



**RABBIS FOR קול רבני**   
**חאמאת מן اجل لآكفوف آءم**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS حقوق الانسان**

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# MID YEAR REPORT

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SHEVAT - TAMMUZ 5783  
JANUARY - JUNE 2023

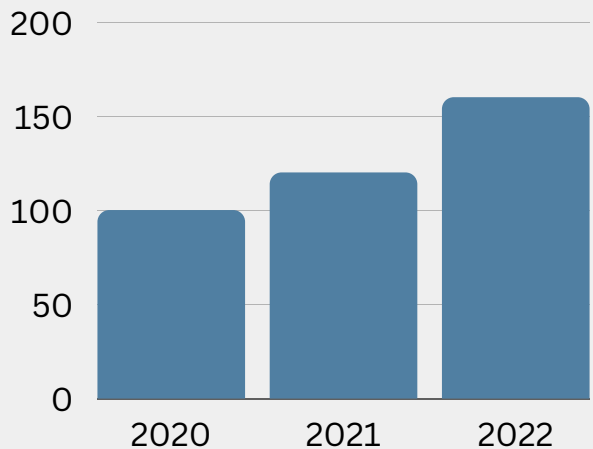


## FAITH BASED ACTIVISM

"You are not obligated to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it" (Pirke Avot 2:21)

Rabbis for Human Rights is an Israeli NGO advancing a human rights discourse within Jewish identity. With over **150 Israeli Rabbis active members** of the organization, our work is to demonstrate our values through action. From countering human rights abuses in the Occupied Territories, to promoting social justice for all within Israeli society, our Rabbis bring their Torah to practical application.

### RABBI MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



# SOCIAL PROTESTS

"Justice, justice shall you pursue"  
(Deuteronomy 16:11)



Avi Dabush, our CEO, leading the social protest in Be'er Sheva, February 2023

This year **we are facing a crisis in Jewish values in the State of Israel**, with extremist elements holding senior government positions, with legislation threatening to destabilize our society and an increase in violence towards vulnerable populations. Now is the time for Rabbinic voices calling for peace, equality and justice throughout the Land". Rabbis for Human Rights has taken a key role in the protests against the judicial reform.

Many of our Rabbis feature at demonstrations across the country, running Havdala services on Saturday nights, leading protests in Jewish song, and speaking about Jewish values and democracy. We help run the protests in Be'erSheva which is **a model of shared community, with Jewish-Arab partnership; gender equality and an Ashkenazi-Mizrahi alliance.**

# OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

"Man is like a tree in the field"  
Deuteronomy 20:19



Volunteers planting trees in the West Bank

## PLANTING JUSTICE

In January-February 2023 we brought **Israelis and Palestinians together to plant 650 trees** in Palestinian villages in the West Bank and in unrecognised Bedouin communities in the Negev. We have committed to planting more trees with Palestinian communities who have suffered settler attacks.

## SETTLER VIOLENCE

The first six months of the year have seen a major increase in settler violence, according to UN data there have been on average 3 attacks a day. Together with 16 partner organisations we produced a detailed report highlighting the alarming trends of settler violence we are witnessing in the OPT. This report was presented to decision makers and in the media.

## SHEPHERD ESCORTS

Palestinian shepherds throughout the West Bank are one of the most vulnerable populations to settler attacks. Throughout 2023 we have brought volunteers, once a week, to walk with shepherds as they graze their flocks and provide a protective presence against settler violence.



Rabbi Ruti Bidetz, chair of RHR, meeting Hisham, father of Omar Oaten, killed in Turmus Aya

## RABBIS IN SOLIDARITY

Rabbis for Human Rights made solidarity visits to these communities meeting with the victims of the assaults, voicing our shame at the violence, and pledging our support. This work also takes places within Israel, a delegation of Rabbis went to support the Christian community at the Stella Maris Monastery in Haifa who are being targeted by extremists. Our Rabbis present the Jewish value of human dignity, and stand against the radicalization that Jewish identity is suffering in Israel

**650**  
Trees planted

**150**  
Volunteers brought  
to the West Bank

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

"Justice, justice shall you pursue"  
(Deuteronomy 16:11)



Activists speaking at the  
Knesset, June 2023

## ENDING POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY

This year our social justice team could be found in the Knesset advancing a national policy to tackle food insecurity for all Israel's citizens, and working with a network of social activists living in poverty. In June we ran an advocacy training day at the Knesset for over 50 activists, from across the country and communities. Our activists met with Members of Knesset to discuss policy change, and share their lived experiences. It was meaningful to bring to the Knesset a group of activists from all groups - Arabs, Haredim, Ethiopian-Israelis, working together in partnership and respect.

## HADERA RIGHTS CENTRE

The Rights Center of Rabbis for Human Rights serves the residents of Hadera, Wadi Aara and Pardes Hana

At the rights center professionals and volunteers provide information on rights, assistance and guidance for exercising social rights and entitlements in matters of debt, public housing, social security and more

We provide assistance for any issue where there is difficulty in dealing with bureaucracy and accessing rights. The service is available in Hebrew and Arabic.

Since the beginning of  
2023 the Rights Centre  
has handled **650 cases**

# E D U C A T I O N



Pre-Army academy students meeting with Bedouins in the Negev

“

**I LEARNED TO RESPECT AND LISTEN  
TO THE OPINIONS OF PEOPLE WHO  
ARE DIFFERENT TO ME**

”

**1000**  
STUDENTS

**15**  
MECHINOT

RHR runs an educational program in 15 pre-Army leadership academies across the country.

The program, taught by activist Rabbis, teaches the centrality of human rights to Jewish identity, and introduces students to contemporary issues related to equality in Israel's citizen population, human rights in the Occupied Territories and the concept of social justice.

# SUPPORT OUR WORK



GBP

USD

EURO/CAD\$

Donate a Tree

Donate to Rabbis  
for Human Rights  
and defend the  
dignity of all  
human beings in  
Israel and the  
West Bank!