

**Adalah** The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel  
عدالة المركز القانوني لحقوق الأقليّة العربيّة في إسرائيل  
עזאלה המרכז המשפטי לזכויות המיעוט הערבי בישראל



## Adalah's Annual Report of Activities – 2017



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This report provides highlights of Adalah's key successes and activities during 2017 in its four main fields of work: Legal Action, International Advocacy, Legal Education, and Institutional Development.

## I. CONTEXT

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2017 saw a sharply deteriorating human rights environment. The Knesset considered a raft of new **legislation that seeks to entrench the Jewish character of state at the expense of democratic features**. The "Jewish Nation State Bill," a proposed Basic Law, explicitly limits the right to national self-determination in Israel to the Jewish people, allows for the establishment of segregated communities along ethnic, national and/or religious lines, and demotes the official status of the Arabic language. Further, numerous "annexation laws" aim to *de facto* annex Israeli settlements throughout occupied East Jerusalem and the wider West Bank to Israel. These processes are working in tandem not only to increase discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel but also to undermine their position by deliberately undermining their citizenship status under Israeli domestic law, potentially overturning over 20 years of partial gains made via Israeli Supreme Court litigation. The political establishment has been emboldened to take such steps by the election of US President Trump and the broader rise of right-wing populism around the world, accompanied by a fall in political support for human rights.

During 2017, the state escalated its **campaign of demolitions against Arab citizens' homes in the Triangle and in the Naqab**, which also resulted in the killing of a Bedouin citizen by the police. The Prime Minister declared that he intended to "increase enforcement" of the law for housing construction violations in Arab towns. Adalah represented Palestinian citizens in these cases of attempted forced displacement, dispossession of property, unlawful killing, and the excessive use of force by police. In April, the Knesset passed the "Kaminitz Law", which expands the state's powers to implement demolition and eviction orders, while concurrently limiting the courts' power of judicial review. The new law is liable to be used against Palestinians in Israel and East Jerusalem, as they are the groups most likely to build without the requisite permits because they are technically unobtainable to them in many of their towns, villages and neighborhoods.

**Several state bodies made decisions in which they clearly exceeded their legal authority.** Examples include the Knesset, with its enactment of the Settlements Regularization Law, which retroactively "legalizes" settlement out-posts built on private Palestinian land in the West Bank, despite the fact that the Knesset does not have the power to legislate about the Occupied Territory. The Israeli police acted to withhold the bodies of Palestinians killed by the security services, again despite having no legal authority to do so. The Israel Prison Service sought to block hunger-striking prisoners from meeting attorneys, without legal authority. Adalah has achieved some success in these cases before the Israeli Supreme Court (SCT) because of the flagrant nature of the violations. In other cases, however, where there is greater scope for judicial interpretation, the SCT fared far worse. The SCT itself is a key target of those who wish to undermine the principles of the separation of powers and reduce judicial independence. The court is becoming reluctant even to rule on cases that challenge discriminatory laws and policies that often enjoy popular support and have the backing of the government. The state further failed to implement court decisions in a timely

manner, thereby prolonging human rights violations, including in Adalah's successful cases to compel the state to provide safe transportation for Bedouin school children in the Naqab.

In 2017, Adalah worked in a more intensive, coordinated manner on advocacy together with other Israeli and Palestinian HROs about issues of **shrinking space for civil society actors**. Over the year, numerous developments had the effect of further diminishing the space available for civil society – especially for groups that seek an end to the Occupation – to function freely and effectively. Measures have included threats by Prime Minister Netanyahu to cut all foreign government support to human rights organizations, ongoing surveillance of Facebook users and related arrests, and the enactment in March of a new law that bans the entry into Israel of foreign nationals, including Palestinians from the West Bank, if they or the organizations they belong to have publicly expressed support for boycott against the State of Israel and/or the Israeli settlements. The law violates the most basic tenets of democracy by making political opinions a consideration in decisions about the entry or non-entry of non-citizens into Israel. The new law and related policies substantially contribute to the repressive political and legal context in which Adalah and other human rights organizations exist, work and seek support to defend the rights of Palestinians and other vulnerable groups.

In parallel, the Knesset continued to propose discriminatory and/or anti-democratic laws that impose restrictions on human rights organizations and defenders, including a bill to deny tax-exempt status to NGOs that criticize the State of Israel abroad, and a denial of freedom of information bill targeting NGOs that receive their funding from foreign states. There was also an escalation in attempts by right-wing groups to **delegitimize human rights organizations** in 2017. The NGO Monitor campaigned intensively in Europe and achieved success in lobbying European governments to investigate and reduce their funding to Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, including Adalah.

In 2017, Adalah again worked on a series of cases in which **Palestinians, both residents of East Jerusalem and citizens of Israel, were killed by Israeli security forces**. The Palestinians were alleged to have been carrying out attacks against Israeli civilians or police, while many were killed despite posing no immediate danger (EJEs). In addition, the Israeli police continued to implement a policy of **withholding the bodies of these killed Palestinians**, and/or imposing restrictions on the release of the bodies in order to use them as bargaining chips. These cases have a major impact on the families and wider communities affected given the gross violation of rights surrounding the killings and the sensitivity of issues of death and dignified burial. In these cases, Adalah challenged the arbitrary use of state power before the courts and its efforts met with success: Adalah secured the release of the bodies of several Palestinians from police custody to their families for burial. Adalah further secured a precedent-setting positive decision from the SCT in July 2017, in which the court ruled in Adalah's petition that there was no Israeli law specifically authorizing the police to hold the bodies of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

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## II. LEGAL ACTION

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Over the course of 2017, Adalah filed over **50 new legal cases and interventions**, which resulted in **10 legal successes**, in addition to **4 interim successes** and **1 partial success**, and 4 losses. Adalah followed-up on a further 8 cases filed prior to 2017. There were 410,000 direct beneficiaries of our legal work,<sup>1</sup> consisting of individuals and communities who benefitted from positive legal developments from our casework, and petitioners whom Adalah directly represented before the courts and provided with increased access to the legal system.

### Main Achievements

The Education Ministry committed **NIS 50 million for transport for Bedouin children in the Naqab to preschools**, following Adalah's petition to the Be'er Sheva District Court, and partially fulfilled its pledge by providing transport for 21 children whose parents were the petitioners in the case from April 2017. The ministry further committed to providing transport for other Bedouin preschoolers who lack it: more than 5,000 Bedouin children lack access to preschool education, in violation of Israel's Compulsory Education Law. Adalah is following up on the implementation of this commitment. [Press release](#)



The Education Ministry committed before the Be'er Sheva District Court to funding the construction of **safe school bus stops for hundreds of children living in six Bedouin villages in the Naqab** in July 2017. The commitment came in response to a petition submitted by Adalah in January 2017 demanding safe bus stops. Adalah is following up on the implementation of this commitment. [Press release](#)

The Israeli Supreme Court (SCT) accepted Adalah's petition to **release the body** of Ya'koub Abu Al-Qi'an, a 50-year-old math teacher and resident of the unrecognized Bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran who was **killed by police during a home demolitions operation** in the village in January 2017. The SCT further allowed the funeral to proceed with no conditions. Adalah argued that the police had no legal authority to hold the body,

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<sup>1</sup> Including 360,000 direct beneficiaries of a decision to allow Arabic-language TV channel Hala TV to broadcast on Yom Kippur. See below for more details.



and that their actions marred the dignity of the deceased and his family. Adalah also filed a complaint to the Justice Ministry's Police Investigations Department (PID) in January 2017 demanding an investigation into the killing, which was subsequently closed. Adalah has requested the investigatory materials in the case with a view to filing an appeal. [Press release](#)

In July 2017, the SCT issued a precedent-setting decision that **Israeli police are not allowed to hold bodies, as there is no legal authority permitting them to do so**. Following this decision, the police released the bodies of three young men, Palestinian citizens of Israel from Umm al-Fahem, who were shot dead by Israeli police at the Al Aqsa Mosque after killing two police officers. As a result of this ruling, Israeli law has been clarified on the point of the lack of police authority to hold bodies, an increasingly common practice. [Press release](#)

*Update: The Knesset passed a new law in March 2018 that allows Israeli police to hold bodies of Palestinians killed by police until families of the deceased agree to police-imposed restrictions on funeral arrangements. The law applies to Palestinian citizens of Israel, Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem, and to the Israeli police only. [Adalah's response](#) | [Press release](#)*

The police **released the body** of Mahmoud Odeh following Adalah's pre-petition in December 2017. Odeh was killed by Israeli settlers near the Palestinian city of Nablus in the West Bank, and his body was then taken into Israeli military custody without the permission of his family. Adalah argued that delays in returning Odeh's body for burial constituted a severe violation of both his family's right to dignity and to the right of the deceased to a timely, dignified burial. [Press release](#)

The Israel Prison Service (IPS) was compelled to allow **hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners to meet their lawyers** in May 2017. Adalah and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs represented 17 lawyers before the SCT after the IPS implemented an illegal policy of blocking meetings between the prisoners and their lawyers. In April 2017, some 1,500 prisoners began a mass hunger strike in protest against their severe conditions of confinement in Israeli prisons. [Press](#)



[release](#) Following a joint NGO statement to which Adalah contributed and signed, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Special Rapporteur on the OPT expressed their serious concerns about the ill-treatment of the hunger-strikers. [Statement of HCHR](#) | [Statement of UNSR on the OPT](#) | [Joint NGO Statement](#)

The IPS installed **radiators in Palestinian prisoners' cells** in February 2017 in Gilboa prison, in response to Adalah's demand for heating. Adalah argued in a letter sent in August 2016 that the lack of heating during winter months amounted to inhumane treatment and had a negative impact on the prisoners' daily functioning, health and physical wellbeing. The population of security prisoners at the prison is approx. 800 Palestinian prisoners. [Press release](#)



The police granted a **permit for the “March of Return”** to the Association for the Defense of the Rights of the Internally Displaced in Israel, which holds this annual protest to commemorate the Nakba. The police initially refused to grant a permit claiming that the march would pose a threat to public safety. After a permit was granted following letters sent by Adalah, in May 2017 thousands of people were able to take part in the march, which Adalah documented. See live postings

from the scene: [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

In response to Adalah's SCT petition, the state announced in September 2017 that **Arabic-language Hala TV, the third largest channel in Israel with over 360,000 viewers, would be allowed to broadcast on Yom Kippur**, when the Israeli media goes silent for 24 hours. The state's response represents a potential positive systemic change affecting the freedom from religion and free expression of the Palestinian minority in Israel. [Press release](#)

In September 2017 the SCT delivered a precedent-setting judgment that the Interior Minister had no legal authority to revoke the East Jerusalem residency status of **four Palestinian PLC parliamentarians** on spurious grounds of “breach of loyalty” to Israel. Adalah and ACRI submitted an *amicus curiae* legal opinion in the case. The four men and their families were deported to the West Bank following the revocation in June 2006. During the case, Adalah and ACRI made important arguments regarding the illegitimacy of demanding that members of an occupied population demonstrate loyalty to the occupying power. [Press release](#)

*Update: In March 2018, the Knesset enacted a new law, which allows the Interior Minister to revoke residency on the ground of “breach of loyalty”. Adalah objected to this law on the grounds that it is illegal under IHL to impose an obligation of loyalty to the occupying power upon Palestinian residents of Jerusalem. The residency status of the four men was revoked again on the basis of the new law. Adalah will challenge the revocations before the SCT.*

*Interim success:* The litigation brought by Adalah, the Jerusalem Legal Aid Center (JLAC) and the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza in February 2017 against the **Settlements Regularization Law** resulted in a response from the AG opining in November 2017 that the law should be repealed, and an “order to show cause” (*order nisi*) issued by the SCT in December 2017 compelling the state to explain why the law should not be declared invalid. The law *de facto* expropriates land from Palestinians and legalizes its allocation to

Israeli settlers. It thereby “regularizes” – from the perspective of domestic Israeli law alone – settlements in the West Bank that were built on privately-owned Palestinian land. In August 2017, the SCT issued a partial injunction freezing the operative parts of the law while the case is pending. A hearing was held before an expanded panel of nine justices on 3 June 2018. [Press release 1](#) | [Press release 2](#) | [Press release 3](#) | [Press release 4](#) | [Press release 5](#) | [Facebook meme 1](#) | [Facebook meme 2](#)



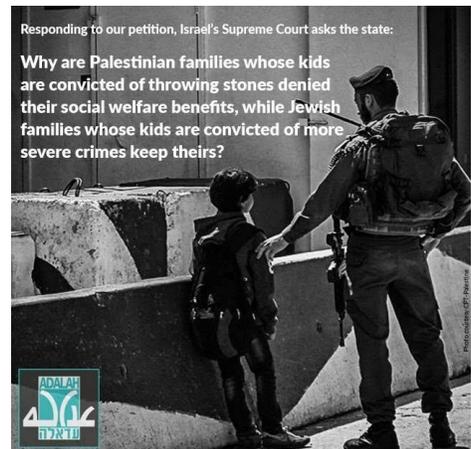
**Interim success:** The SCT decided in December 2017 to freeze the **Interior Minister’s decision to revoke the citizenship of Alaa Zayoud**, a Palestinian citizen of Israel serving 25 years in prison following an attempted murder conviction, pending an appeal by Adalah and ACRI. The organizations filed the appeal against the district court’s unprecedented decision to allow the revocation of citizenship on the grounds of “breach of loyalty”.



This case marks the first time that an Israeli court has ruled to revoke an individual’s citizenship, and sets a dangerous precedent by leaving a citizen effectively stateless. The organizations argued that the law was being applied discriminatorily, that the criminal law provides adequate punishment for the crime committed, and that “breach of loyalty” is an overly-vague ground for revoking an individual’s citizenship. The SCT will hold

a hearing on the case on 11 June 2018. [Press release](#)

**Interim success:** The SCT issued an “order to show cause” in January 2017 instructing the state to explain why a **new amendment to the criminal law cutting social benefits to Palestinian families whose minor children are convicted and imprisoned due to stone-throwing** is not illegal, on a petition filed in April 2016 by Adalah and NGO partners. The petitioners argued that the government was applying the law in a discriminatory and selective manner since it applies only to stone-throwers and not to those convicted of other violent crimes. In September 2017, the SCT decided to expand the judicial panel to hear the petition; the case will be heard on 3 July 2018. [Press release](#) | [Facebook meme](#)



**Interim success:** The SCT issued an “order to show cause” on the **Jordan Valley Regulations restricting Palestinian workers’ rights** in January 2018 following a petition filed by Adalah in September 2016. The regulations oblige labor court judges to order non-Israeli residents to deposit a financial guarantee at the

start of a lawsuit against Israeli employers to cover the employer's court costs. It affects West Bank Palestinian residents who work on Israeli-owned farms in the Jordan Valley, as well as other vulnerable members of the labor sector in Israel and the OPT. A hearing on the case was held in May and the court is now due to issue its decision. [Press release](#)

*Partial success: Revelation of significant portions of police open-fire regulations.* In June 2017, the SCT accepted an appeal filed by the Israeli police to overturn a publication ban on parts of the force's open-fire regulations governing officers' use of lethal gunfire. However, other significant sections were released by the police in 2016 in response to Adalah's petition to compel the police to publish the regulations, filed to the Lod District Court, which had accepted Adalah's petition. The published parts of the regulations revealed that they permit officers – as an initial option, preceding any earlier attempt to employ non-lethal weapons – to open fire with live ammunition on those throwing stones or firebombs, and on those shooting fireworks, among other rules. Adalah argued that the open-fire regulations must be open to public scrutiny in order to limit the use of lethal gunfire. [Press release 1](#) | [Press release 2](#)

### **Key new cases and legal interventions, and follow-up on major pending cases**

#### **Land and Planning Rights**

##### *The Bedouin villages in the Naqab*

In 2017, Adalah sent a series of interventions on behalf of the people of the **Bedouin village of Al-Fur'a** (pop. 6,000), which was recognized by the state 11 years ago.

- In June 2017, Adalah sent a letter to the land planning authorities to demand the immediate completion of the planning procedures for the village. To date, there is no local plan for the village, which makes it impossible for residents to acquire building permits, stalls the development of infrastructure, and prevents the building of public institutions to provide basic services. [Press release](#) *Update: Adalah learned from the local committee in the village that the planning authorities had sent a planning team to the village that began work in early 2018. Adalah is following up.*
- Adalah additionally sent two letters to the National Planning and Building Council in February and April 2017 following its decision to approve a new plan that will allow **the mining of phosphate in an area adjacent to Al-Fur'a** that would require the demolition of several homes in the village and pose serious health risks to residents. The plan was approved by the government in March 2018. Adalah is currently drafting a petition in the case.
- Al-Fur'a is also not assigned to any regional council, leaving its residents **unable to register for services or to vote in local elections**. In March 2017, Adalah sent a letter to the authorities demanding that the people of Al-Fur'a be allowed to vote prior to the Al-Qassoum Regional Council elections, but discovered that the village had not been officially assigned to any regional council. Adalah is following up to ensure that the villagers are properly registered and able to vote in future elections. [Press release](#)

Adalah and Bimkom filed two objections against the **new Arad-Be'er Sheva and Dimona-Yeruham railways** to the District Planning Committee in August and September 2017 respectively, arguing that these plans will result in large-scale land confiscation, home demolitions, stunted development and increased pollution for

seven affected Bedouin villages, which include Al-Fur'a. The objections were rejected in December 2017. Adalah filed an administrative petition against the Dimona-Yeruham railway in March 2018. [Press release 1/](#)  
[Press release 2](#)

**Illegality of bylaws for Hiran, temporary housing for Umm al-Hiran residents.** In August 2017, Adalah sent a letter to the National Planning and Building Council concerning the illegality of the bylaws for the new town of Hiran (slated to be built over the ruins of the Bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran), which stipulated that only Orthodox Jewish Israeli citizens could be approved to live in the town. [Press release](#)



*Update: In March 2018 Adalah discovered that the by-laws had been altered to remove the clause limiting the prospective residents of the town to Orthodox Jewish Israeli citizens. Adalah is following developments and will closely monitor the operations of any admissions committee set up to screen applicants for plots of land in the town.*

Adalah and Bimkom also submitted an objection to the District Planning and Building Committee in November 2017 against a plan to **displace residents of Umm al-Hiran to inadequate temporary housing** for a 10-year period. [Press release](#)

*Update: The objection was withdrawn following an agreement between community members and the state in 2018.*

#### *The settlements and annexation laws*

Adalah sent a letter in May 2017 to Israeli authorities demanding that they **cancel open tenders offering “state lands” in the West Bank**, because the Israel Land Authority has no legal authority in the 1967 Occupied Territories. Adalah argued that these tenders were being managed as if they were part of the State of Israel to which Israeli law applies, and that this practice effectively annexed these territories to the State of Israel. [Press release](#)

*Update: Adalah received a response in January 2018 in which the AG claimed the tender had been posted by the appropriate official and in a legal manner. Adalah is considering further legal action in the case.*

Adalah sent a letter in June 2017 to the Ministerial Committee on Legislation and the AG **opposing the proposed amendment to the Negev (Naqab) Development Authority Law**, which would equalize the legal status of West Bank settlements to that of communities in the Naqab and *de facto* annex parts of the southern West Bank to Israel. The law is not currently on the agenda of the Knesset; Adalah is continuing to follow its progress. [Press release](#)

Adalah sent a letter in July 2017 to the AG, the Defense Minister and the Military Advocate General demanding that they **annul the “legalization” of settlement buildings** constructed on private land belonging to Palestinian residents of the West Bank. No response has been received to date. [Press release](#)

Adalah sent a letter in August 2017 to senior Israeli officials demanding that they **cancel or alter the mandate of the Interior Ministry’s “Borders Committee”**, which is charged with determining the jurisdictional boundaries of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The appointment of an Israeli ministerial committee that operates in the OPT amounts to a *de facto* annexation of West Bank land to Israel, Adalah argued. [Press release](#)

*Update: Adalah received a response from the AG’s Office in January 2018 stating that the Borders Committee is merely advising the Military Commander. Adalah is considering further legal steps in the case.*

Adalah sent a letter in October 2017 to senior Israeli political leaders and the AG calling on them to **oppose the “Jerusalem and its Daughters” Law**, which would annex a ring of West Bank settlements to the Jerusalem municipality, and impose Israeli civil law in these occupied areas, in clear violation of international humanitarian law. Adalah is following the progress of the bill. [Press release](#)

A letter sent by Adalah and Al-Marsad Arab Human Rights Center in July 2017 to demand that the Israeli military **evacuate outposts and minefields from occupied Syrian town of Majdal Shams (pop. 11,000) in Occupied Golan Heights**. The outposts and minefields are situated on dozens of acres belonging to Majdal Shams residents, and located directly adjacent to residential homes, posing a direct danger to residents. The military authorities responded that they had received the letter but sent no substantive response, despite Adalah’s reminder letters. Adalah is continuing to follow up. [Press Release](#)



### *Discrimination in planning rights*



Adalah sent a letter to the Israeli authorities in January 2017 demanding that they **freeze home demolitions in Arab communities**, in response to a declaration by PM Netanyahu that he would “increase enforcement” of housing construction violations in Arab communities, ignoring years of state discrimination in planning and housing rights against them. The state acquired new administrative powers in April 2017 through an amendment to the building and planning law – **the “Kaminitz Law”** – which expands the state’s administrative powers to implement demolition and eviction orders, limiting the judicial review, and increasing financial penalties for offenses under the law. Adalah is tracking the implementation of various provisions of the law. [Press release 1](#) | [Press Release 2](#)

A letter sent to the Finance Minister in October 2017 to ask that he reject a Ministry of Construction and Housing request to **expand the planning area of the Jewish town of Harish in the Arab area of Wadi Ara** in

central Israel. The plan to add 2,589 dunams (approx. 640 acres) to Harish would affect the future growth of surrounding Arab villages. [Press release](#)

*Update: The Finance Ministry approved the request in May 2018. Adalah is planning a SCT petition in the case.*

*Follow-up:* Petition filed to the SCT in August 2016 with ACRI demanding the cancellation of a clause in the Israel Land Authority (ILA) Act determining that six out of 14 members of the Israel Land Authority Council (ILAC) be representatives of the Jewish National Fund (JNF). Adalah argued that this clause creates a clear **overrepresentation of the JNF on the ILAC, particularly as the JNF**, according to its own bylaws, serves only Jewish citizens of the state.

*Update:* A hearing was held in May 2018; the SCT's decision is now pending.

*Negative decision:* In September 2017, the SCT rejected a petition filed by Adalah and ACRI that challenged **the government's transfer of authority over state land to the World Zionist Organization (WZO), a the private body that advances rights of Jewish citizens only**. The petition, submitted in January 2017, demand the cancellation of an new law granting the WZO Settlement Division authority over settlement, land acquisition, and the establishment and expansion of development projects. The petitioners argued that the new law violates Palestinian citizens' constitutional rights to dignity and equality because the Settlement Division, like the WZO as a whole, sees itself as obligated to serve the interests of the Jewish people only.

[Press release](#)

### **Economic and Social Rights**

A petition to the Tel Aviv District Court filed in April 2017 on behalf of the Municipal School #12's parents committee and student council representatives, demanding that the city fulfill its **commitment to provide a new building for this severely overcrowded Arab school**. While the school is only authorized to accommodate 600 students, 850 students are currently enrolled. Prior to the filing of the petition, Tel Aviv municipal representatives, in violation of prior commitments, announced that the new wing would instead be used as a new sciences school. A court hearing was held on the case in June 2017, following which the municipality committed to transfer some of the children to the new school. The petition was subsequently withdrawn. [Press release](#)

A letter sent in January 2017 to the Interior Ministry on behalf of the National Committee of Arab Mayors (NCAM) demanding that it alter the discriminatory formula used to calculate **"budget balance grants" allocated to local councils**. Adalah argued that the current method of distribution led to discrimination against Arab municipalities, and caused the latter to miss out on badly needed funding for essential services. In May 2017, the Ministry responded that it would lower the minimum income level to make more Arab towns eligible, but did so by a minimal amount of just NIS 100 (approx. US\$ 28). Adalah and the NCAM are considering further legal action. [Press release](#)

A petition filed to the SCT in August 2017, demanding Israeli health authorities **reopen a closed "mother and child" clinic**, which provided pre- and post-natal care to around 1,500 pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children up to the age of six from the Arab town of Khwaled and the neighboring Arab town of Ras Ali in northern Israel. The petition was filed following the closure of the clinic by the Health Ministry in August 2017, a move which will have devastating health implications for women and children. [Press release](#)

*Update: The SCT rejected the petition in February 2018. The SCT ruled that the Health Ministry had fulfilled its legal obligations to provide accessible healthcare, despite acknowledging that “a certain burden” has been placed on the clinic’s former residents. Adalah countered that the court had allowed a violation of the right of mothers and children to accessible vital medical care to persist. [Press release](#)*

A letter sent in September 2017 demanding that Israeli authorities **connect all schools and kindergartens in unrecognized Bedouin village of Wadi el-Na’am, serving 3,000 students, to the national electrical grid**. The schools are currently powered by diesel generators. Adalah wrote in the letter that the lack of connection raises grave educational and safety concerns. Adalah is continuing to correspond with the authorities on the case. [Press Release](#)

## **Civil and Political Rights**

### *Right to citizenship*

A letter sent in May 2017 to the Interior Minister and AG demanding an end to the **Interior Ministry’s practice of arbitrarily revoking the citizenship of Bedouin citizens**, which dates back to at least 2010, and reinstate the citizenship of the up-to 2,600 Bedouin citizens affected. The revocations occur during routine procedures, such as filing requests for a new passport or registering a change of address, when officials inform the registrant that their citizenship is invalid because of longstanding errors made by their parents, grandparents or even the Interior Ministry in the registration process. Adalah stressed that the policy is aimed exclusively at Bedouin citizens. Adalah is now seeking a test case to bring to court in order to challenge this draconian policy. [Press release](#)

### *Political participation and representation*

Petition submitted to the SCT in May 2017 challenging the **ban on visits by Members of Knesset (MKs) to “security prisoners”**. Adalah argued that prisons are open to members of public who have a right to enter prisons, including attorneys, family members, and MKs. Adalah also argued that the blanket ban relates to the identity of the prisoner, since the overwhelming majority of “security prisoners” are Palestinians. No hearing date has been set. [Press release](#)

A letter sent in November 2017 to the Knesset demanding that senior Israeli political officials move to repeal a recent amendment to Article 7A of the *Basic Law: The Knesset*, which expands the grounds on which **political parties and individual candidates can be disqualified from Knesset elections to include not only their goals and actions, but also their statements**. The amendment was approved by the Knesset on 14 March 2017 with just 29 votes (by a 29-20 margin). [Press release](#)

Petition filed in December 2016 against **the Expulsion of Members of Knesset Law**, which provides that a majority of 90 MKs may oust a serving MK on grounds of: 1) incitement to racism; and 2) support for armed struggle against Israel. The petitioners argued that the law violates basic democratic and constitutional



principles. The case was heard before an expanded panel of nine justices in December 2017. Waiting for final decision. [Press release](#)

*Update: In May 2018, the SCT rejected petitions filed by Adalah and other HROs against the law, thereby allowing MKs to oust their colleagues from the Knesset. [Press release](#)*

### *Freedom of expression*

During 2017, through a series of legal interventions concerning new developments in online expression, Adalah was able to gain some important new information, especially about the government's methods of censoring and criminalizing political expression by young Arab citizens online, and began to use it to try to create improved procedures to protect the due process rights of Arab youth in Israel.

Adalah sent a letter in August 2017 to Israeli authorities demanding that they cease **the illegal operations of the State Attorney's Cyber Unit**, which is censoring users' social media posts. Adalah argued that much of the unit's censorship operations are conducted without any basis in Israeli law, and are violations of free speech and the principle of separation of powers. The state responded that the operations of the Cyber Unit were legal. Adalah is tracking individual cases and will take legal action where needed. [Press release](#)

A letter sent in September 2017 to the AG and SA asking them to order police to disclose to suspects and their lawyers during pre-trial detention hearings **the content of the social media posts that allegedly constitute a criminal offense**, such as incitement and other crimes of expression. Currently, detainees are not being informed of which of their social media posts led to their arrest and detention, and the practice disproportionately affects Palestinian citizens of Israel, impairing their ability to defend themselves. Adalah is seeking an individual case to bring before the SCT. [Press release](#)

### *State violence and accountability*

Adalah continued to work alongside partner organization the Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights (Gaza) to follow up on complaints that the organizations filed into 28 incidents of suspected war crimes from the 2014 Gaza War to the Israeli authorities. Three appeals are pending with Israel's Military Advocate General (MAG) and the Attorney General (AG) concerning the closure or failure initiate investigations into cases involving the killing of civilians.

- Adalah and Al Mezan filed an appeal in January 2017 **against a decision by the MAG to close an investigation** into the killing of five members of the Abu Dahrouj family, despite the MAG admitting to operational failures. Case pending. [Press release](#)
- In August 2017, Adalah sent a letter to senior Israeli legal officials demanding that they respond to the appeals submitted against the closure of the **investigation into the 2014 Israeli missile attack** that killed

four children (“the Bakr boys”) on a Gaza beach and order the military to hand over materials from its investigation. [Press release](#)

*Update: In January 2018, Adalah and Al Mezan submitted their additional arguments against the MAG’s decision to close the investigation into the incident. The organizations filed their additional arguments after receiving and reviewing very limited portions of the investigatory materials from the Israeli Military Police. [Press release](#)*

- Adalah followed up on an appeal it filed with Al Mezan in October 2016 against the **Israeli military’s decision not to investigate a drone missile attack near an UNRWA School in Rafah, Gaza that killed 14 civilians**. The school was serving as a shelter for over 3,000 internally displaced persons at the time.

Adalah continued to follow up in 2017 on five complaints that it filed with Addameer in 2015 and 2016 to the Israeli authorities **requesting investigations into suspected extrajudicial executions (EJES) of Palestinians, and the criminal prosecution of anyone found responsible of these crimes**. In 2017, Adalah filed three appeals in these cases, which are currently pending. [Press release](#) | [Press release](#)



Follow-up: A response filed by Adalah and Al Mezan to the Be’er Sheva District Court to the State of Israel’s motion to dismiss a tort lawsuit filed (initially by Al Mezan) on behalf of a **Palestinian teenager who was seriously wounded by Israeli military gunfire in his Gaza home** in November 2014, two months after Israel’s “Operation Protective Edge” had concluded. The case challenges Amendment 8 of the Civil Wrongs Law, which grants sweeping immunity to Israel from liability for damages to civilians in Gaza. The state responded in April 2017, and the Court asked the Knesset to join the case as a respondent in June 2017. Case pending. [Press release](#)

A SCT petition filed by Adalah and Al Mezan in November 2017 to demand that **Gazan search and rescue teams be permitted to enter the “buffer zone”** in order to locate and rescue people trapped in a tunnel destroyed by the Israeli military in October, after the military prevented the entry of Palestinian search and rescue teams into the area. Adalah’s petition was withdrawn after the Israeli military revealed, in November 2017, that it had unearthed and was holding the bodies of five Palestinians killed when the tunnel was destroyed. [Press release](#)

### *Religious rights and freedoms*

A letter to the Israeli authorities demanding they vote against the **“Muezzin Bill” to silence mosques’ call to prayer** in East Jerusalem and around Israel, which passed its first reading in the Knesset in February 2017. The bill remains pending. [Press release](#) | [Facebook meme](#)

A letter to the AG and the Health Ministry to demand that Israel **end the ban on bringing leavened bread products into hospitals during the duration of the Passover holiday** sent in April 2017. Adalah argued that the ban was a “systemic policy implemented annually” that violated Arab citizens’ rights. [Press release](#)  
*Update: Adalah filed a petition to the SCT against the ban in February 2018; the petitioners are now waiting for a hearing or a court decision in the case. [Press release](#)*

A letter sent in September 2017 to the Interior Minister and the Israeli military demanding that **internally-displaced Christian Palestinian residents and their descendants be allowed to visit the graves of family members in the uprooted village of Ma’lul**. The villagers have been barred by Israeli authorities from visiting family graves since the village was destroyed in 1948, with the exception of two churches and a mosque. Adalah has sent a reminder letter and is waiting for a response. [Press release](#)

### III. INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

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Adalah undertook extensive international advocacy activities throughout 2017, before the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and in EU member states, in the United States (US), and with the foreign diplomatic community based in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

#### Figures

- 18 new reports, briefing papers and statements;
- 6 advocacy missions to the UN, EU and EU member states, and the US;
- Regular meetings and seminars with locally-based foreign diplomats;
- 25 study tours in the Naqab for embassy representatives, journalists, bloggers, and for visiting groups of lawyers/HR researchers, inter-faith groups, students, and human rights activists;
- 15 workshops and conferences abroad convened by international human rights organizations, networks, universities, academic institutes and other partners.

Adalah continued to be a trusted source of information for international decision-makers, who often invited Adalah as a speaker at their events and who issued several positive statements, recommendations and concluding observations as a result.

The **5 main themes** of Adalah’s international advocacy work in 2017 were:

- Exposing and fighting inequality and discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel;
- Opposing the annexation of occupied territory, and the forced displacement of the Palestinian Bedouin in the Naqab (Negev);
- Seeking accountability and redress for killings and injuries of Palestinians by Israeli military and police forces;
- Defending Palestinian prisoners’ and detainees’ rights;
- Challenging the shrinking space for human rights organizations and defenders in Israel.

## Successes



**UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** issued concluding observations (COs) in November 2017, raising concerns about Israel's systematic discrimination against Palestinian women citizens of Israel, and concerns for the education, employment and health rights of Palestinian Bedouin women. The COs included many issues raised by Adalah in its own NGO report and in a second report it submitted as part of a coalition of women's rights NGOs, and in their joint advocacy as a delegation that

participated in CEDAW's review of Israel in Geneva. [Press release](#)

- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) Report on Accountability:** In June 2017, the HCHR published a comprehensive review report on accountability in Israel, and found that *Israel did not implement 90% of the recommendations made by UN human rights mechanisms between 2009 and 2016.* The HCHR noted Israel's "repeated failure to comply with the calls for accountability made by the entire human rights system." Adalah contributed two detailed reports to the HCHR in preparation of the report, one focused on extra-judicial executions and the other on the 2014 Gaza War based on its legal work on these cases. [EJEs Paper](#) | 2014 [Gaza War Paper \(2\)](#) | [HCHR report](#)



- **Universal Periodic Review (UPR):** Adalah submitted two reports to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2017 for the UPR, in advance of Israel's review in January 2018. The first focused on numerous rights violations against Palestinian citizens of Israel, including the forced displacement of the Bedouin in the Naqab, and torture and ill-treatment of Palestinians in the OPT. The second, prepared with a coalition of women human rights defenders, highlighted the shrinking civil society space in Israel. Adalah widely distributed these submissions to embassies and consulates, held meetings on them with multiple diplomats, and participated in an NGO briefing at the EU in Israel. [Adalah's submission](#) | [Joint submission](#) | [Draft Report of the Working Group on the UPR](#)

*Update: The UPR issued its recommendations to Israel (draft report) in January 2018. Many of the issues raised by Adalah in our reports are reflected in these recommendations.*

- **EU-Israel Association Council delayed:** Adalah continued to work closely with EuroMed Rights on EU advocacy initiatives as the facilitator of the Palestine/Israel and the Palestinians Working Group. In February 2017, Adalah contributed texts concerning laws and policies that privilege the state's Jewish over its democratic character to a letter and submission to the EU and to the 28 Ministers of Foreign Affairs, warning against the risks of convening an EU-Israel Association Council given the current political and legal situation. The council did not take place in 2017, or to date in 2018. [EuroMed Rights letter](#)

- **The EU Human Rights Report for 2016**, published in October 2017, found that the Arab and Bedouin minorities in Israel continued to face difficulties in exercising their economic and social rights, and that Arab citizens faced challenges in enjoying their full range of rights, among other findings. Adalah undertook extensive advocacy before the EU with the EuroMed Rights network on a wide range of Palestinian citizens' rights issues that appeared in the report. [EU Report](#)
- **The US State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2016**, published in March 2017, identifies as one of the most significant human rights problems, "institutional and societal discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel ... in particular in access to equal education, housing, and employment opportunities." Adalah contributed reports and held meetings with US State Department officials in preparation for the report, which cites numerous cases of discrimination brought before Israeli courts and state authorities by Adalah. [US Report](#)
- **Adalah was invited to speak at numerous meetings held for the diplomatic community, including:**
  - Adalah was one of only four Israel-based NGOs invited to discuss land, housing and planning rights with the *Chief Legal Advisor to the German Foreign Ministry* in November 2017.
  - Adalah staff spoke about trends in Israeli legislation at two events convened by Diakonia in December 2017 to launch its new report, "Rule of Law: A hardening of illegality in Israel and the oPt 2014 – 2017".
  - In December 2017, soon after US President Trump announced that "Jerusalem is the capital of Israel" and that the US would move its embassy to Jerusalem, Adalah spoke at a meeting of around 40 European diplomats about the Settlements Regularization Law and pending bills in the Knesset that aim to annex large areas in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

### **Other major interventions**

- **Joint NGO Report to UN Committee Against Torture (CAT):** CAT issued 50+ concluding observations (COs) following its review of Israel in 2016, including many concerns raised by Adalah and its partners in their NGO reports. Following up on these COs, Adalah, together with Addameer, Al Mezan, and Physicians for Human Rights – Israel (PHRI), and the Public Committee against Torture in Israel (PCATI) submitted a comprehensive follow-up report to CAT in August 2017. The report discussed medical care for prisoners, administrative detention, the Unlawful Combatants Law, solitary confinement, and interrogation, issues that were raised by the Committee as being of particular concern, and about which it requested additional information from Israel, which Israel failed to submit. [The Report](#)
- **Forcible transfer is a "red-line" for the EU: EU advocacy mission on forced displacement and briefing for locally-based diplomats:** Adalah, the Jerusalem Legal Aid Center, CIDSE and CAFOD (UK) undertook a mission to Brussels in January 2017 to raise awareness of forced displacement of Bedouin communities in the Naqab and in the West Bank. The delegation met with European officials and diplomats and presented an original photo exhibition. Forcible transfer has been identified as a "red-line" trigger for EU action. [Press release](#) | [Photo exhibition](#) In October 2017, the partners convened a meeting on the same theme for 25 diplomats and representatives of international organizations in Jerusalem. [Press release](#) | [Photos](#)



- The Embassy of Switzerland in Israel hosted a meeting for 40 diplomats with Adalah and the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality (NCF) in March 2017 focusing on **land and housing rights violations** against Palestinian citizens of Israel. Adalah focused on new legal developments in the Naqab and the unrecognized Bedouin village of Umm Al-Hiran, as well as on newly-proposed discriminatory land and housing legislation that affects Arab citizens and communities throughout the country. [Press release](#)

- **Advocacy mission on accountability:** In April 2017, Adalah participated in an advocacy mission to London with HROs from Israel/OPT on the subject of accountability, organized by EuroMed Rights, Medical Aid for Palestinians and Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights. The delegation held meetings with officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Departments for International Trade and International Development, and at the UK Parliament. The delegation also spoke at public events at the offices of Amnesty International and the European Council for Foreign Relations. Adalah highlighted its work on the 2014 Gaza War cases, EJE cases in East Jerusalem, and on police brutality/excessive use of force against Palestinian citizens of Israel.



- **Culture of impunity: Military court's conviction and unduly lenient sentencing of Israeli soldier Elor Azaria.** Adalah issued two statements in January and February 2017 regarding the case of Azaria and his killing of a Palestinian man in the West Bank. It stressed that Azaria's trial and conviction are the exception to the rule; however, his 18-month prison minimal sentence for manslaughter reflects the impunity enjoyed by Israeli security personnel accused of crimes against Palestinians. In these statements, Adalah referenced its own work on the Gaza War and EJE cases. [Statement 1](#) | [Statement 2](#)

Adalah also produced a joint statement with PCATI, PHR-I and Yesh Din in February 2017 highlighting our complaints to Israeli authorities (e.g. the Military Police, the Police Investigations Department, the IPS Investigation Unit, the Inspector for Interogee Complaints (torture cases), the Attorney General and the Military Advocate General) over the years, which demanded investigations and prosecutions. These combined experiences show that in the overwhelming majority of cases investigations are closed, often without justification; no responses are provided at all; few testimonies are gathered from non-security-related witnesses; and complainants are regularly ignored. [Joint Statement](#)

- **Advocacy missions on shrinking space for HROs:** In September 2017, Adalah participated in a mission to France and the Netherlands with EuroMed and partners that focused on the shrinking space for NGOs, as well as on the concept and implications of the Jewish Nation State Basic Law bill. In November



*allegations made against Palestinian and Israeli HROs.*

2017, Adalah and HRO partners participated in a further mission to Denmark led by EuroMed Rights, that focused on shrinking space and the threat posed to HROs by right-wing groups in Israel and Europe. A few months earlier, the Danish Government had opened an investigation into its funding of HROs in Israel and Palestine. *Update: A hearing was held in Denmark at the end of January 2018. The Danish Government announced at that hearing that it had found no hard evidence to support the*

- **Young Advocates Delegation to the US:** Two Adalah attorneys participated in a 10-day awareness-raising and advocacy visit to the US with the Adalah Justice Project (AJP) in June 2017. The delegation travelled to key sites of the historic and contemporary civil rights struggle in the US and engaged in co-education with community leaders. The program also included meetings with Congressional aides, civil rights organizations, and Palestinian rights advocacy groups in Washington DC, Montgomery, Alabama, and New York, strategy sessions with legal partners. The delegation made targeted interventions at the US Congress and the United Nations in New York.



- **“Freedom, Bound”:** AJP launched “Freedom, Bound”, an [online](#) multimedia exhibit on the history of Black-Palestinian solidarity. The “Gallery of Solidarity” includes 26 “conversations”, merging photographs and artifacts with accompanying texts that visualize the echoes of the past within contemporary expressions of solidarity. AJP also designed and printed a full-color exhibit booklet detailing “10 Lessons Learned” from the history of Black-Palestinian solidarity. The physical exhibit showed at Loyola University during the New Orleans Palestine Film Festival in November 2017, and will be shown at additional forums in 2018. AJP also hosted a webinar with key US-based partners including Black4Palestine. With this project AJP worked closely with social justice movements to put Palestinian citizens’ rights on the progressive agenda in the US.

- **New Orleans delegation:** A delegation from AJP and Adalah travelled to New Orleans, Louisiana, in November 2017, and were hosted and guided by the New Orleans Palestine Solidarity Committee. Members of the delegation gave talks and showed part of the Freedom, Bound exhibition at the New Orleans Palestinian Film Festival; met with activists from the Houma Nation, an indigenous people of Louisiana; led a roundtable discussion with housing rights advocates and community leaders; and with the National Lawyers Guild chapter at the Loyola College of Law led a teach in on “Movement Lawyering: Legal and Advocacy Strategies for Building a Global Justice Movement.”



### **Briefing papers**

Adalah wrote and published seven briefing papers for its international advocacy work, and widely distributed them via its website, social media accounts, listservs, and at meetings.

- *Discriminatory laws:* Adalah issued two briefing papers on new discriminatory and anti-democratic legislation in March and an update in September 2017. The papers detail newly enacted Israeli laws and pending bills that contain discriminatory and/or anti-democratic provisions that are liable to violate the rights of Palestinians living in the OPT, as well as Palestinian citizens of Israel, as well as impose restrictions on those who seek to defend them. [Briefing paper](#)
- *Accountability for Gaza:* Adalah and Al Mezan issued two briefing papers and data visualizations concerning our joint work on the 2014 Gaza War cases:
  - [“Gaza 2 Years On: Impunity over Accountability: Israel’s unwillingness to investigate violations of international law in the Gaza Strip,”](#) issued August 2016, updated March 2017. This report was submitted to the OHCHR, in preparation for its comprehensive review;
  - [“Gaza 3 Years On: Impunity over Accountability Israel’s unwillingness to investigate violations of international law in the Gaza Strip,”](#) issued August 2017;
- *Extra-judicial executions (EJEs):* Adalah issued this paper in March 2017, which addresses suspected EJEs of Palestinians by Israeli forces in 2015 and 2016, and the failure of the Israeli authorities to investigate these events, despite complaints filed by Adalah and Addameer. Adalah submitted this paper to the OHCHR in preparation for its comprehensive review. [Position paper](#)
- *Punitive revocation of residency and citizenship of Palestinians in East Jerusalem and Palestinian citizens of Israel:* In September 2017, Adalah, the Community Action Center, and Al-Haq produced an [oral intervention](#) to the UN Human Rights Council. The statement, based on our prior written intervention to the Council, detailed Israel’s escalation of punitive revocations since 2015.
- *Key Concerns:* In November 2017, Adalah published a [paper of key human rights concerns](#), discussing: (1) revocation of citizenship and the ban on Palestinian family unification; (2) forced displacement of the Bedouin in the Naqab (Negev); (3) erosion of the rule of law; (4) settlements and the annexation of the West Bank; and (5) shrinking space for HROs.

## **Advocacy strategy and networking meetings**

- *EuroMed Rights*: Adalah is the facilitator of the EuroMed Rights Palestine/Israel and the Palestinians Working Group and participated in advocacy strategy meetings, as well as missions to Brussels and EU member states, throughout 2017. At the working group meetings in the spring and the fall, the members discussed recent developments in Israel/Palestine and upcoming activities at the UN and EU.
- *CIDSE, Brussels-based network*. Adalah participated in a meeting convened by CIDSE with Israel-based HROs. An EU advocacy expert gave a general overview of current EU policy on Israel/Palestine, and then the group discussed numerous advocacy issues including forced displacement, accountability, and separation/fragmentation of the Palestinians, and opportunities for engagement.
- *Adalah Justice Project*: Adalah participated in a series of meetings in New York in February and in October 2017 with AJP in order to plan for upcoming advocacy initiatives in the US with AJP and US-based human rights partners.
- *Legal Task Force (chaired by the Norwegian Refugee Council and St. Yves)*: To increase networking with local HROs, Adalah participated in numerous meetings of the LTF over the course of the year. Adalah provided updates at these meetings on its Supreme Court litigation on the OPT, and presented at a special session on its SCT petition challenging the Settlements Regularization Law.
- *ESCR-Net*: Adalah is an active member of the Strategic Litigation Working Group of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights-Net, participating in webinars and discussions of the group. The Working Group's [August 2017 newsletter update](#) featured a member interview with Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher.

## **Selected Conferences**

In March 2017, Adalah's International Advocacy Coordinator Amjad Iraqi participated in a panel talk at Humboldt University in Berlin, organized by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, entitled "Legal Solidarity: International Law Against Discrimination." The conference focused on shared lessons and similarities between the Palestinian and the Kurdish struggle in Turkey. [Video of presentation](#)

In May 2017, the Director of Adalah's Land and Planning Unit, Suhad Bishara, gave a keynote address at a conference at Warwick University, UK, entitled "Palestine Today" about Israel's discriminatory land and planning laws and policies that harm Palestinians under the framework of settler colonialism. [Event page](#)

In July 2017, Adalah's General Director Hassan Jabareen presented at an inter-disciplinary conference on "Populism and Citizenship" hosted by the University of Potsdam. Attorney Jabareen discussed the concept of "Loyalty and Citizenship", focusing on Israeli attempts to disqualify Arab candidates and political parties from running in Knesset elections over the past 15 years. [Photo](#) | [Conference Program](#)

In 2017, AJP Director Nadia Ben Youssef spoke at Harvard University, Boston University and Boston College Law Schools in Boston, Massachusetts, as well as at public events in the US Congress and in the state legislature. She also spoke at the Radical Communicators' Network conference (an emerging network of over 400 social justice communicators) in California in November 2017. She additionally trained human rights defenders from the Arab world on US advocacy strategies at the annual conference of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia in December 2017.

## IV. LEGAL EDUCATION

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### **Training for law students and young lawyers**

**Legal apprentices, law students, and legal interns gain professional experience:** Over the year, Adalah trained four legal apprentices. Ms. Haya Abu Wardeh from Hebrew University, and Ms. Janan Abdu from Haifa University completed their apprenticeships in February 2017 and began studying for the Israel Bar. A new stagiare, Ms. Lubna Tuma from Haifa University joined Adalah in March 2017, followed by Ms. Kela Sappir from Haifa University in September 2017. All stagiaries worked closely under the supervision of the General Director and senior lawyers on a combination of cases and legal interventions involving Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians in the OPT.

**Adalah's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Palestinian Law Students' conference, "The Nakba and the Law" (70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nakba in 2018).** In October 2017, Adalah held its 12<sup>th</sup> annual three-day law students' camp, at which 63 Palestinian students from Israel, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights participated. The camp was held at the Talitha Kumi Guest House in Beyt Jala in the West Bank, on the theme of "The Nakba and the Law." The camp opened with a tour of the Bedouin villages of [Umm al-Hiran](#) in the Naqab and [Susiya](#) in the West Bank, focusing on Israeli policies of demolition and displacement on both sides of the Green Line. Students participated in lectures and workshops led by leading lawyers, academics, and civil society activists on various aspects of the Palestinian Nakba, Israeli law, legal challenges to land and property appropriations, citizenship and status revocation, the rights of internally-displaced Palestinians, and the Right of Return and its potential practical implementation. The program is available in [Arabic](#) and [English](#) | [Press release](#)



**Digital Activism Workshop with Baladna – Association for Arab Youth:** In October 2017, some 50 Arab youth participated in a "Digital Activism Workshop" organized by Adalah and Baladna and held at Al-Midan Theater in Haifa. The program featured three sessions examining digital activism in the face of legal challenges and



social media policies, explorations of effective social media campaigns, and how-to sessions on creating successful online campaigns. Trainers and speakers included Khulood Badawi a media expert and researcher from Human Rights Watch, Lubna Tuma, a legal apprentice with Adalah, filmmaker Enas al-Muthaffar, Shada Zoubi of Zazim Community Action, graphic designer and campaigner Abed Tameesh, and creative campaign director Razi Najjar.

*Baladna-Adalah, EU Freedom of expression for Arab youth project*

A main component of this two-year joint project (2016-2017) was to train young Arab lawyers in freedom of expression (FOE) rights - theory and practice - who then gave awareness-raising sessions to more than 1000 Arab youth throughout the country about FOE rights.

**Adalah held three trainings for this group in 2016, and two trainings for lawyers and advanced law students in May and October 2017.** The FOE training in

May was held for three law students in the Naqab, in order to increase the number of trainers for FOE youth outreach sessions in the south. The October training was held for 16 participants (8 men and 8 women, including 2 journalists) in Haifa. Speakers included Adalah General Director Hassan Jabareen, Human Rights Defenders' Fund Director Alma Biblash, and Adalah Attorney Mohammed Bassam. The speakers focused on legal issues and challenges in representing protesters, both on the street and on the web, particularly regarding Facebook and other social media posts. [Press release](#)



*Evaluation of the training*

Participant young lawyers attended a varying number of training sessions, from at least one and up to a total of four. In October 2017, Adalah asked the participants to complete an evaluation form, the responses to which yielded the following findings:

- 85% of the participants answered positively to a question about whether the training had benefited them at the professional level. (The negative responses noted that the training was not directly relevant to their daily work, or that the content of the course was of benefit to the target group.)
- When asked to rate the quality of the course on a scale of 1-5 (1 = very poor, 5 = very high), 75% of the participants answered 4 (high).
- The participants responded positively overall to the question of whether the training course matched their expectations. However, one participant commented that s/he thought that there should have been more meetings of the group to evaluate the contents, and others suggested additional subjects (e.g. FOE in comparative law, the ways in which FOE is limited by private bodies, and FOE as it relates to restrictions on travel to the wider Arab world).
- When asked how they would improve the course, the following responses were given: more networking between the young lawyers and the young journalists; working on specific cases; creating a group to develop the contents of the course into a booklet on FOE rights for publication on social media.
- All participants responded that they would be interested in taking part in further trainings.

Adalah also held in-depth telephone interviews with four lawyer-participants about the course and the outreach awareness-raising sessions for the youth. The interviews yielded the following findings:

- All four interviewees agreed that the course was relevant to the young lawyers target group and its needs, and that the lectures that they provided were needed and had a positive impact. One stated that most of youth whom she lectured had been completely unaware of central issues of FOE rights.
- Three interviewees stated that the training material was useful in their regular legal work; the fourth answered that he works in a different legal field, but that it could potentially prove useful in the future.
- One interviewee stated that she had already used the information provided in the course in giving legal counsel to clients.
- All four interviewees stated that the material provided to them by Adalah to assist them in developing lectures for the youth, including the PowerPoint slideshow and model Q&A for the youth. However they all reported that they could have benefited from more direction, including how to make the lectures more interactive, engaging and lively.
- Suggestions to improve the training course were: to have the group of lawyers meet together more frequently and at more regular intervals; to make the course materials for the youth simpler and less theoretical, and to incorporate more visual material, including videos; to focus the training materials almost exclusively on FOE within social media as this is the priority for this age group; and to add another meeting for the group to further evaluate the training together.
- All four stated that they would be interested in *pro bono* work with Adalah in future cases of mass arrests and detentions of Arab youth demonstrators and political activists.

Adalah will take this feedback into consideration in developing similar actions in the future, including the various concrete suggestions for developing the content and structure of the training it offers to young Arab lawyers.

## **Media outreach**

In 2017, Adalah prepared and distributed **111 press releases** on its work in Hebrew, Arabic and English. Adalah's work was featured on hundreds of news websites and newspapers, mainly through favorable coverage of our messages, creating greater visibility for Palestinian rights issues in the media. Adalah staff and board members also appeared on TV and radio. [Click here](#) for a list of Adalah's 2017 English media coverage.

## **Media Coverage**

Adalah achieved widespread coverage on 11 cases/legal interventions/key issues during this period. This coverage is detailed below.

### **1. Umm al-Hiran demolition operation, the police killing of Ya'akub Abu Al-Qian and police attack on MK Ayman Odeh**

- [Probe into killing of math teacher closed, no officer was found responsible](#), *Wafa*, 30 December 2017
- [Village demolition based on Israel's "racist" plan](#), *Al Jazeera English*, 23 August 2017
- [New Israeli town built on the ruins of Bedouin village trying to bar non-Jews](#), *Haaretz*, 8 August 17
- [Rights groups call for criminal probe over alleged police shooting of Arab MK](#), *Times of Israel*, 23 Jan 2017
- [Villager and Israeli Police Officer Die in Clash at Bedouin Hamlet](#), *NY Times*, 18 Jan 2017
- [Arab MKs clash with police outside Bedouin village after violent incident](#), *Ynet*, 18 Jan 2017



## 2. Settlements Regularization Law

- [Rights groups say law expropriating private Palestinian land violated international law](#), *Wafa*, 23 Nov 2017
- [Israeli Rights Groups Move to Strike Down Settlement Law](#), *NY Times* (via *AP*), 8 Feb 2017
- [Rights groups challenge Israel settlements law in court](#), *BBC*, 8 Feb 2017
- [Rights groups challenge Israel's new settlements law in court](#), *Reuters*, 8 Feb 2017



## 3. Culture of impunity: The extraordinary trial and conviction and lenient sentencing of Elor Azaria

- [The Higher the Rank, the Greater the Immunity for Killing Palestinians](#), *Haaretz*, 26 Feb 2017
- [Israeli soldier sentenced to 18 months for killing a wounded Palestinian in a case that roiled the nation](#), *Los Angeles Times*, 21 Feb 2017
- [Divided: The fate of one soldier is splitting Israel in two](#), *Vice News*, 4 Jan 2017

## 4. BDS Ban on Entry Law

- [Israel takes action against boycotters. Is that counterproductive?](#), *Christ.Sci. Monitor*, 8 Mar 2017
- [Israel's travel ban: Boycott supporters to be turned away](#), *CNN*, 7 March 2017
- [Israel's Travel Ban: Knesset Bars Entry to Foreigners Who Call for Boycott of Israel or Settlements](#), *Haaretz*, 7 March 2017

## 5. Palestinian Prisoners' Hunger Strike

- [Red Cross urges for solution to Palestinian hunger strike](#), *Xinhua News Agency*, 26 May 2017
- [Israeli Prisons Relent on Palestinian Strikers' Meetings With Lawyers](#), *Haaretz*, 4 May 2017
- [Palestinians, Israelis Protest against Suspension of Visits to Prisoners](#), *Latin American Herald Tribune*, 30 Apr 2017
- ['Day of Rage' protests across West Bank in support of hunger strikers](#), +972, 28 Apr 2017



## 6. Land Day

To mark Land Day on 30 March, Adalah released a [newsletter](#) highlighting the tragic events of 1976 and examining the land and housing rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel under threat. Adalah also participated in a [Land Day Webinar hosted](#) by the Adalah Justice Project, which examined the land, housing and planning rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation. The webinar featured Suhad Bishara, Senior Attorney and Director of Adalah's Land & Planning Rights Unit.

- [As Israel's Arab Home Demolitions Surge, A Non-Profit Group Proudly Takes Credit](#), *Forward*, 30 Mar 2017
- [Adalah: 41 years on, Israel persists in discriminatory policies against Palestinian Arabs](#), *Wafa*, 30 Mar 2017
- [Thousands commemorate Palestinian 'Land Day'](#), *AFP* (via *Gulf Times*), 30 Mar 2017

## **7. Jewish Nation-State Bill**

New legislation to cement the definition of Israel as a state belonging exclusively to Jews around the world, and which defines Israel as the “national home of the Jewish people”, passed its first vote in the Israeli parliament in May 2017. Adalah received key coverage of its commentary on the bill.

- [Israeli parliament to hold vote on controversial 'Jewish State bill' next month](#), *Ma'an*, 27 Aug 17
- [Jewish Nation-State Bill: Israel's Precarious Identity Is Palestine's Nightmare](#), *Telesur TV* (Spain), 16 May 2017
- [OP-ED by Adalah Attorney Sawsan Zaher /Israel's Message to Its Palestinian Citizens: Jewish Rights Are Superior](#), *Haaretz*, 11 May 2017
- [Knesset's new bill 'portrays racism as entirely normal'](#), *Al Jazeera English*, 11 May 2017

## **8. Israel's policy of holding the bodies of killed Palestinians**

- [High Court Orders Israel Police to Return Bodies of Temple Mount Attackers to Families](#), *Haaretz*, 26 July 2017
- [High Court orders police to return bodies of Temple Mount killers](#), *Times of Israel*, 26 July 2017
- [Video of Al-Aqsa attack made public as Adalah calls for release of Palestinians' bodies](#), *Ma'an News Agency*, 20 July 2017
- [Adalah: Erdan's bill to let police hold bodies of Palestinians violates international law](#), *Wafa*, 13 November 2017
- [Israel's High Court Orders State to Release Body of Bedouin Driver Who Ran Over Cops](#), *Haaretz*, 24 Jan 2017

## **9. Revocation of citizenship and/or residency status**

- [Breaking Precedent, Israel's Top Court Says Terrorist Can Keep His Citizenship for Now](#), *Haaretz*, 30 October 2017
- [Depriving Palestinians of residence will amount to 'war crimes', HRW warns Israel](#), *AP* via *The Nation*, 8 August 2017
- [Israel to strip Arab attacker of citizenship for first time](#), *AFP* via *Daily Mail*, 7 August 2017
- [Israel has stripped citizenship from an Arab Israeli for the first time ever](#), *Independent*, 6 Aug 17
- [Why Stripping Non-Jews Of Their Israeli Citizenship Threatens Zionism](#), *Forward*, 14 Sept 2017
- [How Israeli citizens are becoming stateless](#), *Al Jazeera*, 31 August 2017
- ['Government strips 2,600 Bedouin of citizenship due to 'registration error''](#), *JPost*, 29 August 2017
- [Israel revokes citizenship of hundreds of Negev Bedouin, leaving them stateless](#), *Haaretz*, 25 Aug 17
- [Israel's expulsion of Jerusalem lawmakers overturned for now](#), *Electronic Intifada*, 14 Sept 2017
- ['The state can't negate residency of Jerusalemites working with Hamas in PA parliament'](#), *The Jerusalem Post*, 14 Sept 2017
- [Israel's High Court Overturns Recall of Hamas Legislators' J'lem Residency After 11 Years](#), *Haaretz*, 13 Sept 2017

## **10. Annexation of land and forced displacement in East Jerusalem**

- [Law Expropriating Private Palestinian Land Violates International Law say Rights Groups](#), *IMEMC News*, 24 Nov 2017
- [Rights groups say law expropriating private Palestinian land violates international law](#), *Wafa*, 23 Nov 2017
- [Report: Israeli Forced Displacement of Palestinians on Both Sides of the Green Line](#), *IMEMC News*, 12 Nov 2017
- [Israel plan to 'annex' settlements to Jerusalem violates international law](#), *ME Monitor*, 8 Nov 2017

## 11. Violations of freedom of expression rights (online)

- [How Israel is digitally policing Palestinian minds](#), *Al Jazeera*, 5 December 2017
- [Report: Cyber Unit's anti-incitement activity getting in the way of free speech](#), *JPost*, 18 Sept 17
- [Israel's 'Cyber Unit' illegally censors social media posts](#), *Arab Daily News*, 14 September 2017
- [Adalah says state cybercrimes department lacks 'legal authority'](#), *Jerusalem Post*, 14 Sept 2017
- [Israeli police conceal from detainees social media posts that led to their arrests](#), *Wafa*, 4 Oct 17

## Special media outreach activities

### **Documenting Protest**

Adalah staff undertook legal observation and documentation (primarily in Arabic and English) of a series of protests in Israel held during the reporting period. With this work, Adalah sought to inform the protesters that its lawyers were present and/or available to assist in any legal representation needed, and to raise awareness about protest activities.

**Home demolitions/police violence:** In January 2017, Adalah observed and documented a protest in Ar'ara against police violence and home demolitions. Live video postings from the scene [here](#), [here](#).

**Police attempts to curb protest:** In February 2017, Adalah observed and [documented](#) a protest by Palestinian Arab high school students in Haifa who were [subject to police threats and intimidation](#).

**Solidarity with hunger-strikers:** In April 2017, Adalah staff observed and [documented](#) a protest in support of hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners at Megiddo prison. On 22 May 2017, Adalah staff [observed and documented](#) a protest convoy between Megiddo and Kishon prisons and a Haifa protest march in support of Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike.

**March of Return:** In May 2017, Adalah observed and documented the March of Return in Kabri. Live postings from the scene: [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

**Al-Aqsa Shooting:** In July, 2017, Adalah observed and documented both the Old City and the al-Aqsa compound in Jerusalem, following the July 2017 al-Aqsa shootings. Photos available [here](#) and [here](#)



**Naqab tour for Haaretz editors:** In April 2017, Adalah led a day-long guided tour of the Arab Bedouin villages of Umm Batin, Hura, and Atir-Umm al-Hiran providing in-depth background for editors and journalists from Haaretz's print and online editions involved in coverage of these issues.

## **Social Media Content**

### *Graphics*

Adalah produced more than 50 memes and infographics for distribution via social media channels, dealing with a number of issues including:

- [WZO's management of state lands](#), Jan 2017
- [Social welfare benefits denied to families of Palestinian minors charged with stone throwing](#), Jan 2017
- Settlement Validation Law, Feb 2017 – [One](#) and [Two](#)
- Public Security Minister [Erdan's incitement against Palestinian citizens](#), Feb 2017
- [Muezzin Law](#), Feb 2017
- [Minister Uri Ariel describes Bedouin citizens as "foreigners"](#), Feb 2017
- [Israel plans to build dozens of new homes in Arab village facing severe housing shortage--and offer them to non-residents](#), March 2017
- Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike, Apr 2017 – [One](#) & [Two](#)
- [On overcrowding in Arab high school](#), Apr 2017
- [MKs must be allowed to visit hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners](#), May 2017
- [The ILA has no legal authority to author lands to Israelis in West Bank settlements](#), May 2017
- [Israeli police violated their own open-fire regulations when they shot Mahdi al-Saadi dead in Jaffa](#), August 2017
- ['No non-Jews allowed' in Hiran](#), August 2017
- [Israel's 'cyber unit' is operating illegally](#), Sept 2017
- [Connecting Wadi el-Na'am schools to the electricity grid](#), Sept 2017
- [Israel won't let this Palestinian Christian grandmother visit her father's grave](#), Nov 2017
- [Israel broke its promise to bus Bedouin kids to preschool](#), Dec 2017

### *Commemorating International Days*

- Adalah marks International Women's Day with series of six memes, March 2017 – [One](#), [Two](#), [Three](#), [Four](#), [Five](#), [Six](#)
- Adalah marks International Day for the Elimination of Racism with six memes, March 2017 – [One](#), [Two](#), [Three](#), [Four](#), [Five](#), [Six](#)
- Adalah marks Palestinian Prisoners Day with series of four memes, April 2017 – [One](#), [Two](#), [Three](#), [Four](#)
- Adalah marked International Human Rights Day with the following satirical video, December 2017 -[One](#)



### *Special Projects*

**Freedom Bound:** Adalah cooperated with Visualizing Palestine on a series of six data visualizations in May 2017 as part of its upcoming US exhibition, "Freedom, Bound", which highlights the impact of inequality on Black Americans and Palestinian citizens of Israel – [One](#), [Two](#), [Three](#), [Four](#), [Five](#), [Six](#)

**Zero Accountability and No Crime Happened Here:** Adalah and Al Mezan cooperated with Visualizing Palestine on producing a series of visuals to commemorate the third anniversary of the 2014 attack on Gaza in July and August 2017. [Zero Accountability](#) / [No Crime Happened Here](#)

**The Faces Behind the Cases:** On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in November 2017, Adalah launched a new visual media project. The collection features photos and first-hand accounts by those Palestinian citizens of Israel and the West Bank and Gaza directly impacted by discriminatory Israeli policies. [One of the photos](#) won a bronze prize in the Tokyo International Foto Awards, Editorial/Conflict category. [“The Faces behind the Cases”](#).



*Key statistics: Facebook/Twitter*

Adalah frequently updated its [trilingual websites](#) and maintained and updated its two Facebook pages (Arabic and Hebrew; and English). In 2017, Adalah saw an almost 14% jump in its number of Facebook followers – from 23,629 to 26,853. Adalah was more active than ever before on social media, including using a broad range of visual materials, which helped to increase awareness of Palestinian human rights issues among a wide audience, and especially youth.

- Adalah’s English [Facebook page](#) was liked 1,069 times during this period (5,725 on 1 January 2017 to 6,794 as of 12 December 2017).
- Adalah’s Arabic/Hebrew [Facebook page](#) was liked 2,535 times during this period (17,881 on 1 January 2017 to 20,416 as of 12 December 2017).
- On Twitter, Adalah’s [Arabic and Hebrew account](#) had 5,850 followers at the end of 2017, and its [English account](#) 1,859 followers.

*Online Publications*

*Newsletters: Adalah has about 13,000 subscribers*

- 12/10/2017 - [International Human Rights Day](#)
- 11/27/2017 - [International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: The faces behind the cases](#)
- 09/14/2017 - [Israel’s New Discriminatory Laws and Bills](#)
- 08/01/2017 - [This August, We are Freedom, Bound](#)
- 08/01/2017 - [Gaza War Three Years On: Still Zero Indictments](#)
- 03/30/2017 - [“These ruins were my family’s houses” - Land Day 2017](#)
- 01/13/2017 - [Freedom, Bound: Be part of our new exhibit!](#)



Dear Friends,  
Who said the Israeli Knesset doesn't care about human rights? Watch this video to learn how Israeli parliamentarians "protect" the human rights of Palestinians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.



As we mark the [70th annual International Human Rights Day](#) on 10 December, Israel's parliament continues to violate the rights of Palestinians in Israel and in the OPT.

*The Nakba Files*



Adalah launched the “Nakba Files” blog with the Center for Palestine Studies (CPS) at Columbia University On Nakba Day 15 May in 2016. “The Nakba Files” is a new online space for researchers and practitioners to explore the various dimensions of how the Nakba and the law come together, and how this continues to affect the daily lives of Palestinians in Israel and the OPT. Five new short essays were added to the blog in 2017:

- [January 2017: The day we were eaten like black goats](#)
- [February 2017: What does the Nakba mean to young Palestinians in Israel?](#)
- [February 2017: Palestinian legal activism, between liberation and the “desire” for statehood](#)
- [March 2017: Routine emergency in the jagged time of catastrophe](#)
- [May 2017: Israel aims new nakba-style weapon at Arab citizens](#) (republished from +972 Magazine) Explaining Israel’s Kaminitz Law and its role in streamlining the process of Arab home demolitions.

### Op-Eds

Adalah staff wrote and had published the following op-eds in 2017: Myssana Morany in *+972 Magazine*, [Israel aims new Nakba-style weapon at Arab citizens](#), 15 May 2017 (This op-ed also appeared in the influential foreign policy blog *LobeLog*).

- Sawsan Zaher in *Haaretz*, [Israel’s Message to Its Palestinian Citizens: Jewish Rights Are Superior](#), 11 May 2017
- Sawsan Zaher in *The Literature Magazine*, [The ongoing Israeli occupation and systematic racial discrimination against the Palestinian resistance](#), 11 October 2017 (Arabic)
- International Advocacy Coordinator Amjad Iraqi is a blogger with +972 Magazine. Selected articles relating to Adalah’s work in English include:
  1. [Assault on Palestinian man shows violent effects of police impunity](#), 25 Mar 2017
  2. [How the hunger strike could bring Palestinian prisoners back to the fore](#), 20 April 2017
  3. [The redundancy of Israel’s ‘Jewish Nation-State Law’](#), 12 July 2017

## V. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### **Staff Training/Capacity-Strengthening**

#### *Media/new media communications*

Adalah, together with Baladna-Arab Youth Organization, organized the following 6 media trainings for staff in 2017:

- 17 January 2017 – BBC Arabic journalist Firas Khateeb introduced staff to international Arabic media, editorial considerations, and perspectives on coverage.
- 31 January 2017 – Institute for Middle East Understanding (IMEU) Social Media Director Izzaddine Mustafa offered expertise on how to most effectively take advantage of our social media platforms.
- 28 February 2017 – Media consultant Adi Dagan led a one-day training on how to best approach Hebrew-language television news interviews, message building, and tips for handling reporters and presenting most effectively on camera.
- 9 March 2017 – Adi Dagan also conducted training for Adalah’s media and international advocacy teams on framing and messaging for U.S. target audiences.
- 13 June 2017 – Filmmaker Enas al-Muthaffar and multimedia specialist Sandra Anwar Al-Arja, both of whom work with the PLO-NAD Communications Department, led a workshop on how to produce advocacy videos that go viral: basic video dos and don’ts; effective production process/workflow; and best ways to promote online videos.
- 22 August 2017 – Adalah’s media teams traveled to Ramallah to hold meetings with three different Palestinian media outlets in the West Bank in order to increase our networking and communication with these important journalists.

The participants reported that a highlight of these activities was the practical sessions on media interview skills and media messaging and in particular how to deal with a hostile Hebrew media environment. In the future, Adalah wants to invest more in such training in order to further develop the media skills of Adalah's young lawyers. Another highlight was the fact that two of the speakers gave a window into the international English and international Arabic environments in terms of how journalists and editors think and work, and in which political contexts.



For the media teams, specific tips about how to improve our social media work, including “how to get the most from the posts” were very useful, and the media teams have been implementing these tips into their daily work. The media teams also learned a great deal about the process of conceptualizing and planning for producing videos that can go viral on social media, and Adalah's international media coordinator is working on a video protocol that Adalah can use in working on future videos that was heavily influenced by this training.

#### *Fundraising, monitoring and evaluation, human resources, institutional processes*

- Adalah's Office Manager Ms. Fathiyya Hussein participated in a two-day course in March and April 2017 on private donor and strategic planning for fundraising provided by NGO Catalystr.
- Ms. Hussein also attended course days on updates to labor laws (employer/employees duties and rights in NGOs), and salaries' programs, taxes, insurance and pensions (accounting and human resources) throughout the year.
- Adalah's International Advocacy Director, Rina Rosenberg, participated in NGO workshops in May and November 2017 held by Christian Aid (CA) on new techniques and tools for M&E that CA/Irish Aid will be strategy testing with partners. Ms. Katie Hesketh also participated in CA trainings on strategy testing and fundraising.
- In November 2017, Ms. Rosenberg also participated in a two-day outcomes reporting workshop for partners convened by Bread for the World.



#### *Information security and legal courses*

- Adalah's International Media Coordinator, Mati Milstein, participated in two training days on information security for individuals and organizations. He is helping Adalah and all staff to better protect our data, computers, phones from hackers.
- Adalah Attorney Mysanna Morany participated in a 4-week course on planning and building laws held by the Israeli Bar Association in October and November 2017.

## **Institutional Processes and Meetings/Board-Staff/General Assembly**

- Adalah's Board of Directors held three meetings in 2017.
- Adalah completed and published its *Organizational Manual* with updated information on organizational structure, our bylaws, job descriptions, work procedures, and the like in June 2017 (Arabic). An English version of the Manual will be completed shortly.
- Adalah's Board and staff held a full-day meeting in September 2017 for planning for the last quarter of 2017 and directions for 2018, and to discuss challenges facing the organization.



*Note:* Adalah planned a two-day workshop for the Board and staff in Ramallah on 7-8 December 2017 to continue discussing challenges and context analysis (from our meeting in September), finance matters, and to hold a General Assembly meeting. However, we had to cancel the meeting due to protests in Jerusalem and Ramallah, immediately following US President's Trump announcement concerning the status of Jerusalem. In January 2018, Adalah held a meeting for the General Assembly (GA), Board and staff in to discuss the "Jewish Nation State bill", to attend to GA finance and policy matters, and to elect/approve a new Board of Directors and Audit Control Committee.

## **Online Fundraising Campaigns**

Adalah continued to run three awareness raising and online fundraising campaigns on the Global Giving platform during 2017. They are:

[‘Save Umm al-Hiran’](#) (launched June 2015)

[‘Protect the Protest’](#) (launched December 2015)

[‘Make the Grade’](#) (launched September 2016)

In addition to these campaigns, Adalah issued two newsletters, seeking end-of-the-year donations:

[International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: The faces behind the cases](#) (launched November 2017).

[International Human Rights Day](#) (launched December 2017)

In 2017, Adalah raised about US \$13,000 from individual donors in response to these campaigns on Global Giving, and via PayPal from Adalah's Facebook pages and website. Adalah sent reports following up on these campaigns via Global Giving every three months. Through online fundraising, Adalah increased its outreach to a diverse group of supporters.

## **Strategic Partnership – Adalah Justice Project**

After an extensive research, consultation and application process, the Adalah Justice Project (AJP) was launched in January 2017 as an outgrowth of Adalah's US Programme over the last three years (2014-2016). AJP is a separate entity based in the US with a mission of shifting American attitudes and human rights policy concerning Israel/Palestine, particularly regarding the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel. AJP is fiscally sponsored by the Tides Center, which serves as its institutional home and provides 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable status for donations. Adalah and AJP work together on various US initiatives including awareness-raising on Palestinian citizens' human rights.

## **Board of Directors and Staff**

Adalah's Board of Directors is comprised of 7 people, 5 men and 2 women. They are professionals and leaders in the Palestinian community in Israel. Adalah's staff at the end of 2017 was comprised of 24 people, who worked in Adalah's offices in Haifa and Be'er Sheva.

### **Board of Directors 2017**

Hussein Abu Hussein, Advocate | *Chairman*  
Dr. Eman Abu Hanna-Nahas  
Odeh Bisharat  
Abed Alaziz Ibraheem, Advocate and CPA  
Nasim Shaqr, Advocate  
Salma Wakim, Advocate  
Khalid Dagash, Advocate

### **Staff 2017**



#### ***General Director***

Hassan Jabareen, Advocate, General/Legal Director, Director of the Civil and Political Rights Unit

#### ***Legal Department***

Suhad Bishara, Advocate, Director, Land and Planning Unit

Sawsan Zaher, Advocate, Director, Economic and Social Rights Unit

Marwan Abu Freih, Naqab Office Coordinator and Field Researcher (from May 2017)

Mohammed Bassam, Advocate, Civil and Political Rights Unit  
Fady Khoury, Advocate, Civil and Political Rights Unit  
Muna Haddad, Advocate, Economic and Social Rights Unit, then Civil and Political Rights Unit  
Mysanna Morany, Advocate – Land and Planning Unit  
Nadeem Shehadeh, Advocate, Civil and Political Rights Unit (through April 2017)  
Maria Zahran, *Freedom of Protest*  
Haya Abu Wardeh, Stagiaire (one-year post, through February 2017)  
Janan Abdu, Stagiaire (one-year post, through February 2017)  
Lubna Tuma, Stagiaire (one-year post, from March 2017)  
Kela Sappir, Law Student (from September 2017)

#### *Media and Public Relations Department*

Tom Mehager, Director of Media and Public Relations Department  
Mati Milstein, International Media Coordinator  
Raja Natour, Arabic Media Coordinator (through October 2017)  
Majd Kayyal, Arabic Media (freelancer)

#### *International Advocacy Department*

Rina Rosenberg, International Advocacy Director  
Soheir Asaad – Legal Researcher and *Nakba and the Law* (from June 2017)  
Katie Hesketh – Publications Coordinator  
Amjad Iraqi – International Advocacy and Projects Coordinator (through August 2017)  
Charles Morse – Resource Development Coordinator (from December 2017)

#### *Finance and Administration*

Ghassan Kharouba, CPA, Finance Director  
Fathiyya Hussein, Office Manager  
Basheer Salah - Accountant  
Shireen Zmorrd – Administrative Assistant (Haifa)  
Eman Elakmalat – Administrative Assistant (Naqab)  
Alia - Housekeeper

The bios of Adalah's Board of Directors and staff are posted on Adalah's website:

<https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/8300>

#### Staff Honors

Adalah's General Director, Hassan Jabareen, was awarded the Leibowitz Prize for public activism in March 2017. Yesh Gvul, a movement that opposes military service in the OPT, nominated Hassan for the award. The prize is named for Yesha'ayahu Liebowitz, who was a professor at Hebrew University, a public intellectual, and the author of a wide range of books on philosophy, human values, Jewish thought, and politics. He was an outspoken critic of the Occupation.

#### Interns

Three interns worked with Adalah during the period: Rawan Sheikh Ahmad, who is studying Communications at Haifa University; Rula Abu Zayyad, from the Transitional Justice Program of Hebrew University and Jonathan Cohen from Yale Law School in the US. We are grateful for their valuable work with Adalah.

## **APPRECIATION FOR DONORS**

We appreciate the generous contributions of dozens of individuals and the following foundations and agencies to our work:

Ford Social Justice Fund (USA)  
Open Society Foundations (USA)  
The European Commission  
New Israel Fund (USA and Israel)  
The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland)  
Bread for the World (formerly EED) (Germany)  
Christian Aid (Great Britain)  
Broederlijk Delen (Belgium)  
Sigrid Rausing Trust (Great Britain)  
UN Development Programme (UN)  
Medico International (Germany)  
Cultures of Resistance (USA)  
Human Rights and IHL Secretariat (Ramallah) (The pooled funds of Switzerland (the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)), Denmark (the Royal Danish Representative Office to the PA), Sweden (the Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sida)) and the Netherlands (Netherlands Representative Office to the PA)  
Columbia University

*The views expressed in this report are those of Adalah and do not reflect the official position of the European Union or any other donor to Adalah.*

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