

Israel's Democracy at a Crossroads: An Intensive 2-day Study Tour with the New Israel Fund's Board and International Council Itinerary

**** This is a sample itinerary, and is subject to change ****

THURSDAY

De-legitimization or Dissent? The Challenges of Upholding Human Rights in Israel Today

Israel's current political atmosphere has led to a vigorous debate on the legitimacy and limits of criticizing Israel's actions. Join a round-table conversation with the staff and leadership of the New Israel Fund, directors of human rights organizations, retired jurists, and journalists on the role and responsibilities of human and civil rights organizations in Israel. The discussion will include a diversity of perspectives on freedom of speech, the image of human rights organizations in Israel and outside it, the issue of BDS, and the relationship with Jewish communities abroad.

Route 443: A Case Study in Human Rights

We will travel along route 443, which leads from Jerusalem through Modi'in to Tel Aviv, by way of the West Bank. Route 443 presents a complex set of challenges in which tensions between security and human right concerns are brought into sharp focus. In March 2008, the Israeli Supreme Court upheld the IDF's right to limit Palestinian traffic on Route 443 in order to prevent attacks on Israelis. On December 29, 2009 Israel's High Court of Justice accepted a petition submitted by the Association of Civil Rights in Israel that ruled against the IDF's position, essentially permitting access to 443 from the Palestinian villages that line the route and from whom the land to build 443 was appropriated. However, to this day, road closures and checkpoints continue to prevent Palestinians from travelling freely on Route 443. Through this segment of the tour, we will gain a deeper understanding of the assertions of human rights organizations and Israel's security apparatus, and see the implications of court rulings on the ground.

The Rights of Refugees and Migrants in the Jewish State

The increasing number of refugees and migrant workers in Israel has sparked a debate about the need to clarify immigration policy in Israel, as well as a set of guidelines that will address a reality in which the Israeli economy depends on cheap labor provided by this population. A key issue on the national agenda is the growing number of children of refugees and migrant workers who are growing up in Israel as Israelis without clear residency/citizenship status, and are now subject to deportation. This issue dramatizes questions relating to Israel's social cohesion, national identity, and legal framework for its non-Jewish residents. We will visit human rights organizations that address the hardships of refugees and migrant workers in Israel today, and learn first-hand about possible solutions. We will conclude the visit with a tour of the Bialik-Rogozin school in south Tel Aviv, which was featured in the Oscar-winning documentary film, [Strangers No More](#).

FRIDAY

Exploring the Boundaries of Protest

A Tour of [East Jerusalem](#), with a focus on its social and political history and the current dispossession of Palestinian families by ultra-nationalist settlers, followed by a meeting and discussion with activists from the [Sheikh Jarrah Solidarity Movement](#).

Take Action

Make your voice heard! Join the NIF Board, International Council and staff at the weekly protest against the forced expulsion of Palestinian residents in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem.

Closing conversation and farewell