

in the relevant wards, and are given to the mothers of newborn children. In cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights, HaMoked is currently preparing to disseminate information on the new procedure to all the clinics and mother-and-child centers in East Jerusalem and other key locations.

Fee for Registration of Children

N.A. is a single mother with seven children. Lacking any source of income, she lived in extreme poverty and appalling conditions in her brother's home in East Jerusalem. In 1998, the Ministry of the Interior revoked her status as a resident of the city. Deprived of any formal status in Israel, N.A. was unable to receive benefits from the National Insurance Institute, and she and her children did not enjoy health insurance. After the Ministry of the Interior changed its policy on the revocation of residency rights, and following intervention by HaMoked, N.A. regained her status as a resident of Jerusalem in 2000. Some three months later, she was informed that her children had been registered in the Population Registry.

However, the notification regarding the registration of her children also stated that she would be required to pay a "service fee" of NIS 535 for each of five of her children who were not born in Israel. In order to insure her children's status in Israel, N.A. was thus expected to pay the amount of NIS 2,675. As a woman lacking any means, and surviving with her seven children on her brother's National Insurance benefit (which supported a family of 18), N.A. was unable to pay such an amount, and therefore refrained from registering her children for a period of four months.

HaMoked submitted an application to the Ministry of the Interior to exempt N.A. from payment of this fee. The application was initially rejected without reason; after HaMoked applied again, the Ministry of the Interior stated that the exemption was granted only in extreme humanitarian cases, and that N.A.'s case did not meet this definition.

Given the urgent humanitarian need to register the children, HaMoked decided to pay the fee from its own funds, and to file a petition against the refusal of the Population Registry to exercise its discretion to grant exemption from the fee and against the absence of clear criteria for such exemptions.

In April, N.A.'s seven children were duly registered at the Population Registry. In mid-2001, HaMoked petitioned the Supreme Court, asking that criteria be established and published for eligibility to exemption from the fee. HaMoked also asked that criteria be established providing a full or partial exemption from fees for all services relating to the status of minor children, in cases when the parents' income was below a given level. The petition specifically asked that the refusal to exempt N.A. from payment of the fee be overturned. The hearing on the case has been arraigned for November this year.

Revocation of residency, registration of children and family reunification

F.A.A. and her family were forced to move to Jordan due to the Ministry of the Interior policy (until 1994) of not allowing women residents of Jerusalem to file applications for family reunification with their partners. In 1994, the couple returned to Jerusalem with their five children. F.A.A. later discovered that the Ministry of the Interior had revoked her residency status, as well as that of two of her children whom had been registered in the Israeli Population Registry. The lack of residency status meant that the family was obliged to live in Israel in conditions of extreme poverty, without any official status or

social rights. In 2000, after HaMoked petitioned the Supreme Court, the Ministry of the Interior changed its policy. After HaMoked intervened on behalf of F.A.A, her residency rights and those of her daughter were restored. The Ministry of the Interior refused to restore the residency rights of her son, M. This year, after extensive correspondence, affidavits and discussions with Ministry of the Interior officials, M.'s residency rights were finally restored. The two youngest children in the family were registered in the Population Registry; an application for family reunification for Mr. A.A. and the eldest son T. was approved; and the National Insurance Institute recognized the family's right to social benefits.

Residency in the West Bank and Gaza

Residency rights in the Occupied Territories are clearly a matter of human rights, but this has been prevented due to it becoming a bargaining chip in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The registration of people born in the Territories but not registered for various reasons ("late registration"); the return of deported persons; the return to the area of people who lost their residency rights after their travel documents expired ("extension of departure cards"); the quotas for approval of family unification (the official quota is 4,000 applications – 2,400 for the West Bank and 1,600 for the Gaza Strip) – all these issues have been dealt with as a function of the political progress of the Oslo Accords, with no consideration for the needs or rights of the residents.

Since the signing of the Oslo Accords, processing of the above issues has been divided between the Palestinian Authority and Israel. Israel continues to make decisions in these areas, while the PA functions as a mediating agent, receiving applications, "screening" them and forwarding them to Israel for its decision.

Since the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, a serious deterioration has been seen in the handling of all matters relating to residency rights in the West Bank and Gaza; processing of various types of visiting permits, family reunification, late registration, the return of deported people and so on has been totally discontinued.

In October 2000, a military official involved in processing residency-related issues informed HaMoked that due to the events there was "almost no cooperation" between Israeli officials and the Palestinian Authority. Accordingly, residency issues would not be processed and HaMoked would not receive responses on these matters. Processing of applications relating to family reunification, entry permits and actual entry to the area, and residency were frozen. In response to this decision, HaMoked petitioned the Supreme Court, noting that the absence of cooperation with the Palestinian Authority "cannot justify refraining from processing applications relating solely to Israeli actions and to data held by the Israeli authorities." Accordingly, "there is no place for the total freezing of processing all applications."

Cases that are processed entirely by the Israeli side include, in particular, those deported from the occupied Territories and whom Israel has recently permitted to re-enter the region, but have been unable to do so in practice; as well as applications for family reunification filed prior to the outbreak of the Intifada that still await decisions by the Israeli authorities. Most of these applications relate to the population addressed by the first Supreme Court petition on this matter. These are the partners of residents who were present in the Occupied Territories, or who received permission to enter the Territories,