palestine, and Middle East Dialogue. Attorney Jabareen shared the stage with Ramzy Barood, a Palestinian-American journalist.

5. Legal Education

Adalah's legal education activities seek to increase awareness locally and internationally about discrimination against the Arab minority in Israel; increase academic research and discussion on the rights of Arab citizens; and train law students and recent law graduates. Adalah's legal education work in 2007 consisted of A. Seminars and Conferences; B. Publications and Reports; C. Media Outreach; and D. Training for Law Students and Recent Law Graduates.

Highlights of Adalah's **main achievements** included:

- The launch of the "Democratic Constitution" (DC), the first constitution proposed by an Arab group in Israel calling for a democratic, bilingual and multi-cultural state. The DC is modeled on constitutions adopted by different democratic countries, and international human rights conventions and declarations.
- The organization and holding of seven well-attended conferences / workshops together with university and NGO partners on subjects such as political prisoners, Adalah's Tenth Anniversary, security as a collective right for a national minority, and the "future vision" and Democratic Constitution documents. Adalah also welcomed the former President of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Arthur Chaskalson, who lectured on the legal struggle against apartheid and the drafting of the South African constitution.
- Adalah's work was featured regularly and prominently in the media including print, television, radio and websites in Hebrew, Arabic and English. 12 of Adalah's representations received widespread media coverage, including international media.
- The average monthly number of unique visitors to Adalah's continued to increase steadily in 2007, ranging from about 17,000 to over 23,000 each month as Adalah maintained, updated and produced new web reports for its tri-lingual websites.
- The publication of 12 volumes of its tri-lingual, monthly electronic newsletter, containing original articles and commentaries, photo galleries, interviews, position papers, a virtual roundtable and conference papers / videos. The newsletter reached over 24,000 subscribers, and its contents was often cited in articles and reports written by academics and researchers.
- Three legal apprentices (stagaires), a pre-staige law student, and a new Arab Bedouin woman lawyer trained in Adalah's offices.
- Adalah's second annual Law and Human Rights Conference on "Legal Strategies in Preparing Cases before the Courts," was a great success. 90 Arab law students attended the three-day overnight program held at Givat Haviva which consisted of lectures and workshops given by the most influential human rights attorneys and activists in the country.
- Adalah's candidate for the Open Society Institute - Central European University LLM fellowship, Ms. Rana Abed Asali, received the award. Following her LLM studies, Ms. Asali will work with Adalah for one-year beginning in the fall of 2008 supported by OSI.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Seminars and Conferences

1. “Security Prisoners or Political Prisoners?” A conference held at the Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University (TAU). Adalah held this conference in 1/07 with the TAU Faculty of Law, Minerva Center for Human Rights, and Taubenschlag Institute of Criminal Law. It was attended by over 200 lawyers, students, political activists, and prisoners’ organization representatives. 23 academics, lawyers, researchers and former political prisoners spoke at the day-long event, including Adalah Attorney Abeer Baker, which examined the categorization of prisoners, the legal system (military courts, torture, administrative detention, denial of attorney visits, confinement within the prison); imprisonment (solidarity confinement and family visits); and release (punishment and pardons).

For the program, see: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/dec06/tau-conf.pdf>.

2. 10 Years of Adalah: “Society, Law and the Struggle of Arab Citizens in Israel for Rights”, a conference held at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem. Adalah organized this conference jointly with the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute in March 2007. Emeritus Justice Meir Shamgar, a former Supreme Court Chief Justice, opened the day-long conference at which 18 academics and Adalah Attorneys Hassan Jabareen and Marwan Dalal gave lectures. The sessions were attended by around 75-100 people and examined various aspects of the relationship between Israel and its Arab citizens, including a decade of Adalah’s activity and the Democratic Constitution (DC). The conference was broadcast live on Adalah and Van Leer’s websites. See: <http://www.vanleer.org.il/eng/videoShow.asp?id=367>.

3. “Palestinians and Jews in Israel: On the Threshold of Confrontation or Reconciliation”, a conference held at Haifa University. This conference, attended by over 100 people, was held in 5/07 by the Jewish-Arab Center at Haifa University, Sikkuy, Adalah and the Ibn Khaldoun Center. 29 academics, NGO and political leaders and journalists lectured at this day-long conference, including Adalah Attorneys Hassan Jabareen and Sawsan Zaher. The program focused on the governing regime and demands for change, the Future Vision and the DC, relations between the two national groups, the state’s policies toward Arab citizens, and media coverage of the Arab minority.

For the program, see: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/apr07/haifauv.pdf>

4. Adalah’s Second Annual Law Students’ Conference: “Legal Strategies in Preparing Cases before the Courts”. Adalah’s second annual law students’ conference was held in 9/07 over three days and was attended by around 90 Arab law students in Givat Haviva. Judge Rayek Jarjoura gave the keynote speech on “Legal Strategies in Building Cases from the Viewpoint of the Courts.” The opening lecture was given by Adalah’s GD Attorney Hassan Jabareen and activities included discussion panels on legal strategies in building criminal cases, legal strategies in the constitutional and administrative fields, and local and international legal strategies in cases relating to the Occupation. Invited speakers included lawyers working in human rights organizations, the Public Defender’s Office and the Attorney General’s Office. On the final day, the students were divided into groups to attend a number of workshops. The conference was financed by the EU. To see the conference program, see: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/studentCamp.pdf>. To view photographs, see: <http://www.adalah.org/studentCamp/photo.php?num=2>.

5. “Security: A Collective Right for a National Minority”, a conference held by The Ataa Center in cooperation with the Galilee Society and Adalah. The conference was held in 10/07 at the el-Meidan Theater in Haifa to launch and discuss the report of Ataa on the effects of the Second Lebanon War in the summer of 2006 on Arab citizens of Israel. The Ataa hotline provided legal, psychological and health support in Arabic during the war. The conference, attended by around 70 people, consisted of three panels discussing the report and the issue of security and national minorities. The speakers gave presentations on the activities of the Ataa Center, the Arab Emergency Center, security as a collective right from academic, legal, and psychological perspectives, and providing individual and collective security to the Palestinian minority. The speakers included academics, Arab MKs and NGO activists. To see the program, see: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/attaStudyDay.pdf>. To view photographs, see: <http://www.adalah.org/images/atta/slideshow.php>.

6. Arthur Chaskalson, former President of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and founder of the Legal Resources Centre in South Africa and the lawyer of Nelson Mandela. In 11/07, Adalah welcomed Arthur Chaskalson to its offices. Former Justice Chaskalson discussed the legal struggle against apartheid and the drafting South Africa’s constitution with Arab civil society leaders and academics. Around 50 guests attended the event. To watch a video recording the lecture, see: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/chasklosn.php>. To view photographs, see: <http://www.adalah.org/images/chasklson/slideshow.php>

7. “After the ‘Future Vision’ Documents: Basic Issues in Minority-Majority Relations in Israel”. This two-day workshop was held in 12/07, hosted by the Department of Government and Political Theory, School of Political Science at Haifa University, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Ibn Khaldun Association, Mada al-Carmel, and Adalah. 20 leading academics and lawyers spoke at the workshop. Adalah GD Attorney Hassan Jabareen participated on a panel regarding the ‘Future Vision’ document and Adalah’s Democratic Constitution, and Prof. Marwan Dwairy, Chairperson of Adalah’s Board of Directors, spoke on his observations regarding his participation in drafting meetings of the ‘Future Vision’, the Democratic Constitution, and the Haifa Declaration. To view the workshop program, see: http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/heb/nov07/future_vision_seminar.pdf

8. Thirty (30) lectures delivered by invitation at law schools, universities, NGOs, community centers and schools. By request, Adalah staff and Board spoke at 30 symposia, conferences and events. Lecture subjects included family unification and citizenship, demography and human rights, majority-minority relations in Israel, land and planning rights, affirmative action, and Adalah’s DC. Key lectures given by Adalah’s General Director included “40 years in the Occupied Territories” on a plenary panel at the Israel Bar Association’s annual conference in Eilat; “Freedom of expression and political rights” at the Justice Ministry’s advanced study lecture series; and a commentary on “Immigration Policy: Between Demographic Considerations and Preservation of Culture,” by Dr. Na’ama Carmi at an international conference on demography and human rights held at Ramat Gan College (see: <http://www.rg-law.ac.il/workshops/2007/articles/jabareen.pdf>). In addition to these lectures, Adalah also hosted and provided information on the legal status of the Arab minority in Israel to visiting delegations such as solidarity groups, inter-faith and peace groups, youth exchanges and study abroad program participants on a regular basis.

B. Publications and Reports

1. The Democratic Constitution



On its 10th Anniversary, Adalah launched a “Democratic Constitution” (DC), the first constitution proposed by an Arab group in Israel. The DC calls for a democratic, bilingual and multi-cultural state. The DC, launched by Adalah in 2/07, is modeled on constitutions adopted by different democratic countries, and international human rights conventions and universal principles of human rights contained in UN declarations. The draft document contains 63 articles, which set forth provisions on citizenship, official languages, educational and cultural institutions to promote multiculturalism, model mechanisms for the participation of the Arab minority in decision-making in the Knesset, as well as rights and freedoms to which all residents and citizens are entitled including equality and anti-discrimination,

distributive and restorative justice, particularly concerning land and property, social and economic rights, and rights in court and criminal justice. While the DC is at an advanced stage, it is a working draft open for discussion in order to allow for public interaction with the document. The DC is available in Hebrew, Arabic, English and French, and can be viewed at: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/constitution.php>.

Adalah is aware that the current climate in Israel less than conducive for discussions on the adoption of any constitution. However, our interest in drafting the DC followed from the serious attempts made by Jewish Israeli intellectuals to promote a constitution that is not based on human rights or democratic values, but rather on the lowest common denominator of political compromise among the religious and secular of the Jewish majority. Most prominent among these efforts is the “Constitution by Consensus” campaign by the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI). This project differs from its predecessors in its insistence and determination that Israel should adopt a constitution. Thus, in response, Adalah sought to propose a democratic constitution in which the Arab minority is a subject which possesses a history, rights and interests, and is not an object to be excluded.

The local **press**, along with a smattering of international outlets, reported on the launching of the DC. The DC, along with the other “Arab documents”, namely “The Future Vision”, “Ten Points” issued by *Mossawa*, and the “Haifa Declaration”, led by Mada al-Carmel, were all met with harshly negative responses in the Israeli media. This response was not unexpected as the documents, including the DC, call for a democratic state and not a “Jewish and democratic state” and deal with other contentious issues such as the Law of Return and the Right of Return. Some writers published supportive op-eds in the Hebrew press. For details about the media’s coverage of the launch of the DC, see the Media section below.

Adalah made use of its **website and monthly electronic newsletter** to generate discussion and debate among Arab and Jewish academics on the draft of the DC. In 3/07, volume 34 of the newsletter carried four articles on the DC on themes such as “The Refugees and the Principle of Corrective Justice” and “The Occupation and the Binational State”. In 5/07, volume 36 featured a virtual roundtable of six academics who wrote about the preambles to state constitutions in general and the DC in particular.

In addition, Adalah jointly organized and held two academic **conferences** and a two-day workshop at which the DC was discussed and gave a number of public lectures about the document. For details on these conferences, see the Seminars and Conferences section above. Adalah intends to continue to engage with both the Arab and the Jewish communities about the document. For Adalah it is very important that the Arab society does not accept the status quo or agree to constitutional proposals which ingrain their marginal status and fail to guarantee even a minimum level of equality or justice for them.

2. Frequent updating of Adalah's trilingual website, the posting of more multi-media documentation, and increasing the average monthly unique visitors to the website to a range of 17,000 to over 23,000. Visitors to Adalah's trilingual website (www.adalah.org) have continued to increase steadily in 2007. The total number of unique users of Adalah's website per month in 2007 ranged from about 17,000 to over 23,000. One of the months with the highest number of visitors was 12/07, with 23,351 unique users. In that month, Adalah highlighted International Human Rights Day with a short paper on Israel's human rights violations in 2007, and posted a "flash-advert" on the websites of various newspapers to publicize our website and our newsletter. For more details, see the Media section below.

During 2007, Adalah prominently posted on the websites the draft of the DC, with a specially-designed logo, in Arabic, Hebrew, English and French, as well *Adalah's Newsletter* and our documentary film "The Unrecognized", which highlights the plight of Arab Bedouin in the Naqab. Adalah broadcast live, for the first time, our conference with the Van Leer Institute, and posted several photo galleries of the unrecognized villages, the evacuated Arab neighborhood of Wadi al-Salib in Haifa, and Adalah events. Adalah updated its website 3-4 times a week and continued to prepare materials for its re-design. Our new Director of Media and Public Relations, Eva Mousa, who rejoined Adalah in 5/07 and has studied website design, has made a great contribution to improving the appearance and overall design of the website, in particular by creating website and media campaigns.

3. Principal themes of Adalah's electronic newsletter were the Democratic Constitution, land rights, prisoners' rights, "The Accused" report (October 2000), and the 10th anniversary of Adalah.



Click the following link to view previously published volumes of Adalah's Newsletter:

<http://www.adalah.org/eng/publications.php#newsletter>

During 2007, Adalah published 12 volumes of its tri-lingual monthly electronic newsletter. Throughout the year, Adalah published a diversified range of materials in the newsletter, including original articles and commentaries, photo galleries, interviews, position papers, a virtual roundtable, a film, conference papers and invitations, as well as other one-off features. Links were also posted throughout the year to related reports and other material posted by local and international NGOs dealing with human rights, in particular Arab minority rights.

Additional themes covered during 2007 included: Adalah's work before UN CERD, the interference of the General Security Services (GSS) in the "Arab documents" and its accusations against former MK Dr. Azmi Bishara, Haifa University and its military service condition for allocating student accommodation, the lack of civil equality concerning the National Priority Areas case, recent decisions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on members of the Palestinian

Legislative Council imprisoned by Israel, 40 years of the Occupation, the Israeli Supreme Court and OPT cases and Human Rights Day.

During 2007, Adalah continued to attempt to attract new newsletter subscribers. With time, however, Adalah is finding that it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit new subscribers, and perhaps a plateau has been reached. In 12/07, Adalah published a special “flash advert” to publicize its legal work during the year and to bring more people to Adalah’s website and newsletter (see below). Adalah hopes that this and other initiatives to be taken in 2008 will ensure that the numbers of subscribers will continue to rise in the future. Media outlets and organizations regularly republish articles, commentaries and items from *Adalah’s Newsletter* on their websites or in print. In Arabic these include the *Al-Ittihad* and *Sawt al Haq Wa-al-Hurriya* newspapers and the arabs48 website. In Hebrew, the *Ofakim Hadashim*, *Mahsom*, *Hagada*, *Haokets*, *Kedma* and the Israel Bar Association; and in English, the EMHRN, Arab Media Watch and the Electronic Intifada.

4. 2006 Annual Report: Landmark Supreme Court judgments and gross discrimination.

Adalah issued its 57-page Annual Report of Activities for 2006 and an Executive Summary of the report in 5/07, presenting our 78+ legal representations, international legal advocacy, legal education initiatives and institutional development. The report was provided to donor organizations, embassies and visiting delegations and is posted on our website.

5. “The Accused” report: Demanding an investigation into Mahash (October 2000 killings).

In 7/07, Adalah published printed editions in Arabic and Hebrew of this book-length report, issued electronically in 10/06, which addresses the shortcomings and failures of Mahash in investigating the criminal offenses committed by police responsible for the killing of 13 unarmed Arab citizens and the wounding of hundreds of others during October 2000. The report was widely distributed to lawyers, MKs, libraries, journalists, and academics. The printed version of the reports and the English summary are posted on Adalah’s websites.



Report regarding criminal and public responsibility
for the killing of Arab citizens in October 2000

[Arabic](#) | [Hebrew](#) | [Summary of the Report \(English\)](#)

6. Forthcoming Publications of Adalah in 2008. Adalah made substantial progress in 2007 toward completing the following trilingual publications:

- *Makan*, Volume 2, “Narratives, Space and the Rights of Indigenous and Minority Groups”
- *Adalah’s Review*, Volume 5, “On Criminalization” (working title)
- *The Reader* (working title): Bringing together articles, commentaries, and keynote lectures published in *Adalah’s Newsletter* between 5/04 and 1/07. This publication will make a unique contribution to the literature available on the Arab minority and to Israeli legal discourse by gathering a wealth of information and analysis opinion from academics, lawyers and activists in Israel and abroad in a single volume composed of 11 themed chapters. Adalah hopes that the reader will be an indispensable resource for all those with a professional, academic or general interest in the Arab minority in Israel and the law.

C. Media Outreach

1. Media Watch: Weekly coverage of Adalah's work in the Arabic and Hebrew press

Adalah issued, distributed and posted **85** press releases in Arabic, Hebrew and English in 2007. Adalah's work regularly appeared in newspapers, websites, and on radio, with attorneys frequently giving interviews and commentaries, particularly to Haaretz, Ynet (website), Jerusalem Post, Radio Shams (local Arabic radio), and Reshet Bet (Hebrew radio).

12 of Adalah's representations and publications received very widespread media coverage:

The Democratic Constitution (DC). Adalah launched its Democratic Constitution in early 2007. The Chairperson of Adalah's Board of Directors, Prof. Marwan Dwaairy, was interviewed about Adalah's DC on "London and Kirschenbaum" (Israeli TV, Channel 10, 19.00), a prime time TV current affairs program in Hebrew, in 2/07.

The local press, along with a smattering of international outlets, reported on the launching of the DC: *Haaretz*; The Jerusalem Post; The Guardian (UK); United Press International; Znet; aljazeera.info; The Arab American News.com; and opendemocracy.com. The document received less attention from the international media than hoped due to the fact that almost all of the international outlets ran feature-length stories on the "Future Vision" document, led by the National Committee for the Heads of the Arab Local Authorities in Israel, released two months before the DC.

On the DC, Dan Izenberg, writing in the Jerusalem Post, quoted the Hebrew University's Prof. Shlomo Avineri as stating that, "Adalah's proposal is a very clear and sophisticated mechanism for disestablishing Israel as a Jewish state", 4/6/07. Veteran journalist Zvi Bar'el, writing in *Haaretz*, stated that, "The new constitution [of Adalah] does not aspire to build a new Israeli civic identity, as the title suggests, but rather institutionalize a legal-administrative mechanism for conducting continuous negotiations between the minority and the state", 4/3/07. Prof. Judith Butler, writing about a new book on Hannah Arendt in the London Review of Books, afforded a notable mention to Adalah's DC: "Adalah recently proposed a 'democratic constitution' that starts out not with the question, 'Who is a Jew?', but with the question, 'Who is a citizen?' Although it does not seek to adjudicate on what establishes the legitimate territory of this state, it does propose a systematic separation of nation and state, and so resonates with an Arendtian politics", 10/5/07.

Following the publication of opening remarks in Adalah's newsletter of 12/07, *Haaretz* interviewed Adalah's GD Hassan Jabareen about a possible shift in the organization's position as set forth in the Democratic Constitution toward support for a supra-national regime to ensure the rights of all citizens and residents in historic Palestine. This position made front-page news in *Haaretz*. The Reut Institute, a government-affiliated think tank, published a short paper and an op-ed in *Haaretz* analyzing why Adalah's position may shift.

See: <http://reut-institute.org/Publication.aspx?PublicationId=2822>

Seeking criminal probe into GSS's illegal interference in publication of political and legal documents by Arab organizations: The Arabs constitute a "strategic threat" to Israel. *Haaretz* editorial, "Not a matter for the Shin Bet" ("The Shin Bet is responsible for maintaining state security, not for maintaining a Jewish majority in the state, and it must refrain from any activity that involves intervening in legally permissible political action"), 28/5/07. *Maariv*, *Haaretz*, Jerusalem Post, arabs48.com, and Yoav Stern, "Arab leaders air public relations campaign

against Shin Bet,” 6/4/07 (“Opposition within the Arab sector to Shin Bet policy arose after the security service declared that it intends to disrupt activities of any groups that seek to change the Jewish or democratic character of Israel, even if they use democratic means.”) Yitzhak Laor, “Democracy for Jews only,” *Haaretz*, 30/5/07 (“In recent years, for the first time, the Shin Bet has dragged the debate about Israeli Arabs into racist expressions by the center, not the margins. Some equated the politicians’ statements and the PR against the constitution proposed by the Arab advocacy group Adalah with Kahane’s speeches in the Knesset. Supporters of Shin Bet head Yuval Diskin and his centrist friends have turned the graffiti “Kahane was right” into their open political platform.”)

Adalah’s advocacy before UN CERD Committee. Middle East Times (Geneva); Edmonton Sun; The NY Sun; Jerusalem Post; *Haaretz*; Uzi Benziman in *Haaretz*, 18/2/07 (“These moves [the “Future Vision” and Adalah’s appeal to “UN organizations”] reflect a genuine radicalization of both Arab Israelis’ demands and their representatives’ modes of action, and they arouse the Jewish reflex of self-defense”); Palestine News Network; aljazeera.info (English): Wafa: Palestine News Agency; *al-Ittihad* (a summary of Adalah’s report in Arabic printed in a centerfold).

New citizenship law banning family unification and disconnecting Arab citizens from the Palestinian people and Arab nation. The law was featured in a *Haaretz* editorial, “A law we cannot accept”, 27/3/07. (From the article: “The Citizenship Law continues to burden the law books and cause damage to the reputation of democracy in Israel. The blow to the right of Arab Israeli citizens to choose to live here with their partners is sweeping and detrimental to the rights of Arab citizens”); and the Jerusalem Post.

Discriminatory age restrictions on entry into Tel Aviv University’s medical school. This case was featured on the first page of *Haaretz* on 15/3/07. Other notable mentions in articles include: H. Kittani and H. Marmari (co-directors at the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development), “Who’s Afraid of Arab Doctors?”; Ynet opinion, 19/3/07 (“Setting an age limit will signal to Israeli society that the achievements of the Arab population are deemed as a threat and not as an opportunity”); Electronic Intifada.

AG lawyers criticize ACRI and Adalah for seeking to prevent the state from stripping Hamas Palestinian Legislative Council members of their Jerusalem residency. *Haaretz* Editorial, “Opinions instead of evidence,” 4/6/07 (“Such arguments should not be made by state prosecutors, and in general there is no room for government officials to engage in such political bashing of public organizations”). *Haaretz*; The Jerusalem Post. In addition to these articles, eight human rights organizations, led by B’Tselem and PCATI, issued a press release demanding the suspension of two attorneys working in the AG’s office over these remarks.

Home demolitions in the Naqab. IRIN (a humanitarian news and analysis service broadcast by UN OCHA); BBC news; Reuters; AlertNet; *Haaretz*. In addition, Adalah Attorney Suhad Bishara appeared and spoke on the prime time Israeli television news program “London and Kirschenbaum” on home demolitions in the Naqab in 5/07. The local Arabic press and news websites also wrote extensively about these cases, including Kol al-Arab, Al-Ittihad and Akhbar al-Naqab.

Supreme Court orders state to explain failure to recognize Muslim religious sites as holy sites and provide funds for their protection. The local media including *Ynet* in Hebrew and English, the NRG website, and Reshet Bet radio in Hebrew, as well as several local Arabic media outlets

covered this case. Radio Shams (Arabic) and Kol Israel (Hebrew) broadcast interviews with Adalah's GD Hassan Jabareen.

Demanding of criminal investigations against Israeli military commanders and government officials responsible for killings and extensive home demolitions in Rafah, Gaza in 2004. Al-Arabiya and LBC, international Arabic-language television news stations, broadcast feature-length evening news programs on Adalah's Supreme Court petition seeking criminal investigations into Israeli commanders and officials responsible for killings and extensive home demolitions in Gaza in 2004, and interviewed Adalah Attorney Marwan Dalal who filed the case.

Land controlled by the Jewish National Fund for Jews only. Adalah's work on the JNF Bill and its 2004 petition to the Supreme Court generated a large amount of press coverage in the Arabic, Hebrew and English local media sources in Israel, as well as coverage in the international media in 7/07. Haaretz in English published several opinion pieces about the case, with many articles mentioning Adalah in specific and spurring debate about the racist nature of the JNF's policies. Haaretz published important article entitled "Who Needs the JNF?" on 24/7/07 in both English and Hebrew, discussing the case's relation to the essential debate over Israel's democratic values.

Local Arabic radio stations Radio Shams and Radio Sawt al-Salam interviewed Attorney Suhad Bishara and a full-page report was published in the Kol al-Arab newspaper. In the Hebrew language press and media, the issue was picked up by Ynet, Haaretz, NRG, Radio Reshet Bet, the Mahsoum website, the Marker (affiliated to Haaretz), the business newspaper Globes, Israeli TV Channel 2 and Israeli TV Channel 1. Israeli TV Channels 1 and 2 interviewed Attorney Suhad Bishara. The popular television program "Politika" on the Israeli Channel 1 invited Attorney Suhad Bishara and other academic and political guests to discuss the issue in 9/07. The issue also received attention in the international Arabic media, with articles published in the Jordanian "The Arabs Today" newspaper and the Lebanese "al-Quds al-Arabi." In international English media, The Economist interviewed and quoted Adalah staff about its work on the case; several Jewish newspapers in the US and news wires also picked up the story. Adalah was cited in around 25 and issued six press releases on the petition and proposed JNF bill.

Demanding the cancellation of selection committees in community and agricultural towns. In 9/07, Adalah and a broad coalition of NGOs petitioned the Supreme Court seeking the cancellation of "selection committees", which act discriminatorily to exclude Arabs and other marginalized groups from community and agricultural towns in Israel. The story received a great deal of attention in local and Arabic and Hebrew media: local Arabic Radio Shams and Sawt Israel Radio in held interviews with Attorney Suhad Bishara, while the Hebrew-language Yediot Aharonot newspaper published a report on the case, as did Haaretz in Hebrew. Local Hebrew radio stations Kol Rega Radio, Kol Israel, and Radio Reshet Bet also interviewed Attorney Bishara. The case was also covered in English by Haaretz, The Jerusalem Post, and Ynet.

Israeli government cuts supplies of electricity and fuel to the Gaza Strip. In 10/07, Adalah and Gisha on behalf of 10 Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations petitioned the Supreme Court to prevent the disruption of electricity and fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip. The case received a large amount of exposure in the international Arabic and English media including the BBC, The Guardian, The Economist, The Los Angeles Times, IRIN (part of OCHA), London-based Al-Hayat, the BBC in Arabic, Al-Quds newspaper, the Palestinian Al-Ayyam, the Palestinian Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, the London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper and website,

the Jordanian Al-Arab Al-Yowm website, the Egyptian Al-Sha'ab newspaper and website, the Al-Arab Online website, the Falasteen Al-Yown website, the Ma'an press agency and the Al-Jazeera website, as well as several wire services. Sawt Israel Arabic radio and local Radio Shams interviewed Attorney Fatmeh El-'Ajou on the case, and various Israeli radio stations broadcast stories about the case in Hebrew, including Reshet Bet. The case was also covered by the Jerusalem Post, Haaretz, NRG, the NFC website, the Omedia website, and Radio 99 and Gali Tsahal (the Israeli army's radio station). Haaretz featured the case in an article on its first and second pages on 2/12/07. Adalah issued numerous press releases on the case (some of which were re-published the websites of news wires and international organizations) and highlighted the case in a Special Report on its website. See: <http://www.adalah.org/eng/gaza%20report.html>

2. Protest Advertisements

In 3/07, Adalah published an ad in *Haaretz* in Hebrew, in commemoration of the **31st Land Day**. Under the theme of 'National Minority Rights are Human Rights,' Adalah used provisions of the DC, regarding the restitution of private property and internally-displaced persons, to draw attention to Arab land rights in Israel. To view an English translation of the ad, see: <http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/mar07/landay-ad.pdf>.

In 12/07, to mark the occasion of **Human Rights Day**, Adalah designed and published a special "flash-advert" in three languages on the following new websites: Haaretz (in Hebrew and English), Ynet (in Hebrew), and Arabs48, al-Jabha and Kol al-Arab (in Arabic). By posting the advert on a number of high-traffic websites in three languages, Adalah was able to target a huge audience, the largest that Adalah has been able to reach to date. The outreach campaign was Adalah's first to mark Human Rights Day, and was used to publicize the organization's work by including a special paper on Israel's human rights violations against Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians in the OPT in 2007. The advert also included a link to Adalah's website and newsletter. With these initiatives Adalah seeks to increase the number of subscribers to our newsletter and visitors to our website.

D. Training for Law Students and Recent Law Graduates

1. Adalah trains legal apprentices and new Arab Bedouin woman lawyer. Adalah hosted three stagaires (legal apprentices) in 2007. Ms. Gila Barzilai worked with Adalah from 3/06-2/07. After passing the Bar, Ms. Barzilai joined the legal department of an Israeli women's rights organization that works to end violence against women. Mr. Alla Abdullah and Mr. Ihab Asleh, both from Haifa University Law School, began their training in 3/07. Adalah also recruited a pre-staige law student, Ms. Haneen Na'amnih from Haifa University Law School to work with the organization. Attorney Noor Alatownh, who began work in 10/06, continued training with Adalah in 2007. She is one of a very small number of Arab Bedouin woman lawyers in Israel, and the first to work with a leading human rights / legal center in Israel.

2. Partnership with al-Quds University Human Rights Clinic. Adalah and the al-Quds University Human Rights Clinic began cooperation during the 2006-2007 academic year, the clinic's inaugural year. Adalah's GD Hassan Jabareen is the clinic's legal advisor on a pro bono basis and Adalah attorneys gave six lectures to the clinic's students at the university. Adalah and the clinic plan to work on one or two cases during academic year 2007-2008 to be brought before the Israeli Supreme Court.

3. Summer internships for overseas law students. Ms. Seher Khawaja, a law student studying at Brooklyn Law School, and Ms. Chavi Nava, a law student studying at Yale Law School interned with Adalah during the summer of 2007. They assisted attorneys and staff in the international advocacy department by preparing legal research memoranda on issues of constitutional and administrative law and organizational development initiatives.

4. Ms. Rana Abed Asali, nominated by Adalah, is awarded L.L.M. fellowship at the Central European University (CEU) by the Open Society Justice Initiative. The fellows program for 2007-2009 is a one-year study program at the CEU in Budapest and practical work experience in an NGO in Europe, followed by a year of work with Adalah. Ms. Rana Abed Asali, Adalah's candidate for the fellowship, received notification of acceptance to the program in 5/07. Her participation will be supported by OSI.

6. Institutional Development

This section summarizes Adalah's **institutional development** activities in 2007. Developing Adalah's institutional capacity is a key objective of the organization.

Highlights of Adalah's **main achievements** included:

- The successful organization and completion of the first external evaluation of Adalah, commissioned by OxfamNovib. Adalah received high praise from the evaluators for its programs as well as constructive recommendations to further strengthen the organization.
- The purchase of a new office for Adalah located in an easily accessible downtown neighborhood of Haifa. Buying an office was a central component of Adalah's efforts to secure the long-term sustainability of the organization. Adalah expects to relocate to its new headquarters in May 2008.
- Adalah officially expanded its mandate to include impact litigation to Israeli courts on behalf of Palestinians living under occupation. Adalah has worked on OPT cases for over five years and, with this move, the organization seeks to further institutionalize this work and its partnerships with human rights and development organizations in the OPT.
- Adalah secured 94% of its income goal for 2007 and spent 95% of the grants obtained. Adalah was awarded new multi-year grants for our work in 2008-2010 by OxfamNovib and EED. Adalah also submitted significant new project proposals jointly with international, Palestinian and Israeli organizations to major donors for future work.
- Legal staff members completed prestigious visiting scholarships and Masters of Law (LLM) programs in the US and Northern Ireland, returning to Adalah at the end of the year.

“My dream is to turn the Association for Law in the Service of the Elderly [ALSE] into the 'Adalah' of the elderly.” Dr. Israel Doron, lawyer and founder of the ALSE, Haaretz, 27 August 2007.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

1. “Adalah is a successful organization ... [It] revolutionized the judicial discourse in Israel regarding minority rights” (The External Evaluation Team). From 4-6/07, Adalah underwent its first external evaluation. In the words of the evaluators, “Adalah has managed to become a highly professional, skillful and successful organization. It 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.” (External Evaluation Report, 7/07, p. 3)

The evaluation was commissioned by OxfamNovib, one of Adalah's first donors. The evaluation team was composed of Randa Siniora (Team Leader), the former General Director of Al-Haq (West Bank); Dr. Amal Jamal, the Chairperson of the Political Science Department at Tel Aviv University; and Walid Nammour, the former Director of Continuing Education at Birzeit University and a management expert. The team held in-depth meetings with staff, conducted workshops using S.W.O.T. (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis and on

gender sensitivity at a staff and Board workshop in 5/07, and interviewed a wide cross-section of Adalah's beneficiaries and partners.

The team set forth a series of constructive recommendations for Adalah's future work regarding: (i) vision, mission and strategic objectives; (ii) program relevance, quality and effectiveness; (iii) governance; and (iv) institutional development. These recommendations will be fully integrated into our work plans for 2008 and beyond. Soon after the evaluation was completed, Adalah initiated a strategic planning process in 8/07 to define a clear mission, vision and strategic objectives on which to develop Adalah's organizational structure and programs, at the evaluators' recommendation. From this process a salaries scale and organizational manuals will be produced and monitoring and evaluation tools developed with the assistance of an organizational consultant, who began working with Adalah at the end of 2007. Copies of the External Evaluation Report were sent to all donors.

“Adalah is a successful organization. Within ten years of intensive activity the management and staff of the organization managed to build a trusted and professional reputation. The legal action, international advocacy and legal education work done by Adalah since its establishment is far beyond what is expected from an Arab NGO operating in a harsh and complex political as well as legal situation. Despite all odds, Adalah is known for its assertiveness and thorough work, which paved its way into the center stage of Israeli legal and judicial agenda. It is respected by almost all people aware of it, whether common people, Arab political leaders, academics or state officials.”
External Evaluation Report, July 2007, p. 37

Adalah wishes to extend its thanks to the Evaluation Team for all of its hard work and its commitment to strengthening Adalah now and in the future. We express special appreciation to Walid Nammour, who contributed his services to Adalah on a pro bono basis, both in the evaluation and the strategic planning processes.

2. New headquarters for Adalah purchased in central Haifa. In 11/07, after years of searching, Adalah bought an office in Haifa. Purchasing an office had been a long-term goal of the organization, as such an asset will greatly enhance its future sustainability. The office consists of one full floor of a three-storey stone building dating from 1935. It is located across the street from the central “Haifa Mercaz” train station. It is 220 sq. meters and has 12 rooms. Adalah retained architects to plan the office renovations and expects the contractors to complete the renovations in 5/08. Adalah purchased the office using part of the funds from its “reserve fund for building”. These funds were set aside by Adalah's Board of Directors in 2004 and 2006 from the accumulated general fund for the period 1997-2003 for the purposes of buying an office for the organization. OxfamNovib, a long-term donor to Adalah, also approved the designation of 12% of grant funds awarded in 2006 and 2007 to this fund. Adalah intends to continue setting aside funds each year to the reserve fund for the additional purchase of property assets.

In 5/07, Adalah also opened its third office in Israel in the mixed-city of Jaffa-Tel Aviv. The opening of this office is primarily intended to serve Arab citizens living in mixed cities and in the southern part of the Triangle region.

3. Board of Directors formally approved the expansion of Adalah’s mandate to include the OPT: “The Green Line cannot be our Red Line”. At a Board-staff policy workshop held in 1/07, at which participants discussed a paper on “A Ten-Year Vision for Adalah”, the decision was taken to formally expand its mandate to the OPT. Since the Israeli incursions into towns and villages in the OPT six years ago in 2002, Adalah has taken on OPT cases on an *ad hoc* basis. Adalah litigated ten major OPT cases and obtained two landmark judgments, in the human shields and compensation cases. These cases, in which Adalah petitioned the Supreme Court in partnership with Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, demonstrate that Adalah can make a real contribution in OPT cases. Currently no professional Palestinian legal organizations bring impact litigation cases concerning the rights of Palestinians in the OPT before the Israeli courts; this work is being done exclusively by Israeli Jewish organizations. By formally expanding our mandate, Adalah intends to develop this area of its work systematically, and hopes to become an important address for Palestinian NGOs in OPT impact litigation cases.

4. Fundraising

a. Summary of Budget and Expenditure: 2007

Item	US Dollars
Estimated budget	1,282,250
Total grants obtained	1,207,539
Percentage: Dollar goal / dollars raised	94%
Spending	1,148,324
Percentage of spending / grants obtained	95%

b. Portfolio of Grants and New Initiatives

Adalah had **11** international foundation donors in 2007: The Ford Foundation Israel Fund (US); The Open Society Development Foundation (Switzerland/US); OxfamNovib (The Netherlands); The New Israel Fund (US); EED (Germany); The European Community (Belgium); Foundation for Middle East Peace (US); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland); Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation (US); The Welfare Association (Jordan/Switzerland); and Christian Aid (Great Britain). We sincerely appreciate the generous support provided by all of our donors.

While several private individuals donate funds to Adalah and we obtain legal fees from the courts in some cases, the income of the organization is derived primarily from our 11 international foundation donors (97%). A main challenge for Adalah in the coming years will be to diversify our support base in order to lessen our reliance on any single source of funding, and to develop new income-generating activities to enhance our sustainability. Adalah is developing a financial plan that combines potential new foundation donors, local fundraising targets, and ideas for fee-based legal services to raise further income.

In 2007, major new grants for Adalah’s work in 2008-2010 were secured from OxfamNovib and EED. Adalah jointly submitted with the Minority Rights Group (London), Ilam Media Center (Nazareth), and Ahali (Nazareth) a proposal for a multi-year project comprised of a series of trainings on media/video and international human rights campaigning, international advocacy initiatives for minority rights, and litigation to the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Adalah also submitted a joint proposal with Al Mezan (Gaza) and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel on a project to combat and prevent torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment to the EU. These proposals are pending.

5. Staff Honors

- Hassan Jabareen, Advocate, the General Director of Adalah, was named by the Hebrew-language *Kol Ha'ir* newspaper in 9/07 as one of the fifty most influential people in Israel in the field of education.
- Orna Kohn, Advocate was awarded a partial tuition scholarship from the University of Ulster in Belfast, Northern Ireland to study for an LLM in Human Rights. Orna was in residence at the university for one year and returned to Adalah in 10/07. Orna's work in Adalah focuses on issues of accountability for police brutality and killings, citizenship and residency, and freedom of expression.
- Morad El-Sana, Advocate was selected by the New Israel Fund as one of two lawyers to participate in the NIF Law Fellows Program. Morad studied at the American University, Washington College of Law in Washington DC for one and a half years to obtain an LLM, and returned to Adalah in 12/07. Morad's new position in Adalah as of 2008 is the Director of our Naqab office.
- Adel Badeer, Advocate was awarded a visiting scholarship by the Open Society Institute to the PILI program at Columbia University Law School, New York. He was in residence at Columbia for the fall semester of 2007 and he has returned to Adalah. Adel's work in Adalah focuses on religious rights and land and planning cases.
- Marwan Dalal, Advocate left Adalah after ten years. In 7/07 he began in a prestigious new position in the Office of the Prosecutor, Appeals Division, at the International Court Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Hague.

6. Appreciation for Adalah's Volunteers. Adalah held its **first reunion for former interns** in 10/07. Former interns attending the gathering, "Adalahs in New York", were Julia Kernochan (1998); Tawfiq Rangwala (2000); John Halski (2001); Diane Aboushi (2004); Leila Hull (2005); and Seher Khawala (2007). Current and former Adalah staff members in attendance were Attorney Jamil Dakwar, Attorney Adel Badeer, Adalah's GD Hassan Jabareen and Adalah's International Advocacy Director Rina Rosenberg. Former Adalah interns are currently attending law school and working with prestigious law firms and in advocacy positions with international human rights organizations, and remain an important resource for Adalah.

Numerous Palestinian, Israeli and international lawyers, academics and activists also contributed to Adalah's work in 2007 as volunteers. These professionals wrote articles and commentaries for *Adalah's Newsletter*, *Makan* and *Adalah's Review*; served on editorial committees; provided expert opinions for Adalah's petitions; and spoke at public conferences and internal staff-Board study days, all without fees. Adalah wishes to thank all of its supporters, colleagues, friends and volunteers for generously contributing to the work of the organization. For this strong support and commitment to promoting and defending the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel, Adalah is very grateful. Adalah also greatly appreciates the dedicated work of our overseas legal interns in 2007, Ms. Seher Khawaja and Ms. Chavi Nana, and human rights advocacy fellow, Ms. Julia Fitzpatrick.

The contents of this publication is the sole responsibility of Adalah and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union or any other donor to Adalah.

Adalah's Board of Directors

- **Chairperson, Prof. Marwan Dwairy.** Founder and Chief Supervisor of Municipal Psychological Services Center, Nazareth; Director and Therapist, Clinic of Psycho-Diagnosis and Psychotherapy. Board member since 2002.
- **Dr. Thabet Abu Ras.** Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environmental Development, Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Former director of Shatil's Beer el-Sabe office and Bedouin Education Campaign Coordinator. Board member since 2005.
- **Ms. Suhad Aga,** Advocate. Criminal defense lawyer, Public Defenders' Office in Haifa; founder and current member of *Assiwar* - The Palestinian Feminist Center in Support of Victims of Sexual Abuse. Board member since 2004.
- **Prof. Muhammad Haj-Yahia.** School of Social Work, The Hebrew University, specializing in violence against women and the maltreatment of children. Board member since 2005.
- **Dr. Hala Khoury-Bisharat, Advocate.** Adjunct lecturer in international criminal law in the Faculties of Law of Haifa and Tel Aviv Universities, and the College of Management from 2005. Worked as an editor for *Adalah's Review* and publications. Board member since 2007.
- **Fuad Sultani, Advocate.** Heads a private law office in Tira. Worked with Ansar al-Sajeen (The Prisoners' Friends Association) for ten years. Served on Adalah's Board from 2001-2004; rejoined the Board in 2007.
- **Dr. Mahmoud Yazbak.** Senior Lecturer in Middle East History, University of Haifa, specializing in social and political history of 19th and 20th Century Palestine. Former Spokesperson of the Families Committee (October 2000). Board member since 2004.

Audit Control Committee

- **Muhammad Miari, Advocate.** Retired lawyer and former Member of Knesset for the Arab Progressive Movement for Peace (1984-1992). Active currently with several Arab NGOs in Israel and as a commissioner on the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights.
- **Waeil Rabi, Advocate.** Heads a private law office specializing in civil litigation (commercial law and torts), land, planning and building, and local law. Member of three Israeli Bar Association committees.

Adalah's Staff

Hassan Jabareen, Advocate – Founder and General Director

Legal Department

Attorneys

Adel Badeer, Advocate

Suhad Bishara, Advocate – Legal Coordinator

Nabeel Dakwar, Advocate

Marwan Dalal, Advocate (through June 2007)

Fatmeh El-‘Ajou, Advocate

Morad El-Sana, Advocate

Orna Kohn, Advocate

Sawsan Zaher, Advocate

Professional Support

Salem Abu-Medeghem, Field Researcher (through July 2007)

Hana Hamdan, Urban Planner

Salah Muhsin, Public Outreach Coordinator

Trainees

Ala Abdullah, Stagiaire

Noor Alatownh, Advocate

Ihab Asleh, Stagiaire

Gila Barzilai (through February 2007)

Haneen Naamnih, Law Student

Public Relations and Media

Eva Mousa, Director

Rasha Assaf, Advocate, Legal Researcher (through July 2007)

Nabih Bashir, Arabic Editor

Fadi Karkaby, IT/Webmaster

Christine Khalil, Media Coordinator

Ran Shapira, Hebrew Editor

Amal Zeidah, Media Coordinator (through July 2007)

International Advocacy

Rina Rosenberg, Esq., Director

Katie Hesketh, Coordinator

Manal Totry-Jubran, Advocate, Adalah's Review Editor (through September 2007)

Administration

Fathiyya Hussein, Director

Basheer Geraisy, Accountant

Christine Nasrallah