

Even Attorney Aran Shender, Director of the Unit for Investigation of Police (UIP), which investigates police officers suspected of violence toward citizens, justified this suspicion in an interview published in the Hebrew-language newspaper "Haaretz" on 10 December 1996: "In 1996 the UIP opened 264 files against border police officers for the use of force in the course of their duty, and of them it was decided to try 35 officers (against 21 were initiated court proceedings and against 14 were submitted charges in a disciplinary court), 58 files were closed as the UIP did not succeed in documenting the details of the complaint, 43 were closed due to lack of evidence and 25 were closed due to the innocence of those involved. The additional files are still under investigation." Attorney Shender further noted in this interview: "...this behavior (of the border police) is a testimony that the blood of Arabs is cheap..."

The following are the details in several of the complaints received by HaMoked in 1996 concerning violence of border police officers:

**File number 10032**

In June of 1996 at approximately 7:00 a.m., border police officers arrived at a home in Jerusalem, where some family members were still sleeping while others had just awoken. The officers called for two of the sons (aged 17 and 19) to come outside with their identity cards, and they were then placed on the jeep. The beatings began in the jeep, during the trip.

As they drove another border police jeep approached them. The soldiers in the two jeeps began talking, and a soldier in the jeep containing the two brothers announced that they had caught boys with West Bank identity cards and were going to beat them. The soldiers invited those in the other jeep to participate in the beating, but the others refused.

The jeep turned down a dirt path, empty of people. One of the soldiers announced that "Bibi (Netanyahu) is now in power," and began to beat the elder brother, using blows and kicks to all parts of the body while the Palestinian was helplessly lying on the ground. The younger brother was beaten with chains held by one of the soldiers; a later hospital examination proved that his right ear drum was punctured.

The two were ordered to leave the area, as the soldiers only had "half an hour" for them.

A complaint was immediately sent to the UIP. The soldiers involved have yet to be located.

**File number 10721**

In December 1996 the complainant (aged 24), his brother (aged 14) and cousin were in Jerusalem on their way to medical treatment for the complainant at the Mukadad Hospital (the treatment was required due to a work-related accident during which he fell out of the third floor of a building in which he was working). A border patrol officer and municipal officials arrived at the place of their whereabouts, close to the Damascus Gate of the Old City in Jerusalem, in order to confiscate vegetables and fruit. When the three saw them, they ran from the area.

The 14 year old was caught by the officer, who immediately began to beat him on the hands and feet with the butt of his weapon.

The boy lost consciousness. The violent officers hurriedly got into their vehicle in order to get away from the area. The brother and cousin blocked the vehicle and luckily an additional officer arrived and ordered the two border police officers to report to the nearest police station, to which the UIP investigators quickly arrived and took statements from the officers and the victims. The boy was hospitalized, where his numerous cuts were stitched. The conclusions of this investigation have yet to be received by HaMoked.

**File number 10056**

In June of 1996, in the early morning hours, a 19 year old complaintant was caught by the border police officers in the building sites on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The complaintant did not have an entry permit into Israel and was there in order to earn his livelihood. Immediately while his identification card was being inspected, he was beaten and then put on a jeep. The trip began and with it the harsh blows. After approximately 20 minutes of travelling through a forest empty of people, the officers took him out of the jeep and began to beat him with sticks while he was laying-at their command-on a rock, with his hands and legs spread. At first the commanding officer stayed in the jeep and watched, but he later joined them in beating the complaintant on all parts of his body with a stick. One of the sticks broke on the body of the complaintant. The complaintant lost consciousness. He was found by a Bedouin, who took him to his tent and gave him water. He later arrived at the hospital for treatment and discovered that his money was gone. The four officers were caught, and on 20 November 1996 charges were brought against them in court in Jerusalem.

**5. Compensation**

During 1996, HaMoked submitted 41 compensation suits, of them 24 petitions to court and 17 petitions through administrative means.

**Compensation and Returned Money which was Paid in 1996**

**File number 8385**

In the early morning hours of 29 June 1995, IDF forces surrounded the neighborhood of the complaintant, announced a curfew and ordered all the residents of the neighborhood to immediately leave their homes. The young males were arrested. The women and children were removed to an area far from the neighborhood. The soldiers uprooted all the trees in the neighborhood and exposed the body of a wanted person. Then began the demolition off two of the homes in the neighborhoods, one of which was that of the complaintant. The house was completely destroyed with all of its contents while the complaintant, still in her pajamas, was in a remote area and not aware of what was occurring. The owners of the houses were not given any advance warning and they were not permitted to remove any objects from the homes prior to their destruction. Afterwards, the complaintant lived with her family members in a tent supplied by the Red Cross.