

With the closure continuing indefinitely, HaMoked decided to both initiate activity to protest this action, and to investigate further measures to increase access to HaMoked's services for the vast majority of its clients who are prohibited from traveling to East Jerusalem.

HaMoked initiated a meeting between 28 Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups resulting in an April 21 joint press conference and statement to protest the closure and the subsequent denial of human rights, including the right to work, and the blocking of access to basic needs and services which East Jerusalem provides for most Palestinians from the territories. The closure has served not only to cut off Palestinians in the territories from East Jerusalem and Israel, but also to separate the Palestinians of the northern West Bank from those in the southern West Bank, as the only road connecting these two areas goes through Jerusalem. The further deterioration of economic, social and medical conditions, in addition to the basic rights to work and travel, motivated HaMoked to initiate this protest.

In May, HaMoked petitioned the High Court on behalf of a Gazan doctor prevented by the closure from traveling to Jerusalem where his wife and child live. In 1993, HaMoked has obtained entry permits into Israel for work, medical treatment, and studies for 36 of its clients and is presently processing 38 other requests.

HaMoked continues to receive complaints from outreach workers in the territories as part of the ongoing program with Defense of Children International, and a HaMoked attorney travels weekly throughout the West Bank to proceed with cases. HaMoked is exploring methods to increase outreach and views it as its task to reach this population and process all cases of abuse.

December 1992 Deportations

The December 1992 deportations of over 400 Palestinians accused of membership in Hamas and the Islamic Jihad were permitted by the Israeli High Court of Justice as they lifted the interim injunction which HaMoked and other human rights advocates had received from the court. After the deportation, HaMoked participated in several additional High Court petitions during the first months of 1993 which concerned notification of the deportees' families; the welfare of the deportees; and the right to appeal.

On January 28, 1993, the High Court ruled on the legality of the deportation. The ruling states that the general deportation order, which does not allow an appeal before deportation, is illegal and cannot be used in the future. Yet the High Court ruled the individual deportation orders valid, and did not require the deportees' return. The accumulative pressure from this advocacy contributed to the gesture by the Israeli authorities to bring back the deportees who returned in two groups, one in June 1993 and the second in December 1993. Several deportees who chose not to return remain in Lebanon.

Family Reunification

Due to the harsh regulations concerning legal residency in the West Bank, many spouses (usually wives) and children of Palestinians who were not here during the 1967 census or were born outside the