

became clear that the GSS had not only lied to the IDF authorities regarding his whereabouts, but had also issued an order prohibiting him from meeting with a lawyer.

Administrative Detainees

Although the number of administrative detainees fell during the first half of the year 2000, during the second half the number rose once again following the failure of the Camp David talks and the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada. Prior to the 28th September detainees held consisted of individuals with connections to the Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations only, this would now change with people affiliated to the Fatah movement and the National Liberation Front also being held under administrative detention orders. The atmosphere of preparation for the “war effort” in Israel was also viewed in the attitude of the military judges, whose attitude towards administrative detainees became more severe. Detention orders are now approved without review and appeals submitted against these orders are rejected. While the presence of an attorney remains a significant means of support for the detainee, it has no influence on the outcome of the judicial proceedings.

Administrative detainees held at the end of 2000 were:

- Chaled Jaradat, 40 years old from Silat al Hartia, administrative detainee since 13.2.1997 (close to four years). An agreement was reached for his release with certain restraints, following the outbreak of confrontations the detention order was extended and approved by a judicial review hearing.
- Khadar Qados, 26 years old from Zawia, detained August 1999. A similar agreement for his release was also deferred due to the confrontations.
- Mahmod Shabeneh.
- Mohamad Abu Tbeh, 20 years old from Jenin, detained since August 2000.
- Mohamad Abu Sef, 36 years old from Ramallah, detained since October 2000.
- Achmad Afane, 30 years old from Abu Dis, detained since October 2000.
- Mohamad Halasi, 28 years old from Sawahra Al Sharkiye, detained since October 2000.
- Atta Abu Halabie, 30 years old from Abu Dis, detained since October 2000.
- Amin Ahmaro, from Hebron, detained since November 2000.
- Saged Mlettat , 30 years old from Beit Fourik, detained since December 2000.
- Achmad Sharabati, 48 years old from Hebron, detained since December 2000.
- Mahmod Al Abnabeh, 25 years old from Yatir, detained since December 2000.
- Omer Barguti, from Kuban, detained since December 2000.

Just prior to the end of the year HaMoked was informed of an additional three individuals who had been placed under administrative detention.

HaMoked, with the aid of Attorney Tamar Pelleg Sryck, continues to represent the vast majority of these detainees in the mandatory judicial reviews following the issuing of a detention order, in the periodical reevaluations and in submitting appeals against judicial decisions during the various proceedings.

During the first half of the year, and after a prolonged struggle, administrative detainees Eiman Daragmeh and Abdallah Al Hativ were finally released after four years and two years respectively under administrative detention. Their release was issued together with

a restraining order confining them to their villages for a period of one year. Daragmeh was released after a military judge had recommended his discharge based on legal reasoning. Abdallah Al Hativ was released after the submission of a petition to the Supreme Court requesting that the military judge's ruling in the appeal hearing be reversed. Abdallah, who is a sickly man, had been examined three times by doctors who confirmed the severity of his health condition, but to no avail. Currently, HaMoked is working to have the restraint order which prevents him from leaving the village to receive medical treatment lifted. Administrative detainee, Tzalach Shachadie, was released within the framework of negotiations between Israel and representatives of the Palestinian Authority although the military judges had rejected HaMoked's earlier appeals for his release. During the year 2000, Attorney Tamar Pelleg administered a campaign to remove a judge from the appeals hearings who delayed his rulings for periods ranging from a month up until two and a half months. This judge no longer sits in appeal hearings and the decisions of the remaining judges are given within reasonable time periods.

In addition to court hearings, Attorney Tamar Pelleg submitted to the State Attorney a pre-Supreme Court petition against the cancellation of the rights of three families to visit relatives who are under administrative detention. As a result of the procedure the right to visit was returned to the families. Following HaMoked's prolonged handling in another case, a guarantee (bail) paid by a detainee after his release from interrogation was finally returned to him. Before undergoing interrogation the detainee had been held in administrative detention.

Committee for Prison Releases (Parole Board) at the Megido Prison Installation

Until recently, the parole board at the Megido prison failed to convene in order to discuss prisoner cases (the board is authorized to reduce sentences by one-third for good behavior). Prisoners were not awarded shortened sentences even though it was admitted they had the right to appear before the board. Following a number of years of advocacy work, starting in 1995, a petition was submitted to the Supreme Court demanding the convention of the parole board in Megido. As a result, procedures were set for the establishment of a board, which met six times between the months October and December 2000, with twenty hearings allotted to each sitting. Attorney Tamar Pelleg represented all but three of the prisoners.

The first sitting – **3.10.2000** – took place just after the start of the Intifada. As a result of the confrontations, the GSS and the prosecution had gone back on their earlier agreement to release a number of prisoners. Attorney Pelleg succeeded in persuading the judge that the “change in circumstances” should not influence the board's evaluations. Amongst the twenty prisoners three were released – all against the objections of the opposing side. Furthermore, the three prisoners were all very close to their scheduled release dates, with only one receiving a reduction of more than 30 days. A number of cases were postponed to the next sitting. For the second sitting on the **26.10.2000**, 35 cases were scheduled of which 29 were discussed – all having left only three or less weeks of their sentence to serve. 17 prisoners were released, again against the objections of the GSS and the prosecution. Similar achievements were not repeated in later sittings. On the **6.11.2000**, four prisoners of the total 28 cases discussed were released and on the **16.11.2000**, three prisoners out of a total 14 were released.