

Date: March 17, 2020

To Brig. Gen. Ghassan Alian
Head of the Civil Administration

In response please cite: 31490

Via fax: 02-9977341



Dear Sir,

Re: The Coronavirus crisis and an urgent demand to publish an immediate notice regarding the automatic extension of the legal status of Palestinians holding stay permits and living in Israel lawfully pursuant to family unification and humanitarian procedures

1. On behalf of HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual (hereinafter: **HaMoked**), a human rights organization, which works, among other things, for the rights of East Jerusalem residents and their family members who are residents of the oPt, vis-à-vis the authorities in Israel, I hereby appeal to you to demand the publication of an urgent public notice regarding the Corona crisis and the legal status of Palestinians living in Israel lawfully pursuant to various procedures in which they take part. We shall explain.
2. In the framework of the “Corona crisis” and the response, all of the state authorities are acting, each within its jurisdiction and sphere of responsibility, in order to protect the public’s safety and health in the best possible way.
3. The Population and Immigration Authority (hereinafter: **the Authority**) is among these authorities. And last evening, March 17, 2020, it was **publicized on the Authority website that in view of the situation, the Minister of Interior had decided to automatically extend until June 30, 2020, the permit validity period for holders of permit types A/5, B/1, A/1 or A/2, which expired as of March 12, 2020.**
4. In our view, the blood of Palestinians living in Israel lawfully is just as red as the blood of others and even the Coronavirus does not distinguish between the blood [of different populations]. However, for some inexplicable reason, the Palestinians are not mentioned in the Authority notices, and we hope this is an error and not a deliberate omission.
5. Be that as it may, clearly there is no need to overstress the fact that public safety, health and security require that a notice identical in every respect to the one issued last evening by the Authority regarding foreigners who do not originate from the oPt, be immediately issued also regarding the population of oPt residents living in Israel lawfully.
6. All this in order not to harm the basic rights of many Israeli families and in order prevent dangerous situations where a person cannot move about

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reasonably within their legal place of residence, and to care for the welfare and health of their family members, and also to prevent a situation where they could be mistakenly removed to locations where they might be exposed to the virus.

7. We would appreciate your immediate handling of this urgent and exceptional demand. |

Sincerely,

Benjamin Agsteribbe, Att.

Cc: Prof. Shlomo Mor Yosef, Director General of the Population and Immigration Authority, vis email |