

HaMoked continues its Detainee Rights Project in 1998.

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During the year, HaMoked's attorneys made 123 visits to 52 detainees, among them 4 administrative detainees who had been sent to interrogations. These visits were conducted in the three prisons in which the GSS holds interrogation wings: The Kishon prison in Haifa, the Shikma prison in Ashkelon and the police station of the Russian Compound in Jerusalem. 21 times the attorneys of HaMoked submitted urgent appeals to the State Attorney's Office to remove orders preventing meeting with legal counsel; these appeals concerned 45 individual detainees. Twenty petitions, encompassing 38 detainees, were submitted to the High Court to remove orders preventing legal counsel. In one instance HaMoked's attorney appealed an order preventing legal counsel which was issued by the regional court in Jerusalem against two detainees, residents of the city.

#### Administrative Detainees

The Administrative Detainees Project of HaMoked commenced in the beginning of June 1997. From May 1988 to April 1995, these activities were conducted in the framework of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. Afterwards, for two years the project was conducted primarily on a volunteer basis. The implementation of this project by HaMoked permitted expansion beyond its original borders.

#### Rights and Conditions

The implementation of this project by HaMoked at the present time permitted the meeting of the special needs of the administrative detainees, needs which arose as a result of the transfer of 140 (of approximately 300) of them in the beginning of June 1997 from the IDF detention center Megido to the Prison Services. In Megido the detainees had, over the years, arrived at arrangements with the administration of the center concerning special rights and demands. Thus, a tolerable modus vivendi was arrived at. The transfer of 140 administrative detainees to the Prison Services was accompanied by both a significant loss of these rights and violations of rights guaranteed by law.

From June to November 1997, HaMoked's activities centered on the rights of these detainees and their detention conditions in the prison conditions.

HaMoked accompanied the struggle of these detainees. We instructed them concerning their rights guaranteed by law, and corresponded vigorously with the relevant authorities concerning specific problems. HaMoked began treatment of this issue with the realisation of rights guaranteed in law, those dealing with detainees in general and administrative detainees in particular. HaMoked advocated for the right to a canteen, a walk and physical exercise in the yard and food such as that of the jailors.

In addition, HaMoked acted to obtain permits for family visits when these were denied and to find solutions for the health problems of many. We reacted against illegal punishments, accompanied the detainees in their hunger strike and demanded the right for Israeli friends to visit. These activities required numerous visits, at least once a week, in both the relevant prisons of the Prison Services. Visits were also conducted to the Megido military prison. In many of the instances the work of HaMoked was successful.

## Appeals of Administrative Detention

In November 1997, the administrative detainees decided to once again appeal their detentions following a period of 16 months in which they refused to do so. This refusal was their means of protesting the rejection of the majority of appeals and the extension of numerous detention orders after they had been shortened by a judge. As a result of this change, the activities of HaMoked since November 1997 have centered on the representation of detainees in their appeals and accompanying actions.

From 18 November 1997 to March 1998, HaMoked represented 68 detainees in appeals against their detentions. Of the 68 appeals, 35 of them were shortened by periods of a few days to four months. It is important to note that in contrast to the period prior to the shortening of the detentions, all the detainees (even those represented by other attorneys) were released on the date determined by the judge. The percentage of successful appeals - 50% - is higher than in the past. It should also be noted that this percentage is an average of the decisions taken by many judges, and in the recent period by the five judges responsible for appeals in the Damun and Megido prisons. The difference among these judges are significant, so much so that the percentage of current shortened detentions of one judge is 0%.

## Cooperation with Activists and Organisations

The activities of HaMoked in the area of administrative detentions are conducted with the increasing cooperation of activists and organisations advocating for human rights in the territories. Close cooperation and mutual assistance exist between HaMoked and Physicians for Human Rights, with each organisation providing its own specialised expertise. HaMoked's connections with the Palestinian organisation "A Damir" are similarly characterised, as are those with the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI). Information is frequently and freely exchanged with B'Tselem. HaMoked was assisted by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in the Gaza Strip, in the matter of the sole Palestinian administratively detained from the Gaza Strip during this time.

Among the joint activities with B'Tselem and ACRI are the petitions against administrative detentions, including one of leading legal figures from the academic community, which were published in the Israeli press.

HaMoked has close connections with "Open Doors," a volunteer group acting to release administrative detainees and unparalleled in both its character and achievements. Open Doors assisted HaMoked, together with B'Tselem and ACRI, in organising a protest exhibition against administrative detentions which was held in December 1997 in an art gallery in Tel Aviv.

HaMoked exchanges information with Amnesty International and several local branches of the organisation have "adopted" specific administrative detainees.

Attorney Yakov Anoch, up until two years ago a military prosecutor in the territories, has recently begun assisting HaMoked in representing administrative detainees. This "crossing the lines" is another expression of the welcome change in Israeli public opinion, a change which has influenced Israeli policy concerning administrative detention. The results on the ground: The release of many detainees, including some held for extended periods. The number of administrative detainees held in the three prisons dropped in the second half of 1997 from 500 to approximately 250. With this, it must be remembered that during this time new administrative detention orders were also issued.