

## ***Israeli attorney general's press release regarding the Jewish Nation-State Law***

***[Adalah's unofficial translation from original Hebrew to English]***

Statement by the Israeli Attorney General

3 December, 2020

Greetings,

The Attorney General, Dr. Avichai Mandelblit, submitted to the High Court [The Israeli Supreme Court] the state's response to 15 petitions filed demanding the repeal of the *Basic Law of Israel - The Nation State of the Jewish People* (the "Nationality Law"). In his response, the attorney general clarifies his firm opposition to judicial intervention in the Nationality Law, which adds another chapter to the emerging constitution of the State of Israel.

In the attorney general's position, the petitioners did not provide a suitable legal and factual basis, even approximately, which establishes the unprecedented remedy of repealing a Basic Law, and therefore the petitions should be rejected. This conclusion is based on an individual analysis of the petitioners' claims, which delves into all the material difficulties and defects inherent in the petitioners' claims, in relation to: the doctrine of an unconstitutional constitutional amendment; the doctrine of abuse of constitutive authority; and to individual claims regarding various sections of the Nationality Law itself. In light of the aforesaid analysis, the attorney general clarifies that there is no room for an exceptional and precedent-setting decision regarding the doctrines dealing with judicial review of the Basic Laws.

As for his proper interpretation regarding the Nationality Law, the attorney general clarifies that the Nationality Law enshrines in the Basic Law the components of the national identity of the State of Israel as a Jewish state, thus carrying a very important constitutional message, while granting constitutional status to the state's vision as the nation state of the Jewish people, yet does not detract from the individual rights of every person in the State of Israel, regardless of religion or nationality.

On behalf of the Attorney General and those representing the state in this petition, the director of the High Court department of the State Attorney's Office, Adv. Anar Hellman, and Adv. Ran Rosenberg, from this department.