

What should I do when violence is being used against me?

During the demonstration:

- Remain calm;
- Demand that the violence be stopped using clear language;
- Document the incident using photography / video.

After the demonstration:

- File a complaint to the Police Investigation Unit (Mahash);
- File a civil suit.

List of organizations that can provide advice and assistance:

- For information, advice and assistance on demonstrations and freedom of expression activities and/or other protests:
Adalah - The Legal Center For Arab Minority Rights in Israel, 04-9501610
Association for Civil Rights in Israel, 073-7050752
Negev Co-Existence Forum, 050-7701118 (only in the Negev)
- Advice and training in documenting the protest and demonstration:
"DocoRights" 054-7800665
- Assistance of a lawyer in the event of arrest: **Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF), 054-2292474**
- Advice for receiving compensation, through a damage claim, for inappropriate treatment by a police officer: **Tmura - Israeli Anti Discrimination Legal Center, 03-6078888**
- Advice in filing complaints against a police officer to the Police Investigation Unit (Mahash): **Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, 02-6429825**

If you are detained or arrested, we recommend you contact a lawyer immediately or see to it that someone calls for you.

Telephone numbers of arrests departments in the Public Defender's Office

- Advice for arrestees before questioning during nighttime hours and on weekends:
Tel: 076-5300901
(Sun.-Thurs, 24:00-07:30, Fri, from 15:00 until 07:30 on Sun.)

- Districts of the Public Defender's Office:

Jerusalem District,
Tel: 02-5696112/214

Northern District,
Tel: 04-6029105/111

Haifa District,
Tel: 04-8633700/1/2 ;
Fax: 04-8633733

Tel Aviv District,
Tel: 03-6932662/57

Central District,
Tel: 03-6932670/1

Southern District,
Tel: 08-6404493

For advice and to arrange for training on any of the topics related to the rights of protestors and freedom of expression contact the organizations listed above or the Shatil Campus -
shatil@shatil.nif.org.il



Pocket Guide The Right to Demonstrate

This pocket guide was written by:

Adalah - The Legal Center For Arab Minority Rights in Israel
DocoRights
Association for Civil Rights in Israel
Public Committee Against Torture in Israel
Human Rights Defenders Fund
Negev Co - Existence Forum
Shatil - The New Israel Fund Initiative for social Change
Tmura - Israeli Anti Discrimination Legal Center

Questions and Answers

When do you need a permit for a demonstration?

When all of the following conditions exist:

- Fifty people or more are participating;
- It is taking place outdoors;
- There are political speeches and statements (waving signs, shouting slogans and using a megaphone are not considered to be "political statements").

When is a permit not required for a demonstration?

- It is taking place outdoors - but without speeches or a march, even if more than fifty people participate.

What actions are permissible at a demonstration with a permit?

- Standing or walking in designated public places, even if it interferes with the movement of pedestrians or vehicles.
- Demonstration organizers and protesters are required to abide by the permit conditions, maintain order, and avoid violence.

What actions are permissible at any demonstration?

- To photograph a police officer in action;
- To demand identification details from a police officer - the law mandates the officer to identify himself/herself;
- To use a megaphone, to carry signs and call out slogans.

What is the role of the police?

- To secure the demonstration and safeguard the safety of the protesters, and to help exercise the right to demonstrate.

Are the police permitted to use force against demonstrators?

- A police officer may employ force at a demonstration only:
 - To make an arrest when a protestor is resisting or trying to escape;
 - To break up an unruly crowd that endangers the public;
 - In self-defense or to prevent a crime;

A police officer is prohibited from using excessive force.

Police officers may order the dispersal of a demonstration only if:

- It is taking place without a permit although a permit is required;
- Protestors are violating the permit conditions;
- The demonstration endangers the public;
- Protestors are behaving violently.

Violent opposition to a demonstration is not grounds for dispersing the demonstration unless there is a genuine risk of endangering the public welfare.

What is the difference between detainment and arrest?

- Detainment may be carried out in the field and can last up to three hours (and sometimes - six hours).
- An arrest requires the police officer to take the arrestee to the police station immediately, except in unusual cases.

What are my rights as an arrestee?

- The arresting officer must identify himself and notify the person immediately of the reason for the arrest.
- The police officer must take the arrestee immediately to the police station and bring him before the officer in charge of the station.
- The arrestee has the right to notify someone close to him as well as a lawyer. The arrestee should demand to do so.
- The arrestee has the right to be represented by a public defender.
- An arrestee must be brought before a judge within 24 hours of his/her arrest.
- An arrestee is entitled to receive medical attention.
- An arrestee is entitled to an interpreter. Questioning of the suspect must be conducted in his/her native language or in a language that s/he understands and speaks.
- Female arrestees have the right to be searched or accompanied to the lavatory by a female police officer.
- If the arrestee is a minor - it is his/her right to have a parent present during questioning.