

**Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council on the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem – 27 May 2021**

**Oral Intervention of: Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel**

**Speaker: Ms. Sawsan Zaher**

Madam President,

Over the past month Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians in OPT have suffered grave human rights violations by Israeli authorities.

Adalah's main concerns regarding Palestinian citizens of Israel are:

- Organized violence by extremist ultra-right-wing Israeli Jewish groups against Palestinian citizens and their property, with police protection and collusion
- Excessive use of force and violence by Israeli police against Palestinian peaceful protestors and mass arrests and detentions
- Incitement by Israeli government officials against Palestinian citizens, including by Prime Minister Netanyahu
- Selective enforcement of curfews and lockdowns against Palestinian citizens in mixed Jewish-Arab towns in Israel.

The Israeli police also announced on 23 May a mass arrest campaign aimed at repressing Palestinian dissent by employing thousands police forces to raid homes, to intimidate citizens and to “settle scores”.

These escalations come in the context of the 2018 Jewish Nation-State Basic Law, which enshrines in law the decades' long systematic, institutional discrimination and domination over Palestinians. It is crucial for this Council to address these root causes, so we call for a vote in favor of the proposed resolution, which for the first time, can inquire into the root causes of the conflict on both sides of the Green Line.