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Via Fax 02-9977326

URGENT!

4 Abu Obeidah St. Jerusalem 97200 Tel. +972.2.6283555 Fax. +972.2.6276317

شارع أبو عبيده ٤ ألقدس ٩٧٢٠٠ هاتف. ۲۲۸۳۵۵۵ فاكس. ٢٢٧٦٣١٧ .

mail@hamoked.org.il www.hamoked.org.il

To: Col. Doron Ben Barak Legal Advisor Office of the West Bank L POB 5 Beit El 90631

Dear Sir,

<u>Re:</u> <u>Complaint regarding a violent night incursion into the home</u> of the 'Awawdeh family in the village of Idhna, without prior notice.

- 1. I wish to lodge a complaint with regard to the above matter, as follows:
- 2. HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual is representing Mr. 'Awawdeh, ID No. _____, of the village of Idhna in Hebron District, in an objection against the military commander's intent to demolish his home. HaMoked filed the objection against the intent to demolish the home yesterday, June 25, 2014.
- 3. Nevertheless, without prior notice, a large troop numbering dozens of soldiers arrived at our client's home in the late hours of the night, at around 1:00 AM today.
- 4. At the time of the soldiers' arrival, the extended family was present in the house, including elderly women, minor children and infants. Despite the late hour, and the fact that some of the family members were asleep, the soldiers got them out of their beds.
- 5. An officer who came in with the force began questioning our client at gunpoint about the house, the people residing in it, its structure and its ownership. The questions seemed to be based on the objection that had been filed. 'Awawdeh attempted to explain to the officer that he is represented by counsel, and asked that the process be conducted via counsel. The officer did not heed his request, continued with the questioning and threatened him.



Founded by Dr. Lotte Salzberger Registered Association מיסודה של ד"ר לוטה זלצברגר עמותה רשומה مته د.لوطة زلتسبرغ<u>ر</u> مكتب الشكاوي - جمعية مسجلة

- 6. Moreover, the officer also questioned _____ 'Awawdeh's sister-in-law, the wife of his detained brother _____. The questioning took place in one of the rooms in the house. My client's mother asked to remain in the room, but the officer threatened to blow her head off if she did not leave.
- 7. The questioning was aggressive, using foul and disparaging language (including "a murderer's brother" and a "murderer's wife"), shouting and threats. The conduct of the soldiers and the interrogating officer frightened the residents of the home, particularly the younger ones (our client's son was so frightened he soiled himself). During the questioning, other soldiers were measuring the structure and knocking on walls.
- 8. When the questioning ended, the soldiers threw three photographs of the detained brother out of the window. When they left the house, they stepped on the photographs, shattering them.
- 9. This conduct by the military is clearly unacceptable.
- 10. It is inconceivable that a person who is represented by counsel would find himself in a situation where he is vulnerable and exposed to the authorities without protection. It is inconceivable that the authorities would interrogate him in this manner, without coordination or prior notice to either him or his counsel. It is inconceivable that such interrogation would be carried out in the middle of the night, using crass verbal violence that offended the residents of home, particularly the children.
- 11. All the interrogation and examination measures described above could have been carried out in a reasonable and organized manner, with prior coordination, during the day and without frightening and terrorizing members of the family who were harmed for no reason.
- 12. In light of all the above, we request that you investigate the incident and instruct that no similar measures be taken against our client and his family in future. We ask that the lawyers of HaMoked, representing ______ 'Awawdeh be given advance notice of any future actions.
- 13. I thank you for your prompt response and handling of this matter.

Sincerely,

Abir Joubran-Dakwar, Adv.