

1997 Administrative Complaints by Month/Subject

<u>Month</u>	<u>ID Confis.</u>	<u>Exit Permit</u>	<u>Entry to West Bank</u>	<u>Residency</u>	<u>Entry to Israel</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1/97	---	10	---	4	4	---	18
2/97	1	13	1	6	3	---	24
3/97	1	15	---	7	6	3	32
4/97	2	8	1	4	---	1	16
5/97	1	9	---	1	7	3	21
6/97	---	11	---	1	5	1	18
7/98	---	9	---	4	4	---	17
8/98	---	5	---	3	2	---	10
9/98	---	4	4	7	6	2	22
10/98	---	14	---	3	2	---	19
11/98	---	12	---	3	7	---	22
12/98	---	6	---	3	5	---	14
Total:	5	116	5	46	5	10	233

1. Residency

a. The Quiet Deportation

The issue of residency in East Jerusalem is differentiated from that in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In Jerusalem the issue is controlled by the Israeli Ministry of Interior and the tendency of the ministry, particularly evident in the past two years, is to cause a reduction in the number of Palestinians holding Israeli identity cards in the city. Without utilising physical violence, without loading people onto jeeps or trucks, the Ministry of Interior is conducting a policy of quietly deporting Palestinian residents of Jerusalem outside of their city. This policy of quiet deportation results in the violation of the rights of many: The right to a normal family life, the right to social security and the most fundamental right to live in your home and not be deported from it. One who attempts to defend his rights finds himself up against an uncaring and harsh administrative system.

During 1997, HaMoked continued to treat a variety of difficulties connected to this policy. In part this was done on the individual level and in part on the principled level. Legal activities were combined with an extensive public campaign.

The Background to the Quiet Deportation

In 1967, immediately following the Israeli occupation of the city, Israeli law was implemented over extended areas of the Jerusalem metropolitan which had previously been under Jordanian rule. One who was present during the census conducted at the time received an Israeli identity card and status of permanent resident (but not citizen) in Israel. Residents of Jerusalem enjoy a number of advantages not held by the other residents of the territories: They are eligible to work and live in the city (and in all of Israel), while the closure prevents this from the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They are also eligible for national security and health insurance.

Throughout the years, the Israeli authorities have conducted policies intended to regulate the "demographic balance" in Jerusalem by decreasing the number of Palestinian residents of the city. Among other things, this included the prevention of new building in East Jerusalem, a lack of sufficient classrooms and the refusal to grant family reunification requests from East Jerusalem women who requested Israeli identity cards for their husbands from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan or other countries. In addition, one who went abroad and did not renew his travel card on time lost his right to return to the city. The present tool to decrease the number of Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem is the criterion of "center of life."

In 1994, the East Jerusalem branch of the Israeli Ministry of Interior began to revoke the identity cards of Jerusalem residents. Entire families received notices (occasionally in the mail) that they were no longer residents. The announcement was accompanied by a demand to leave Jerusalem within fifteen days. The legal background to the negation of residency is the interpretation of the Ministry of Interior (which received the backing of the legal system) according to which when one moves his center of life from Jerusalem, his permit for permanent residency (physically demonstrated by an identity card) expires. Here are persons who, according to the Ministry of Interior, moved to the West Bank (including the suburbs of Jerusalem over which Israeli law was not extended), Jordan or other countries. Even if these persons returned to reside in Jerusalem for a number of years, they received deportation notices. Over the years these people continued to receive full services from the Ministry of Interior (including entry and exit documents from Israel as residents), without being warned in any way that they are liable to lose their residency. Some of the victims of this policy are Jerusalemite women, married to residents of the West Bank or Jordan, and who until 1994 were not permitted by the Ministry of Interior to receive family reunification with their spouses in Jerusalem. They were thus forced to live outside the city.

The Public Campaign

In the spring of 1997 HaMoked, in conjunction with the organisation B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, commenced a wide public campaign to halt the quiet deportation. In the framework of this campaign a joint report was issued and explanatory information widely distributed, including in local Israeli newspapers. The campaign garnered wide international interest, and the stories of families who lost their residency were published in the media throughout the world. In this campaign HaMoked remained in close contact with a number of Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations, attorneys and members of Knesset.

Treatment of Individual Cases

Family Reunification - Requests for Permanent Residency for Husbands of Israeli Residents

During 1997, the state of family reunification requests of East Jerusalem women requesting to receive permits for their non-resident spouses to legally reside in the city remained frozen. Requests such as this were almost never granted.

During this year the Ministry of Interior announced that those who submitted a request for family reunification which is still pending will be entered into a gradual process continuing for five years, at the end of which they are to receive a permit for permanent residency. The process is supposed to be implemented in the following manner: