

Israeli Hostage Survivor
Returning to Israel



THE DAY AFTER

JERUSALEM INSTITUTE
OF JUSTICE

“Do you know what it means to open a refrigerator? It is everything. To be able to reach and take a piece of fruit, an egg, a piece of bread. I dreamt of this simple act every day.”

- Eli Sharabi, former hostage



Seeking justice for survivors of
terrorism, human trafficking,
and discrimination.

Jerusalem Institute of Justice is an Israeli legal and research institute with United Nations Consultative Status. For over 20 years, we have led the fight for civil rights in Israel, and for Israel's legitimacy on the world stage.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO
JERUSALEM INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Dear JIJ Partners,

The Day After a war is not a single morning. It is a long, quiet reckoning. It is the moment when the sirens fall silent, but the questions grow louder. When the soldiers come home, carrying wounds that will not show up on X-rays. When history decides what the war meant. For Israel, this war was fought on battlefields and in tunnels, but also on screens, campuses, and newsrooms across the world. The guns have gone quiet. The war of ideas has not. And so the mission of the Jerusalem Institute of Justice must now evolve.

Over the last two years, the Jerusalem Institute of Justice was pulled—urgently and necessarily—into emergency response. Israel’s unsung heroes have entered the doors of our Jerusalem office, welcomed us into their homes, and entrusted us with their stories. The seats in our lobby have been filled by hundreds of wounded soldiers, bereaved parents, survivors of the massacres at the Nova Festival and kibbutzim on the Gaza border.

We looked at the body bags, saw jihad with our own eyes. We carried the evidence, the stories, and the survivors to the frontlines of the information war at United Nations Headquarters. We joined our voices together, over the shrill cries of “apartheid! genocide! colonizer!”

And all of this generated something tangible. An outcome we have hoped for across a thousand generations. Freedom for our captive sons and daughters. And a strong and secure land to raise them in. Since October 7th, JIJ has served over 5,000 survivors of the October 7th massacre, won \$10 million in benefits for wounded IDF soldiers, forced the UN to recognize Hamas as a rapist organization, shown our documentary film on dozens of university campuses, won 10 prestigious film awards, and it will soon premiere on Amazon.

The darkness remains on the other side of our tiny borders, but we are still sovereign in the land of our ancestors. The war has ended on Israel’s terms, with our enemies subdued. If the Romans, Caliphs, Czarists, Nazis, Soviets, and the Ayatollah couldn’t get rid of us, no one can.

If you are reading this annual report, you have walked alongside the Jerusalem Institute of Justice over these two terrible years of war. You have read our reports, shared our analysis during difficult conversations, helped us arrange high level meetings, watched our documentary film, fueled us with your prayers, donated to keep our doors open.

Thank you. We couldn’t have done any of it without you.

With gratitude,

Flavia Sevald



MOBILE LEGAL CLINICS FOR OVER 5,000 SURVIVORS OF TERRORISM

In the wake of the October 7th massacre, the Israeli army spent 3 days securing our borders and neutralizing thousands of terrorists who had invaded the civilian neighborhoods along the Gaza border. By the end of those 3 days, all of the foreign tourists had cleared out of Israeli hotels, only to be replaced by over 250,000 displaced and traumatized Israeli civilians.



250,000 Israelis were forced to evacuate from their homes during Israel's war with Hamas and Hezbollah.

JJJ's Legal Aid team sprang into action, setting up mobile legal clinics in the lobbies of the hotels that became temporary shelters for a quarter million homeless Israelis.

Within minutes, we were flooded with desperate new clients who needed our help.

Recipe for a Mobile Legal Clinic



Chairs



Laptops



Tables



Powerstrips



Lawyer

“

“I have no parents. My parents were murdered. I don't have my house, I don't have any money. Can you help me?”

- Omri, 8 years old

Omri was the youngest visitor to our mobile legal clinic. JJJ filed a successful guardianship petition on his behalf, allowing his mother's sister to take custody of him in the aftermath of his parents' murder by Hamas terrorists on October 7th.



Photography: Debbie Hill

WHAT DO SURVIVORS OF TERRORISM DESERVE?

1. **Justice** - while thousands of Hamas terrorists are currently imprisoned, none of them have faced a criminal trial, which would allow survivors of their atrocities to confront them in court.
2. **Accountability** - Israel's leaders must assess and analyze the political, strategic, and intelligence failures that failed to stop Hamas' invasion of Israel on October 7th.
3. **Recovery** - survivors need long-term treatment for their physical and mental injuries.
4. **Restitution** - the companies, charities, and countries who funneled money to Hamas must pay restitution.



Supreme Court of Israel

In September 2025, JJJ filed a petition to Israel's Supreme Court on behalf of 188 families whose children survived the Nova Festival Massacre, seeking official recognition as survivors of terrorism. This recognition is not symbolic. It would unlock the practical support these families urgently need: financial benefits, as well as medical and psychological assistance.

The Supreme Court responded to our petition with a request that we simultaneously pursue a legislative solution in the Knesset. Our draft legislation is currently pending review in the Knesset legal department, as we continue searching for a coalition member to champion the bill.

BEST INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 7

As the Nova Music Festival turned into a nightmare, Yuval Raphael found herself cramped inside a bus stop bomb shelter with nearly 40 others. But their shelter became a tomb when terrorists discovered them. In a terrifying ordeal, Yuval and her friends played dead, hiding under the bodies of those who had fallen, as the terrorists repeatedly returned to shoot and throw grenades.

Miraculously, Yuval survived to tell the truth about the darkest day in Israel's history. In 2024, Yuval traveled to Geneva, Switzerland with JIJ to testify before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva in front of hundreds of diplomats. Her compelling story serves as the beating heart of JIJ's first documentary film titled SATURDAY October 7.



Yuval Raphael at the UN in Geneva with JIJ Lawyers

Our successful crowdfunding campaign raised **\$169,000** from **1,588 donors** to cover production and distribution costs, and powered a nationwide tour of the United States, with screenings on over a dozen college campuses. The film has won 10 prestigious film festival awards, and is premiering on Amazon Prime in the spring of 2026!

Awards Our Documentary Has Won



"A teacher, a farmer, a mother, a son. They lived and danced peacefully until their paradise turned into hell. They hid in bomb shelters, bushes, and beneath the bodies of their friends. One year later, they're ready to tell the world what they lived through."

HE SURVIVED:
GUIDO KOHAN

When Hamas attacked Kibbutz Ein Hashlosha on October 7, Guido Kohan and his family were trapped in their safe room for eight hours. Terrorists fired an RPG into their living room and tried to breach the safe room door for nearly an hour. Guido's father held the door shut with one hand, armed with a kitchen knife. After the terrorists left, they murdered their 80-year-old neighbor, Silvia Mirensky, burning her alive.

Guido survived. He recorded his testimony at our Tel Aviv studio, which became part of our documentary. In 2025, Guido traveled with JIJ across the U.S., screening the film and speaking to university students, synagogues, and churches. He is not just sharing his story; he is demanding accountability for himself, his community, and all survivors.

"He Survived October 7th" Listen to Guido's story by using the QR code below.



Building on the success of our first documentary, we're in pre-production on our second feature-length film. This one will explore the impact of the war on an entire multi-generational family, celebrating their survival and resilience. Stay tuned!

FREE LEGAL AID FOR WOUNDED ISRAELI WARRIORS

Since October 7th, over **22,000 Israeli soldiers** have come home with shattered bodies and broken spirits. Some carry visible wounds – amputations, paralysis, crushed limbs. Others carry invisible ones – sleepless nights, flashbacks, panic, deep depression and survivor’s guilt.

On paper, the State of Israel promises to stand by its wounded. In reality, the road to disability recognition and full benefits is long, exhausting, and deeply complex. It can take more than five years of medical committees, appeals, paperwork, expert opinions, and legal procedures. Most families are simply trying to keep their loved one alive, functioning, and out of crisis. They cannot, on their own, fight a sophisticated legal system at the same time.

The Jerusalem Institute of Justice (JIJ) is the only organization providing free legal aid to these soldiers. Since October 7th, JIJ has represented over 384 wounded IDF soldiers. JIJ offers professional legal representation completely free of charge, taking no fees. To date, we have won \$10 million in disability benefits for Israel’s wounded heroes, all of which goes directly to the soldiers and their families.

JIJ intervenes at critical moments, handling emergency hospital paperwork, representing soldiers before the Ministry of Defense, preparing them for medical committees, and filing appeals when recognition is denied. We ensure long-term protection of their rights, securing access to treatment, rehabilitation, and financial support reflective of their true functional damage.



Guy Akoka, legally blind since birth, does not see the world like most people. “I remember myself as a child being drawn to social issues and injustices,” he told Israel Hayom. After overcoming significant hurdles to memorize his law school curriculum and pass the bar, he chose to leverage his degree for the public good. Now, under the banner of JIJ, he has become known as the “Defender of the Wounded.”

Representing veterans, Akoka enters the rooms where most dare not go. He accompanies families to medical committees—sometimes held in hospital rooms while the soldier is still unconscious—to determine disability percentages. “The Jerusalem Institute of Justice provides this service for free because those who fought for the state shouldn’t have to beg the state for recognition.”

In the last two years, **77** soldiers and reservists committed suicide as a result of their service, yet the state does not recognize them as fallen soldiers. It’s a slap in the face to the families. Through the Institute, we have drafted a legal amendment to ensure they are recognized and their families are embraced as bereaved families.

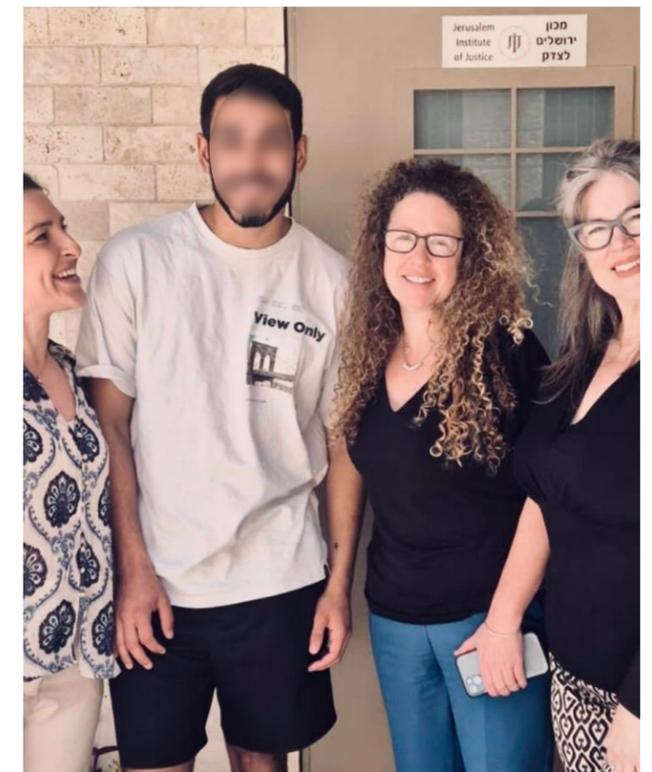


JIJ Team Members Meeting with Terrorist Survivors

Akoka’s work with JIJ isn’t limited to individual cases; he frequently appears before Knesset committees to draft legislation and file petitions to the Supreme Court of Justice to fix systemic failures. His current battle is one of his most painful: The Recognition of the Fallen.

Over 1,000 Israeli soldiers have fallen in battle since October 7th, leaving behind 40 orphaned children, without a father or mother to care for them. JIJ’s free legal aid program helps them secure qualified guardians and financial assistance.

You can Adopt a Wounded Soldier for \$5,000. This fully underwrites one soldier’s legal journey—from first Ministry of Defense contact through appeals, hearings, and securing full recognition and stable benefits. As these cases can take up to five years, a \$5,000 gift covers years of professional advocacy. Donors can be confidentially matched with a case, receiving sensitive updates at key milestones—proof of justice delivered, not marketing stories.



H. was serving as a tank commander in Gaza when his tank was hit by a missile, leaving him unconscious and severely brain-injured. He is now in intensive rehabilitation at Loewenstein Hospital, with major speech and cognitive challenges. For several months, he had no means to communicate with his parents and care team, until JIJ intervened, securing a cutting-edge eye gaze machine that allows him to speak full sentences by moving only his eyes.

We continue fighting for recognition of his injuries as severe, lifelong disabilities, and will safeguard his long-term benefits, equipment, and care for him and his family.

STANDING UP FOR SURVIVORS OF **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

In Israel, 14,000 women and girls are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In July 2025, JIJ fought to renew the Prohibition of Consumption of Prostitution Law (5779-2019), an innovative legal framework that combines rehabilitation, public awareness, and education, offering prostituted women a dignified path out of the abusive sex industry.

Israeli police have issued 5,104 fines to consumers of prostitution since JIJ first persuaded the Knesset to adopt this legislation in 2019. 72% of Israelis polled now agree that prostitution is a form of violence against women and girls (5 years ago, only 39% agreed). Now more women are managing to leave the industry, with JIJ's help.



Since October 7th, JIJ has provided life-changing legal aid to 67 survivors of human trafficking, securing their rights to housing, debt relief, and lawful immigration status. We met with Israel's First Lady, Michal Herzog, to advance comprehensive debt relief for women leaving prostitution. In 2025, the Knesset voted to extend the Nordic Model for another 5-year pilot period. Now we are advancing new legislation to prevent online prostitution through platforms like OnlyFans.



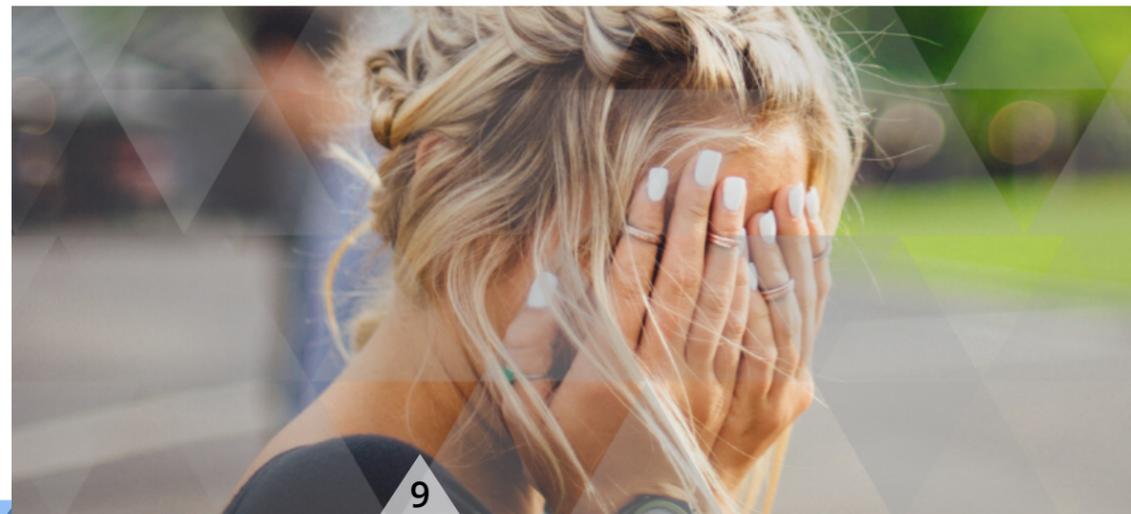
Most Women in Prostitution:

- Were recruited at 13 or 14
- Are controlled by a pimp
- Cope with their pain through addiction
- Are deeply in debt
- Would leave the industry if they could



Miriam* came to JIJ bearing a mountain of debt. She was sexually abused as a young girl and ended up in street prostitution. Rather than treating her as a victim of violence, the police gave her a mountain of tickets for COVID infractions (like not wearing a mask on the street corner).

Finally she got off the streets, sought help from a social worker in Haifa. But she couldn't shake her 100,000 shekel debt to the State of Israel. Tamar Stachel Devor took her case, and just won her TOTAL debt relief. A chance to begin her life as a free woman on a fresh new page.



PROTECTING
RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

In July 2025, the Druze of southern Syria suffered a brutal massacre by forces loyal to jihadist leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani. In three days, the Jolani regime killed over 1,700 civilians, kidnapped 400+ hostages, razed 36 Druze villages, destroyed 7 Christian churches, and displaced over 228,000 Druze and Christians.



As Israel strengthens ties with Syrian Druze and Christians, JIJ assists with emergency evacuations, documenting atrocities, and supporting survivors in seeking justice.

Listen to an exclusive interview with Israeli Druze Member of Knesset Akram Hasson:



20,000 Eritreans fled the war in their country and found refuge in Israel. Josephine* settled down with her three young children in Ashkelon, only 13 kilometers from Gaza. When Hamas invaded on October 7th, the Israeli government demanded that Josephine evacuate her house and leave her job in the city, but refused to provide her with any assistance. No hotel room, no emergency funding, nothing. JIJ is fighting for the rights of non-citizens, like Josephine, to receive dignified help in times of war.

"The terrorists came to my uncle's house and demanded to enter. We didn't do anything to them. They separated the men from the women. They shot all of the men. Then they came to the women's room and told us to take off our clothes. Even the grandmothers and the young girls they violated. Then they shot them, one by one. I got shot in my legs and they left me for dead. I want to leave Syria. I don't even believe in the concept of Syria any more. There is nothing left for me here."

- Lana*, survivor of the Swaida massacre in Syria

Israel is the only country in the Middle East where the Christian community is growing, instead of fleeing. Most of Israel's 180,000 Christians are the descendants of the earliest followers of Jesus, who resisted centuries of Islamic colonization and conquest. Since the October 7th massacre, many Christians in Israel have stopped referring to themselves as "Arab" or "Palestinian," preferring the moniker "Israeli Christian." Now they are seeking deeper integration into mainstream Israeli society through voluntary military service.

For 21 years, JIJ has worked to advance the rights of religious minorities in Israel, winning dozens of precedent-setting victories in Israel's Supreme Court of Justice. These court cases have secured the rights of Israeli Christians to gather peacefully, worship as they choose, receive tax exempt status, run charitable organizations, and educate their children in their customs and beliefs.

"29 Christians have fallen defending the State of Israel, yet their sacrifice is buried within memorials meant for Bedouins and Muslims. This is an insult to their memory and a disgrace to their bereaved families. We are working closely with the Jerusalem Institute of Justice to bring this injustice to the highest levels of the IDF and the State. We will not give up this campaign until Israeli Christian families receive the honor and dignity they deserve."

- Lt. Col. (res.) Ihab Shlayan, Founder of the Israeli Christian Voice

The Day After will bring a massive wave of new immigrants to Israel—Jews who have watched the masks fall in their home countries and endured constant harassment and violence. To meet the scale of what is coming, we are building toward a legal infrastructure of 30 lawyers and a \$10 million annual operation, capable of supporting wounded soldiers, survivors, and new immigrants navigating Israeli law during the most vulnerable moments of their lives.



THE VOICE OF ISRAELIS INSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS

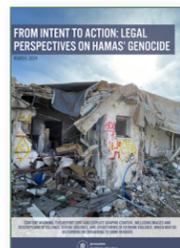
The United Nations devotes over \$100 million per year from its budget towards special committees that exist exclusively to delegitimize Israel. As one of the only pro-Israel organizations with Special Consultative Status, JIJ has unique access within the United Nations system, where we challenge the institution's double standards. Our team of lawyers constantly confront member states with detailed and credible information on the true nature of Hamas, and the toll of its abuses on Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike.

JIJ REPORTS TO SENIOR UN OFFICIALS



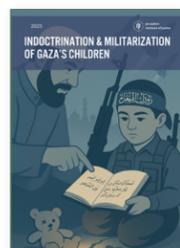
Echoes of Denial: The October 7th Atrocities and Rising Antisemitism

93% of Palestinians surveyed don't believe Hamas committed atrocities on October 7th. This atrocity denial has powered rising antisemitic incidents around the globe, including 4,103 incidents in the UK in 2023 alone and a 153% increase in the United States.



International Legal Violations: Hamas' Attack of October 7, 2023

A catalog of photographic and forensic evidence of Hamas' intentional targeting of civilians, mutilations, home invasions, hostage-taking, sexual violence, and indiscriminate rocket fire. These acts meet the legal thresholds for crimes against humanity and war crimes.



From Intent to Action: Legal Perspectives on Hamas' Genocide

Hamas leaders repeatedly issue explicit calls for the annihilation of Jews and Israelis. Analyzing both the physical acts (actus reus) and the specific intent (dolus specialis) defined by the Genocide Convention and the Rome Statute, JIJ asserts that Hamas' October 7th attack meets the definition of genocide under international law.



Indoctrination and Militarization of Gaza's Children

Hamas systematically indoctrinates and militarizes children, with 100,000 Gazan children recruited through its summer paramilitary camps, and school curriculum that glorifies martyrdom and normalizes violence.



Oppression Within: Hamas' Brutality Against the People of Gaza

Hamas escalated its abuse of Gazan civilians after October 7. Humanitarian workers, peace activists, and alleged "collaborators" are all targeted by Arrow Unit squads that use torture, arbitrary detention, and public executions to control the population and suppress dissent.



Since October 7th, JIJ has organized 5 delegations to the UN for Israeli survivors and first responders and provided in-depth briefings to diplomats from 34 countries, including **Cyprus, Switzerland, Canada, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Austria, Ireland, Belgium, Argentina, Paraguay, Guatemala, Angola, Bosnia, and the United States.**

VICTORY: Our tireless advocacy paid off in the summer of 2025, when the UN officially recognized that Hamas orchestrated systematic sexual violence during the October 7th massacre.

MEET ONE OF JIJ'S 35 WAR-TIME INTERNS:

EMMA SMORGONSKY



"I'm a junior at Penn State University studying Political Science. I've never shied away from hard conversations about Israel on my campus. So I was especially excited to spend my summer in Jerusalem, interning at the Jerusalem Institute of Justice. Less than two weeks into my internship, the 12 Day War between Israel and Iran erupted. Suddenly there was a war within a war, and I found myself doing things I had never imagined. I packed an emergency bag, and spent hours inside of bomb shelters with strangers who took care of each other and kept each other's spirits high, even as Iran's ballistic missiles managed to hit several apartment buildings.

When the situation escalated, the organizers of my summer program decided to evacuate us to Eilat, which is the southernmost city in Israel. Soon after that we took a boat to Cyprus, and finally returned to the United States. But I didn't want my internship to end! The JIJ team in Jerusalem was really gracious about my departure. While they were stuck in bomb shelters, they asked me to contribute social media videos and help connect with younger audiences around the world. Israel is so misunderstood, and people my age like to get their information from TikTok. Now I had firsthand knowledge of the situation, and the platform to share the reality, which is this: Israel targets weapons, while Iran targets civilians."

- Emma Smorgonsky



JIJ IN THE NEWS



TWO LAWYERS, THREE OPINIONS

JIJ's new podcast Two Lawyers, Three Opinions takes listeners inside the legal, political, and media battles shaping the discourse on Israel and the Middle East. Dissecting international lawfare and the UN's anti-Israel bias, Monique Beadle and Uri Morad bring a blend of expertise, passion, and fearless analysis to every episode.

Two Lawyers, Three Opinions offers a perspective you won't find in mainstream media coverage. The series sparks conversations that matter: among advocates, students, and policymakers seeking facts over slogans.

TOP PODCAST EPISODES:

Episode 5 - The IDF in Gaza: Countering the Misconceptions - Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, the International spokesperson for the IDF, counters the most potent misconceptions about the war in Gaza and the IDF's rules of engagement.

Episode 8 - He Survived October 7th - In this gripping episode, Monique Beadle speaks with Guido Kohan, a survivor from the October 7th massacre at Kibbutz Ein HaShlosha

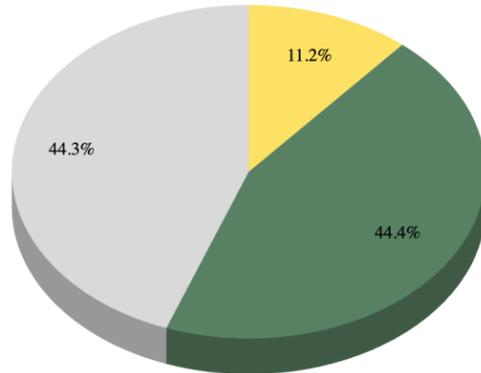
Episode 9 - Israel vs. Iran: Bomb Shelter Edition - JIJ lawyers Monique Beadle and Uri Morad reflect on Operation Rising Lion, the final chapter of Iran's war with Israel.



JIJ ISRAEL FINANCIALS

Program Expenses 2024

● Administration ● Civil Justice and Human Rights ● Free Legal Aid



For Jerusalem Institute of Justice, Inc.
2024 990, EIN (tax id #): 47-1817557
501(c)3

Year	2022	2023	2024
Total Revenue	\$881,124	\$882,806	\$1,167,111

Expenses	2022	2023	2024
Program Services	\$766,232	\$806,757	\$892,701
Admin & General	\$92,969	\$87,986	\$112,855
Total Expenses	\$859,201	\$894,743	\$1,005,556

2024 Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Administration	\$112,855	11%
Civil Justice & Human Rights	\$446,778	45%
Free Legal Aid	\$445,923	44%
Total Expenses	\$1,005,556	100%



At the Jerusalem Institute of Justice, our pledge is to maintain an effective organization by being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We have a responsibility to maintain integrity and openness in our financial practices. Therefore, we are committed to fulfilling the following standards:

- We are governed by a fully independent Board Of Directors. Our board establishes policies, sets budgets, oversees operations and reviews organizational accomplishments.
- Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Contributions to both our JIJ USA Office and our JIJ Israel office are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.

Gold Transparency 2025

Charity Navigator

89%

Three-Star Charity

At the Jerusalem Institute of Justice, accountability and transparency are an integral part of everything we do. From every purpose restricted donation, JIJ's Board Of Directors may allocate between 12% and 20% of that donation to cover its administrative and fundraising costs.



WORLD CLASS LEGAL REPRESENTATION



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Globally



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