

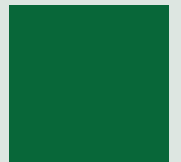
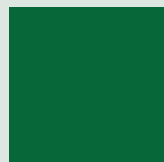
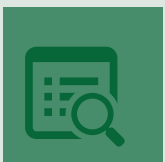


CENTER FOR  
THE DEFENCE OF  
THE INDIVIDUAL

המוקד להגנת הפרט

مركز الدفاع عن الفرد

# 2021 Annual Activity Report



# Note from the Executive Director



This past year, over 5,000 Palestinians turned to HaMoked for help. Many were people seeking to know where their loved ones were being held following their arrest. Others were victims of torture or police brutality seeking redress. Still, others were struggling to obtain the military permit necessary to reach their farmlands, to visit their family in Gaza, or simply to live in their own home in Jerusalem with their spouse and children. The breakdown of our cases shows how the Israeli occupation controls and disrupts the most basic aspects of Palestinian daily life.

Almost 80% of these cases were resolved successfully. We are gratified that HaMoked is such an effective address for people who have nowhere else to turn, yet our high success rate also indicates the arbitrariness of so many of Israel's restrictions.

Alongside the individual assistance, we continue to fight for broader change, filing principled litigation to challenge large-scale Israeli human rights violations. While it is more difficult to change policy, some of our principled litigation also bore fruit, as detailed in this report.

Despite our achievements, we are not naïve about the challenges that lie ahead. We witness the occupation becoming ever-more entrenched and violent. It is easy to feel discouraged, but we are determined to do whatever we can to defend Palestinians' basic rights.

And HaMoked is not alone in these efforts. We are proud to be part of a broader community advancing Palestinian human rights. This is the opportunity to thank all of our partners, our donors, and our supporters without whom our work would not be possible.

**Jessica Montell**

Executive Director

# Highlights

## → THE STATUS OF PALESTINIANS IN EAST JERUSALEM

In 2021, HaMoked provided assistance to 391 individuals and families in East Jerusalem seeking to realize their residency rights. This included cases of child registration, residency revocation, statelessness, and family unification. Of the cases concluded this past year, 89% were resolved successfully.



89%

Success Rate of Cases Closed for Residency and Social Rights in Jerusalem

### *Ensuring an equal right to family unification*

HaMoked stands at the forefront of the battle for family unification for East Jerusalem Palestinians, countering the discriminatory Israeli regulations through individual legal assistance, public interest litigation, and strategic advocacy and outreach. We celebrated the expiration of the “Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law” in July 2021. Since then, a central part of HaMoked’s work has revolved around providing legal aid to hundreds of Jerusalemite families who had been trapped in limbo by the Law and ensuring that they know their rights and are able to realize them in light of this dramatic change. Immediately upon the expiration of the law, we mobilized to file requests for a status upgrade on behalf of all of our beneficiaries who are entitled to them (over 200 families).

When it became clear that the Minister of Interior had instructed Ministry clerks not to process requests for citizenship or permanent status filed by this population, HaMoked filed a principled petition (together with ACRI and Physicians for Human Rights) demanding the Minister obey the law and process Palestinians’ requests the same as any other population. At year’s end, this petition was still pending, with the Minister threatening to pass a new law to deny family unification.

391

Families in East Jerusalem helped to realize their residency rights



# *Countering a new collective punishment: Reinstating health insurance and social rights to East Jerusalem political activists and their families*

Following the round of tension, the Gaza war, and violence in Israel in April-May 2021, HaMoked began receiving complaints from Jerusalemite activists and detainees, who discovered that the National Insurance Institute (NII) had suddenly and arbitrarily revoked the national insurance of the entire family, meaning they are no longer entitled to health insurance or any other social rights. This is a new form of administrative punishment which appears aimed at suppressing Palestinian political activists and grassroots human rights defenders. The legal and para-legal activities carried out by HaMoked during 2021 succeeded to restore social welfare rights to seven Palestinians and their families who were the victims of these punitive measures.

HaMoked is also pursuing accountability on the policy level. We submitted freedom of information requests to receive the factual and legal basis for the revocations, and we sent letters to the Minister of Welfare and the Knesset Welfare Committee in order to hold those responsible accountable and deter the imposition of more coercive and discriminatory policies.



## *Challenging residency revocation as collective punishment or for “Breach of Allegiance”*

HaMoked continues its fight against the revocation of Palestinians’ permanent residency in Jerusalem on the basis of alleged “breach of allegiance” to the State of Israel. In 2021, HaMoked assisted two persons in this matter, one of them being the human rights defender and lawyer Salah Hammouri, whose residency was revoked in October. In addition, HaMoked challenges the revocation of family unification as collective punishment of the relatives of perpetrators of violent attacks. In 2021 we challenged four such cases.

# → THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Throughout the year, HaMoked continued its support to Palestinians by challenging a wide range of Israeli military restrictions on their freedom of movement. We assisted 218 individuals to travel in and out of Gaza to keep families together and contested bans on travel abroad in another 64 cases. In 79% of these cases, HaMoked's intervention was successful.



**79%**

**Success rate in Freedom of Movement cases**

## *Humanitarian access to Gaza: attending a granddaughter's wedding; visiting a wife's grave*

Steadfastly, HaMoked fights to obtain Gaza entry permits to Palestinians denied their basic right to freedom of movement. Israel restricts entrance to Gaza for what it defines as "exceptional humanitarian circumstances", which is basically limited to a wedding or funeral or severe illness of an immediate relative. HaMoked petitioned the court on behalf of a Jerusalemite young man who was denied entry to Gaza for his wife's funeral and wanted simply to visit her grave to pay his final respects. In response to our petition, the military relented and granted the man a three-day permit to enter Gaza to visit his wife's grave for the first and last time. In a happier case, HaMoked obtained permission for Jerusalem grandparents to attend their granddaughter's wedding in Gaza. "The last time we met our granddaughter she was a little girl, just three years old. It was so moving to see her now – all grown up, and so beautiful in her wedding dress – and to celebrate with our family whom we hadn't been able to see for some twenty years" said the grandfather.



**218**

families assisted to reunite through visits to Gaza or the West Bank

# *Principled petition: Israel must respect the right to family life of children of families divided between the Gaza Strip and Israel*

Today, “mixed” Palestinian couples in which one spouse is from Gaza and the other is an Israeli citizen or resident, can live together only in Gaza. This policy, combined with the dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza, compels many couples to make the difficult choice of living separately, with one parent raising the family’s children in East Jerusalem or Israel, and the other parent living alone in Gaza. An East Jerusalemite or Israeli spouse can regularly visit their spouse in Gaza, together with any minor children the couple has, under Israel’s “Divided Families” policy. But once the children reach adulthood, they are no longer entitled to visit their Gaza parent on a regular basis, and can only apply to do so under Israel’s extremely restricted “humanitarian” criteria.

In November 2021, HaMoked and Gisha filed a principled petition to the High Court of Justice (HCJ) to demand the “divided families” procedure be amended to protect the basic right of Israeli residents and citizens to regular family life with their Gazan parents also after they become adults.



## **THE PERMIT REGIME IN THE “SEAM ZONE”**

By illegally constructing the Separation Wall on occupied Palestinian territory, Israel imposed a highly bureaucratic and discriminatory permit regime on the territories trapped between the wall and the Green Line, requiring all Palestinians who wish to access the so-called “Seam Zone” to hold a permit, while Israelis and tourists can enter these areas freely. This year, HaMoked combined individual assistance, principled litigation, and new research and advocacy to combat Israel’s increasing restrictions on Palestinian access to lands behind the Separation Barrier. We were able to assist and advocate for 163 Palestinians seeking to access their farmlands, homes, businesses, services, and family members in the Seam Zone, and advance cases that contest Israeli policy and practice at the principled level, with impact for large numbers of beneficiaries.

Our individual and principled litigation in 2021 has resulted in important legal precedents, allowing thousands to continue cultivating their lands and stalling Israel’s efforts to dispossess Palestinians from the Seam Zone.



**163**

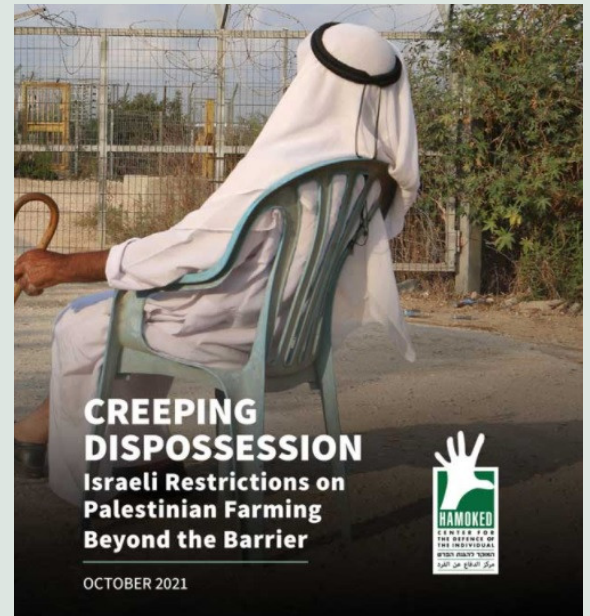
Palestinians assisted to access lands behind the Separation Barrier



# *New Comprehensive Report: Creeping Dispossession*

HaMoked documented the steady escalation in Israel's restrictions on Palestinian farming beyond the Separation Barrier and published a comprehensive report on this oppressive bureaucratic system in October 2021. The report analyzes developments in the permit regime Israel enforces in the Seam Zone, in contravention of its international legal obligations.

It also includes a case study, focusing on the devastating impact of one segment of the Separation Barrier, adjacent to the farming communities of Qaffin and Akkaba in the northwest of the West Bank. In June 2020, HaMoked petitioned the HCJ to dismantle this segment of the Barrier and the petition is still pending. In addition to that, HaMoked conducted briefings and tours to the Seam Zone for journalists and diplomats in order to generate renewed attention to this issue.

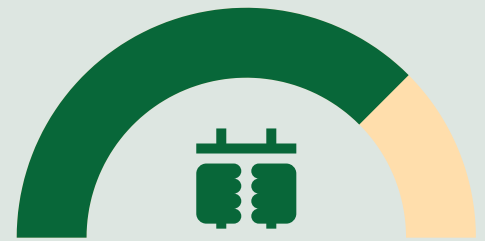


## *As a result of HaMoked petition: Older Palestinians no longer need a special permit to enter the “Seam Zone”*

In January 2021, HaMoked filed a principled petition to the High Court of Justice (HCJ) to demand that Palestinians in their sixth decade (women aged 50 and up and men aged 55 and up) be allowed to enter the Seam Zone without special permits. The state responded in May and announced its decision to amend the Seam Zone entry regulations such that all Palestinians holding permits to enter Israel (whether individual or collective permits) including the older age group may freely enter the Seam Zone. Theoretically, this means that thousands of people no longer need to navigate the difficult permit bureaucracy to access their lands. However, the new regulations only allow their entry through the 13 separation barrier checkpoints designated for entry into Israel, and not through the dozens of seasonal and agricultural gates in the barrier which are generally much closer to farmers' homes and lands. In the coming year, HaMoked will attempt to expand on this success to improve access for this population.

# → DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF DETAINEES

HaMoked remains the primary address for Palestinian families whose loved ones are arrested and want to find out where they are being held. In 2021, HaMoked provided assistance to 3,926 families trying to locate loved ones in detention, including the parents of 269 children arrested. In addition, we provided individual legal assistance to prisoners including minors and family members of detainees to obtain prison visitation permits or contest prison conditions that violate their rights. Of the cases concluded this past year, 75% were closed successfully.

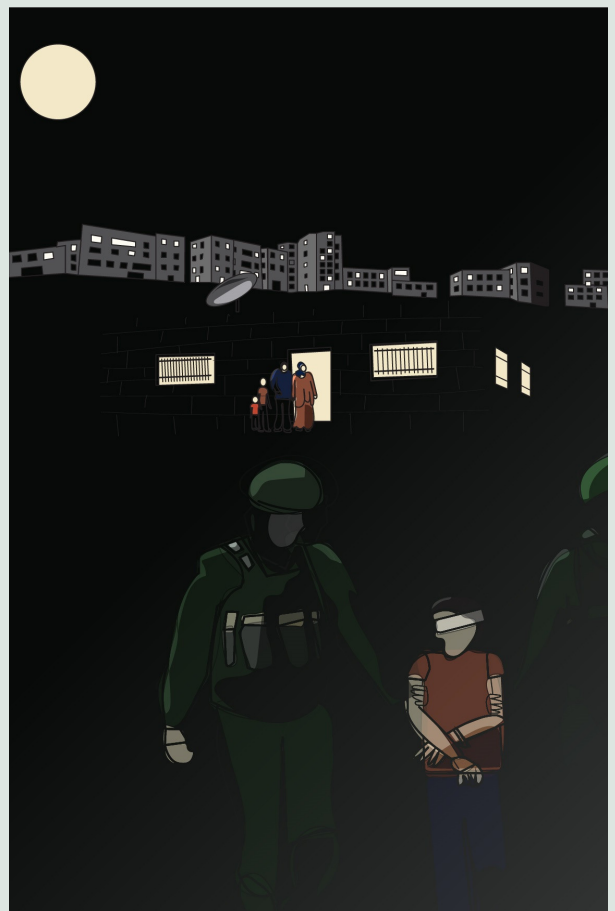


75%

**Success Rate of Detainee  
Rights Cases**

## *HaMoked continues its fight against the night arrests of Palestinian minors in the West Bank*

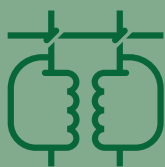
In August, the High Court held a hearing on HaMoked's petition demanding that the military stop employing traumatic night arrests as the default method for bringing children in for interrogation, and instead use summons to interrogations in cases involving minors. A few days before the hearing, the military announced a new procedure for summoning Palestinian minors for interrogation instead of detaining them without warning. However, the procedure is classified, and the explanation published contains many exceptions. The Court instructed the state to provide an update on the implementation of the new rules in February 2022. From HaMoked's monitoring, it seems night arrests remain the default method for arrest.





# → DEFENDING VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND VIOLENCE

HaMoked fights to demand accountability for Palestinian residents of the OPT who are victims of torture, abuse and ill-treatment at the hands of the Israeli security forces that arrest, interrogate and detain them. HaMoked pursues relief and redress for the victims,, shining a light on such incidents and demanding that the authorities properly investigate them and bring the perpetrators to justice. In 2021, we represented 19 Palestinian victims of violence, including two women and six children.



125

Detainees represented to file complaints about prison conditions or demand redress for torture or abuse

## *Combatting Police brutality in East Jerusalem*

Following the violence in May, several Jerusalem Palestinian victims of Police brutality asked HaMoked to file criminal complaints on their behalf. All were subjected to violence, intimidation, verbal abuse, and humiliation during the arrest. In each case, HaMoked has sent a complaint to the Police Internal Investigation Department, demanding that the authorities properly investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice. So far, one indictment was filed against a policeman.

These cases are just the tip of the iceberg of the rising police violence against Palestinians in East Jerusalem. Our efforts to promote accountability are intended to achieve relief and redress on the individual level and also to deter future cases. In order to shine a light on this problem, we gave these cases to a journalist who wrote an [extensive feature in the Ha'aretz newspaper](#), and these shocking cases were also the subject of the newspaper's lead editorial under the heading: [Reform the Jerusalem Police](#).





**3,926**

Families trying to locate loved ones in detention. Of them, **269** children

## *HaMoked demands accountability for violence and brutality in the Israeli Prison, Ketziot*

During a transfer of Palestinian detainees between wards in the Ketziot prison in the south of Israel in March 2019, a prisoner stabbed a warden and seriously injured him. In response, the prison staff announced an emergency and severely beat dozens of detainees who were innocent bystanders of the event. In August 2019, HaMoked submitted a complaint on behalf of 13 of the victims to the Israel Police unit responsible for investigating alleged cases of abuse by IPS personnel. We demanded that the victims' cases be investigated, and that an external investigative committee be established to investigate the events. More than 15 months passed before we received a response from the State Attorney's office according to which this complaint, along with the other complaints relating to the same series of violent events, had been closed. HaMoked demanded to receive the investigation material, which included video footage of the entire event. This footage resulted in a high-profile feature in the Ha'aretz newspaper.

In May 2021, HaMoked sent the National Prison Wardens Investigation Unit (NPWIU) of the Israel Police an appeal over the closing of the complaint files. In response to HaMoked's appeal and the media attention, the NPWIU re-opened the investigation.





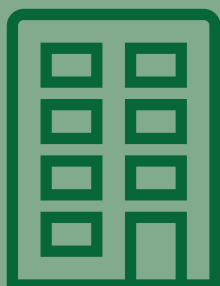
# CHALLENGING ISRAEL'S PUNITIVE HOME DEMOLITION POLICY

HaMoked has led the legal battle against Israel's punitive home demolition policy since the organization's establishment in 1988. Our litigation has resulted in some improvements in this area, including a precedent that prohibits the demolition of a rented home, and precedents limiting the use of demolitions in cases where the assailant had a proven history of mental illness. Despite these improvements, the Court has repeatedly approved the use of home demolitions at the principled level and has refused to revisit the wider discussion of the legitimacy of the policy as a whole.

In 2021, the Israeli military issued two demolition orders and HaMoked represented both families. In both cases, the High Court rejected our petition and the homes were demolished. At year's end, another 6 families were threatened with possible demolitions and we informed the military that HaMoked represents them as well.



Despite the low chances of success, we continue to challenge this unlawful collective punishment as a matter of principle. Separately, although the military always reassures the Court that the demolition of a home will not cause damage to nearby homes and structures, it is sometimes the case that neighboring properties are harmed in the course of demolition. In 2021, we filed 5 tort claims for such cases on behalf of the owners of the damaged properties. Two of them ended successfully, securing compensation for the properties' owners.



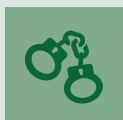
9

Punitive home  
demolitions challenged  
in Israel's Supreme Court

## → Challenges



2021 saw the worst wave of COVID-19 in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) since the beginning of the pandemic. Hospitals in both Israel and the oPt reached maximum capacity, thousands died, and much of the time was spent under full lockdown in both areas. In March 2021 the situation in Israel began improving dramatically, following a vaccine roll-out to Israeli citizens and residents. But while almost all pandemic restrictions in Israel were lifted and infection rates remain low, the situation in the West Bank and Gaza was quite different. Until September 2021, Israel had fully vaccinated 64% of its population against COVID-19 and is providing “booster shots” to fully vaccinated persons, while only 16% of the Palestinian population in the oPt had been fully vaccinated. This underlines the deep inequalities between Israelis and the Palestinians and highlights Israel’s failure to take responsibility for the Palestinian population living under its stifling control.



2021 saw a significant escalation in violence in Israel and the oPt. This began with tensions in Jerusalem during Ramadan (April-May 2021) in response to a decision by the Israel Police to close off the plaza outside Damascus Gate, and following efforts by settler organizations to evict Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah. Palestinian protests against both issues were harshly suppressed, and the situation steadily escalated, resulting in unprecedented violence between Arabs and Jews in Israel’s mixed cities, clashes in the West Bank, and an 11-day round of fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. During that time, the Israeli security forces conducted mass arrests of Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Israel, often in a transparent effort to stop them from protesting. HaMoked saw a significant (almost 200%) increase in tracing requests during this period, receiving dozens of calls each day from Palestinians whose loved ones had been arrested by the Israeli security forces, who wanted to find out where they had been taken to.

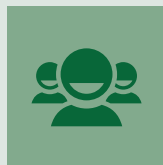


The political stalemate in Israel persisted for half of 2021, causing delays in some of HaMoked’s principled cases. A fourth consecutive general election took place in late March, and after the 12-year, divisive reign of Benjamin Netanyahu, the 36th government of Israel (the Bennett-Lapid government) was formed in June 2021. For almost the first 6 months of the year, state authorities were unable to reach decisions in principled cases calling for a review of a law or government policy.

## → Change



HaMoked further expanded the content available on our Arabic language Facebook page, disseminating information to the public regarding changes to law, regulations, and practice. We have significantly increased our outreach to both the local (Hebrew and Arabic) and international media, and our staff is growing accustomed to engaging more regularly with the media, including through live interviews on Arabic radio stations. We have also launched a new version of our website both in Hebrew and English languages, as part of our efforts to increase our exposure and build a wider community of supporters.



HaMoked planned an organization-wide crowdfunding campaign that took place in July 2021 which was part of our wider strategy of diversifying our sources of funding and expanding our community of supporters and has presented an interesting challenge for us organizationally. We had involved members from all HaMoked's departments in the campaign, as well as members of our board. In addition to raising funds, the campaign increased our followers across our social media accounts.



Organizationally, HaMoked is undergoing a digitalization process to ensure full digital documentation and management of all HaMoked case files, eliminating the current reliance on paperwork and physical files, and safeguarding all information necessary for the management of each case. This is also for the purpose of building a user-friendly system and interface to streamline work processes, eliminate repetitive filing and actions, and allow for easy extraction of case statistics by staff members.

# → Financial Report

Expenses	Total (ILS)
Personnel	4,021,444
Information Dissemination and IT	482,222
Court Fees and Other Legal Costs	513,342
Administrative Costs and Overhead	866,844
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,883,852</b>

Income	Total (ILS)
Grants from Institutional Donors	4,892,600
Private and Small Donations	786,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,679,300</b>

\*Figures are not final. A complete audited financial report will be available in the second half of 2022.

## HaMoked at a Glance

HaMoked is a human rights organization founded in 1988 by Israeli volunteers concerned about Israel's violent suppression of the First Intifada. Today, HaMoked has a professional staff of 24 Israelis and Palestinians. Our priority areas include freedom of movement, residency rights (particularly in East Jerusalem), and detainee rights, and combatting collective punishment. Providing individual legal aid free-of-charge, and conducting strategic litigation to change policy and better protect rights, HaMoked is funded entirely by institutions and individuals in Europe, North America and Israel committed to universal human rights principles.



HaMoked thanks its hundreds of individual donors both in Israel-Palestine and around the world. We also gratefully acknowledge the support we received from the following institutions:

**Catholic Relief Services**  
**EMHRF**  
**Foundation for Middle East Peace**  
**French Consulate of Jerusalem**  
**Representative Office of Germany**  
**MEDICO International**  
**Misereor**  
**Embassy of the Netherlands in Israel**  
**New Israel Fund**  
**Embassy of Norway in Israel**  
**Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation**  
**Norwegian Refugee Council**  
**Presbyterian World Mission**  
**Pro Victims**  
**Swiss Development Cooperation**  
**Sigrid Rausing Trust**  
**SIVMO**  
**Spanish International Development Cooperation**  
**UNICEF**  
**UNVFVT**



All our services are provided free of charge. Our work is funded entirely by individuals and institutions in Israel and around the world who share our commitment to universal human rights. Help us continue our vital work!

<https://hamoked.org/assist.php>

Your donation enables us to remain vigilant and responsive to the needs of the Palestinian population.



**C E N T E R F O R  
T H E D E F E N C E O F  
T H E I N D I V I D U A L**

**המוקד להגנת הפרט**

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