

During a period of time he lived in Jordan and afterwards moved to Beirut, and from there to Damascus. During all of his years abroad he was politically active within the framework of the Palestinian Communist Party. His son turned to HaMoked at the beginning of 1995 and requested assistance in returning his elderly father to his homeland. In September 1995, HaMoked received a letter from the legal advisor of the West Bank according to which the request to return the deportee was rejected.

In 1996, HaMoked advocated with the authorities an additional time in the matter of returning the deportee to his homeland. This time a positive response was received. The family members of Mr. Kuas published a letter of gratitude to HaMoked in the Palestinian newspaper "el-Quds."

4. Violence

In 1996, HaMoked received 4 complaints concerning deaths, 12 complaints in the matter of property damage and 35 complaints of violence (not including torture during interrogations).

The authorities involved in the complaints of violence are as follows:

IDF	14 complaints
Border Patrol Police	11 complaints
Police	4 complaints
General Security Service	1 complaint
Arab residents	1 complaint
Jewish residents	5 complaints
Other	2 complaints (Jerusalem city official and the guard at the Ministry of the Interior)

The authorities involved in the complaints of property damage are as follows:

IDF	6 complaints
Civil Administration	1 complaint
Jewish residents	4 complaints
General Security Service	2 complaints

Death

File number 10638

On 28 September 1996, the baby Muhamed Sarahin died in the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Muhamed was 1.5 years old and from the Ola family of Hebron. The baby had leukemia and was treated in the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. His mother was at his side in the hospital each time he was admitted. His father received permits to enter Jerusalem in order to see him.

On 26 September 1996, in the wake of the opening of the tunnel in the Old City of Jerusalem and the difficult events which resulted, a new closure was imposed on the West Bank. In the two days following the closure, the baby was admitted to the hospital and released. On 28 September, the baby's temperature rose and his worried parents began early in the morning to prepare to take him to the hospital in Jerusalem. They turned to the Aalia Hospital in Hebron in order to transport him in an ambulance. There was no available ambulance, as all of them were hurried to the checkpoints to treat the injured. The parents requested the assistance of an Israeli driver who had in his possession a car with Israeli license plates. They arrived at the checkpoint at 9:45 in the morning. At first the soldiers at the checkpoint

adamantly refused to permit their entrance into Israel, despite the explanations concerning the health of the baby, medical documents attesting to his situation and the entry permit into Israel of the father, which was rendered invalid by the new closure. The soldiers conducted a thorough search of the vehicle.

The father requested water for the baby, which was not provided.

An officer was called to the scene and he announced that there is a closure and therefore no entrance was allowed into Israel. The father asked the officer to look at the baby, who was very pale and breathing rapidly. The officer went off to the nearby camp, returned and announced that the vehicle and the mother could enter Jerusalem with the baby. The officer further announced that that a search must be conducted in the car. The soldiers told the officers that a search had already been done, but the officer insisted and an additional search was done. Only at 11:30 was the vehicle permitted to leave for Jerusalem.

The baby died before they even reached the hospital.

Two days later, the story of the death of the baby was published in the Palestinian newspapers and on Radio Palestine. On the same day an officer from the Civil Administration called the muchtar of the village and requested him to call the father. In a telephone conversation, the officer apologized in the name of the IDF about the death of the baby and noted that the father would be called to provide testimony. The testimony was taken several days later.

As of the end of 1996, the conclusions of the investigation have yet to be received.

File number 10079

In the evening of 14 March 1996, Mrs. Alchadud, in her ninth month of pregnancy, felt labor pains. The clinic of the gynecologist in the village was closed. The husband began to search for a vehicle which would transport his wife to the hospital in nearby Hebron. A neighbor offered his assistance and the three set out in a car in the direction of Hebron. A military vehicle, which acted as a roadblock, stopped them and the soldiers announced that there was a curfew and that they must return home. The soldier threatened them with his weapon. They returned to the village and went to another clinic, at which there was no doctor but a registered nurse. When Mrs. Alchadud entered the clinic, she was already in advanced labor. The baby was born in critical condition and died immediately.

In November 1996, the Attorney of the Central Command wrote to HaMoked that "the soldiers at the supposed checkpoint were not found...in addition, it is impossible to find a defect in the behavior of the soldiers, as it is not possible to show that they knew the purpose of the trip in the car..."

File number 10228

Four friends returned home after a visit to a cemetery. When they passed through the center of Nablus, a military jeep suddenly halted beside them and in it were six soldiers. The soldiers immediately fired. The four began to run from the area. Talal Abu Issa was shot and fell. His friends transferred him to a hospital, where a doctor notified them that he had died.

This occurred on 8 December 1995, when Talal was 23 years old.

On 28 October 1996 the military prosecutor wrote in the name of the Central Command Attorney's Officer to HaMoked:

"On 8 December 1995 an IDF force guided a military supply vehicle to the command of the unit. The date of the redeployment of the IDF out of the city was close and there were numerous riots. Close to the cemetery, the soldiers encountered a barrage of stones and bottles. An escort jeep was left at the spot and the soldiers got out and shot in the air. When they continued driving, the rock throwing continued and several gas grenades were also thrown at them. The force responded with fire. The commander of the force noticed three residents and assumed that one of them intended to throw a grenade at them. He ordered the commander of the vehicle to stop and while stopping the vehicle he shot three bullets toward the alley in which the suspect was seen.

As a pathological examination was not conducted, it is not possible to know whether the injury to the deceased was caused by the bullet or a ricochet from the nearby wall.

The firing in the previous stages was permissible in view of the massive throwing of rocks, gas grenades and the subjective feeling of the officer concerning danger to the force and in light of suspicion of throwing a grenade, the second firing was also found to be permissible.

With this, the attorney has ordered the trial of the commander of the force for not giving medical treatment to the injured..."

File number 9966

On 15 February 1996 the Shahatit Madura family, of the Hebron region, received a notice concerning the killing of their son in the Megiddo Prison. The body of the deceased was sent for a pathological examination. The State accused three other detainees in the prison of the murder, claiming they had brutally interrogated the deceased for several days in light of their suspicion that he was collaborating with the Israeli authorities. In the charges filed against them it was written that the deceased yelled for help, and that the suspects in his killing beat him "until the steel beds in the cell shook."

In addition, it was listed in the charges that during those days of interrogation, when he was taken out of the cell several times to the bathroom, "the deceased was unable to stand up on his legs and required the support of the suspects in order to reach the bathroom, which was located only a few meters from his cell."

Megiddo is a military prison, under the responsibility of the IDF.

Border Patrol Police Violence

During the second half of 1996, the Israeli television network aired a home video which documented the degradation by border patrol officers of Palestinians near the A-Ram checkpoint in North Jerusalem.

The viewing of the video sent the Israeli public into shock. Even prior to this, in the middle of 1996, HaMoked sent letters to the Commander of the Border Patrol Police, Israel Sadan, and to the Minister of Internal Security, Avigdor Kahalani, calling for an improvement in the behavior of the border police in the area of Jerusalem. From the complaints which flowed into HaMoked, there rose a the suspicion of severe violence and uncontrolled sadism toward Palestinians, with no appropriate and public reaction of those responsible for the border police.