

# The Emil Grunzweig Human Rights Award

The First 30 Years 1981-2011

האגודה לזכויות האזרח בישראל  
جمعية حقوق المواطن في إسرائيل  
The Association for Civil Rights in Israel

ז'ור | 40

Researched and written by **Ronit Sela**

Translated by **Adina Sacks**

English version edited by **Emily Schneider, Yoana Gonen and Libby Lenkinski**

Visual research by **Mia Perelmuter**

Design by **Ada Rothenberg Design Studio / with Anat Lustinger**

Our appreciation to ACRI staff members who provided insightful comments and assisted in gathering material and data

– Hagai El-Ad, Dan Yakir, Tal Dahan, Tal Hassin and Gili Rei.

Special thanks to Anat Saragusti and Miki Kratsman

## Introduction

The Emil Grunzweig Award has been granted annually over the past thirty years by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) to individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of human rights in Israel. Throughout the years, the history of this award has been intertwined with that of Israel's human rights community and its struggle, under difficult conditions, to realize these rights.

By delving into the personal stories of the award winners and the particular circumstances surrounding their selection, we hope to highlight some of the deepest fault lines that run through Israeli society, and to reveal the extensive network of people who are striving, each in their own unique way, to heal those rifts and to safeguard those basic rights that are the province of all human beings.

The human rights award, first instituted in 1981, began as the initiative of ACRI member Prof. Jacob Lorch. Two years later, after the murder of fellow ACRI member and peace activist Emil Grunzweig, it was decided that the prize should thereafter be awarded in Grunzweig's name.

In its first year, the distinction was awarded to reporter Gabriel Stern of 'Al HaMishmar for his contribution to "expanding awareness of the need to safeguard the basic liberties of all citizens." The recognition of journalists and their impact on public consciousness is a recurring

theme, and this year, as we mark 30 years, it was once again granted to a journalist. The award has on multiple occasions been used to honor the contributions of retired judges and civil servants, who worked from within the institutions of state to preserve and advance human rights. Over the years, the award winners have counted among them an impressive list of political and social activists, scholars, civil society groups, and other institutions whose stories are presented throughout these pages.

We have chosen to publish the original notes from the Award Committee's deliberations each year, along with excerpts from official letters of recommendation. With the perspective of time, some of the texts and wording may seem out of place. However, reading through them we can trace the change in consciousness and the development in the perception of human rights that has evolved here over the last 30 years. One conspicuous example is the committee's reference to "territories" which for years were never referred to as "occupied". Nevertheless, the human rights of the residents of those territories occupied the minds of Award Committee members, including in their choices marking the 30th year of the award.

Through the personal stories of the award winners, related year by year, we can follow the dramatic public events that punctuated those times. For example, the prize was awarded to Professor Itzhak Zamir shortly

after he was forced to resign from his position as Attorney General for demanding the opening of a criminal investigation into the Bus 300 Affair. The pool of news correspondents covering the Occupied Territories was granted the award immediately after the outbreak of the First Intifada. The Hotline for Migrant Workers was awarded the prize when the issue of migrant workers finally began to break into public consciousness. The award granted to the Adva Center and its founders, Barbara and Dr. Shlomo Swirski, coincided with the struggle against the sharp cutbacks in welfare payments, and the campaign for recognition of the basic right to a dignified human existence. Many other such examples are evident throughout the book.

But the single common thread that unites all those who received the Emil Grunzweig Human Rights Award is their unwavering faith in their ability to affect necessary change and their determination in safeguarding human rights. On the 40th anniversary of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, we are proud to bring you their stories, and to serve as a link in this chain.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, 2012

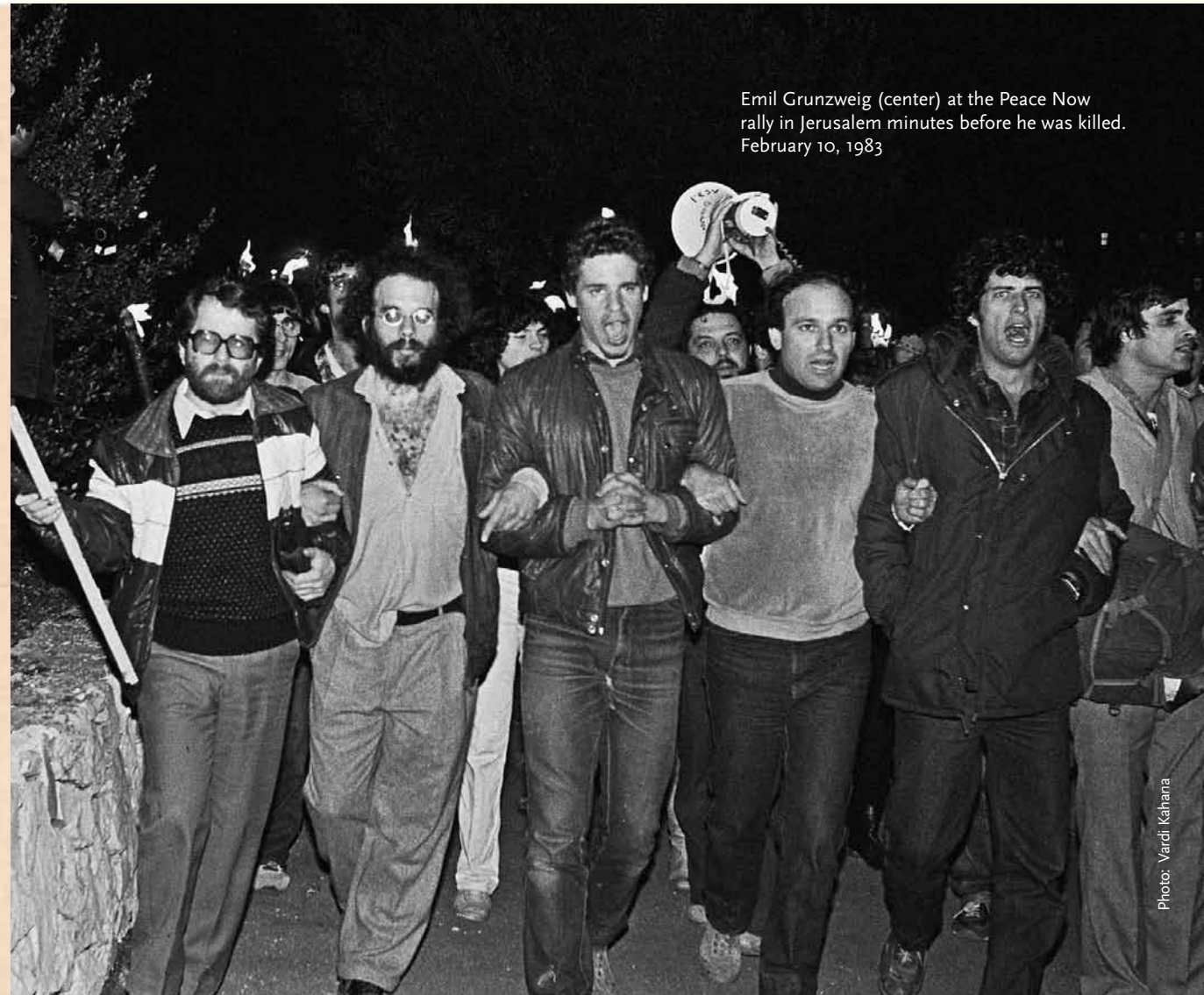
17 February 1983:

"ACRI mourns the death of its friend and member, the late Emil Grunzweig, who was murdered while exercising his democratic right to demonstrate and express his opinion.

A democratic society is one in which there is an overarching commitment, incumbent upon all its citizens and all its governmental authorities, to protect the freedom of speech and the freedom of dissent of all participants in the political process. When there are deep differences of opinion and political outlook, and when each side is fully convinced of the rightness of its own path, it is especially important to emphasize that commitment to freedom of expression.

Our society has now come to a crossroad. The right to demonstrate will lose its efficacy if people can not exercise that right freely, in public, and in safety, even if there are some elements that seek to harass them.

ACRI continues in its fight to ensure that Israeli society will never lose its democratic character, by seeking to find solutions to the differences of opinion within it."



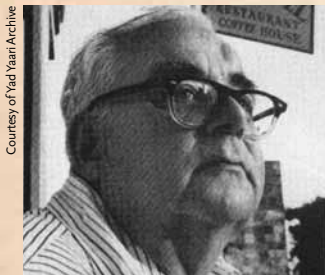
Emil Grunzweig (center) at the Peace Now rally in Jerusalem minutes before he was killed. February 10, 1983

Photo: Vardi Kahana

# 1981

## Gabriel Stern

'Al HaMishmar Journalist



Courtesy of Yad Yairi Archive

Gabriel Stern was born in Germany in 1913 and was a journalist and peace activists. In 1949, he began working as a journalist for the newspaper 'Al HaMishmar, where he reported on political and social affairs. Stern passed away in 1983.

“Mr. Stern, who for years wrote for 'Al HaMishmar, was particularly attuned to human rights, especially those of the Arab minority. His exposés and articles on these issues contributed greatly to raising awareness for the need to safeguard the basic liberties of all citizens.”

- The Award Committee

“In light of your many years of experience, I was asked by a veteran German journalist who was preparing a film on Jerusalem, ‘What are the particular difficulties involved in working in this city and in this country as a reporter?’ The interview was being conducted at a place I love dearly, on the balcony of the Cafe Citadel, which overlooks Jaffa Gate and is owned by Mussa the redhead. I thought about the question for a moment before I answered: ‘I can’t speak for all of my colleagues, but I’ve personally always felt deep apprehension when my conscience dictated that I must oppose the violent military retaliations carried out by our side, when the bodies of our own dead were not yet cold and when I knew that our readers hearts were in agony’.”

- From the book *On the Balcony of Mussa the Redhead*, a collection of stories on Jerusalem, which Stern published for over forty years

During the 1948 War of Independence, Stern was stationed at the Italian Hospital in Musrara. One day he found himself at the end of a long, dark corridor facing a man dressed in military uniform. The man trained his rifle on him, his finger on the trigger. The enemy. Stern raised his rifle, the man his.

**Stern knew that whoever shot first would live, whoever was second would die. He pulled the trigger. The bullet penetrated the figure in front of him, and shattered it into a thousand shards of glass. It was a large standing *mirror*. Stern had shot himself.**

It was the last time he would ever fire a bullet.

- Introduction to *On the Balcony of Mussa the Redhead*

# 1982

## Yehuda Litani

Journalist for Ha'aretz



Uzi Keren, "Haaretz"

Yehuda Litani a long-time journalist serves as the Ha'aretz reporter on the Occupied Territories from 1973 to 1985.

“Yehuda Litani, one of the promising members of the new generation of Israeli-born journalists, has greatly contributed, through his work as a reporter for Haaretz covering the IDF-administered territories, toward highlighting the situation of the residents of those territories to the Israeli public. He has done so by exposing the situation of those residents, who are subjects of a military regime and who lack the tools for independent self-expression that are readily available to the citizens of the country that rules over them. Through his painstaking, constant, fearless and tireless work, Litani has set before Israel’s Jewish populace the problematic nature of the very existence of ‘territories’ and subject peoples, particularly in regards to the ruling country.

His was not an effortless walk through the Territories, and at every turn his path was obstructed by hurdles and by dangers to his own personal safety. Nonetheless, Litani won the trust of both the common people and the politicians, the villagers and the city-dwellers, and even the Israeli security officials. His primary goal, which blended both his personal and public qualities, was to forge a path toward restoring full civil rights. Through this achievement, he sought to improve the general condition, on both the personal and material level, of hundreds of thousands of residents of the Territories.”

- The Award Committee

## Robert Weltsch

Journalist in Germany and Israel

Dr. Robert Weltsch began his journalism career in Germany, and continued in his work after immigrating to Israel. He passed away in Jerusalem, at age 90, shortly after receiving this award.

“The Award Committee is presenting a special award, on the 50th anniversary of the Nazi rise to power, to Dr. Robert Weltsch, in recognition of his brave journalistic work. The committee wishes to commend Weltsch for his contribution to defending the rights of Jews during the beginning of the Nazi regime. Similarly, after his aliyah in 1938, Weltsch continued, as a journalist for Haaretz, to fight for civil rights, especially those of non-Jews. Through his work, he presented a comprehensive view of civil rights as a single corpus that cannot be divided by the criteria of race, nationality, or religion.”

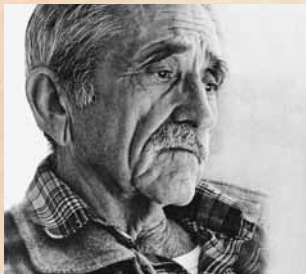
- The Award Committee

The Award Committee drew special attention to Dr. Weltsch’s contributions as the editor of the German journal Jüdische Rundschau (“Jewish Review”), where he worked from 1919 until 1938. With the Nazi ascension to power and the declared boycott of the Jews, Weltsch published an editorial titled “Carry Proudly the Badge of Shame,” to encourage the Jewish community: “The fact that the organizers of the boycott ordered signs to be hung on the walls of boycotted shops ‘with a yellow star against a black backdrop’ was supposed to elicit shame and contempt. But we will accept it willingly and transform it into a badge of honor.”

- Editorial, April 1933, Jüdische Rundschau

# 1983

Naomi Zur, "Háaretz"



Dov Yermiya, a veteran peace activist, was born in 1914. At the age of 64 he joined the Israeli army unit responsible for providing aid and welfare to civilians whose villages in Southern Lebanon were bombed by Israel. He returned to the unit at the start of the First Lebanon War but left shortly after in protest of the army's treatment of civilians.

## Dov Yermiya

Responsible for the welfare of civilians in Southern Lebanon

**"Lt. Col. (res.) Dov Yermiya recognized the suffering of war refugees and security detainees in Lebanon, and he was determined not to stand idly by.**

This activity, carried out with great drive and benevolence, revealed Dov Yermiya as a model for civic duty. His awareness and openness to the rights and needs of others, including those of the foreigner, as well as his constant willingness to help them to restore their lives, was the very fulfillment of the principle of social justice, upon which the State of Israel was founded and which is rooted in the best of ancient Jewish tradition."

- The Award Committee

**"June 1982:** I am attending to the water supply of some 50,000 people. Those who planned this grand operation did not prepare sufficient water and food supplies for such a large population – their cost would have been lower than a single airplane's bomb-dropping mission.

**August 1982:** Following my release I published excerpts from my diary and gave interviews. A few weeks later, my unit's officers met and the deputy commander announced: 'Lt. Col Dov Yermiya is retiring from the unit'. I declared that I am not leaving voluntarily but am being driven out because I had expressed my opinions."

- From "My War Journals" by Dov Yermiya

HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE UPON HIMSELF

AND DISPLAYED ENERGETIC RESOURCEFULNESS:

WITHOUT FAIL, HE SUPPLIED THEM

WITH CLOTHES TO WEAR AND FOOD TO EAT,

HE HELPED THEM TO REBUILD

AND REFURBISH THE RUINS OF THEIR HOMES,

AND HE LIFTED THEM UP IN THEIR TIMES OF BITTER DESPERATION

- The Award Committee

# 1984

Flashgo



Moshe Negbi, a lawyer and a journalist, is the creator and editor of the weekly program “Din U’Devarim,” broadcast on Kol Israel Radio since 1981.

## Moshe Negbi Editor of “Din U’Devarim”

“It is the sole media platform that consistently covers new legislative acts and landmark court rulings, highlighting their complex implications for the lives of Israeli citizens. In dealing with the problems of law, these broadcasts illustrate the rich democratic fabric of our lives for those less versed in legal matters. The program’s emphasis on human rights has introduced the general public to the subject, and has deepened their awareness of the importance of civil liberties and democratic values.”

- The Award Committee

“Despite the pressure, the program has stuck, with the full backing of Kol Israel’s board, to the principle that has guided it from the start: that in the debate between democracy and its enemies, the media need not maintain its objectivity. Rather, it should take an active stance of support toward fostering democracy and human rights in Israel. This is the only program in mass media that deals with civil rights in Israel on a regular and consistent basis, out of a clear and explicit intention to increase public awareness of these rights and of democratic values.”

- Moshe Negbi

MORE THAN ONCE, THE PROGRAM HAS TAKEN UPON ITSELF A VANGUARD ROLE, LEADING THE CAMP OF THOSE WHO SEEK TO PRESERVE BASIC LIBERTIES IN ISRAEL. THE PROGRAM’S EDITORS HAVE DONE SO ALL ALONG, EVEN IN THE DAYS WHEN SOME ADVISED THEM TO USE EXTREME ‘CAUTION’. THEIR EXCELLENCE MAKES THEM WELL WORTHY OF THIS AWARD.

- Letter of recommendation by Shevach Weiss, who later became Knesset Speaker



# 1985

## Baruch Meiri Journalist for Ma'ariv



“Mr. Meiri’s highly developed social conscience motivates him to cover, in his sensitive and perceptive articles, precisely those strata of society that are weaker among us, and to help them in their plight. As such, he denounced the efforts of the government to force long-time residents of Jerusalem’s Musrara neighborhood to relocate against their will; he reported on the refusal of certain mayors to absorb Ethiopian immigrants; and together with the Street Counselors Project, he exerted great efforts to verify findings regarding the widespread use of tear gas in prisons. Meiri’s first and foremost concern is his thirst for justice, and his articles indeed uplift the hearts of the oppressed. For all these reasons, he, as well as Ma’ariv for hosting his articles, is thoroughly deserving of recognition.”

- The Award Committee

“I see it as my duty to request that your award of honor be given to Baruch Meiri from Ma’ariv. This opinion is not only my own; many others share it, including all those who are part of the various protest groups in the city. Baruch’s exceptional work is done with so much heart and soul. He exposed facts that shed light on the severe deficiencies of social institutions in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Baruch became our mouthpiece.”

- Letter of recommendation by Saadia Marciano z”l, a founder of the Black Panthers and former member of Knesset



# 1986

## Itzhak Zamir

Former Attorney General

Professor Itzhak Zamir served as Israel's Attorney General from 1978 to 1986, and as a Judge Supreme Court from 1994 to 2001. He was ousted from his position as Attorney General shortly before receiving this award, on account of his demand to open a criminal investigation against senior Shin Bet officials for their role in the Bus 300 affair.

**“For the seven years during which he served as Attorney General, Professor Zamir’s guiding principle was civil liberties. Each of his actions as Attorney General was rooted in a deep inner conviction of the primacy of the rule of law, which overrode all other considerations. For these reasons, and for the consistent and sympathetic ear to human rights arguments demonstrated by the Attorney General and his staff, the Award Committee has unanimously decided to grant him this prize.**

A prerequisite for safeguarding human rights is the meticulous defense of the rule of law, such that no authority can exceed its powers and in doing so threaten fundamental rights. As Attorney General, Professor Zamir scrupulously defended this principle, emphasizing that the rule of law may not be harmed in the name of national security. He was unyielding in this position, despite intense pressure, demonstrating his independence and his courageous heart, both as an individual citizen and as a professional.”

- The Award Committee

“Neither I, nor my predecessor in this position, saw ourselves as the attorneys of the government, rather we saw ourselves as defenders of the law and of civil rights.”

- Itzhak Zamir in an interview with Ma’ariv upon being granted the award



Photo: Herman Chananian, Courtesy of Government Press Office

# 1987

## Zvi Berenson

Former Supreme Court Judge



(Detail) Boris Garmi, Meitar Collection

Zvi Berenson served as a Supreme Court judge from 1953 until 1977. He continued to take on public roles after his retirement from the court. He passed away in 2001.

“In his rulings as a Supreme Court judge for over a quarter of a century, judge Berenson was exceptionally successful in the advancement of civil rights in Israel. He wholeheartedly supported the citizen struggling to deal with government authorities. He sought judge in the relationship between the individual and society, and he refused to accept the yoke of outdated laws and precedents, many of which were inherited from English law and reflected unwarranted privileges of the government in its relationship to the citizen.

His long list of rulings and determinations laid down the foundation for proper governmental administration, as well as effective monitoring of that administration by the courts. Among his many legal innovations, he ruled that the public’s trust in the government requires certain assurances from administrative authorities – assurances that may not constitute an explicit contract, but nevertheless obligate those authorities toward the citizen, even in a legal sense.

‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,’ states the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This principle guided Judge Berenson in each of his deliberations and decisions.”

- The Award Committee

Over the years, the Supreme Court has become the citizen’s primary, *if not only,* shield and stronghold in his relations with administrative authorities

- Judge Zvi Berenson

# 1988

## News Reporters Covering the Occupied Territories

The award was given several months after the outbreak of the First Intifada to members of the pool of news reporters covering the Occupied Territories.

The pool of reporters was under pressure to refuse acceptance of the prize, as it was awarded by the 'leftist' Association for Civil Rights in Israel. During the award ceremony, the Kach movement's spokesman, Baruch Marzel, entered the auditorium. The organizers and the audience did not allow Marzel to speak, and his voice was drowned out with boos and with cries of "fascism will not prevail."

**"Human rights in the Occupied Territories are at the heart of the discourse in Israel of 1988. The reporters covering the Territories are responsible for providing the Israeli public with up-to-date and accurate information, which is essential to the struggle for human rights. They carry out their work under personal risk, deeply committed to their professional and civic duty to ensure the public's right to know what is being done in its name in those places that are far from the public eye.**

We can say with certainty that without their reports, it would have been impossible to achieve our limited successes: The acknowledgment that the use of force for any other reason than self-defense or preventing a crime is illegal; the prosecution of individuals who have been linked to illegal acts of abuse and violations of human rights; and forcing Israeli society, as a whole, to deal with the true scope and nature of the events in the Territories."

- The Award Committee

"We are like the messengers of old, who were executed upon bringing ill tidings. The public blames us for the unpleasant things going on in the Territories, which are reported by us."

- *Davar* reporter Danny Rubinstein,  
senior news correspondent covering the Occupied Territories



Photo: Anat Saragusti

# 1989

Association for Civil Rights in Israel



A lecturer, educator, and social activist, Professor Alice Shalvi founded the Israel Women's Network in 1984, where she also served as Chairperson.

Prof. Shalvi also served as principal of the Pelech girls' school, which became a model for integrating equality and openness within the framework of religious education.

## Alice Shalvi

Founder of the Israel Women's Network

"Her educational activities and public work have made an important contribution in Israel to strengthening civil rights and women's rights in particular. As a religious woman, Professor Shalvi fought for a more pluralistic, egalitarian, and open society. Her activities stem from the conviction that a healthy society depends upon our ability to listen to those of different opinions and to attempt to understand such positions, without being bound by our own prejudices."

- The Award Committee

"I'm especially heartened by the recognition and honor accorded to my public activities, in the same year that I was the target of many slanderous and unbridled attacks, not least because of those activities. With the main charge against me being that I am outside of the consensus, it is good to know that there is still a consensus of another sort, that not all of the members of our society have become extremists, and that there is still room within it for liberal and tolerant thought and action."

- From Prof. Alice Shalvi's acceptance speech

“

"The answer that is required of us, as Jews, as Israelis, and as human beings created in the Divine Image is: "Hineni" -

HERE  
HARE!  
HAM!

I will lend a hand. **I will raise my voice.** I will fight the war of judge and will make sure that it is indeed a just war. **I will bring peace.** **I will not rest or relax until the cause of judge is done and is seen.**

- The acceptance speech

”

# 1990

## Yizhak Kadman

Director of the National Council on Children's Welfare



Courtesy of the National Council on Children's Welfare

Dr. Yizhak Kadman, a lecturer in Social Work, founded the National Council on Children's Welfare in 1980. He currently serves as its Director.

In 1989, which was marked in Israel as the Year of the Child, the UN ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, declaring that every child is entitled to be brought up in the spirit of peace, dignity, and equality.

Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a child' (Jeremiah 1:6). Indeed, children's words cannot be heard from their own mouths. At times, we even try not to hear them. Children do not know how to protest against their plight, how to demonstrate, or how to strike. They need an adult to help give them a voice, and sadly, such adults are few and far between. One of those rare adult voices, a cautionary and demanding one, is that of Dr. Yizhak Kadman.

On almost every topic affecting the welfare of the child, you will hear Dr. Kadman's voice. In his capacity as Director of the National Council on Children's Welfare, he and his colleagues have turned the Council into the leading body that acts on behalf of the welfare of children in Israel.

"The Council has tended to the problematic issues of children at risk, children caught helplessly in the middle of a conflict between their parents, children with physical and mental disabilities, children in foster families, children in need of special education, child victims of incest and sexual abuse, children in legal custody, the illegal employment of children, child safety in transportation and on playgrounds, children in boarding schools, and countless other issues that are constantly being added to the agenda."

- The Award Committee

**I have the right**  
to be treated in a dignified manner - that others will listen to me and take my needs into consideration

**I have the right**  
to be provided with food, clothing, and shelter

**I have the right**  
not to be discriminated against, and to be treated as an equal, regardless of any existing differences

**I have the right**  
not to be hurt, injured, or insulted by others

**I have the right**  
to grow up in peace, security, and health within a loving family

**I have the right**  
not to have my belongings harmed nor my privacy invaded

**I have the right**  
to speak my mind and express my feelings

**I have the right**  
to enjoy the protection of laws that shield children from harm

**I have the right**  
to learn, to play, to develop, and to be given the opportunity to prove myself

**I have the right**  
to be given a name and a place that I could belong to

- Declaration on the Rights of the Child in Israel

# 1991



Dr. Lotte Salzberger survived the concentration camps and arrived in Israel in 1949. She worked as a Social Work lecturer and was a political and social activist who served as a member of the Jerusalem City Council. In 1988 she founded HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual. She passed away in 1994.

## Lotte Salzberger

Founder of HaMoked:  
Center for the Defence of the Individual

“Lotte Salzberger carries out all of her endeavors with the conviction that our Jewish heritage provides the ethical-moral basis for building a humane and just society in Israel, a society that embodies the standard: ‘Do not do unto your fellow man what is hateful to you. With the outbreak of the Intifada during the summer of 1988, ‘HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual’ was established. HaMoked deals on an ongoing basis with the adversity of daily life for numerous people living under military rule, by bringing their individual cases before the authorities for clarification and resolution. This type of activity reflects an approach of respect and attention given to each and every person, alongside real effort to elevate his or her worries.”

- The Award Committee

“HaMoked’s greatest achievement over the course of its history was that it became the address for the every-man, the Palestinian without enough money to hire a lawyer’s services. The idea that underlies HaMoked’s activities is that all people enjoy certain basic rights that are universal: The right to freedom of movement, to family life, to freedom of expression, to healthcare, to education, and to legal protection. Our goal is to ensure that the law is implemented equally.”

- Lotte Salzberger

I ABSOLUTELY DRAW A CONNECTION BETWEEN WHAT I LEARNED THERE IN THE RAVENSBRÜCK CONCENTRATION CAMP AND BEFORE THAT DURING THE OCCUPATION OF THE NETHERLANDS, AND MY DECISION DECADES LATER, HERE IN EAST JERUSALEM, TO FOUND HAMOKED. FROM MY EXPERIENCES IN EUROPE, I BROUGHT WITH ME A HEIGHTENED SENSE OF HOW HORRIBLE IT IS TO LIVE UNDER OCCUPATION.

- Lotte Salzberger

# 1992

## Bassem Eid



Bassem Eid is a journalist and human rights activist who began his career as a fieldworker and researcher for B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, when the group was founded in 1989. The organization documents human rights abuses and brings them to the attention of the general public and policy makers.

“For several years now, Bassem Eid has stood at the front lines of the struggle for human rights, both as a journalist and as a fieldworker and researcher for B'Tselem. The phrase ‘front lines’ is, in this case, not merely a metaphor. Eid literally risks his life when he investigates allegations of human rights violations suffered by Palestinians in order to make such findings public. He has never hesitated to call out the Israeli authorities or the Palestinian organizations that bear direct or indirect responsibility for these abuses.”

- The Award Committee

“He is 34 years old, a resident of the Shu'afat Refugee Camp, and a father of eight children. Before joining B'Tselem, he was a reporter for the Jerusalem weekly Kol Ha'ir, where he wrote with a fluid and decisive style. When Bassam Eid addresses the authorities, he doesn't ask for favors: he demands justice in accordance with the law. The authorities respond.

Recently, Eid learned something important about himself and his society. This was the first time he has spoken out publicly against human rights abuses emanating from his own society. For Eid, this represents the crossing of a personal line. He is learning just how hard that is.”

- Tom Segev interview with Bassem Eid, for Ha'aretz, June 1992

## James Yaakov Rosenthal

### Lifetime Achievement Award

James Yaakov Rosenthal was a lawyer and journalist. He was born in Berlin in 1905 and left Germany in 1933. He served as a parliamentary reporter and a legal reporter at Haaretz for over twenty years, and published numerous articles in other media outlets. He passed away in 1997.

“A polymath, and one of ACRI's first members and trustees, James Yaakov Rosenthal served as a journalist and accompanied the kneset's legislation since the institution's earliest days, and has provided wisdom and advice to those who have laid the foundation for law and justice in Israel. Through his complete and radiant faith, he has imparted the age-old spirit of Israel to all those fighting for human rights. In honor of his lifetime achievement in advancing human rights, he is awarded this special distinction.”

- The Award Committee

“In February 1954, the parliamentary reporter for Ha'aretz, James Yaakov Rosenthal, wrote to newly-appointed Prime Minister Moshe Sharett; ‘It is well known that Prime Minister Ben Gurion did not maintain close ties with journalists, a state of affairs for which I had endured great emotional sufferings’. Rosenthal added that his colleagues, parliamentary reporters for other news outlets, authorized him to appeal to the new premier and ask that he foster a different and closer relationship with the reporters, whilst ensuring that their independence is not harmed in any way.”

- From the article by Orit Rozin titled “Ben Gurion, Schocken and Ha'aretz Newspaper”



# 1993

## Eyal Simhony

Former Director of the Execution Office



Attorney Eyal Simhony served as the Director of the Execution Office and as the Registrar of the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. He resigned from his position and filed a precedent-setting petition with the Supreme Court against the imprisonment of debtors referred to the Execution Office. He later became a public defender.

**“In his capacity as Director of the Execution Office and as a private attorney, Eyal Simhony fought tirelessly for debtors referred to the Execution Office. He maintained that instead of being imprisoned for their debts, they should receive due process under the law. In so doing, he made a significant contribution to the advancement of human dignity and freedom.**

Following Att. Simhony's petition on behalf of the Perach Association, the Supreme Court ruled that such incarceration of debtors was inconsistent with Israel's Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty. The court further determined that a debtor shall not be imprisoned without first being summoned for a hearing before the Director of the Execution Office, in order to determine the debtor's financial situation and ability to pay off the debt. The day after this ruling, dozens of those incarcerated were released, and in effect, it has signaled an end to the practice of imprisoning debtors.”

- The Award Committee

HIS ACTIONS ARE AN EXAMPLE

OF HOW AN INDIVIDUAL,

ENDOWED WITH A CONSCIENCE,

A WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT FOR HIS PRINCIPLES,

AND LEGAL CREATIVITY,

CAN END A SEVERE VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

THAT HAS BEEN PRACTICED FOR DECADES

- Letter of recommendation

# 1994

## Yitzhak Clinton Bailey

Researcher of the Bedouin society



Ariel Jerosolimski

Dr. Yitzhak Clinton Bailey, who was born in the USA, has devoted his academic career to studying the Bedouin way of life, while similarly devoting his public activities to promoting Bedouin rights.

**“He is honored for his extensive range of activities and many years of work to preserve the dignity, uplift the spirit, and help the members of Israel’s Bedouin tribes to realize their rights.**

A tireless fighter for the welfare of oppressed minorities, Dr. Bailey has helped to revitalize Bedouin culture and poetry. Through his knowledge of and identification with the Bedouin people, Dr. Bailey has fulfilled the vision of the prophets of Israel, as well as the values of the democratic and Jewish state; the values of love of humanity, and the equality of all people created in the Divine Image.

Dr. Bailey stepped in and sought to mediate between the authorities and the Bedouin, to bridge their gaps in communication, and at times, when the authorities were acting arbitrarily, to be a spokesperson for the Bedouin people. Each of his activities for the Bedouin was driven by his deep familiarity with their way of life, their legal traditions, their poetry, as well as his personal friendship with them.”

- The Award Committee

He devoted his time and energy to the Bedouin issue, without despairing. Thanks to his numerous articles, **no one will be able to say ‘I did not know’** when the full story of the Bedouin comes to light

- The Award Committee

# 1995

## Women Against Violence

Established in Nazareth in 1992, the organization Women against Violence was the first organization to combat violence against women in the Arab society.

“The award is given in recognition of the organization’s work to provide counseling and support for female victims of violence and to protect women and girls from violence and injury by establishing shelters. In addition, the organization is being recognized for its work to promote equality between women and men, both on the familial and societal level, as well as for its contribution to the development of a discourse and culture of human rights in Israeli society, especially among the Arab sector. Through all of this, the organization Women against Violence has made an important, unique, and groundbreaking contribution to the advancement of human rights.”

- The Award Certificate

“For many years there has been a struggle in Israeli society for the recognition of the phenomenon of violence against women and for the acknowledgement that violence on the basis of gender constitutes a violation of women’s human rights. The organization Women against Violence has made a unique contribution to the discourse on human rights in Arab society, as it has based all of its activities on the principle of equality. The organization strives to provide more than just individual solutions for its clients. Instead, Women against Violence goes further by seeking to affect broader societal change in the status of the Arab woman.”

- Letter of recommendation

“

Violence against women  
is a human rights issue.



VIOLENCE

Constitutes a violation  
of every person’s right to life,  
bodily integrity,  
and personal safety

- The Award Committee

# 1996

Haim Taragan, Ha'aretz



Gideon Levy is a journalist for Ha'aretz. Since 1988, he goes out every week and documents the lives of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and the violations of their rights.

## Gideon Levy

Ha'aretz journalist

**“For his firm stance on human rights and respect for human dignity, especially of the oppressed and persecuted, regardless of nationality or religion. And for his impressive articles, which are written with exceptional style and grace and have awakened the nation’s conscience and call for a correction of its wrongs.”**

- The Award Certificate

“I am not personally acquainted with Gideon Levy, but I regularly peruse his articles in Haaretz. Faithfully, with reliability and consistency, he brings us the human stories that illustrate human rights violations, particularly those in the Territories. For months and even years, he makes sure to visit the people in the areas where most Israelis dare not venture. He brings us their stories and reminds us of the human element of the conflict. I would like to nominate him for the award in recognition of his dedication to the subject of human rights, especially in these times of such uncertainty regarding the future of the conflict and its resolution.”

- Letter of recommendation



Photo: Miki Kratzman

# 1997

## Community Advocacy



Established in 1993 in Jerusalem's Katamon neighborhood, Community Advocacy works in partnership with local communities throughout the country to promote and implement social rights, to foster community solidarity, and to affect policy change.

“For recruiting and supervising numerous volunteers to train neighborhood residents to demand and exercise their social and economic rights, and for mediating between residents in order to build a better society that meets their common goals. Through all of this, Community Advocacy has made a significant contribution to human rights awareness and implementation in Israel, without regard to gender, religion, race, or nationality.”

- The Award Certificate

“The right to minimal living conditions stems from the human right to dignity and is based on the idea that dignity is not only a right, but a precondition for the realization of many other rights. Granting the award to Community Advocacy would demonstrate the solid connection between civil and political rights on the one hand, and social, economic, and cultural rights on the other. It would serve as a clear statement that social rights are not charity but a fundamental right.”

- Letter of recommendation



Flash 90

Ali Muhammad Ibrahim Juarish, eight years old, son of Muhammad and Laila, was killed by a “rubber bullet” fired by an Israeli soldier in the Bethlehem area in November 1997.

## The Juarish Family

“This distinction is given to Muhammad and Laila Juarish, parents who lost their beloved child, Ali, in a clash with Israeli soldiers, and who nevertheless donated their son’s organs in order to save the lives of sick children, regardless of their religion, race, or nationality. They serve as an example and as a model for all those struggling for equality and for those who hold all human life sacred.”

- The Award Certificate

“The Award Committee’s decision is a testament to your act, a humane gesture that represents all of the values that ACRI stands for, including that which reaffirms the most basic of rights – the right to life.”

- A letter by Amos Gil, then ACRI Executive-Director, to the Juarish family

# 1998

## Kav LaOved Worker's Hotline

Established in 1991, Kav LaOved – Worker's Hotline helps Israeli laborers, migrant workers, Palestinian residents of the Occupied Territories, and asylum seekers to fully realize their labor rights. The organization promotes labor rights among the Israeli authorities and the general public.

This year, the Emil Grunzweig Award was presented as part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel.

“For taking on the mission of defending the rights of workers, who are unable to stand up on their own for their individual and collective rights; for filing thousands of labor suits, within its eight years of existence, that have secured workers’ basic rights and brought them satisfaction and clarity; and for standing beside these workers with guidance and encouragement, and showing concern for their basic human needs. For all of this, and for the generosity of its activists, who have helped to raise the State of Israel’s moral standing, we award this distinction to Kav LaOved.”

- The Award Certificate

“With the arrival of between 200,000 – 250,000 foreign workers over the last few years, the organization has been tending to this group of workers. It has prepared publications in foreign languages (Romanian, Filipino, Chinese, Thai) that are distributed to employees at their place of work, at the airport, and sometimes even prior to their arrival in Israel. Kav LaOved’s staff and volunteers operate a hotline that provides immediate assistance to foreign workers facing brutal detention and illegal deportation from Israel, as well as to workers suffering from violence and sexual abuse.”

- Letter of recommendation

**KAV LAOVED IS OFTEN THE ONLY PLACE TO TURN TO IN CONFRONTING THESE INJUSTICES. THE ORGANIZATION IS NOT AFRAID TO PUBLICIZE THOSE COMPANIES WHOSE BEHAVIOR IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE LAW AND SHAMES THE ENTIRE ISRAELI PUBLIC.**

- Letter of recommendation

# 1998

## Aluf Hareven

Lifetime Achievement Award



Itai Hareven

Aluf Hareven, a former intelligence officer, Foreign Ministry official and scholar, has devoted much of his career to strengthening the relations between Jews and Arabs. In 1991, he was one of the founders of Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civil Equality in Israel, which works to promote equality between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel.

“For devoting his life to the struggle for human dignity and human rights.

For the values he preaches, both written and spoken, calling for equality for all members of humanity.

For speaking out against discrimination, prejudice, and stereotypes. For leading the camp of all those who value peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding. And for providing, through his words and through his deeds, an exemplary model of responsible citizenship.”

- The Award Certificate

“A right that citizens aren’t familiar with is a lost right. What good are rights if you don’t know that they exist? And how easy is it for your rights to be ignored and violated, if you yourself are not aware of them. In order to safeguard human rights, we must be vigilant. As the awareness of each and every one of us becomes greater, and we similarly recognize the rights of others, so our rights will grow and establish themselves, building a more complete society that is based on mutual respect, freedom, equality, and well-being.”

- From the introduction to *The Citizen’s Guide* published jointly by Sikkuy and ACRI at the initiative of Aluf Hareven

## Shulamit Aloni

Lifetime Achievement Award



Sar Yaacov, Courtesy of Government Press Office

Shulamit Aloni served as a Member of Knesset for three decades, and as a cabinet minister in the government. She was one of the founders of the political party Ratz: the Movement for Civil Rights and Peace. She devoted her public and educational activities to promoting equality and human rights. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to her upon her 70th birthday.

“Shulamit Aloni is an enthusiastic and tireless warrior for civil and human rights. She has raised the political, moral, and legal standing of the State of Israel through fighting for greater equality for those of different sexes, races, and religious beliefs. Additionally, she has pursued a true and dignified peace both within Israel and with our neighbors. Lastly, we wish to honor her for her contribution to raising the level of education and culture in Israel.”

- The Award Certificate

“Our main problem today is not how long the negotiations over the evacuation of Hebron take place, or a timetable regarding future withdrawals. Our problem today is social and cultural. Most of the Israeli public wants an open and democratic society, a responsible society that demonstrates solidarity with those who have less. If we don’t build here a caring and active civil society, we may be drawn unwittingly into a neo-ghetto of religious-nationalist extremism that is both violent and dangerous. The old aspiration to be a ‘model society’ is not just some fantasy of the founding generation. It is a part of the Israeli ethos. That is why we all have to roll up our sleeves, stand up, and do our part.”

- From *I Can Do No Other: a Political Biography* edited by Idit Zertal

# 1999

## Physicians for Human Rights - Israel and Ruchama Marton

Physicians for Human Rights – Israel was founded in 1988 by a group of local Jewish and Palestinian doctors, at the initiative of Dr. Ruchama Marton, a psychiatrist and professor of medicine.

PHR took a central role in the public and legal struggle against the torture of Palestinian detainees. In 1999, the Supreme Court banned the practice of torture in Israel.

**“In recognition of its broad range of activities to safeguard the right to health, both physical and mental, and for protecting the well-being of the needy, the tortured, and the oppressed in Israel and in the Occupied Territories;  
for its determination in the face of societal indifference to preserve the dignity and alleviate the suffering of the helpless and of those who have been mercilessly persecuted;  
for its view that medicine and health services can serve as a bridge for creating real peace between peoples;  
and for its contribution to raising the moral and humanitarian standards of the State of Israel and its institutions.”**

- The Award Committee

**“While today we take such a human rights organization for granted, at the time of its founding it was a brave and unprecedented step. During the early years of the Intifada, in the face of the Israeli public’s silence and particularly the silence of its medical establishment, Dr. Marton, a veteran advocate for human rights, decided to devote herself, in conjunction with her medical work, to public activism. She persevered despite the demanding nature of the work, the lack of recognition, and the absence of any funding or support.”**

- Letter of recommendation



**“The physician shall not countenance, condone or participate in the practice of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading procedures”**  
- The Declaration of Tokyo, adopted by the World Medical Assembly

Photo: Physicians for Human Rights-Israel



2000

Yuval Shemesh



Dr. Joseph Algazi, born in Alexandria, Egypt, is a journalist, historian, lecturer, and political and social activist.

## Joseph Algazi

Journalist

“For devoting his journalistic work to protecting and promoting human rights, for the many years he has spent visiting the homes of the helpless, the persecuted, and the bereft, and for awakening the public conscience to hear their plight.”

– The Award Certificate

“Algazi generally chooses his interviewees from groups that other journalists prefer to ignore. For many years he has been relaying the stories of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, the blatant discrimination faced by Israeli Arabs, including the Bedouin in the Negev, migrant workers, and others.

In my opinion, Algazi is thoroughly deserving of the award for holding up a mirror to Israeli society, without tiring, for many years now.”

- Letter of recommendation

In war, even a medic needs to fight to survive.  
**The question tormented me:** would I too have to take part in the bloody account between Israel and its Arab neighbors? And **what if I would recognize someone from Alexandria among the soldiers of the ‘Egyptian enemy’?**

- Column in *Ha'aretz* by Joseph Algazi, describing how he followed his conscience and refused to participate in the battle of Al-Arish

# 2001

## Hotline for Migrant Workers

Founded in Tel Aviv in 1998, Hotline for Migrant Workers strives to preserve and protect the rights of migrant workers, victims of human trafficking, and asylum seekers from around the world who currently reside in Israel.

'The New Tel Avivians,' a series of articles written by journalist Einat Fishbein and published in the newspaper Ha'ir between 1997-1999, revealed the harsh reality of the lives of migrant workers and refugees, who were arriving in Israel in increasing numbers.

**"The population of migrant workers is subject to severe physical and psychological hardships. Among the victims are workers who are denied their salaries, as well as women who are enslaved as prostitutes in appalling conditions.**

**The Hotline for Migrant Workers helps to protect the rights of migrant workers by operating an advisory hotline, visiting detention facilities, and providing free legal aid. Moreover, the organization operates as an advocacy group, seeking to influence public opinion and government policy. The organization's activities are essential to the protection of human rights, and contribute significantly to Israel's moral fiber."**

- The Award Certificate

"Every week I would read Einat Fishbein's articles and get angry all over again. In October 1998, Fishbein wrote a piece about a hotline that Yehudit Ilani was independently running for migrant workers who were slated for deportation. Like others, I got in contact with Yehudit, and we established the hotline as an NGO. It seemed that word had gotten out to the community of migrant workers - Nigerians, Ghanaians, Turks, Romanians, Colombians, Indians, Filipinos, and Chinese - and the telephone in our little office hasn't stopped ringing ever since."

- Sigal Rozen, first director of the Hotline for Migrant Workers



Photo: Haggai Matar

# 2003

## Machsom Watch

Machsom Watch – Woman for Human Rights was established in January 2001 following media reports about abuses that Palestinians were suffering from at checkpoints. The women of the organization, who hail from all across Israel, donate their time and services as volunteers.

“In recognition of their steadfast monitoring of Israeli security forces at the checkpoints in the Occupied Territories during a period characterized by general apathy and desensitization to the human rights of Palestinians; for their interventions to prevent suffering and injury, which often saves human life; for their perseverance and dedication to alleviating the plight of Palestinians at checkpoints; and for building bridges between peoples and helping to maintain the humanity of Israeli society.”

- The Award Certificate

“Day after day, whether summer or winter, weekdays, weekends, or holidays, these women travel to the checkpoints and volunteer their quiet, non-violent presence to stand guard over human rights and liberty within the often violent space where Palestinian and Israeli life intersect. For their daily struggle to protect human rights and freedom, for their original idea which has enabled a small number of people to affect so much good, and for their tireless dedication to their work, I urge you to grant the award to Machsom Watch.”

- Letter of recommendation

In the morning, in her home, the Palestinian woman is **a human being**. She gets dressed, **matching her scarf and sweater**, and goes to visit someone. In the morning and in the evening **she is a human being**, but on the way she played the role of the humiliated Palestinian woman at the checkpoint who **needs to beg the soldiers**.

- Interview in *Ha'aretz* with Lia Nirgad of Machsom Watch following the publication of her book *Winter in Qalandiya* detailing her weekly visits to the Jerusalem checkpoint

# 2004

## Hannah Safran



Naomi Safran

Dr. Hannah Safran is a feminist and peace activist, who researches gender-related issues. She is one of the founders of the Coalition of Women for Peace and of Women in Black.

“In recognition of her extensive activities aimed at promoting the status of women, protecting their rights, and achieving justice and equality; for her work to ensure the right to representation of all women, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or sexual orientation; for her contribution to the establishment of organizations committed to advancing the rights of women, social justice, and the defense of human rights; for her unwavering commitment to fighting all forms of social, economic, gender, and political oppression; and for her work to promote human rights, which she carries out with dedication, perseverance, and steadfast devotion.”

- The Award Certificate

“Hannah is the social conscience of society, striving for the elimination of multiple oppressions of groups and individuals, and aspiring for a national/regional culture that promotes peace, equality and justice. Her life work expresses these ideals and her actions show her belief that even the smallest activities of individuals and groups can and do play a role in bringing social change, and social and political justice.”

- Letter of recommendation by Paula Mills of the Coalition of Women in Haifa

OVERTURN  
THE WHOLE  
WORLD  
ORDER

- Hannah Safran in her book *Don't Wanna Be Nice Girls: The Struggle for Suffrage and New Feminism in Israel*

# 2005

## Adva Center

The Adva Center was founded in 1991 by Barbara and Shlomo Swirski as a policy analysis institute that examines Israel's social and economic policies. The institute provides critical analyses of governmental measures in the areas of budgets, taxation and social services, and their implications for Israeli society.

“It is impossible to tell the story of the struggle to promote social and economic rights in Israel - the right to equality, labor rights, the right to housing, to health, to education, and to a dignified existence - without highlighting the role of the Adva Center.

Without its researchers' comprehensive and informative analyses of clearly presented data, it would simply not be possible to criticize the government's policies and economic rhetoric, which serve to widen social gaps and severely threaten fundamental rights.”

- The Award Certificate

“The tedious work carried out by Adva Center researchers, their analyses of budgets and economic data, and the clear manner in which they present it to the public, provide the necessary informational basis to assess government policy. This represents a preliminary, but wholly essential step, which makes effective action possible in the political arena, in the media, and in civil society. This in turn enables the safeguarding of those rights that are most threatened by government policies.

- Letter of recommendation

Through its persistent work, **the Adva Center** has played *a unique role* in encouraging human rights organizations to **promote social rights** and in generating a *critical public discourse* regarding those rights

- Letter of recommendation

# 2007

## Kolech

Religious Women's Forum

Established in 1998, Kolech - Religious Women's Forum is a feminist religious-Zionist movement that promotes equality for women in public life and within the framework of Jewish halakhah.

“Following the revolution in the status of women, religious women are seeking out more possibilities within the religious world, beyond what they've achieved in the general society. This poses a special challenge to the religious community. This challenge, and the resulting tension, have provided fertile ground over the last decade for activism, with Kolech leading the way. Their actions have proved a source of inspiration for the entire women's movement in Israel.

Kolech has placed a host of pertinent issues such as the troubles women face within the rabbinical courts; the problem of agunot and women being refused a get; sexual harassment on the part of certain rabbis and religious teachers; the need to expand women's roles within religious public life, religious practice and religious ceremonies; and more. It has led a profound revolution in the awareness of an entire generation of sons and daughters.”

- The Award Committee

“Is the desire for change a manifestation of our aspiration to uplift women in a way that is consistent with the worship of God? Or, heaven forbid, is it a dangerous process that disrupts the boundaries of halakhah and leads us down a slippery slope?”

- From Kolech's publication *'To Be a Jewish Woman'*

WHAT MAKES KOLECH UNIQUE  
IS THAT IT PRESENTS A CLEAR VOICE  
EMANATING FROM WITHIN THE RELIGIOUS  
COMMUNITY BY WOMEN WHO ARE PART OF THIS  
COMMUNITY,  
WHO WISH TO REMAIN PART OF IT.  
THAT IS WHAT MAKES THEIR WORK  
SO CHALLENGING AND WHY IT IS SO  
IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THEM

- Letter of recommendation

# 2008

## Breaking the Silence

Shovrim Shtika



Shovrim Shtika - Breaking the Silence - was founded in 2004 by soldiers who served in Hebron during the Second Intifada and decided to place the daily practices of the occupation at the center of the public discourse. Since then, Breaking the Silence has collected the testimonies of hundreds of soldiers and has made their voices heard through a variety of public activities.

“Breaking the Silence activists are not afraid to present the ugly face of the occupation to Israeli society. Their testimonies, both broad in scope and sobering in content, make a bold and effective statement about the direct relationship between the daily practices of the occupation and the resulting abuse of human rights in the Territories. The award is granted to Breaking the Silence for its brave and principled actions; for its original contribution to and effective influence on the public discourse regarding the occupation; and for being one of the outstanding examples in recent years of a grassroots, civil society organization that is taking action in the face of the ongoing occupation.”

- The Award Committee

***“What about vehicles? Did you also confiscate car keys?”***

Yes. If you pull them over, you take the keys and their I.D cards.

***How would they get them back?***

Either they do or they don't, that's in the hands of the next patrol, whether they find them or not.

***And what about getting the I.D cards back?***

The patrol either gives them, or not. If someone is really annoying he doesn't get it back, because he was being cheeky.”

- From “*Breaking the Silence: Testimonies from Hebron 2005-2007*”

## The Refugee Rights Clinic

The Refugee Rights Clinic, the first program of its kind in Israel, was established in 1993 as part of the legal clinics at the Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University. The clinic provides legal aid to asylum seekers and to refugees, and works to promote the development of more progressive laws regarding refugees in Israel.

“The Refugee Rights Clinic was the first to take action on one of the most serious human rights failures in Israel: the lack of an official policy for handling refugees. The clinic's work stands out especially in light of the humanitarian crisis suffered by refugees over the past two years. Since its establishment, the clinic has become the primary address for hundreds of asylum seekers and refugees, providing services in a variety of areas, including applications for asylum, social and economic rights, and family reunification.

The award is granted to the clinic for its partnership and leadership in the struggle to protect the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees in Israel, and for its unique ability to tap into academic forces and student energy in order to tackle this humanitarian crisis.

The Award Committee saw fit this year to highlight the combined power of grassroots activism, coupled with institutional initiatives that seek to advance human rights. Breaking the Silence is one of the most impressive examples in recent years of a grassroots organization challenging the ongoing occupation. The Refugee Rights Clinic, on the other hand, operates through an academic institution, effectively demonstrating how the ‘ivory tower’ does not find it sufficient to conduct research alone.”

- The Award Committee

# 2009

## Nir Katz

Nir Katz of blessed memory was a social activist who worked as youth counselor. In August 2009, at the age of 26, he was murdered by a gunman who attacked the "Youth Bar," a community youth center run by the Israeli LGBT Association where Nir was volunteering. The attack also took the life of 16-year old Liz Trubeshi and wounded ten others. The attacker has yet to be caught.

**"For Nir Katz, volunteering, educating, and contributing to the community was a way of life. As someone whose actions were guided by humanism and love, Nir believed in empowering and supporting others, especially young people, by providing them with the tools they needed to fully realize their potential so that they too could contribute to society.**

**The murder at the Youth Bar bears a chilling similarity to the circumstances surrounding the murder of Emil Grunzweig. Both were relatively unknown activists until their violent deaths, which took place as they were engaged in voluntary action to promote the ideals they believed in."**

- The Award Committee

"Today, at the Human Rights March, we see those who are seeking out the love and compassion between people. That is the message of Nir's life. I am standing here with tears in my eyes and with hope in my heart. I see people who have for years dedicated efforts to these causes, standing alongside those known as the 'silent majority'. Those who lived their sheltered lives and did not take to the streets, perhaps because 'it doesn't involve us.' Until the day that it does."

- Ayala Katz, Nir's mother, at the first annual Human Rights March in Tel Aviv, as she accepted the award in his name





# 2009

## Ruth and Paul Kedar



Ruth and Paul Kedar have worked for decades in promoting various aspects of public life in Israel. In 2005, they took part in the founding of the organization Yesh Din: Volunteers for Human Rights, which works to raise awareness and protect the rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.

“The Kedars played a central role in the establishment of Yesh Din. The organization operates an extensive network of volunteers, gathers and disseminates information about human rights abuses in the Territories, and fights for human rights within the courts and in the public arena.

In all their years of activism, the Kedars have demonstrated the strength, courage, and desire to work toward the safeguarding of democracy and toward a more fair and just society. Their work stems from a deep commitment to human rights, to accepting the other, and to helping those weaker than ourselves.

In 2009 we felt it was important to express our appreciation and our respect for the true strength behind the civil rights movement: those individuals such as Nir Katz, of blessed memory, and Ruth and Paul Kedar, who volunteer and work quietly within their communities to achieve the lofty societal goals that they believe in.”

- The Award Committee

THE TRUE STRENGTH BEHIND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

IS BASED ON THOSE INDIVIDUALS

SUCH AS NIR KATZ, OF BLESSED MEMORY,

AND RUTH AND PAUL KEDAR.

THE INTER-GENERATIONAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM

MARKS THE LONG PATH THAT WE HAVE ALREADY WALKED,

AND YET POINTS OUT THE MANY CHALLENGES THAT STILL LIE AHEAD

- The Award Committee

Photo: Yesh Din

# 2010

## Yehudit Tsur

Former Judge of Jerusalem District Court



Ronit Seia

Yehudit Tsur served as a judge and as Vice President of the Jerusalem District Court from 1989 until her retirement in 2010. Before becoming a judge, she served at the Judge Ministry for over twenty years. Among her other positions, Tsur was a personal aide to then Attorney General Prof. Itzhak Zamir.

“Judge Yehudit Tsur has been the most prominent judicial figure in Israel over the past decade regarding the defense of human rights. Her rulings relate to a broad spectrum of human rights issues and are indicative of her deep commitment to broadening human rights protections in Israel. These numerous pioneering decisions have advanced the right to equality and combated discrimination against Mizrahi Jews, the LGBT community, and the ultra-Orthodox, among others.

In her daily judicial work, Judge Tsur stood out not only for her unparalleled judicial temperament, marked by unusual patience and endurance, but first and foremost as a judge who championed the human rights of the individual, who is banging on the doors of judge as a last resort to realize his or her rights.”

- The Award Committee

“Human rights are the heartbeat of any democratic rule. To examine their importance in a given society we must not only hear the rhetoric loud and clear, but also witness their realization along with a constant strive to uphold them. Today of all days, it seems that there is a real need to underline these basic values, to raise the flag of human rights and to put them to practice.”

- Yehudit Tsur's speech at the awards ceremony

## Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality and Oren Yiftachel



activestills.org

The Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, which was established in 1997, provides a framework for joint Jewish-Arab action and works on to promote a just solution for the Bedouin population in the Negev. Professor Oren Yiftachel is a researcher of political geography at Ben Gurion University, and a longtime activist for human rights and social justice.

“Over the past year, the struggle for Bedouins’ rights has taken a serious turn for the worst, as reflected in the repeated destruction of Al-'Arakib. Professor Yiftachel and the Negev Coexistence Forum stand at the forefront of this struggle, both in the courts and in their courageous and steadfast stance with the residents.

The violent arrest of the Forum's Director, Haia Noach, during Al-'Arakib's sixth destruction is just one example of the Forum's deep commitment. It fights for the rights of Israel's national minorities from a broad civil and humanistic perspective.

Professor Yiftachel's intensive work over the last few decades crosses a variety of disciplines and promotes a wide range of human rights: starting with human rights in the Occupied Territories, continuing with distributive judge and social and economic rights, and now concentrating on the Bedouins' right to have their villages recognized.

This year we express our appreciation for, on the one hand, people and organizations that defend human rights by challenging the establishment, as Professor Yiftachel and the Negev Coexistence Forum, and on the other hand, to honor those who have defended and advanced human rights through their public roles in their service to the state, such as Judge Tsur.”

- The Award Committee

## Keren Neubach

Journalist for Kol Yisrael



Sason Trani, Courtesy of Israel Broadcasting Authority

Keren Neubach is a reporter and presenter for Kol Yisrael Radio, who had also worked at Galei Zahal Radio and Channel 1 TV. The radio morning show she hosts, “Seder Yom” - Daily Agenda, brings to the forefront economic and social affairs that are not generally discussed in other leading media outlets.

“Keren Neubach creates a new agenda. Each day she places the institutionalized problems of Israeli society at the heart of the country’s media discourse, including problems affecting disadvantaged groups whose voice cannot be heard elsewhere. Neubach and her team expose the distortions of judge practiced by Israel’s authorities at a time when many of her colleagues shun such stories.”

- The Award Committee

“Good morning, in a moment we’ll hear from two demonstrators who were arrested at Gan Hatikva tent city. Will today’s cabinet meeting provide an adequate response to the summer social protests? And how is it possible that a group of landlords signed on an agreement not to sell their apartments to Ethiopians? Stay tuned.”

- Opening segment of “Sedr Yom” with Keren Neubach,  
4 January 2012

## Tamar Peleg-Sryck

Lifetime Achievement Award



Adv. Sigi Ben Ari

Tamar Peleg-Sryck, a veteran human rights lawyer, was one of the first women to work in the military courts. She has represented hundreds of Palestinian detainees, both in her current role with HaMoked, and previously with ACRI and DCI. Prior to her legal career, she served in various educational roles.

“HaMoked Attorney Tamar Peleg-Sryck has dedicated her work over the past twenty-five years to representing Palestinians in the Occupied Territories: administrative detainees, minors, persons held in the Khiam Detention Center in Lebanon, those incarcerated in GSS investigations, arrestees from the Bil’in protests, and more. The Committee has decided to grant her the Lifetime Achievement Award, for her intense work in a place where there are so many egregious violations of human rights. At age 85, she is still extremely active, energetic, and utterly committed to the relentless defense of human rights.”

- The Award Committee

“Tamar Peleg-Stryck is an inspiration to an entire generation of attorneys who were schooled and educated on her vast and groundbreaking work. Personally, I learned from her that we as human rights lawyers have a duty to battle against windmills, and that each and every tiny gain we achieve is in reality a great victory. For years Peleg-Stryck has taken on cases of administrative detention, one of the most Kafkaesque and difficult areas with regards to human rights. Countless people owe her their freedom – humankind’s most prized possession.”

- Letter of recommendation by Attorney Gaby Lasky

# 2011

## Koach La Ovdim Democratic Workers' Organization

Koach La Ovdim - Power to the Workers - is a general trade union founded in 2007 that organizes workers from a variety of employment fields throughout Israel. The individual unions that Koach La Ovdim has helped organize have played a leading role in the key battles for workers' rights and trade agreements. The organization combats harmful work conditions in the private and public sectors, and helps promote the values of social and economic equality.

“The organization has changed the self-perception of the worker community in Israel, and the consciousness of the state, employers and the general public regarding the deeper meaning of collective organization. Koach La Ovdim has organized thousands of workers in an impressive number of workplaces and professions. We have not seen a change like this in the attitude toward the right to collective organization and unionization for decades.

The uniqueness of Koach La Ovdim lies in its ability to connect between employees from different worlds. Thus, in its general assembly meetings, workers from Haifa Chemicals Plant sit alongside migrant workers who provide nursing care. This is building true solidarity that crosses the borders between different workplaces.”

- The Award Committee

“Koach LaOvdim has shaken the entire system of labor relations in Israel. The organization meets the needs of workers interested in organizing unions whose power depends democratically upon its members; a union whose first responsibility towards its workers is not compromised by obligations to the employers; a union that serves as a catalyst for building local workplace communities. It injected new meaning into freedom of collective organization in Israel.”

- Letter of recommendation



Photo: Koach La Ovdim

## Award Committee Members

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) wishes to express its deep appreciation to the members of the Emil Grunzweig Award Committee over the past thirty years, who identified those individuals and organizations standing at the forefront of the struggle for human rights and civil liberties in Israel.

### 1981-1982

Prof. Akiba Ernst Simon, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
James Jaakov Rosenthal, *Of Blessed Memory*

### 1983

Prof. Akiba Ernst Simon, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
James Jaakov Rosenthal, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Adv. Michael Y. Berger, *Of Blessed Memory*

### 1984

Prof. Yitzhak Hans Klinghoffer, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Adv. Shneur Zalman Abramov, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Adv. Michael Y. Berger, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund

### 1985

Prof. Yehoshua Arieli, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Adv. Michael Y. Berger, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund

### 1986

Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Yehoshua Arieli, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Adv. Moshe Negbi

### 1987

Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Adv. Michael Y. Berger, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Ruth Gavison  
Prof. Itzhak Zamir

### 1988

Supreme Court Judge Shimon Agranat,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Ruth Gavison  
Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*

### 1989

Supreme Court Judge Shimon Agranat,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Adv. Haim Zadok, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Judge Eli Nathan

### 1990

Supreme Court Judge Shimon Agranat,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Judge Eli Nathan  
Adv. Michael Y. Berger, *Of Blessed Memory*

### 1991

Supreme Court Judge Shimon Agranat,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Kenneth Mann  
Adv. Michael Y. Berger, *Of Blessed Memory*

### 1992-1993

Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Mordechai Kremnitzer  
Adv. Moshe Negbi

### 1994

Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Ruth Gavison  
Prof. David Heyd

**1995**

Adv. Haim Zadok, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Ruth Gavison  
Prof. David Heyd

**1996-1997**

Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Edna Margalit, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Judge Eli Nathan

**1998**

Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Edna Margalit, *Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Mordechai Kremnitzer

**1999-2000**

Supreme Court Judge Haim H. Cohn,  
*Of Blessed Memory*  
Prof. Ruth Gavison  
Prof. Mordechai Kremnitzer

**2001**

Prof. Ruth Gavison  
Prof. Alice Shalvi  
Prof. Mordechai Kremnitzer

**2003 - 2004**

Prof. Mordechai Kremnitzer  
Dr. Hala Espanioli  
Dr. Yossi Dahan

**2005 - 2011**

Prof. Yossi Yonah  
Prof. Michael Karayanni  
Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari

הציטוטים המופיעים בחוברת נלקחו מהמקורות הבאים:

עמ' 6	"על המרפסת של מוסא הג'ונג'י", הוצאת "על המשמר" 1986
עמ' 10	"יומן המלחמה שלי", הוצאת דב ירמיה 1983
עמ' 26	דליה קרפל, "אחרי הצער והכעס", "הארץ", 22.10.1993
עמ' 28	תום שגב, "משפט חברים", "הארץ", 12.6.1992
עמ' 43	"לא יכולה אחרת - שולמית אלוני משוחחת עם עדיית זרטל", הוצאת "מעריב-הד ארצי" 1997
עמ' 47	יוסף אלגזי, "ואז יריתי", "הארץ", 26.5.2006
עמ' 48	ענית פישביין, "חולה כליות לא חוקי", "העיר", 27.6.97
עמ' 51	אביבה לורי, "מחסום תחת השפעה", "הארץ", 30.4.2004
עמ' 53	"לא רוצות להיות נחמדות", הוצאת פרדס 2006

הצילום בעמ' 15 באדיבות אלי אבן (אבו). טל: 052-2956117  
הצילום בעמ' 36 באדיבות חיים טרגן, © כל הזכויות שמורות לעיתון "הארץ" בע"מ

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union.  
The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of ACRI and can  
in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



האגודה לזכויות האזרח בישראל  
جمعية حقوق المواطن في إسرائيل  
The Association for Civil Rights in Israel

זוֹר | 40