

behalf of 12 parents and wives who were prevented from visiting their family members in jail. As a result of the petition a new directive was issued stipulating that every parent, wife or sister of a detainee who was prevented from visiting family members would now receive standard single visit permits without having to go through IDF security investigations prior to each visit.

N.R. is an example of someone who benefited from the new agreement. Her husband, a resident of one of the villages in the Ramallah district, has been held in Israeli prisons since 1982 serving a 99-year sentence. Since November 1997 a prevention order had been issued against N.R. making it impossible for her to visit her husband. At the end of March this year she was due to undergo surgery involving the removal of her ovaries under general anesthetic. Besides the dangers of unforeseen complications, the surgery would also mark the end of her fertility. At the time she had not seen her husband for two years and desperately wanted to visit him. HaMoked issued an urgent request, based on humanitarian grounds, to the State Attorney, requesting permission for her to visit her husband before the operation. The request was made on the agreement that an Arabic-speaking representative of the prison services would be present to insure that no objects would be passed between the couple.

The new arrangement, following the collective petition filed by HaMoked, allowed N.R. to visit her husband on a regular basis by means of the single-day permits – visits that were made possible without the justification of an imminent operation or other form of emergency.

Following the outbreak of the Al Aqsa Intifada however both the new agreement and all regulations pertaining to family prison visits were cancelled. At the time of writing, for over two months, residents of the Occupied Territories had been prevented from visiting their loved ones held in Israeli prisons. Contacts between the Red Cross and the Israeli authorities and requests submitted by HaMoked had all failed to bring any results.

Gazan Residents Under GSS Investigations in the Ashkelon Prison

One of the consequences of the current Intifada has been the large wave of arrests by the authorities. Attorney Tamar Pelleg represented a number of detainees from Gaza who had been placed under GSS interrogations in the Shikma prison in Ashkelon. Examples of these cases include the following:

Na'hed Fugo is a taxi driver who found himself caught up the middle of an IDF planned operation initiated in order to kill two Fatah members in the Gaza Strip on the 22.11.2000. The two Fatah members, plus two other people who were incidentally traveling in the vehicle, were killed. Na'hed who was miraculously saved, was arrested and brought to the Ashkelon prison. At the time nobody was aware of his fate. He was interrogated by the GSS and was placed in a cell together with collaborators. On the 26.11.2000 a human rights organization in Gaza requested assistance from Attorney Pelleg in locating him. Attorney Pelleg located him at the Ashkelon prison, where she visited him the following day, took an affidavit and prepared a request for a judicial reevaluation in connection to his arrest. This was submitted to the court the following morning. Na'hed was released from prison on the day of the meeting before the request even reached the secretary of the court.

Asam Nirv, a fire fighter, traveling between the northern and southern section of the Gaza Strip was randomly arrested by soldiers who were sitting on a sand bank. On the 28.11.2000, he was transferred to the Shikma prison and was interrogated by the GSS. Attorney Pelleg, who during this period adopted a tactic of frequently visiting the prison, represented him in his extension of detention hearing and submitted a request for judicial reevaluation in connection with his arrest. The request was rejected after which an appeal was submitted. On the 2.01.2001 Asam was released from prison.

Mahmod Ai'sa was arrested on 28.11.2000, and an order was issued by the authorities preventing him from meeting with an attorney. Attorney Pelleg was required to represent him before the judge while he was absent from the courtroom where he later appeared separately. The judge agreed to attorney Pelleg's request to take note of the detainee's testimony with regards to the nature of his interrogation, concerning beatings at the hands of GSS interrogators and collaborators, being held for days on end in shabeh (tying-up in painful positions) and without adequate sleep.

Sharif Arafat, was working in Nazareth Illit without a permit when he was arrested and brought to trial in February 1999. He received a suspended sentence and was transferred to the Shalem roadblock near Jenin, despite all his claims that he was a resident of the Gaza Strip. He began working and earning a living in a restaurant in Ramallah until the start of the Intifada when business slowed down dramatically. Sharif decided to return home but was arrested at the Erez Crossing under the suspicion of hostile activities. News of the incident was passed on to attorney Pelleg after the extension of his detention had been ordered. She submitted a request for a judicial reevaluation. During the hearing, the judge accepted, in principle, attorney Pelleg's arguments and decided that if a request to extend his detention following his illegal stay in Israel is not submitted, the detainee should be released on bail within two days. During those two days Sharif received notification that his detention had been extended and that his file had been transferred to the prosecution so that an indictment can be issued.

Amad Saftawi is a detainee who was also prevented from meeting with a lawyer. Attorney Pelleg received his details after his detention had been extended. During the hearing she was not allowed to see the person she was representing and when he appeared she was required to leave the premises that were serving as the courtroom. The request for a reevaluation of his detention was rejected.

The Case of Mahmod Aldarabi

Mahmod Aldarabi, a veterinarian from Arabi in the district of Jenin, is an administrative detainee who at the time of this report was receiving medical treatment at the Bellinson Hospital in Petah Tikva. He was forced to lie with his hands and legs tied to the hospital bed while undergoing interrogations, exposed to the threats from the police and soldiers who were guarding him. Aldarabi was injured in what now appears to have been an operation planned by the IDF to trap Sa'ad Alharuf who was killed in the incident. Alharuf, on the night he was killed, received a telephone call from a person named Majdi who told him that his car was stuck just south of Nablus, and requested his assistance. Alharuf phoned Usama Barham (who was released over a year ago after many years in administrative detention) who asked his brother-in-law Mahmod Aldarabi to accompany Alharuf on the journey. When the two reached the Burkin Junction their vehicle was met with a massive burst of gunfire. As a result of the attack, Alharuf was killed and Aldarabi