
Jerusalem Residency

“Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family.” (Article 16 (1))

“A State must not discriminate, act arbitrarily or [act] with an ulterior motive...” (The Honorable Justice Barak)²⁰

During the last six months, the right of Palestinian residents of Israel to lead a family life with a spouse who lives over the Green Line has been curtailed. This right, whose implementation was until recently confined to the whims of a discriminatory bureaucracy, has become a primary goal in Israel’s war against the Palestinian minority in its midst which has been declared a “security, criminal and political threat, as well as an economic and demographic burden.”²¹ The government decided on these means in May, since beginning last April, processing of anything relating to requests for family reunification and registration of children of Palestinian residents of Israel, including citizens, has been frozen by the Interior Ministry. The government’s decision creates impenetrable barriers, based on “origin,” vis-à-vis families in which one of the spouses is Palestinian. The decision adversely affects all the divided families who wish to live together in Israel – from engaged couples, which do not know if their marriage can be actualized, to heads of families who have not finished their bureaucratic journey in the Interior Ministry, the endpoint of which is residency status. The decision views marriage and bringing children into the world as a weapon in the Palestinians’ war against the State of Israel, and overlooks the desire of human beings to live together as a family.

The government decision has been particularly detrimental to the residents of East Jerusalem. The Palestinian residents of the city are intimately linked with the West Bank and Jordan, and have submitted around a half of the requests for family reunification that were approved in the past eight years.²² The handling of their requests for family reunification by the Interior Ministry takes many years. In addition, they must deal with the National Insurance Institute (NII) regarding registration of children for health insurance and subsidies. These residents suffered an additional blow during the month of March, when the employees of the Interior Ministry office in East Jerusalem, serving some 250,000 residents, began implementing sanctions, as part of a labor dispute. Thus the handling of a range of topics relating to residency was delayed, and the path to receipt of daily services required by every citizen blocked.

Under these difficult conditions, HaMoked continued working on behalf of more than 150 families, all affected adversely by the government’s decision, and offered counseling to dozens of couples who reached its offices in all matters relating to the dim reality created as a result. During the sanctions in the Interior Ministry in East Jerusalem, HaMoked handled urgent requests for exit permits to Jordan. In a petition to the High Court of Justice (HCJ), submitted by HaMoked, the State committed to decide upon and publicize the conditions for granting an exemption from the fee for registering children, and as a result of a petition to the Court for Administrative Affairs (CAA), a woman had her residency returned to her. In addition, HaMoked continued its collaboration with human rights organizations with the goal of formulating courses of action in light of the government’s decision and the resulting policy that was taking shape.

Revocation of Residency

During the second half of the 1990s, the Interior Ministry made a practice of revoking the residency for residents of East Jerusalem who had moved the center of their lives to the Occupied Territories or abroad, but continued to maintain close contact with the city. HaMoked, together with other human rights organizations, began a public and legal campaign against this policy of “quiet deportation.” The peak of this campaign was the HCJ petition submitted in 1998. In 2000, in response to the petition, the Interior Minister declared an end to the “quiet deportation” policy. Since then, HaMoked has received very few requests in this field. In October 2001, such a request was received, and was resolved following submission of a petition to the CAA, which took over handling of such cases for the HCJ.



CAA

R.D., a Jerusalem resident, was married to a Gaza resident and lived with him in Jerusalem. Beginning in 1991 at the time of the Gulf War, the couples’ life became unbearably difficult. As a Gaza resident, the

²⁰ HCJ 840/79 Construction Center v Government of Israel and the Builders in Israel, PD 34(3), 729, 745-746.

²¹ Spoken by the Minister of the Interior and director of the Population Registry to government ministers in a meeting on 12.5.02, as published in Ha’aretz internet edition, www.haaretz.co.il, 12.05.02.

²² According Interior Ministry data, Ha’aretz, 6.2.02, p. 1a.

husband's presence in Jerusalem was conditional upon entry permits which he had to renew frequently, and as a woman, R.D. could not submit a request for family reunification with her husband, because of Interior Ministry policy at the time, according to which only male residents of East Jerusalem were permitted to submit requests for family reunification on behalf of their wives. R.D. and her husband were forced to move to Gaza. In 1994, immediately following cancellation of the Interior Ministry's policy of gender discrimination, R.D. submitted a request for family reunification with her husband and children. To this day, no response has been received. When R.D. attempted to return to Gaza from a visit to Jerusalem in October 2001, soldiers at the Erez checkpoint reported to her that there was a problem regarding her status in Israel, and that if she were to enter Gaza and deposit her Israeli identity card at the roadblock, as is the practice, she would not be accepted back and would have to remain in Gaza forever. R.D. chose to return to Jerusalem with her three small children in order to make arrangements regarding her status, while two other children of hers remained in Gaza. When she returned to Jerusalem, her infant daughter fell ill, and it transpired that she was not eligible for medical care, since R.D. is not covered for health insurance in Israel. Intervention by HaMoked ultimately made it possible to obtain care for the baby, which however died.

HaMoked's efforts to clarify R.D.'s status revealed that her residency had been revoked already in 1990, when she was living with her husband in Jerusalem. For the 11 years during which R.D. continued visiting Israel, and even when she went to the Population Registry Office to submit a request for family reunification, she was not told even once that there was a problem regarding her status. Even after HaMoked was informed that her residency had been revoked, no written affirmation was received from the Ministry regarding the matter, the motives or reasons. Thus was R.D. denied the opportunity of presenting her claims to the authorities in order to overturn the harsh verdict HaMoked's requests to the Interior Ministry requesting consideration for R.D.'s difficult situation - mourning over her daughter and separation from her two children residing in Gaza - fell on deaf ears. On 16 April HaMoked petitioned the CAA on behalf of R.D. demanding that her right of residency be restored, or at least that she be informed of the reasons for its revocation and be able to request a hearing. On 23 June, in response to the petition, the State announced that R.D.'s residency would be returned, and indeed, one week later, R.D. received an identity card. (**File 16554**)

Family Reunification

Since 1997 and through April of this year, the family life of Palestinian residents of Israel who were married to a non-resident have been subject to a graduated arrangement. According to this arrangement, the spouse who is not a resident receives Israeli residency within an average of ten years from the day the request for family reunification is submitted to the Interior Ministry. This is contingent on approvals, annual security and criminal checks, and the requirement to produce hundreds of documents attesting to the fact that the couple and their children live in Jerusalem. The status of the couple's children is determined in a separate process of registration in the Israeli population registry.

In early April of this year, the Interior Ministry decided to freeze the processing of all requests for family reunification and registration of children involving families of Palestinian citizens and residents of Israel. Ostensibly, the decision was made as a punitive measure in response to the suicide attack in Haifa, carried out by the child of an Israeli citizen who was married to a resident of the Occupied Territories and had not lived in Israel for many years. In fact, since late 2001, the Interior Ministry has taken steps towards changing its policy in this area, with the goal of preventing immigration of Palestinians into Israel. A special staff was established to collect data and propose legislative changes. When the topic was discussed in the government, data were presented regarding the extent of the phenomenon, according to which between 1993-2001, more than 23,000 requests for family reunification submitted on behalf of Palestinians were approved.²³ On 12 May the government approved a decision about temporary policy regarding family reunification for Palestinians who are not residents of Israel. The government decision was passed, among other reasons, "due to the ramifications of processes of immigration and settling-down of foreigners of Palestinian origin, including through family reunification...."²⁴ A conversation with the director of the Population Registry Office in East Jerusalem reveals that a check into the Palestinian origin of non-residents is performed even for non-first degree relatives, including grandparents.

The decision comprises three "no's" - no receipt of new requests for family reunification, no processing of requests already submitted and not yet approved, and no upgrading of status for those whose request was approved. The three "no's" are an attack on the social tradition of the Palestinian population in general,

²³ According to data of the Interior Ministry, *Ha'aretz*, 6.02.02, p. 1a.

²⁴ Government Decision No. 1813, 12.02.02, Art. b.

which encourages marriage between members within the extended family (*hamula*), and on Palestinian residents of Israel in particular, a large portion of whose extended families live in the Occupied Territories and in Jordan. The decision particularly affects residents of East Jerusalem, from whom HaMoked receives requests for assistance. The social and familial ties with residents of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jordan have remained strong, despite Israel's attempts to sever them. According to Interior Ministry data, approximately one half of the requests for family reunification approved since 1993 were submitted to the Interior Ministry's East Jerusalem office. Thus were the lives of thousands of families in East Jerusalem threatened due to the origin of the spouse.

The government's decision stipulates guidelines for a permanent policy that will be formulated this year. Among the principles is the prohibition on processing a request for family reunification of someone who resided illegally in Israel, and a decision to consider implementing quotas for the number of requests approved. The decision also has a harsh effect beyond what appears on paper. Entrance into Israel is not approved by the Interior Ministry for persons of Palestinian origin who are not residents of Israel, who are already married and still have not submitted a request for family reunification; those who reside in Israel but did not yet submit a request, or submitted and the request was not approved, become illegal aliens against their will, and as such are vulnerable to deportation and invalidation of any future request. The IDF does not permit entry into Israel of a person whose request is already being handled by the Interior Ministry in the framework of the graduated arrangement. A special budget of NIS 21 million has been allocated to bolster the enforcement and monitoring of illegal aliens and those requesting family reunification.

The lack of certainty caused by the Interior Ministry freeze and the government decision have led to many requests to HaMoked from families whose affairs have been handled by HaMoked in recent years, and from couples seeking advice regarding their shared future in the city. In addition, many have asked for help who until now have succeeded in wading through the Interior Ministry's discriminatory bureaucracy on their own, and now face the insurmountable barrier to the continuation of their lives placed in their way by the government policy. Two petitions to the HCJ that were submitted by the Association of Civil Rights in Israel and Adalah dealt with the government decision and the Interior Ministry freeze on requests submitted by Palestinian citizens of Israel. These petitions have not yet been decided. Residency status is more vulnerable than citizenship. HaMoked is therefore awaiting a decision in these petitions in order to determine its next steps.

Non-Acceptance of New Requests

The government decision states that new requests for residency status in Israel on behalf of PA residents will not be accepted. The number of requests being handled by HaMoked that are affected by this move is not large, but in recent weeks, many requests have been received from young couples who were recently married or are about to get married and still have not submitted a request for family reunification. HaMoked, for lack of any other option, is collecting the data about them as preparation for handling their requests or petitioning in court, once the new policy has been formulated.

S.F., a Jerusalem resident, was married in 1999 to a resident of Ramallah. She turned to HaMoked for assistance at the beginning of 2001. Health insurance child allowances were arranged for her children in June, at the end of two years of investigation by the NII. S.F. did not submit a request for family reunification and registration of her two daughters in the Israeli population registry since she was unable to afford the fees. By February, the couple had amassed a sufficient sum for submitting a family reunification request. With the help of HaMoked, all the required documents for the request were gathered, and the couple was even scheduled for an appointment in April. The Interior Minister's decision to freeze processing of all topics related to family reunification led to a cancellation of the appointment. The government decision prohibiting submission of new requests on behalf of PA residents placed the final seal on the aspirations of the couple to live together in Jerusalem. (**File 15544**)

The decision to freeze submission of new requests for Palestinians has an indirect effect on the granting of visitation permits to couples whose requests have not yet been submitted. Without these permits, one cannot submit a request for family reunification, since at the time of submission, both spouses must be present at the Interior Ministry. The Interior Ministry views these visitation permits as a first step to submitting the requests, and since submission is frozen, so is the granting of the permits. This distorted logic, that views marriage as no more than a tool to receiving residency in Israel, leads to a situation where the shared future of the spouses is not only hanging by a thread, but their lives together are now impossible.

R.S. married her fiancé, a Jordanian resident, in March of this year. HaMoked arranged for her and her family to leave Israel for the wedding during a strike of Interior Ministry workers in East Jerusalem. In

May, R.S., at the beginning of a pregnancy, asked HaMoked's help in enabling her new husband to enter Israel so that they could embark upon their shared life. HaMoked made a request to the Interior Ministry but the response of the clerks was that all requests for visitation permits for Palestinians were frozen until further notice, since it was clear that this was the beginning of a request for family reunification. A further look into the matter revealed that the husband is not and was not a resident of the PA. The Interior Ministry thus agreed to process R.S.'s request for a visitor's permit for him; the process is still pending. **(File 16889)**

The visitor's permit of a Palestinian spouse already in Israel is not extended and he has to leave his family. If he does not do so willingly, he is deported. A number of spouses have already received a deportation order. In this manner, Israel forces the families into a situation where separate lives are the only escape route. If they live together in Jerusalem, the spouse who is not a resident will become an illegal alien, will be deported after being examined by one of the hundreds of policemen who patrol the city, and will lose his right to submit a request for family reunification in the future. In order to avoid this, he has to shut himself up into his house, unable to work and support his family, at a time when the number of families living below the poverty line in East Jerusalem has grown due to the difficult economic situation. If the couple decides to live together in the Occupied Territories until the policy is changed, the most basic condition required by the Interior Ministry regarding family reunification policy is not fulfilled – the proof that the Israeli spouse's center of life has been in Jerusalem for at least two years. Therefore, the only possibility at the disposal of the couple that does not endanger their future as a family is to live separately.

Non-approval of previously submitted requests

Requests for family reunification that have already been submitted on behalf of spouses of Palestinian origin are not approved based on the government decision. The spouse in whose name the request was submitted has to leave Israel and not return until a different decision is passed. An average of four years pass from the moment that the request is submitted and until its approval further requests submitted during this period are not approved and couples for whom requests are submitted are deported from Israel. As in cases where the members of a couple still have not submitted their request, in these cases as well the decision to conduct a life together becomes impossible. The situation of spouses who have already submitted their requests is even more difficult, since most of them are already parents and any decision they make affects their children, whether psychologically, if separation is decided upon or if a secret life together is decided upon until the vengeance abates, or legally, if the family moves to the Occupied Territories in which case the future status of the children is unclear.

Those who submitted their request for family reunification during recent years began receiving letters in which the Interior Ministry announced to the applicant that "according to a government decision of 12 May 2002... your request ... is not approved [emphasis in the original.]" Non-approval is a new term in this area. Until now, requests were refused for reasons relating to security or center of life. The letters also state that the spouse whose request was not approved must immediately leave Israel because if he does not do so, a deportation order will be issued against him.

In 1998, M.H. married a resident of Hebron. The couple has since lived in the Shuafat refugee camp, and currently has three children. In April 2001, M.H. submitted a request for family reunification for her husband and in October 2001, when no response arrived from the Interior Ministry, she turned to HaMoked. In July of this year, the head of the family reunification branch in the Interior Ministry sent a letter to HaMoked, announcing to M.H. that her request to receive status for her spouse had not been approved. The couple had still not decided how to proceed, whether to remain in Jerusalem and risk deportation of the husband/father, or whether to move to Hebron. Their decision will also influence the status of their children, who are not yet registered in the Israeli population registry. **(File 16462)**

Freezing of upgrading requests already approved under the gradated arrangement

Even families whose request for reunification were approved and thus became part of the gradated arrangement were detrimentally affected by the government decision. As part of the gradated arrangement, a visitor's permit that grants no rights whatsoever other than entering and sleeping in Israel is issued. After about two years, during which the Interior Ministry and the security forces review the family's center of life and any potential criminal record of the non-resident family member is checked by the police and the General Security Service (GSS), the permit is upgraded to temporary resident. This permit grants the right to work, and to receive health insurance and NII benefits. It is renewed every year for about three years subject, again, to the submission of documents that validate that the center of life is in Jerusalem, and to criminal and security checks. Permanent residency in Israel is granted after these years have passed.

The government decision declares that permits granted via the graduated arrangement will be extended, but not upgraded, thereby freezing the arrangement promised by the Interior Ministry in 1997. Families who lived in Jerusalem for more than eight years now live in uncertainty regarding their future. In addition, the strike in the Interior Minister's office in March, and the slow processing of requests for family reunification within the graduated arrangement has created a situation in which requests that should have been upgraded prior to the freeze decision by the Interior Ministry to either temporary residence or residence – had everything run smoothly - were not upgraded. Many families who acted in accordance with the law were thus adversely affected.

HaMoked has been working on the matter of the couple R. since 1993. The wife, a Jerusalem resident, and her husband, a resident of the West Bank who is handicapped due to a problem in his leg, were married in 1990, and first requested help to arrange the status and rights of their three children, their health insurance, and their registration in the Israeli population registry and in the NII. After making these arrangements, the couple submitted a request for family reunification. The first request, submitted in 1995, was turned down two years later. HaMoked appealed this decision on behalf of the family, and in 1999, their request was approved and M.R. received a one-year visitor's permit. M.R.'s request to renew the permit was not processed in the Interior Ministry for over a year, despite repeated requests of HaMoked, due to an "office error." Due to the delay, the Interior Ministry promised to count this year towards the upgrade and therefore, when HaMoked submitted a request on M.R.'s behalf in January of this year, it was for a temporary resident's permit, as more than two years had passed since he entered the graduated arrangement. This upgrade is extremely important, since M.R.'s handicap prevents him from working, and temporary resident status makes him eligible to receive medical help and a subsidy from the NII, which would slightly ease the family's dire financial situation. But despite his situation, processing of the request was delayed, this time with the police and the GSS. Their approval arrived only at the end of June. By this time, however, the government decision had already passed, and M.R. did not receive temporary residence status – only a visitor's permit. **(File 5075)**

The IDF is another body standing in the way of Palestinian residents of the territories who wish to live with their spouses and children in Jerusalem and whose request for family reunification is already being handled by the Interior Ministry as part of the graduated arrangement. These residents' stay in Israel, during the first two years of the graduated arrangement, is dependent upon entry permits issued by the Civil Administration. Until the end of February, these entry permits were issued contingent on the approval of the Interior Ministry regarding handling of a request for family reunification and following a security check. Since the IDF invasions of the PA territories, no entry permits to Israel are issued, except in humanitarian cases. Since the Civil Administration does not view the right to family life as a humanitarian right, entry permits are not issued even after Interior Ministry approval is presented. This approval, for which applicants waited for months, thus becomes entirely worthless. The Interior Ministry does not inform applicants that this new policy of the Civil Administration denies them the opportunity of using the approval granted to them and fulfilling their right to family life, turning husbands and fathers, who acted in accordance with the law, into illegal aliens whose request for family reunification will be abrogated should they be caught.

This policy leads to a situation in which the military prevents almost completely implementation of a binding decision by the government (see also p.20). Spouses are placed in an unbearable situation. Not only are their shared lives thrown into uncertainty due to future policy changes, but even when they are given the hope of an additional year of life together, it is blocked by the Civil Administration. HaMoked submitted requests to the army and the Interior Ministry demanding that a quick solution be devised for this difficult situation. No response has yet been received

Z.K., a resident of Jerusalem, submitted a request for family reunification for her husband, M.K, in 1995. HaMoked assisted Z.K. as early as 1993 regarding registration of her children in the population registry. The request for family reunification was approved in 1999, and after that point, M.K. resided in Israel on yearly visitor's permits issued by the Interior Ministry and the Civil Administration. The couple has eight children. On 20 May, some nine months after the necessary documents were submitted to the Interior Ministry after security officials gave a 'green light,' M.K. received the approval he had requested for the coming year. From the Interior Ministry, M.K. was referred to the District Coordinating Office in Hebron in order to receive an entry permit into Israel, but there he was told that all the permits had been cancelled and that he had to bring his wife and children to Hebron since he would no longer be able to live in Jerusalem. **(File 4992)**

Registration of Children

Many of the residency-related services provided by the Interior Ministry require payment of fees. In order to register children not born in Israel in the Israeli population registry, the parents must pay NIS 535 for each child. The Interior Minister can grant a partial or complete exemption from the fees, but to date, the conditions for eligibility for such an exemption have been neither formulated nor published. Given this situation, those in need of an exemption do not know what they must do to receive one. In response to a query submitted by HaMoked, the director of the Population Registry responded that the exemption is given "in extreme humanitarian cases." However over the years during which HaMoked has dealt with the matter, not a single exemption has been granted, even though those who requested had few resources and were unable to afford the fees.

The story of N.A. has been related in the past.²⁵ HaMoked handled her case regarding revocation of residency, registration of children, and receipt of child benefits for which she was eligible from the NII. In order to register her five children – born in Jordan – on her identity card, the Interior Ministry required her to pay a fee of NIS 2,675. This sum far exceeded what N.A., divorced, mother of 7, and utterly without income, could afford. HaMoked's request on N.A.'s behalf to exempt her from the registration fee was rejected by the Interior Ministry, since it was not considered an extreme humanitarian case. Given her difficult situation, HaMoked decided to pay the fee from the organization's fund, and at the same time in July 2001 submitted a petition to the HCJ on behalf of N.A., demanding that the Interior Minister be required to publicize the conditions and application procedure for eligibility for an exemption from child registration fees. (**File 12648**)

In June 2002, the State promised in the HCJ that the Interior Ministry would decide upon, by the end of July, conditions and procedures for receiving an exemption from paying the fees, and would publish them on the application form for status in Israel and on the Office's Internet site. To date, no publication of these conditions and procedures has been evident.

The discriminatory policy that was the practice in recent months regarding requests for Israeli-Palestinian family reunification, has also affected the right of children of these families to grow up in a stable family unit and the right of Israeli parents to raise them in Israel. Registration of these children in the Israeli population registry was frozen by the Interior Minister's decision. Although the government decision does not state so explicitly, according to clerks in the Interior Ministry with whom HaMoked is in touch, and according to what actually occurs, children with a non-resident parent and who were born outside of Israel, will not be registered in the registry. The children become foreigners and candidates for deportation against their will. Unlike requests for family reunification, the freeze on registration of children arises not from a legislative change or from a published government decision, and HaMoked is working vis-à-vis the Interior Ministry to reverse it.

In 1987, Y.J., a resident of Jerusalem, married a Jordanian resident and lived with her and their son in Jordan. In 1998, when he returned to Jerusalem, Y.J. attempted to submit a request for family reunification and a request for a visitor's permit for his wife and son, but was told that he first had to live in Jerusalem for at least two years. After the two years, he again requested a visitor's permit for his spouse and child. The Interior Ministry lost his request and with HaMoked's intervention, the mother and son were finally approved for entry into Israel approximately one year after the original request had been submitted. In October 2001 the request for family reunification for the wife was submitted, as well as a request to register the son in the Israeli population registry. In January 2002, the Interior Ministry's response was finally received, namely that the request for registering the son had been rejected since it had not been proven that the center of Y.J.'s life was in Jerusalem. HaMoked sent to the Ministry of Interior all the documents, which had already been submitted with the original request, proving that since 1998 the center of Y.J.'s life had been Jerusalem. But before an answer was received from the Interior Ministry, the government decision was passed and the Ministry's response was that "...since the child was born in Jordan, his request for registration in the Israeli population registry will be discussed in the context of the family reunification request of his [Y.J.'s] wife." In response, HaMoked wrote to the Interior Ministry demanding that it reconsider the illegal decision, which contravenes a 1989 decision by the HCJ (**File 15510**)

²⁵ HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual, Activity Report January-June 2001, pp. 20-21.

Travel Abroad

Residents of East Jerusalem are not eligible for an Israeli passport and are forbidden from carrying a Palestinian passport. Some have foreign passports, but their use can result in the revocation of their status as Israeli residents. Travel to Jordan over the Allenby Bridge requires approval of the Interior Ministry in East Jerusalem. On 10 March, employees of the Office began sanctions, refusing to open to the public or answer the phone. The sanctions, declared due to a lack of personnel and difficult working conditions in the office, were particularly difficult for residents whose trips to Jordan could not be delayed – the illness of a family member, a funeral, or studies. At first, the Office operated an exceptions committee, which could be approached in the most urgent cases. As the sanctions grew more intense, the committee ceased to function and these cases were not processed.

During the sanctions, HaMoked handled 23 requests from residents of East Jerusalem whose trips to Jordan could not be delayed (these requests are not included in the general data). Following much effort, a significant portion of these requests was approved. HaMoked made a point of verifying whether the applicants indeed succeeded in crossing the Allenby Bridge, since in most cases, the approval was not transferred to border control there. In parallel, HaMoked contacted Knesset members, journalists, and Histadrut labor union officials in order to bring to their attention and to the attention of the public these sanctions and their difficult impact, and to bring about an easing of conditions for receiving an exit permit. HaMoked's efforts regarding cessation of the exception committee's activity, and it resumed functioning three days after the decision to cease activity had been made.

A.A.'s 80-year-old grandmother lives alone in Jordan. On 18 March, she was hospitalized in an intensive care unit in Jordan, due to heart disease. Since her son, A.A.'s father, is also not well and cannot endure the trip from Jerusalem to Jordan, A.A. wanted to go take care of his grandmother. A.A. requested help from HaMoked, but HaMoked's repeated requests for a review of his matter were not answered. Operation of the special exceptions committee was subsequently terminated, but immediately when it resumed operation, HaMoked was able to submit A.A.'s request for approval and he set out for Jordan.

Residents of East Jerusalem who wish to travel abroad through the Ben Gurion airport are also required to withstand the difficult conditions in the long line to the Interior Ministry office in East Jerusalem in order to receive or extend a travel permit ('laissez passer'), valid for one year.

Seven pupils from the St. George elementary school in East Jerusalem were invited to a summer camp in the US for Jewish, Moslem and Christian children, as part of the KIDS4PEACE project, sponsored by St. George College. Another group of ten children from the Nidal center in East Jerusalem were invited by the Belforte municipality to attend a summer camp held during July in the city. Over the course of several days the children and their parents tried to gain entry into the Interior Ministry office and did not succeed, even when they arrived at 3 am and waited until the afternoon hours. HaMoked submitted a request on their behalf to the director of the office, their entrance into the office was arranged and they received travel permits.