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[Emblem]

Head of Office of the Minister of Public Security

Tamuz 1, 5774
June 29, 2014
Reference – 06551914

To
Daniel Shenhar, Advocate
HaMoked Center for the Defence of the Individual
4 Abu Obeida Street
Jerusalem 97200

Re: **Decision concerning a possible downgrading of the incarceration conditions of prisoners associated with Hamas**
Reference, your letter dated June 18, 2014 83040

The Minister of Public Security, MK Yitzhak Aharonovitch, received your letter dated June 18, 2014 and authorized me to send you this response.

Your letter was transferred for the review of the relevant agencies and the following is their response:

Please be advised that the Ministerial Committee on National Security decided on changes in the benefits granted to Hamas prisoners.

The decision was made following an evaluation meeting, based on a presentation of a broad infrastructure which is naturally laid down before the members of the committee.

I have thoroughly reviewed the legal opinion attached to your letter, which relies on information derived from the media. It should be clarified that the rights of the security prisoners associated with the Hamas organization, invariably, were not harmed.

Nevertheless, the benefits granted to this population of prisoners, which are subject to the discretion of the Israel Prison Service in the administrative area, including security aspects, were reconsidered, taking into consideration the provisions of Israeli law and International law.

The Israel Prison Service will continue to act for the realization of its purpose in connection with the holding of the security prisoners' population, as well as other populations of prisoners, under proper conditions, maintaining the dignity, health and safety of the prisoners.

For your information.

I would be obliged to be at your service at any time.

Sincerely,

Udi Shalvi
Head of the Minister's Office