

LIST OF INVITED ISRAELI NGOs

“INSTITUTIONALISED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL”

**Visit to Brussels of Israeli NGOs –Jewish and Palestinian
working on the rights of the Palestinian minority in Israel
25-28 November 2002**

Invited NGOs

Adalah, the Arab Association for Human Rights, Ittijah, Mossawa, Regional Council for Unrecognized Villages in the Negev, Shatil, Sikkuy

Organisers

Aprodev -Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organizations in Europe
Associazione per la pace –Association for Peace
ASF -Avocats sans frontières
CIDSE Coopération internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité
ECCP -European Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine
EMHRN -Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network
FIDH –International Federation for Human Rights
OMCT –World Organisation against Torture
SOLIDAR
WCC –World Council of Churches

With the support of Members of the European Parliament

Mrs. Alima Boumédiène-Thiery (Verts / ALE)
Mrs. Lousewies van der Laan (ELDR)
Mrs. Luisa Morgantini (GUE / NGL)
Mr. Jannis Sakellariou (PSE)
Mrs. Ulla Sandbæk (EDD)

*This event can take place especially thanks to the financial support of the FIDH
Through a special programme mainly financed by the European Commission*

List and description of invited NGOs

*People who will be part of the delegation

1) ADALAH

The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

Adalah (*Justice* in Arabic) is the first non-profit, non-sectarian Palestinian-run legal center in Israel. Established in November 1996, Adalah serves the Palestinian community nationwide, over one million people or 20% of the population.

Adalah's legal work draws on Israeli law, comparative constitutional law, and international human rights standards. The main goal of Adalah's work is to achieve equal rights and minority rights protections for Palestinian citizens of Israel. Our eight fields of interest are cultural and language rights, education rights, religious rights, land and housing rights, political rights, prisoners' rights, Palestinian women's rights, and social and economic rights.

For more information, see <http://www.adalah.org/>

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2) ARAB ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HRA)

The Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA), founded in 1988 by lawyers and community activists, is an independent, grassroots, non-governmental organization (NGO), registered in Israel. HRA works to promote and protect the political, civil, economic, and cultural rights of the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel from an international human rights perspective. HRA holds a unique position locally and worldwide as an indigenous organization that works on the community, national and international levels for equality and non-discrimination, and for the domestic implementation of international minority rights protections. Over the years, HRA has conducted local community and international campaigns to raise awareness, understanding, and respect for human rights and democratic principles; monitored violations of human rights and published and distributed reports documenting abuses; initiated and participated in local NGO coalitions concerned with the rights of prisoners and

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administrative detainees, land and housing rights, women's rights, and networking; facilitated community human rights education programs and events; provided legal assistance; advocated before United Nations bodies; and organized and participated in local and international training workshops and conferences.

For more information, see <http://www.arabhra.org>

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3) ITTIJAH

Union of Arab Community based Organisations

Ittijah (*Direction*), the Union of Arab Community Based Associations in Israel, is the umbrella organization for Palestinian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working inside Israel. Founded in 1995, Ittijah was created in response to a clear and widely expressed desire and need for increased cooperation and collaboration among the Arab NGOs in Israel. Ittijah works to fulfill the sectorial needs of these various organizations and to define the role of NGOs in relation to political parties, local councils and other Arab public bodies and civil society institutions.

The Arab NGO sector is the first movement to break the state-imposed isolation of the Arab community and to establish relationships internationally. Palestinian NGOs (PNGOs) operating in Israel have taken a central and critical role in providing services not offered to the full extent by the government. PNGOs work in the areas of health, education, the environment, legal and political rights, social change, human rights, housing, unrecognized villages and issues concerning culture and women's status.

For more information, see www.ittijah.org

Contact:

Ittijah

Union of Arab Community based Organisations

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4) MOSSAWA CENTER

The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens of Israel

Mossawa, The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens of Israel, was founded in 1997. In Arabic, Mossawa means "equality" and the Mossawa Center's mission is to promote equal rights for the Arab citizens of Israel. As non-profit organization working on behalf of Arabs in Israel, the Mossawa Center strives to improve the social, economic and political status of Arab citizens of Israel, while preserving the national and cultural rights as Palestinians. Mossawa focuses on the status of women within Palestinian society, and works to forward women's equality in spheres of society.

Contact:

Mossawa Center

The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens of Israel

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5) REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR UNRECOGNIZED VILLAGES IN THE NEGEV

The Regional Council of the Bedouin Palestinian Unrecognized Villages in the Negev was established in 1997 as a community movement (grass roots representation) for Palestinian Bedouin equality in the Negev.

For more information, see <http://www.arabhra.org/rcuv/regional.htm>

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Regional Council of unrecognized villages of the Negev

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6) SHATIL

A Project of the New Israel Fund –Promoting Equality and Social Justice for all Israelis

The New Israel Fund is a philanthropic partnership of Israelis, North Americans and Europeans that works for equality and social justice for all of Israel's citizens.

Since its founding in 1979, NIF has granted more than \$120 million to more than 600 organizations in Israel - organizations dedicated to safeguarding civil and human rights, bridging social and economic gaps, and fostering tolerance and religious pluralism.

NIF has played a key role in placing unrecognized and unpopular issues on the public agenda - from promoting the status of Ethiopian Jews and other immigrants to establishing battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers, including special programs for Orthodox and Arab women. It supports a range of economic development and training initiatives for immigrants, Arabs, women, disabled citizens and other populations.

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7) SIKKUY The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality

Sikkuy is a non-partisan Bi-National Jewish-Palestinian advocacy NGO that develops and implements projects designed to advance equality between Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel in government budgets, resource allocation, hiring policy, land usage and more. Sikkuy is jointly governed by a Palestinian and Jewish co-chairman and jointly managed by a Palestinian and Jewish co-directors. Its projects include: The Sikkuy Report – Monitoring Civic Equality between Palestinian and Jewish Citizens of Israel; Affirmative Action and fair representation; Quality Palestinian Municipalities; Civic Action Groups; Advancing Palestinian Women in Local Government; and the Information Center for Effective Advocacy (ICEA). For more information, see www.sikkuy.org.il.

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The Group will be accompanied by the Aprovev Consultant

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Established in 1979, MATTIN is a not-for-profit economically-focused rights and development partnership based in Palestine. Its policy research and consulting team, the "MATTIN Group", promotes, and then assists partners to plan and execute projects conceived to generate specific human rights and economic development dividends.

The MATTIN Group's activities, network of partners and internal expertise span the disciplines of business and export development, international trade and trade policy, public international law and classical human rights. Its project partners include Palestinian and international NGO's, Palestinian public institutions and private businesses, and foreign and international development agencies.

Projects may take the form of:

- innovative business activities which attempt to resolve technical or policy-based impediments to job creation and the exercise of fundamental economic rights;
- research and advocacy activities which seek to challenge governmental policies and practices infringing on those rights, or to promote progressive policy development; and
- public purpose institutional development projects that strengthen the capacity of Palestinian target groups to exercise and benefit from their rights.

Each project is established and implemented in cooperation with one or more partners under a mutually-agreed action plan and system of management and oversight.

The MATTIN Group's business and public purpose institutional development activities are funded by fees charged to clients. Advocacy and policy research activities are grant-supported, client-financed or self-financed.