

On June 5, 2001, an Israeli baby was injured after a stone was thrown at a car carrying settlers along Road No. 60, close to the village of Al-Sawiya. Following this incident, a curfew was imposed on the village. The curfew was not announced publicly, and no time limit was announced for the measure. The curfew was implemented by means of blocking both entrances to the village, from the south and the north, preventing anyone entering or leaving the village. The villagers were also forbidden to leave their homes. Deep ditches were excavated at the southern entrance to the village and earth mounds were created. A military checkpoint was installed at the northern entrance. The curfew led to a shortage of food in the village, particularly fresh food. The day after the curfew was imposed, a large number of Jewish settlers attacked the village, throwing stones at houses and damaging solar heaters on the roofs. The settlers uprooted olive-trees in groves close to the edge of the village. The IDF forces took no steps to protect the villagers, and did not detain any of the Jewish rioters. The incident took place in the full view of the soldiers.

HaMoked filed a petition against the curfew on June 14, 2001. The judge ordered the IDF Commander to respond within three days. In fact, the curfew was lifted the day after the petition was filed.

Closure to the East of Jenin: blocking the access roads between Jenin, Faqu'a and Adjacent Villages

At the beginning of October 2000, the IDF prevented any possibility of access from Faqu'a and other villages to the east of Jenin and the city itself. The authorities blocked the main road from the east linking these villages to Jenin, installing a three-meter high earth embankment and a barricade of car scrap and concrete blocks. At various times a tank was positioned at the main check-point, preventing residents even from reaching the earth embankment. In order to prevent the villagers from using dirt tracks to reach Jenin, the IDF dug ditches along the by-pass road to a depth of two meters and a width of three meters, and erected a three-meter high earth embankment. Parts of the road border areas of large rocks, so that the ditches were superfluous since passage was in any case impossible. Thus the IDF blocked all the principal, secondary and makeshift possibilities allowing villagers from Faqu'a and the surround areas to access the city of Jenin.

In May 2001, HaMoked contacted the authorities and complained that the villages had been disconnected from the city of Jenin, their sole center for a variety of services. After threatening to petition the Supreme Court, the IDF changed its deployment in the field. People and vehicles were allowed to pass through a central intersection leading to Jenin from the north, and the earth embankment was removed from the main road entering Jenin from the east.

Closure of Azoun

During the first half of 2001, all the entrances to the village of Azoun were gradually disconnected, cutting the village off from the outside world. The 8,000 residents of the town were prevented from leaving, and thus could not reach the nearby towns providing vital services – Kalkiliya, Tulkarem and Nablus. The main roads were blocked with concrete blocks and ditches across the road, while secondary roads were blocked with two-meter high earth embankments. HaMoked contacted the IDF, demanding that main thoroughfares to the surrounding towns be kept open. The IDF made changes to the nature of the closure, slightly alleviating the possibilities of leaving the village. HaMoked is continuing to work to improve the situation.