



Midyear Activity Report 2016

Mission

Founded in 1972, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) is the only organization addressing the entire spectrum of rights and liberties in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) under its control.

As an independent and non-partisan organization, and as the largest and oldest human rights organization in Israel, ACRI's mandate is to ensure full accountability and respect for human rights by addressing violations in Israel and in the OPT.

Operating in a democracy with no constitution, and set in a diverse and polarized society, ACRI plays an essential role by promoting universal human rights and defending the human rights and civil liberties of all persons, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic background.

A. Human Rights in Israel

ACRI's Human Rights in Israel legal Department addresses the full spectrum of human rights and civil liberties issues, and consists of five units: The Civil and Political Rights Unit; the Social and Economic Rights Unit; the Arab Minority Rights Unit; the Immigration and Status Unit, and the Public Hotline.

1. Civil and Political Rights

Damage to Civil Society: (A). ACRI turned to the Prime Minister regarding the government's responsibility for the 'witch-hunt' against human rights organizations (B). ACRI took part in the fight against the "Transparency" Bill, which seeks to mark organizations whose main funding comes from foreign entities. (C). ACRI requested to join as amicus curiae in the legal proceeding by the State Attorney against Breaking the Silence, which is demanding that the organization violate the immunity it granted soldiers who testified. We noted in our request that the demand constitutes grave harm to public interest. Despite the desire to advance investigations into a few isolated incidents, this step could hurt the organization's continued operations and that of all civil society organizations. We also turned to the Attorney General to demand the State Attorney rescind the proceeding.

Freedom of Expression: (A). ACRI continued litigation in the High Court of Justice to reduce the applicability of insulting a public servant as an offense. We are waiting for a ruling in the matter. (B). An order nisi was issued in the petition to annul the Press Ordinance requiring a license to publish a newspaper and gives the Interior Minister authority to shut down papers. As a result, the Interior Minister announced he decided to advance the annulment of the demand for a license, and transferred the authority to close

a newspaper for examination by the Attorney General. We are waiting for legislation to move ahead. (C). ACRI joined as amicus curiae the SLAPP submitted by a wedding hall against a couple who wrote negative criticism about the hall on a consumer website. Our appearance in the hearing helped convince the plaintiff to dismiss the suit and compensate the defendant. (D). We demanded the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Justice to annul disqualification on the novel *Borderlife* from the high school literature curriculum. We were informed the novel would be permitted within the framework of expanded literature studies on the basis of the teacher's discretion. (E). We demanded the Ministry of Education provide permission of employment to a teacher despite there being an open investigation against him after he was arrested for protesting Operation Protective Edge. The teacher was given a permit as a result of our appeal and the Ministry of Education notified the protocol in this matter would be sharpened.

Right to Protest: (A): Following an appeal ACRI submitted against Haifa University regarding its move to suspend all public activities on campus, the University amended its regulations, which substantially limits the President's discretion, determines an obligation to publish and explain the decision, and restricts the duration of the suspension of activity. The court validated the amended regulation. (B) ACRI filed a petition along with four activists who protested the gas deal against police imposition of unlawful conditions on those who apply for licenses to demonstrate. The condition requires that organizers accept criminal responsibility for any disturbance or prohibited behavior by participants of the demonstration. The police agreed that the condition is illegitimate and illegal, and it undertook to terminate it. As a result the petition was dismissed. (C) ACRI filed a petition to the High Court of Justice to demand the Police Force fulfill its legal obligation to consistently publish the permits it issues for demonstrations and the decisions to cancel the permits. (D) ACRI's legal proceeding against the Jerusalem Municipality regarding its restrictions on protests in its jurisdiction is ongoing. The court summoned the Attorney General to join the proceeding and we are waiting for him to submit his position.

Doco-Rights Project: In July 2015, ACRI began a new project called Doco-Rights with the goal of creating a center for documentation and information that can help demonstrators realize their right to demonstrate. ACRI held meetings with protest groups to publicize the project, and drafted and began to distribute the first ever rights guide on photographing and filming protests and on photographers' rights. We hosted six professional video workshops for activists. ACRI supported social protests, distributed rights guides and cameras at all of them, and our field coordinator was there to assist. In addition, we supported the "Slut Walk" in Jerusalem, helping in negotiations to get the police to waive stringent demands; we helped Green Course, which organized the Earth Day events in Haifa, to reduce restrictions the police and the city had imposed; we helped "female refuseniks against the occupation" and other protest groups.

Prisoners' Rights (A). An order nisi was issued in a petition ACRI filed to demand the State guarantee a minimal living space for prisoners. (B). ACRI provided comments on the governmental memorandum regarding administrative release, which does not ease overcrowding in prison facilities. (C). ACRI filed a petition against the Israel Prison Service's decision to bar visitation rights on Saturdays. (D). ACRI asked the Public

Security Minister to institute regulations on the rehabilitation of prisoners and were told they would be published soon.

Criminal Proceedings and Police Powers: (A) ACRI launched a public and parliamentary campaign to end the "Stop and Frisk" Bill that authorizes police officers to conduct strip searches on a person under in the absence of substantial suspicion. The version of the bill was significantly moderated and the circumstances for stop and frisk were restricted. (B) Proceedings are ongoing in ACRI's petition demanding the General Security Services stop summoning political activists for "warning conversations." The GSS submitted a confidential protocol regarding the summons for conversations solely to the court. We demanded to view it as well, and a hearing will be held in the coming month. (C). ACRI took part in composing a report of The International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO) regarding the use of non-lethal weapons by the police. Read the report by visiting the following link: <http://www.acri.org.il/pdf/Lethal-in-Disguise-INCLO2016.pdf> (D). ACRI turned to the military's Central Command following the disproportionate use of crowd control weapons during a home demolition in Taybeh. (E) We requested the Deputy Attorney General order the investigation of the police, who entered apartments of Arab youth without a warrant during a search for Neshat Melhem, who committed a terror attack on Dizengoff Street in January 2016. The Deputy Attorney General refused to get involved.

Privacy and Information: (A). Following ACRI's demand that the GSS cease compelling universities to hand over information on its graduates, the GSS announced it desisted. (B). ACRI is assisting the organization Akevot, which investigates the documentation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, regarding the restrictions on access to materials in the state archive, and has turned to the Israel State Archive to warn of significant lack of transparency in the changes made to the archive.

2. The Social and Economic Rights Unit

The Right to Live in Dignity and Combat Poverty: ACRI launched the "Change Due" Report addressing debt collection from debtors who live in poverty, together with a bill to annul the Tax Ordinance (Collection), which we drafted and MK Merav Michaeli (Zionist Union) submitted. The bill has garnered support across the political spectrum and following a hearing in the matter in the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, an inter-ministerial team has been formed that will recommend the steps necessary to gradually remove it. ACRI is also promoting a bill to protect vulnerable debtors (led by MK Yoav Ben Tzur from Shas) and a bill to reduce arrears interest (led by MK Merav Michaeli).

The Right to Electricity: ACRI continues to advocate for criteria for disconnecting impoverished members of the public from the electricity supply, and are members of the Israel Electric Company Consultation Forum for Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations. In addition to our work against disconnecting electricity we are also working to reduce electrical bills for low-income populations. To that end, ACRI filed a petition in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act against the Electric Company in order to clarify whether the discount currently provided is effective, whether the

relevant consumers are taking advantage of their right to a discount, etc. Following our petition, the Electric Company will hand over all key information.

The Right to Water: As a result of ACRI's advocacy, new criteria have been set for disconnecting people from the water grid, and no individuals have been cut off. ACRI is working on notes for a draft of guidelines for regulating water cutoffs within authorities that don't have a water corporation. In parallel ACRI drafted a bill (led by MK Uri Maklev from United Torah Judaism) that will expand the discount sum for water and the pool of customers entitled to a discount.

Welfare Services Rights (Foster Placement Proceedings): (A). ACRI filed a petition to the High Court of Justice demanding legislation regarding due process in custody committees held in welfare offices and local authorities. This legislation will ensure that parents are entitled to be present during custody hearings (inter alia, the right to be present during hearings, to receive materials in advance, the right to counsel, to receive the protocol and the right to appeal): (B). ACRI submitted comments on the Foster Care Bill and took part in the legislative proceedings. Changes were made to the legislation thanks to our input, for example the need to build a treatment plan for parents; changes that relate to identifying the entity that operates foster care services, and more.

The Right to Housing: (A): ACRI appeared before a special Knesset committee that discussed the National Authority for Urban Renewal Bill Law, in order to guarantee the rights of tenants to public housing within "Evacuation and Reconstruction" compounds. The committee recommended anchoring in law the right of tenants to choose to remain within the compound without it raising their rent or maintenance fees beyond the amount determined, as per our demand. (B) Following ACRI's success in petitions against the failure to include affordable housing in the national housing plans in Jerusalem, the National Housing Committee was forced to reconsider two plans. We appeared before the committee, which decided this time to include, for the first time, a plan for affordable housing (20% of the residential units for rent must be affordable, and 25 % of the apartments will be small).

Combatting Discrimination in Housing: (A). ACRI filed a petition against the Israel Lands Authority due to its refusal to apply sanctions against the Be'emuna Company, which markets housing solely to the national-religious public in Kiryat Gat, despite tender conditions that prohibit such discrimination. The petition also addressed a promotional video designed to send potential clients the message that the project does not welcome Mizrahim (Jews of Middle Eastern and North African descent). In response to the petition, the State announced the decision to impose, for the first time ever, a fine of NIS 323,000 on the real estate entrepreneur for the videos. We are still disputing the State regarding marketing solely to the national-religious public, and the court has yet to rule in the matter. (B). ACRI filed a petition against the Israel Lands Authority, which failed to impose a fee on the real estate company that refused to sell an apartment to an Arab family in Ma'alot-Tarshicha. The State agreed to resume the hearing with the tenders committee, and the court proceeding has concluded. We represent the family in this hearing, still ongoing, and are about to file a legal suit against the company through an external lawyer. (C) ACRI launched the program "Discrimination Under Scrutiny," to identify covert discrimination through testers. A coordinator and 11 volunteers were

recruited for the project. We are currently examining discrimination against Arabs, ultra-Orthodox and Ethiopians in commercial housing projects both proactively and as a result of complaints. Thus far, covert discrimination against Arabs was exposed in projects in Jaffa and Lod, and we are handling both matters.

The Right to Health: (A). ACRI submitted opposition to the memorandum to the government law, which plans to allow the health care providers to market life-saving and longevity drugs within the framework of supplementary insurance. (B). ACRI is working on a campaign regarding the right to a nursing and hospitalization fund to be launched in June 2016; (C). We turned to the Minister of Health, together with peripheral local authorities and civil society groups regarding the absence of criteria of time, distance and quality of life in rehabilitation services.

Equality in Education: We submitted a request to join as amicus curiae in the petition submitted by parents of students in the Tel Aviv School for Nature, who are demanding the school be allowed to resume conducting acceptance selection processes. We insisted on the prohibition of selection processes in Israeli state schools and the latent barrier it presents for underprivileged communities.

3. Arab Minority Rights in Israel

Planning, Land and Housing: A legal proceeding we have been overseeing since 2004 came to a conclusion when an agreement was signed between the State and the Jewish National Fund, determining that every citizen will have access to tenders for purchasing JNF land. However, the agreement includes a commitment by the State to compensate the JNF for selling land to Arabs. We have appealed to the Attorney General in this matter and intend to continue pursuing legal action.

Equality: (A). Following a petition we filed to make public libraries accessible to Arab residents of Nazareth Illit, the municipality met its obligation. Thus far, the city's central library has been made accessible and the City undertook to examine the addition of access to more libraries, as per the demand. The petition was dismissed as a result; the court ruled that the municipality is obligated to make its libraries accessible to Arab residents. (B) ACRI is currently preparing to file a petition against the Nazareth Illit Municipality and the Education Ministry for failing to provide schools that cater to Arab students (who constitute one third of the city's students). (C) We are continuing out litigation with the High Court of Justice regarding our demand for suitable representation of Arabs and women on the Israel Land Council.

Making Public and Government Services Accessible in Arabic: Several appeals have been made, among them: to the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality and to the Nazareth Illit Municipality, demanding to uphold the 2002 ruling that obligates cities to integrate Arabic into all signs; to the Ministry of Construction and Housing, demanding Arabic appear on the "price for new apartment owners" project website, which offers a lottery for new apartments at a discounted rate; to the Ministry of Transport, regarding accessible public transportation signs; to the Enforcement and Collection Authority regarding making websites and forms accessible and staffing jobs with Arab-speaking employees throughout the Authority's bureau in Haifa and Acre; to the Israel National

Institute for Testing and Evaluation regarding the translation of instructions into Arabic for matriculation exam takers.

Rights of the Bedouin Population in the Negev: (A) ACRI continues to advance planning processes and recognition of the Bedouin villages of the Negev, in cooperation with Bimkom, the Regional Council of the Unrecognized Villages in the Negev and the NGO “Sidra.” The project focuses on the towns: Avda, Meshulash Chava, Wadi Aricha, Wadi al-Na’am, Rahma and Um Matna’an. The project includes appearances before the planning entities, submitting planning oppositions and alternatives, and organizing support for advancing the process of recognition and building. (B) The hearing in the petition ACRI filed against the plan to transfer Wadi al-Na’am and link it to Segev Shalom, which led to the recommendation by planning entities to deviate from the plan and advocate its recognition as an independent town. The new plan has not been authorized yet, and the proceeding continues. (C) We are currently busy completing the interactive map that features the Bedouin villages in the Negev and the planning procedures relevant for each one. (D) Legal action to equip the Bedouin villages with bomb shelters. At this point authorities have not made any progress.

4. Immigration and Status Unit

Transparency in Immigration and Status Policy: (A). ACRI published a report called “The Labyrinth: Migration, Status and Human Rights” together with the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants and Physicians for Human Rights. It is a comprehensive examination of the depths of bureaucracy and proceedings required for regulating the status of non-Jews in Israel (B). After the Population Immigration and Border Authority (PIBA) launched a new website, ACRI demanded that it make its regulations accessible on its site. This sparked a dialogue with PIBA to improve the presentation and accessibility of its regulations.

Migrant Workers: (A). ACRI continues to conduct the legal proceedings initiated by Kav La’oved regarding bilateral relations for bringing in migrant workers. In addition, we fought against the government decision to bring construction workers from China without agreements and led a viral campaign that reached 150,000 views and was shared by hundreds. The importing of Chinese workers is currently frozen due to diplomatic difficulties. (B). We are overseeing the continued proceedings initiated by Kav La’oved regarding health care insurance for veteran nursing care workers. We lobbied heavily in the matter, but to no avail, and are preparing to file a new petition.

Asylum Seekers: (A). ACRI submitted a motion for contempt of court to the High Court of Justice based on the Ministry of Interior’s failure to take into consideration the last ruling in the petition against the Anti-Infiltration Law, regarding the detention of asylum seekers in the Holot facility for a period of less than a year. As a result, some detention periods were shortened and some of the detainees released. (B). We sent comments on a memorandum of the Anti-Infiltration Law published following the last ruling, and then the bill, and took part in lobbying efforts (including the promotion of alternative solutions and conducted meetings and tours for Knesset Members). The legislation was passed in February and the maximum detention period was limited to one year. (C). An order nisi was issued in our petition demanding the entry of food into Holot, and ACRI plans to file

several more petitions regarding the conditions in the facility. (D). An appeal we filed to the High Court of Justice together with other organizations demanding the annulment of the arrangement to forcibly expel asylum seekers from Eritrea, Sudan and Rwanda. (E) We demanded the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice hold a tender for the position of chairman of the advisory committee on refugees.

Children Without Status: (A). Within the framework of the “Israeli Children” project, we continue to track the implementation of the government decision to grant permanent residency status to children, their siblings and parents. ACRI provides case specific assistance to families who run into difficulties trying to renew their status and are working to expedite responses to families who are still waiting. We are utilizing all public means to try and get authorization for requests by families who have already been rejected. (B) We took part in the drafting of an investigative report that maps out the situation in pirated nurseries (unregulated daycare centers called “Babysitters”) in the migrant worker and asylum seeker community. We are working to guarantee the government’s budget allocation for the matter that has not yet been utilized will pass over from year to year. (C). ACRI took part in cooperation with additional entities to map out the obstacles to children’s registration for health care with HMO Meuhedet, and for meetings with “agents of change” members who are active in the community, as well as the publication of PR materials in various languages to expedite registration. (D) We are continuing our legal proceeding in the High Court of Justice demanding that the birth of every child in Israel receive proper documentation, and include details on the child and both his/her parents.

Detention, Expulsion and Punishment for Illegal Residency: (A). ACRI has protested the obligation that people released from custody must go to a distant and inaccessible office in Ben Gurion Airport. (B). We are working to obtain information on the conditions in the Yahalom Detention Facility in Ben Gurion Airport, which is where migrants and those refused entry to Israel are incarcerated; it is managed by the Population and Immigration Border Authority. (C). ACRI took part in legislative proceedings regarding the worsening of punishments for those who provide accommodation and employment to Palestinian workers without permits. Unfortunately our input was not taken into account, and the legislation was passed.

Fight Against Non-Citizenship and Denial of Status: (A). ACRI has been assisting three people denied citizenship in proceedings to regulate their status in Israel in order to identify problems and work to reform them. (B). Together with Adalah, ACRI responded to the government law memorandum regarding the request to make it easier for authorities to revoke citizenship for reasons of breach of trust. (C). Together with Adalah, ACRI expressed objection to the interior minister’s notice that he intends to revoke the citizenship of Alaa Ziyud, an Israeli citizen suspected of involvement in a terror attack. (D). ACRI presented the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee with an explanation of how the Ministry of Interior dispossesses Bedouin citizens who were registered for years as citizens. In response to their request to receive services, the Ministry determined they were actually permanent residents. (E). We continue to collaborate with HaMoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual in a legal proceeding in the High Court of Justice against revoking the residency of East Jerusalem residents because their “center of life”

has moved outside the city. (F) ACRI is still waiting on the High Court of Justice decision in the petition regarding the reinstatement of residency for East Jerusalem residents, whose residency was revoked due to their election to Palestinian parliament.

Regulating Status of Relatives: (A). An order nisi was issued in the petition we filed to the High Court of Justice demanding that naturalization proceedings of common-law partners to common-law spouses. (B). We are assisting a couple – an Israeli citizen and a Sudanese asylum seeker – with their request to have their status regulated as common-law partners in Israel without requiring documents from Sudan. (C). We are assisting a mother of two Israeli minors who was in an abusive partnership with an Israeli citizen to regulate her status in Israel.

Community Action, the Israeli Children Project: (A). An annual "Hanukah-Christmas" festival event for migrant families and Israeli families took place last year. Eight different migrant and asylum seeker communities took part. (B). A joint Purim event took place for migrant children and Israeli children in cooperation with the Levinsky Library. (C). ACRI continues to accompany the Inter Campus soccer team for migrant children and Israelis. (D). In cooperation with photographer Ziv Koren and students from the College of Management Academic Studies, 20 migrant couples who work in nursing were photographed with their employers. The exhibit, which seeks to make migrant workers visible, will be on display in July in Dizengoff Center. (E) We are in midst of preparing for the "Shukulinary – Around the World" Festival in partnership with the Farouk in the Shuk restaurant in Jaffa that will take place in June 2016. There will be food stands prepared by migrant works from various countries, concerts and dances from around the world, and artwork will be on sale.

5. Public Hotline

ACRI received over 1,000 inquiries during the first quarter of 2016. In most cases, ACRI provided information on the specific right that was violated and instructions on how to cope. In some cases, we refer individuals to fellow human rights organizations, legal clinics or the legal aid department. There are six volunteers and one employee responsible for calls in Arabic. English and Russian are also provided. The volunteers are overworked, but the recruitment of interns from the legal department in May 2016 is expected to ease the burden and contribute to a significant increase in the scope of assistance provided, and the possibility of providing assistance in additional matters.

B. Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

ACRI's Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) Department addresses violations of rights by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank through legal interventions and policy advocacy, and raises public awareness of those violations via education and public outreach. ACRI engages in legal interventions, policy advocacy and public outreach to address a wide range of rights violations in the West Bank, including forcible displacement of Palestinian residents of Area C, as well as to address rights violations by the authorities in East Jerusalem, including the failure to provide municipal services.

1. Excessive Use of Force – Shooting Terror Suspects

(A). ACRI turned to the Military Advocate General (MAG) following an incident in which three members of one family were shot to death after drawing knives. From the description and the IDF response as they appeared in the media, it was hard to assess whether the forces that shot were in a life-threatening situation. In March, the MAG responded that they are examining whether to open an investigation with the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division (MPCID) in this and other similar cases. (B). ACRI turned to the Attorney General following the killing of a 13 year old girl by a security guard in the settlement of Anatot. According to reports, the girl fought with her family and left the house armed with a knife and headed towards a settlement. She was shot dead by the guard as she ran towards him, but there was no warning shot or other precaution taken. ACRI noted in our letter that according to the IDF Spokesperson's data as published in *Haaretz*, that between October 2015 and January 2016 over 88 Palestinian terror suspects or suspects in attempted terror attacks in the West Bank were killed and 40 were arrested (information on Israel and East Jerusalem is unavailable).

2. The West Bank

In May an article on freedom of movement in the OPT was published in the Palestine Israel Journal. The entire issue is dedicated to different aspects of the two legal systems in the OPT. The journal editors utilized ACRI's report and consulted with us throughout the entire process in preparing the issue. Our Board member, Professor Aeyal Gross, who helped write the report, participated in a panel to launch the issue, which was also attended by diplomats and representatives of international organizations.

ACRI hopes the expansion of the debate and exposure will help raise awareness on these matters, which impact all aspects of daily life for Palestinians who live in the West Bank. ACRI continues to raise these issues at meetings with officials, respond to current affairs and publish opinion pieces (during this period we published three) in order to imprint the concept of two distinct legal systems as part of a regular context. In addition, we gave a lecture to legal trainees with ACRI and the Red Cross in April 2016, and we are now preparing a curriculum to present to teachers, lecturers and guides.

3. Area C: Access to Land, Water, Planning and Building and Freedom of Movement

Firing Zone 918: In January 2013, ACRI filed a petition against the State's plan to expel approximately 1,000 Palestinians living in rural villages throughout the area known as Firing Zone 918. At the start of February 2016, the mediation process – which lasted nearly 2.5 years, concluded without agreement. At the petition hearing in March, the State presented an offer for a new training ground in the area. We submitted our response in May, stating that the State's offer is worse than the ones it suggested during the mediation process. We requested again that the court issue an order nisi calling on the State to explain why it insists on expelling residents from their homes and land.

Access to Water: (A). In January 2016 ACRI filed a petition to have the Al Aqaba village connected to running water. The State requested several extensions for submitting its response. (B). In November 2015 we sent the Civil Administration a request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act regarding the policy of destroying wells. Despite several notices, we have still not received a response and we intend to file a freedom of information petition.

Planning and Building - Khirbet Zanuta: We continue to oversee our 2007 petition to the High Court of Justice regarding the intention to demolish the village of Khirbet Zanuta in the South Hebron Hills. In mid-May 2016, the State issued its response and we are working on a request for more details that will be submitted in the coming days.

Freedom of Movement: (A). ACRI continues to monitor and take actions regarding the restrictions on freedom of movement for Palestinian vehicles on Route 443. (B). ACRI sent a letter regarding the blocking of the Hawara axis road between Nablus and Ramallah. The blockades have recently been removed, but it is unclear whether it is due to our demands or because work to expand the road has concluded. (C). ACRI demanded the Israel Central Command remove the blockades around Ramallah, after one of the city's residents committed a terror attack. We argued that the policy of imposing closures on an entire town a terrorist is from is illegal. A day after sending the letter, the closure was removed. We also published an opinion piece on the subject in *Ynet*.

4. Arrests

Arrest Periods: Following ACRI's 2010 petition, in April the State submitted the court with an update declaring its intention to make additional changes to the military legislation, further reducing the arrest periods that apply to Palestinian minors and youth in the West Bank.

Arrests of Minors: In February we published a report summing up all the data on arrests of Palestinian minors in the West Bank since 2014. The findings are based on responses from the military and police to the freedom of information request we sent.

Administration Detention: At the beginning of January we sent the IDF Spokesperson a freedom of information request to clarify the scope of use of various administrative orders – arrest orders, restriction orders and supervision and demarcation orders. The IDF

Spokesperson response from March 2016 indicates a sharp rise in the use of administrative detention orders between 2013-14 and an additional spike in 2015.

Investigations Policy

(A). ACRI sent a letter to the MAG regarding the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division (MPCID) closing of an investigation into soldiers who stood idly by while settlers assaulted a Palestinian photographer. The case was closed due to insufficient evidence after the IDF Spokesperson refused to pass the footage in its possession to the MPCID. (B). ACRI sent a request for a copy of the investigation file against Colonel Shomer, who shot dead a 17 year old youth who threw stones, to examine the possibility of filing an appeal against the closing of the case.

5. East Jerusalem

Excessive Use of Force, Arrests and Selective Enforcement

Sponge-Tipped Bullets: ACRI collected 10 additional testimonies from residents who have been severely injured by black sponge-tipped bullets. In total, since July 2014, we compiled 35 testimonies. We continue to engage with the police and demand it stop using these bullets and investigate cases of injury and inappropriate use. In January we held a meeting with the Ministry of Justice and representatives of the Deputy Attorney General (criminal) in the matter. The representatives undertook to implement tight supervision over the police and demand it fulfill its obligation to report and investigate cases of inappropriate use of the sponge-tipped bullets. Data we recently received from the police in response to our request indicate widespread use of black sponge-tipped bullets in East Jerusalem; however the reporting and documentation on their use is deficient. As a result, we turned to the police and the Ministry of Justice to demand all the documentation and reporting protocol are implemented. This information also received extensive coverage in *Haaretz*.

Arrests of Children: In February ACRI published a position paper regarding arrests of children in East Jerusalem suspected of throwing stones and rioting. The document was published in Hebrew and English and a summary of it in Arabic. It was distributed at an Amnesty conference in Israel regarding the arrest of children and reached a wide spectrum of relevant diplomats, organizations and lawyers. The document was also widely covered in Arab media outlets.

At a meeting with the Youth Probation Service in East Jerusalem, we received data and information, especially regarding the difficulty in finding alternatives to arrests, considering the lack of appropriate frameworks. Following the meeting we sent a freedom of information request to the Ministry of Welfare and submitted a parliamentary inquiry with the help of MK Zahava Gal-On (Meretz) regarding the shortage of dormitories for Arab children in Israel. We recently received an answer. ACRI also received responses to our freedom of information requests regarding data on the arrests of children in East Jerusalem, and we are working on segmentation and analysis of the information.

Selective Enforcement: Following our appeal to the Attorney General to stop the urban enforcement used as a means for exerting pressure on the Palestinian population and based on black lists, we were informed that the Deputy Attorney General (legislation) has organized a meeting with the participation of relevant entities and that the matter is being handled.

Services and Infrastructure

Postal services: The Court issued an order nisi in our petition in August 2015 and since there has been a significant improvement in postal services at the central branch serving East Jerusalem residents. A computerized queue system was installed in all East Jerusalem post office branches. In March 2016 the Ministry of Communications notified the Court that in accordance with the Court directives, it will come up with a strategic plan for providing postal services in East Jerusalem by August 2016. Despite this, the Ministry does not appear committed to taking significant steps necessary to solve the crisis. During the reporting period we conducted comprehensive fieldwork to examine problems that remain in the postal system in East Jerusalem in preparation of our response to the court at the end of June 2016.

Water in the Shuafat Refugee Camp: In February there was an additional hearing in the petition, due to the lack of progress in solving the water crisis in the neighborhoods beyond the separation wall. The respondents undertook to begin renovating four central water mains in the neighborhoods within two months, but no solution was provided for connecting houses systematically to these four mains.

A February 18, 2016 Court decision determined that the renovation of these four water mains is just the beginning; the next step is connecting the residents to the pipeline. In addition, it determined that a solution must be found for residents' payment for the water supplied. During the reporting period we conducted a tour for senior representatives of the water authority and Gihon Water Company in order to show them the crisis the residents are suffering and discuss possible solutions. We also held three meetings with the water authority and Gihon Water Company to advance a pilot program for connecting several buildings to the water supply in a regulated fashion that collects payment for the water consumed. In April the work began to update the existing water mains, however progress is slow.

Education: Following our appeal to the Knesset Education Committee, a committee meeting was held in February on the shortage of classrooms in East Jerusalem, attended by director-general of the Jerusalem Municipality and other city representatives. At the meeting the municipality published data about the shortage of classrooms and expected developments. The committee chairman undertook to continue monitoring the situation.

Family Health Centers: Pursuant to our correspondence with the Jerusalem Municipality on the opening of additional family health centers, ACRI sent a reminder at the beginning of January. In its response, the municipality detailed the difficulties and invited us to a meeting. In February we met with the city supervisor for public health and infant services. We agreed on the opening of another family health center near the walls of the Old City and explained of the need for another one near the Shuafat Refugee

Camp. During the reporting period we sent two letters to the State Control Committee and attended a meeting the committee held in the matter.

Sanitation in Neighborhoods Beyond the Wall: One of the outcomes of the severe neglect of Jerusalem neighborhoods located beyond the separation wall is a highly deficient sanitation system where garbage collection is partial. We involved Adam Teva V'Din, an expert on the issue, along with Israeli activists in Jerusalem and oversaw tours of the neighborhoods, meetings with the residents and legal consultations. A petition in the matter is expected in the second half of this year.

6. Freedom of Movement:

Sawahreh Checkpoint: In May ACRI held a preliminary meeting, together with representatives of Palestinian residents from Jerusalem, with high ranking military and police officials regarding the severe problems with the operation of the checkpoint and the injuries caused to residents who pass through it. Fieldwork for examining the problems with the checkpoint preceded the meeting, along with two letters to Colonel Ofer Hindi, the head of the administration responsible for the separation barrier. It should be noted that all the meetings we had with Colonel Hindi over the last two years have been pleasant and led to some positive changes, like the creation of an open and accessible communication channel between ACRI and senior officials responsible for operating the checkpoint. This has in some cases enabled immediate solutions to new problems that arise.

Shuafat Refugee Camp Checkpoint: Pursuant to our appeal in January, a meeting was set up with commanders responsible for running the checkpoint, in which it was promised that immediate changes would be made to ease passage through the checkpoint. Our continuous monitoring indicates that while there are improvements to the conditions at the checkpoint compared with the overcrowding in 2015, the conditions are still not up to par and do not correspond to the commitments made to the High Court of Justice.

Temporary Blockades and Closures: In the last months of 2015, the police began setting up dozens of blockades at the entrance to Palestinian neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. The blockades led to severe disruptions of daily life for residents of the eastern part of the city. During the reporting period, ACRI produced a short film documenting the ramifications of the blockades in Issawiya and Jabal Mukaber. We plan to hold public advocacy work around the movie in an effort to demonstrate that “breathing closures” for weeks on an entire population is unacceptable and cannot be reconciled with basic human rights.

7. The Gaza Strip

Continued Work Following Operation Protective Edge: During Operation Protective Edge ACRI turned to the Attorney General regarding the IDF’s offensive policy in Gaza. The Attorney General rejects ACRI's claims of systematic violations of international law during Operation Protective Edge. We are considering how to proceed in light of this response.

8. The International Humanitarian Law Project

Pre-Military Preparatory Programs: During the reporting period ACRI conducted an intensive 10-meeting course, brief course of two double meetings and a one-time meeting at three different preparatory programs. In total, around 300 male and female (gender was distributed pretty evenly) pupils took part in the meetings.

Training for Legal Professionals in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): We held 48 training sessions attended by a variety of academics, human rights representatives and the military. Thirty legal professionals from civil society, the private and public sectors - including from the MAG and academia - took part.

Training Guides: We held ongoing training sessions for guides between February and April. In May a seminar for new guides integrated into ACRI will take place, including IHL guides. We are continuing work on developing and updating materials, among other things regarding the two distinct legal systems.

C. Human Rights Education

ACRI's department for Human Rights Education develops and disseminates pedagogical materials, conducts human rights trainings for educators, for youths and for others, and advocates for initiation and implementation of educational policies that promote human rights norms and democratic values. During the reporting period, six new guides and two new volunteers joined the department. ACRI held three meetings for instruction and training of the educational staff and two marketing workshops for the department's coordinators. There were also two external evaluation programs – for workshops in the Arab education system and the “Words Matter” project, which we are doing in partnership with the Adam Institute.

1. Pedagogical Materials

Marking International Day for the Elimination of Racist Discrimination (March 21): ACRI produced a lesson plan for grades 5 and 6 in Hebrew and Arabic, based on the book *Racism Explained to My Daughter*” by Tahar Ben Jelloun. The lesson plan was distributed in a special newsletter to the department's list, which includes thousands of educators.

Developing and Writing Materials on Human Rights in Arabic Suitable for Civics Studies: A project in partnership with the Monitoring Committee for Arab Educational Affairs and Arab academics who wrote materials on civics education, in response to the new and problematic civics textbook (which currently only exists in Hebrew).

Operating Workshop Site: An Educational Space for Democracy and Human Rights: The Educational Department website, in both Hebrew and Arabic, was being updated constantly in posts regarding the public agenda (International Women's Day, freedom of expression and censorship, Labor Day), as well as department projects

(“Words Matter,” “Equal but Different”) and conferences and events ACRI is involved in. Four newsletters in Hebrew and Arabic were sent out to educators during the reporting period.

In-Depth Civics Program: Designed for teachers of 9th graders. Dozens of schools across the country chose to implement this program.

“Words Matter:” An educational program promoting freedom of expression that includes teacher training and youth activism. It is currently offered in 15 schools within the framework of a two-year joint initiative with the Adam Institute.

2. Trainings, Workshops and Conferences

Training for Educators: During the reporting period we held workshops and continuing education programs for dozens of teachers and pedagogy students from both the Jewish and Arab sectors on freedom of expression and racism. The training sessions are held in schools, teacher colleges (Levinsky, Beit Berl and the Efrata Religious College of Education in Jerusalem) as well as other frameworks. We also presented the book *Life Lesson* to program heads at Kaye College. We hosted a conference with 300 students at the Kibbutzim College of Education ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Racist Discrimination. The head of ACRI’s Education Department appeared at three conferences at various colleges that addressed the problem with the new civics textbook.

Youth Programs: As part of the “Word Matters” program, a joint project with the Adam Institute, we organized a student seminar on activism regarding freedom of expression and against incitement to racism. Two hundred youth, 30 teachers and 18 Arab and Jewish schools participated. In the 2015-16 school year (ending in June 2016) ACRI is holding weekly workshops together with the Tel Aviv Municipality and the Cinematheque on freedom of expression and film. We also held 15 meetings on how to market educational programs and workshops to schools.

3. Policy Advocacy and Public Discourse

Promoting democratic values and fighting racism: ACRI issued a position paper on tolerance in teacher instruction, and used this in holding meeting at the Ministry of Education with the following decision makers: the mathematics superintendent, the director of Civics Education and Shared Society, and the superintendent for high school education in the Tel Aviv Municipality.

Coalition for Democracy Education and the Coalition for Shared Society; ACRI cooperated with the Monitoring Committee for Arab Educational Affairs, and featured in the “Keshet Ayin” magazine published by the Organization of High School Teachers. ACRI staff we were also interviewed on the radio speaking out against racism, the new civics textbook and Holocaust instruction in Arab education.

D. Public Outreach

ACRI’s Public Outreach department engages in public awareness-raising regarding important human rights issues in Israel and the OPT, and to provide information to the

Israeli public and beyond. This is done through a variety of tools, among them public advocacy in the Knesset, government and additional authorities, working with traditional and new media, and public advocacy campaigns. During the reporting period, ACRI hired a new Arabic spokesperson and a new media and campaign coordinator who replaced staff who left.

1. Human Rights Week, December 2015

Situation Report: To mark International Human Rights Day, ACRI published the Situation Report – our annual review of the human rights situation in Israel and the OPT. The report was custom designed for publication on the site and included infographics, and a summary was distributed to the media in Arabic and English. Around 500 print copies were sent to ministers, Knesset Members and senior officials in various authorities. The Situation Report is available at

<http://www.acri.org.il/en/2015/12/20/acri-human-rights-report-2015/>

Media: ACRI had 31 media appearances in Hebrew during Human Rights Week, which included publications of the Situation Report, articles on Human Rights Day, radio and television interviews and more. Our Human Rights Day Facebook Campaign included a series of infographics promoting our Situation Report and eight movies featuring leading opinion shapers (Mira Awad, Michael Lewis, Daphni Leef, Titi Aynaw, etc.) They each talked about human rights issues that matter to them. There were over 326,000 views and more than 1,000 likes on the ACRI Facebook page. The amount of people exposed to our content during Human Rights Week was close to 900,000. Videos are available at: <https://www.facebook.com/ACRI.hebrew/videos>

Knesset: As per ACRI's request, the Knesset marked Human Rights Week on December 15, 2015 with a series of discussions in the committee and a special conference entitled "Human Rights During Emergencies." The conference was led by MK Karine Elharar (Yesh atid), Ze'ev B. Begin (Likud) and Dov Khenin (Joint List). ACRI's executive director opened the conference, and Knesset Members from a variety of factions attended, as well as Supreme Court Justice (Emerita) and President of the Israeli Press Council Dalia Dorner, National Commissioner for Equal Employment Opportunities Attorney Mariam Kabaha, Deputy Attorney General (criminal) Raz Nizri, and more.

2. Policy Advocacy

ACRI's advocacy work includes ongoing work meetings with Knesset Members, ministers and senior government clerks, the submission of position papers on various topics, and participation in a variety of committee hearings. Among the most central topics we addressed during the reporting period: Urban renewal, the new civics textbook, freedom of expression and the right to protest, foster care for children, privatization regulation; Bedouin rights in the Negev; the right to water – discounts and disconnections; collecting dues, Stop and Frisk Bill, health equality; the anti-infiltration law, the water crisis in East Jerusalem; professional training; Arabic in the public space; health care insurance for migrant workers.

ACRI continued to halt anti-democratic legislation and worked, among other things, on the bill to suspend Knesset Members and the V15 bill. ACRI also continued our work in the Coalitions, among them Educational Forum for Shared Living, the Coalition for Direct Employment, Forum to Combat Poverty, Forum for Enforcing Labor Rights, Gun-Free Kitchen Tables Forum, Open Democracy Forum (transparency and public involvement) and The Forum for Shared Thinking Against Racism.

3. Media Outreach

During the reporting period, ACRI achieved significant media attention in Hebrew media, including news reports on its activities, comments on issues making headlines and its legislative initiatives, articles written by staff members, and surveys of various events ACRI is involved in.

Between January and April, ACRI was mentioned in the media 461 times. The predominant topics related to: our fight against Be'emuna's discrimination in the housing market in Kiryat Gat and the fee imposed on it; our success at softening the Stop and Frisk Bill; the Emil Grunzweig Human Rights Award; lack of Arab signs in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nazareth Illit; the severe damage caused by sponge-tipped bullets in East Jerusalem; the fight to end the Tax Ordinance (Collection) that hurts debtors, our struggle for equality in the country's rehabilitation services.

ACRI's publicity in Arabic media is on the rise. Our updates appear on websites and in newspapers, and ACRI employees interviewed on radio shows (Al Shams and Kol Israel in Arabic) as well as TV (Musawa Channel, Hala TV and more) and publishes articles in media outlets. Among the topics we have managed to promote in Arabic media: Our fight for equal opportunities for Arab citizens in housing; the Minister of Culture's restrictions on artistic freedom of expression; the demand that Arabic to be accessible in signs and public transportation; the International Day for the Elimination of Racist Discrimination; our work in East Jerusalem and the OPT; our fight against anti-democratic legislation.

4. Campaigns

During the reporting period, we were very active on social media and various digital platforms. Following are the main campaigns we organized:

Campaign Against Shrinking Democratic Space in Israel: ACRI worked to raise public awareness and exert pressure on decision makers regarding a series of issues endangering democracy. We published in media outlets and distributed position papers on various initiatives to decision makers and thousands were exposed to our activities through social media against the silencing of criticism, the Suspension Law, the campaign against Im Tirtzu's moles, the attack on Breaking the Silence, the Hebron shooting soldier affair, the summary of our criticism of the Knesset winter parliamentary session, the change in components to the civics textbook and moves to hurt the status of the Supreme Court. The campaign continues to be built in cooperation with Shatil and other civil society organizations.

Campaign Against the "Marking Law": In its new version of the Transparency Bill, which we have coined, "The Marking Law, the coalition seeks to legally compel

organizations to declare verbally and orally that they receive donations from foreign countries in every single publication or speech. ACRI began policy advocacy amongst influential coalition members and launched a meme campaign on Facebook in which we called on Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon to save Israeli democracy. As a result, 800 people sent letters to him and other faction members through the social activism platform Anu. ACRI also organized a series of social change organizations to call on the public to express their opposition to the law, after the “moles in culture” blacklisting artists campaign.

Stop and Frisk Bill Campaign – Part Two: Following the first part of our campaign (during the previous reporting period), the Constitution Law and Justice Committee reneged on its intention to push the bill through in its original version. We created a series of memes calling on the public to pressure committee members to amend the bill ahead of the continuation of the hearing. We utilized the Anu platform to send another 155 letters to committee members (in addition to the 440 that were sent in the first round). The public advocacy we did in the matter, together with the media outreach and social media work managed to have a substantial impact on the final version of the bill, which ultimately passed in Knesset at the end of January in a much more restrained version.

Although the police discretion that remains is relatively narrow, we are still concerned that on the ground, profiling will continue and the police’s humiliating treatment of Ethiopians, Mizrahim and Arabs will continue. The campaign raised public awareness about police brutality and we hope that public criticism will continue to yield results on the ground. The head of the Constitution Law and Justice Committee undertook to continue discussing the issue. We will of course continue our efforts to combat the phenomenon.

Story Time Campaign – Say No to Racism: Ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Racist Discrimination (March 21), the Education Department a reading list of Jewish and Arab children’s book authors. ACRI distributed the project on Facebook and in our newsletter, and it appeared in various media outlets. It reached over a quarter of a million (268,563 people), just on Facebook.

Celebrating our Achievements: A special post and meme at the end of 2015 with a list of our achievements over the last year.

5. Internet and Social Media

ACRI’s Website in Hebrew, English and Arabic is updated daily with the latest information on court hearings, Knesset decisions and our activities. All publications are available on the site, which many consider to be a leading database on human rights in Israel.

Between January and April, the Hebrew site had an average of 20,841 unique views a month (an increase of 3,000 unique views), the English site had an average of 2,382 unique views, and the Arabic site an average of 2,734 unique views a month (up by 700).

The “Workshop” site, dedicated to our educational programs, registered an average of 2,170 unique views a month in Hebrew and 3,008 unique views in Arabic (up by 800).

ACRI’s Facebook Presence increased significantly in recent months. Our Facebook page in Hebrew went up to 22,490 likes from December to May, an addition of 6,670 likes (42% increase). During those months, there was also a significant rise in the number of people viewing our publications on our Facebook page in Hebrew – over 50,000 people a week as of May 2016. ACRI’s Facebook page in Arabic reached 7,734 likes, an addition of 3,168 likes (69% increase). ACRI’s Facebook page in English registered a small increase of 5,078 likes.

Twitter: ACRI followers in Hebrew rose from 9,548 to 10,200 and in English, from 2,867 to 3,016. On our **Youtube** channel, we began regularly uploading materials, campaigns from the past and media appearances.

ACRI’s Newsletters: We continued to send our personalized weekly newsletters with calls to action. They are sent weekly to 11,300 subscribers in Hebrew and 3,480 in English. The Knesset Bulletin is sent every week to 3,260 subscribers in Hebrew and 970 in English. We also send it out to an international media list of 700 subscribers.

6. Public Events

Annual Mass Gaga Lesson for Human Rights took place at Tel Aviv Port on March 1, 2016, led by Ohad Naharin and other members of the Bat Sheva Dance Company. 1,200 people participated and the event was produced entirely by volunteers and managed to raise the impressive sum of NIS 60,000 for ACRI’s operations. The Emil Grunzweig Human Rights Award ceremony was held on April 4, 2016 at the Enav Center in Tel Aviv. This year we were given the honor of bestowing the award to the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel; Professor Kenneth Man; and the Public Defender.

7. Lectures and Volunteers

Between January and May 2016, members of ACRI’s staff gave **18 lectures** on a variety of topics, among them education against racism, human rights in the OPT and East Jerusalem, immigration, social change and activism, privacy and protection of personal information and social rights. The lectures were given in various forums, among them educational and academic institutions, colleges, universities, cultural centers, fellow civil rights organizations, the Ministry of Education, the Institute of Legal Training for Attorneys and Legal Advisers in the Ministry of Justice and law schools in Harvard and Yale.

Between January and May 2016, **26 volunteers** were working with ACRI, among them volunteers with the public hotline, experts from academic programs and long-term volunteers on specific projects. In addition, a 15-person volunteer team was set up to work on updating Wikipedia entries relevant to human rights.