



مركز مساواة  
لحقوق المواطنين  
العرب في إسرائيل  
(ج.م)

מרכז מוסאווה  
לזכויות האזרחים  
הערבים בישראל  
(ע.י)

Mossawa Center  
The Advocacy  
Center for Arab  
Citizens of Israel

## Main findings of the Mossawa Center's Racism Report 2009

Almost every day another citizen in Israel becomes a victim of racist action. Most of these victims are Arab citizens. In total the report documents 271 cases of racist actions that have been classified according to different categories. This report confirms the data with media and police publications. Most documentation refers to events and not to victims personally. The total number of victims is much larger than the total number of events that have been documented.

The regional conflict and the ongoing withdrawal from human rights values have promoted a separation mentality inside the Green line. The massive use of violence that has been documented in the Occupied Territories in the last 8 years has incrementally affected the human rights of those inside the Green line. This report is not dealing with the documentation of human rights violations in the 1967 Occupied Territories; other Palestinian and Israeli organizations are doing this documentation.

The following report is alarming and the implications of the ongoing tensions and confrontations taking place in different locations should be combated with action to challenge the crisis. Civil confrontations have been documented for the second time in the last 8 years. Since October 2000 there have been no majority-minority confrontations until the violence that hit Acre in October 2008. These confrontations create separation between communities that used to live in coexistence for years. The Acre confrontations affected the daily lives of Arab citizens and will affect the social and economic and cultural realities in the future. In addition to Acre, the police and this report document organized groups that have been involved in attacks against civilians in Jerusalem, Tiberias, Nazareth Illit, Carmiel and other cities. Some of these groups have been arrested.

This report is a mirror of reality in Israel and should be used to create programs and strategies to challenge the reality on the ground. It will be presented during a conference that will take place in Acre on March 21<sup>st</sup>. We hope that working groups of civilians and civil society organizations will create short and long term work plans to fight racism. We are happy that both Jewish and Arab organizations are involved in this discussion around racism and the fight against racism. The following findings are:

### **42 Arab citizens have been killed in the last 8 years since 2000**

In only one incident a police officer was convicted for killing an Arab citizen. He was sentenced to 6 months in prison. Another police officer that was accused of killing an Arab citizen is continuing to serve in the police force, receiving support from the commander of the police. The trial of a further two police officers who were charged with murder is still continuing since they began in 2006. Even though the testimonies have already been completed, the judges have been delaying a final decision for almost half a year. The thirteen families of those citizens that were shot during the demonstrations of October 2000 are still waiting for justice. There are clear recommendations regarding these cases by the official investigation committee, the Or Commission. These recommendations have been unimplemented by the General Attorney.



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Two Jewish citizens who killed Arab citizens were admitted to mental hospitals by a court ruling and declared unfit to stand for trial. Four years after Natan Zadah killed four Arab citizens on a bus in Shefaram, the police and the Attorney's Office continues to investigate his death even though they never investigated the system that enabled him to commit these murders. Zadah was a soldier and the weapon he used was issued by the army. Fifteen inhabitants of Shefaram have been investigated and arrested on suspicion that they killed Zadah. Four citizens of East Jerusalem that have been involved in attacks using bulldozers have been shot and killed and were repeatedly shot even after they were clearly paralyzed. The killing of these 4 has not been investigated.

The report shows 17 cases of Arab citizens that have been attacked and injured by police or security forces; this is an increase of 300% since 2008. Some of the most severe cases led to the opening of investigations by the Department of Investigations of Police in the Ministry of Justice. During the 2009 war in Gaza, an increase was recorded in the frequency of police violence and number of detentions. The police reported that 700 Arab citizens were arrested during the month of the war. Only a small number of them were issued indictments.

### **70 incidents of racist violence that occurred was perpetrated by Jewish citizens**

The most dramatic increase in racist incidents was perpetrated by Jewish citizens. There was an increase of 1000% from the previous year. The Mossawa Center's report is based on field research and documenting police reports on these events. Most attacks resulted in direct damage to human beings and/or properties. The total number of the affected persons, as a result of these physical attacks is much larger than the number of incidents that have been documented. Over 80 people have been evacuated from their houses in 15 different cases that have been documented by the Mossawa Center in the October 2008 events in Acre. In a large portion of the incidents, the victims were repeatedly injured. The police arrested an organized group of young people who committed physical attacks against Arab inhabitants in the cities of Jerusalem, Tiberius and Nazareth Illit. The police failed to prevent massive confrontations that have been taking place and, to date have failed to arrest a group of youth that have been organizing attacks against citizens of Acre and Carmiel.

### **29 events of racial incitement**

Racial incitement continues against Arab citizens led by Knesset Members, rabbis and other public figures. This year saw an increase in incitement against Arab citizens during the war in Gaza and during the build up to the elections by using mass media to promote racial incitement. The Central Elections Committee failed to prevent the use of racial incitement during the election period.

### **39 racist incidents during football games**

Whoever thought that racism stops with Arabs is incorrect. It's enough to arrive at the football field in Israel to hear insults and shouts against players who have dark skin in order to understand that there are no borders to racism. We are still in the middle of the season and already there has been an increase in the recorded incidents relative to the previous year, with 39



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cases in the 2009 report, while the 2008 report recorded 32 cases in total. The detailed report of racism in football is based on facts documented and published by the New Israel Fund in cooperation with the Football Union.

### **15 incidents of racial profiling and discrimination in services**

The data shows a drop in the reports of discrimination on entrance to public places including businesses and in public services. The court will fine businesses in cases of discrimination on the basis of race. Accordingly nightclubs that discriminate upon admission have been fined. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor was the first to establish a Commission for Equal Rights in Employment. The Commission has already acted against incidents of discrimination in employment. It is also important to note that the legal cases on racial profiling in airports is backlogged in the Supreme Court.

### **10 incidents of religious discrimination**

Also in this subject there has been some stabilization relative to previous years. A portion of the incidents that were recorded in previous years received legal support. The incidents include destruction of cemeteries, and insulting Christians and Muslims, including burning holy books. Accordingly it's important to mention that the Jewish neo-Nazi groups that operated against State institutions were prosecuted.

### **12 discriminatory legislative bills**

The previous Knesset issued a larger number of discriminatory bills than the previous year. Due to the early national elections, many of these bills, which would effect human right violations, were suspended. Yet the Supreme Court judges hesitated to make decisions to disqualify the 2003 temporary Citizenship law, which has been renewed every six months. The government's continuation to renew this law negatively affects thousands of families each year.

### **23 cases of delegitimation of Arab political leaders**

There is a continuing trend of delegitimation of Arab political leaders in Israel. Minority leaders, including Jewish leaders, around the world receive minority rights protection by the legal system. On the other hand, Israeli political leaders, the government, the police and government legal advisors use the demographic threat to force their political positions on Arab minority leaders, for example laws which forbid Arab leaders from visiting Arab countries which don't have diplomatic relations with Israel, and accepting the Jewish identity of the State as terms to run for the Knesset. Investigations of Arab leaders for allegedly breaching these terms are frequent. These investigations are readily launched against Arab leaders. The targeting of national minority political leaders delegitimises the communities they represent. In the month during the war in Gaza and days before the election, the police and the security service issued a series of arrests signaling a warning for local leaders of the Arab community. For the third time since the early 1990s the Central Elections Committee (CEC) disqualified two Arab political parties from participating in the national elections. This decision was overruled by the Supreme Court, still the CEC decision created delegitimation of, and anger amongst the Arab community.



## 14 incidents of racism against Jews

Also in this field, the Mossawa Center recorded a rise in racism against Jews by 150% relative to the last year. Basically the racist environment is directed at Russian and Ethiopian immigrants. There is a phenomenon that exists in racial profiling in nightclubs against the Mizrahim (Oriental Jews). The silence towards racism against Arabs will serve to fuel and legitimize racism towards other groups. For example discrimination of homosexuals has continued, despite court rulings in the past several years in favor of the rights of this group.

In conclusion we call on citizens and organizations to take responsibility and act against racism and discrimination. The report has defined the most unequivocal cases and has refrained from presenting questionable cases. This shows that the report presents a dire situation which demands action.

### Summary of Mossawa's finding regarding incidences of racism and incitement in the 2008 and 2009 reports

Type of activity	2008 Report	2009 Report
Police violence causing the death of Arab citizens since October 2000	41	42
Police violence against Arab citizens	6	17
Attacks on Arabs by Jewish citizens (including affected families in Acre)	7	70
Racial incitement	27	29
Offences on grounds of religion	8	10
Discrimination in public services	26	15
Racism in football	32	39*
Delegitimation of the political leadership	15	23
Discriminatory bills in the Knesset	12	12
Racism against immigrants from different ethnic backgrounds	6	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>271</b>

\* Only until March 2009